



Billy Bass Bulletin

Saturday, March 10, 2002 Volume 002

The Adventures of Airmen Billy Bass and John Pangelinan

This Bulletin will be sent to all at on a weekly basis (I'll try). Any simulation to actual characters and/or incidences is strictly coincidental. Portions of this bulletin were proudly plagiarized from the Daily Panther Print Base Bulletin for your reading pleasure.



The Adventure Continues...

THE AL JABER BASE HISTORY (The 332nd Tuskegee Airmen): A quick History on the 332nd: The Tuskegee Airmen Story began during a very turbulent time for race relations in the United States. Segregation existed in the military and Blacks were only allowed to serve their country performing service or labor tasks. The 99th Fighter Squadron, with Benjamin O. Davis Jr. as commander, was the first squadron to reach full strength. It would be almost a year before anything happened. The reason for the delay was no commander in either the Pacific or Europe wanted this unit.



When word came that the 99th Fighter Squadron was going to North Africa, they deployed knowing that if they failed, the other three units would never make it to either war theater. The 332d Fighter Group was established on July 4, 1942 and activated on October 13, 1942. During the war, the 332d were primarily assigned to escorting bombers. This soon gave them a reputation from both sides of the front. While flying their P-51 fighter planes, the Germans nicknamed them "Schwartz Vogelmenshen" which translates into "Black Birdmen." Because of the bright red tails on the P-51, the American bombing crews nicknamed them "Redtail Angels."

The Group logged 15,533 sorties, destroyed 409 enemy aircraft, numerous fuel and ammunition dumps, sank a destroyer, which was rare because they only had machine guns, and escorted over 200 bombing missions *without losing one bomber*. The group, which lost 66 to combat deaths and another 33 as prisoners of war, also received some of the highest awards. They received 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, eight Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, 744 Air Medals and clusters and three distinguished unit citations. At the end of the war, the 332d returned to the United States and was deactivated on October 19, 1945.

On December 1, 1998, the 332d was re-activated at Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, State of Kuwait, with Colonel Paul G. Schafer as commander. On June 27, 1999, Colonel Michael A. Snodgrass assumed command.

A CITY TOUR: The city of Kuwait is quite a cultural experience as well as an architectural treat. The city itself is comparable to Portland in size and population. It is located on the coast and has some of the most spectacular skyline as shown from this aerial shot courtesy of the public relations office.





If you think the skyline is something, look at just how gorgeous the sunsets are on a clear evening. The colors are truly bright and surreal. I thought no sunset could match my home island sunsets of Saipan but this one comes very close.



Below are a series of architectural and street pictures around Kuwait. The mosques are not relatively large but they do 'dress' them up. Simple water towers are turned into playful art yet classic styles are also maintained as shown in this white palace.



STATESIDE FORCE ALERT!!!

Subject: Kansas Mobilizes Special Ground Forces

The State of Kansas announced today that it has mobilized its Elite Special Forces Ground Units (KSSFGU) specializing in subterranean warfare to Afghanistan.



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said over 100,000 of these elite fighters would be mobilized immediately to search out and destroy Taliban and al-Qaida forces hiding in caves and in the mountains.

"We didn't think we were going to have to use these elite forces," Rumsfeld said, "but it's time to end this thing . . . these fighters are specially trained for subterranean attack and can even be used to locate and dismantle land mines."

FOR FUN: I have taken the following excerpts from the base daily bulletin below which I found very funny and entertaining. I did some modifications to hopefully increase the laugh value. Hope you enjoy it...

Al Jaber Happenings... (Some items modified for your entertainment)

WANT ADS

❑ **HONEY BUCKET TECHNICIAN:** A sweet position available for coordinating the clean up of outhouses throughout the base. Hours are flexible, executive washroom provided. Must provide own gasmask with fresh filter.

WEATHER FORECAST

9-Mar-02		OBSERVATION AT: 0655Z	
HEAT STRESS INDEX (HSI) = NORMAL		CROSS WIND (KTS) = 0.7	
FIGHTER INDEX (FITS) = NORMAL		HEAT INDEX = 0	
3 DAY OUTLOOK			
Sunday		10 Mar 2002	
PARTLY CLOUDY / VIS UNRESTRICTED High of 88°F / Low of 65°F WINDS OUT OF THE NW-N AT 10KTS			
Monday		11 Mar 2002	
CLEAR TO PARTLY CLOUDY / VIS UNRESTRICTED High of 88°F/ Low of 63°F WINDS OUT OF THE NW AT 05-10KTS			
Tuesday		12 Mar 2002	
PARTLY CLOUDY / VIS UNRESTRICTED High of 88°F / Low of 65°F WINDS E AT 05-10KTS			

SAFETY NOTICE!!!

For those who may choose to visit the local Kuwait parks, a general alert has been relayed to watch for the warning signs. The sign on the right is obviously warning that there is a “handicapped-person-eating” alligator at the bottom of the hill.



Why We Love Our Kids

- On the first day of school, the Kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers." A little voice from the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"
- My wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to our six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," she replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," my wife said. Our daughter bowed her head and said: "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Quote for the Day

"Everybody talks about the weather but nobody ever does anything about it." Will Rogers

Murphy's Laws of Armed Conflict

(things to remember while wearing a helmet and boots)

The Five Most Dangerous things in the Air Force

1. An Airman saying "I learned this in Basic."
2. An NCO saying "Trust me sir."
3. A 2Lt saying "Based on my experience."
4. A Chief saying "Hold my beer and watch this..."
5. The Port-a-Potty Postulate states that the likelihood of a hurricane, sandstorm, tsunami, or blizzard occurring immediately over your location is directly related to how bad you need to get to the port-a-johns at the other side of the campsite in the middle of the night.
6. The temperature always rises to 70 degrees AFTER you put on two layers of polypros, your bear suit, and all of your Gortex.

Rules of the Rucksack

- No matter how carefully you pack, a rucksack is always too small.
- No matter how small, a rucksack is always too heavy.
- No matter how heavy, a rucksack will never contain what you want.
- No matter what you need, it's always at the bottom.

Things I've Learned – Andy Rooney

- I've learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.
- I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
- I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.