

Laughlin sergeant donates painting to enlisted heritage hall, page 11

Border Eagle

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

O Christmas tree...

Col. Keith Traster, vice wing commander, surrounded by many Laughlin children, lights the Laughlin Christmas tree Wednesday at the base chapel. A children's holiday party followed the tree lighting. See page 10 for story and photos.

Maintenance checks out digital X-ray

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Clark
Staff Writer

As topnotch 21st-century aircraft emerge at Laughlin, the aircraft inspection process also received a digital upgrade from the traditional film X-ray system.

As part of an initiative to implement state-of-the-art X-ray systems Air Force wide, three digital X-ray systems are being tested at various bases, with Laughlin testing the AGFA system.

"We are currently in [the final phase] of the testing process," said Tim Selfridge, Non-Destructive Inspection office supervisor. "This is to evaluate how the system works in the actual inspection process [and] make recommendations (if any) for a production model."

While Fuji and Kodak systems were briefly tested at Laughlin from Jun 23-27, Mr. Selfridge chose the AGFA for the long-term test because

See X-ray, page 4

Newslines

Graduation set

SUPT Class 04-03 graduates at 10 a.m. today in the Anderson Hall auditorium.

The guest speaker will be retired Lt. Gen. Phillip Ford, former deputy commander in chief, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

All base members are invited to attend.

Clinic closure scheduled

The 47th Medical Group will be closed, for training from noon to 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

During this time, all clinics will be closed and the nurse triage line will not be available. Radiology, the laboratory and the pharmacy also will close. The Tricare Service Center will remain open.

Anyone with a medical emergency should report to the Val Verde Regional Medical Center emergency room.

For other care, call (800) 406-2832.

Promotion ceremony set

An enlisted promotion ceremony is set for 4 p.m. Thursday at Club Amistad.

All base members are invited to attend.

Deployment stats

Deployed	Returning 30 days	Deploying 30 days
45	1	1

Mission status

(As of Dec. 5)

Airframe	Days behind or ahead	Mission Capable Rate
T-37	-4.67	89.1%
T-1	2.90	76.2%
T-38	1.33	70.7%
T-6	-1.77	83.1%

Jacket, pullover require nametags

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – The Air Force has established both the mandatory wear date and proper wear for the new metallic nametag on service dress uniforms and pullover sweaters.

Effective Jan. 1, the nametag must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons, said Air Force Personnel Center officials here. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.

If a duty badge is worn on the

wearer's right side, men will center the badge a half-inch below the new nametag; women will center the badge a half-inch above the new nametag. An exception is when a command insignia is worn by either men or women. It is worn either a half-inch above or below the nametag. Then, the duty badge is worn either a half-inch above or below the command insignia, depending on whether the airman is a current or former commander.

When the maternity jumper is worn as the maternity service dress, the nametag should be centered on the

right side and placed even to, or 1 1/2 inches higher or lower than, the first exposed button.

The nametag also will be worn on pullover sweaters on the wearer's right side with the bottom of the nametag level, centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline. It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.

For more information, airmen can contact their military personnel flight or commander's support staff.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Crossing bridge of opportunity takes determination



Commander's Corner

By Col. Chuck Hardin
47th Medical Group commander

I have in my mind's eye the picture of a person standing at the entrance to a long bridge. On the opposite side of the ravine the bridge crosses is the opportunity to be a better person. The individual just stands there and makes no effort to set foot on the bridge, apparently immobilized by doubt, fear or apathy. Finally the bridge crumbles, and the opportunity is gone.

My father-in-law once told me everyone gets at least one chance to be successful, to cross that bridge of opportunity. I believe he was right. The question is, do we have the courage it takes to step out onto the bridge?

There are forces that prevent us from taking those difficult steps. When I was in undergraduate school, my wife, Debbie, and I decided I should go to medical school. I went to my counselor to find out what I had to do to get into medical school. It was a very short visit. He said, "You are too old, have too many kids and are not smart enough for medical school."

I learned from that experience that there are people in this life who will either help us or hinder us as we pursue our dreams. I decided I would try to be a person who helped people reach their goals, and I would stay away from negative people who held

others back. I sent in my applications to medical school anyway – and got rejected.

I sat in my dad's office with the final rejection letter crumpled in my hand. None of the letters contained any encouragement like "try again next year." I was shattered. I really felt like I deserved some sympathy. Dad asked me if I was going to apply to medical school again. I replied that I didn't know. His reply was simple and unsympathetic: "Then you really don't want it badly enough."

That hurt, but he was right. It was a pivotal moment in my life ... Did I have the courage to step onto the bridge and risk failure all over again? I am convinced that the major determinate of success or failure – whether in the medical field, pilot training, passing your career development course or seeking academic degrees – is simply determined by how badly we want it.

The following year, I sent the identical medical school application. The only line that changed was my age. The same university, which sent me that final rejection letter, sent me an offer of early acceptance.

Frequently when we cross bridges of opportunity we have others who walk with us ... spouses, children, close friends, classmates, family and fiancées. Now fast forward my story. Four years of medical school have passed, five years of general surgery training, three years of plastic surgery training and an additional year of craniofacial training. Total it up, 13 years of every second or third night call, moonlighting in emergency departments to pay bills, medical books by the dozens to read, tests to take and to pass. I loved it. It was hard, but it was my dream.

"I am convinced that the major determinate of success or failure – whether in the medical field, pilot training, passing your career development course or seeking academic degrees – is simply determined by how badly we want it."

Now let's look at Debbie's journey (we've been married 29 years) on that same bridge ... four small children to take care of (three when we started medical school), far from any family, income close to poverty level, most nights with no spouse at home, and when home, spouse was either asleep at the dinner table or reading a textbook.

Sounds a lot like pilot training, doesn't it? I don't remember Debbie complaining even once. I know she had bad days, but she always bounced back. When I got discouraged she was the one who put me back on the bridge. The secret was that Debbie wanted my dream as badly as I wanted it. It was our dream. The support she gave me was a gift, and I will be the first to say that her journey across the bridge was tougher than mine.

So, a challenge to those who are supporting people on their bridge of opportunity: Be tough, be determined, want it as badly as the person you are helping, and put him or her back on the bridge when necessary.

That's my experience with the bridge of opportunity ... want it badly enough to risk failure, be determined, take along someone tough to put you back on the bridge, but most of all, don't just stand there looking at it – step out onto the bridge.

Border Eagle

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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.

Through the eyes of a spouse

Spouses help protect, support with minds, hearts

By Bridget Singleterry
100th Airlift Refueling Wing spouse

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England – Recently my husband, Senior Airman Randy Singleterry, 100th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and I were sitting in traffic after work trying to get off base when I noticed a helicopter hovering nearby. Since we weren't moving anywhere, I continued to watch the helicopter. It never even budged.

I thought to myself how lucky my husband and I are to be fortunate enough to be so close to military planes and such. We both are from small towns in south Texas and never got to see any of the things we see on base. After sitting there for a couple of minutes, the music started to play to end the workday as usual, and I really listened for a change.

Then, as I listened to the music and watched the hovering helicopter out the window, everything started to settle into place. It was the end of a hard day, or a great day, or a devastating day for someone – but when that music starts to play everyday at the same time – it's the end of an honest day's work protecting and supporting our country so far away from home.



Photo by Bridget Singleterry

An MH-53 Pave-Lo helicopter hovers over RAF Mildenhall while the Star Spangled Banner and British national anthem play to signal the end of the duty day.

Something so simple as a helicopter over the horizon and a familiar tune that we all know so well playing in the background can make a world of difference in our thoughts.

My heart, thoughts and prayers went out to so many that afternoon – and I will never forget the feeling I had as the helicopter

flew away.

As spouses, our jobs are never over. We must also protect and support. Maybe not with our guns or with our politics, but with our love, open arms, minds and hearts for those we know and don't know who are there for us.



Actionline
298-5351

Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training Wing commander

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

Question: I have a question regarding the parking in buildings 308 and 309 (the tower and base operations). There appears to be a reserved parking spot everywhere except for the actual people who work in these buildings.

I do not know if anyone has coordinated this, but someone needs to look at who gets to park in that parking lot.

Answer: A review of reserved parking for buildings 308 and 309 was conducted. All reserved spots

are in compliance with the base's approved parking plan, which limits basewide reserved parking to 10 percent. Key personnel requiring easy access to these two buildings were identified, and the 47th Mission Support Group commander reviewed and approved the list of reserved park-

ing spots. Since the education office and visual information have relocated, five reserved signs recently were removed in the parking lot that is used for access to buildings 308 and 309.

We hope this helps alleviate your concern.

X-ray, from page 1

he believed it better meets Laughlin's needs.

Within the two months the system has been in place, Mr. Selfridge said he has noted many benefits, such as better X-ray images, elimination of all hazardous chemicals, reduction in radiation produced, time savings and a dramatic cost savings.

Traditionally, aircraft defects, such as cracks, moisture in honeycomb and foreign objects, were inspected using a wet-film X-ray process.

"The [new] system is very similar to traditional X-ray with the main exception that there is not any film involved," said Mr. Selfridge.

Film is replaced with a reusable phosphorous imaging plate, or IP. The IP is exposed to the X-rays and put into a digital reader. The IP is then scanned, read and sent to a computer workstation where the digital image can be electronically manipulated if the initial X-ray did not meet desired specifications. A single IP may be reused up to 100,000 times (longer than 10 years), and the digital images are saved to DVD for future use and historical records.

"With the traditional X-ray process, if an X-ray is taken and doesn't meet the specification desired, then another piece of film has to be used,



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

reprocessed and reread," said Mr. Selfridge. "A traditional piece of X-ray film costs approximately \$4 per sheet."

Cutting the expense of film alone will save Laughlin more than \$150,000 per year, depending on how many aircraft are X-rayed annually.

Since film is no longer needed with the new system, water, chemicals and hazardous waste also are elimi-

nated. Although the amount of radiation required has been significantly reduced, the digital X-ray produces better images, Mr. Selfridge said.

"We've seen defects that we were not able to see before using the old film process," he said. "We have been able to send images via e-mail, which is not possible with the standard film process."

Mr. Selfridge said he was ecstatic

Can I have one?

Elizabeth Hogue (front), daughter of Heather (right) and Maj. Mike Hogue, 86th Flying Training Squadron assitant director of operations, helps bag cookies Dec. 5 at the chapel's fellowship hall for the Command Officers Spouses Group annual cookie caper. More than 4,800 cookies were delivered to single enlisted and officer dorm residents. Also pictured are Elizabeth's brother, Joshua, and baby sister, Chloe.

to handle testing at Laughlin since he had been advocating a new system for several years.

As a 22-year veteran in the field, Mr. Selfridge said the digital system will affect the maintenance mission dramatically by improving operations and providing safer aircraft to the pilots.

"The new system can only be seen as a 'win-win-win' project," he said.

Newslines

Retirement ceremony set

A retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. John Bock, 47th Operations Group first sergeant, is set for 1 p.m. today at Club Amistad. A reception will follow. All base members are invited to attend.

For more information, call 298-5136.

Blood drive set

The Southwest Texas Blood and Tissue Center is holding a blood drive 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Fiesta Center lobby.

Free T-shirts and cookies will be given to those who donate.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Rachael Platz at 298-5383.

Speaker to address safety

The Laughlin safety office is pro-

viding training by a top motivational safety speaker Dec. 19 in the Anderson Hall auditorium.

There will be presentations at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. It is highly recommended all military and civilian members attend one of the sessions.

For more information, call 298-5681.

Security forces hours change

Because of deployments the 47th Security Forces Squadron customer service hours are changing effective Monday.

Pass and Identification hours will be 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. For more information, call 298-5349.

Security clearance assistance will be available by appointment only. For more information, call 298-5861.

Weapons training will be conducted Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call 298-5151.

Simulator open house set

The 47th Operations Group is having a simulator open house available to Laughlin military members and their families Dec. 19 and 22. Simulator rides will be available in the T-1, T-6, T-37 and T-38 simulators.

Those wishing to attend should contact their group point of contact: 47th Maintenance Directorate, Hilda Vasquez, 298-5315; 47th Medical Group, Capt. Michael Russell, michael.russell@laughlin.af.mil; 47th Operations Group, Maj. James Patterson, 298-5990; 47th Mission Support Group, 1st Lt. Paula Schoch, 298-5304.

Scholarship applications due

Applications for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children must be turned in to the commissary by Feb. 18.

Applications are available at the commissary or online at www.militaryscholar.org or through a link at www.commissaries.com.

For more information, call 298-5821.

Airman's Attic is open

The Airman's Attic is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in building 360 next to the fitness center.

Base members may obtain referrals from unit first sergeants to use the attic. Donations are welcome.

For more information, call 298-1251.

Pay statements available online

Military members can now download their leave and earnings statements from the MyPay Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>.

While providing convenience to the customer, downloading LESs instead of having them mailed also saves the military money.

Members not already signed up can receive a pin number from finance.

For more information, call 298-5203.

Air Force News broadcasts from Baghdad

By Tech. Sgt. J.C. Woodring
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO – U.S. military broadcasters hit the airwaves in Baghdad, Iraq, on Wednesday with the first manned American Forces Radio and Television Service broadcast from the country.

American Forces Network-Iraq, features live shows, news, sports, weather and commentary 24 hours a day in Baghdad. By the end of December, officials said they plan on expanding coverage to the entire country through the service's satellite network.

"Air Force News has had a presence in the country since the first days of combat," said Master Sgt. Erik Brazones, a broadcaster deployed from the Air Force News Agency here. "(We are) providing troops a touch of home."

Radio and television service is at all major troop concentrations in the country; however, areas outside of Baghdad receive their programming from the AFRTS satellites, he said.

"Major garrison locations receive the program, but one small unit with a satellite dish, decoder and a TV can get the signal as well," he said. "We have a lot of these types of setups around the country."

More than 2,200 decoders

are being used in Iraq to get AFN broadcast signals, Sergeant Brazones said.

Stateside programming is something the average person takes for granted until he or she can no longer see or hear it, Sergeant Brazones said. By broadcasting American programs in combat zones, servicemembers get a chance to unwind.

"Having a place to relax and watch (or listen to) a ball game gives the troops a brief break from their demanding duty schedules," he said.

"The establishment of AFN-Iraq continues the 61-year tradition of AFRTS serving U.S. forces wherever they are deployed," said Lt. Col. Perry Nouis, AFN-Iraq's commander. "Troops consistently rate AFRTS among the top morale-boosting service they receive. We're very proud and very much looking forward to serving coalition military forces in Iraq with current news and the command information that they need to know."

Sergeant Brazones and the other seven people on his team said they were anxious to start airing information specifically aimed at servicemembers serving in Iraq.

"We have celebrity greetings, force-protection messages and other information for troops, and now we have a way to keep them informed," Sergeant Brazones said.

Check us out online ...

Click the link the Laughlin home page for an electronic version of the Border Eagle or log on to:
<http://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/ftworg/pabasepaper/index.html>



Graduation

SUPT Class 04-03 graduates



2nd Lt. Arnold Banks
KC-135 (AFRES)
Grissom ARB, Ind.



2nd Lt. David Brill
F-15C
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Mark Buchy
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Michael Burton
C-5
Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Brad Caywood
T-38
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Brent Coleman
F-16 (ANG)
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Christian Collamore
RC-135
Offutt AFB, Neb.



2nd Lt. Joseph Drummond
F-16
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Coy Egbert
C-21
Peterson AFB, Colo.



2nd Lt. Russell Foxworth
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Marshal Haylett
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Colin Henderson
KC-135
RAF Mildenhall, England



2nd Lt. Tara Hoff
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Brock Lange
F-15C
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Jessica Lau
KC-135
Kadena AB, Japan



2nd Lt. Tiffany Ley
KC-135
McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. David Morales
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Todd Mullen
C-5 (AFRES)
Dover AFB, Del.



2nd Lt. Jaime Olivares
B-1
Dyess AFB



2nd Lt. Aaron Reid
F-15E
Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. Erik Schillo
KC-135 (ANG)
Pittsburgh IAP, Pa.



2nd Lt. Ryan Smith
KC-135
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



2nd Lt. Eric Stano
F-16
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Kenneth Strunk
KC-135
Phoenix IAP, Ariz.



2nd Lt. John Wonnum
T-6
Moody AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Sarah Young
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.

December Centennial of Flight highlights Air Force

Dec. 17, 1903: Orville and Wilbur Wright piloted a powered heavier-than-air aircraft for the first time at Kill Devil Hill, near Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Controlling the aircraft for pitch, yaw and roll, Orville completed the first of four flights, soaring 120 feet in 12 seconds. Wilbur completed the longest flight of the day: 852 feet in 59 seconds. The brothers launched the airplane from a monorail track against a wind blowing slightly more than 20 miles per hour.

Dec. 23, 1907: Brig. Gen. James Allen, chief signal officer, issued the first specification for a military airplane. It called for an aircraft that could carry two people, fly at a minimum speed of 40 miles per hour, go 125 miles without stopping, be controllable for flight in any direction and land at its takeoff point without damage.

Dec. 11, 1914: Flying a Burgess-Wright biplane, Lt. Herbert A. Dargue and Lt. Joseph O. Mauborgne of the Army demonstrated two-way radio communications between the air and ground in the Philippines.

Dec. 30, 1916: The Army estab-

lished an aviation school just north of Hampton, Va. Now named Langley Air Force Base, it is the oldest currently active Air Force base.

Dec. 27, 1935: The Air Corps's 5th Group (Composite) dropped bombs to divert lava flowing from Mauna Loa volcano, which was threatening the city of Hilo, Hawaii.

Dec. 7, 1941: Japanese torpedo bombers, dive-bombers and fighters from six aircraft carriers attacked naval and air installations around Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, crippling the U.S. Pacific Fleet. In two waves, the Japanese airplanes sank four U.S. battleships and damaged

nine other major warships. The surprise attack, which killed some 2,390 personnel, propelled the United States into World War II. Air strikes on Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows Fields killed 193 members of the Army Air Forces and destroyed 64 of the Hawaiian Air Force's airplanes. Six Army Air Forces pilots shot down 10

Japanese aircraft that day. Second Lt. George S. Welch shot down four, 2nd Lt. Kenneth M. Taylor shot down two and four other pilots each shot down one.

Dec. 27, 1942: Second Lt. Richard I. Bong, flying a P-38 against the Japanese in the Pacific, scored his first two aerial victories. By the end of the war, he had earned 40 such credits, making him the top U.S. ace.

Dec. 10, 1954: In a rocket-propelled sled run, Col. John P. Stapp attained a speed of 632 miles per hour and sustained greater G forces than humans had ever endured in recorded deceleration tests – the equivalent of Mach 1.7 at 35,000 feet. The test determined that humans could survive ejection from aircraft at supersonic speeds.

Dec. 9, 1956: The 463d Troop Carrier Wing received the Air Force's first C-130 Hercules tactical-airlift aircraft. This four-engine turboprop airlifter had an unrefueled range of over 2,500

miles, could carry outsized cargo of almost 50,000 pounds or up to 92 troops and could take off and land within about 3,600 feet.

Dec. 18, 1958: The Air Force placed in orbit the first artificial communications satellite, a Project Score relay vehicle integral with the 4-ton Atlas launcher. The next day, the satellite broadcast a taped recording of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Christmas message – the first time a human voice had been heard from space.

Dec. 21, 1968: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched *Apollo 8* atop a Saturn V booster from Cape Kennedy, Fla. The astronauts aboard included Air Force Cols. Frank Borman and William A. Anders and Navy Capt. James A. Lovell, Jr. A few days later, the three men achieved the first lunar orbit.

Dec. 3, 1973: *Pioneer 10* became the first space probe to reach the vicinity of Jupiter.

Dec. 14, 1989: For the first time, women assumed Air Force combat-crew roles as they began to serve on C-130 and C-141 airdrop missions.



Need the latest Laughlin information?

Call Laughlin's Information Line at 298-5201.





(Left) Santa Claus waves as he is escorted to Club XL. (Bottom) Marivel, daughter of Rosa and Tech. Sgt. Guillermo Gallegos, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron, tells Santa her Christmas list.



(Above) Capt. Barbara Costa, 47th Operations Support Squadron, helps daughter, Celeste, with a craft project. (Right) Sarah (left) and Gabrielle Sanders, daughters of Dolores and Master Sgt. John Sanders, 47th Communications Squadron, work on holiday artwork.

Season's greetings

Santa helps Laughlin families celebrate holidays

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Clark
Staff writer

'Twas two weeks before Christmas when Santa Claus appeared at Laughlin for a

children's holiday party at Club XL Wednesday.

More than 100 base children and their parents attended the party. The children met Santa and created holiday artwork. Club XL provided all

attendees a buffet dinner.

"The annual tree lighting and children's holiday party are great ways to get everyone in the holiday spirit," said Col. Keith Traster, vice wing commander.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

XLer dedicates work to Enlisted Heritage Hall

Artist paints gift from ALS class

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Clark
Staff writer

Serving her country isn't the only way she contributes to making the world a more beautiful place; she also uses oils, pastels and watercolors on her quest.

Staff Sgt. Amanda White, 47th Communications Squadron network technician, recently dedicated a painting to the building in which her Airman Leadership School class was held, Laughlin's Enlisted Heritage Hall.

"Each ALS class has a theme the graduation committee focuses on — ours was 'The Tuskegee Airmen,'" said Sergeant White. "As a class gift, we wanted to do something different, so [I was] asked to complete a painting [related to that theme], which would be given to the Enlisted Heritage Hall."

The portrait, titled "Vision of the Tuskegee Airmen," was dedicated to the Enlisted Heritage Hall Nov. 18.

The painting features three ground crew members. The aircraft in the painting historically coincides with "The Red-Tailed Angels," the name given to the P-51D Mustangs and their pilots as they escorted bombing missions.

Creating paintings for others is nothing new to Sergeant White.

"I really never [understood] painting for money, it is something I somehow always seem to give away," she said. "I paint for myself [once in a] blue moon, and even then, I never seem to finish the pieces I intend for myself."

Prior to painting the portrait for the Enlisted Heritage Hall, Sergeant White sketched the painting and showed it to the ALS instructor. Impressed by the sketch, he decided to frame it and present it to the guest speaker of their class, retired Tech. Sgt. George Watson, who was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen.

"It was just a sketch of the painting," said Sergeant White, who has been painting for 14 years. "I



"Vision of the Tuskegee Airmen," painted by Staff Sgt. Amanda White, 47th Communications Squadron network technician, was dedicated to Laughlin's Enlisted Heritage Hall Nov. 18. Sergeant White painted the portrait as a gift from her Airman Leadership School class.

didn't think [the ALS instructor] would actually want to present it."

Sergeant White said she was glad it was presented to Sergeant Watson because he was very grateful for the gift.

"He said, 'This is the most beautiful gift anyone has ever given to me,' and I was really overwhelmed by that," said Sergeant White.

After the sketch was presented to Sergeant Watson, Sergeant White worked on the painting for four weeks before it was complete.

Sergeant White said she did a great deal of research and read many meaningful poems and articles about the Tuskegee Airmen prior to beginning the painting.

"I wanted to give the painting a feeling like it was a poem," she said.

Sergeant White said she used colors that depict the past and "a sense of nostalgia."

"I also tried to reflect the era before and during World War II with the type of uniforms the airmen are wearing," she said.

Although the majority of Sergeant White's paintings are abstract,



Sergeant White works on one of her paintings Tuesday. The painting is based on her recent experiences in Europe.

she wanted this painting to be different.

"I wanted everyone to know exactly what this painting is instead of asking what that 'blob' of paint is," she said. "This painting is very concrete."

Sergeant White said she believes she is a richer person now that she has

done so much research and found out so much about the Tuskegee Airmen.

"I hope all who see it experience the feeling of honor and duty the Tuskegee Airmen wholeheartedly [had] for their country," she said. "And I hope they realize how important their story is to American and aviation history."

The *XLer*

Airman 1st Class Sheena Mendiola
47th Mission Support Squadron

Hometown: Yona, Guam

Family: Son, Brenden

Time at Laughlin: One year, two months

Time in service:

One year, six months

Greatest accomplishment:

Raising a beautiful son

Hobbies: Working out, watching movies and reading

Bad habit: Procrastinating

Favorite movie:

"Love and Basketball"

Favorite musicians:

Beyoncé

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My grandfather because he has become so ill since I left Guam. I would like for my son to see him as well.

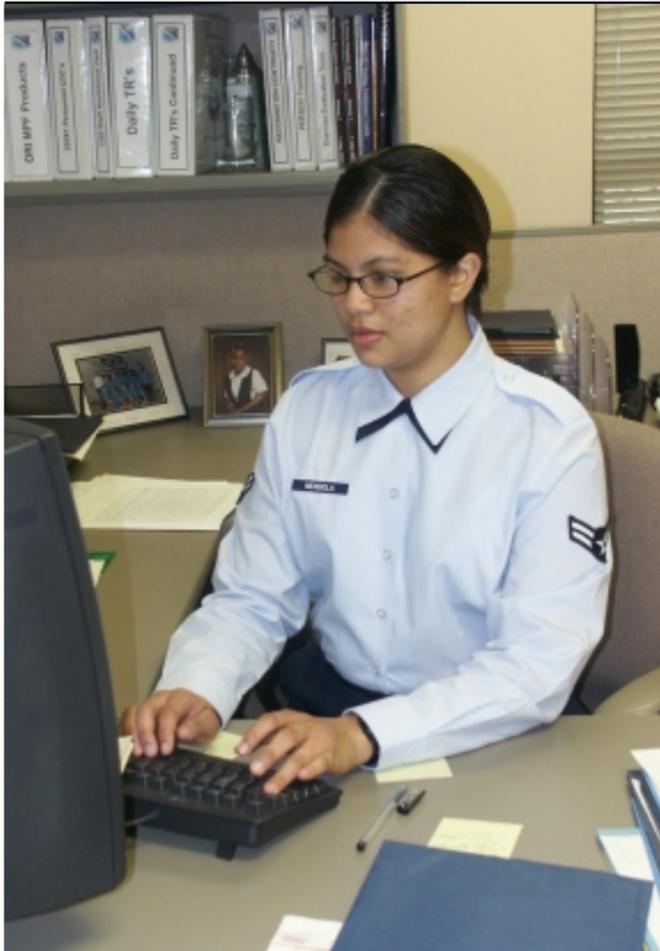


Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Commissary facts:

Did you know the commissary offers many advantages over shopping elsewhere?

- It offers savings upward of 30 percent over other stores.
- Periodic case lot sales can save the consumer 45 to 50 percent.
- By giving the commissary your e-mail address you can receive the Commissary News Letter every month to learn what is on sale.
- Without support, commissaries could become a thing of the past.

Interested in the Air Force?

Call Del Rio's Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.

Chapel information



Catholic

Monday - Friday

- Mass, 12:05 p.m.

Saturday

- Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment

Sunday

- Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.

Thursday

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

Protestant

Wednesday

- Choir, 7 p.m.

Sunday

- General worship, 11 a.m., Contemporary worship, call 298-7073

Chaplain Staff

Wing chaplain:

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic

Senior Protestant:

Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian Church, USA

Protestant:

Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian Church

Protestant:

Chap. (1st Lt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

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



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

A little to the left...

Jesse Valdez, Trend Western furniture management specialist, and Col. Vic Hnatuik, 47th Mission Support Group commander, move in the last piece of new furniture into an officer dormitory room Dec. 5. This completed a two-year project whereby all the officer dorm rooms received new furniture.

Buckle your seatbelt

**Read
Airman
Magazine
online at
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news/
airman/
indxflas.
html](http://www.af.mil/news/airman/indxflas.html)**



Legal Spotlight

'Tis the season for holiday scams

By Capt. Preston Young
Legal office

Servicemembers stationed at Laughlin Air Force Base have many options for local shopping this holiday season. Downtown Del Rio, Ciudad de Acuna and San Antonio all offer consumers plenty of shopping choices to buy gifts for the upcoming holidays. For those less eager to brave the cool weather, travel long distances or face crowded malls, the Internet provides a convenient alternative.

Despite consumer security concerns about online fraud, it is expected that more than 63 percent of Internet users nationwide will do some of their holiday shopping online this year.

Identifying reputable merchants and protecting against online threats to personal security should help members enjoy a safe and comfortable shopping experience this season. The best way to avoid dishonest vendors is to know whom the vendor is.

Avoid unsolicited e-mail offers or advertisements from unknown sources that often provide "too good to be true" deals. Instead of responding to these enticing offers, online shoppers should make their holiday purchases from familiar Web sites that are reliable and trustworthy. Record the seller's physical address, phone number and customer service contact information in case you have questions or problems concerning your purchase. Also shop with online vendors that publish their refund and exchange policy, shipping or transaction costs and security and privacy protection information on their homepage. The quality and nature of this information will help people decide if they want to conduct online business with the vendor.

Protecting personal security online presents some interesting challenges given the complexity of the Internet and the average consumer's mediocre skill level in using computers. The legal office offers the following 10 tips to online shoppers looking

to improve their cyber security:

- **Research the vendor:** Check the vendor's status with the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org) to ensure that the company is abiding by a standard code of business practice.
- **Ask several questions:** Contact the vendor via telephone prior to making a purchase and clarify any confusion about the price, the refund and return policy, shipping charges or delivery time frame.
- **Trust your gut:** If the price of the product doesn't seem right (too high or too low) or the requirements for getting the product seem suspect, then avoid the transaction.
- **Avoid payment by cash, debit card or electronic funds transfers:** Paying by credit card allows the consumer greater protection to dispute a bill and reduces the consumer's liability for fraudulent charges.
- **Be careful when disclosing private information:** Only provide credit card and other private information in a protected environment. Look for signs that the Web sight is secure (e.g., prefix <https://> in the URL box or the golden "lock" at the bottom of the screen).
- **Use extra caution over the border:** When dealing with sellers overseas the physical distance, differences in legal systems and other factors could complicate the transaction.
- **Install anti-virus software and a firewall:** Anti-virus software is critical to protect your computer from malicious viruses intended to thwart your computer's productivity. A firewall will protect your computer from unauthorized access to and use by hackers.
- **Take advantage of security updates:** Security updates are designed to update a computer's security system to protect the computer from the latest threats. Security updates should be checked every 30 days.
- **Keep good records:** Track all purchases and keep Web site and receipt printouts.
- **Report problems:** Seek assistance from the Better Business Bureau to help resolve disputes with online vendors.

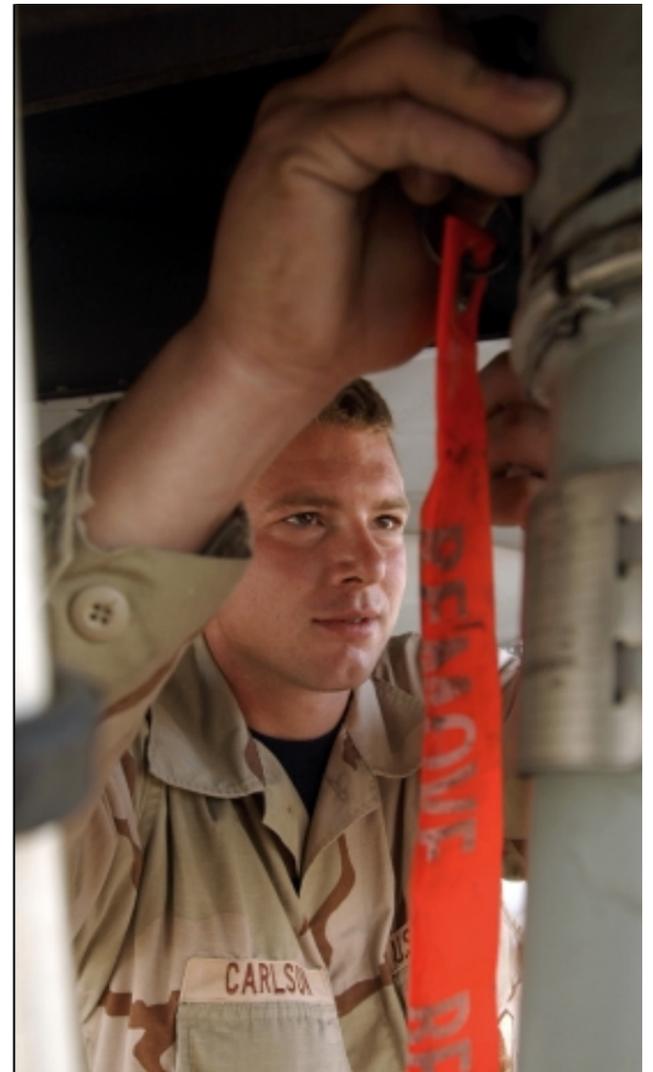


Photo by Staff Sgt. C.E. Lewis

Pull the pins...

Airman 1st Class Michael Carlson removes safety pins from an A-10 Thunderbolt II before it departs Tallil Air Base, Iraq, Dec. 4. The A-10 mission there is complete, and the aircraft are returning to their home station.

ONLINE news

Access breaking news at United States Air Force Online News, the official newspaper of the United States Air Force. A simple click to www.af.mil/news keeps you informed about events.

Shop the commissary...
the military's premier benefit

Computer tech picks 11, wins weekly poll

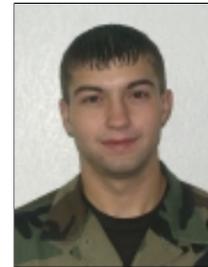
Last week, Airman 1st Class Matt Teigen, 47th Communications Squadron network technician, won the weekly prize by picking 11 of 16 games correctly. Two other contestants came close by guessing 10 games.

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.

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

Weekly winners may call Andrew Furman at Club XL at 298-5134 to claim their prize.

Prizes include a free round of golf or lunch at the club.



Airman Teigen

Games:	2nd Lt. Maxwell Christopherson	2nd Lt. Brett Sailsbery	Senior Master Sgt. Richard Conerly	Tech. Sgt. Thomas Cooper	Airman 1st Class David Althoff
Minn. at Chi.	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota
S.F. at Cin.	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	San Francisco	San Francisco
Atl. at Ind.	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Atlanta	Indianapolis
Det. at K.C.	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City
Jax. at N.E.	New England	New England	New England	New England	New England
Pitt. at N.Y.J.	New York Jets	Pittsburgh	New York Jets	Pittsburgh	New York Jets
Sea. at St.L.	St. Louis	Seattle	St. Louis	St. Louis	St. Louis
Hou. at T.B.	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay
Buff. at Tenn.	Buffalo	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Dal. at Wash.	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Washington	Washington
Cle. at Den.	Denver	Denver	Denver	Cleveland	Denver
Bal. at Oak.	Baltimore	Baltimore	Oaklan	Baltimore	Baltimore
Car. at Ari.	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina
G.B. at S.D.	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay
N.Y.G. at N.O.	New Orleans	New Orleans	New York Giants	New York Giants	New Orleans
Phi. at Mia.	Miami	Miami	Philadelphia	Miami	Philadelphia

Final regular season intramural flag football standings

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L
LCSAM	8-4
87th	8-4
86th	8-4
OSS	6-6
84th/85th	0-12 (out)

Western Conference

Team	W-L
MDG	11-1
CES	6-6
LSI	6-6
MSS	1-11

86th FTS shuts out LCSAM, 14-0

By Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein
Editor

The 86th Flying Training Squadron used defense and a couple of big offensive plays to shut out Laughlin Consolidated Services Aircraft Maintenance, 14-0, in both teams' first intramural flag football playoff game Wednesday at the football field here.

LCSAM received the ball first. The 86th's defensive pass rush proved to be too much for LCSAM's quarterback, Albert Varga. He was sacked once and forced to throw on the run two other times. After three plays LCSAM was forced to punt.

The 86th started their first drive on LCSAM's 42-yard line. After one incomplete pass, Leron Hudgins, 86th

quarterback, scrambled for 20 yards. On the next play he hit receiver Pat Pulaski for a 22-yard touchdown strike.

A successful extra point brought the score to 7-0.

LCSAM showed some life on their next possession. After a sack and an incompletion, Varga was able to hit a receiver for a 28-yard pass and a first down. Their good fortune didn't last long, however. Three plays later Brian Dodson, 86th defensive back, intercepted a Varga pass and almost ran it back for a touchdown. The 86th's offense wasn't able to capitalize on the interception, however, as time ran out in the half.

The 86th received the ball first in the second half. LCSAM's defense did a great job holding them on three plays and making them punt.

LCSAM needed a touchdown on their next drive to stay in the game. The 86th defense had different ideas. They forced the offense to punt again after three plays.

The 86th started their next drive on their 19-yard line. Hudgins put on a running display during this drive. He kept the ball four times and ran for 65 yards. On fourth and 10, Hudgins put the ball in the air for John Johnson who made the grab for the 86th's second touchdown. An extra point brought the score to 14-0.

LCSAM got the ball back with very little time left on the clock. They tried a couple of hail marys but were unsuccessful. When the final whistle blew, they lost 14-0.

In other playoff action Wednesday night, the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron defeated Lear Siegler, Inc., 14-0.

Please recycle this newspaper

Fitness Fact:

Did You Know? It takes approximately 40 minutes of running at 7.5 mph to burn off one quarter-pound cheeseburger.