Laughlin firefighters return from deployment, page 10

Border Eagle

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Newslines

Retreat scheduled

A formal retreat for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-02 is set for 5 p.m. Thursday at the flag pole outside the Wing Headquarters Building.

Graduation set

SUPT Class 04-02 graduates at 10 a.m. Nov. 21 in Anderson Hall auditorium.

The guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hess, Air Force Chief of Safety, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., and Air Force Safety Office commander at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

All base members are invited to attend.

Medical group closes

The 47th Medical Group will be closed noon to 4:30 p.m. Thursday and the same hours Nov. 24.

During this time, all clinics close and the nurse triage line will not be available. Radiology, the laboratory and the pharmacy will also 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.

Deployment stats

Deployed	Returning 30 days	Deploying 30 days
48	19	16

Mission status

(As of Nov. 7)

Airframe	Days behind or ahead	Mission Capable Rate
T-37	-3.37	93.1%
T-1	3.14	84.6%
T-38	0.52	81.2%
T-6	-3.58	90.2%

Photo by Capt. Dawnita Parkinson

Walking for veterans...

Members of the 47th Security Forces Squadron, along with a member of the Del Rio police force, walk with their military working dogs in the Veterans Day Parade Tuesday on Veterans Boulevard in Del Rio. Laughlin was also represented in the parade by the wing commander, wing command chief, an ambulance, a fire truck and a security forces patrol car.

Maintenance wins AETC effectiveness award

By Pat Watson
47th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate

Laughlin Consolidated Services Aircraft Maintenance received good news from Headquarters Air Education and Training Command recently. The directorate learned that it had won the AETC Maintenance Effectiveness Award, Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Category, for fiscal year 2003.

Between Oct. 1, 2002, and Sept. 30, LCSAM supported 66,653 safe and reliable sorties for local pilot training and joint service training commitments with the United States Navy. The men and women of LCSAM did this while making a transition from the T-37 to T-6 aircraft. In addition, its role in contract performance management sustained a dynamic, productive partnership with Laughlin's engine regional repair center, which returned more than 390,000 flying hours to four undergraduate pilot training wings in AETC.

According to Robert E. Wood, 47th Maintenacne Directorate director, this is the fourth time in six years that his team of more than 650 civilian, military and contract support personnel has won the prestigious award.

"Competition is tough," said Mr. Wood. "Wing commanders throughout AETC have an opportunity every year to nominate their aircraft maintenance organizations for this award. At least seven wings have maintenance activities that are similar in scope and nature to LCSAM, so the decision on which one is 'best of the best' in any fiscal year is always thoughtfully considered."

Mr. Wood said it takes a total team effort to deliver the volume of sorties needed here at Laughlin.

"It is a genuine honor to be chosen, and it reflects on everyone in LCSAM and the wing," he said.

LCSAM is now eligible to compete for Air Force honors in December.

Holidays: time to support those deployed

Help remind XLers Laughlin cares with letters, cards, care packages

Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. Arthur Price
47th Communications Squadron commander

Soon it will be the start of the holiday season with Thanksgiving just a few weeks away. Families will be together either here or wherever home is and, for many of us, trying to make up for lost time. Our airmen have worked hard, and we all deserve to take a moment to reflect on this past year and also ponder our future.

I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of everyone in my squadron and this base for everything we've been able to accomplish in 2003, and I'm looking forward to a more prosperous year ahead. But I ask each of you reading this article to say a prayer and remember all those families that can't be together this holiday season because of a deployment. Pray especially for those who have lost loved ones around the world as we fight against terrorism.

I ask this favor for a reason. When I was a lieutenant stationed in Korea, I didn't have the luxury of coming home for Christmas because it was one of the busiest times of the year. As the postal operations officer for all Air Force personnel in Korea, my job was to make sure the mail was delivered to all the troops, not just Air Force personnel, on the peninsula. I will never forget that holiday season and the outpouring of letters, packages and generosity by the American public to every soldier, sailor and airman stationed there. It was simply amazing! Even though we worked on Christmas Eve and most of Christmas Day, morale was very high for our troops because of the mission we were completing for our fellow airmen. I had volunteers from all over the base bring my troops food and help out with the mountain of packages and letters we received from the states.

But what was really eye-opening to me was a visit to our northern tier bases close to the Demilitarized Zone. I helped a friend of mine, who was in the Army stationed at Camp Casey, deliver mail to Army personnel patrolling the line during the holiday season. The looks in those soldiers' eyes upon receiving a letter from home or a package from a girlfriend hand-delivered by the staff can't be put into words. Those memories will always be with me, especially this time of year. It does make a difference if we take the time to remember our deployed personnel in harm's way.

Wherever our military is stationed around the world, remembering them and what they do means a lot this time of year. As for being stationed here, I've never been at a base in my 16 years that takes better care of its own and makes the effort to reach out to families who have military deployed than Laughlin.

"It does make a difference if we take the time to remember our deployed personnel in harm's way."

The base sponsors dinners for spouses and families of deployed members to let them know we care. Units check up on these families to make sure everything is OK and to provide assistance if they need it.

Laughlin is doing it right folks – but don't stop there. I've sent letters to parents of newly arrived airmen and officers in my unit telling them how proud I am of their son or daughter for being part of the Air Force team and again if they deploy. I do this not because I have to or need to, but because it's the right thing to do and parents need to know the Air Force takes care of its people.

In closing, I encourage everyone who knows someone deployed during the holidays to send a card, letter or even a care package to let them know we care as a community and are thankful for their service during this war. Trust me, they will be very thankful that you took the time to do this.

I leave you with this final thought as we roll into this year's holiday season: Thank you for making America strong and making the Air Force the best at what we do for our country.

Border Eagle

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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.**

Respect for flag honors heritage

By Chief Master Sgt.
Karl Meyers
Air Education and Training Command
command chief

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – Leading nearly every parade in the United States is the star-spangled, red, white and blue symbol of our nation – our flag.

Its appearance has changed several times over the past 200 plus years as our nation grew to the 50 states that comprise the country today, but one common thread remains: The flag still flies because of the millions of Americans who fought in our nation's wars. It waves proudly because patriotic Americans paid with their lives to keep our United States free.

When we pay proper respect to the flag, we honor those great Americans – heroes whose blood, sweat and tears are forever intertwined in the fabric of the red, white and blue. We also honor the men and women with whom we serve today. They deserve nothing less!

In that spirit, you may ask yourself, "What should I do?" for Reveille, Retreat and other traditional ceremonial occasions in which the U.S. flag may play a part. Here are a few answers to some common flag courtesy questions.

Reveille is the signal for the start of the official duty day and, if the commander desires, a Reveille ceremony may accompany the raising of the flag. The ceremony can take place in the vicinity of the base flagstaff or in the unit area and will be directed by the commander or representative. When not participating in a ceremony, no special recognition such as stopping or saluting is required during the playing of Reveille.

Retreat signals the end of the official duty day and serves as a ceremony for paying respect to the flag. If a Retreat ceremony is conducted, the unit commander or representative will direct the formation throughout the event. Those outside and not part of a Retreat ceremony should stop in place and face the flag. When in uniform, assume the position of parade rest, and upon the first note of the National Anthem or To The Colors, come to the position of attention, render the hand salute and hold it until the last note of the music is played.

For military members in civilian clothes, place the right hand over the heart at the first note of the National Anthem or To The Colors. Hats should be removed and held in the right hand over the heart. Activity may continue once the National Anthem or To The Colors is completely finished.

When driving a vehicle during the playing of the National Anthem or To The Colors, stop the vehicle and sit quietly until the music ends.

In the case of a flag passing, such as the recent Veterans Day parade, military members in uniform will render the hand salute. Those not in uniform will place their right hand over the heart. In all cases, the gesture of respect should begin when the flag is about six paces from the individual and held until it is about six paces past.

The Pledge of Allegiance is another time confusion can set in. For starters, the Pledge of Allegiance is not recited in military formations and ceremonies.

At outdoor functions and events that include civilian participants, military members in uniform stand at attention, remain silent, face the flag and render the hand salute.

When indoors wearing the uniform, stand at attention, remain silent and face the flag. Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at this type of occasion is optional when wearing the uniform as long as the participants are primarily civilians or in civilian attire.

Lastly, when not in uniform whether indoors or outdoors, recite the Pledge of Allegiance standing at attention, facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. Hats should be removed and held in the right hand over the heart as appropriate.

These "rules" of respect for our flag are traditional gestures of honor for the most immediately identifiable symbol of the United States of America. It is the symbol that unifies us; it is our rallying point and the ultimate representation of our nation to the world.

As Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, One Nation evermore!"

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

Cell phone use

Question: I am retired from the Air Force with many years of accident-prevention training. I was nearly involved in an accident by a person on a cell phone not paying attention while driving on base. What do you do before the fact, as a safety measure?

Answer: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk a moment on this important safety issue. Currently no laws exist prohibiting the use of cellular phones while driving; however, Security Forces will stop an individual if he/she is driving in an unsafe manner whether using a cell phone or not.

The wing safety office, through unit safety representatives, currently provides the base population safety-awareness material on cell phones.

I appreciate your call and concern. Safety is a top priority, and it is everyone's responsibility to drive safely not only for themselves, but for others.

Newslines

T-1 accident report in

The Air Force has released the investigation findings from the Aug. 16 incident involving a T-1A Jayhawk from Laughlin.

The aircraft departed the runway during a landing rollout at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and sustained an estimated $2.5 million in structural damage.

Accident investigation officials determined the accident was caused by a combination of factors during the landing sequence. The factors included inexperience, speed and a wet runway.

The aircraft left the runway and came to a stop 190 feet off the end of the runway. The accident occurred during a specialized undergraduate pilot cross-country training mission.

Neither crewmember was injured.

Claims briefing cancelled

The claims briefing scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday at the base legal office has been cancelled. The briefing will resume Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. and every Thursday thereafter at the base legal office.

For more information, call the base legal office at 298-5172.

Tutors needed

Laughlin families are looking for volunteers interested in providing tutoring services to their children participating in home-schooling programs.

If you are willing to volunteer some of your time to the children, please go to the Book Mark Library or the Family Support Center and fill out an information sheet.

For more information, call the Family Support Center at 298-5620.

Chapel seeks volunteers

The chapel is seeking to establish a contemporary worship service at the base theater as soon as possible.

They are looking for people to help out with the service. Musicians (instruments provided), praise team members, audio and visual manager/coordinator and a welcome team are all need.

For more information, call 298-5111 or 298-7073.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

Learning about heritage...

Carla Rincones, Family Support Center administrative assistant, teaches a child at the base library how to make dream catchers. The event was held to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. Every Friday in November, children attending the base library's storytime hours can learn more about Native American heritage.

Laughlin civil engineers announce road closures

The 47th Civil Engineer Squadron is installing basewide security enhancements at numerous locations. The work will continue for the next seven weeks. It will increase force protection but will cause a temporary inconvenience with various temporary closures of roads, drives and parking entrances. Work at each specific location will require up to five days of closure to traffic.

The first closures are:

■ Back entrance of Building 328, now through Monday.

■ Southeastern entrance to parking lot on Freedom Way, now through Tuesday. The parking lot will still have three usable entrances.

■ Southwestern entrance to parking lot on Freedom Way, today through Wednesday. The parking lot will have two usable entrances and will be back to four entrances within five days.

■ Second Street, at the intersection of Second Street and Mitchell, Saturday through through Thursday.

■ Freedom Way, at the intersection of south-western entrance to the parking lot on Freedom Way, Sunday through Nov. 21.

■ Second Street, at the intersection of Second and Laughlin Drive, Wednesday through Nov. 22.

For more information, call 298-5061.

(Courtesy of 47th CES)

Great American Smokeout helps smokers quit habit

An estimated 47 million adults smoke in the United States according to the American Cancer Society. Tobacco use can cause lung cancer, as well as other cancers, heart disease and respiratory disease; and each year smoking is responsible for one of five deaths.

The Great American Smokeout celebrates 27 years of success! The Great American Smokeout is a nationally recognized event that challenges people to stop using tobacco and raises awareness about the many effective ways to quit for good. Millions of people are expected to quit smoking for a day or longer by participating this year.

Quitting smoking (or other forms of tobacco) is hard to do on your own, said the ACS. For people thinking about quitting, the Great American Smokeout offers public support and a feeling of camaraderie with others who are giving up cigarettes for the day. Many people never pick up another cigarette after the Smokeout, especially if they have planned their quit day in advance, said the ACS

The Health and Wellness Center is offering an opportunity to "Adopt a Smoker." Stop by the HAWC to pick up an "adoption kit." Each kit has valuable information on strategies to stop using tobacco products. The person adopting a tobacco user can personalize the kit by adding sugarless gum, candy or other items to help the tobacco user quit for a day, better yet, for life.

For more information, contact the HAWC at 298- 6464.

(Compiled from staff reports)

Several travel options now available for medical travel

By 2nd Lt.
Matt Wolthoff
47th Medical Support Squadron

The 47th Medical Group has a shuttle service for patients with appointments in and around San Antonio, regardless of whether the appointment is with a military or civilian provider.

This year, Laughlin was authorized a second shuttle run, making each day trip less time-consuming for patients. Everyone over the age of 5 will be directed to use the shuttle service, if that service is available. Shuttle reservations may be made in person at the Outpatient Records window in the clinic or by telephone at 298-6487.

Personal transportation may be authorized for appointments if an overnight stay is required in the course of treatment, or if the patient is under the age of 5 or has special needs. Personal travel may also be authorized for Department of Defense civilian personnel, but at a reduced reimbursement rate, in accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act of 2000 and the Joint Federal Travel Regulation.

Reimbursement requests for travel related to patient care are accomplished on a DD Form 1351-2, Travel Voucher, when the active-duty patient travels on orders. A Standard Form 1164, Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business, is used when a non-active-duty Prime patient travels. All reimbursement requests require receipts, including receipts for fuel, lodging, and meals. Additionally, all reimbursement requests must have the proof of appointment, such as a doctor's note, and any special circumstances documented.

Approved payments will be sent electronically to the traveler's bank, so the first time a claim is filed, a voided check with the bank's name and routing number must be included.

The Laughlin Clinic now requires non-active-duty Prime patients traveling for specialty care to be on locally created travel orders. Before leaving for an appointment, please contact the 47th Medical Group Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator at 298-6350 or 6505. These extensions can also be used for any question regarding travel benefits.

ONLINE news

Access breaking news at United States Air Force Online News, the official newspaper of the United States Air Force. Simply go to *www.af.mil/news/* and stay informed about events.

November flight history spotlights Air Force

Nov. 5, 1911: In 49 days, Calbraith Perry Rodgers, flying a Burgess-Wright biplane, completed the first transcontinental flight from New York to Pasadena, Calif. – a distance of 3,390 miles.

Nov. 30, 1913: Phil Rader and Dean Ivan Lamb, flying for opposing sides in the Mexican Revolution, engaged in the first aerial combat, firing pistol shots at one another over Naca, Mexico.

Nov. 1, 1915: Capt. Raynal Cawthorne Bolling organized the Aviation Detachment, 1st Battalion, Signal Corps (later the First Aero Company), New York National Guard, recognized as the first genuine National Guard aviation unit. Captain Bolling was appointed as the first commander.

Nov. 7, 1917: Eugene J. Bullard, an American in French service, became the first black fighter pilot to claim an aerial victory.

Nov. 1, 1920: Aeromarine West Indies Airways began flights between Key West, Fla., and Havana, Cuba, thus inaugurating U.S. international passenger service.

Nov. 29, 1929: Cmdr. Richard E. Byrd of the Navy made the first flight over the South Pole in the *Floyd Bennett*, a Ford C–4 Trimotor airplane piloted by Bernt Balchen and named for the pilot who had taken Byrd over the North Pole in 1926.

Nov. 14, 1938: At a secret White House meeting with his military leaders, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called for an Air Corps of 20,000 airplanes. Although he could not immediately request sufficient funds for the program from Congress, Roosevelt committed his administration to a vastly expanded air force.

Nov. 24, 1944: For the first time, B-29s bombed Tokyo. Previously unable to reach the Japanese capital from China, they took off this time from bases in the Mariana Islands. This was the first mission of XXI Bomber Command, under Brig. Gen. Haywood S. Hansell, Jr., and the first time Tokyo had been bombed since the Doolittle raid of April 18, 1942.

Nov. 8., 1950: In history's first battle between jet aircraft, Lt. Russell J. Brown in an F–80 Shooting Star shot down a North Korean MiG–15. Seventy B–29 Superfortresses conducted the largest incendiary raid of the Korean War, dropping some 580 tons of firebombs on Sinuiju, North Korea.

Nov. 3, 1957: A dog named Laika became the first animal to be launched into Earth orbit, carried aloft in a Soviet spacecraft called *Sputnik II*.

Nov. 29, 1975: The first annual RED FLAG exercise began at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., ushering in a new era of highly realistic United States Air Force air combat training for pilots and aircrews.

Nov. 10, 1988: The Air Force revealed the F–117 stealth fighter to the public for the first time. Manufactured by Lockheed, the F–117 could evade most radar detection with its radical shape and radar-absorbent surface.

Laughlin takes home recycling award

By 2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston
Public Affairs

Laughlin and the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron were recognized by the Texas Recycling Association for outstanding commitment to the environment through solid waste recycling.

The team was awarded the 2003 Recycling Leadership Award for Integrated Solid Waste Management Program at the 7th Annual Texas Recycling Summit Oct. 29 in Galveston. The team was recognized locally for its accomplishment Nov. 13 at the weekly wing staff meeting.

More than 500 tons of materials were recycled this past year, keeping 25 percent of the base's solid waste from adding to landfills, said Duane Wingate, 47th CES pollution prevention manager.

Mr. Wingate said the key to the program's success is the tremendous support from wing leadership and the base community.

"Without the support of base people and the continued emphasis from base leadership on the importance of improving our environment, our recycling program would not be where it is today," he said.

There are three ways base members contributed to the solid-waste recycling program over the last year: through housing pickups that occur each Wednesday; facility pickups at all Laughlin buildings throughout the week; and self drop-off at the base recycling center.

Mr. Wingate asks base members to continue their efforts to help the environment and use the outlets available to them for recycling.

"I encourage our base community to continue to reduce, reuse and recycle," he said.

Mr. Wingate also provided general recycling information:

■ The recycling center is located in building 2018 and is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

■ Recyclable items may be placed inside the bins adjacent to the recycling center.

■ The center recycles cardboard, paper, aluminum, glass and plastic containers labeled type 1 and 2. When recycling, materials should be cleansed of oils, paints or other types of hazardous substances that might make the items nonrecyclable.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston

George Ramirez (left) and Roland Deleon, both of Goodwill Industries San Antonio, pick up recyclables during a pick up in base housing.

Photo by Capt. Rich Komurek

Remembering heroes...

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band airmen march in Oudenaarde, Belgium, as part of Veterans Day activities Tuesday. The town is near World War I battlefields and Flanders Field American Cemetery. The ceremony honored American, French, British and Belgian forces that died fighting German forces during the war. In all, more than 4,700 American servicemen died fighting in Belgium during the war.

Commissary scholarship applications now available

The application period for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program began Nov. 3, and everything a potential applicant needs is now located on a brand new dedicated Web site at www.militaryscholar.org. Completed applications are due back to the commissary by close of business Feb. 18, 2004.

"The program administrator, Fisher House Foundation, built the Web site just for this program," said Edna Hoogewind, Defense Commissary Agency liaison for the program. "And it's great."

Applications are available online at www.militaryscholar.org or through a link at www.commissaries.com. Applications also can be picked up at the Laughlin commissary, according to Anthony S. Longo, store director.

Since 2001, the Scholarships for Military Children program has awarded nearly $2.5 million in scholarships to nearly 1,500 children of active duty, retired and Guard and Reserve families worldwide. The scholarships always have been funded by the manufacturers and other vendors that sell groceries and perform services in the commissary system. But now anyone can participate in funding the scholarships by making donations through the new Web site, according to Jim Weiskopf, Fisher House Foundation vice president for communications.

Courtesy of the Defense Commissary Agency

Interested in the Air Force?

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

Air Force leads HIV/AIDS course

By Staff Sgt. Don Nelson
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO – International medical and military leaders representing nearly 12 countrie, gathered here Nov. 3 to 7 to discuss awareness of HIV and AIDS and its impact on the military worldwide. The third annual course was held by Defense Institute for Medical Operations officials from Brooks City-Base.

The strategic planning and policy development course is designed to promote a sharing of new ideas and case studies on prevention, care and control of the disease, officials said.

Maj. (Dr.) Brian Agan, Wilford Hall Medical Center HIV program director and course developer, emphasized the importance of bringing HIV and AIDS experts together.

"We want to identify the key components of knowledge that people need to have in order to effectively structure policy to address HIV in the military," Major Agan said.

The HIV infection rate in many other countries is significantly higher than the United States, institute officials said. Having a working relationship with leaders from other nations and a course like this helps build better awareness and hopefully increases prevention in those countries, said Col. Kerrie Lindberg, institute director.

A major focus and objective of the institute's efforts to address awareness of the disease is force protection, particularly in countries that are hardest hit with HIV and AIDS, Colonel Lindberg said.

"As we deploy to those areas, we will know what that country has in place as far as HIV and AIDS," she said. "If we go in there to assist with a disaster, we will know what types of issues to be aware of."

Working together with foreign military leaders also was a large part of the conference. An address given by Kenyan Maj. Gen. J. M. Mutwii highlighted the efforts being made to fight the spread of HIV and AIDS in Kenya. Many countries in Africa deal with infection rates in the military as high as 40 percent, General Mutwii said.

"The enemy is not the person with the disease, but the virus within them," he said.

The stigma associated with HIV and AIDS took center stage for a day when a panel of former and current active-duty airmen with HIV sat on a panel together to speak about their experiences.

"We wanted to address the stigma of HIV with direct firsthand knowledge from people in the military living with the disease," said Col. (Dr.) Matt Dolan, institute chief of medical operations. "Having these stories told to the conference attendees really sent a message about how (the U.S. military) deals with infected troops."

Currently, nearly 150 airmen with HIV serve on active duty and many have remained in their original job, Major Agan said. Even though there is a very low rate of incidence of HIV in the military, the goal is still zero, he said.

In 2002, President George W. Bush declared the HIV and AIDS a threat to the strategic interests of the United States. The doctrine calls for using the military as an integral part of engagement of the problem worldwide.

"This course allows the military to fulfill the doctrine that the president has dictated," Colonel Dolan said. Because the effects of high HIV rates erode the government of stable countries, the concern is that they could collapse and become failed states unless the destructive effects of the disease are addressed head on, he said.

Fire protection team returns from deployment

Eight Laughlin members return with new experiences to share

By Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark
Staff writer

Eight Laughlin firefighters recently proved they stand prepared to support any Air Force mission – whether it's training the world's best pilots or closing down a remote base.

The firefighters recently returned from a five-month deployment to help close down Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia.

"It was different," said Airman 1st Class Aaron Hale, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron fire protection apprentice. "I had never been on a deployment, so it was weird having to go in and close a base down."

Closing down PSAB meant demilitarizing various items, such as vehicles and equipment.

"We destroyed classified documents and if any other bases needed supplies, they were sent from PSAB."

In addition to helping close down PSAB, Laughlin's firefighters received hands-on egress training in different aircraft and different structures, such as tents and trailers.

Although the only purpose for the team's deployment was to close down PSAB, they unexpectedly forward deployed to Al Udeid, Qatar, to open a new base.

While most members of the Laughlin fire protection team were eager to forward deploy, one Laughlin member, Staff Sgt. Brian Tonnancour, 47th CES fire protection crew chief, wasn't able to feel the same excitement.

"All I could think about was, 'I'm not going to be home to see my first born,'" said Sergeant Tonnancour.

"It was hard [but] my wife is very understanding. She knew there was a possibility of me getting deployed, so we were prepared, but I was worrying about everything at home."

By Sept. 28, the Red Cross, 47th CES and Laughlin first sergeants worked together to get Sergeant Tonnancour home for baby Brady Tyler Tonnancour's birth on Oct. 3.

The troops who stayed behind weren't envious of his departure.

"We were happy to see him [go home] to watch his baby's birth," said Airman Hale.

"People see us picking on each other all the time, but it's just something we do. It's the kind of bond we have. We depend on each other; we have to be able to trust each individual in the fire department to pull us out of a fire if something happens. We have to trust them enough to leave a safe situation and run into a dangerous, life-threatening situation if [we need them]."

Although temperatures were about 120 degrees every day with about 80 percent humidity in Al Udeid, Airman Hale said it was a good experience to see how coalitions work together.

"We moved from closing one base down to opening another," said Airman Hale. "It was fun, but it was great to actually do something historic. We all went over together and brought new experiences and techniques back for the new guys."

Medics deliver care in El Salvador

By Steve Pivnick
81st Medical Group public affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. – Members of an 81st Medical Group team honed their skills during a recent humanitarian mission to El Salvador.

The 12-member team spent 10 days earlier this fall providing medical care to residents of four villages southwest of the nation's capital, San Salvador.

The mission had several objectives, according to Lt. Col. (Dr.) Michael Bashford of the 81st Medical Operations Squadron obstetrics and gynecology department and team chief for the mission.

"We evaluated and treated routine, minor medical problems in the areas of general medicine, pediatrics, optometry, OB/GYN and general dentistry," Dr. Bashford said. Dental care was limited to removing teeth. Optometry care included providing corrective glasses to those who needed them."

The team chief also said the operation afforded team members experience in operational medical readiness, including deploying to a third-world country. This, in turn, allowed them to gain knowledge in diagnosing and treating tropical diseases they wouldn't normally encounter.

"We also were able to interact with local healthcare providers and the ministry of health to provide better care for patients, provide opportunities for exchange of medical information and build intercultural relationships," Dr. Bashford said.

The exercise was conducted within the La Libertad area of El Salvador. The team used four schools as clinics, all located in small rural villages. They were housed at an El Salvadoran army base in La Libertad for the first eight days and a San Salvador hotel the last six days.

Dr. Bashford said treatment days generally included two hours of travel time, six to eight hours of treatment time and two-three hours of packing medications and supplies to prepare for the next treatment day. The team completed 10 treatment days during its 13 days in El Salvador.

"The number of patients seen each day was frequently limited by the amount of medication available for that day," Dr. Bashford said. "All providers saw a variety of patient types. The dermatologist and OB/GYN saw both pediatric and adult general medicine patients as well as their own patients. At no time were any providers without sufficient patients to stay busy."

Photo by Maj. (Dr.) Brian Leach

Col. (Dr.) Stephen Sharp, member of a 12-man humanitarian mission team at Keesler Air Force Base, examines a baby during a trip to El Salvador that treated nearly 8,000 people.

The Keesler medics saw an average of about 790 patients daily. This included 2,661 adult, 2,553 pediatric, 348 OB/GYN, 712 dental and 1,637 optometry patients during the 10-day treatment period.

Dr. Bashford said the treatment days were extremely successful.

"Of particular note," he explained, "This was a service much appreciated by the local population.

"The U.S. military group commander in El Salvador said that this was one of the most efficient and productive medical (missions) he had seen in several years."

Criminal investigators examine forensic sciences

By Jillian Speake
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – More than 120 criminal investigators worldwide attended the annual Air Force Office of Special Investigations Workshop here Nov. 3 to 7 to share ideas, technology and expertise.

Although criminal investigators were the target audience, OSI agents were asked to invite anyone on their installation or any of their local contacts who would benefit from the training.

The different police officers and detectives from all over the United States who attended helped the workshop provide a liaison opportunity between the OSI agents, medical specialists, legal professionals and the civilian community.

"I would say the vast majority of our investigations that are run in OSI are going to involve, to some degree, another investigative agency, be it local, state or federal, so having those working relationships is going to increase what we can do and what we can provide ... in the final product," said Special Agent Julie Lecea, forensic sciences consultant in OSI Detachment 401 here. "It's valuable for us to have these connections so we know how other agencies can help us and they know how we can help them."

The workshop also provided forensic science training to criminal investigators by having experts in various fields talk about their specialty.

"Some of the (experts) we have here are the guys who literally wrote the book on all these different topics, and we're very lucky to have them come out and speak to us," Special Agent Lecea said. "Our goal was to bring their expertise to the students and have them teach how their science can come to bear on any of our investigations."

Conference topics included child abuse investigations, forensic anthropology, entomology, crime scenes involving weapons of mass destruction and asphyxia and sex-related deaths. Other topics included drug testing, shaken-impact syndrome and various types of wounds.

The students are not the only ones who learned from the experts. Marshall Littleton, a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, who spoke on the evolution of fire, also took away valuable information.

"I have been thoroughly impressed with the speakers brought in," Mr. Littleton said. "Each one of them, in their individual scientific disciplines, has given me the opportunity to add one more tool to my investigative toolbox. They have given me the opportunity to broach a subject from a little different perspective because I didn't realize that expertise even existed."

Criminal investigators refer to the different tools they have in their "toolbox" to help solve crimes, Special Agent Lecea said. Investigators constantly add new tools, techniques, databases, resources and technology that can help solve cases.

"A criminal investigator, in my opinion, has to be a jack-of-all-trades," Special Agent Lecea said. "You have to be able to get into any crime that has taken place and understand all the different players involved. Knowing how to put that (information) together will determine if you're successful or not. Essentially, we're giving them the tools to do that."

drnh filler

The *XL*er

Airman 1st Class Charles Barber
47th Medical Support Squadron

Hometown: Eldora, Iowa
Family: Son, Tyler (2)
Time at Laughlin: One year, three months
Time in service: Two years, six months
Greatest accomplishment: Raising my son
Hobbies: Coaching youth sports and spending time with my son
Bad habit: Procrastination
Favorite movie: "8 Seconds"
Favorite musician: Garth Brooks
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My dad, because I don't see him as often as I would like.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

Chapel info

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 a.m., Sunday school ● 11 a.m., General worship
Wednesday	● 7 p.m., Choir practice

Chaplain Staff

Head chaplain:	Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic
Senior Protestant:	Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian church
Protestant:	Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian church
Protestant:	Chap. (1st Lt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

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

Prevention is key to good dental hygiene

By Capt. Mark Halversen
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron dentist

In this day and age more people are showing concern about their dental health. A lot more are paying attention to their oral hygiene and are afraid of getting cavities. So the question always comes up: "How do I prevent myself from getting cavities?"

There are ways to prevent getting cavities. The main thing is people need to brush at least twice a day and floss once a day. The recommendation by the American Dental Association is to brush after every meal; however, reality is that most people will not do that, which is why most dentists will say brush at least after breakfast and before bed.

When brushing their teeth, people need to make sure they are using an approved toothpaste, meaning use only toothpastes that are approved by the American Dental Association because these products have shown clinically that they can prevent cavities.

The active ingredient in most toothpastes that helps prevent decay is fluoride. In some water sources, fluoride may be present either naturally or added within the water supply. People who think they have a high risk for cavities should speak with their dentists. He may recommend giving the person higher concentrations of fluoride via gels, mouth rinses or fluoride supplements.

Here are three more simple tips to help protect teeth from decay:

■ Cut down on sweets and between-meal snacks. Sugar and starchy foods put teeth at extra risk.

■ Brush after every meal and floss daily. Cavities begin in hard-to-clean areas like in between teeth and in the pits and fissures of teeth. Use ADA-approved toothpastes and a soft-bristled toothbrush. For children under 6, use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste and have them spit out as much as they can. For children under 3 use very little or no toothpaste because these children are unable to spit when finished brushing. Children should be assisted with brushing until at least age eight.

■ Visit a dentist every six months for cleanings and routine checkups. Don't wait until you feel the pain in your mouth. Remember the longer people wait the more their teeth decay. If this is the case, chances are the tooth will end up requiring a root canal or possibly need to be taken out.

For further questions, call your local dentist or call the dental clinic at 298-6331.

Instructor pilot takes poll by picking 8

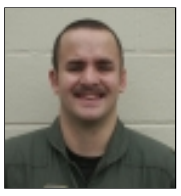
Last week, 2nd Lt. Don Hicks, 86th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, took the weekly prize by picking eight games correctly.

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 are drawn each week to get an opportunity to pick the most winners of that week's 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: Senior Master Sgt. Richard Conerly, Staff Sgts. Andy Artieda, Steven Taylor and Neo Greene, and Senior Airman Anna Mayo.



Hicks

Games:	Senior Master Richard Conerly	Staff Sgt. Neo Greene	Staff Sgt. Andy Artieda	Staff Sgt. Steven Taylor	Senior Airman Anna Mayo
Hou. at Buff.	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo
Wash. at Car.	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina
St.L. at Chi.	St. Louis	St. Louis	St. Louis	St. Louis	St. Louis
K.C. at Cin.	Cincinnati	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City
Ari. at Cle.	Arizona	Arizona	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland
Bal. at Mia.	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami
Atl. at N.O.	New Orleans	Atlanta	New Orleans	New Orleans	Atlanta
N.Y.G. at Phi.	New York Giants	New York Giants	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Jax. at Tenn.	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
S.D. at Den.	Denver	Denver	Denver	Denver	Denver
N.Y.J. at Ind.	New York Jets	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
Minn. at Oak.	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota
Det. at Sea.	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle
G.B. at T.B.	Green Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay
Dal. at N.E.	New England	New England	New England	Dallas	New England
Pitt. at S.F.	San Francisco	Pittsburgh	San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco

Med Group walks over OSS, 27-0, stays unbeaten

By Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein
Editor

The 47th Medical Group had an easy time defeating the 47th Operations Support Squadron, 27-0, Wednesday night in an intramural flag football game here.

The Med Group scored on every one of their possessions and only let the OSS past the 50-yard line once when on defense.

OSS received the ball at the beginning game and drove the ball down to the Med Group's 35-yard line. They tried and missed a 45-yard field goal from there.

The Med Group took over the ball and quickly moved down the field. Med Group quarterback Rico Lingley hit receivers on 40- and 15-yard strikes before hitting a receiver for a 15-yard touchdown. A successful two-point conversion brought the score to 8-0 in favor of the Med Group.

OSS's next possession was similar to its first. They just couldn't move the ball. The Med Group kept constant pressure on quarterback Freddy Flores, sometimes rushing three or four guys. Flores was constantly on the run, unable to look downfield. Another factor that hindered OSS was their center. At least four times in the game, the center snapped the ball over Flores' head causing a 10- or 15-yard sack.

After Lingley intercepted a Flores pass, the Med Group moved the ball downfield quickly again. The OSS defense stopped them from getting into the end zone this time. They had to settle for a 30-yard Mark Mercer field goal. At halftime the Med Group was up 11-0.

The second half was much of the same for the Med Group. On their first drive of the half, Lingley connected with Jerry Dunn on a 35-yard touchdown pass. After holding OSS on their next possession, Lingley hit Matt Wolthoff for a 41-yard touchdown.

Just when it seemed things couldn't get worse for OSS, they did. On their next drive, the center snapped two balls over Flores' head. The second one went into their end zone causing a safety. The Med Group only got off one play after the free kick before time ran out on the game. The final score was 27-0.

The win brings the Med Group to a perfect 8-0 record. They sit alone on top of the Western Conference. OSS goes to 4-4 and the bottom of the Eastern Conference.

Two teams have now dropped out of the league because of forfeits: the 84th/85th FTS and the 47th Mission Support Squadron.

Intramural flag football standings

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L
LCSAM	6-2
87th	6-2
86th	4-3
OSS	4-4
84th/85th	0-7 (out)

Western Conference

Team	W-L
MDG	8-0
LSI	4-5
CES	3-4
MSS	1-8 (out)