

## FEATURE

# CAFB talks about Christmas traditions



Photos by Senior Airman Jason Smith

**(Left) 1st Lt. Andy Ix, 17th Airlift Squadron --**

*"Growing up we put real candles on the tree and lit them. I wouldn't say we still do that because it would be a fire hazard. We also used real fruit as ornaments. Our celebration was all in the old German tradition.*

*"Also, we had St. Nicholas day on Nov. 6. That's where we'd put our shoe or boot outside the door and in the morning, there would be a stocking stuffer in it. I actually tried it this year and it worked. I put my boot out and Dana, my wife, put a gift in it."*



**(Above, left to right) Senior Airman Shaun Flynn, Military Working Dog Rex, Senior Airman Michael Reeves and MWD Athos, all from the 437th Security Forces Squadron --**

*"As usual, we're going to be working for the holidays. So are our dogs."*



**(Left) Master Sgt. Allison Bethea, 437th Airlift Wing --**

*"We used to go to church on Christmas Eve, and then when we got home, we were allowed to open one present. Our mom picked which one we opened. It was usually something like pajamas.*

*"Christmas morning, me and my sister were up at 4 a.m. opening presents."*

**(Right) Airman 1st Class Brienne Sarb, 437th Medical Group --**

*"Every year we went to my grandma's house Christmas Eve for dinner. The next morning we'd open presents.*

*"My parents just moved to Myrtle Beach, S.C., so I'm taking some single friends with me who can't make it home for the holidays. It won't be a tradition for long because I just got orders to Hawaii."*



**(Above) Tech. Sgt. Benton Barr, 437th Operations Support Squadron --**

*"We just had the OSS chili cook off. There was no beef in my chili, so everyone is still trying to figure out what kind of meat was in there.*

*"Being a survival instructor, reindeer can't be ruled out."*



**(Left) Senior Airman Antoinette Burgess, 437th Operations Support Squadron --**

*"I really never did anything out of the ordinary. The kids always opened their gifts at midnight on Christmas Eve. My brother, the youngest, got to go first."*

**(Right) Airman 1st Class Jerry Gafford, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron --**

*"We always go to my grandma's house on my mom's side. They have this Santa suit from the 60s that someone always put on. It was usually an uncle in the suit, but we never knew. He would hand out our presents.*

*"This year is my first turn to put the suit on. That suit's in pretty bad shape; I think it's had it."*

