



TENTH AIR FORCE *times*

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SSgt Francisco "Paco" Martinez wears a bracelet honoring his son, "Paquito," who was killed while serving in Iraq with the Army. Paco rejoined the Air Force Reserve and deployed in July to the same area where his son had been to protect other Americans' deployed children.

Son's Footsteps

by Master Sgt. Shawn David McCowan
10th Air Force Public Affairs

Editor's Note:

This is the first of a three-part series about SSgt Francisco "Paco" Martinez, an Airman whose son was killed in Iraq, and how he plans to honor his son's life by protecting others who deploy.

In June of 2008, SSgt Francisco "Paco" Martinez was finalizing family arrangements before he was to deploy. His unit's destination wasn't unusual or unique – Iraq. Deployments into strange and dangerous environments are difficult for any Airman. But his destination held a unique place to him. It was the same place his son had recently died.

His son, Francisco "Paquito" Martinez, was an Army sniper, and he was just days from being sent home. His unit was escorting a national reporter while patrolling an area. An Iraqi sniper fired on the unit, mortally wounding the young Martinez. Paquito

was gone by the end of the day.

Paquito was following in his father's footsteps by joining the Army. The elder Martinez, Francisco "Paco," was an enlisted Airman in the 1980's, but had separated and took a networking job in the civilian world. The two were very close, and Paco found it hard to see his friend deploy, but understood his sense of duty to protect the country the way his father did.

"I spent a lot of time looking at pictures of my son when he first left, and we kept in touch as often as possible. We wrote quite a few letters and had many chats across the miles. When I lost him, I started looking at those letters and photos again, but in a different way. It was hard to accept," said Paco Martinez.

Paco was in a daze for weeks after losing his son. They were like friends, and shared news from their day as well as a common interest in computer technology. Their interest in each other's daily lives was as much practical as it was enjoyable. Paco worked for IBM and many of his co-workers knew his son, keeping in touch with him through Paco. They even discussed current sales at local computer retailers while Paquito was deployed. But even more important, Paco had served in the National Guard and Air Force many years ago, and knew what his son was experiencing.

"Some weeks before he was scheduled to come home, he started getting quieter in our emails and chats," said Paco. "His time in a warzone was starting to get to him. He couldn't express it, but I could tell. It was time for him to come home."

His son's death was well-documented. A reporter was on the scene, and many news companies contacted Paco soon after the story broke to the public.

"I could barely stand to think about it, let alone talk to the news people. But on the other hand I wanted his story to be told, so his death wouldn't be in vain. I know that God allows everything to happen for a reason. Other parents need to know the dangers and struggles their kids experience, and how blessed they are when their child comes back through the door."

That was when Paco had a revelation. He needed to go to Iraq in place of his son. His family's reaction was less than immediately supportive, but he knew there was a bigger meaning to his decision.

Pondering his decision, Paco momentarily stared off into space, unaware that he was gazing blankly at a map of the Middle-East map on the wall before him. His mind was thousands of miles away from that wall, and for a moment his eyes betrayed a glimmer of hurt and loneliness as he thought about Paquito. He quickly regained his composure and looked down to focus one of his wrists in front of him. He wore a memorial wrist band, worn by many other veterans and supporters of the men and women who died while at war.

But the name on his wristband was the name of his son. And that helped bring him focus.

"Of course revenge crept into my mind. My son was killed there. But revenge is God's job. I was blessed with a wonderful son, who has served his country and now is in Heaven. My job is not to hurt those who took him away..."

Martinez's eyes glistened again, even though he held a steely smile on his face.

"...I knew my job was different. I need to do what other parents can't do. I need to go over there, and by doing my job, make sure everyone else's sons and daughters come home safely."

Paco was determined to become a surrogate parent to all the sons and daughters sent to Iraq. With just days until he deployed, he was able to smile at the prospect of such an opportunity.

But leaving wasn't easy. His daughter, Monica, was very uneasy about her father leaving. She was deeply affected by the loss of her brother, since Paquito was many years senior to her. She knew her brother to be very gentle and caring, and didn't understand why anyone would want to kill her brother.

"It was tricky explaining things to Monica. She was very afraid that she'd lose her father too. When I went to training, she asked me if I would ever be coming home."

"I know the Lord will bring me home safely. I understand the cause of my son's death and I know some good can come of it. I just have to go there and do my job."

Martinez deployed in early July, and was scheduled to return in early January 2009.

Reservist sheds 115 pounds to work on F-22s in Alaska

by Staff Sgt. Rhiannon Willard
477th Fighter Group Public Affairs

1/21/2009 - 1/21/09 - ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska -- Eleven months ago, Derrick Bell took the first step in a journey that would change his life in more ways than one.

The 38-year-old husband and father of two shed more than 115 pounds to meet the Air Force Reserve physical standards of enlistment, astounding his recruiter, family and friends. Airman Bell enlisted in the Air Force Reserve Jan. 15.



Lt. Col. Raymond Platt, 477th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, and Airman Bell met through family and friends over a campfire at the Airman's cabin in West Beaver Lake, Alaska, in 2006. With so much in common, they have been true friends ever since.

Airman Bell became intrigued when Colonel Platt told him about the F-22 Raptor and the 477th Fighter Group. When Airman Bell expressed interest in the jet and being a member of the 477th FG, Colonel Platt made it his personal mission to make that interest a reality.

Colonel Platt's research found that his friend wasn't too old to enlist, as they had previously thought. Air Force Reserve regulation states that a prior service enlistee's adjusted age must be 40 years old or less. To find the adjusted age, subtract prior-service time from the actual age. Airman Bell had previously served more than four years in the Alaska Army National Guard after he graduated from high school.

"I told Derrick that if he was interested in joining I would help him get back on track," Colonel Platt said. "Derrick jumped at the opportunity."

The 477th Fighter Group is an Air Force Reserve classic associate unit that shares and maintains equipment with the Regular Air Force's 3rd Wing at Elmendorf AFB. The group is responsible for recruiting, training, developing and retaining Citizen Airmen.

Losing 115 pounds in 11 months was easy for Airman Bell. He didn't lose the weight through fad diets. Instead, he worked hard to change his lifestyle while controlling his caloric intake.

He got up at 4 a.m. and worked out at the Elmendorf Fitness Center five days a week. When he could, Colonel Platt was right there next to him every day. Airman Bell said he cut his food portions by at least half and hasn't had a beer since Feb. 14, 2008.

Airman Bell came to Air Force Reserve recruiter, Master Sgt.

Robert Bazor, through the friendship he had developed with Colonel Platt.

"We knew that he had a long way to go before he could enlist but we also knew that this was a situation that could be fixed with the right amount of determination," Sergeant Bazor said. "He called me every month to give me an update on his weight loss."

Colonel Platt received the added bonus of enlisting Airman Bell under the Air Force Reserve Get One Now Program. The program provides benefits to the Air Force Reserve, the individual being referred and the person who has recommended the referral. More details about the program are available online at <http://get1now.us/>.

"I'm always recruiting. Wherever I am in the Alaskan community, I end up talking about the 477th Fighter Group and how great the unit is. The conversation comes natural to me," Colonel Platt said.

Airman Bell enlisted in the Air Force Reserve Jan. 15. Joining him were his wife, Tricia; daughter, Brittney, son, Logan; and other family members and friends. Colonel Platt, naturally, administered the oath of enlistment.

Airman Bell credits his support system for much of his success.

"I feel like I'm getting a 'do-over,' he said. "My family and friends are huge supporters. They've been behind me 200 percent since I decided to go for it."

A lifelong resident of Anchorage, Alaska, Airman Bell works for the Anchorage School District as a senior warehouse specialist Mondays through Fridays. His traditional reservist service commitment to the 477th FG will include working one drill weekend a month and performing 14 days of annual tour per year.

Airman Bell will serve as a crew chief on the F-22A Raptor. He is waiting for a class date to attend technical school training at Sheppard AFB, Texas. When that is completed, he will receive follow-on training at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

The F-22A is a transformational combat aircraft. It can avoid enemy detection, cruises at supersonic speeds, is highly maneuverable, and provides the joint force an unprecedented level of integrated situational awareness.

In addition to having the opportunity to work on what he considers to be the world's greatest fighter jet, Airman Bell says he has regained his youth and his self-esteem.

"I feel young again," he said. "I'm in better shape and weigh less than when I got married almost 18 years ago! I've got back my confidence, and I thought it was gone for good." (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

NAF NEWS BRIEFS

We Need Your Old Glasses!!!

The 301st Medical Squadron will be conducting an humanitarian mission to Guyana South America in August 2009. We will be conducting eye exams at a hospital near Georgetown, Guyana. The only way we will be able to provide glasses to these patients is by your generous donation of your old eyeglasses.

We have a projected need of 2500 pair of glasses. We desperately need your help. Please bring in any old glasses that you or other members of you family no longer use. A collection box is located at the 301st Medical Squadron, there is also a collection box located in building 1654 Wing HQ bldg.

Per Diem Entitlements

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph U7150 A4b(3) of the Joint Federal Travel Regulations, Volume I and the attached memorandum, per diem entitlements are authorized for Reserve Component Members called to active duty under 10 U.S.C. 12302 or 10 U.S.C. 12301(d) for more than 180 days at one location in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Per diem payments will not exceed 1,275 days at one location, cumulative, without further Secretarial approval. The attached memorandum provides a 60-day extension to the previously authorized 1,215-day period.

SAF/MRM POC for this action is Mr. Tom Booth, 703-697-7783, thomas.booth@pentagon.af.mil.

EXERCISE SOLID CURTAIN

23 – 27 FEB 2009

This is an annual exercise conducted on all Navy installations to enhance Security force readiness and abilities to prepare for and defend against threats. This is a routine exercise and is NOT in response to any specific threat.

What You Can Expect:

- Probable increased traffic or delays in base access.
- Increased activity at all gates.
- Increased patrols on and around the installation.
- Potential for EXTREMELY restricted gate access (essential personnel only) on 24 FEB for greater than 12 hours.
- Increased Security levels.

What You Can Do:

- Carry proper ID at all times.
- Arrive early.
- Plan accordingly.
- Be patient.
- Follow all orders



Reserve wing commander honored for Hurricane Ike service

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- The commander of the Air Force Reserve's 920th Rescue Wing was recognized during a ceremony held here Jan. 11 for superior performance while leading the Hurricane Ike relief mission. Col. Steve W. Kirkpatrick received a Meritorious Service Medal for his role as commander of the 331st Air Expeditionary Group (AEG), the joint, military unit responsible for providing search-and-rescue services and immediate medical care for areas affected by Ike. The colonel is seen here being interviewed by 1st Air Force Public Affairs before Ike made landfall. (courtesy photo)



TRAINING CORNER

10 AF/A1T CoP

Please click this hyperlink for the <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/docman/DOCMain.asp?Tab=0&FolderID=OO-SC-RC-18-4-6&Filter=OO-SC-RC-18>

Quarterly Training Meeting Dates

All Supervisors and Training Monitors are required to attend quarterly training meetings per AFI 36-2201V3 Para 6.1.8.

All meetings will be 1300-1330 hours, 10 AF Upstairs Conference Room 231.

Next Meeting: 4 April 2009

Ancillary Training

Status of Training Reports have been updated. Please go to <P:\DP-Personnel\TRAINING ROSTER DP\Ancillary> to see if you are due required training.

Fit Test Requirement for Attending PME and Formal Training

The rules for both PME and Formal training are the same: you must have a current fitness assessment (FA) within 12 months that will not expire during school attendance. If your assessment is 75.00 or less you must have a letter from the unit Commander coordinated with the school house at least 2 weeks prior. If you scored less than 75.00 on your annual AF Fitness Assessment, you must pre-coordinate your attendance with the school via the AFRC Liaison.

NOTE: Even if you passed your fitness assessment, sister services included, you must turn-in that paperwork on day one. Students who arrive with an uncoordinated FA failure will be returned to station at their unit's expense.

Training Tidbit of the Month/Air Force Training Record (AFTR) Implementation

The Air Force is fielding two systems currently available through the Air Force Portal that make it easier to keep on-the-job training records up-to-date. Each Airman's Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) will determine if their records will be maintained in one of these two systems, called Training Business Area (TBA) or Air Force Training Record (AFTR).

AFSC's using AFTR:

1W, 3E, 3M, 3P, 3S, 4A,4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 4H, 4J, 4M, 4N, 4P, 4R, 4T, 4V, 4Y, 6E, 8B, 8T, CMETP-1, CMETP-2, CMETP-3 and CMETP-4

AFSC's using TBA:

2A, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2M, 2P, 2R, 2S, 2T, 2W, 3A, 3C, 8S, 8M, 21A, 21M, 21R and 33S career fields

Implementation is being spearheaded by each AFSC functional manager so we're asking you to please forward us all emails you receive from the functional. If you are a functional at 10 AF, please get into your AFSCs electronic record system, take classes, get on line and accomplish the CBTs so you can help the field. We would also like to ask each supervisor/member whose AFSC is going to use AFTR to please create a profile in AFTR through ADLS. That is the first step to embrace the change. If you have questions on how to do this please give us a call. The official memos for AFTR Implementation are out on the 10 AF/A1T CoP: Please follow the hyperlink at the below path: A1 » A1T - Education and Training » Training Record - Automated Programs » AFTR - Air Force Training Record » Official Memos or Emails Implementation. The chart at the bottom of the page provides a summary. If you have additional information please forward to A1T as soon as possible.

ENLISTED DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION (DE/PME)

There are plenty of CLC in-residence slots (2 Mar 09 – 10 Mar 09). CMSgts can attend. See your UTM for more details.

FUNCTIONAL COMMUNITY:	MEMO/EMAIL DATE:	STARTED USING AFTR:	EFFECTIVE DATE:	HOW LONG TO KEEP HARD COPY RECORDS AFTER FULLY OPERATIONAL DATE:	UCI INSPECTABLE DATE:
MDS	28-Mar-08	15-Jun-08	1-Jan-09	1 yr	1-Oct-09
SVF	14-Mar-08	14-Mar-08	5-Jan-09	1 yr	Not Specified
MSS (3S & 8T)	3-Mar-08	17-Mar-08	17-Mar-08	Not Specified	Not Specified
CES	7-Nov-06	7-Nov-06	7-Nov-06	Not Specified	Not Specified
SFS	30-Nov-07	30-Nov-07	30-Nov-07	Not Specified	Not Specified

MEDICAL/DENTAL APPOINTMENTS

RANK	NAME	MEDICAL EXAM	DENTAL EXAM
LtCol	BATTLE, MICHAEL	7-Feb @ 0950	
CMSgt	GARAY, CARMELITO	7-Feb @ 1050	
SMSgt	TAYLOR, RANDAL	7-Feb @ 0830	
SMSgt	DREWEK, MARTIN	7-Feb @ 1150	
SMSgt	BOYCE, TIMOTHY	7-Feb @ 0700	
SMSgt	BRANTLEY, JAMES		8-Feb @ 0700
SMSgt	ROBERTS, PAMELA		8-Feb @ 0700
Col	SMITH, ROBERTS		8-Feb @ 0700
CMSgt	MEADOWS, DONALD		8-Feb @ 0720
MSgt	MC CAL, HORTENSE		8-Feb @ 0720
TSgt	HAYES, KELLI		8-Feb @ 0720
Maj	MOLENDYKE, SHAYE		8-Feb @ 0720
SMSgt	JOHNSON, JAMES		8-Feb @ 0740
SMSgt	DERMARDEROSIAN-SMITH		8-Feb @ 0740
SMSgt	HOUCK, RICHARD		8-Feb @ 0740
MSgt	JONES, DREGORY		8-Feb @ 0740
MSgt	MUMAW, BARBARA		8-Feb @ 0800
Col	SMITH, WALTER		8-Feb @ 0800

NEWCOMERS

Maj Timothy E. Pertuis, 10AF
 MSgt Terry H. Hearndon, 10AF
 SrA Lance K. Keller, 610SFS

UTA SCHEDULE DATES

7-8 Mar 2009	11-12 Jul 2009
4-5 Apr 2009	1-2 Aug 2009
2-3 May 2009	12-13 Sep 2009
6-7 Jun 2009	

FEBRUARY UTA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday – 7 Feb
 0630-0700 Sign In
 0900-1000 CC Staff Mtg., CC Conference Rm
 1300-1400 310SW SAV Team Meeting, CC Conference Rm
 1545-1615 Sign Out

Sunday – 8 Feb
 0630-0700 Sign In
 1400 Col Walker Retirement – CC Conference Rm
 1545-1615 Sign Out

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MSgt Shawn David McCowan

EDITOR/GRAPHIC DESIGN

TSgt Joshua Heath Woods

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSISTANT

Ms. Meghan Fulford

Tenth Air Force Public Affairs Office

1700 Tuskegee Airman Dr.

NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas 76127-6200

(817) 782-6093/6092

DSN: 739-6093/6092

FAX: (817) 782-5117

E-mail: 10AFTimes@carswell.af.mil

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