

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING THE TEXAN



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Farewell Col. Daniel



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Commander's Comments



To the Men and Women of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing,

Thank You!

As my retirement approaches, I can honestly say what an honor and privilege it has been to be your wing commander. Thank you for what you do everyday for our country. With less than 1 percent serving in our nation's military today, you are truly special and are owed a debt of gratitude.

Reflections

A humble Air Force journey started on July 5, 1984 with the simple dream of becoming an Air Force fighter pilot. I was definitely blessed to realize that dream and so much more. Looking back, there are so many amazing memories and fantastic people that have become part of our family. It's been said many times before, and it is true: Relationships are what really make a military career special.

The 147th

Today, it is extremely gratifying to hear so many great things said about our wing, from both inside and out. That is absolutely a testament to our great people and the superb job that you are doing. Everyday, we set a new a record

for the longest, continual engagement in combat operations in the history of the Great State of Texas. We have flown six straight years of contingency operations, nearly 80,000 combat hours, and we have had an impressive impact on the battlefield. This phenomenal feat has been accompanied by receiving three straight Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards for the Operations Group and Wing. None of it has come easily, and there were plenty of hurdles along the way, yet you have always amazed me with your ability to solve the toughest problems. And you always will.

Balance and the Golden Rule

On a personal note, I feel that most of my success and joy in life has come when there has been great balance between my faith, family and flying. Those three areas will mean different things to different people, but it's true that you can't overly focus on one at the expense of the other two and hope to be successful and happy. Second and ultimately most important, is that when it comes to the relationships that really make your career, following the Golden Rule, treating others as you would like to be treated, is and always will be the correct path for you to follow. If you do this, if you strive to do your best and to do the right thing, you will be amazed at the success you will have.

Friendly Skies

Finally, I may be retiring, but I am not going far. If you are jumping on a United Airlines flight out of Houston, please stop by the cockpit and say "Hi!" It will be great to see you. I am going to miss you all and the great memories of the last 14 years here at the wing. Good luck, and may God bless you, your families and the 147th RW!

All my best,

Colonel Jack Daniel
Commander

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING THE TEXAN

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Cover:
Col. John "Stitch" Daniel. National Guard Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher

SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN MAKE WISH COME TRUE

Story by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher and Photos by Senior Airman Chasity Lollis
147th Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs



I want to be a soldier. That is what 5-year-old Alexander Torres told the Make-A-Wish Foundation. With the help of the men and women in uniform at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base, Alex's wish was granted. Alex arrived at Ellington Field with his parents in a stretch limousine and was greeted by members of every branch of the armed forces. He was presented with personalized Army and Navy battle dress uniforms and a flight suit from the Air Force. After changing into his Army uniform, Alex was able to perform simulated weapon firing in the Marines' weapons training facility. Alex was then escorted the U.S. Coast Guard's Air Station Houston hangar where static displays of Army and Coast Guard helicopters were setup for him to climb on. He also piloted an AH-64D Longbow helicopter in the Texas Army National Guard 1-146th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion's simulator. Alex's day at Ellington Field culminated with a flight in a civilian aircraft painted with Army colors.



(More photos on page 7)



Farewell from the Command Chief

Colonel Daniel,

Leadership is an amazing thing. It can be motivating, inspiring and encouraging. It can move us to align our individual tendencies and goals with the overall purpose of the organization. An Air Force wing is a complex, living entity made up of people with tremendous responsibility. Operating efficiently, it is capable of tremendous impact. Under your leadership, the 147th Reconnaissance Wing has evolved into a decorated organization with global

that challenged us to improve our organization, adhere to our ethical responsibilities and respect one another. What else can a true leader ask for? And other than the ultimate sacrifice, what more can those serving be willing to give? Without question you have had the best interest of airmen, both officer and enlisted, at heart when you steered the organization. The payoff has been a culture where most feel valued and respected.

Nonetheless, as you have said

lowed your personality to dissolve into the greater cause of making the 147th Reconnaissance Wing into an outstanding organization. The men and women of the wing sensed your sincerity and sought to live out your philosophy, not out of compulsion—unless necessary, but out of respect. Not always to perfection but with honest effort.

In those reflective moments when you consider if you have been successful as a wing commander, ask yourself these questions: Was I sincere? Did I truly value the airmen and their families? Did I work to leave the wing a better place? Did most get a fair opportunity to realize their personal goals within the framework of the mission? I think you know this chief's opinion, yet history and others will be their own judge. Thank you for the opportunity, thank you for your service, it's been an honor and pleasure sir, to serve as your command Chief.

Chief Master Sgt. Marlon K. Nation
Command Chief
147th Reconnaissance Wing

Colonel John Daniel assumes command of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing Sept. 1, 2011 during a ceremony at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston. Maj. Gen John Nichols, Adjutant General of Texas presided over the ceremony. (National Guard photo by Master. Sgt Dale Hanson)



impact and a stellar combat record. Your “time in the seat” will be remembered as one of the best.

An organization eventually takes on the characteristics and direction of its leader. Early on, you indicated your direction, which was simply to “do your best every day, do the right thing, and treat others the way that you would like to be treated.” This direction seemed simple but you called forth the best in all of us. Not with a lot of speeches and “rah-rah” cheerleading, but with a sincerity

before, all “conductors” must make their entrances and exits, but the “symphony” must play on. If the goal of the leader is to guide the organization toward established goals and leave the place better than they found it, then you sir have been successful. As you have stated before, you never sought the position. However, personally, I believe the position sought you. It was your time. The 147th Reconnaissance Wing is in a better place because you didn't focus on yourself, but al-

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Guardisman connects with adoptees

Cambodian native spoke with adopted students while on training exercise in Colo.

By Chief Master Sgt. Marcus Falleaf
147th Civil Engineer Squadron



Staff Sgt. Thomas Prachhneas Thoun, an electrician with the Civil Engineering Squadron at the 147th Reconnaissance Wing in Houston, Texas, poses with Cambodian students who had been adopted by American families July 2013. Thoun spoke to the students about his experience in the Air Force and encouraged them to stay in school. (National Guard photo by Chief Master Sgt. Marcus Falleaf)

Snow Mountain Ranch, Colo. -- Diversity is not a new concept in the Air National Guard. Yet, seldom has there been a cultural connection like the one experienced by an Air National Guardsman from the 147th Reconnaissance Wing, based in Houston, Texas, while on a Deployment For Training to the YMCA of the Rockies in Colorado.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Prachhneas Thoun, an electrician with the Civil Engineering Squadron, who is also from Cambodia, had the unique opportunity to speak and dine with Cambodian students who had been adopted by American families. The YMCA was host to Heritage Camps for Adoptive Families the same weekend the squadron was deployed there. Thoun was asked to speak to several groups of middle and high school students, which he agreed to do.

Thoun began by greeting the audience in his traditional language. However, he quickly found that most of the students were not familiar with it and only spoke English. "Stay in school, work hard and be proud of the United States, as well as your Cambodian culture," he told the students. "The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines also provide military options to be successful," he added.

Thoun and several others ate and engaged in conversation and camaraderie of the Heritage Camp families at a Cambodian luncheon.

The week prior provided the same interaction for adoptive families of Indian and Nepalese adoptive families. Thoun parted in the same respectful manner in which he began - with a quiet thank you.

Top enlisted leader visits Ellington Field

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher
147th Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs

ELLINGTON FIELD JOINT RESERVE BASE, Texas -- During a visit to the Houston area, Marine Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, senior enlisted leader to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, made a stop at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base to talk with the troops. He was given tours of the 147th Maintenance and Operations Groups facilities where he was shown how the MQ-1B Predator plays a role in current operations around the world. He was also given a tour of the 1-149th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, Texas Army National Guard, where he was shown their new AH-64D Longbow helicopter. After his tour of the base facilities, Battaglia spoke to a gathering of personnel from all five branches of the United States Armed Forces about the future of the U.S. military during a town hall meeting.



Staff Sgt. Nathen Bell, with the 147th Maintenance Group, explains the capabilities of the MQ-1B Predator to Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, Senior Enlisted Leader to Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, as Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Yzaguirre looks on.



(left) A member of the 147th Operations Group explains how MQ-1B Predator crew members communicate with troops on the ground in the area of responsibility during a tour of the MQ-1B simulator facility for Sgt. Major Bryan Battaglia, the Senior Enlisted Leader to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.



(right) Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, Senior Enlisted Leader to Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, talks about the future of the military during a town hall meeting at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston.

Make-A-Wish photos continued from page 3



Diversity is critical to military and mission

Men and women in the uniforms of our armed services share many things in common, but none more important than their love of country and pride of being an American soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine.

Although we may wear different insignia, perform different jobs, and observe different customs, when it comes to the job of defending our nation, the diversity of our missions becomes a fundamental source of our great power.

Make no mistake, diversity is a hallmark of the modern U.S. armed forces, not just in terms of our mission elements, but also within the composition of every unit. However, the journey to get where we are today didn't happen overnight, and reflecting back on our history, we overcame many challenges along the way. If we've learned anything about warfare from our earliest experiences back in 1776, end strengths, budget allocations or technological innovation is never enough to fully maximize our military capabilities in war or peace.

The cornerstone of any military success story starts with great ideas championed by principled leaders. Dialoguing with others who challenge our thinking and frames of reference is essential. By creating environments which are conducive to intellectual discourse, we can further our critical thinking skills and bolster our adaptive capacity to constantly see the world from different perspectives — to learn—to understand.

As we move forward, we must constantly strive to

think deeply, because ideas matter.

Attitudes Aren't Free: Thinking Deeply about Diversity in the U.S. armed forces is an innovative approach to foster the much-needed discussion on social issues within the military domain and the first volume of its kind.

Plurality of perspective is the essence of diversity. It can become a great source of strength when used to seek a deeper understanding of contentious issues, but for diversity to add value, it is critical that each of us opens our mind and makes a sincere effort to understand the perspectives of others. There is never a guarantee that people with different perspectives will come to agreement, nor should there be. Freedom of conscience is one of the oldest American traditions, and it exemplifies the ideals for which we fight. However, what matters most is that we remain sufficiently open-minded, listen to each other's perspectives, and, when appropriate, share our own. Our goal should always be to seek a greater understanding and a mutual respect of our fellow Americans—particularly those who have sworn to give their lives in the defense of our country. By embracing the diversity of perspective that brought the United States of America into being 234 years ago, we will ensure its thriving future in the decades to come.

William T. Lord

Lieutenant General, USAF

Fight Card Fraud With Mobile Alerts

Credit card fraud is more prevalent than you think. And it can create problems for Program Administrators and cardholders alike.

Fortunately, there's something that you and your cardholders can do about it. In three words, "Citi Mobile Alerts." With Citi® Commercial Card Mobile Alerts, on-the-go employees can stay informed about their card activity right from their mobile devices. They can receive text and/or email alerts on their balances, statements, recent transactions and other relevant account information. What's more, employees can also send a text directly to GOCITI (462484) and to find out their account balance, last three transactions or even reset their CitiManager® password. Need to know what happened with a disputed transaction or when your lost or stolen replacement card is being mailed? Well, Citi has an alert for that too. With more than 30 email and SMS alerts to choose from, it is easier than ever for employees to keep abreast of their pertinent account activity.

The many benefits of Mobile Alerts

When cardholders sign up for Mobile Alerts, they enjoy multiple benefits, including:

- Convenience. Stay abreast of card activity and information, in the language of their choice
- Timeliness. Receive prompt notification of fraud early warning, statement availability, payment due date and other key events related to the account
- Efficiency. Automatically receive updates about account activity without having to call customer service or log into a computer
- 24/7 availability. Feel secure with the reliability of anytime/anywhere connectivity, via a smartphone or other mobile device
- Flexibility. Choose from email, SMS (text) and/or on-demand alerts. Select specific days, times and time zones, and receive alerts only when desired.

Recon wing team has fun on the field

Story and photos by Capt. Fredy Reyes
147th Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs

HOUSTON, Texas -- The 147th Reconnaissance Wing Kickball team, led by Chief Master Sgt. Thomas B. Bragg, played in the first annual retired Chief Master Sgt. Dylan D. Smith Kickball Tournament Aug. 17. Nestled just outside downtown Houston, the Stude Park in the Heights was home to this year's game.

In Smith's 30 years of active duty military service, he volunteered many hours to community and charity events. Thus, organizing and leading the kickball tournament was an easy choice to leave a lasting contribution. The reason for the tournament was to give back to the Houston community, both military and civilian. "My theme for the tournament is adults putting fun back in the spirit of competition," Smith said. For future tournaments, organizers will donate profits to the local Air Force ROTC detachments in the Houston area.

There appeared to be no lack of fun on the 147th team. More so, their enthusiasm, motivation and camaraderie were self evident on the field of friendly strife, which earned them second place in the tournament.

"It was a special day because not only were airmen enjoying each other's company, but family members joined the event," an airman in the wing said.

Bragg said "he hopes to continue the tradition of bringing airmen together for kickball games."



Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Bragg and retired Chief Master Sgt. Dylan Smith congratulate each other after the first annual Chief Master Sgt. Dylan Smith kickball tournament.



The 147th Reconnaissance Wing kickball team pose for a group photo after the first annual Chief Master Sgt. Dylan Smith kickball tournament.

Making Every Dollar Count through State Lodging Tax Exemptions

The Air Force encourages you to stop paying taxes. Well, not personal taxes, but it turns out that several states exempt uniformed service members and federal government employees from paying state lodging taxes when on official travel orders. Unfortunately, travelers have to know to ask for these exemptions, and as a result Air Force members pay about \$4.5 million in lodging taxes needlessly in these locations each year. If you are travelling to Florida, Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Missouri, or one of seven other states and territories that offer these exemptions, a few simple steps can save your unit and the Air Force money.

Considering today's fiscal challenges, coupled with tomorrow's uncertainties, the Air Force is continuously searching for cost-saving initiatives. In a memo to comptrollers across the Air Force, Assistant Secretary for Financial Management Jamie Morin said, "The Vice Chief of Staff has taken a key step forward with the Every Dollar Counts campaign and we have received a huge response from Airmen around the world. One idea that caught my attention pertains to state lodging tax exemptions, which could save millions for reinvestment in mission needs."

Eleven states and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands exempt U.S. military members and employees of the United States government from paying state taxes on hotel lodging charges, which are directly reimbursable by the U.S. government. This lodging sales tax exemption applies to both TDY and PCS travel paid using the Government Travel Card. All government travelers are already exempt from lodging tax if their lodging bill is paid directly by the government using a Centrally Billed Account.

GSA maintains a website and map with state tax information at this URL: <https://smartpay.gsa.gov> HYPERLINK "https://smartpay.gsa.gov/about-gsa-smartpay/tax-information/state-response-letter"/HYPERLINK "https://smartpay.gsa.gov/about-gsa-smartpay/tax-information/state-response-letter" about-gsa-smartpay/tax-information/state-response-letter. Some states require a form and some do not. Puerto Rico and six states (FL, MA, NY, PA, TX, and WI) do require a form, and it is downloadable from this GSA website. The U.S. Virgin Islands and the other five states (AK, DE, KS, MO, OR) do not require any special forms.

All travelers should take advantage of this tax savings and be aware of these state laws. If you are about to go on official travel to one of these locations, you should visit the GSA website before traveling and obtain the tax exemption form if applicable. Also, all travelers should check with their hotel to verify state tax law compliance. If the hotel does not comply, the traveler should consider another hotel. Approving officials should review travel authorizations and vouchers for strict compliance with this requirement. By everyone doing their part, the Air Force can save millions of dollars.

ESOH CAMP INSPECTION **37 DAYS**

Col. Daniel:

It goes without saying that a true leader is one that is made and not necessarily born. Their struggle takes on that of the process of a diamond. When found, a diamond is a dark, hard rock that lies in the depths of earth. When discovered, it is picked at, rubbed, broken, and pressurized to eventually create a shining beautiful work of art to be coveted. True leaders are like diamonds. The struggle that makes them great lie in the adversities they face through the process of time to eventually become something people long to be or have in their life. You are a leader and your capabilities and deeds have not gone unnoticed. You are comparable to the diamond as your leadership has shined brighter than you know. We wish you much success as you convert your leadership to new boundaries and challenges. You have left a lasting impression that will encourage other coals to evolve into future leaders.

First Sergeants Council



**147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING
DINING FACILITY**

Saturday

7 September 2013

Baked Chicken
Yakisoba
Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Whole Corn
Dinner Rolls

Sunday

8 September 2013

Beef Tips
Pork Chops
White Rice
Collard Greens
Carrots
Broccoli/Cauliflower Mix
Cornbread

Shortline

Grilled Ham/Cheese Sandwich
Grilled Turkey/Cheese Sandwich
Grilled Cheese Sandwich
Hamburgers
Ravioli

Meal Price: \$4.55

The official 147th Reconnaissance Wing
Facebook page is www.facebook.com/147RW.



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Visit mypers.af.mil to access online personnel services

Safety Shorts



General Safety Guidelines

Running, jogging or walking on Brantly, Ashley and Currie streets is prohibited between the hours of 0600-0730, 1100-1300 and 1530-1700 during normal duty days and 147th Reconnaissance Wing Unit Training Assembly weekends. Personnel must utilize the established sidewalks during these times. A reflective belt safety vest, brightly colored clothing or the Air Force physical training uniform is required between the hours 30 minutes prior to dusk and 30 minutes after dawn.

- No cell phones while driving unless hands-free
- Make full stops at all stops signs
- Motorcycle headlights will be turned on anytime a motorcycle is operated on base.



Group promotes professionalism and camaraderie

Organization welcomes ranks E-1 through E-6

The Rising VI is an unofficial activity at Ellington Field, Houston, Texas, for all enlisted E-1 through E-6 personnel. The purpose of the organization is to promote camaraderie, professionalism, esprit de corps and mentorship throughout the enlisted ranks at the 147th Reconnaissance Wing. The Rising VI serves as a forum for the enlisted personnel to raise questions or concerns to Wing leadership. Our goal is to attract motivated Airmen and NCOs who want to give back to their community and their wing. In return, you will receive a sense of accomplishment, professional growth, leadership, networking and much more to enhance your professional development as an Airman and NCO that can be extremely rewarding. The Rising VI participates in and organizes community and base activities to include burger burns, fun runs, mock boards, welcome home parties for returning deployed members, volunteer activities and other events. We currently have three committees established within the organization - Deployment Committee, Professional Development Committee and Fundraising Committee. We are trying our best to get the word out about this fantastic organization, but we need your help and the help of our senior enlisted to spread the word to each unit within the wing. The Rising VI will have a section in the Texan every month with up to date information about the organization and other pertinent information in regards to our enlisted corps.

Latest news:

- Rising VI coins are in and are available for \$7.00 at meetings and also by contacting Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Alicea, Rising VI treasurer.
- New council members:
 President - Tech. Sgt. Matthew Renteria
 Vice President - Tech. Sgt. Klaus Riel
 Treasurer - Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Alicea
 Secretary - Staff Sgt. Carlin Kubenka
 Historian - Staff Sgt. Sandy Aguilar

The next Rising VI Meeting will be 8 a.m. Saturday in LRS training room 111 We look forward to seeing you there, as well as the growth of this great organization!

Rising VI coins now available



Commanders Hotline Ideas | Comments | Suggestions

929-2000



AMERICAN AIRMEN | SPIRITUAL WINGMEN



147 RECONNAISSANCE WING
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Judge Advocate

147 Reconnaissance Wing



UTA Weekends - 0800 - 1600

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Airman & Family READINESS PROGRAM

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING - ELLINGTON FIELD JRB - HOUSTON, TEXAS



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BLDG 1057, ROOM 236

MAJ GRETA COSTA
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MSGT ANITA BLUE
929-2210

TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE ON ISSUES INVOLVING
DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT



Public Affairs Seeking Stories

Looking for inspiring and/or interesting stories or ideas. Must be newsworthy and relevant to the 147th Reconnaissance Wing. Photos can be provided upon request.

If interested call 281-929-2662 or send an email to 147RW.PublicAffairs@ang.af.mil.

SCHOOLS OPEN – DRIVE CAREFULLY

Every fall, more than 55 million children across the United States head back to school. With 13 percent of those children typically walking or biking to their classes, AAA warns drivers to be especially vigilant for pedestrians before and after school hours. The afternoon hours are particularly dangerous – over the last decade, more than one-fourth of child pedestrian fatalities occurred between 3 and 7 p.m.

Launched in 1946, AAA's School's Open – Drive Carefully awareness campaign was created as a way to help reduce child pedestrian fatalities and injuries. Here are several recommendations from AAA regarding ways drivers can help to keep kids safe:

- **Slow down.** Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason. A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.
- **Come to a complete stop.** Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.
- **Eliminate distractions.** Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. Children can be quick crossing the road unexpectedly or emerging suddenly between two parked cars. Reduce risk by not using your cell phone or eating while driving, for example.
- **Reverse responsibly.** Every vehicle has blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, in the driveway and around your vehicle before slowly backing up. Teach your children to never play in, under or around vehicles.
- **Watch for bicycles.** Children on bikes are often inexperienced, unsteady and unpredictable. Slow down and allow at least three feet of passing distance between your vehicle and a bicyclist. If your child rides a bicycle to school, require that he or she wears a properly fitted bicycle helmet on every ride. Find videos, expert advice and safety tips at ShareTheRoad.AAA.com.
- **Talk to your teen.** Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States, and more than one in four fatal crashes involving teen drivers occur during the after-school hours between 3 and 7 p.m. Get evidence-based guidance and tips at TeenDriving.AAA.com

In addition, AAA, in partnership with Richard Scarry's Busytown Mysteries, offers safety information for children, including coloring pages, games and car seat safety videos, at SafeSeats4Kids.AAA.com.

This Space Available

Would you like to promote your unit or organization?

Contact Public Affairs and we will help create an eye-catching ad for you.

281-929-2662 or email us at 147RW.PublicAffairs@ang.af.mil



Senior Airman Valorie Roberts, 147th Reconnaissance Wing Kickball Team member, is poised to kick a ball during the first annual Chief Master Sgt. Dylan Smith kickball tournament at Stude Park in Houston.

For more about the tournament see page 9.