



THE WRIGHT FLYER

By Dale and Renae Wright

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 17, 2004

2004 Brings Exciting Changes to the Wrights

Back to School

No, Renae and Dale did not have a baby in 2004 (give them a few years), but they did welcome many new changes to their lives during the year.

The most significant change came when Dale was selected to attend graduate school at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (AFB), located in Dayton, Ohio. His selection was based on the Air Force's new Intermediate Development Education (IDE) program. While this was an exciting opportunity for Dale, it would again mean time apart for Renae and Dale in 2004, since AFIT would be a one-year assignment for Dale, and since Renae was not due to move away from Colorado Springs until the summer of 2005.

So in June 2004, Dale

and Renae packed up most of Dale's belongings (except for the 'Vette got to stay in Colorado with Renae - lucky her!) and made the 2-day trip to Ohio in the U-Haul.

So far, Dale has enjoyed making new friendships, while the schoolwork has been something left to be desired. When he graduates in June 2005, he'll have an AFIT master's degree in systems engineering. The schoolwork and separation from Renae has been tough, but she is also working on her master's degree from the University of Maryland and will graduate in May 2005. So between the two of them, when they are not talking to each other on the phone, they spend a lot of time studying. They both look forward to spending some good times together over the holidays in Colorado.

Lucky for Dale and Renae, the last 6 months went fast. Before Dale left for AFIT, Renae was selected to attend Squadron Officer School (SOS) in Feb-Mar at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama, which meant more time apart from each other.

Dale and Renae look forward to living together again in summer 2005. They should know their next assignment by spring.

ESPN Visits SMC During Air Force-Navy Weekend

Renae continues to enjoy working software maintenance activities for the Space Based Infrared Systems Program at the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC), Peterson AFB, CO. She gets to travel often to Buckley AFB in Denver and also to Boulder.

Her most memorable time of the year at work came in the form of a sports-related event (believe it or not). Renae's commander has been a huge supporter of Air Force sports, and on September 29th, all the employees got together to host a Pep Rally for the Air Force vs. Navy football game that would be played the next day. Amazingly, ESPN agreed to show up to get some pre-game footage of the Air Force-Navy Pep Rally. Dale was home during that time and got to be part of the day's events. That night, Dale and Renae saw a short clip from the pep rally during half-time of another game on ESPN. What a great place to work, eh?



Renae works in the Centralized Integration Support Facility (aka The Taj Mahal).

Happy 2004!



Dale and Renae ring in 2004 at Hooter's, their favorite Colorado Springs Hangout.

Sports Shorts



5 Top Stories in 2004

1. New England Patriots Offensive coordinator Charlie Weis gets hired at ND as head football coach.
2. Air Force Academy men's basketball team makes the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1962.
3. New York Yankees sign A-Rod and make the post-season for the 10th consecutive season but fall to Boston in the ALCS.
4. The University of Montana played for the I-AA college football championship but fell to James Madison 31-21 in the big game.
5. Renae's leads her USAF Fit-to-Fight team, "The Bloodhounds," to their very first two victories.



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Family Shorts

Births

Although Renae and Dale didn't have a baby of their own this year, they were able to join in welcoming the many births of some of their friends and family, including Renae's brother, Jeremy and sister-in-law, Tiffani, who gave birth to beautiful Avery Karin Hein on August 28th. Renae got to visit her new niece over Labor Day and Thanksgiving.



Renae and Avery at Grandma Marie Hein's during Thanksgiving weekend.

Engagements



Renae's big brother, Jason, and his fiancé, Nikki. They were engaged New Year's 2004 and will marry in 2005.



Renae holds the "Rubber Chicken" for her Fit-to-Fight team's last place finish, which was sandwiched by two victories.