

Falcon losing one of its finest

by Sgt. George Hayward
2nd Space Wing public affairs

On Sept. 30, Bill Baugh will step down as chief of public affairs for the 2nd Space Wing. He has been the wing's PA chief, its spokesman, since it was activated in July 1985. With his departure to the civilian arena, Falcon AFB will lose not only a fixture, but also one of the finest individuals ever to pass through the Entry Control Facility.

Most Falcon people know Baugh's background — a retired Air Force colonel who spent six years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, where he endured pain and suffering beyond comprehension. Despite his inner and outer scars, his ability to relate his experiences with eloquence and humor has made him one of the most sought-after public speakers in the local civilian and military communities.

Baugh's rank and experiences command respect. With his 6-foot-4-inch frame, booming voice and intense gaze, he seems to demand it. But what is behind that gaze is what *earns* your

respect. For his spirit touches each person he meets.

Baugh's eyes blaze with love for his country and appreciation of freedom. His Vietnam experiences, rather than stain his soul, have made him a patriot in the truest sense. For him, patriotism is a contagious disease, and everyone he touches catches the bug.

His eyes also reflect inner

strength and serenity. He is a soul at peace. Always at ease, never angry, one of his credos is "there's no such thing as a bad day." In a world filled with stress and anger, he is an island of welcome tranquility.

He also is an island of unbiased friendship. Baugh regularly rubs shoulders, on and off duty, with generals and politicians. But despite his status, he is a man without ego. He treats all people with equal and sincere respect, regardless of their rank or social standing. He's quick to lend a hand, a pat on the back or just a warm smile of friendship.

For Falcon AFB, Baugh's departure is a loss of immeasurable magnitude. The 2nd SWG will get another public affairs chief. But it cannot replace the caring soul who's left an indelible mark on everyone he's touched.

Bill Baugh, you will be missed.



1966 ... The pilot



1973 ... Thinner, but free!



1979 ... The colonel



1991 ... Moving on