

“Air power alone does not guarantee America’s security but I believe it best exploits the nation’s greatest asset – our technical skill.”

–Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg

News in Brief

Prayer luncheon

The base chapel will hold the National Prayer Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday at Club XL.

The guest speaker for the event will be Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Charles Bladwin, United States Air Force Chaplain Service deputy chief. Tickets cost \$3 for E-6s and above and \$2 for E-5s and below and are available through the chapel office.

Due to the number of people attending the prayer luncheon, Club XL will not be open for its normal lunch hours.

For more information, call 298-5111.

Talent show tryouts

Tryouts for the base talent show scheduled for March 29 will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Fiesta Center. All base members are invited to participate.

For more information, call 298-5224.

Mission status

(As of Jan. 31)

Days ahead or behind with mission capable rate

T-37	3.47	79.0%
T-1	0.60	86.1%
T-38	1.15	74.2%
T-6	N/A	76.0%

Air Force extends current, future deployment lengths

By Master Sgt. Rick Burnham

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Currently and soon-to-be deployed airmen will remain deployed longer than the previously targeted three-month rotation, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper announced Jan. 28 in a message to all airmen. The change was made to meet the needs of combatant commanders.

Specifically, active-duty and mobilized reserve component airmen deployed with Air and Space Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8 and those deploying as part of new taskings ordered by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on Dec. 24 should anticipate remaining in place until further notice, General Jumper said in the message.

Airmen in some “stressed” career fields have already been extended beyond three months.

The need for additional forces is



Photo by Scott H. Spitzer

Tech. Sgt. Cindy Beck (right) briefs airmen before they deploy from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. Beck is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the personnel deployment function at McGuire.

part of a buildup of air power in Southwest Asia, ready to achieve national security objectives if directed by the president.

“We must interrupt our normal three-month AEF rotation cycle be-

See ‘Deploy,’ page 4

Five XLers join lieutenant colonels

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Five Laughlin majors will pin on the rank of lieutenant colonel after officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here announced the results of several promotion boards.

Majors David Abercrombie, 47th Security Forces Squadron commander; Bruce Gunn, 47th Comptroller Flight commander; Eric Morgan, 87th Flying Training Squadron operations officer; Arthur Price, 47th Communications Squadron commander; and Peter Roller, 86th Flying Training Squadron K flight com-

mander; were all in-the-promotion zone selectees.

The judge advocate general, chaplain, biomedical sciences corps and nurse corps boards selected 1,708 majors for promotion to lieutenant colonel.

The selection statistics for IPZ promotees to lieutenant colonel from the 2002 boards are as follows:

■ Line – 1,265 selected from 1,765 considered for a 71.7 percent select rate.

■ Chaplain – 12 selected from 22 considered for a 54.5 percent select rate.

■ JAG – 39 selected from 51 considered for a 76.5 percent select rate.

■ NC – 85 selected from 162 considered for a 52.5 percent select rate.

■ BSC – 42 selected from 78 considered for a 53.8 percent select rate.

Laughlin had a 75 percent selection rate for line officer promotions, the Air Force had a 71.7 percent rate while Air Education and Training Command had a 66.4 percent rate.

The entire list can be found at the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Commanders' Corner

Maj. David Abercrombie
47th Security Forces Squadron commander

Vision: vital to goal setting

I was reminded recently while interviewing a new arrival to my unit of just how important it is to set goals. I had asked the airman what her plans were while in the Air Force, and she went on to relay what she wanted to do over the next few years, 10 years out and beyond.

I was impressed to hear this young airman speak so confidently about her future. She wanted a career in law enforcement. The Air Force, the security forces career field and even this assignment to Laughlin are all steps toward that. You see, this airman has more than just good

goal setting skills, she has the one thing that makes goals worth having – a vision.

My advice to any would-be goal setter is that you start with a clear vision. Your vision can have a final result, such as earning an academic degree, or it can be an ongoing condition, such as physical fitness. What is important is that you set goals that will lead you toward fulfilling your vision.

Of course, in the work place it comes quite naturally to set goals. Many of our work related goals are imposed upon us, and we know we are under the scrutiny of our superiors to meet those goals. But in our personal lives, there is much less pressure. Personal goals may require a great deal more effort. The fact that there are virtually no constraints on what you choose as a personal goal can even make that task seem more difficult. How do you narrow your choices? How do you know if it's the right goal

to strive for? Are your goals too high or too low?

Again, your vision will guide you to the right answers to these and many other mind muddling questions that may impede your goal setting. Just ask yourself, "does this goal help me reach my vision?" Your goals will probably be such that they build on one another to ultimately lead you toward your vision.

For example, if your vision is to maintain good physical conditioning, you may set numerous goals such as sticking to your exercise routine, participating in intramural sports, or completing a specific athletic event. All these separate goals can help lead you to that vision of good physical conditioning.

Without a vision it is easy to get lost in the daily grind, to get distracted by the many demands on our time and attention. Your vision helps you stay focused. Your vision helps you prioritize. Your vision keeps you moving in the direction you want to go. That's not to say that your vision must remain static. It too can change, but that change would be a conscious one.

I have been successful in reaching many of the goals I have set. I have even been successful in failing to reach some of my goals. I say "successful" because whether I reached any single goal or not isn't as important as having stayed on course. There is room for minor setbacks and small failures as long as you learn from those and go on to achieve your vision.

***"Your vision helps you stay focused.
Your vision helps you prioritize.
Your vision helps you move in the direction you want to go."***

Patriotic act reflects commitment to service

By Lt. Col. Edward Keegan
18th Communications Squadron commander

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan – Much is made in the press and popular culture about the generation that is currently coming of age to join the military – the generation that will replace us as the future of the Air Force.

The recurring theme is that they are not the service type, that their horizons are viewed through a lens of self-absorption, and that which is not immediately gratifying to them is not noticed or purposefully ignored.

Much is also made of the older generation. They are the venerable ones, those who served a higher cause, and made America the embodiment of an ideal. That generation includes my father-in-law, who recently visited us here on Okinawa, his first return here since passing through in 1965 on his way back to the United States from Vietnam.

He has long since retired from the Air Force, grown his remaining hair a little longer, and taken on full-time duties as a grandpa. The salute he receives at the gate as a retired lieutenant colonel had be-

come perfunctory, done so often for so long that he doesn't even seem to notice any more that he returns the gate guard's salute.

On a recent weekend, young met old at Kadena's Gate Two. A young airman, pulling his latest security forces augmentation tour, stepped up to the car when my wife and her parents arrived at the gate. Then something unexpected happened. Rather than performing the expected rote courtesies, the airman bent down, looked past my wife to her father, and said, "Thank

See 'Patriotism,' page 3



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Commander

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Staff writer

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Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil.

Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels.



Col. Dan Woodward
Wing Commander
By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
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EEO	298-5879
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Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

***“Excellence –
not our goal, but
our standard.”***

– 47th FTW motto

Secretary, chief address Columbia loss

By Dr. James G. Roche

Secretary of the Air Force
and

Gen. John P. Jumper

Air Force chief of staff

On Saturday, Feb. 1, our nation and the world lost seven courageous, talented individuals when the Space Shuttle Columbia Orbiter (STS-107) experienced catastrophic failure 15 minutes prior to landing at Kennedy Space Center, Fla. Among these brave astronauts were two officers from the Air Force family: Col. Rick Husband, mission commander, from Amarillo, Texas; and Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, payload commander, from Spokane, Wash.

On behalf of the men and women of the U.S. Air Force, we offer our deepest condolences to our Air Force family members Evelyn Husband and her children Laura and Matthew, and Sandra Anderson and her children Sydney and Kaycee. We stand together with all Americans in offering our prayers for the families, friends, and co-workers of those lost in this tragic accident. We will never forget their great contributions to our nation and the world.

While we are deeply saddened by this tragic loss, we

are also very proud of the Air Force team that has tirelessly assisted in the response to this national tragedy.

Air Force Space Command units from Peterson, Buckley and Patrick AFBs provided tracking data as part of the accident investigation. Tanker units from Birmingham, Ala., and fighter squadrons from Texas and Louisiana supported a number of search and recovery actions. We've also flown communications support out of Texas and Oklahoma and provided airlift support from McGuire AFB. Barksdale AFB provided part of the Initial Response Teams supporting the Texas Department of Public Safety in recovery efforts, and continues to function as the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Consequence Management Operations Center and NASA Shuttle Recovery Center. The Air Force family will continue to offer support to the astronaut's families, DoD, NASA, FEMA, and state organizations.

We grieve for our friends and co-workers, but we also join the rest of the world in celebrating seven lives well lived and promise to continue to support the space program's noble mission of discovery.

May God bless the grieving families, our men and women in uniform, and the United States of America.

'Patriotism,' from page 2

you for serving, sir.”

In my entire career, I have never been so proud of anyone. With that deceptively simple act, the young airman reminded a retired lieutenant colonel, and this active-duty lieutenant colonel, exactly what true

service is about.

It is not about rank or position, and it is more than earning a paycheck. It is about a set of ideals that transcend time, that say we will do whatever is required to keep our country safe, just as those who came before us did.

That airman proved that the

thread that binds the Air Force still exists across all the generations. He showed that our Air Force is, and will remain, in good hands, and America's greatest generation is not in the past, but is still to come. On behalf of the entire Air Force, I want to say to that young airman, “Thank you for serving, sir.”

Border Eagle commentaries

The Border Eagle encourages base members to take part in their paper. Anyone wanting to write a commentary for the Viewpoint pages of the paper is welcome.

Commentaries can be written about any aspect of Air Force life you find interesting. Commentaries should be 250 to 500 words in length. Public Affairs

reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity.

Commentaries for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338. The deadline to submit a commentary is close of business each Thursday, the week prior to publication.

For more information, call 298-5393.



United States Air Force

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy Stein

Lights, camera, Laughlin?

Mark Austin (left) and Jim Glasscock, reporter and camera man from KSAT in San Antonio, film footage of Laughlin's flightline for a news piece they are doing on pilot training. The program is scheduled to air sometime during of February. Keep reading the Border Eagle for more details.

'Deploy,' from page 1

cause the resources in a single AEF pair can no longer satisfy the needs of our combatant commands," General Jumper said.

The general said that the change would likely increase the amount of time many airmen are forward deployed. But, he added, it is a necessary move and one he feels will be taken in stride by airmen everywhere.

"I know this is a lot to ask, and I am confident that every airman understands we have been called upon once again by our nation," he said. "Our success as an Air Force depends on how we prepare for and execute operations."

General Jumper's words echoed those in a message sent by Mr. Rumsfeld the same day to people in the Department of Defense.

"In recent weeks and months, the president has called the world's attention to Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq," Mr. Rumsfeld said. "He has rallied the United Nations to enforce its resolutions calling for the regime's disarmament."

In light of these developments, DOD leaders recognize the uncertainty longer deployments may create for those in uniform, the civilians who work beside them, and their families, Mr. Rumsfeld said.

"Be assured that the president will not decide to commit forces unless conditions require it, and only as a last resort," Mr. Rumsfeld said. "Should action be necessary, you will have what you need to carry out the missions assigned."

Jumper said every effort will be made to relieve those deployed in a way that accommodates mission requirements.

"I assure you that we will continue to assess the evolving situation and develop rotation plans which seek to relieve our forces in the most equitable fashion while still meeting combatant commanders' warfighting requirements," he said. "Although AEF rotation timing will change, we will make every effort to preserve the AEF sequence which will give us the ability to sustain our operations over the long term.

"When able, we will return to a more normalized three-month AEF battle rhythm."

Although that rhythm is intended to provide airmen and their families with a predictable schedule for deployments, resulting in a more normal lifestyle, an implicit understanding is that increased operations tempo changes everything, General Jumper said.

"Sustaining on-going requirements with three-month rotations has become part of our Air Force culture," General Jumper said. "But we need to remember that the AEF structure also allows us to posture for a full range of combat operations, including major theater contingencies that require more forces than can be provided by one AEF pair on a three-month rotation."

It is a national security matter, he said, one in which the efforts of the entire Air Force team will be needed.

"I have never been (more proud) of our Air Force and of the great men and women that bring America's resolve to the doorsteps of those who would seek to inflict harm upon us and our allies," he said. "I know you are all equal to the task, and I look forward to seeing our great Air Force continue to successfully defend American values and freedoms."

Newslines

New shoppette hours

The shoppette will have new hours effective Feb. 15. It will be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Combat zone tax extension

Anyone serving in Saudi Arabia in support of either Operation Southern Watch or Operation Enduring Freedom automatically get an extension of at least 180 days from the date they leave the area-of-responsibility to file their federal income taxes.

There is no need to request an extension from the Internal Revenue Service. This extension applies to married couples as well. The only requirement when filing the return after leaving the AOR is to write on the top of the tax form, Combat Zone Extension, and a copy of the orders. Most states follow the federal extension guidelines.

For more information, call 298-5172.

AFAS offers grants

The Family Support Center has applications for the \$1,500 General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant now through March 14. The application is also available at the Air Force Aid Society's website www.afas.org.

For more information, call 298-5620.

OSC scholarships

The Laughlin Officers' Spouses Club is offering academic and vocational scholarships to graduating seniors of an accredited high school, spouses of United States military members, dependent children and E-4s and below. An additional scholarship is sponsored by FirstCommand to a high school senior. The deadline for the scholarships is April 12.

Contact the Base Education Office, base library, local area high school counselors' offices, local colleges or the website www.geocities.com/parklaug/OSCatLaughlinScholarship.doc for eligibility, guidelines and application forms.

For more information, call Toni Kubiak, scholarship chairman, at 298-7595.

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Officials urge caution with APO addresses

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – World events have Air Force postal officials re-emphasizing the need for security when using the military mail system.

In particular, postal officials are concerned that airmen might not use an appropriate amount of discretion when distributing their overseas mailing addresses.

To reduce the vulnerability of using the mail system as a means to attack military people abroad, the Department of Defense officially suspended all “any servicemember”-type mail programs in late 2000. Those programs allowed the general public to address letters and care packages to “any servicemember,” and those items would in turn be delivered to military people serving overseas.

Those programs, according to DoD officials, were eliminated because they created an avenue to introduce biological, chemical or explosive materials into the military mail system, putting people in danger. At the same time, the programs left the sources of such material virtually untraceable.

Air Force officials have identified other potential vulnerabilities in the system. Those include Web sites that ask for overseas mailing addresses, publicly available sign-up sheets for phone cards or other goods to be sent overseas, said Bob Eichholz, the director of Air Force postal policy. It also includes local community efforts to gather up homemade goods and materials that can be sent from anonymous individuals to an APO address provided by a well-meaning servicemember.

“These are all well-intended programs to support the military,” Mr. Eichholz said. “In the past those programs worked well, but today the same programs open us up to attacks from unknown sources. We have to take as many safeguards as we can to protect our mail system.”

Postal officials recommend that people be as prudent with their APO addresses as possible – limiting where they post their address and to whom they hand it out.

“We recommend ... that members not just give out and advertise their APO addresses,” Mr. Eichholz said. “Keep it for your business purposes and for your correspondence, but don’t advertise it on a Web site.”

While the Air Force is emphasizing that people keep a short leash on their APO addresses, officials recognize that the American public wants to show support for its troops. Fortunately, said Mr. Eichholz, there are avenues where people can do just that without jeopardizing their security.

“First, they’ve got the electronic ‘any servicemember’ programs,” Mr. Eichholz said. “Also, you can support the United Services Organization and the Red Cross. Both organizations go overseas to help and support the troops. You can also help by supporting the various aid societies.”

Meyers becomes AETC command chief master sergeant

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – A 25-year Air Force veteran who has served as a command chief master sergeant at a wing and numbered air force assumed the position of command chief master sergeant of Air Education and Training Command recently.

Chief Master Sgt. Karl Meyers replaced Chief Master Sgt. William Milligan, who retired Jan. 31 after serving as AETC command chief master sergeant since February 2000.

The command chief master sergeant, as the top enlisted person in the command, advises the AETC commander and senior staff on the morale, welfare and effective use of more than 34,000 enlisted people who conduct the recruiting, training and education missions worldwide. He also serves as command chief master sergeant for more than 350,000 enlisted students trained per year in AETC.

Prior to assuming his current po-

sition, Chief Meyers was 2nd Air Force command chief master sergeant at Keesler AFB, Miss., from June 2001 to January of this year. Second Air Force conducts the basic military and technical training missions for AETC.

Before that assignment, he was command chief master sergeant for

the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall AFB, Fla., from March 1999 to June 2001.

The chief brings a simple approach to his new position that has served him well since his initial duty assign-

ment in early 1978 as an aerospace control and warning system operator.

“When I go into any job, my initial goal is to do the best I can,” said the native of Utica, N.Y. “I hope that our airmen are thinking the same way. I don’t go into the job thinking about the next job or the next assignment. I always think about what I can do today to make my job and the Air Force better for the people who

follow.”

Following that philosophy, the chief said his primary focus would be to help ensure the command’s mission runs as smoothly as possible so that AETC can provide professional airman to sustain the combat capability of America’s Air Force.

“My initial focus is to help make AETC, as the First Command, the best experience it can be in our mission of recruiting, training and educating young men and women from the hometowns of America who choose to ‘Cross Into The Blue,’” he said.

In his first few months on the job, the chief said he will be getting more familiar with the command’s education and flying training missions.

This month, for example, he will travel to Maxwell AFB, Ala., to learn more about the education programs conducted by Air University, such as the Community College of the Air Force and College for Enlisted Professional Military Education. He will also visit Luke AFB, Ariz., to get more familiar with the F-16 training mission there.

“These base visits along with



Chief Meyers

others being worked will help me get a better feel for the command’s flying training and education missions and the issues affecting them,” Chief Meyers said. “Having come from 2nd Air Force, I don’t have any immediate plans to visit our technical training bases in the first few months, but I’ll make it around to them again as a little time passes.”

See ‘Chief,’ page 7

Prayer Luncheon being held Monday

Laughlin to honor annual prayer breakfast

By Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Staff writer

In honor of the annual National Prayer Breakfast held in Washington, Laughlin has scheduled a National Prayer Luncheon for all base people at Club XL Monday at 11:30 a.m.

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower adopted the National Prayer Breakfast after World War II for Americans to come together to celebrate and seek religious inspiration.

“That caught on very quickly all over the nation,” said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Jeff Swanson, 47th Flying Training Wing chaplain. “Cities, civic organizations and military units, including ships at sea and bases all over the world, began to celebrate some kind of prayer breakfast or luncheon every year in February, to seek inspiration from those who have gone before us.”

Similar to the breakfast in Washington, Laughlin is carrying out the tradition here by gathering base people for a lunch buffet while listening to patriotic music, a historical prayer written by former President

Abraham Lincoln and words from Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Charles Baldwin, Air Force Chaplain Service deputy chief, who is scheduled to be the guest speaker.

Chaplain Baldwin graduated from pilot training here in 1970. Soon thereafter, he was flying combat helicopters in the Vietnam War. “He went on some extremely dangerous and heroic missions. You cannot be around him and not be inspired,” recalls Chaplain Swanson, having worked with Chaplain Baldwin for 18 years. “He can bolster and inspire our community. We are honored and delighted that he will come to Laughlin.”

A picture of Chaplain Baldwin beside a helicopter with multiple bullet holes in the fuel tank is displayed in the “hall of honor” in Laughlin’s Anderson Hall. The picture captured the fuel actually leaking out of the tank, said Chaplain Swanson. “He is a guy who has been there and done that. He has gone into harm’s way as an officer warrior pilot and now he is a pastor to the warriors,” the chaplain said.

For fifty years now, the National Prayer Breakfast has been in place to provide Americans with a spiritual boost. “Right now, we need to come together as we face the challenges of the future;

perhaps war, multiple deployments,” said Chaplain Swanson. “It’s certainly a time of danger, uncertainty and many changes. Our strength is partially from our training, partially from the great equipment that we have, but it’s mostly from the spiritual convictions that each individual holds.”

Tickets are available at the base chapel. Ticket charge for E-1 through E-5 and spouses is \$2. Civilians, E-6 and above and their spouses is \$3. Because 325 people are expected in attendance, Club XL will not be serving regular lunch meals. For more information, call 298-5111.

'Chief,' from page 6

His message to the enlisted members of the command is to make the Air Force core values – integrity, service before self, excellence in all we do – the foundation of their everyday lives.

"I've tried to live by the core values my whole career even though we didn't have them labeled as such when I was coming up through the ranks," he said. "If everybody adheres to our core values, little can go wrong with our entire Air Force mission."

The chief entered the Air Force through the U.S. Air Force Basic Military Training School in November 1977. He graduated from the aerospace control and warning system operator course at Keesler AFB,

Miss., in March 1978 and completed satellite orbital analysis training at Peterson AFB, Colo., a month later.

He has held positions in the Southern, European and North Atlantic theaters of operation.

His operational background includes working with ballistic missile early warning and satellite tracking systems; ground tactical air control systems; modular control equipment; and semi-automatic ground environment systems. Chief Meyers has held positions at a regional operational control center, NATO command and control center and on the training staff at a numbered air force.

The chief has also served as an Air Force advisor to the Air National Guard.

(Courtesy of Air Education Training Command News Service)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy Stein

Sing me a song...

Members of the Protestant choir sing during Gospel Fest held Sunday at the base chapel. Gospel Fest was the kick-off event for Black History Month.

Top general thanks Americans

By Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – America's top general thanked Americans during a Pentagon briefing Tuesday for their outpouring of support to their armed forces.

"I want to express my gratitude to the American people for sending their online thank you note to America's servicemembers, thanking them for defending our nation's freedoms," said Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He

said 3.7 million people to date had visited the Defend America Web site and signed its online thank you note.

Defend America is the Defense Department's official Web site for news on the war on terrorism. Along with coverage of top national security leaders, the site also features up-to-date photographs, information

on weapons and equipment, personality profiles and human-interest features.

The Web site debuted shortly after U.S. troops went into Afghanistan in response to the terrorist attacks Sept. 11, 2001. Its online thank you note was posted in May during Military Appreciation Month.

So many people have been signing the card lately that the total had climbed another 100,000 before General Myers left the podium, Defend America editor Linda Kozaryn said.

"Now that people are finding out about the note, more are signing every

hour," she said. "It gives them a way to show how strongly America supports her sons and daughters in uniform."

She estimated the tally would exceed 4 million the end of Wednesday.

DOD officials are working out details of how to make the electronic "signatures" available for servicemembers to see.

"It gives them a way to show how strongly America supports her sons and daughters in uniform."

**– Linda Kozaryn,
Defend America editor**

Short-term enlistments debut Oct. 1

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A new military short-term enlistment program will begin Oct. 1 aimed at expanding the opportunities for all Americans to serve the country.

Congress authorized the National Call to Service enlistment option as part of the fiscal 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

The program allows the military services a new option to reach a group of young Americans who otherwise might not serve because of the length of traditional enlistment options, said Bob Clark, assistant director in the Department of Defense's accession policy directorate.

The program will work like this: A recruit enlists for the option and incurs a 15-month active-duty service obligation following completion of initial-entry training, for a total active-duty commitment of about 19 months.

Following successful completion of active duty, service members may re-enlist for further active duty or transfer to the selected reserve for a 24-month obligation.

Once this is completed, servicemembers may stay in the selected reserve or transfer to individual ready reserve for the remainder of an eight-year commitment.

"The unique piece of this legislation is that while in the individual ready reserve, these young people will be given the opportunity to move into one of the other national service programs, such as AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps, and time in those will count toward their eight-year obligation," Mr. Clark said.

While the Army and Navy already have a limited two-year enlistment program, this is the first time the Air Force and Marine Corps will offer the option.

Clark said that the option would be limited to high-quality recruits — those with a high school diploma and scores in the top half of aptitude tests. Officials

hope this will make the military more attractive to college-bound youth who might volunteer to take a short period out between high school and college, but would not take off that three- or four-year period.

He said he feels the option may also attract college graduates interested in serving their country before attending graduate school. But perhaps the largest potential pool for the

option is with community college graduates who might serve the country for a short time and use available incentives to enter a four-year school, Clark said.

There are four incentives under the option. The first is a \$5,000 bonus payable upon completion of active duty service.

The second is a loan-repayment option also paid at the end of the active-duty portion.

The legislation allows for repayment of up to \$18,000 of qualifying student loans.

The final two incentives are tied to, but not part of, the Montgomery G.I. Bill. One gives 12 months of a full Montgomery G.I. Bill stipend — currently about \$900 a month.

"This should attract college graduates looking to go to grad school," Mr. Clark said.

The other incentive offers 36 monthly payments at one-half of the current Montgomery G.I. Bill stipend.

"We look at this as being an incentive to both high school graduates or maybe college students who are financially strapped who may need

to sit out for a period, serve the country, learn, see the world and then go to school," he said.

The services will set the enlistment criteria. Military specialties that involve long-term training will not be offered. Basic medical specialties, some engineer skills, and personnel, administration and combat specialties will be part of the mix. The first people who opt for this program will go into the delayed-entry program beginning Oct. 1.

Mr. Clark was adamant that servicemembers in this program would not be "second-class citizens." He said although they will serve shorter periods of time, they would be treated the same way as those with longer-term enlistments.

Traditional enlistment terms are three, four, five and six years, he said. The program will start with a small number of inductees, but there is no set number. As the program begins, DoD will work with national service organizations to ensure recruits under this program understand all their options.

Mr. Clark said the department is coming off its most successful recruiting year ever.

"The department does not need this program to fill the ranks," he said. "But we are excited about offering the chance to serve the country to young men and women who ordinarily might not."

"The department does not need this program to fill the ranks, but we are excited about offering the chance to serve the country to young men and women who ordinarily might not."

Bob Clark,
Department of Defense accession policy directorate assistant director

DOD supporting space shuttle search effort

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – The Department of Defense assets currently involved in search, security and transportation operations related to the loss of Space Shuttle Columbia include:

- Air Force: C-141 aircraft from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., will be used to transport NASA's rapid response team from Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

- Air Force Reserve: Six F-16 Fighting Falcons from Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas, will be part of search operations and security. Two KC-135 Stratotankers from the

507 Air Refueling Wing, Tinker AFB, Okla., will be used to refuel supporting aircraft.

- Coast Guard: 110-foot cutter from Naval Air Station New Orleans; buoy tender and station boat from District 7, based in St. Petersburg, Fla.; patrols in the Gulf of Mexico to check out reports of fallen debris.

- Army: Four UH-60 helicopters from Fort Hood, Texas, to assist in search operations.

- Navy: Dauphine helicopter from Naval Air Station New Orleans to assist in search operations.

- Texas Air National Guard: A C-130 Hercules

from NASJRB, Fort Worth, to assist with search operations.

An Air Force Reserve Command HC-130 is on alert here, ready to respond if needed. The Coast Guard also has two UH-1 helicopters standing by in Corpus Christi, Texas, and a C-130 standing by in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The DoD Manned Space Flight Support Office here is the single point of contact for coordinating initial DoD contingency support for the United States' manned space flight programs.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Interested in the Air Force? Call Del Rio's Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.

Military, civilian W-2s available on myPay

ARLINGTON, Va. – American military members and Department of Defense civilians can now view, save and print their W-2 wage and tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Military retirees and annuitants can view, save and print their tax form 1099s as well.

The myPay service provides a secure way for servicemembers, defense civilians, military retirees and annuitants to manage their pay account information. Available around the clock, customers can make changes online that previously needed to be made by visiting offices.

Customers can also help the Department of Defense save money by volunteering to turn off the print copy of their leave and earnings statements and checking it online. The Defense Department can save up to 34 cents for each LES that is delivered electronically instead of in hard copy.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Tolley

Airmen assigned to the 321st Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron guard an entry-control point at a forward-deployed location supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The

fiscal 2004 budget proposal authorizes \$380 billion for the Department of Defense to win the global war on terrorism and continue the military transformation.

'04 budget proposes \$380 billion for defense

WASHINGTON – The president's fiscal 2004 budget proposal authorizes \$380 billion for the Department of Defense to win the global war on terrorism and continue the transformation of the military, senior defense officials announced Jan. 31.

The budget also addresses several quality-of-life initiatives, including a military pay raise ranging from 2 percent to 6.25 percent, targeted by rank and years of service. It continues the effort to eliminate out-of-pocket housing expenses by fiscal 2005, reducing overall cost from 7.5 percent to 3.5 percent this year.

The Air Force's portion of the budget, \$93.5 billion, continues the service's investment in its people and readiness while accelerating the service's transformation and integration efforts, according to a senior military

budget official.

The budget is divided into four categories: people, readiness, infrastructure and modernization.

The largest portion of the Air Force budget, 34 percent, is focused on people and quality-of-life initiatives because it is a retention-based force.

The Air Force has dedicated 28 percent of its budget, \$25.8 billion, to readiness. This includes \$14.1 billion for flying operations, \$1.8 billion for space operations and \$9.6 billion for mission-support functions.

The Air Force's aging infrastructure led the service to set aside \$4.6 billion of its fiscal 2004 budget to address this problem.

Nearly \$1.4 billion will go toward the sustainment, restoration and modernization of the Air Force's current facilities. Almost \$1 billion

will fund military construction projects that address new mission requirements and force-structure changes.

Modernization, at \$31.2 billion, is the second largest portion of the Air Force's budget. It includes \$12.5 billion for research, development, testing and evaluation, and \$2.2 billion for science and technology.

Also included is \$16.5 billion for the procurement of new aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles and space systems including:

- 22 F/A-22 Raptors
- 11 C-17 Globemaster IIIs
- Five C-130J Hercules
- 52 T-6A Texan IIs
- Four RQ-4A Global Hawks
- 16 RQ-1 Predators
- Two CV-22 Osprey
- Four Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicles

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Air Force, Laughlin begin smallpox vaccinations

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

A four-member smallpox cadre at Laughlin was vaccinated Jan. 24 and has already begun vaccinating other military members as identified by the installation deployment officer.

Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, directed immediate implementation of the smallpox vaccination program in a Jan. 6 policy memorandum, which outlined details of the commanders' force-protection program against the deadly biological warfare agent.

According to the Air Force smallpox vaccination implementation plan, some civilian employees and contractors

will be vaccinated, although Laughlin has no current requirement to vaccinate civilians or contractors. Other U.S. forces will be vaccinated depending upon circumstances.

"It is expected that up to 30 percent of the people receiving the vaccine will have minor reactions that result in the loss of one or more duty days," said Brig. Gen. Robert L. Smolen, director of nuclear and counterproliferation.

According to medical officials, the smallpox vaccine is a "live virus" vaccine that uses vaccinia virus. People cannot contract smallpox from the vaccine.

"Smallpox vaccine has some well-recognized side effects," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kelly Woodward, chief of preventive medicine at the

Air Force Medical Operations Agency. "Many people can expect to have minor side effects, such as feeling achy, low-grade fever, headache and itching at the injection site.

"Those are minor reactions and resolve on their own."

In rare cases, Dr. Woodward said, the virus may erupt widely over the body instead of remaining confined to the vaccination site.

Public education is one of the plan's major components. Recipients must be informed about the vaccine and its contraindications before inoculation.

People getting the vaccine will receive a briefing on expected reactions, adverse events, and how to access health care for medical concerns.

"Education of commanders, individuals and families is imperative to ensure the success of this program."

**Gen. John P. Jumper,
Air Force Chief of Staff**

"Education of commanders, individuals and families is imperative to ensure the success of this program," General Jumper wrote in the memo.

As a minimum, people will receive a copy of the smallpox vaccine trifold is available under the "Educational Products" icon at the Department of Defense smallpox Web site, www.vaccines.army.mil. People may get information at mass briefings or commanders' calls. Local health care professionals can also provide smallpox information.

According to the plan, recipients will be screened before inoculation. The screening form is available under the "Forms" icon at the DOD smallpox Web site. Anyone who answers "yes" or "unsure" to a question on the form will not receive the

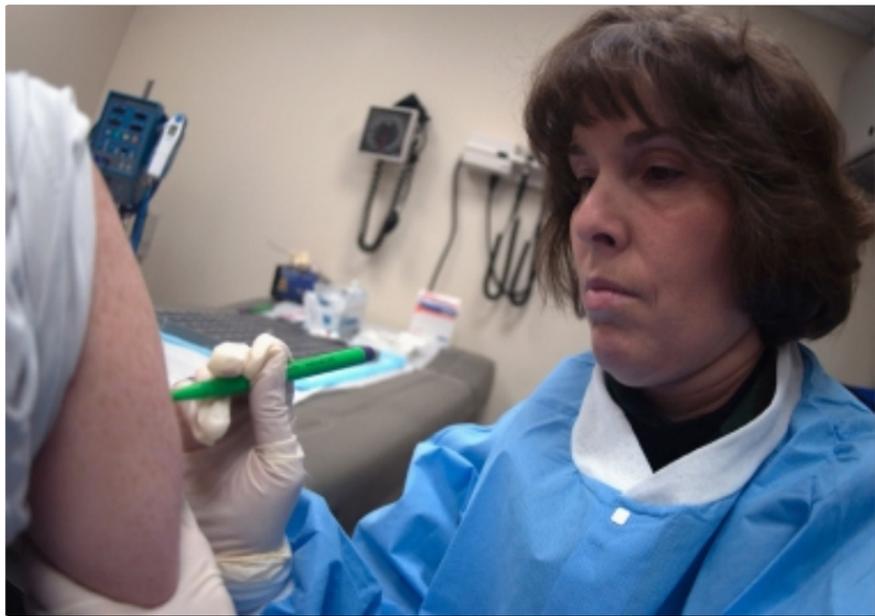


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

WASHINGTON – Air Force Reserve Maj. Marty Maddox marks a Pentagon employee's arm before vaccinating her against the smallpox virus in the Pentagon's health care clinic Jan. 21. Dr. Maddox is an individual mobilization augmentee nurse who was activated last year.

vaccine until they have received further medical evaluation.

The Air Force is taking the extra screening precautions because the smallpox vaccine has unique contraindications, or reasons to avoid it, Dr. Woodward said.

"Contraindications in either the individual receiving the vaccine or the person's household contacts will preclude a nonemergency vaccination," he said. "It's important that people receiving the vaccine take the time to consider the medical condition of others in their household as they go through the screening process."

Certain dermatological conditions, such as eczema and atopic dermatitis, increase the risk of complications from the smallpox vaccine. Those with a history of dermatological conditions should make sure to point them out during the

screening process, Dr. Woodward said.

Other medical criteria that preclude vaccination include pregnancy, nursing mothers and HIV infection.

While the plan calls for people to be vaccinated before deploying to high-threat areas, non-vaccination does not necessarily preclude mobilization, General Smolen said, since the vaccine may be successfully administered up to four days after exposure.

Smallpox vaccinations are given in a single dose, usually in the nondominant deltoid muscle (left upper arm for right-handed people, and vice versa). Revaccination is recommended every 10 years.

If you have questions or concerns concerning the smallpox vaccine, contact Maj. Jeff Lawson at 298-6341 or Master Sgt. Juanyta Ortiz at 298-6427.

Laughlin talent to compete in Worldwide Talent Contest

**By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Conde**

Staff writer

Two of Laughlin's own and one former XLER were chosen to compete in the Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest at Lackland Air Force Base Sunday through Feb. 17 for an opportunity to tour with Tops in Blue.

Each year, the most talented active-duty members competing in base level talent shows are selected to compete at the Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest. This year, Staff Sgt. Jennifer Nalls, 47th Mission Support Group contracting specialist, Senior Airman Robert

Perez, 47th Security Forces Squadron personnel security specialist and former Laughlin member Senior Airman Charles Cook, security forces specialist, now stationed at Lakenheath Air Base, England, are running contestants for the

30-member team to represent the best of the best in the Tops in Blue showcase.

"The competition is tough because the Air Force has many talented individuals," said Helen Sykes, Fiesta Center assistant director and base talent show manager. "These three individuals are really outstanding. Their strength of not only character but talent really came through on the stage."

The members of Tops in Blue are composed of talented military members with duties in any career field. Their goal is to enhance mission productivity by entertaining Air Force personnel and their families, especially those in remote and isolated locations. The showcase travels throughout the continental United States, Canada, Europe, Central America, Alaska and the Pacific, performing to over

250,000 people at 100 locations worldwide during a year-long tour.

Because every base in the Air Force has the opportunity to submit individuals for the worldwide talent competition, Mrs. Sykes and Denise Rossignol, Youth Center director, made it possible for the Tops in Blue applicants to produce a professional videotape through the visual information department here. "There were specific requirements and visual information did a great job highlighting their talents," said Mrs. Sykes.

"These three individuals made the effort to participate as a way of showing their skills and polishing their acts," said Mrs. Sykes.

"These three individuals are really outstanding. Their strength of not only character but talent really came through on stage."

– Helen Sykes

Fiesta Center assistant director and base talent show manager

"Being selected is an affirmation of their talents."

Airman Perez began playing his grandmother's piano seven years ago before entering his freshman year of high school. "I like the way the

piano sounded, so I started learning little songs by ear, then started taking lessons to read sheet music." The skills that developed from the years of practice earned Airman Perez a part-time job playing the piano at an Italian restaurant off base.

Airman Perez credits his decision to tryout for Tops in Blue to Airman Cook, who earned an audition in the vocal category. "Airman Cook was always talking about the base talent show and [encouraging] me to play the piano," said Airman Perez. "I was nervous of course, but I thought it was a good idea, so I did. It was one of the most exciting times of my life. It felt so good when I finished and the audience started cheering."

Sergeant Nalls, a veteran of the last five base talent shows and the Del Rio community theatre group,



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Nalls and Senior Airman Robert Perez practice in the Fiesta Center Jan. 31 for the Tops in Blue auditions at Lackland Air Force Base Sunday – Feb. 17.

was also accepted into the final competition. She has also participated in the community theatre group and several musicals in Del Rio. "It has taken me about four years to get to this point, so I would say it's pretty hard to get this far," she said. "Just being picked up for the finals is a great accomplishment."

Sergeant Nalls began singing in elementary school choirs and church choirs growing up. "I wanted to try for Tops in Blue since I saw their performance in 1999, but I never felt that I was competitive enough until now," she said.

Two past Tops in Blue per-

formers, Rob Wade, 47th Mission Support Group civilian personnel systems manager and Terra Wade 47th Flying Training Wing legal clerk, were recognized for their involvement with preparing the finalists for their upcoming competition. "The mentorship of Rob and Terra has been crucial," said Mrs. Sykes. "As past members of Tops in Blue, they've really provided guidance that has helped them to prepare for their big shot next week."

To participate in the next base talent show, auditions are scheduled for Monday at 6:30 at the Fiesta Center. For more information, call 298-5224.

4 defenders work like dogs

By 2nd Lt.
Nancy Kuck

380th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM – Working like a dog. This simile relates to someone who works tirelessly throughout a busy day. For four exclusive members at the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, “working like a dog” is more than a simile. It is their daily life.

Arkie, Tasja, Athos and Dutchy are part of the military working dog team at a forward-deployed location. These fabulous four put forth all their effort to ensure base residents sleep safer at night, protecting them from explosives entering the base.

“The dogs go through extensive training before getting deployed here,” said Staff Sgt. Damion Tineo, part of the 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron K-9 patrol who is teamed up with Tasja. “Dogs are getting deployed now more than ever before,” he said.

A three-month deployment is nothing new to these

four dogs. Each of them has been in the area at least once before.

Arkie, who is designated as the veteran of the group, is currently on his fourth desert deployment according to his partner, Staff Sgt. Louis Smith, 380 ESFS K-9 patrol.

The military working dogs are treated in the same manner that their trainers are when arriving in theater.

“When the dogs arrive here, they have to get adjusted to the new environment as we do,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Odom, a handler with the 380th ESFS K-9 patrol who is teamed up with Dutchy.

Training never stops for the dogs while they are here. On days when they are not at the vehicle search area, they are either training in various areas such as patrol and protection, resting or just being dogs.

“We can’t have them work all the time because it is not fair to them,” said Odom. “We let them relax and make sure they are not always cooped up by coming in on our off days and letting them

out to be dogs.”

Their scheduled training revolves around two days of patrol exercises and two days of protection exercises. Done in various buildings throughout the base and on the flightline, the dogs participate in exercises where they are required to complete certain tasks. After accomplishing the required tasks, they get rewards that range from praise to squeaky toys.

Although these dogs appear approachable, these selective four are not family pets by any means and are not to be petted without permission by their trainers.

“A lot of people do not realize that these dogs are trained to attack,” said Staff Sgt. Patrick Smith, who is teamed up with Athos. “These dogs are meant to be petted by their handlers, and if strange people just come up and pet our dogs ... they may lose their edge, and we are not going to let that happen.”

Athos, Arkie, Dutchy and Tasja show base residents what it is really like to work like a dog.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

- Saturday ● 5 p.m., Mass
- Sunday ● 9:30 a.m., Mass
- Thursday ● 6 p.m., Choir
- Reconciliation ● By appointment
- Religious Education ● 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

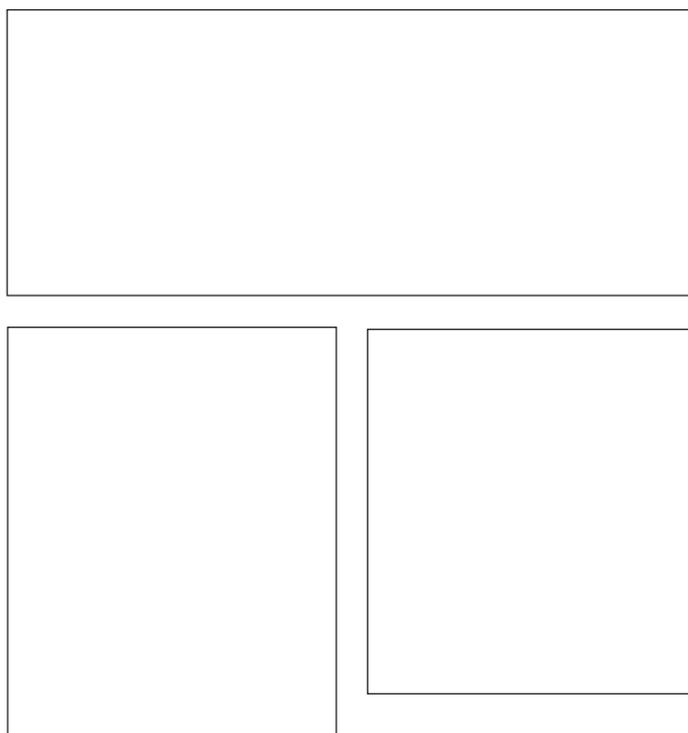
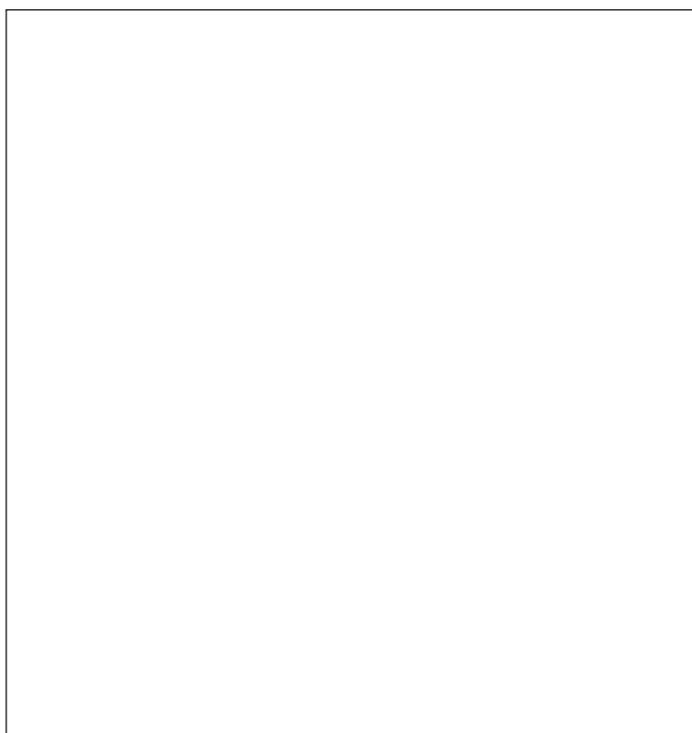
Nondenominational

- Sunday ● 6:30 p.m. Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238
- Friday ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship (activities for children)
- Monthly ● Women’s fellowship (call 298-1351 for details)

Protestant

- Saturday ● 9 a.m., Singles Bible study at the Chaparral Dining facility
- Sunday ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
- 11 a.m., General worship (blend of contemporary and traditional worship, nursery provided)
- Wednesday ● 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study
- 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.



The Air Force rewards good ideas with money. Check out the IDEA Program data system at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil>, or call 298-5236.

Thieves nearly rob captain's identity

By 2nd Lt. Matthew Bates
90th Space Wing Public Affairs

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. — The mysterious \$644 debit could easily have gone unnoticed last November. The identity thieves preferred it that way. But, Capt. Greg Wood, 90th Space Wing executive officer, noticed the out-of-place debit and quickly investigated its appearance.

"I asked my wife if she got me something extra special," said Wood. "When she said 'No,' I knew that meant trouble."

He immediately called his credit card company to dispute the charge and with a little bit of research he tracked down the business on the Internet.

"Apparently, I ordered an MP3 car stereo over the Internet to be delivered to my home in Yugoslavia," he joked with a heavy dose of sarcasm. "I've never owned an MP3, and I don't remember ever parking my car in Yugoslavia."

Wood was able to contact the business and cancel the sale before the items were shipped.

"I have no idea how it happened, but the thief had my credit card number, my full name, my phone number, my street address — he had everything," Wood said. "I was lucky to find out when I did."

According to the Federal Trade Commission, the simplest of transactions can give an identity thief enough information to ruin someone's credit. Information obtained from writing a personal check, mailing tax returns or applying for a credit card runs the risk of being stolen.

Social Security numbers, names, addresses or phone numbers can then be used without the owner's knowledge to commit fraud or theft such as opening a new line of credit, using that owner's name or fraudulently setting up a bank account, accruing debt under that name.

While the FTC says it may be impossible to prevent identity theft entirely, it does say there are three basic steps to take to prevent identity theft or to repair credit standing.

First, contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus, TransUnion at (800) 680-7289, Equifax Credit Information Services at (800) 525-6285 and Experian at (888) 397-3742.

Second, close the accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

Third, file a report with local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.

If a Social Security number has been misused, contact the Social Security Administration at (800) 269-0271. A complaint should also be filed with the Federal Trade Commission at (877) 438-4338 when personal information has been compromised and misused.

Laughlin grad shares 'bone'-crushing story

By 2nd Lt. Lindsay Logsdon
Public Affairs

A decision must be made. Three minutes outside of the target. Surrounded by thunderstorms and blackness. Engine pre-coolers temperature, reaching an concerning level. New target coordinates. Lightning flashes. Stay on target. Bombs away.

Former Laughlin student pilot Maj. Jennifer Fullmer, aide-de-camp to the commander of Air Education and Training Command, told this story and others about her deployment to Afghanistan at the local Order of Daedalian's meeting here Jan. 31.

Flying the B-1 with the 34th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Maj. Fullmer's missions originated from Diego Garcia Air Base, in the Indian Ocean. Her home station at the time was Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., with the 37th Bomb Squadron. "We deployed Sept. 23 from Ellsworth to Diego Garcia," said Maj. Fullmer.

Given the circumstances of 9-11, Maj. Fullmer was more than ready to deploy. "We were happy that when the country needed us, we all felt completely ready to go and we were

charged to do it. What really added to the enthusiasm was the fact that these were retaliatory strikes for 9-11," she said.

Although she deployed several days after Sept. 11, while waiting for orders she began visualizing what would be required of her if she were to deploy. "The day the airplanes went into the trade towers, that same

day, several of us sat in front of the computer and pulled up a map of Afghanistan and we immediately started trying to get into that mindset of what's over there, what could we potentially be doing if we were to go, where do we think we would be stationed and what route of flight we would take," she said. "We tried to adjust our training toward what we thought might happen."

Having graduated from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, the B-1 initial qualification course and follow-on training at her operational base, Maj. Fullmer felt ad-

equately prepared for what awaited her in Afghanistan. "I have never been so confident in my life, because of the quality of training I had received."

The quality of training pilots are now receiving has brought the mission effectiveness of the U.S. far from where it started; Maj. Fullmer said in the beginning of her Daedalian presentation, which showed the development of U.S.

When the U.S. retaliated for the Dec. 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, Lt. Col. James Doolittle launched 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers on a one-way mission from the USS Hornet to strike at the heart of Tokyo, she said. At that time each B-25 carried 2,000 pounds of weapons. "The strike did some damage, but it was more of a psychological blow," Maj. Fullmer said.

Sixty years later the same units, the 34th and 37th Bomb Squadrons, made history. "What the Doolittle Raiders did in 1942 with 16 aircraft, can now be done by one B-1 with only two of its three bomb bays

loaded with joint direct attack munitions, she explained.

Throughout her presentation Maj. Fullmer highlighted technological advances in combat, from methods of targeting and communication to the use of new hardware and the expanded use of various aircraft platforms. When it came to targeting she said, "sometimes you had planned targets at take-off, sometimes you were retargeted in-flight and sometimes you would take off with no planned targets. The B-1 was doing a lot of things that we never thought we would ever do."

The missions Maj. Fullmer flew varied in time, but on average they were between 11 and 16 hours. "By the time you got up, went to chow, briefed, stepped to the jet, flew, debriefed and got back to your bunk it was almost 24-26 hours that you had been up," she said.

Although the operations tempo was demanding, Maj. Fullmer said she would absolutely do it again. "This is what we train to do. Nobody hopes for war, everybody hopes for peaceful solutions, but the reason that the military exists and the reason that we train as hard as we do is so that we are confident and well-prepared when the call does come," she said.

"I have never been so confident in my life, because of the quality of training I had received."

**— Maj. Jennifer Fullmer
aide-de-camp to the commander
of Air Education and Training
Command**

The *XLer*

Hometown: Del Rio

Family: Wife, Laura; sons, Miguel Angel and Jesus Alessandro

Time at Laughlin: 11 years and eight months

Time in service: 11 years and eight months

Greatest accomplishments: Starting out as a "Grow Your Own" and excelling in my career to a work leader.

Hobbies: Raquetball and basketball

Favorite music: Tejano music

Favorite movie: Triple X

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My sons, to advise them of what to expect in the future with society.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Jesus Martinez
47th Maintenance Directorate

Children's dental tips:

February is National Children's Dental Health Month and the Laughlin dental clinic has some tips for parents and caregivers:

■ Take your child to the dentist regularly, beginning around the child's first birthday. Put only water in a child's nap time or bed time bottle to prevent baby bottle tooth decay.

■ Began brushing (or using a wet washcloth) your child's teeth with water as soon as the first tooth appears.

■ Start flossing when two of the child's teeth begin to touch.

■ Brush and floss your child's teeth daily until he or she can be taught to do so by themselves.

■ Make sure your child gets

the correct amount of fluoride needed for added protection against decay. Ask your dentist about this.

■ Inquire from your dentist about dental sealants which form a protective barrier helping to shield the chewing surfaces of back teeth against decay.

Health has become an important issue among people and the way we care for our bodies will have an impact in the future. Preventive dental care has greatly improved the oral health of American children. It's now possible for many children to reach adulthood without ever experiencing tooth decay. Good oral health practices should begin in infancy and continue throughout adult life.

Signs of mail contamination, deception

Compiled from staff reports

Even with the increased publicity of contaminated mail and mail bombs, it seems that the deceptions of criminals are still hurting, and sometimes killing, Americans. The best way to prevent it from happening to you or a family member is to stay educated (and keep them educated) on what to look for with all types of mail. Don't let your family or yourself fall victim to these malicious deeds.

■ Check every piece of mail before opening. If it is coming from an unknown source or you didn't ask for it, be very cautious and don't open it.

■ Inspect mail for signs of

tampering, such as being partially torn open, taped shut, or having the address plastic window torn away from the envelope. If something is from an expected source but appears to have been altered, do not open it and call the sender to confirm the condition in which it was sent.

■ Mail bombs are not restricted to boxes - even small envelopes can be used to transport highly dangerous explosive contraptions.

■ Other signs include incorrect addressing, excessive postage, leaking, oily spots, wires, and delivery separate from normal postal methods.

■ Consider restricting the access of young children to unchecked mail.

■ Warn older children and

adult family members to check all mail before opening, and educate them on the signs that may indicate a problem with the mail.

Keep in mind that an item does not necessarily require all, or any, of these criteria to be considered suspicious. If you receive mail that causes you concern, do not handle it and remain calm. Do not change any environmental conditions, such as light or temperature. Keep others away from the area where you left the item. Leave the area and contact law enforcement immediately. Be specific in your description of the item and what caught your attention. Finally, do not return to the mail's area until cleared to do so.

This month in Centennial of Flight history:

Feb. 6, 1959: The Air Force successfully launched the first Titan I intercontinental ballistic missile. With a range of 5,500 nautical miles, the two-stage liquid-fueled missile was to be deployed in underground silos and raised to the surface before launch.

Feb. 8, 1965: The U.S. Air Force performed its first retaliatory air strike in North Vietnam. A North American F-100 Super Sabre flew cover for attacking South Vietnamese fighter aircraft, suppressing ground fire in

the target area.

Feb. 9, 1969: The Boeing Corporation flew its 747 "jumbo jet" aircraft for the first time. The huge airliner could hold 347 passengers.

Feb. 10, 1994: Lt. Jeannie Flynn completed training in an F-15E Eagle to become the first woman fighter pilot in the Air Force.

Feb. 12, 1973: Military Airlift Command pilots initiated Operation HOMECOMING, flying the first of 590 released American prisoners of war from Hanoi, North Vietnam, to Clark Air Base in the

Philippines. The operation concluded on April 9.



Feb. 20, 1962: Lt. Col. John H. Glenn, Jr., United States Marine Corps, became the

first U.S. astronaut to orbit Earth. He flew for nearly five hours in Mercury capsule *Friendship 7*.

Feb. 22, 1978: An Atlas booster launched the first Global Positioning System satellite. A "constellation" of such satellites revolutionized navigation.

Feb. 23, 1912: *War Department Bulletin No. 2* for 1912 established the rating "military aviator."

Feb. 24, 1908: The Army signed a contract with Capt. Thomas S. Baldwin for a government airship at a

price of \$6,750.

Feb. 24, 2001: Lt. Col. Stayce D. Harris became the first black woman to command a USAF flying squadron, the 729th Airlift Squadron at March Air Force Base, California.

Feb. 28, 1991: Operation DESERT STORM ended at 8 a.m. with a coalition-declared cease-fire. During the war, coalition forces released approximately 16,000 precision-guided munitions against Iraqi forces and dropped some 210,000 unguided bombs.

Implants restore world of sounds

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Tay
Wilford Hall Medical Center

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Over the past year, surgeons and audiologists at Wilford Hall Medical Center here have restored hearing to 17 people with the help of cochlear implants. These have included an active-duty master sergeant, military children and military retirees.

This revitalized program recently delighted a retiree who wrote that he could not sleep at all the first night after his hearing was “activated.” Another 20-year-old patient heard his mother’s voice for the first time, since he was born with a hearing disorder. About 24 more patients are scheduled for the life-changing operation over the next eight months.

A cochlear implant is an electro-magnetic amplification device that is surgically implanted within the inner ear and is appropriate for people with profound deafness who no longer benefit from hearing aids. This de-

vice is often the only way for these individuals to regain hearing.

The surgery consists of inserting an electrode array into the cochlea (the organ of hearing located in the inner ear) to make direct contact with nerve cells. Patients return one week after the operation for initial stimulation of the device. When the device is turned on, sound is picked up by a tiny microphone connected by a cord to a sound processor outside the ear. The processor turns sound into an electrical signal, transmitting it through the skin to the electrode in the cochlea.

The only one of its kind in the Air Force, the Wilford Hall cochlear implant program provides cochlear implant surgery, audiology and speech services, and medical support for potential candidates and their families.

In December 2001, an active-duty master sergeant with sudden hearing loss was evaluated for a cochlear implant. Master Sgt. John T.

Hawk received a cochlear implant and was able to return to his unit and continue performing his assigned duties.

“My new hearing is not perfect,” said Sergeant Hawk, assigned to the Air National Guard Training and Education Center at McGhee Tyson ANG Base, Tenn. “There are still challenges, but I have not completed my journey on the road to recovery yet. Every day I’m reminded of what I’ve lost because I wake up in a silent world. When I turn on my sound processor, I’m reminded of what I’ve gained.”

In the past when an active-duty airman was diagnosed with profound hearing loss, he would be medically retired. Sergeant Hawk, who is a multimedia course developer and instructor, continues to perform his normal duties while he awaits the result of a medical evaluation board.

Based on his excellent performance with the cochlear implant and his ability to communicate, medical officials believe the program

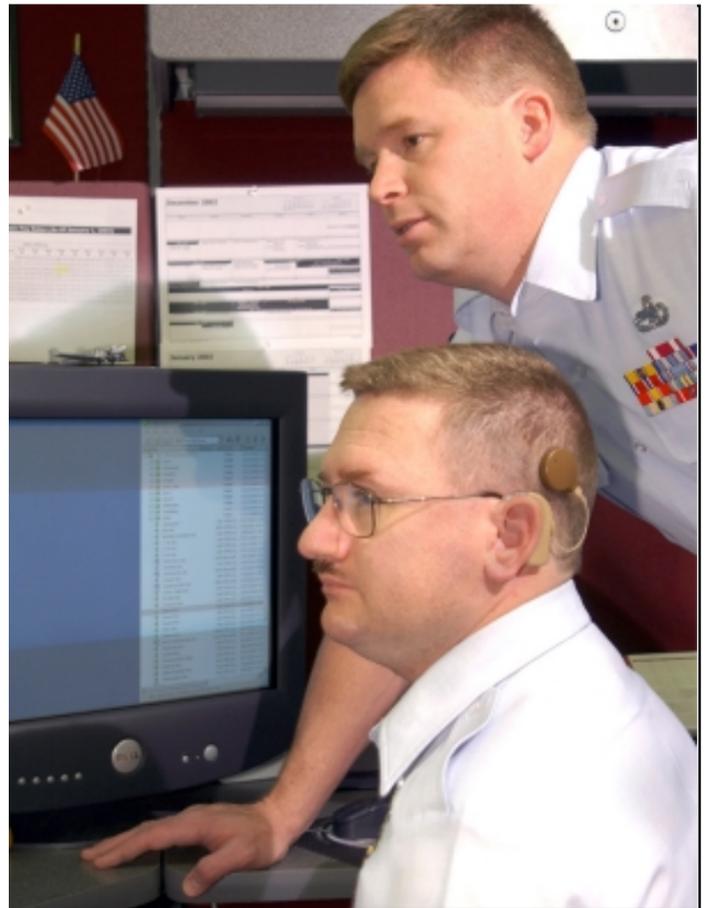


Photo by Master Sgt. Thomas Meneguini

Master Sgts. John T. Hawk (foreground) and Chris Morin work on a project at the Air National Guard Training and Education Center at McGhee Tyson ANG Base, Tenn. Hawk received a cochlear implant and continues to serve on active duty.

may have saved the Air Force man with more than 18 years of experience.

Basketball standings

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L	PF	PA
87th	7-0	349	224
OSS#1	5-2	291	224
86th	5-2	283	242
LCSAM	2-3	264	254
84/85th	1-7	282	352
OSS#2	0-7	159	276

Western Conference

Team	W-L	PF	PA
SFS	4-1	207	147
MED GP	3-1	193	179
CES	3-1	212	184
Compt.	2-3	183	243
CCS	1-3	148	177
LSI	1-5	218	262

XL Fitness Center hours

Monday – Thursday:
5 a.m. to midnight

Friday:
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday:
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Holidays:
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.