

Border Eagle

Newslines

Promotions announced

Congratulations to Robert Wood, 47th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate director, and Mark Hewitt, 47th FTW/MX deputy director, who were promoted Tuesday by Col. Dan Woodward, 47th FTW commander. Mr. Wood was promoted to GS-15 and Mr. Hewitt to GS-14. Their promotions were the result of last year's wing reorganization and the creation of group-equivalent maintenance directorates, which resulted in significant increases in the duties and responsibilities of AETC's civil service aircraft maintenance managers.

Base exercise to create noise

The wing will conduct a large field exercise near the base water treatment facility from Tuesday to Thursday.

Between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Wednesday and between 5 a.m. and 11 a.m. Thursday, base residents may hear weapons being fired, ground burst simulators or other exercise-related noises. The Giant Voice system may be used between 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesday and between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Thursday.

For more information, call Public Affairs at 298-5988.

Deployment stats

Deployed	Returning next 30 days	Deploying next 30 days
50	0	13

Mission status

(As of Oct. 3)

Airframe	Days behind or ahead	Mission Capable Rate
T-37	-2.66	93.0%
T-1	1.40	83.5%
T-38	-0.16	81.8%
T-6	-0.87	93.6%



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

Importance of diversity...

Shirley Martinez, deputy assistant secretary for equal opportunity, speaks at the Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon Wednesday at Club XL. Ms. Martinez spoke about the new levels Hispanics have reached and the importance diversity brings to the Air Force.

Carbon monoxide detectors save lives

By Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark
Staff writer

As cooler temperatures approach and people begin using their home heating systems, detectors stand ready to alert households of dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

All Laughlin housing units have carbon monoxide detectors, which should be tested weekly to ensure they are in working condition, said Tinker Valero, Base Housing

Management inspector.

"The detectors are as important as smoke alarms," said Ronald Alexander, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron fire chief. "When proper ventilation of appliances becomes blocked, carbon monoxide concentrations build up inside your home and may become deadly."

The deadly concentration of carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless and colorless gas that forms when fuels burn incompletely.

See **Detectors**, page 4

New fitness standards – time to ‘hit the road’



Commander's Corner

By Col. Vic Hnatiuk
47th Mission Support Group commander

Unless you have been under a rock or asleep for the last few months, you should have heard about General Jumper's recent push to change the physical fitness standards in our Air Force. In short, it is time to literally hit the road.

The bike test will soon be dead (for most airmen), and we will return to a fitness standard that is based on running, push-ups and crunches. In my mind, this is a great thing for our Air Force. I am elated by this new focus from the chief and still remember a quite different feeling about 10 years ago.

I still cannot find the correct words (or at least appropriate to print in the base newspaper) to describe my embarrassment while I was a student at Air Command and Staff College in the early 90s. At that time, the Air Force caved to the media and internal pressures and changed our fitness standard to the cycle ergometry test. It seems a few people did not exercise regularly and managed to die while running just 1.5 miles. Thus

was born the cycle ergometry test where no matter how unfit a person is, you at least can't kill yourself trying to pass the test.

I can remember like it was yesterday, my Marine and Army classmates laughing (out loud) at us as we headed over to the Health and Wellness Center to sit and pedal on a stationary bike (made me feel like a real fighting man). They asked if the next enemy the U.S. Air Force planned to engage agreed to attack on bicycles.

But now, thanks to our chief of staff, we can get back on track. Bottom line – we are American fighting men and women, and we need to train accordingly. None of us know when we will get the call to deploy and be at the very tip of the sword.

Are you ready? Are you physically fit? Can you hack it?

If your answer is “yes” to all of these questions, then fine, I am proud of you and salute your professionalism and intensity. But please push the envelope – get in better shape.

If you can run a 5K in less than 21 minutes, go for 20, or less than 20 minutes. If you can do 50 push-ups, go for 60 or 70. Don't settle for making the standard, exceed the standard.

What you choose will be up to you,

but please don't ever stop improving on your personal physical fitness standards ... ever.

For those of you who answered “no” to any of the questions above, the chief has given us fair warning and time to alter our exercise, eating and personal habit patterns – let's start soon, but start smartly.

If you do not exercise at all, a trip to the HAWC is a must to make sure you do not place yourself at risk. Next, a trip to the fitness center and a visit with one of our certified specialists can help too. If you smoke, please stop.

The HAWC also offers smoking cessation classes – think of it as an immedi-

ate pay raise as the money you don't waste on cigarettes goes directly into your pockets.

If you are pushing the weight standards, start on a smart diet and get those extra pounds off now. It isn't fun running any distance dragging an extra 20 or so pounds around the course with you.

Another point I want to make is this. The majority of those reading this article are under the age of 30. Trust me when I say that you have two alternatives in life when it comes to being physically fit. One is to do it ... Work out on a regular basis,

See **Fitness**, page 3

Border Eagle

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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.clark@laughlin.af.mil.

Sacrifices extend beyond military

By Master Sgt. Jeff Wepner
506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – Sacrifice is a word I often hear bandied about during discussions of serving in the military, and rightly so.

Each of us makes individual sacrifices to serve in the greatest Air Force in the world; many heroes have made the ultimate sacrifice serving our nation. However, my deployment as part of the Air Expeditionary Force Blue rotation has reinforced my perspective on sacrifice.

If I had to list all the “sacrifices” I am making due to this deployment, I would come up empty. In fact, I would put forth to you that I have the

easy part, working with outstanding professionals focused on accomplishing a critical mission.

That commonality forges a strong bond here and helps us focus on the tasks at hand. It also provides us a great avenue for self-satisfaction and sense of accomplishment as we move forward together.

Those tangible and intangible aspects of my deployment make it easy. So if I have the easy part, who has the hard part? Let me give you a couple of quick examples.

Imagine a wonderful, supportive wife who did not have her husband by her side

for her birthday, and may not have him by her side for their 20th wedding anniversary. That wife, also the mother of three beautiful teenage daughters, now single-handedly bears the daunting task of maintaining a sense of nor-

malcy in an increasingly chaotic world.

Those daughters also keep a mental scorecard:

two missed birthdays and one missed high school graduation due to another TDY already scheduled for next year. Mother and daughters alike already have their fingers crossed for Thanksgiving and Christmas this year.

Are my examples unique?

Hardly. As Air Force members, we all share similar experiences with the burdens we place on our families. What makes them unique is that they are my family, and I can never repay them for the unwavering support and motivation they provide on a daily basis.

The examples I listed above are only the proverbial tip of the iceberg; for the past 18 years my family members have proudly played a key role in all my Air Force successes and continue to stand tall and do their part to help freedom flourish.

To all my fellow military comrades and their families: a big thank you for the sacrifices you make and the crucial support you provide, upholding the principles we cherish and fostering hope and the promise of freedom around the world.

Fitness, from page 2

don't smoke or drink to excess, and watch your diet. The other is to risk an early departure from this earth or, at the very least, a poor quality of life in your older years. The longer you wait, the harder it is to get started.

Also, some people do better if they work with a buddy during their exercise program. The buddy system is a great

way to keep each of you motivated on those days that the intensity wanes a bit. Also, a little friendly competition might help you raise the bar to the next level as you climb back into shape. Once you get back into “basic” shape, I encourage you to take advantage of the monthly fitness center sponsored 5K, 10K runs and triathlons held on Saturday mornings, which include lots of prizes, good fun and camaraderie.

So, the chief has given us his direction

and vision. It is time for all of us to move out. Good fitness is truly a lifestyle choice that we cannot afford to put off or ignore.

I hope you have made or will make the right choice to invest the time and effort required to maintain a good level of physical fitness. If you do, I know you'll find your days are more enjoyable and more productive and that your entire quality of life will improve. Got to go, time to hit the road ... See you out there.



Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training Wing commander

Actionline 298-5351

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

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES 298-3176
Accounting and Finance 298-5204

Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
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

Detectors, from page 1

"You can't see it, taste it or smell it," said Mr. Alexander. "Carbon monoxide can kill you before you know it's there. That's why it's important to maintain your detector."

Detectors should be placed within hearing range of sleeping areas and in the garage, about five feet away from fuel-burning appliances. The detectors should be installed at eye level or above but should not be closer than six inches to the ceiling.

If the alarm should go off, all family members should avoid turning on the lights or using any electronic device and immediately evacuate the home.

"Call the fire department from a neighbor's house once you have evacuated the home," said Mr. Alexander.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

Just like old times...

Senior Airman Eloy Fernandez-Gonzalez, 47th Medical Support Squadron lab technician, checks out cell counts on a microscope while three former Laughlin nurses from the 1960s look on. The nurses were part of a group of six former nurses who toured the 47th Medical Group Oct. 3.

Medal of Honor winner speaks

There will be an air power call at 3 p.m. today in Anderson Hall. The guest speaker will be Medal of Honor winner, retired Col. George "Bud" Day. All base members are invited.

Gun-hunting meeting set

The Val Verde Military Sportsman's Club will hold a meeting at 6 p.m. today at the base theater for Laughlin members interested in gun hunting on Laughlin.

Hunters must present a valid hunter's safety card or proof of a hunting safety course; Texas resident, special resident or non-resident hunting license; or combination hunting/fishing license and a valid military, Department of Defense, Air Force or Air Education and Training Command identification card to hunt on Laughlin.

All personnel who are interested in deer hunting with a gun must be present to purchase their base hunting permit and their Val Verde Military Sportsman's Club Membership Card. The total cost is \$50.

A stand lottery and safety briefing will also be conducted at this meeting.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Frank

Newslines

Munderback at 298-5860 or Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis at 298-5456.

Gym changes hours during exercise

The Fitness Center will change its hours Tuesday through Thursday due to manning issues during the base exercise. The center will open at 5 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Normal hours will resume Oct. 10.

For more information, call 298-5251.

Thrift Saving Plan briefing set

There will be a briefing on the Thrift Savings Plan 10-11 a.m. Tuesday at the Family Support Center. To sign up for the briefing, call 298-5620.

For more information, call 298-1251.

Mentorship link changed

The Web site for applications to be a mentor to Del Rio school children has changed. The new site is <http://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/support/mss/mentorship.html> or it can be ac-

cessed through the Laughlin homepage under the "Wing Mentorship" link.

Volunteers must save the application onto a disc or hard drive and then e-mail it to Judy Rhinesmith at judy.rhinesmith@laughlin.af.mil.

Airman's Attic accepting items

The Airman's Attic is in need of furniture and household items. It also accepts donations of small appliances, uniforms, children's clothes and baby items. The attic is open 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesdays and is located next to the fitness center in building 360.

For more information, call 298-1251.

Marquee requests changed

To request information to be placed on the front gate's electronic marquee, please download the request form from <http://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/wing/Wing%20Web%20Page/Wing%20Web%20Page.htm>. The form may be sent via fax to 298-4322 or via e-mail to latanya.denmon@laughlin.af.mil or anna.mayo@laughlin.af.mil.

Emergency data system available for civilians

By **Cindy Cardenas**
47th Mission Support Squadron

World events over the past few years highlight the need for a more dependable system that provides immediate access to emergency information when a federal civilian employee becomes a casualty. Therefore, the Air Force has developed the Civilian Emergency Data System.

The purpose of the EMDS is to provide casualty-notification personnel immediate next-of-kin contact information in case of an

emergency. It is important that employees complete the emergency data form to show the names and addresses of spouses, children, parents and any other persons they would like notified if the employee becomes a casualty or for any other emergency.

The employee is the only person who has access to update emergency data in EMDS. The Laughlin Civilian Personnel Flight and the Air Force Personnel Center and the Casualty Notification Office will have view-only capability.

After the employee updates

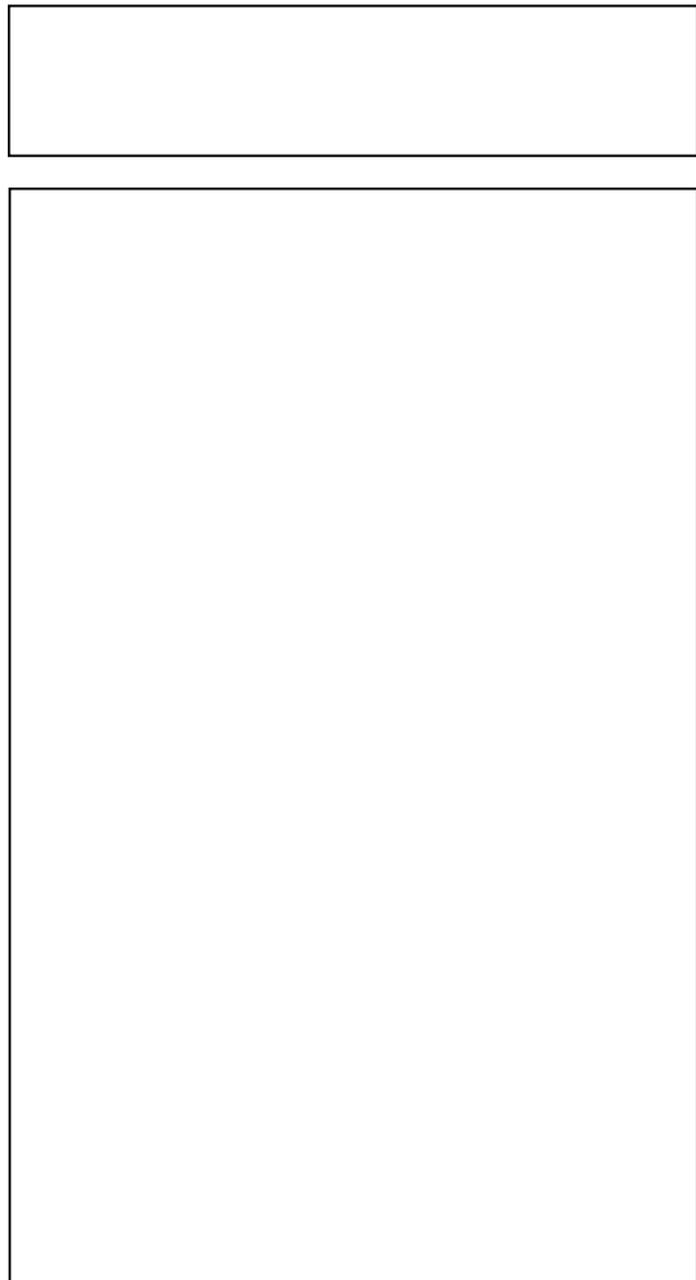
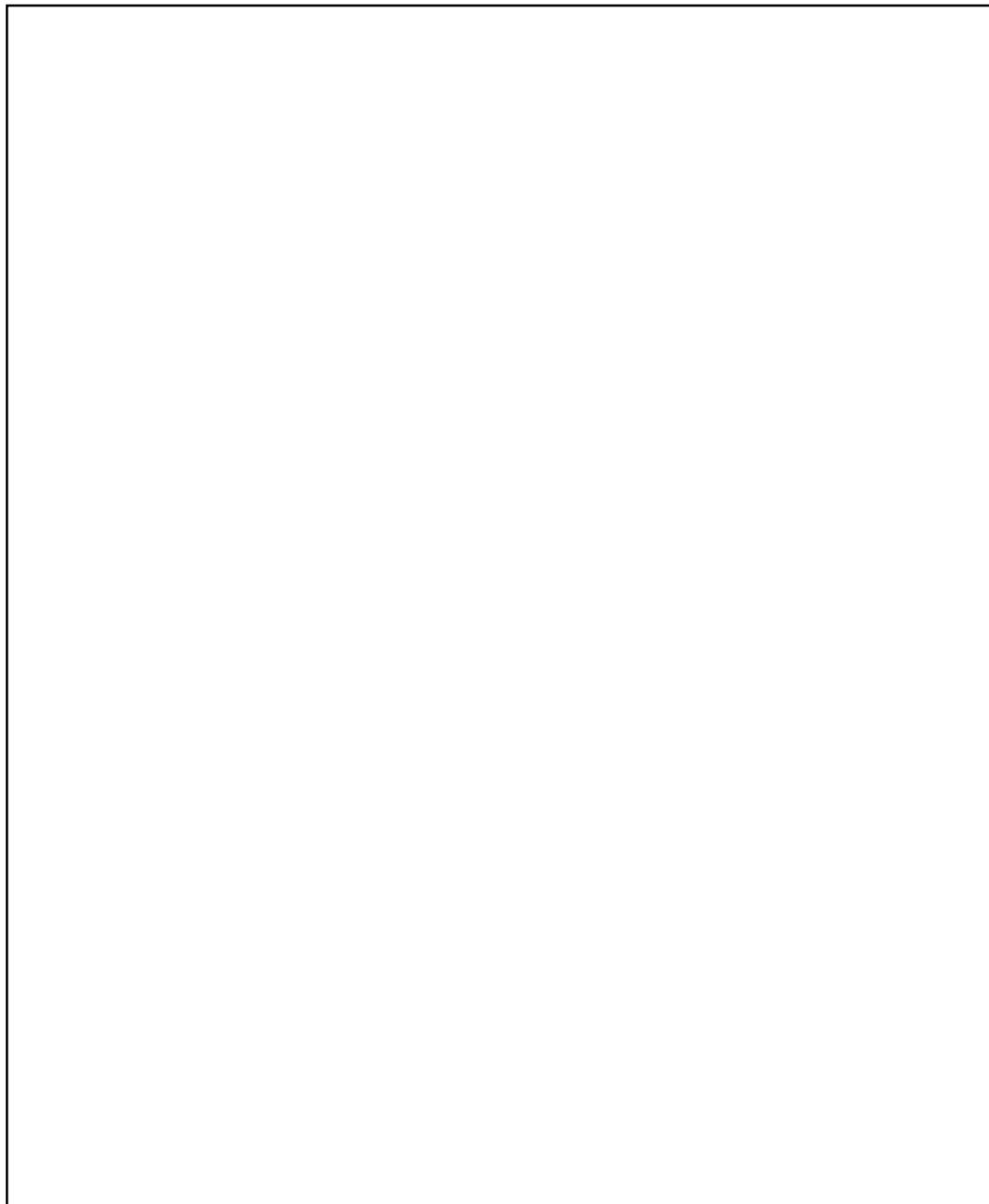
his data, a printed copy should be provided to the supervisor for placement in the supervisor's employee folder. Establishment of EMDS does not relieve employees of the responsibility to provide their supervisors with the name, address and phone number for their next of kin.

Air Force civilian employees are highly encouraged to update their emergency data in the EMDS and provide this information to their supervisor. Without this information in EMDS, the ability to make timely notifications to next of kin could be affected. While

this is especially critical if the employee is designated mission-essential or if the employee is at an overseas location or deployed, it impacts all employees in the event of a terrorist act, natural disaster, or other catastrophe.

The EMDS is a secure Web program. Before anyone can use EMDS he must first log in to the AFPC secure Web site. To get started, go to the Directorate of Civilian Personnel Operations Web page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc.

See **EMDS**, page 7



EMDS, from page 6

Select "EMDS" (one of the menu items across the top of the web page) and a drop-down box will appear.

Before clicking on "Enter EMDS" to

start the log in process, it is recommended employees first read the information on the EMDS home page and "Instructions for Completing EMDS Form."

For further information or assistance, contact Cindy Cardenas at 298-5375.

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

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Saturday

- 5 p.m., Mass

Sunday

- 9:30 a.m., Mass

Thursday

- 6 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation

Reconciliation

- By appointment

Religious Education

- 11 a.m. Sunday

Nondenominational

Sunday

- 6 p.m. Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238

Friday

- 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship

Protestant

Sunday

- 9:30, Sunday school
- 11 a.m., General worship

Wednesday

- 7 p.m., Choir practice

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

Airmen restore piece of history

NAVAL AIR STATION KEFLAVÍK, Iceland – As civilian and military aviation enthusiasts throughout the world celebrate the “Centennial of Flight,” airmen from U.S. Air Forces in Europe’s 85th Group here completed a meticulous project to preserve and showcase a piece of Air Force history in Iceland.

Recently, more than 60 airmen, sailors and civilians helped transport a restored F-4 Phantom museum piece from the flightline here to its pedestal in front of the 85th Group’s command building.

In 2002, members of the 85th Group’s Maintenance Squadron removed the Phantom because of extensive corrosion on the aircraft. The aircraft had been on the display here since the early 1990s.

Despite the money and time needed to restore the museum piece, project coordinator Master Sgt. Leroy Lewis had no problem completing a task that many told him would be impossible. “Despite what many had told me, this project was by no means a logistical nightmare; it was a great success,” Sergeant



Photo by JO2 Mat Sohl

Airmen from the 85th Group remove the tow bar connected to an F-4 Phantom. The aircraft, displayed since the early 1990s, was removed from its pedestal in 2002 because of extensive corrosion. The restored aircraft was displayed in front of the command building.

Lewis said. “People came out of the woodwork to help out – everyone from around the community.”

It took a year of work and thousands of volunteer man-hours to bring the aircraft up to Air Force Museum standards. But it took only a single afternoon to restore the 17,000-pound display to its place of honor.

Members from the 85th’s Maintenance Squadron, responsible for the upkeep of all of the base’s he-

licopters and fighters, worked on the F-4 during any downtime they had.

“There are certain standards that you have to follow when restoring a museum piece,” said Staff Sgt. Charles May, assistant project coordinator. “We have to follow all standards set by the Air Force Museum, which owns the aircraft.”

The U.S. Air Force Museum located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,

Ohio, manages the worldwide Air Force Museum system. The system maintains accountability for all U.S. Air Force historical property, including the F-4 museum piece here.

In keeping with the standards set forth by the museum, the airmen working on the F-4 here were required to restore the aircraft to the condition it was in when it was last flown, minus the engines and electronics.

“We wanted to make the aircraft as accurate as possible,” said Staff Sgt. John Trinidad, one of the project painters.

To accomplish this task Trinidad, along with Senior Airman Michael Cotter, researched the color and patterns of other F-4s from the early 1990s.

“The last time that it was painted was 1995,” Sergeant Trinidad said. “At that time the technology wasn’t available to perform the detailed work that we can now do.”

Using an advanced computer graphics program, the duo of painters were able to recreate the original graphics using pictures of other Air Force F-4s during that generation.

“It’s great to be able to show the beauty of that aircraft,” Sergeant May said. “I take great pride in being able to drive by it and say, ‘I was a part of that.’”

Aside from the F-4’s aesthetic value, students and historians from around Iceland visit the aircraft when studying U.S. military history.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Graduation

SUPT Class 03-15



Capt. Todd Bergeson
KC-135 (ANG)
Sioux City, Iowa



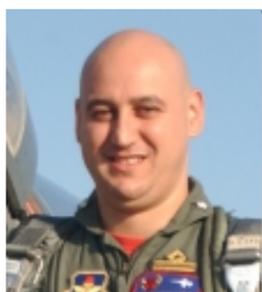
Capt. Darrin Morgan
B-52
Barksdale AFB, La.



Capt. Derek Robinson
KC-135
Robins AFB, Ga.



Capt. Matthew Taylor
KC-135
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



1st Lt. Ugo Castelluzzo
To be determined
Italy



1st Lt. David Czesak
C-21
Langley AFB, Va.



1st Lt. Michael Grados
KC-135
Kadena AB, Japan



1st Lt. Lisa Jorgensen
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



1st Lt. Siegfried Jucknies II
B-1
Dyess AFB



1st Lt. Darryl Laye II
KC-10
Travis AFB, Calif.



1st Lt. Stacie Pratt
T-6
Laughlin AFB



1st Lt. Rebecca Wyffels
C-21
Andrews AFB, Md.



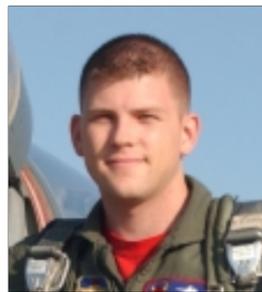
2nd Lt. Carl Beckey
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. James Burckhard
C-5 (AFRES)
Lackland AFB



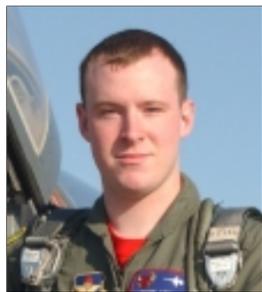
2nd Lt. Johnathan Edmonds
KC-135 (AFRES)
Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. Steven Fargo
F-16C
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Blaine Joersz
F-16C
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Patrick Lysaght
F-16C
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Gregory Miller
C-21
Scott AFB, Ill.



2nd Lt. Robert Morgan III
E-8
Robins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Allen Morris Jr.
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



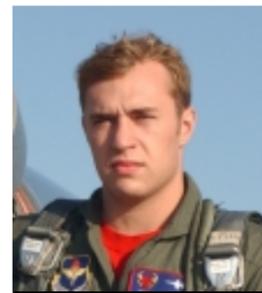
2nd Lt. Matteo Nerini
To be determined
Italy



2nd Lt. Doug Schoenenberger
C-5 (AFRES)
Lackland AFB



2nd Lt. Joseph Tulloss
T-6
Moody AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Christopher Uecker
F-16C
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Joseph Ward
KC-135 (ANG)
McGuire AFB, N.J.

October flight history spotlights Air Force

Oct. 5, 1905: The Wright brothers' Wright Flyer III, the first practical airplane, flew for more than half an hour near Dayton, Ohio, covering nearly 24 miles.

Oct. 26, 1909: At College Park, Md., after instruction from Wilbur Wright, Lt. Frederick E. Humphreys and Lt. Frank P. Lahm became the first Army officers to solo in a Wright airplane.

Oct. 22, 1911: Capt. Carlo Piazza of Italy, piloting a Bleriot XI, conducted the first wartime military airplane flight, scouting Turkish positions in Libya. That same day, another Italian airplane became the first to be hit by ground fire.

Oct. 30, 1918: Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker, the highest-ranking U.S. ace of World War I, scored his 26th and final aerial victory.

Oct. 14, 1920: The Navy began tests to determine the effectiveness of aerial attacks against ships, dropping sand-filled dummy bombs on the old battleship *Indiana* at Tangier Sound in Chesapeake Bay.

Oct. 25, 1930: Transcontinental and Western Air, Inc., inaugurated the first transcontinental passenger air service between New York and Los Angeles.

Oct. 7, 1931: The Navy, with Army observers present, tested a new bombsight invented by Carl J. Norden. Subsequently, the Navy

provided the Air Corps with these Norden bombsights – the most advanced devices of their kind used by the Army Air Forces in World War II.

Oct. 8, 1940: The Royal Air Force announced formation of the first Eagle Squadron, a fighter unit consisting of U.S. pilot volunteers.

Oct. 3, 1942: Germany's liquid-fueled V-2, the world's first large operational ballistic missile, flew successfully for the first time.

Oct. 16, 1943: The 9th Air Force, which led U.S. tactical air missions in North Africa and the Mediterranean, moved to England to prepare for the invasion of France.

Oct. 24, 1944: Navy Capt. David McCampbell shot down nine Japanese fighters in a single day, a record unequaled by any other U.S. pilot. Captian McCampbell later became the Navy's leading ace, with 34 aerial victories.

Oct. 24, 1945: An American Airlines aircraft completed a flight from New York to Hurn Airfield, England – the first land-plane commercial flight from North America to Europe.

Oct. 14, 1947: Capt. Charles E.

"Chuck" Yeager made the first faster-than-sound flight at Muroc Air Base, Calif., in a rocket-powered Air Force research plane and won the Mackay Trophy for the most meritorious flight of the year.

Oct. 27, 1954: Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., became the first black general officer in the Air Force. He had served as commander of the 332rd Fighter Group, the "Tuskegee Airmen" – the first fighter group that included black pilots.

Oct. 4, 1957: The Soviet Union used an intercontinental ballistic missile booster to launch *Sputnik I*, the world's first artificial space satellite, into Earth orbit.

Oct. 14-15, 1962: The Cuban missile crisis began when Laughlin pilots, Majors Richard S. Heyser and Rudolf Anderson, Jr., conducting U-2 reconnaissance flights over Cuba, proved that Soviet missile sites were under construction there.

Oct. 18, 1962: Eight Air Force Reserve troop-carrier wings and six aerial-port squadrons were mobilized during the Cuban missile crisis.

Oct. 27, 1962: A 4080th Strategic Wing U-2 reconnaissance air-

craft piloted by Laughlin pilot Maj. Rudolf Anderson, Jr., was shot down over Cuba. Lost with his aircraft, Major Anderson was posthumously awarded the first Air Force Cross.

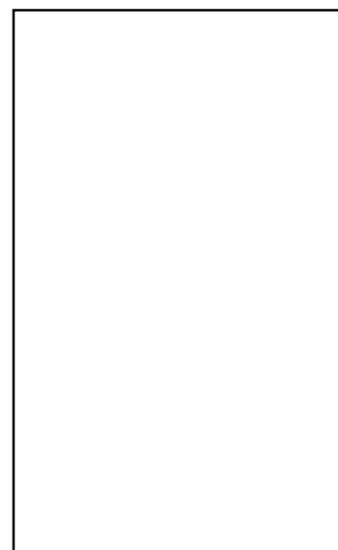
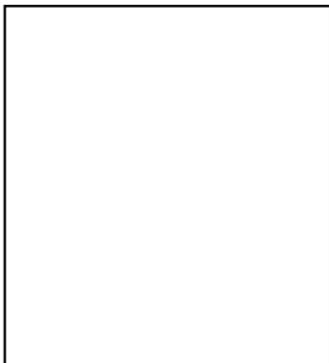
Oct. 16, 1967: The first operational F-111A supersonic tactical fighter landed at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The variable swept-wing jet used its terrain-following radar-guidance controls for the flight from Fort Worth.

Oct. 11, 1968: Air Force units supported the launch from Cape Kennedy, Fla., of *Apollo 7*, the first manned Apollo space mission. One of the three astronauts was Air Force Maj. Donn F. Eisele.

Oct. 12, 1977: The first class of Air Force women navigators graduated, with three of the five assigned to Military Airlift Command aircrews.

Oct. 5-13, 1984: During a space-shuttle mission, the crew of *Challenger* refueled a satellite in orbit for the first time.

Oct. 7, 2001: Operation ENDURING FREEDOM started with air strikes against terrorist and Taliban targets in Afghanistan. B-2 Spirit bombers of the 509th Bomb Wing flew round-trip from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., to Afghanistan on the longest bombing missions in aviation history.



Iraqi children arrive at Ramstein for medical care

By Capt. Kristi Beckman
86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – Eighteen Iraqi children are now receiving long-awaited medical care from the state of Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany, thanks to the help of the U. S. Air Force.

The children, ages 6 months to 16 years, arrived here Monday on a C-141 Starlifter from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., out of Baghdad International Airport.

Most of the children suffer from congenital, acquired or traumatic conditions; two of them have inju-

ries resulting from the armed conflict. The Air Force provided transportation to the children and their attendants free of charge.

Col. Frederick Gerber, chief of operations for the coalition provisional authority ministry of health, said there is a well-established program in Iraq for families and children who need health care. Patients are evaluated daily and most of them can be cared for within Iraqi hospitals.

“There are only very special cases that a country like Iraq might have to evacuate a patient for,” Colonel Gerber said. “There is a

three- to five-day process where it’s decided whether the patient can be treated inside Iraq or go on a waiting list to be treated outside of the country.”

These children were identified and clinically evaluated as requiring specialized medical treatment outside of Iraq.

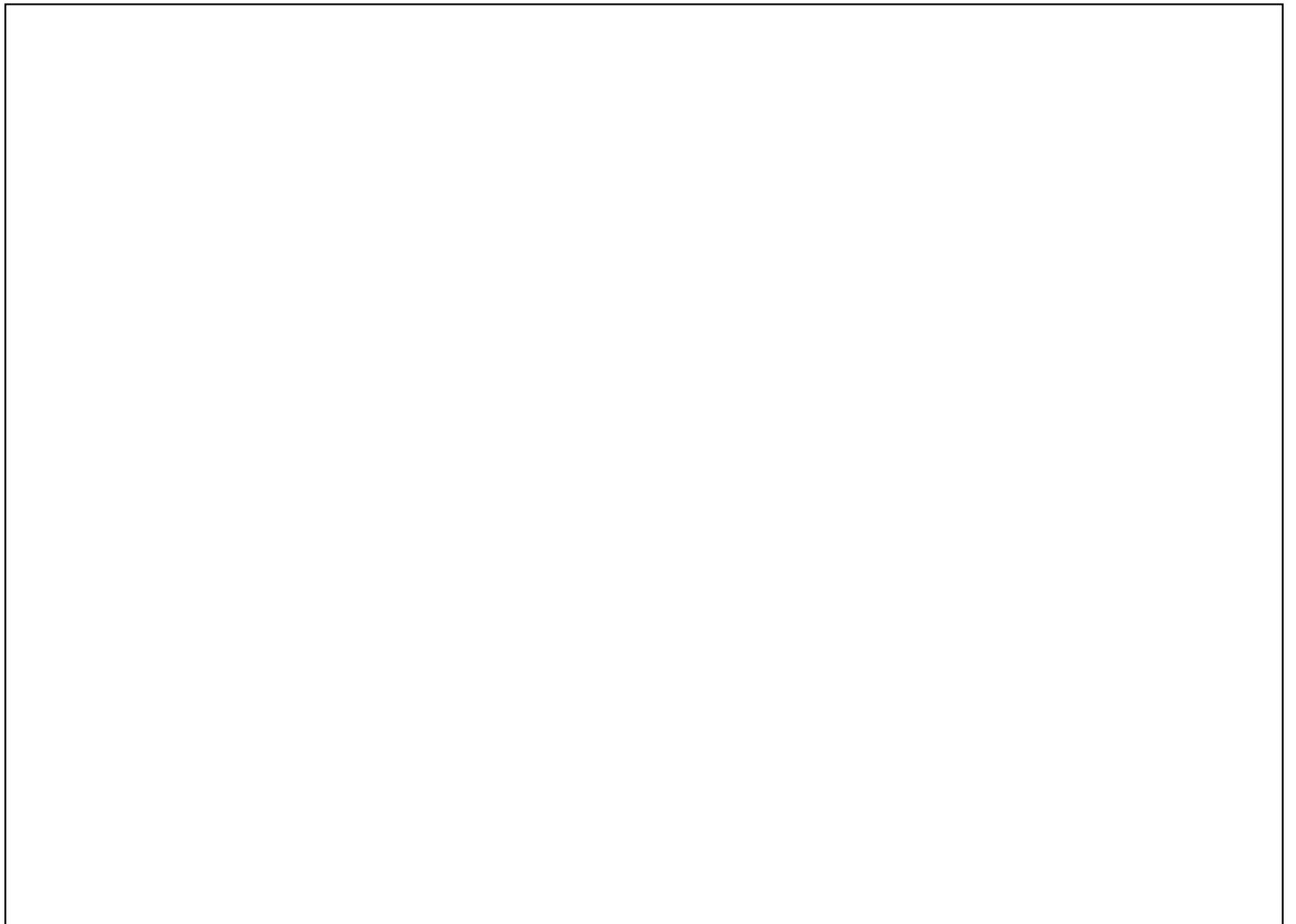
“Germany made an offer of \$500,000 worth of health care,” Colonel Gerber said. “All (the Air Force) needed to do was get them here.

“It was a very successful operation and we couldn’t have done it without the Air Force,” he said. “At

the worker level, the airmen, crewchiefs, loadmasters and terminal operators were just outstanding. They really made it happen.”

Brig. Gen. Erwin F. Lessel III, 86th Airlift Wing commander, greeted the Iraqi families.

“We know you’ll receive excellent medical care here in Germany, and once your treatment is complete, we can provide assistance with getting you back home to your families in Iraq,” he said. “We are grateful that we have the opportunity to work closely with the Germans to provide assistance ... to the children of Iraq.”



Air Force awards Lt. Col. Airman's Medal for act of heroism involving risk of life

By Airman 1st Class
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

A lieutenant colonel received the Airman's Medal recently during the wing stand up meeting for his actions in helping to save a man's life at Lackland Air Force Base last year.

Lt. Col. Brian Mullin, 85th Flying Training Squadron assistant director of operations, was at a shopette on Lackland November 29 when a man filling up portable gas tanks in the back of his truck caught fire. Colonel Mullin was the first to respond and help put the man out.

"I'm humbled to receive such an exalted decoration for doing what came automatically," said Colonel Mullin. "Someone was in obvious, serious trouble and I helped."

Robert Clewis, a retired technical sergeant, was filling up portable gas tanks in the back of his pickup truck when a spark of static electricity from the nozzle of the gas pump jumped to one of the gas cans.

"I had gotten up in the back (of the truck) and filled four of the five containers I had," said Mr. Clewis. "When I got to the last container, I touched the nozzle to the top of the container and a blue flame shot into the can igniting the gas inside."

"When that happened, I dropped the gasoline hose and tried to get the can that was on fire out of my truck. I figured since I started it, I should put it out. The other cans then started burning because their lids weren't on."

While trying to put out the

fire, Mr. Clewis had caught on fire himself.

Colonel Mullin, a major at the time, had witnessed the whole event. He quickly ran to help, yelling for Mr. Clewis to get out of the back of the truck.

Colonel Mullin said he had seen Mr. Clewis gassing up in the unsafe manner and was formulating words of warning to give him when the incident happened.

"I had spoken to a 20-year-old female patron of Randolph Air Force Base's gas station a week earlier who was standing over her car's filling fuel receptacle talking on a cell phone," said Col. Mullin.

Mr. Clewis got out of the back of the truck and heard Colonel Mullin yelling "Roll, roll, roll."

Mr. Clewis rolled on the ground while Colonel Mullin immediately took off his own shirt and attempted to smother the flames on Mr. Clewis's legs. Other patrons joined in the effort and the flames were snuffed out. Colonel Mullin received several minor burns on his own hands.

Colonel Mullin's quick actions are credited with preventing more extensive, life-threatening burns.

"It was a good thing it happened where it did," said Colonel Mullin. "The hospital was just down the road."

An employee at the station had a pickup so they placed Mr. Clewis in the back and drove him to Wilford Hall Medical Center.

When they arrived at the hospital, they were told by a medic that Mr. Clewis smelled too much like gas and that he would have to be taken outside,



Photo by Jose Mendoza

Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, pins the Airman's Medal onto Lt. Col. Brian Mullin, 85th Flying Training Squadron assistant director of operations.

said Colonel Mullin. They took him outside and cut off his gas-soaked clothes.

He was brought back in and immediately given an intravenous and morphine. The doctors told him he had some serious burns, mostly on his legs. He had third-degree burns over 17 to 20 percent of his body with most of the damage done to his left leg.

He was moved to Brooke Army Medical Center later that night. He had his first surgery four days later. In January he underwent surgery again. Doctors removed some muscle from his midsection and used it to make a new Achilles' tendon on his left foot so he could walk.

On Feb. 11 he had to have more muscles removed from his midsection to cover parts of the first surgery that hadn't healed yet.

He spent 80 days total in the

burn unit at Brooke. Almost a year later he still has to go to physical therapy twice a week.

The story attracted national media attention. A local San Antonio channel ran videotape taken from a surveillance camera at the shopette. The national networks picked up on the story and two weeks after the event, the Today Show and Good Morning America interviewed Mr. Clewis.

Some good things have come out of the situation said Mr. Clewis.

"They say the reason this happened was because I wasn't grounded," said Mr. Clewis. "Gas stations all over now have signs saying to stay grounded. Pumps even have signs saying not to use cell phones near gas pumps. After this happened to me, people come up to me and tell me that every time they pump gas they think of me."

The *XLer*

Capt. Winston Wolczak

84th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot

Hometown: Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Family: Single

Time at Laughlin: Three and a half years

Time in service: Eight years

Greatest accomplishments: Beating Lt. Col. Ron Stevens in fantasy football last week

Hobbies: Flying and traveling

Bad habits: Procrastinating

Favorite movie: "Billy Madison"

Favorite musician/band: Counting Crows

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? Gasper Castaño de Sosa because of the unique historical insight he could provide on the local area



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein



Photo by Gus Garcia

Sign here...

Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, and Del Rio Mayor Dora Alcala sign a domestic violence proclamation Tuesday at the base clinic. The proclamation is an annual statement signed by the wing commander and mayor to support awareness and prevention of domestic violence.

Bone marrow donation saves woman's life

**By Airman 1st Class
Madelyn Waychoff**
*388th Fighter Wing public
affairs*

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah – A 388th Maintenance Group airman here got a special phone call recently from a woman whose life he helped save with a bone marrow donation.

“When I was in school four years ago, they were having a bone marrow drive,” said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Dorman. “I just thought, ‘what the heck,’ and gave them a little sample of blood. It caught me off guard when I got a call saying I was a preliminary match as a donor ...”

The doctors would not tell Sergeant Dorman anything else about the patient. But now, more than a year later, he said he knows both sides of the story.

“He is my personal hero,” said Deanna Cater, 32, a resident of Michigan.

Doctors diagnosed Ms. Cater with Myelodysplastic Syndrome, or MDS, with severe Myelofibrosis in 2001. MDS is a collection of potentially life-threatening disorders in which bone marrow does not produce enough blood cells and turns to fibrous tissue, according to officials at the Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation.

“I couldn't wait to hear from

her,” said Sergeant Dorman. “I kept thinking, ‘How's she doing?’ and ‘Did it work?’ It made it all worth it to hear from her and know she was doing really well.”

“I wanted to let him know how incredible he is,” Ms. Cater said. “I needed him to know ... What he did was very important, and I wouldn't be alive today without him.”

Sergeant Dorman's gift was even more important after Ms. Cater's first scheduled donor backed out after \$14,000 worth of tests.

Though Sergeant Dorman admits the stories of needles scared him, he was not going to let the patient down. “There was no backing out for me,” he said. “After I'd

heard what she was going through, there was no way I could.”

For the five days before the procedure, doctors gave him shots of Filgrastim, a drug that increases the number of T-cells the body produces.

“It made my bones swell, and my back felt like it was being crushed, but my pain was nothing compared to hers. I was back to normal after [two days],” he said. “I feel great about what I did. I learned that the difference you can make in someone's life by going through a little bit of pain is amazing. After I listened to her story, I knew what I went through was nothing. I wouldn't think twice about doing it again.”

DoD consolidates pharmacy program, improving access to retail pharmacy benefit

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Force Press Service

WASHINGTON – Uniformed services personnel, retirees and family members will soon experience the benefits of a new retail pharmacy contract, according to Pentagon health affairs officials.

Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, announced Sept. 26 that DoD's Tricare Management Activity signed a contract with Express Scripts Inc. to manage its retail pharmacy program.

The Maryland Heights, Mo., based company is one of the largest pharmacy benefits management companies in the United States, and manages DoD's Tricare mail-order pharmacy as well.

The new contract with Express Scripts will consolidate DoD's retail pharmacy program into a single national program, Dr. Winkenwerder said, allowing beneficiaries to get prescriptions filled throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands at some 55,000 local retail pharmacies.

“This will make it easier for beneficiaries

to get their prescriptions across the United States irrespective of where they live,” he said. “It will improve customer satisfaction, and it will save money for the government. We have a good program now, (and) this change is going to make it an even better program.”

Dr. Winkenwerder said the new contract, which is scheduled to begin prescription services on April 1, 2004, is expected to save the Defense Department close to \$2 billion in prescription costs over the next five years. “All of this in one way or another accrues back to the taxpayer and our beneficiaries,” he added.

Express Scripts will provide the retail pharmacy network; services for claims processing, drug utilization and safety review, and prior authorization; beneficiary communication materials; and a call center to handle customer questions.

“Our expectation is for a seamless transition, one in which our customers, our beneficiaries, see little or no change in the way they get their prescriptions. If anything, I hope they will see an improvement soon after the transition, because we're adding pharmacies to the network, thus improving access.”

The contract includes a six-month base pe-

riod for transition activities that began Oct. 1, and 5 one-year options for prescription services beginning April 1, Winkenwerder said. The total value of the contract, which does not include the cost of prescriptions paid with DoD funds, is estimated to be \$245.4 million.

According to the Express Scripts Web site, the company has more than 50 million members in the U.S. and Canada, and provides its members with access to a network of more than 55,000 pharmacies, mail-order prescription services and an online pharmacy. The company processes more than 380 million prescriptions each year and its customers include HMOs and other health insurers, self-insured businesses and union benefits plans.

“This new contract is part of the department's strategy to implement a fully integrated pharmacy program that delivers world-class, cost-effective patient care through a single manager of our retail pharmacy benefit,” Dr. Winkenwerder said.

“Our new contract partner will apply best pharmacy benefit management practices to improve and continue the delivery of this important service,” he added, “while achieving the highest level of beneficiary satisfaction.”

MSG info manager takes weekly title

Last week, Senior Airman Carrie Staugler, 47th Mission Support Group information manager, took the weekly prize by picking 11 games correctly.

To enter the weekly contest,

individuals can put their names in contest boxes located at various Services locations for a chance to forecast winners of weekly NFL football games in the Border Eagle.

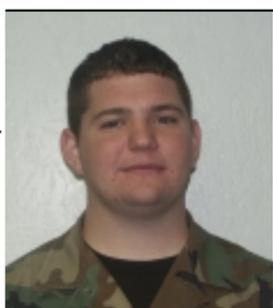
Five names will be drawn each

week to get an opportunity to pick the most winners of that week's football games.

Drop boxes are located at Club XL, Club Amistad, Cactus Lanes, Silver Wings and the Chaparral

Dining facility.

The players for this week are: Staff Sgts. Neil Larmon, John Jordan and Christina Butterfield; Senior Airman Kevin Balch and Susan MacPhearson.



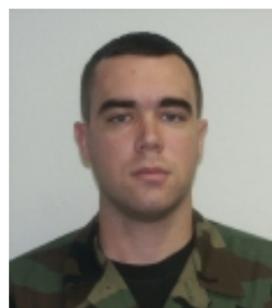
**Staff Sgt.
Neil Larmon**



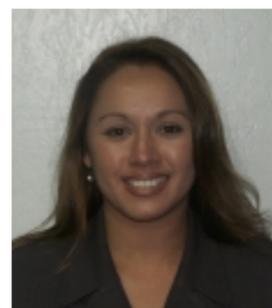
**Staff Sgt.
Christina Butterfield**



**Staff Sgt.
John Jordan**



**Senior Airman
Kevin Balch**



**Susan
MacPhearson**

Games:

Oak. at Cle.
Phi. at Dal.
K.C. at G.B.
Car. at Ind.
Mia. at Jax.
N.Y.G. at N.E.
Chi. at N.O.
Hou. at Tenn.
T.B. at Wash.
Bal. at Ariz.
Pitt. at Den.
Buff. at N.Y.J.
S.F. at Sea.
Atl. at St.L.

Cleveland
Philadelphia
Green Bay
Indianapolis
Miami
New England
New Orleans
Tennessee
Tampa Bay
Baltimore
Denver
Buffalo
Seattle
St. Louis

Cleveland
Philadelphia
Kansas City
Indianapolis
Miami
New York Giants
New Orleans
Tennessee
Washington
Baltimore
Denver
Buffalo
Seattle
St. Louis

Cleveland
Philadelphia
Kansas City
Carolina
Miami
New England
New Orleans
Tennessee
Tampa Bay
Arizona
Denver
New York Jets
San Francisco
St. Louis

Cleveland
Philadelphia
Green Bay
Indianapolis
Miami
New England
New Orleans
Tennessee
Tampa Bay
Baltimore
Denver
Buffalo
Seattle
St. Louis

Oakland
Dallas
Kansas City
Indianapolis
Miami
New England
New Orleans
Tennessee
Tampa Bay
Baltimore
Denver
Buffalo
Seattle
St. Louis

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.

Intramural flag football standings

Eastern Conference Western Conference

<u>Team</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>W-L</u>
LCSAM	0-0	MDG	1-0
84/85th	0-0	LSI	1-0
86th	0-0	MSS	0-1
87th	0-0	CES	0-1
OSS	0-0		