



Former Boss Takes Command in Iraq: Brig Gen Brian

Bishop (Commander/Leader 98-99) assumed command of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing during a change of command ceremony at **Joint Base Balad, Iraq**, July 4. **Lt. Gen. Gary North, 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central** commander, presided over the ceremony and expressed his confidence in General Bishop, an **Air Force Academy** graduate and former commander of the **U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds**, and his ability to lead and continue the legacy of excellence perpetuated by today's **Tuskegee Airmen**. General Bishop comes to Joint Base Balad from Washington D.C., where he was deputy director, Legislative

Liaison, **Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Headquarters U.S. Air Force**. "General Bishop will have the opportunity to write the next chapter in Red Tail history," General North said. "It has been an exceptional year under the leadership of **General Field** and it will be an exceptional year under General Bishop." The heritage of the 332 AEW, headquartered at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, is tied to the famous 332nd Fighter Group led by the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II. The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing is located 42 miles north of Baghdad and consists of five co-located groups and three geographically separated groups. As the wing commander, General Bishop will be responsible for the busiest single runway operation in terms of aircraft movement in the **Department of Defense**. Servicemembers assigned to JBB process more than 950 cargo aircraft, 12,000 tons of cargo and 19,000 passengers in an average month. "Today is a truly humbling day -- for me to assume command of this wing on the 4th of July, our Independence Day, in a country that's struggling for its own," General Bishop said. "Thank you General Field for turning over to me such an outstanding group of Airmen." *Report by Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes, 332nd Air Expeditionary Public Affairs Office*

2009 Reunion Committee Still Needs Your Help: Thanks to everyone who has stepped up and volunteered to help out with the 2009 reunion. We have a nice list building and I'd love to add your name to the list. Things won't get too busy until we hit 2009, and the final 6 months leading into reunion is when most of the help will be needed and utilized. We do know that we will be staying at the **SouthPoint Hotel and Casino** again in 2009, and because we have that contract already in place, we know that Reunion events will be held on Friday Nov 20th and Sat Nov 21st 2009. We are moving the golf tournament to Friday morning and we will have all of our activities on Friday and Saturday which will help everyone with their expenses. As our brothers in the **Marines** say, we are still looking for a few good men and women volunteers to help us put on the festivities, drop me an e-mail at matt@sgbci.com if you are interested in volunteering and have an awesome week, month and year. -
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Gone But Not Forgotten: Lt. Col. (Ret) Martin Detlie, Skyblazers Slot Pilot, 52-53, passed away July 2. Condolences may be sent to his widow, Mrs. Wivi Detlie at 1024 Porte Harbour Arch #202, Hampton, VA 23664.

Retirements: **Lt. Col. Jonathan "Skid" Greene**, Right Wing 00-01, will retire Aug. 8 at **Creech AFB, NV** after 20 years of service. **Robert Steele**, Egress 71-73, will retire from **Lockheed Martin** Oct. 1 after 22 years of service to the defense contractor.

Expecting Parents: Ryan Dudgeon (Airlift Coordinator 99-02) and his wife Lisa are expecting their first child in January, 2009. Ryan is currently deployed and anxious to get home to his expecting wife.

John Seagriff offers custom-made Thunderbird **license plate frames** and **wall plaques** for the Thunderbird enthusiast who has everything. They make great retirement, going away or Christmas gifts. To get more information or to place your order, e-mail John at sleevesdad@yahoo.com, and be sure to tell him the TBAA E-Newsletter sent you.

Thunderbirds Announce 2009 Officer Selections: Officials of the **Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron**, commonly known as the Thunderbirds, announced incoming officer selections for the 2009 demonstration season June 2 here. **Maj. Derek Routt**, an **F-15 Eagle** pilot stationed at **Nellis Air Force Base**, will become the operations officer and serve as the second in command for the squadron as Thunderbird No. 7. **Maj. Sean Gustafson**, an **F-16 Fighting Falcon** pilot stationed at **Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla.**, will take over as slot pilot, Thunderbird No. 4. **Maj. Richard Goodman**, an **F-15E Strike Eagle** pilot stationed here, will join the team as the opposing solo, Thunderbird No. 6. **Capt. Jacob Hammons**, an F-15 pilot currently stationed at **Laughlin AFB, Texas**, as a **T-38** instructor pilot, will become the new left wing as Thunderbird No. 2. **Capt. Petrina Hansen**, a personnel officer stationed at **Misawa Air Base, Japan**, will become the executive officer and Thunderbird No. 10. **Capt. Jamie Rempel**, stationed at **Luke AFB, Ariz.**, will join the team as the maintenance officer and Thunderbird No. 11. "Each person and position is carefully selected based on the individual's record of performance, capabilities in their particular field and a demonstrated commitment to excellence that matches the Airmen we represent every day," said **Lt. Col. Greg Thomas**, the squadron commander/leader and Thunderbird No. 1. The 2009 selections include a **National Guard** and **Reserve** pilot (Majors Routt and Gustafson, respectively) to serve on the Air Force's premier demonstration team. "Each year we have dozens of highly capable Airmen apply for each position," Colonel Thomas said. "We select the most qualified individuals to join the team based on their overall capabilities and ability to represent all Airmen." The public affairs officer position will be selected later in the summer, due to deployment operations and an extended interview process.

Deployed Alumni: The following alumni are currently deployed supporting operations around the globe. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers: **Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop**, Commander/Leader, 98-99; **Col. Carl Buhler**, Maintenance Officer, 97-98; **TSgt. Ryan Dudgeon**, Airlift Coordinator 99-02; **TSgt. Kati Garcia**, Public Affairs, 02-07; **SSgt. Michelle Boyd**, Broadcaster, 00-05. If you know of anybody who is deployed, please send their information to tbaanewsletter@gmail.com with the subject line "Deployed Alumni."

Get the Word Out: The **Thunderbirds Alumni Association** is still in need of representatives who are willing to collect information from their teammates and submit it for publication. If you are contact with many of your old teammates, please consider being the public affairs rep for them. As the PA rep, you will send the E-Newsletter editor all the good news happening to those you served with. This includes assignments, promotions, retirements, post-military jobs, graduations, weddings, births and any other news you think people would like to hear. If you want to be a PA rep, send an e-mail to tbaanewsletter@gmail.com with "PA Rep" in the subject line. The following two alumni have stepped up to represent their teams: **Al Eakle** represents those on the team from 89 to 91 teams; while **Bobby Plache** represents those on the team from 00-05. If you were on the team during those times and have news to share, send it to Al or Bobby and they'll get it published for you.

2009 Thunderbird Calendar Available for Preorder: The **USAF Thunderbirds 2009 Calendar** features a different photo of the team in action each month. This large 22 x 14 inch (when open), full color, sixteen-month calendar contains historical information as well as holiday and lunar dates. Each month features a story by a Thunderbird taken from the 50th Anniversary *We Rode The Thunder* publication. A portion of the proceeds for this calendar will benefit the Thunderbirds Alumni Association. The calendar is \$12.95 (plus shipping and handling) if your order before Sept. 30 and \$14.95 (plus shipping and handling) after that. To order with your credit card, call (888) 263-4702, or order online at www.mtpublishing.com. To order by mail, send order and payment to M.T. Publishing Company, Inc., P.O. Box 6802, Evansville, IN 47719-6802. Include your name, street address, daytime phone and e-mail address. U.S. Shipping rate is \$3.50 for the first calendar and \$1.00 for each additional calendar. Indiana residents add 7% sales tax to the cost of calendars and shipping. Please call for international shipping rates.

Thunderbirds Alumni on MySpace: The TBAA is now active on the social networking Web site MySpace. Click <http://www.myspace.com/thunderbirdalumni> to check it out. Once you get there, you can connect with old friends, leave a comment, or check out the photo gallery. If you have photos you'd like to add to the MySpace gallery, please send them to tbaanewsletter@gmail.com with the subject line "MySpace Photos."

Update Your Address with the TBAA: If you have moved or changed any of your contact information, please let the **TBAA** office know so they can update the alumni database. To update your information, simply send an e-mail to **Doris Wilson**.

Membership Directory: If you are an active TBAA member, you should have received your 2008 **TBAA** Membership Directory. If you have changes to the information in the directory, please e-mail **Doris Wilson**. Also, if you would like to add your spouses name for the next edition of the directory, please e-mail your spouse's name to Doris. Adding your spouse's name is completely voluntary.

To renew your TBAA membership, e-mail doewilson@aol.com

To submit items for publication in the E-Newsletter, send an e-mail to the editor at tbaanewsletter@gmail.com.

To ensure delivery of TBAA e-mails in you inbox, please take a moment to add tbaanewsletter@gmail.com to your e-mail address book or safe list.

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