



P. David Gillett Jr. '76 was promoted to major general in the U.S. Air Force last year. Gillett is director of logistics, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va., where he provides logistics direction and oversight to the more than 47,000 logistics personnel assigned to 93 ACC combat and combat logistics support units

worldwide supporting 1,200 fighter, bomber and special mission aircraft. The general leads a staff of more than 350 people and controls a budget of \$4.6 billion. In addition, he supervises three special staff agencies comprising more than 800 people providing the command-wide contracting activities and program management, as well as Air Forces's regional supply support of the radar surveillance systems dedicated to protecting the nation's borders. Gen. Gillett, who ran cross country for A&M, was commissioned through A&M's Air Force ROTC in July 1976. He and his wife, Stacia Switzer Gillett '78, have two children, Abby, Class of '07, and Marcus, Class of '05 and a first lieutenant in the Marines.

Austin Blaney '02 (left) works for weeks at a time on offshore platforms making 3D models. "This photo was taken on the helideck of the Gullfaks A Statoil Platform in the Norwegian Sector of the North Sea, 125 miles off the coast, northwest of Bergen, Norway," he said. The wind that day was recorded at 50 knots and wave height at 35 feet.



Tina Saari '00 is a camp director for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors and works with children who have lost a parent serving in America's armed forces. She also volunteers at Fort Hood to work with Army casualty assistance officers. She is pictured (left) with country singer Phil Vassar and other TAPS directors.



Pass it back, Ags: The family of Aggie yell leader **Lans Martin '09** and his sister, **Megan Martin '10**, arranged their hay with spirit this year. Lans was recently named head yell leader for 2008-09.

In Memoriam

Spc. Christopher J. West '04

U.S. Army Specialist Christopher J. West, of Arlington, Texas, died Feb. 4 from wounds suffered on Feb. 3 in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Spec. West graduated from Arlington's Bowie High School in 2000 and earned a BBA in marketing from Texas A&M University in December 2004.

After graduating from Texas A&M with



honors, West joined the Army in January 2007, becoming the fourth generation in his family to serve. A combat medic who arrived in Iraq in late 2007, he was scheduled to return home in February to begin a year of noncombat duty before his next deployment.

"He died doing what he loved," said his sister, Lauren West '02 of Arlington. "It was the only thing in his life that he felt was challenging him, and he loved it. He felt like he had found his calling."

His sister described him as smart and funny and often the life of the party. She remembered him as someone who

loved his country and was proud to be an American.

West's military leaders recalled similar traits in the Aggie soldier. "He brought an upbeat attitude to the platoon that spread to every one he met," said 1st Lt. Rich Demarais, his platoon leader. "He loved being a combat medic and a paratrooper. He was loved by his brothers in the platoon."

Remembered in memorial services Feb. 20 in Arlington, Va. West was laid to rest with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

Spec. West's survivors include his parents, John and Hattie West of Arlington, Texas, and sisters, Lauren West '02 and Cameron West '04.