2010 A Year In Review

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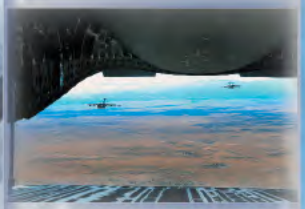
Airmen, families, and supporters of the Mighty 97th, welcome to our second annual edition of the "Year-in-Review." And what a year it was! While flawlessly performing our mission of "Forging Combat Mobility Forces...Deploying Airman Warriors," you conquered numerous challenges throughout the year. I'll just mention a few here: providing support to earthquake-stricken Haiti with six C-17 aircraft and 10 aircrews within 24 hours of notification; responding to and recovering from the worst ice storm southwest Oklahoma has seen in 100 years...and returning to the aircrew training timeline in half the time forecast; leading AETC's effort to revise and develop effective responses to active shooter situations; and becoming the first wing in AETC to earn an "Excellent" rating on the Logistics Compliance Assessment Program. Along the way, we had a great time together, with multiple family events in our beautiful Wings of Freedom Park, hosting the U.S. Air Force Academy Drum and Bugle Corps and cheerleaders prior to the Air Force-OU game on our AF anniversary, and numerous sports events to include two triathlons. Sadly, we also lost several members of the Mighty 97th team, and these pages also honor their memory.

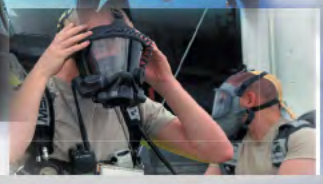
Each and every success we had in 2010 is due to the superb efforts you, our Airmen - officer, enlisted, civilian - delivered each and every day of 2010. Of that, you should be justifiably proud! The intent of this guide is to celebrate the year, as well as to educate those who may be less familiar with the mission of the 97th Air Mobility Wing and the Airmen who perform it. I'm proud to command the Mighty 97th, and in 2011, we've got more great things to achieve—so let's make it our best year yet!

With best regards,
Col. Jon "Ty" Thomas
Comander
97th Air Mobility Wing

Vision

"The Mighty 97th - Best in AETC for mission execution, Best in AF for support, Best of All as a great place to work and live!"





Mission

"Forging Combat Mobility Forces... Deploying Airman Warriors!"

Goals

* Safe and Timely Mission Execution

* Cultivate Airmen Leaders

* Provide Quality Support to Airmen and their Families

Forging Combat Mobility Forces...

...Deploying Airman Warriors

97TH AIR MOBILITY WING

Col. Jon "Ty" Thomas
Commander

Col. R "Wyn" Elder
Vice Commander

CMSgt. Robert Austin
Command Chief

97TH MAINTENANCE DIRECTORATE

97TH MAINTENANCE DIVISION

97TH MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS DIVISION

97TH AIRCRAFT DIVISION

97TH MEDICAL GROUP

97TH MEDICAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON

97TH MEDICAL SUPPORT SQUADRON

97th Operations Group

54th Air Refueling Squadron

58th Airlift Squadron

97th Operations Support Squadron

97th Training Squadron

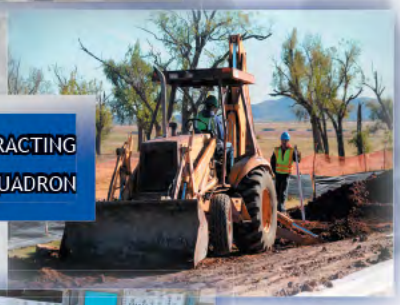
97th Mission Support Group

97th Force Support Squadron

97th Civil Engineer Squadron

97th Logistics Readiness Squadron

97th Security Forces Squadron



97th Contracting Squadron

97th Communication Squadron

What's New...

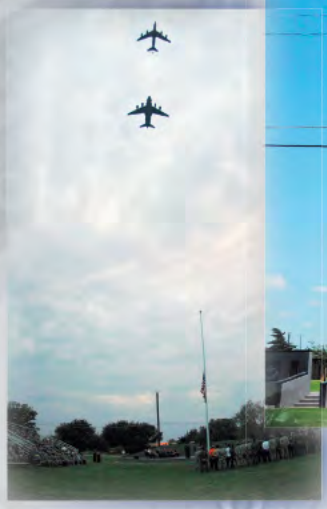
Base Pool Renovations

Club Altus Renovations

Firing Range Renovations

Windy Trails Golf Course Renovations

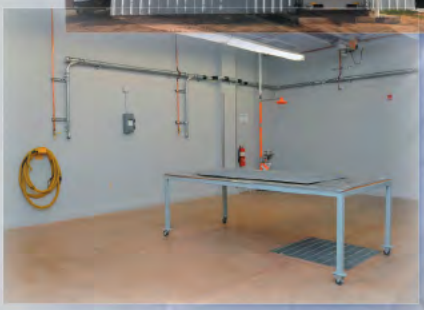
Galaxy Lanes Renovations



Wings Of Freedom Park

New Operations Group Command Section

New C-17 Component Repair Facility



. . . At Altus AFB

2009 Annual Award W

97th AMW Airman Of The Year
A1C ANGELI M. YERKEY

97th AMW NCO Of The Year
TSgt JEROME A. BISCAINO

97th AMW SNCO Of The Year
SMSgt MICHAEL A. MORRIS

97th AMW First Sergeant Of The Year
MSgt ANTHONY S. BOLER

97th AMW Honor Guard Manager Of The Year
SSgt TANYA M. CHOYCE

97th AMW Honor Guard Member Of The Year
A1C JORGE A. RAMIREZ-MONTEGO

97th AMW Field Grade Officer The Year
MAJ DONALD L. LANDGREBE

INNERS

97th AMW Company Grade Officer The Year
Capt JOHNNY CALHOUN JR.

97th AMW Junior Company Grade Officer The Year
1st LT MICHAEL BREWER

97th AMW Sr. Level Civilian Of The Year
DAWN M. TABOR

97th AMW Mid Level Civilian Of The Year
CHARLES W. NORTH

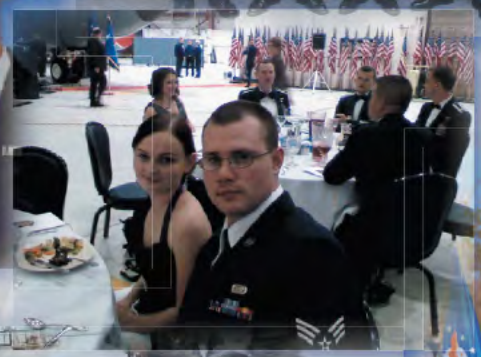
97th AMW Jr. Level Civilian Of The Year
HEATHER M. HENSON

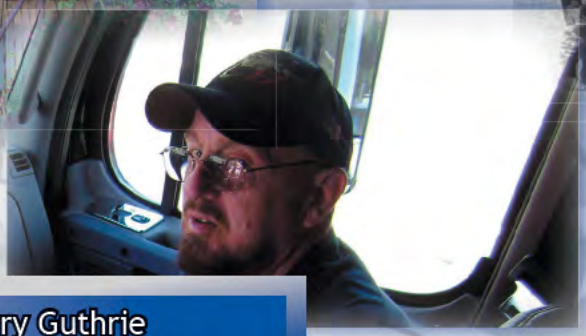
97th AMW Volunteer Of The Year
DARRYL G. KNOWLES

97th AMW Supervisor Of The Year
LARRY D. MELTON

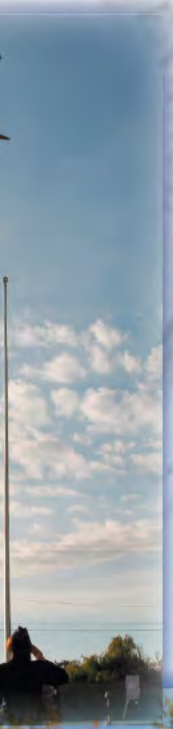
Altus Air Force Base Remembers...

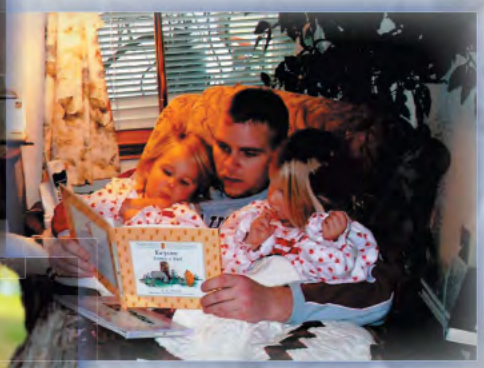
SSgt Andrew Bubacz
Sept. 15, 1987 - Nov. 12, 2010
97th Communications Squadron

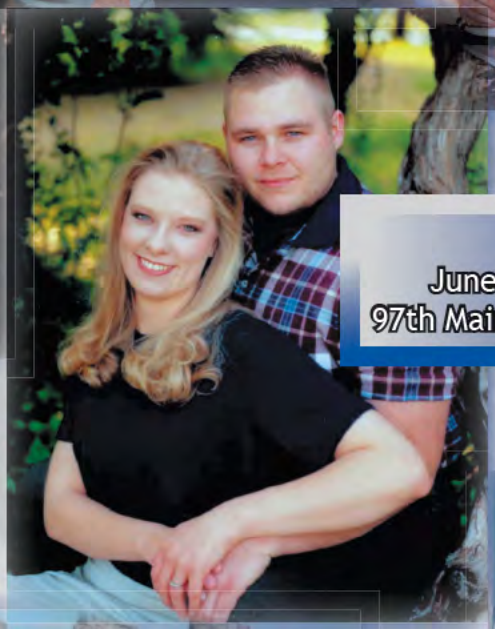




Mr. Jerry Guthrie
July 1, 1946 - May 6, 2010
97th Aircraft Maintenance Division





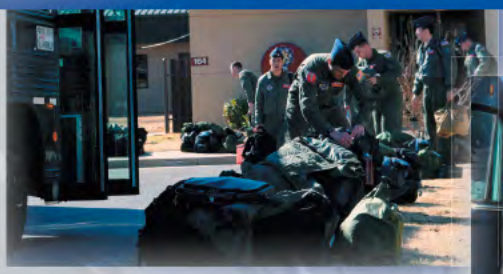


Mr. Robert Swain
June 19, 1973 - Jan. 30, 2010
97th Maintenance Operations Division

Mr. Henry Sturdevant
Jan. 21, 1952 - Feb. 11, 2010
97th Aircraft Maintenance Divison

...And Never Forgets

WINTER 2010

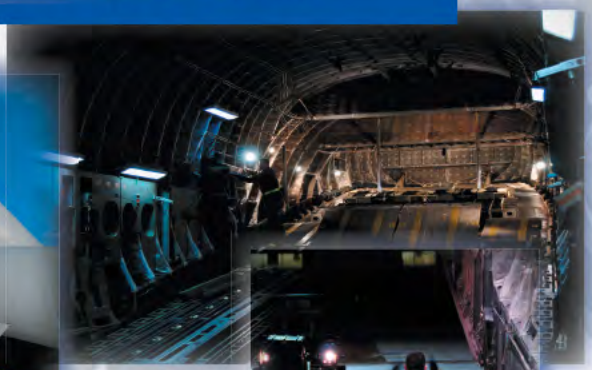


OPERATION UNIFIED RESPONSE

The 97th Air Mobility Wing launched six Globemaster IIIs from the 58th Airlift Squadron on Jan. 17 to assist with the humanitarian relief effort in Haiti, as part of Operation Unified Response.

Altus answered the call for help with 50 aircrew personnel who delivered aid in the form of medical evacuations and life sustaining supplies.

Also accompanying them were 13 C-17 maintainers to keep the aircraft readily available for the constant sorties needed to provide relief to the island nation, which was ravaged by an earthquake Jan. 12.



OPERATION ICE STATION ZEBRA

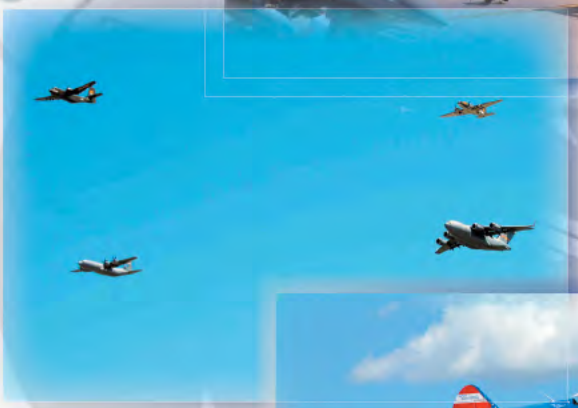
Altus Air Force Base was slammed with a severe ice storm Jan. 28. Freezing rain, several inches of ice and temperatures in the low 20's hit the base and the surrounding community, leaving 21,000 residents without power for several days. Damage was so extensive, a limited evacuation order was issued for non-mission essential personnel and their dependents. C-17 Globemaster III and KC-135 Stratotanker aircrew training was also shut down. Temporary shelters and dining facitilies were immediately set in place.

Altus Airmen teamed with personnel from Lackland, Sheppard and Dyess Air Force Bases, Texas, and Vance AFB, Okla., to restore power and remove fallen debris and tree limbs. Power was fully restored early Feb. 5, allowing for a full recall of all personnel.

SPRING 2010

WINGS OF FREEDOM OPEN HOUSE & AIR SHOW

Altus Air Force Base opened it's gates on May 2, for more than 40,000 people to see the United States Air Force Thunderbirds perform alongside the Wings of Blue Parachute team and Glider team, C-130J demonstration, B-1B flyover, Mobility Air Forces Heritage Flight, and Altus AFB's C-17s and KC-135s performing multiple demonstrations.



WINGS OF FREEDOM

ALTUS AFB

Many civilian performers were there as well, including the TORA TORA TORA Pearl Harbor re-enactment demonstration, "Jive" Kerby in his T-33 Shooting Star, Kelly Pietrowicz flying in her Pitts S-2B, and Greg Shelton piloting his Stearman with Ashley Battles wing walking. The day finished with the Cavanaugh Flight Museum's C-7 Caribou, C-47 Skytrain and AD-5 Skyraider.

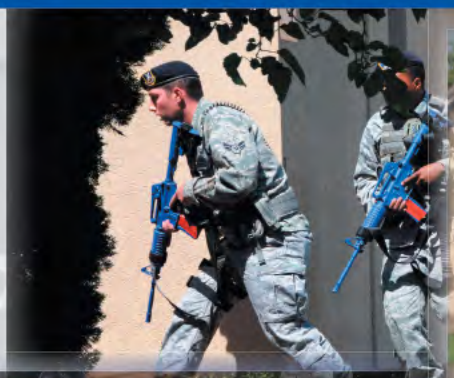
Static displays consisted of almost every aircraft in the United States Air Force inventory, civilian aircraft, along with aircraft from the United States Navy and Marine Corps, plus United States Army helicopters, Humvees, rocket systems and artillery.

SPRING 2010

FORCE PROTECTION EXERCISE

Altus Air Force Base conducted a force protection exercise June 1. The exercise was part of a sweeping effort by the Department of Defense to refine response actions to active shooter scenarios similar to the shooting incident at Fort Hood, Texas, Nov. 5, 2009. The 97th Air Mobility Wing was the first AETC base to perform an active-shooter exercise, after the Fort Hood incident. The scenario involved a gunman entering a base facility and opening fire, resulting in multiple casualties and wounded personnel.

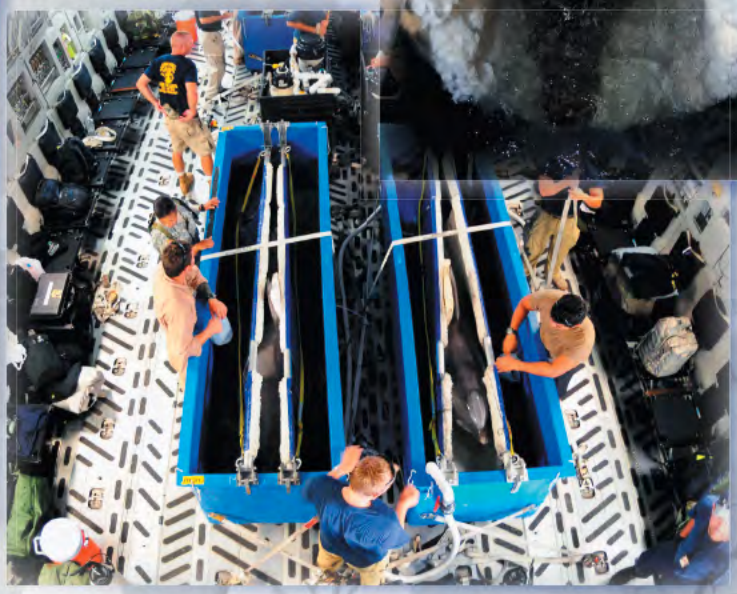
The Wing received very limited guidance from headquarters on how to implement this type of exercise. Because security forces and emergency responders reacted in such a timely and efficient manner, the results of the exercise became the foundation for processes later adopted Air Force-wide. Inspectors took the results to a USAF Corona Summit, where Air Force senior leaders came together for frank, open discussions and decision-making about how Air Force installations would respond to such scenarios. Using "lessons learned" from Altus, guidance for future exercises has been implemented.



DOLPHIN FLIGHT

Airmen from the 58th Airlift Squadron teamed up with U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Fleet Systems to take four mine-hunting bottlenose dolphins from Norfolk, VA.to San Diego, Calif. on June 11-15.

Stationed at the Point Loma Sub Base, the four bottlenose dolphins were in Norfolk in support of exercise Frontier Sentinel. Frontier Sentinel is an annual training exercise consisting of approximately 2,500 personnel from Canadian and U.S. military forces and government civilian agencies. The focus of this year's Frontier Sentinel was maritime homeland defense, and the dolphins were on the job to assist with underwater mine clearance around Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base.



SUMMER 2010

TOPS IN BLUE

Tops in Blue, the Air Force's premiere entertainment showcase, performed at Altus Air Force Base Aug. 3. Singers, dancers, and comedians graced the base for the first time ever. This hour-and-a-half music-packed show was held in the Wings of Freedom Park. The show, entitled "I Believe" consisted of today's greatest hits as well as some from the past, and rekindled what the Air Force and the American spirit is all about, for performers and spectators alike.

CATTLE DRIVE/GREAT PLAINS STAMPEDE RODEO

The 12th annual Altus Air Force Base Cattle Drive was on Aug. 26. More than 50 long horn cattle were led through the 3 1/2 miles across the installation by base leadership and community cattle drivers. This event kicked off the Great Plains Stampede Rodeo. The rodeo featured a Military Appreciation Night chuck wagon dinner, tug-of-war contest and a parade through town in addition to the Bareback Riding, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, and Bull Riding events.

FALL 2010

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

The United States Air Force Academy Drum and Bugle Corps came to Altus Air Force Base Sept. 17 to help celebrate the football game between the Air Force Academy Falcons and the University of Oklahoma Sooners on Sept. 18. In support of the game, Altus AFB hosted the "Air Force Past, Present and Future" celebration and pep rally at the Wings of Freedom Park. Also while here, the corps performed during the Altus High School Bulldogs game against the Lawton High School Wolverines.

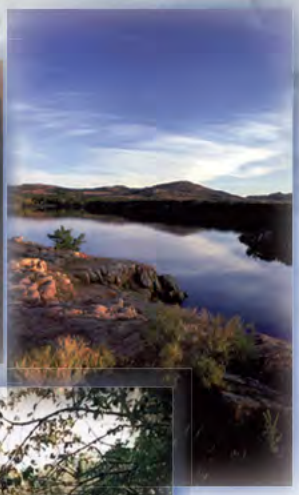
LOGISTICS COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The 97th Air Mobility Wing received the first, and only, excellent score on a Logistics Compliance Assessment Program inspection in Air Education and Training Command history. According to the 97th LCAP report, the Directorate of Maintenance (A-Team) and 97th LRS are providing excellent logistics support to the 97th AMW. A total of 1,178 inspections or evaluations were conducted, resulting in a 90.69 percent score.

OPERATION RETREAT HAVEN

October included Operation Retreat Haven, a weekend retreat aimed at preparing all Airmen, single or married, for upcoming deployments. The retreat gives Airmen tools and resources to strengthen the full spectrum of relationships for all military deployers.

The weekend also provides many recreation and relationship-building activities, such as horseback riding, hiking, canoeing, boating, and a western-style bonfire.



FALL 2010

FARM CITY WEEK

The 33rd annual Farm City week was Nov. 1-5. This is a community outreach program developed by Altus AFB leadership and the Altus Chamber of Commerce. The program is designed to maintain and bolster the positive relationship between the base and its neighbors.

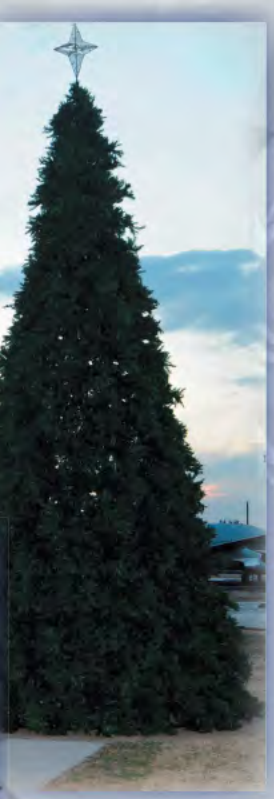
More than 125 base personnel headed out to local farms to see the day-to-day operations of Oklahoma's agriculture industry.

Later that week, more than 60 community members joined the 54th Air Refueling Squadron on two KC-135 Stratotankers during a refueling mission. This year's event boasted the theme "Farming, Flying and Community."

WING CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Military and civilian personnel gathered to witness the lighting of the base Christmas tree in Wings of Freedom Park Nov. 29.

Last year, Altus AFB replaced the old "lights only" tree with this 29-foot tree with permanent LED lights.



ALTUS CHRISTMAS PARADE

The 30th Annual Altus Christmas Parade was held Dec. 5. The theme was "A Christmas Morning." Col. Jon "Ty" Thomas, Commander 97th Air Mobility Wing, served as one of the judges in the float competition. The 97th Communication Squadron took first place in the Altus Air Force Base category.

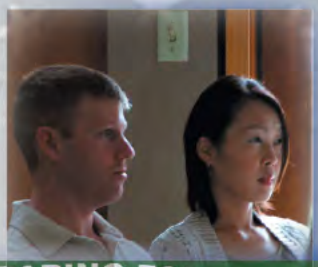
2011...

Annual Awards Banquet

February

Boom Operator Symposium

April



April

Operation Retreat Haven

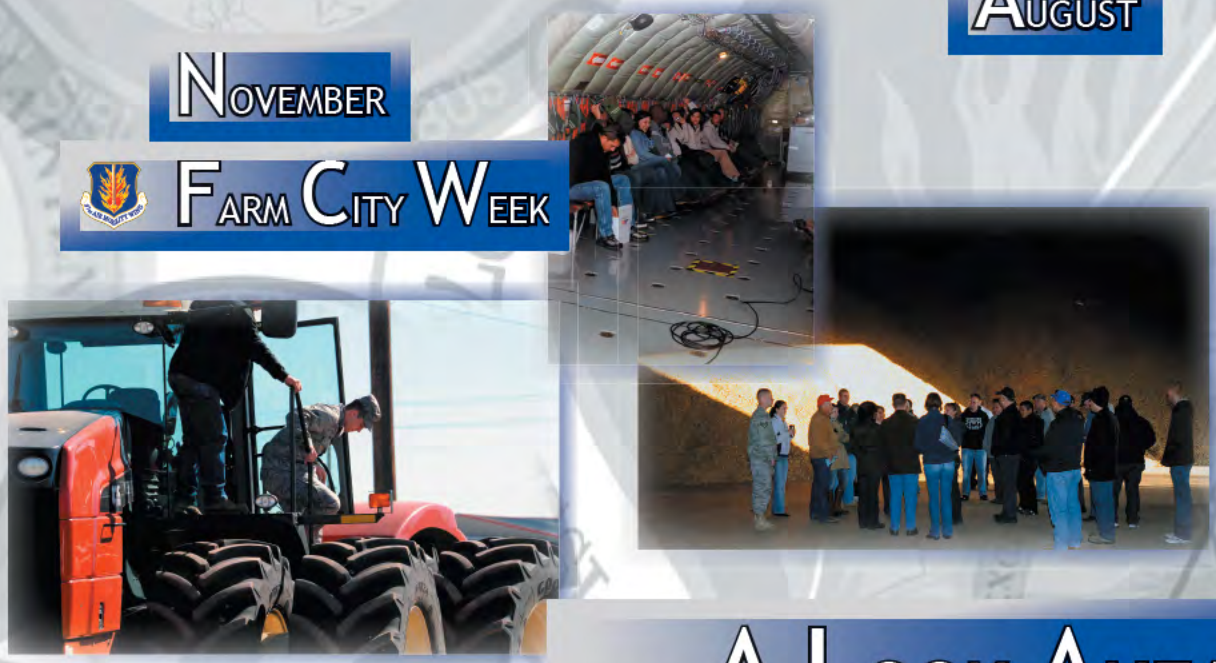
Summer Events in the Park

Cattle Drive and Stampede Rodeo

August

November

Farm City Week



...A Look Ahead

The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.
I am a Warrior.
I have answered my Nation's call.
I am an American Airman.
My mission is to Fly, Fight, and Win.
I am faithful to a Proud Heritage,
A Tradition of Honor,
And a Legacy of Valor.
I am an American Airman.
Guardian of Freedom and Justice,
My Nation's Sword and Shield,
Its Sentry and Avenger.
I defend my Country with my Life.
I am an American Airman.
Wingman, Leader, Warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

"Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win"