



# Air Combat Command NEWS SERVICE

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## 7th Bomb Wing deploys

(Editor's note: Deployed people are identified only by their first names for security reasons.)  
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7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas  
(ACCNS) -- The 7th Bomb Wing here deployed Jan. 14 to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

"The men and women of Dyess Air Force Base did not ask for this war, but they are fully prepared and ready to conduct the mission," said Col. Thomas Bell, 7th Bomb Wing vice commander.

Many of the Dyess airmen who out-processed at the Deployment Control Center were glad they are able to help. "Ever since (the Sept. 11 events) happened, I've been anxious to do my part," said 1st Lt. Joe, a B-1 pilot.

The deploying troops processed through the DCC the previous week to finalize their plans for departure. Specialists from the family support center, medical group, finance, military personnel flight, legal office and chapel were on hand to help the airmen get their pre-deployment affairs in order.

The deployment was the first for many of the airmen. "You don't deploy that much when you're a bomber," said Staff Sgt. Hector, the 9th Bomb Squadron's NCO in charge of the technical orders library. "I'm excited and a little nervous -- my wife is very nervous."

"I feel great," said Airman 1st Class Kandi, a jet-engine mechanic. "I'm excited, but not nervous."

The wing's B-1s joined the war effort with Dyess' C-130s of the 317th Airlift Group, which departed Nov. 29 for their scheduled Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation but have since been reassigned to support Enduring Freedom.

"I've deployed before for expeditionary forces, but never in a real war," said Lt. Col. Rick, deploying troop commander.

During the past 100 days of Enduring Freedom, the Air Force has flown 9,800 sorties. U.S. Air Force



Dyess troops check in at the Deployment Control Center in preparation for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Matthew Rosine)

**Note: Click on photo for higher-resolution copy.**

aircraft have flown more than 23 percent of combat missions in Afghanistan, dropping nearly 7,000 tons of munitions -- about 75 percent of the OEF total -- and damaged or destroyed nearly three-quarters of planned targets.

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