

“It is fatal to enter any war without the will to win it.”

– Gen. Douglas MacArthur

News in Brief

PA closure

The public affairs office will close at 1 p.m. today for training.

For urgent matters, contact the command post at 298-5167.

Clinic closure

The 47th Medical Group will be closed for a group commander's call from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday. During this time, all clinics will be closed and the Nurse Triage Line will not be available. Radiology, the laboratory and the pharmacy will also be closed. The Tricare Service Center will be open.

If you have a medical emergency, report to the Val Verde Regional Medical Center Emergency Room. For other care, call (800) 406-2832.

For more information, call 298-6309.

Graduation

Members of Specialized undergraduate Pilot Training Class 03-12 will graduate at 10 a.m. July 25 in Anderson Hall auditorium.

Mission status

(As of July 11)

Days ahead or behind with mission capable rate

T-37	0.60	90.7%
T-1	0.20	79.6%
T-38	-2.30	80.6%
T-6	-1.35	87.9%

Claudette storms through Laughlin

Compiled from staff reports

Members of Laughlin Air Force Base prepared Wednesday to ride out the hazardous weather conditions brought on by remnants of Hurricane Claudette, which hit the southeast Texas coast Tuesday.

In response to hazardous weather advisories calling for high winds and rain Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, implemented mission essential manning.

“We were tracking the storm, but we didn't expect it to make its way to us as a hurricane,” said Senior Airman Katie Williams, 47th Operations Support Squadron weather forecaster. “We expected it to become a tropical storm, which is what

[See 'Storm' page 4](#)



Photo by Capt. Paula Kurtz

Tony Velasquez, Wimsco, Inc. grounds maintenance contractor, removes a 60-foot Arizona Ash which was uprooted during high winds Wednesday caused by the remnants of Hurricane Claudette. Laughlin adopted mission essential manning Wednesday due to the storm.

Laughlin welcomes new vice commander

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Clark

Staff writer

Col. Keith Traster stepped in as the 47th Flying Training Wing's new vice commander Monday.

Colonel Traster recently served as the 18th Operations Group deputy commander at Kadena Air Base, Japan.

Colonel Traster said he's excited for the challenge as the vice wing commander. “It's a humbling experience knowing I'm the number two guy at the biggest airfield in the com-

mand,” he added. “I'm truly proud to be here.”

His goals are to provide and improve support for the troops here. “I believe the better support we provide the troops and improve their quality of life, the better we all execute the mission,” said Colonel Traster.

The colonel earned a Bachelor's of science in political science from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1980. He earned a master's degree in international relations from Troy State University in Troy, Ala., in 1988 and a master's degree in national re-

source strategy from National Defense University in Washington DC in 2000 while attending senior service school. In 1998, Colonel Traster completed Air War College at Maxwell, Ala., by correspondence.

Among his awards and decorations are the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters.



Commanders' Corner

Lt. Col. Eddy Stanfill
47th Flying Training Wing chief of plans

Total force – they're everywhere

I remember my first encounter with them. We were deployed to a remote airfield supporting the bi-annual exercise for the Redeployment of Forces to West Germany. I was the airlift control element operations officer with a team of airlift professionals: maintenance, aerial port and command and control. It was our job to keep cargo and passengers aboard C-130, C-141 and C-5 aircraft moving smoothly in and out of this strip.

It was about halfway through our 30-day deployment that I realized the aircrews were a mix of active duty, Reserve and Air National Guard personnel. The only way to distinguish one from the other was by their wing insignia on the aircraft tail and their uniforms.

Since then, I have had great respect for our Air Reserve Components and the contribution they make to the Air Force's "Total Force" effort.

Laughlin folks don't have to look far to see the contribution that America's Guard and Reserve personnel make to this base. Since 1998, Laughlin has benefited from a permanent presence of nearly 100 Reservist instructor pilots assigned to the 96th Flying Training Squadron. Since early this year, 31 Texas Army National Guard personnel have been providing increased security to the base while assigned to the 47th Security Forces Squadron. They are but a small portion of the 10,000 ordered up by Congress to help keep all U.S. armed forces installations free from terrorist attacks.

After Sept. 11, Laughlin saw first hand the significant contributions of the Total Force as highly skilled and trained personnel were called upon to augment our security forces during increased force protection requirements. These folks are individual mobilization augmentees, or IMAs. Laughlin mobilized, called to active duty and filled critically manned positions for an ex-

tended period of time – some for nearly two years.

The IMA program at Laughlin is alive and well. Currently there are seven security forces, one public affairs and one medical group augmentees assigned to Laughlin as active participants in the IMA program.

During annual two-week and periodic weekend or week day tours, they work side-by-side with active duty members, gaining required training and keeping proficient in their job skills, so they are prepared to step in at a moment's notice when our nation calls.

As the wing's air reserve management officer, I am

responsible for overseeing the IMA program and ensuring mobilization directives and recall procedures are current and exercised periodically. I also ensure the active force is educated on the IMA contribution, assist in the validation of wing IMA manpower requirements and ensure

the effective use of our reserve resources to support the wing mission.

Additionally, 2nd Lt. Melissa Gibbs, 47th Flying Training Wing commander's support staff officer in charge, provides a vital role in ensuring all IMA personnel matters are completed and provides a very important link between the IMA and Unit Reserve Coordinators.

As your IMA management team we stand ready to help answer any questions the Laughlin community may have regarding the IMA program and provide liaison between Laughlin and HHQs on any IMA matters you have. I can be reached at 98-5401.

It is easy to see the many contributions that the nation's Air Reserve components make to the Air Force during peacetime and war. Laughlin can be especially proud of its history in being a true Total Force team.

"... I have had great respect for our Air Reserve components and the contribution they make to the Air Force's 'Total Force' effort."

Tune into the Commander's Access Channel,
base channel 34, to view up-to-date information
Laughlin activities.

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



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Deadlines, Advertising

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

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

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

Actionline 298-5351

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

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.



Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training
Wing commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
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

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

– 47 FTW motto

Don't let details slide, show your pride

By Maj. Gen. Michael W. Wooley

Third Air Force commander

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England – Ralph Waldo Emerson once noted: “What you are stands over you...and thunders so that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary.”

What does this mean in today's Air Force? I believe it means that I should be able to spot professional airmen from across a parking lot, before they render a sharp salute and a verbal greeting. I should be able to tell by the manner in which they carry themselves, with their heads held high and looking everyone in the eye, and by the crisply ironed uniforms bloused over freshly shined boots. It means that those of us who serve don't just throw on a uniform because we have to. We wear it with pride because we choose to.

The men and women of the U. S. Air Force comprise the finest fighting force in the world. With few exceptions, they are honorable, brave warriors who have conducted themselves brilliantly in conflict. They embody the spirit of the heroes of past and give us great hope for the future.

Given what many of us have been through during our days in the Air Force — the end of the Cold War; downsizing; the Gulf War; operations Allied Force, En-

during Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and numerous others — focusing on military standards of dress and appearance may seem like getting “down in the weeds” with details. Experienced military men and women know, however, that it is often the details that mean the difference between mission accomplishment and failure.

I know how easy it is to let customs and courtesies slide when deployed, when trying to accomplish so much with so few people and resources, when we are all hyper-focused on life-or-death missions. But we are what the American people and our allies see and equate to the U.S. military. No matter what the rank, how we look and conduct ourselves does matter. If we “let the details slide,” then who is to say what's next?

Everywhere I go I am consistently impressed by the sharp men and women I meet because I know why they behave that way. They take pride in their Air Force, and how they conduct themselves underscores that pride. Each of us who serves is a role model, an ambassador in blue.

For those who have gone before us, who have given their lives so that we could have this great Air Force, so that we could enjoy the wonders of freedom and liberty, we pledge our best. Remember each morning as you put on your uniform what it stands for. Then you will always look, act and be that ambassador.

COMPUSEC: why we should be concerned

By Tech. Sgt. Mario Rangel

47th Mission Support Squadron

Why worry about computer security? Being a base network user is like being a member of the local community, which provides services to its citizens.

Just as a community has laws, the network has policies. The base network is an unclassified system and a shared resource. One careless or uneducated user sending a classified e-mail over the network can mean the loss of e-mail and shared drive access for hundreds of users until the system is cleared.

A computer security incident will likely affect the daily mission of a squadron and keep a base from performing its mission. In May, the 47th Mission Support Squadron's daily mission was affected by a user who unintentionally sent a classified e-mail attachment to several unit deployment managers. Three flights under the 47th Mission Support Squadron were almost at work stoppage until the e-mail attachment was

removed off the squadron's server. It took more than two weeks to recover and restore the e-mail accounts and for people to access to their respective organizational office folders.

Failure to safeguard information as you would your home or other assets is simply not acceptable. Unfortunately, according to a 1999 study done by University of California, all too often security measures are either minimized or ignored by 26 percent of users. Information is a valuable asset for our national security. In the computer age, e-mail has become the lifeblood of many military government agencies.

Personnel who learn of a security incident because of unauthorized transmission of classified material must promptly report it to their commander, supervisor, or security manager who will in-turn report the incident to the servicing security program manager and staff judge advocate's office for review before forwarding it to the appropriate authority.

The appointing authority will determine if administrative or disciplinary action is appropriate.

Here are some guidelines that will help protect our valuable computer network, our nation's security and your career:

■ Know your unit information systems security officer, and information assurance awareness manager, and phone numbers for the network control center's C4 help desk.

■ Know the sensitivity level of the information you are processing, requirements for protecting it, and security limitations of systems used to transmit it. Sanitize processing and storage devices.

■ Ensure your system is certified and accredited. Systems designated to handle classified information must complete an emission security assessment before processing is authorized.

If you think it could be possibly be a computer security violation, protect all of us and yourself, contact your systems security monitor immediately.

'Storm' from page 1

happened here."

Initial projections called for heavy winds and rain, moderate thunderstorms, and potential hail. By the time the storm made its way through Laughlin early Wednesday morning, wind gusts were down to 43-knots, from 65-knots sustained when the storm originally made landfall Tuesday.

Despite the reduction in force, the winds left mild damage to aircraft hangars, mobile homes and base houses.

"The base damage came off very light compared to downtown [Del Rio, Texas]," said Marvin Parvino, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron deputy commander. "We had a minor occurrence here. Damage consisted mostly of tree limbs blown apart. Two hangars were also damaged. Basically, all damage was pretty light with minor damage to other buildings on base."

With more than 24-hours notice, Laughlin was able to take numerous safety measures to ensure minimal damage.

"As far as the preparation time, I don't think it could've been any better," said Airman Williams. "Everything was taken care of, such as getting the aircraft off the ramp. We gave enough lead-time to let everybody know what was going on, so there was no excessive damage."

Lt. Col. Marc Luiken, 47th Operations Group deputy commander, agreed that having time to prepare minimized potential damage.

"The T-37s cancelled their last

round of sorties due to heavy crosswinds," he explained, noting that flying terminated at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday to allow time for refueling, hangaring and tying down aircraft. "We lost about 20 sorties, but we were well prepared when the storm hit," he said.

Although mission essential manning was directed, many offices opened Wednesday, supported by those who live on or near the base.

Members of the 47th Mission Support Squadron were on hand in the military personnel flight, and education and training flight to respond to customer requests.

"We were standing by in case emergency assistance was needed," said Lt. Col. Jennifer Graham, 47th MSS commander. "As it turned out, we were able to support customer inquiries and perform routine business."

In addition to the MSS, other agencies remained open to provide support for those mission essential members who were working. The Child Development Center and Youth Center provided childcare services; the base fitness center remained open to serve as a shelter if needed, and the enlisted dining hall and bowling center remained open to provide meals.

"Once again, our Team XL members came together to make things happen," said Colonel Woodward. "I would have expected no less from the professional members who serve Laughlin each and every day. Everyone did a spectacular job."

Tobacco cessation

There will be a tobacco cessation classes starting Aug. 5 at 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Classes last one hour and are held weekly for four weeks. Interested people must enroll by Aug. 1.

For more information, call 298-6464.

DEFY summer camp

Laughlin begins a Drug Education For Youth program July 28.

Several slots are available for children ages 9-12 to participate and two slots for counselors.

Newslines

The free two-phase program promotes team building, goal setting and increases self-confidence through a summer leadership camp July 28 - Aug. 6 and a year-long mentoring program.

For more information, call 298-6422.

Awards luncheon

The 47th Flying Training Wing second quarter awards luncheon is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.

July 30 at Club XL.

All nominees should R.S.V.P. by calling 298-5635. Commanders and distinguished visitors should R.S.V.P. by calling wing protocol at 298-4708. The last day to R.S.V.P. is July 23. All others wishing to attend should contact their unit point of contact.

For more information, call 298-5406.

Promotion ceremony

There will be an enlisted promotion ceremony at 4 p.m. July 31 at Club Amistad.

For more information, call 298-5068.

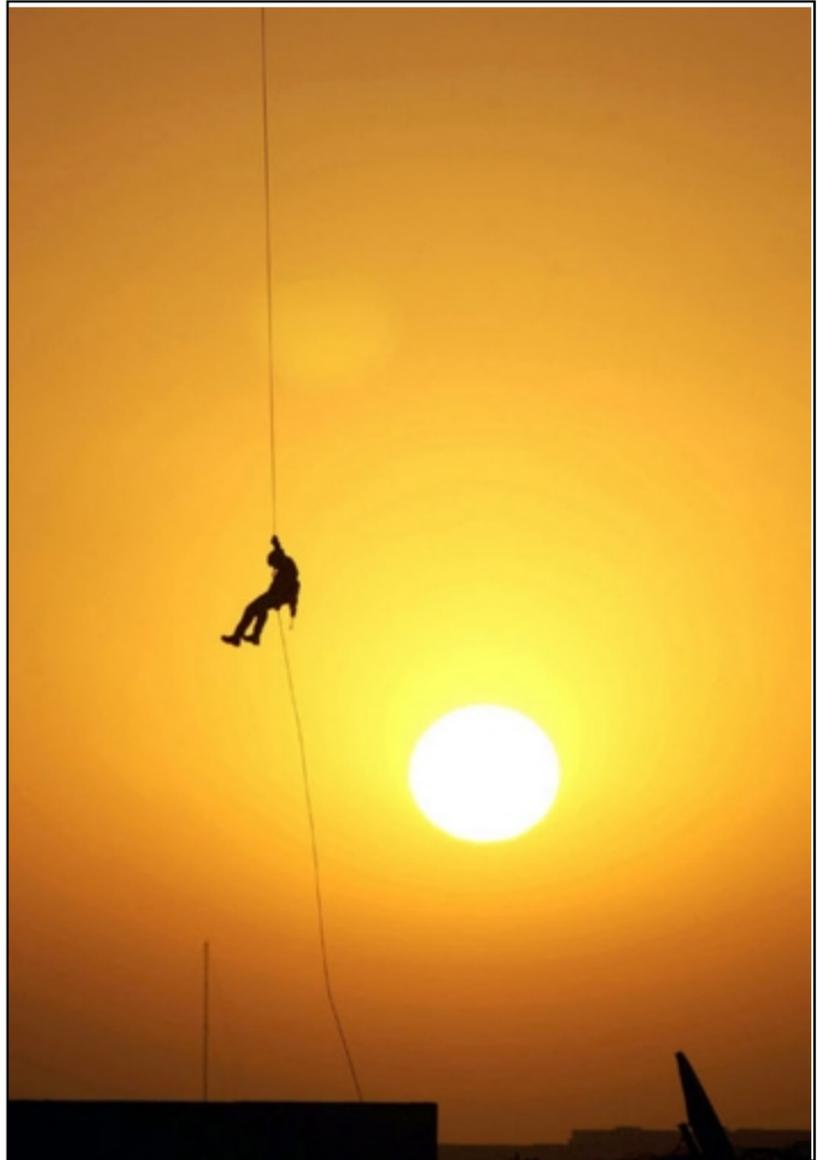


Photo by Master Sgt. James Bowman

A line in the sun...

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM – An Air Force Reserve pararescueman assigned to the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland International Airport, rappels from the Baghdad International Airport air traffic control tower during an exercise. Squadron airmen are deployed to the airport supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Airmen can carry over more leave

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Some active-duty airmen will be allowed to accumulate more than 60 days of annual leave after the fiscal year ends, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials here. The airmen must have been unable to take leave because they were supporting contingency operations.

Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve airmen who performed full-time training or other full-time duty for more than 29 days are also eligible for this special leave accrual.

Those affected can retain up to 90 days of leave until the end of fiscal 2004, according to personnel officials.

“This program is meant to enable

people to take (the) leave they’ve earned,” said Master Sgt. Don Taylor, the customer support operations superintendent at the center. “In order for the program to work as planned, though, those affected need to take not only the leave they are carrying over now, but also the leave they will earn during the next fiscal year, or they may lose leave

next year.”

Those who meet the criteria for having excess leave should apply for special leave accrual through command channels.

For more information, contact customer service at Laughlin’s military personnel flight at 298-5276.

(Courtesy of
Air Force Personnel News Service)



U.S. AIR FORCE

Access breaking news at U.S. 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.

Laughlin cyclist overcomes injuries, cycles 500-miles for Air Force recruiters

By Capt. Paula Kurtz
Public affairs

July 20, 2002: Capt. Matt Stanley was hit by a vehicle while cycling west on Highway 90 just east of Del Rio, Texas. Sunday, Captain Stanley will celebrate his recovery and the one-year anniversary of his accident by cycling 500 miles across Iowa as part of the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, or RAGBRAI.

For the past eight years the Air Force has participated in the RAGBRAI

event by registering a 100-person team made up of active-duty and retired Air Force members

known as Team Aim High. Wearing bold red, white and blue cycling uniforms, the team talks up the Air Force for recruiting while visiting towns across the state. Captain Stanley is riding with members from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., as part of Team Aim High.

Last year, Captain Stanley was on the return leg of a training ride to Brackettville, Texas, with cycling partner Ricardo Guajardo, who works in Laughlin's 47th Maintenance

Directorate egress shop, when a vehicle traveling about 70 miles per hour veered onto the shoulder. The impact catapulted him 20 feet off the road, where he landed on a rattlesnake, broke both his left leg and left arm in two places, and broke his right clavicle.

In a stroke of luck, the snake did not bite him.

"I guess he figured when it starts raining people, it's just time to leave," Captain Stanley quipped, smiling.

In another stroke of luck, the first responder to the accident

happened to be Laughlin's medical group commander, Col. Chuck Hardin, who was on his way to San Antonio for a temporary duty assignment when he came upon the scene. Colonel Hardin treated Captain Stanley's injuries and accompanied him to Val Verde Regional Medical Center in Del Rio.

Once he was stabilized, Captain Stanley was taken by ambulance to Del Rio International Airport where a life flight helicopter ferried him to Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Two months and three surgeries later, with a metal rod in his leg, Captain Stanley was back on his feet ... learning how to walk again.

In January, after four months of rehabilitation and physical therapy, Captain Stanley was cleared for flying duty and reported to Randolph AFB, Texas, for instructor training in the Air Force's newest trainer, the T-6 Texan II. Captain Stanley completed the 15-week course in May as the class distinguished graduate, and returned to the familiar surroundings of the Laughlin Air Force Base flight line. He had completed his initial pilot training here in November and remained to become an instructor in the T-37 until the time of his accident.

"For pilots, flying is almost like an addiction," Captain Stanley said. "At one time I thought I might never fly again. So, it's awesome to be back in the air and back to normal."

As a boy, Captain Stanley first took notice of RAGBRAI when it came through his small hometown city of Dennison, Iowa, and his family opened their home to a few of the participants. He and his father set a goal of completing the tour the next year. Saving the entire

\$2.50 he made each week on his paper route, Captain Stanley saved enough to buy his very first "real" bicycle for \$117.

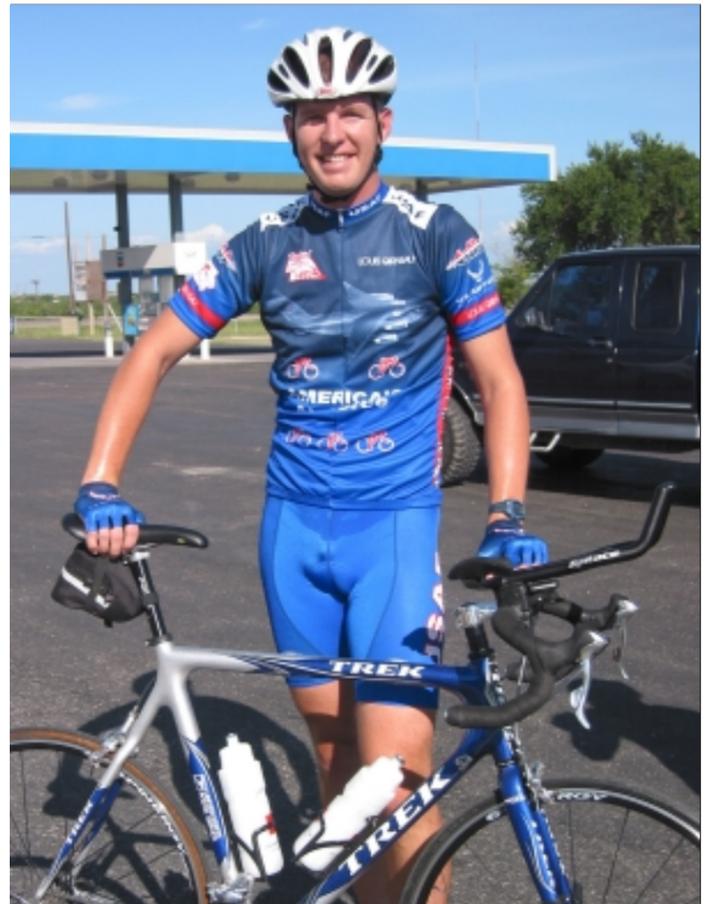


Photo by Capt. Paula Kurtz

Capt. Matt Stanley, T-6 Texan II instructor pilot, proves he is riding again after he was involved in a bicycle accident in July 2002. Captain Stanley will participate in the 500-mile Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa Sunday.

to another 10,000 that are unregistered.

"It's great to know that I've come back from not being able to move at all to riding 500 miles," said the 6-foot 4-inch tall triathlete. "It's the anniversary of my accident, and it's in my home state, so it has a lot of meaning for me."

The 2003 tour will mark the third time Captain Stanley has completed the RAGBRAI, which is in its 31st year and boasts 8,500 registered riders, in addition



U.S. AIR FORCE

United States Air Force Virtual Military Personnel Flight

To receive personnel data directly from a desktop computer, simply click on:

http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/km/vMPF_Portal/vMPF_Portal.htm



Photo by Master Sgt. Terry Blevins

Pit stop...

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM – An F-15E Strike Eagle on a combat sortie over Iraq prepares to take on fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker. The F-15E and its crew are deployed from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., and the KC-135 is from Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H.

SARS tests at Dyess are negative so far

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The initial test results of the laboratory samples taken from the first 10 people here who may have been exposed to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome are negative for the virus, according to health professionals with the 7th Medical Group.

Of the first samples that were sent for testing to an Air Force lab and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, two were positive for a common infectious bacteria known as Streptococcus pneumoniae, often seen in patients with pneumonia.

Although the early samples are negative for SARS coronavirus, more testing is being conducted to rule out infection. Definitive results

may not be in for another two to three weeks, said officials.

So far, 12 people associated with the base have now been identified and isolated in their homes for possible SARS infection.

All are stable or improving as of Monday. They remain isolated in their homes and have been instructed to stay there until released. CDC guidelines recommend release 10 days past the date of initial fever and respiratory symptoms.

Household members of the patients have been instructed on precautions to minimize exposure through careful hygiene, including hand washing with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

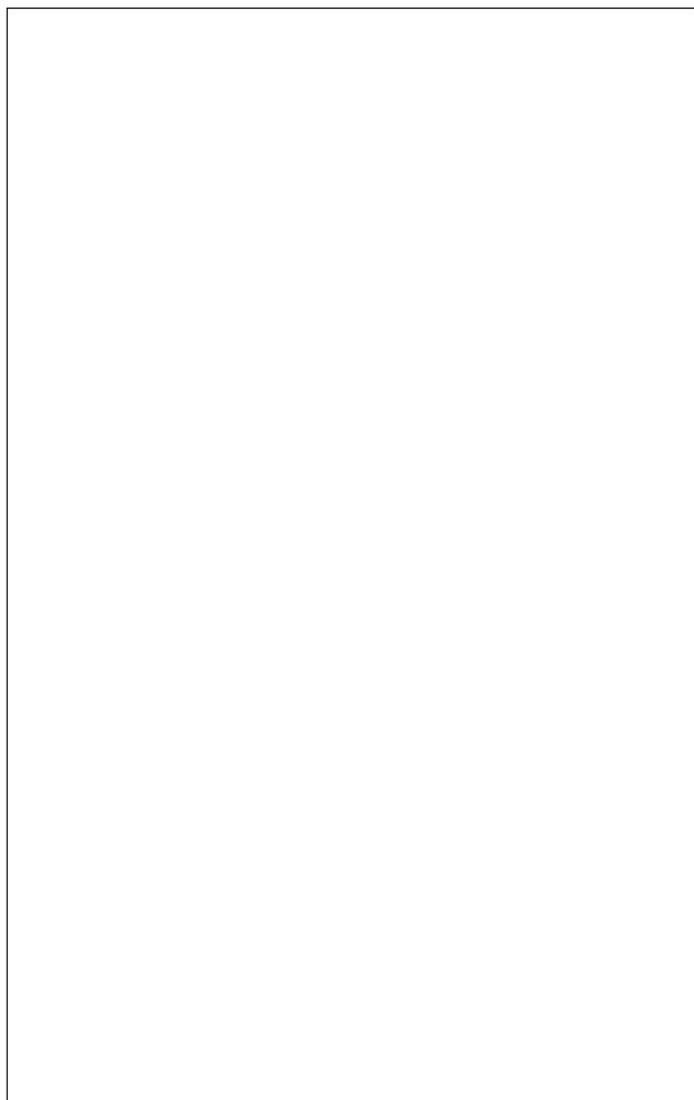
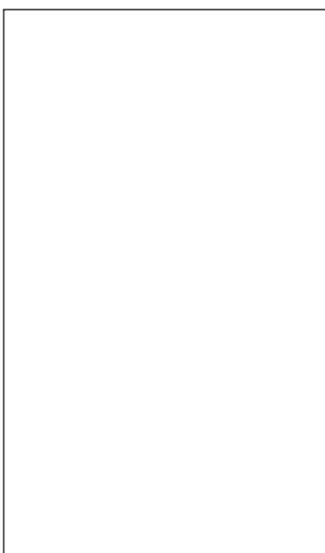
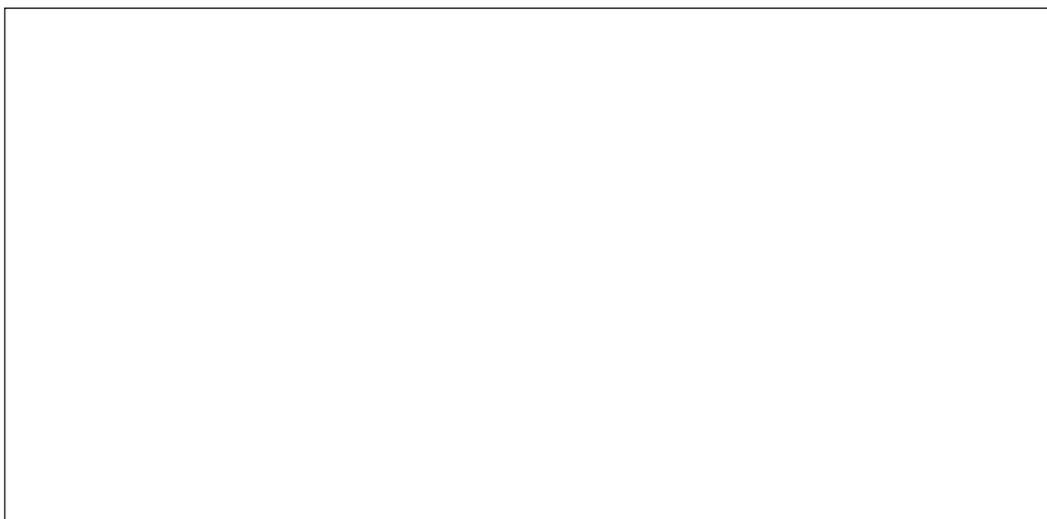




Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Rimar

A somber journey home...

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM— Army Sgt. Osvaldo Ortiz sleeps next to the transfer case and gear of his fallen friend aboard a C-17 Globemaster III bound for Dover Air Force Base, Del., June 29. Sergeant Ortiz is accompanying the remains to the base and eventually back to the fallen soldier's home in Puerto Rico.

New commander leads 47th MDSS

Team XL recently welcomed a new squadron commander to the 47th Medical Support Squadron Lt. Col. Susan Baker assumed command June 30.

Lt. Col. Baker

Hometown: Reading, Pa.

Time in service: 15 years

Education: Bachelor's in Health Planning and Administration from Pennsylvania State University; Master's in Military Studies from the Air Command and Staff College; Master's in Information Systems Technology from Louisiana State University, Shreveport, La.

Previous assignments: RAF Lakenheath, England; Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas; 331st Recruit-

ing Squadron, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Ala.; 2nd Medical Group, Barksdale AFB, La.; 259th United States Air Force Clinic, Andrews AFB, Md.

Greatest feat: My family

Leadership philosophy: It is not about popularity, it's about the people and the mission

Personal hero: My parents, for so many reasons they are true heroes

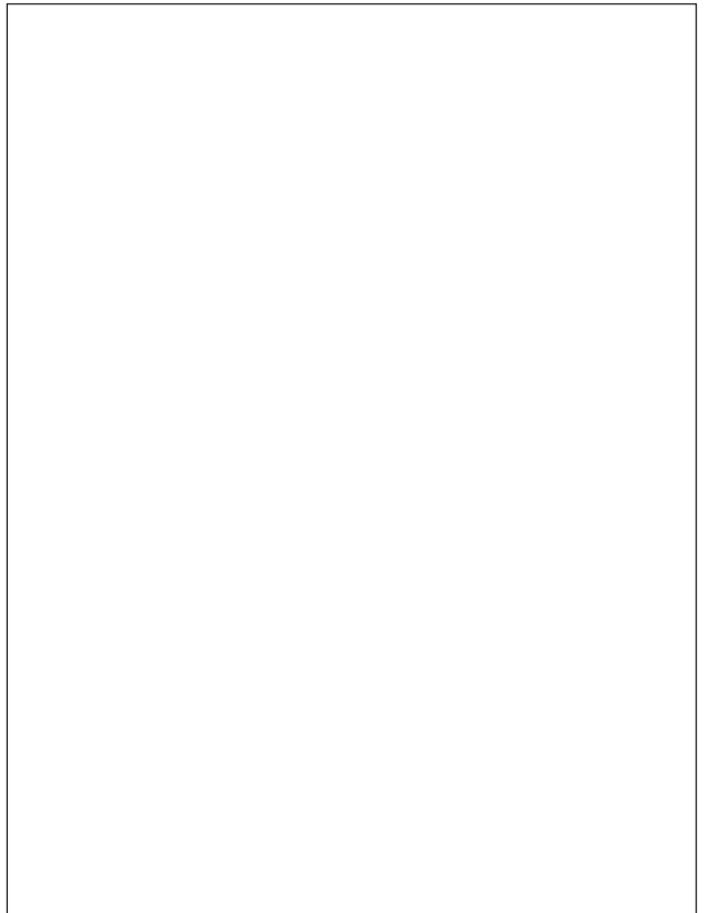
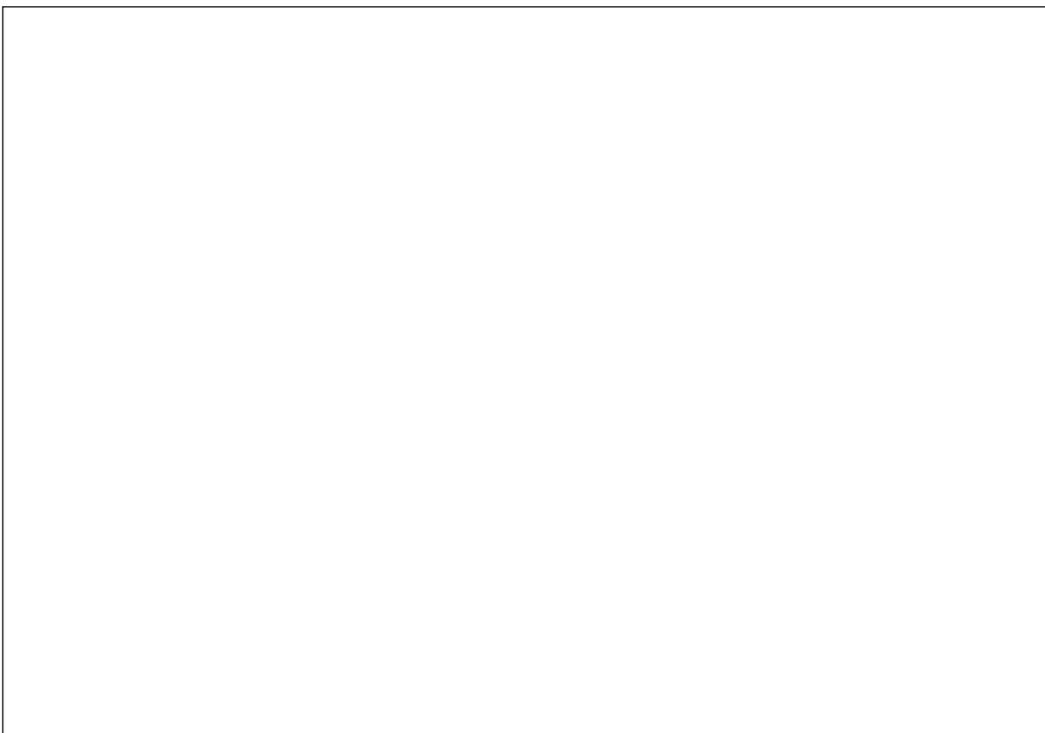
Favorite quote: "Being responsible sometimes means angering people" - Unknown

Hobbies: Reading, playing with my sons and, time permitting, doing needlework

Bad habit: Chocolate, definitely chocolate



Lt. Col. Baker



Vietnam vet ensures they are never forgotten:



Photos and story by Capt. Paula Kurtz

Public affairs

As a young boy, Roberto Barrera remembers looking through stacks of pictures his father had taken while stationed in Italy as an Army infantry private during World War II. The images stirred his curiosity and interest in the military and, shortly after high school, he decided to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Little did he know then how that decision would forever change his life.

A Del Rio native, Mr. Barrera is one of many disabled American veterans who was lucky enough to return from Vietnam. Today, in addition to serving as the 47th Mission Support Squadron family support center flight chief, he's on a personal mission – to ensure our nation does not forget those veterans who did not come home.

One such opportunity presented itself when the Vietnam "Moving Wall" Memorial – a half-size replica of the original – arrived in Kerrville, Texas, July 12. Organizers of the event invited Mr. Barrera to serve as the keynote speaker for the opening ceremony at the Kerrville Division Veterans Admin-

istration Hospital, and he gladly accepted.

Recalling his first visit to the original Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., Mr. Barrera confessed to feeling an overwhelming wave of emotion.

"I thought, 'I'm a Marine. I'm tough. I can handle it,'" Mr. Barrera said. "I broke down when I walked by it, and I found that this Marine wasn't as tough as he thought."

Mr. Barrera made that first visit to The Wall, as it is popularly known, in 1998 and now visits every November on Veteran's Day. Mr. Barrera suffered extensive injuries in Vietnam when the vehicle he was traveling in as a young private 1st class ran over a buried land mine. Burned over a large portion of his body, Mr. Barrera also lost his left arm at the shoulder and his right hand at the wrist.

"It's a healing experience," he told the 400-person audience. "The Wall was built to reconcile the differences; to bring us together as one nation, one country," Mr. Barrera said, referring to the harsh criticism America's fighting forces endured upon their return from battle in Vietnam. "Today, even though we share political differences, The Wall has given us the ability to separate that from support of the troops."

Lt. Col. Jennifer Graham, who accompanied Mr. Barrera to Kerrville, agrees that The Wall has the power to heal. Her father, U.S. Marine Corps Captain James

(Counterclockwise from top) Lt. Col. Jennifer Graham, 47th Mission Support Squadron commander, and Roberto Barrera, Family Support Center flight chief, take an impression from the Vietnam Moving Wall.

"Trucker" (left) and "C-5," members of the Vietnam veterans motorcycle club in San Antonio, Texas, bow their heads for a moment of silence in honor of prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Seaman Angela Pile of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, George Bush Division, lights a candle in tribute to POWs and those MIA.

The Vietnam Moving Wall on display for those who attended the ceremony.

Mr. Barrera speaks to a crowd of more than 400 at the "Moving Wall" opening ceremony in Kerrville, Texas.



Laughlin's own tells his story at Kerrville ceremony

A. Graham, died in Vietnam while protecting one of his injured men during a firefight.

"His outstanding courage, superb leadership and indomitable fighting spirit undoubtedly saved the second platoon from annihilation," so reads the citation on the Medal of Honor, which was presented to Colonel Graham's mother three years after her father's death.

"We were very fortunate that our mother made him an active part of our lives," said Colonel Graham, recalling the stories and photos that her mother shared. "So many families handled it differently, and many children grew up

in homes where they didn't talk about it."

Although the 47th Mission Support Squadron commander has visited the Wall in D.C. many times, Colonel Graham once again put charcoal to paper at the Moving Wall to take an impression of her father's name, which appears on panel 21E, amid a sea of names that bear no outward distinction from one another.

"Everyone's memorialized equally here," Colonel Graham pointed out. "There are no ranks, ages, or races. Every life is equal."



The *XLer*

Senior Airman Billy West

47th Communications Squadron wireless communications manager



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

Hometown: Savannah, Ga.

Family: Wife, Renee; daughters, Paige and Hayle

Time at Laughlin: 3 1/2 years

Time in service: 4 1/2 years

Greatest accomplishments: Finishing my custom truck

Hobbies: Music and building custom cars and trucks

Bad habits: Putting my cars and trucks

before my family

Favorite music: Linkin Park

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? Jesse James of West Coast Choppers, he started out building one-off choppers in his garage. He is now known worldwide for his extremely radical designs. He has a plethora of knowledge to share with someone wanting to start his own venture.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Saturday

- 5 p.m., Mass

Sunday

- 9:30 a.m., Mass

Thursday

- 6 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m.,

R.C.I.A.

Reconciliation

- By appointment

Religious Education

- 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish, Muslim and other denominations

- Call 298-5111

Nondenominational

Sunday

- 6:30 p.m. Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-5111

Friday

- 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship

Protestant

Sunday

- 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.,

Sundayschool

- 11 a.m., General worship

Wednesday

- 10 a.m., Women's Bible study
- 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

Contractors seek ways to better perform most nonmilitary functions

By Airman 1st Class
Timothy J. Stein

Editor

(Editor's note: This is the first in a five-part series about base contractors)

They are everywhere on base. They perform such varying tasks as repairing jet engines for the entire command to teaching aerobics at the fitness center. They are contractors.

"Contractors are commercial businesses that provide many services traditionally provided by military and government employees," said Jesús Martínez, 47th Contracting Squadron director of business operations. "Their contributions are very significant. The more we outsource products and services, the greater the impact is on the mission."

There are 14 major service contracts on base, five utility contracts, 12 small recurring service contracts, two architect-engineering contracts and six construction contracts.

"They all vary in size and scope," pointed out Mr. Martínez. "The Base Operating and Support Services contract employs over 200 people and costs over \$12 million a year. In contrast, our religious education service contract employs one person." Outsourcing a

function takes place if cost studies show it would be cheaper for commercial businesses to do the work than to have military or civilian government employees continue to do it.

The contracting process can be relatively simple or long and drawn out, depending on the complexity of the requirement, noted Mr.

Martínez. The first step is to meet with our base units to

"[Contractors] provide goods and services that are critical to our mission..."

***— Jesús Martínez,
47th Contracting Squadron director of business operations***

fully understand their requirements. Then the contracting squadron will perform market research to determine if that service is available commercially.

The next step is to create a requirements document that states what goods or services are needed from the commercial sector.

"Once we conduct the market research, we develop the requirements document with our customers. We want to ensure that when we request proposals, the requirements document clearly and accurately explains the products or services our customers need," said Mr. Martínez.

Requirements are advertised to the public. "This allows companies to look at the requirements and prepare to submit a proposal if they are interested," said Mr. Martínez.

After 30 days, a request for quote or request for pro-

posal is issued and interested companies have 30 days to submit a formal proposal.

For larger requirements, an evaluation team of technical experts and members of the contracting squadron review the proposals. They evaluate the proposals on price, quality of service, technical ability and all other factors included in the request for proposal.

The old adage about the government always awarding contracts to the lowest bidder isn't true any more, said Mr. Martínez. "The federal government went away from the low bid process 14 years ago," said Mr. Martínez. "There are several methods for evaluating proposals. Low bid is generally the last method we consider using. We look for best value, more bang for the taxpayer's buck."

Many of the contracts awarded are for one year with several option years, which the government may or may not use. That allows us to evaluate how a contractor is performing, said Mr. Martínez. After the first year, if all is going well and the government still requires the service then we exercise the next option. This is done year after year, said Mr. Martínez, to ensure Laughlin gets the most for its money.

"All in all, we have a great working relationship with our contractors," he said. "They provide goods and services that are critical to our mission and that greatly improve the quality of life here at Laughlin."

Agency works hard to keep people safe

By Tech. Sgt.
Anthony Hill
Public affairs

The summer season has opened the opportunity for Laughlin members and their families to take time off from work to travel, take vacations and participate in an array of recreational fun.

But, whether people are at play or work during these critical days of summer, there is a team of individuals here that consistently keeps safety on the minds of everyone.

Divided into ground and flight safety, the 12-member safety staff works diligently throughout the year performing no-notice inspections, writing reports and passing on safety lessons to the valuable people here who accomplish the mission.

"Our primary role is to prevent flight and ground mishaps," said Capt. Matt Anderson, 47th FTW T-37 flight safety officer. "By protecting Laughlin's people and assets, we can all better train the world's best pilots."

Ground safety investigates injuries that occur on and off duty and attempts to prevent repeat mishaps. A typical day may consist of performing spot inspections to ensure working environments are safe for employees.

"We also respond to accidents and other mishaps," said Margie Rivera, 47th FTW safety and occupational health specialist. "We coordinate with squadron safety representatives and answer questions from people inquiring about safety involving things like traffic, motorcycles, sports, recreation and high-risk activi-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Staff Sgt. Ignacio Castro-Luna measures a step outside base operations to make sure it is within compliance with safety regulations.

ties."

Currently, the biggest Air Force problem is traffic mishaps, according to Paul Blair, wing ground safety manager. He said the Air Force has lost 16 people during this 101 Critical Days of Summer compared to 14 at this time last year. Eight of those this year, he added, were motorcycle accidents. Within Air Education and Training Command, Mr. Blair said three airmen have lost their lives during the current 101 critical days, two in privately-owned vehicles and one in an all-terrain vehicle.

"It's tragic we're going in that direction," he said,

"but most, if not all, of them could have been prevented if they would have used common sense and basic risk management principles."

Mr. Blair said he doesn't want anyone to have to go and tell someone's family their loved one is not coming home because they did something senseless and it cost them their life. "Our goal is to prevent someone from getting killed," he said. "We can replace machinery and other equipment, but we can't replace a person's life."

With pilot training the focus here, flying safety plays an integral role in successfully accomplishing the

mission. The flight safety division responds to in-flight emergencies and investigates flying mishaps. "Our goal is to learn from every mishap so we can prevent it from happening in the future," Captain Anderson said. Once flight mishap investigations are complete, just as with ground investigations, formal reports are published and provided Air Force-wide so others may prevent similar occurrences.

Flying mishaps are minimal here. That success can be attributed to the people who perform the mission, Captain Anderson said. "It's a result of the safety mindset of the maintainers, and the operations and support individuals," he said. "Most people here are mission-oriented. Everyone is aware of their personal safety, especially from the ground safety perspective, because they don't want to get hurt, injured or die. They don't want to see the mission impacted. My greatest satisfaction is seeing people recognize a potentially dangerous situation, and making smart decisions to minimize or eliminate the threat."

Captain Anderson said the greatest safety challenge is finding new methods to better minimize the known, accepted risks people take everyday on the ground and in the air.

"Our office really cares about the safety of people at Laughlin," Captain Anderson said. "We have a great group of motivated individuals who really enjoy coming to work everyday. We want to ensure that Laughlin's people and assets are available everyday to safely play their role in helping train the

world's best pilots."

And, for those who view safety as the bad guys, "we're not," said Staff Sgt. Ignacio Castro-Luna, 47th FTW ground safety NCO in charge. "We do not blame anyone. All we want to get are the facts during a mishap investigation and inform people to do the right thing if they don't know. If we can prevent one person from getting hurt, that's good. We try to get people to understand not to take unnecessary risks."

The staff also wants to convince everyone to support the wing safety mission and know that their individual safety knowledge contributes to the safety program here.

"If we lose a pilot, student or maintainer, it impacts the mission," said Lt. Col. Kelly Fletcher, 47th FTW chief of safety. "If we lose someone in services, it still impacts the mission because they make contributions in how things go on and how we interact on this base."

"We preach [everything from] operational risk management, safety awareness on and off duty, and while driving [to] being out late at night and about threats in Mexico and on the highways," he continued. "All of that is stressed, but it comes down to getting individuals to ask the question personally 'what if?' Take those answers and understand that's your risk. Imagine what you can do to mitigate those what ifs and what's the smart thing to do. That's the biggest component an individual can have to impact their own personal safety, or even safety in the work place."



Courtesy photo

Mark, set, go...

Laughlin members begin a 5k Fun Run around the base Saturday. There were 28 participants in the run. The top three women funners were Mesha Brewer, Lisa Firestone and Kelli Melin. The top three men were Rafael Renteria, Chris Hilton and Bill Rayner.

Softball standings

<u>Team</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>W-L</u>
MEO 1	10-1	Med GP	9-0
OSS	7-4	CES	8-1
87th	5-5	Trend 1	8-2
LSI	4-6	CCS	4-6
MEO 2	4-6	Trend 2	3-6
86th	2-8	SFS	3-6
84/85th	1-9	MSS	1-9

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.

