

Office of Information
147th Combat Crew Training Group
Texas Air National Guard
Houston, Texas 77034

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
spl to The Houston Post
and The Houston Chronicle
w/art

ELLINGTON AFB, Tex., March 24, 1970---George Walker Bush is one member of the younger generation who doesn't get his kicks from pot or hashish or speed. Oh, he gets high, all right, but not from narcotics.

Bush is a second lieutenant attached to the 111th Combat Crew Training Squadron, 147th Combat Crew Training Group, Texas Air National Guard at Houston.

Lt Bush recently became the first Houston pilot to be trained by the 147th and to solo in the F-102 Fighter Interceptor, a supersonic, all-weather aircraft.

In January, the 147th's mission was changed from active air defense of the Texas Gulf Coast to a new mission--to train and make combat-ready all Air National Guard F-102 fighter pilots in the United States.

Lt Bush was the first member of the 147th to be trained by people he will be working with in the future.

After his solo, a milestone in the career of any fighter pilot, Lt Bush couldn't find enough words to adequately express the feeling of solo flight.

"It was really neat. It was fun, and very exciting", he said. "I felt really serene up there. It's exciting to be alone in such a big aircraft and it's a real challenge to fly such a powerful airplane by

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yourself".

Fighter planes are Lt Bush's "thing". He says he has no ambition to fly any other type of aircraft.

"Fighters are it. I've always wanted to be a fighter pilot and I wouldn't want to fly anything else", he said. "You have such speed, such power in a fighter, that it's just fantastic. And the F-102 is really a good-looking, well-constructed aircraft. It's a really stable airplane".

Despite the fact that he's flown the F-102 solo for the first time. Lt Bush isn't letting it go to his head.

"I've got a hell of a lot more to learn," he said. "I've got to learn to respect the aircraft and its capabilities, as well as my own abilities."

Lt Bush is the son of U.S. Representative George Bush, who is a candidate for the U. S. Senate seat of Senator Ralph Yarborough. The elder Bush was a Navy fighter pilot. Lt Bush said his father was just as excited and enthusiastic about his solo flight as he was.

Lt Bush, who is 23, is due to complete his pilot training June 23. He will then be released from active duty and assume reserve status in the Air National Guard. He plans to fly as much as possible with the Air Guard and work in his father's campaign. Beyond that, he hasn't any plans.

As far as kicks are concerned Lt Bush gets his from the roaring afterburner of the F-102.

"Flying, the whole thing, is kicks," he said. "But afterburner is a real kick."

PREPARING FOR SOLO FLIGHT under the watchful eyes of an instructor pilot, 2Lt George W. Bush gets himself squared away in the cockpit of his F-102. Lt Bush, son of U.S. Congressman George Bush, is the first "hometown" student to undergo instruction at the Texas Air National Guard's 147th Combat Crew Training Group, Houston, Texas.

Capt Charles W. Whitsett, a Combat Ready F-102 pilot and Delta Airlines pilot, watches the procedures for correctness.

NEWS RELEASE

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147th Fighter Group

Ellington AFB, Tex., 29 Jul 70 - The 147th Fighter Group, Texas Air National Guard, Houston, commanded by Lt Col Bobby W. Hodges, has just completed a successful deployment to Tyndall AFB, Florida firing missiles and rockets from their F-102 aircraft. The deployment required members of this unit to depart Ellington for Tyndall AFB, Panama City, Fla., fire the missiles and rockets in a maximum of 5 days and return to Ellington. An unusual problem was added this year as Hurricane "Becky" came out of the Gulf, headed for the Florida Panhandle, on Tuesday, which required evacuation back to Ellington by the unit personnel. After the storm passed, the unit redeployed to Tyndall to complete the firing within the five day limit.

Another unusual fact on this deployment was that the unit sent four new Lieutenants, of the 12 pilots on this deployment, and each fired a missile, all scoring exceptionally well. The fact that the Lieutenants did so well attests to the training conducted by the 147th Fighter Group's daily mission of Combat Crew Training.

Several Houstonians were cited for their outstanding contributions to the highly successful deployment. They were: SMSgt Alton K. Curry, SMSgt Jimmy L. Jackson, MSgt Dale M. Brenneman, MSgt Walter W. Huehlefeld, MSgt Lindsey T. Smith, TSgt Billy B. Beck, TSgt William E. Chapman, TSgt James A. Craig, TSgt William J. Grant, Jr., SSgt Charles E. Brant, SSgt Donald B. Haig, SSgt David E. Howard, Jr., Sgt Harris H. Beyer, Jr., Sgt Kenneth R. Kana and Sgt William G. McKeown, all members of the 147th CAMRON, commanded by Lt Col David K. Barnell.

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The four Lieutenants firing missiles from the F-102 aircraft for the first time were: Fred E. Bradley, George W. Bush, Jr., Lee M. Honeycutt II, and Dean A. Roome, all members of the 111th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, commanded by Lt Col Jerry B. Killian.

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ELLINGTON AFB, Tex.---2Lt George Walker Bush, 23, of Houston today graduated from the 147th Combat Crew Training School, taking his place among the operationally-ready F-102 pilots of the Air National Guard.

Lt Col Bobby W. Hodges, Commander, 147th Combat Crew Training Group, Texas Air National Guard, presented Lt Bush with his certificate of completion, signifying an ending--and yet a beginning.

Although Lt. Bush has completed a tough and very intense period of training in flying the fighter-interceptor, his training and learning will continue throughout his flying career.

The graduation of Lt Bush signifies a first for the 147th--he is the first hometown graduate of the 147th Combat Crew Training School since the school was established.

He will now assume his duties as a fighter pilot with the 147th, joining the other pilots assigned to the 111th Combat Crew Training Squadron, and will eventually be putting other student pilots through their paces.

Lt Bush is a 1968 graduate of Yale University. Included among his decorations and awards are the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and the Presidential Unit Citation.