

Laughlin members discuss deployment, page 11

Border Eagle

Vol. 51, No. 37

www.laughlin.af.mil

Sept. 19, 2003

Widow returns POW bracelet to general

By 1st Lt. Lindsay Logsdon
Public Affairs

"I will be going to the cemetery with red, white and blue flowers to put on his grave. And I am so proud to tell him that I will finally be returning the prisoner of war bracelet that he carried around with him for almost 38 years. He had hoped, one day, to personally return the bracelet to Colonel Risner. I hope I made his wish come true."

Ruth Ann Cone, wife of Master Sgt. Jacob Cone, wanted to honor her late husband's dream of returning his POW bracelet to Brig. Gen. Robinson Risner.

The presentation of the bracelet worn by Master Sgt. Cone, to retired to Brig. Gen. Robinson Risner, capped off Saturday's Centennial of Flight celebration in

Laughlin's Hangar One.

After months of preparation, all efforts came together for the Centennial of Flight Celebration here Saturday. Over 450 retirees, military and community members were seated throughout Hangar One for the celebration.

The hangar was decorated with Laughlin heritage and other Air Force specific historical memorabilia. Display cases, information boards and presentation screens lined the walls telling the story of the first century of flight.

Col. Thomas Griffith, commandant and dean of the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies at Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., opened the evening's events with comments on how air and space power has

See **Flight**, page 4



Photo by Michele Perez

Retired Brig. Gen. Robinson Risner and Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, show off General Risner's POW bracelet which was given to him during the Centennial of Flight celebration.

Combined Federal Campaign kicks off

Compiled from staff reports

The 47th Flying Training Wing will begin its six-week Combined Federal Campaign Monday with a goal of 100 percent employee contact.

The CFC is an avenue through which all federal employees can voluntarily express their concerns for others by donating to local, state, national or international charities. Employees have the choice to contribute or not – donations are 100 percent voluntary.

An average of one in four federal employees or their family members will benefit from the CFC charities this year alone, according to

officials. Donors may designate which charities receive their money by filling out a pledge card.

"The CFC is an important opportunity for our federal employees and military members to give back to Del Rio and Laughlin," said Col. Dan Woodward, 47th FTW commander. "About one quarter of what is contributed goes back to the local community.

The campaign will continue through Oct. 31. Organizations are reminded that no other fundraising efforts are permitted to take place during the CFC.

For more information or to donate, people

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Deployment stats

Deployed	Returning next 30 days	Deploying next 30 days
50	0	1

Mission status

Airframe	(As of Sept. 12) Days behind or ahead	Mission Capable Rate
T-37	2.20	90.7%
T-1	3.70	80.6%
T-38	1.34	76.8%
T-6	0.77	93.8%

Three training dimensions help prepare troops



Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. (Chap.) Joseph D. Lim
47th Flying Training Wing chaplain

Two-thumbs way up ... the most powerful movie they've ever seen ... a movie of staggering virtuosity and raw lyric power ... a masterpiece. All these descriptions rang so powerfully true for me as I watched the movie "Saving Private Ryan."

The movie stunned me and hit home so hard because I realized all of us in the military profession stand in the forefront of war. Whatever Air Force specialty code we bear, we are all warriors and we stand at the gates of freedom, ready to fight to save Private Ryan.

It struck me right in the heart to realize Private Ryan is not just some fictional character in the movie, but someone real, alive, flesh and bones. Private Ryan is each one of us. Private Ryan is all of us who are in the profession of arms. You and I are entrusted with the sacred duty of saving our Private Ryans.

We cannot remain neutral in times of war. Dante puts it so succinctly in his Divine Comedy, "The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who remain neutral in times of crisis." Anytime, anywhere, at a moment's notice, we can be called to the

forefront of our battlefields to fight for freedom. We need to preserve the legacy of those heroes who came before us, and our sacred heritage to defend our precious freedoms at all cost – freedom is not free.

I agree with John Stewart Mill when he said, "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

There's only one way to meet the challenges of war. Be combat ready at all times. We must train and prepare combat ready warriors. Our mission to train the world's best pilots and forge a premier expeditionary force is a sacred trust that must be kept aflame each day.

We owe our troops the best training – physically, mentally and spiritually. The first two are always understood, but the third dimension – the spiritual – seems to be a missing disconnect relegated to the realm of private matter. We cannot afford to do that. We need to fortify the spiritual

dimension of our warfighting forces. For the spiritual is truly the driving force that makes heroes out of mortals. The spiritual establishes the foundation for moral and ethical conduct that all of us must uphold. These three elements complement each other and must clearly be incorporated into our training programs and curriculum.

All of us are in this together, and the sense of camaraderie among us will define the meaning of duty and serve as a torch that will pass to each generation as long as we remain committed to fulfill our duties

"We owe our troops the best training – physically, mentally and spiritually. The first two are always understood, but the third dimension ... seems to be a missing disconnect ..."

as free people.

Whether the challenge came on the greens of Lexington or Omaha Beach, Pusan perimeter or Mekong Delta, the Persian Gulf, the bushlands of Africa, the caves of Afghanistan or the deserts of Iraq, the answer by our fighting warriors has always been clear and unequivocal. Our vow is to carry on that noble task of defending the principles of liberty and democracy, wherever they are being violated or attacked, whatever it takes.

We must, therefore, prepare a fighting force now, equipped with the best people, best training, best tools, best technology and best systems to project global power and assure dominance over any foe on the face of the earth and above it.

Border Eagle

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The Border Eagle is published

every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News-Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force

photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadlines, Advertising

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

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

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

Birthday greetings from the top

First Command commander shares words for Air Force's 56th birthday

By Gen. Don Cook
Air Education and
Training Command
commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – For 56 years, the U.S. Air Force has evolved to meet each new challenge facing our nation. Its airmen have served with integrity, selflessness and unwavering dedication to preserve America's peace.

Although the youngest of all the branches, the Air Force's roots run deep, back to the turn of the last century when

the Wright brothers made their historic flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Five years later

they delivered the first airplane to the Aeronautical Division of the U.S. Army Signal Corps and the first air squadron was established in 1913.

It wasn't until President Harry Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947 that the Army Air Corps

became the U.S. Air Force.

Since that historic date, the First Command has played a

"Today, as was true in 1947, our training, education and recruiting missions ensure the Air Force can answer when our nation calls."

significant role in shaping our Air Force.

Today, as was true in 1947, our training, education and recruiting missions ensure the Air Force can answer when our nation calls.

In this year that marks 100 years of powered flight, we

strive to maintain the high standards we have developed since our inception and continue to raise the bar of innovative training and education programs to face the challenges of the 21st century.

This desire to better our Air Force future is a vision instilled since the very first flight. Wilbur Wright said it best more than a century ago, "I wish to avail myself of all that is already known and then if possible add my mite to help on the future worker who will attain final success."



Gen. Don Cook

Thursday, we paused to remember our heritage and to celebrate the Air Force's birthday, showing pride for the airmen who have made America's Air Force what it is today – the world's most respected air and space force.

Happy 56th Birthday Air Force!

Border Eagle commentaries

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

Commentaries can be written about any aspect of Air Force life you find interesting. Commentaries should be 250 to 500 words in length. Public Affairs reserves the right to edit all submis-

sions for length and clarity.

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

For more information, call 298-5393.



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 to 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
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

Flight, from page 1



(Above) Laughlin members look over centennial of flight information at information booths placed in Hanger 1 before the Centennial of Flight celebration. (Right) Col. Vic Hnatiuk, 47th Mission Support Group commander, dances with Bea Farmer, Air Force widow, to the music of the U.S. Air Force Band of the West during the dance which followed the dinner.(Photos by Jose Mendoza)



revolutionized the face of warfare. Changes in technology and warfare were the focus of the colonel's speech. He noted that none of these advances could be achieved without the human factor.

"But for all these changes in technology and warfare it's the people who are the heart and soul of the air and space power in the United States Air Force," said Colonel Griffith. The colonel emphasized that courage, commitment and vision were the characteristics of the people who led these changes.

Colonel Griffith concluded his speech by saying the men and women who are serving here demonstrate every day these characteristics. "I have every hope and every confidence that you will continue the journey, and that the next 100 years of air and space power are going to become even better, based on the things you do."

After Colonel Griffith's history of flight presentation, General Risner was welcomed to the

stage with a standing ovation. Although the general joked he should sit down after such a welcome he proceeded to speak of his many experiences throughout his Air Force career.

Although the general served during World War II, he focused his speech on Korea and Vietnam. From the F-86 to the F-4 and the F-105, he took the audience from the skies to his captivity in the Hanoi Hilton POW camp.

General Risner's fall into captivity started with his ejection from his F-105 at 500 mph after the aircraft ingested a disastrous amount of enemy fire. He landed on the side of a rice-paddy dike and tumbled to the muddy bottom. "I could hear civilians all around me. I drew my pistol and stood up. I was looking right down some guy's gun barrel," said General Risner.

At the time, Lieutenant Colonel Risner was completely surrounded by civilians with guns. Standing there with his pistol cocked, General Risner remembered what he had told his squad-

ron. "As long as I have the means to resist they will never catch me."

Looking down that gun barrel General Risner changed his mind and dropped the cocked gun into the mud and hoping no one would notice, walked over it.

A one-eyed villager saw the general's move and dug into the mud until he found the pistol. The villager then placed the pistol between General Risner's eyes. "The village chief took the gun away from him. I breathed a sigh of relief and that started my new tour, 7 1/2 years as a prisoner of war," said the general.

At the conclusion of General Risner's comments, he again re-

ceived a standing ovation. After Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, presented him with the bracelet, General Risner led the audience in an impromptu performance of the national anthem.

Colonel Woodward ended the evening events saying, "What we celebrated tonight is really about human achievement. Human achievement from 100 years has produced remarkable things. And so this celebration is just, in one small way, our part in recognizing that great achievement. It's been an incredible 100 years and the next 100 years will be more incredible without question."

1956 Laughlin grads hold reunion on base

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Clark
Staff Writer

In 1956, 51 young airmen earned their wings after graduating from Laughlin's 56-Uniform pilot training class. Almost 50 years later, 22 of the graduates reunited Wednesday for the first time since their graduation.

During their visit to Laughlin today, the group will tour the base, fly the T-6 simulators and join the panel for the prisoner of war and missing-in-action retreat ceremony. The class members will honor one of their classmates, Lt. Col. (then Capt.) Fredric M. Mellor, who was declared missing in action after being shot down in Son La Province, North Vietnam, in 1965.

"The reunion is an opportunity to gather with what I call some of the Air Force's greatest pilots," said retired Maj. Gen. Gerald L. Prather, one of the 56-U graduates who helped coordinate the reunion. "We flew at the tail end of the Korean War, we flew in the Vietnam War and we were all stationed in different places [where there were] different problems."

After graduation, the pilots went their separate

ways and many haven't seen one another since. "Seeing them again gives me the opportunity to renew my friendships with those I haven't seen since pilot training," said General Prather. "It also gives them the opportunity to come here to see what Laughlin looks like now in modern day."

In 1956, Laughlin wasn't nearly as modern as it is today, said General Prather. "The base was smaller then," he added. "We lived in open-bay barracks with a community latrine. Everything [now] is new. They won't recognize anything."

While most of the pilots are familiar with the first T-6 Texan aircraft, they may not recognize the new instruments in the T-6 II simulators. "The difference with pilot training now is the technology in the aircraft," the general added. "It is so much greater now than it was in our days."

"I love the Air Force, I always have and most of these guys are the same way," said General Prather. "They believe strongly in the Air Force and its missions. They believe so strongly that some of them died fighting for their country, and I'm proud of them."

"They believe strongly in the Air Force and its missions."
— Retired Maj. Gen. Gerald Prather, 56-Uniform graduate

CFC, from page 1
should contact their unit
points of contact listed:

47th Flying Training Wing

■ Airman 1st Class

David Duran

47th Operations Group

■ 1st Lt. Jennifer Adsit

84th Flying Training Squadron

■ 1st Lt. David Snodgrass

85th FTS

■ 1st Lt. Ben Kaminsky

86th FTS

■ 1st Lt. Nancy Badgett

87th FTS

■ 1st Lt. Ryan Lucero

47th Operations Support Squadron

■ 1st Lt. Jeff Byman,

Master Sgt. Joe Garcia,
Airman 1st Class Joseph
Mikelat

47th Mission Support Group

■ Bobby Barrera

47th Civil Engineering Squadron

■ Staff Sgt. Michael

Patterson

47th Contracting Squadron

■ 1st Lt. Tracy Minkley

47th Communications Squadron

■ 1st Lt. Joe Watson

47th Logistics Readiness

■ Tech Sgt. Jeffrey Brown

47th Mission Support Squadron

■ 2nd Lt. Melissa Gibbs

47th Security Forces

Squadron

■ Capt. Gerald Mulhollen

47th Services Division

■ Staff Sgt. Amanda

Staggers

47th Medical Group

■ Capt. Dwanita

Parkinson

47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

■ Staff Sgt. Amanda

Corpin

47th Medical Operations Squadron

■ Staff Sgt. Traci Wilmoth

47th Medical Support Squadron

■ Staff Sgt. Amy Greene

47th Maintenance Directorate

■ Philip Pulliam, Andrew

McMullough and Ted

Jenkins

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Saturday

● 5 p.m., Mass

Sunday

● 9:30 a.m., Mass

Thursday

● 6 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m.,

Rite of Christian Initiation

Reconciliation

● By appointment

Religious Education

● 11 a.m. Sunday

Nondenominational

Sunday

● 6 p.m. Officer Christian

Fellowship, call 298-2238

Friday

● 7 p.m., Unity in Commu-

nity Fellowship

Protestant

Sunday

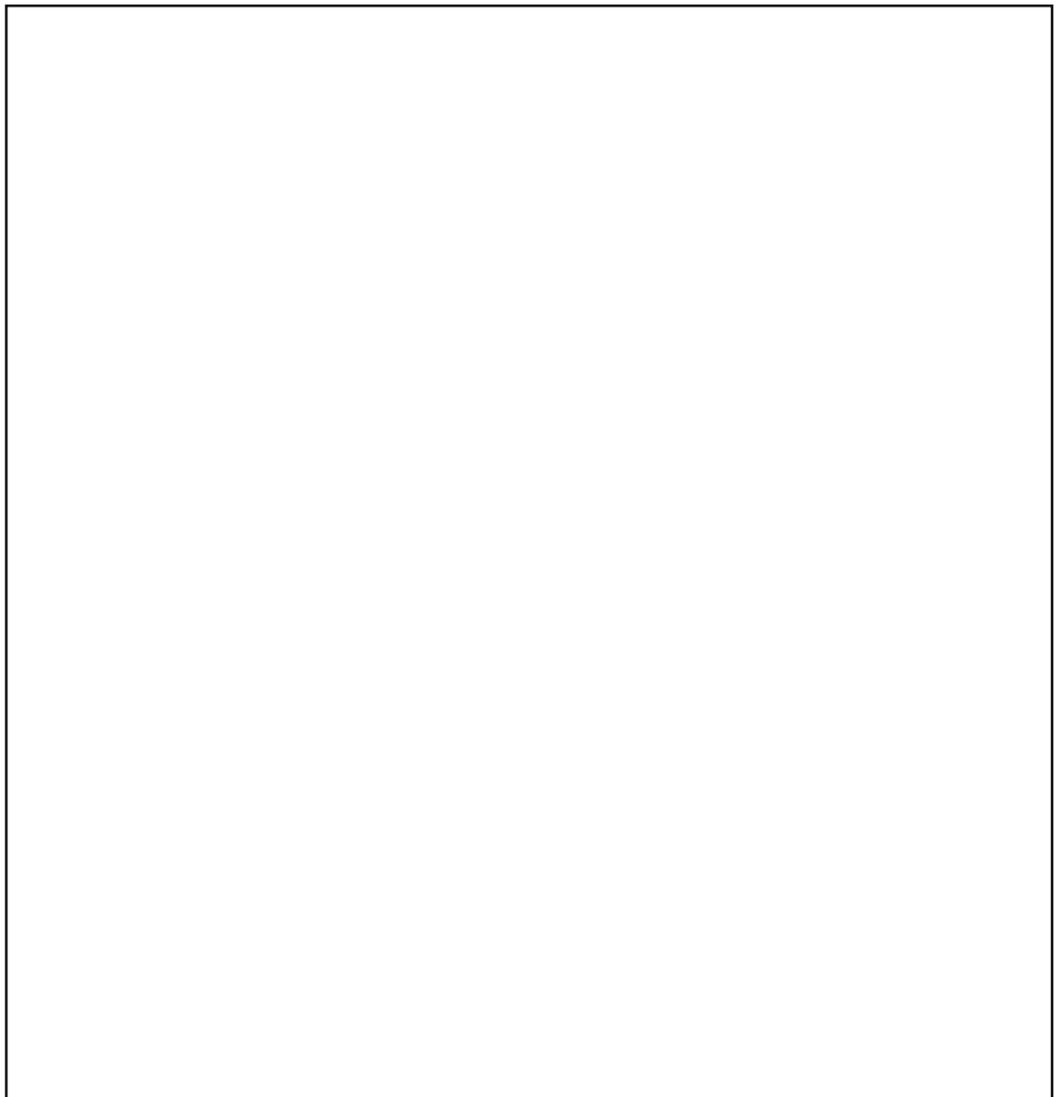
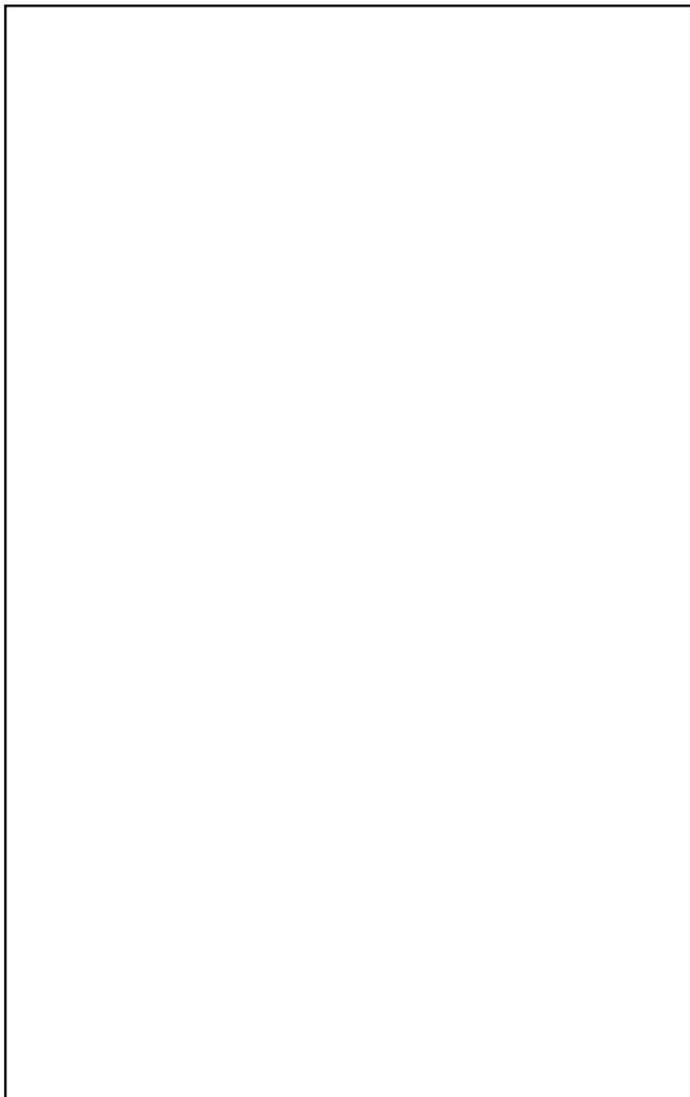
● 9:30, Sunday school

● 11 a.m., General worship

Wednesday

● 7 p.m., Choir

**For more information on chapel events, ser-
vices and other demoninations, call 298-5111.**



BRAC e-mail story declared hoax

By Tech Sgt.
David Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – An e-mail hoax has been circulating through inboxes. The e-mail contains a spoofed Air Force Print News story about proposed base realignment and closure actions allegedly affecting all services.

Air Force public affairs officials were alerted to the hoax by a military officers' association in California. The e-mail takes a legitimate Air Force Print News story titled

“Air Force releases 2004 realignments,” published July 23, and adds a fake list of Department of Defense installations for “closure or realignment.”

Officials immediately dismissed the e-mail as a hoax, citing that the ongoing BRAC process is nowhere near complete.

They have not made any assessments, decisions or recommendations for closures and realignments to the BRAC Commission, according to Nelson Gibbs. He is the assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, envi-

ronment and logistics.

As part of the budget justification, defense officials must submit a number of reports and certifications to justify the need for the BRAC 2005 round, Mr. Gibbs said.

“This will occur in the February 2004 time frame,” Mr. Gibbs said. “As such, recommendations (now) would be premature and not in accordance with the requirements of the BRAC law.”

The law establishes procedures that must be followed step by step to develop information, studies, plans and reports needed for such

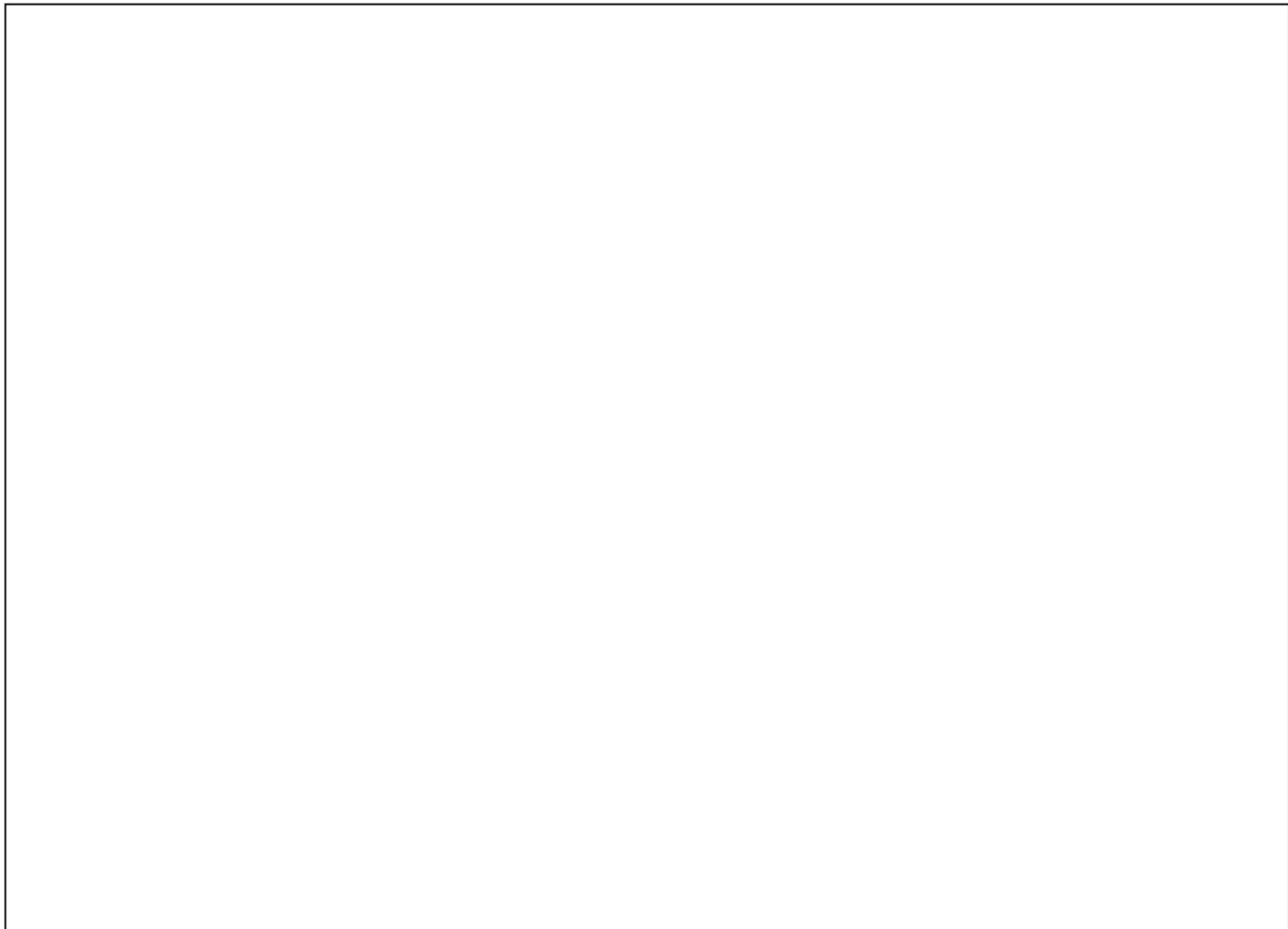
recommendations, he said.

“While we have done much, we are still in the early stages of the formal BRAC process,” Mr. Gibbs said.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act prescribes a sequential process officials must follow before they can legally make recommendations for potential closures and realignments of military installations.

DoD officials must submit a force-structure plan based upon an

See **Brac**, page 9



Air Force Climate Survey launches Oct. 1

By Richard Salomon
*Air Force Manpower
and Innovation Agency
Public Affairs*

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Air Force leaders at all levels want to know, “How is my organization doing?” The 2003 Air Force Climate Survey begins Oct. 1 to answer this question with the help of Air Force people.

Their participation in the survey is critical, said

senior leaders.

“Leadership must be made aware of what’s really going on out there,” said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche. “By taking a few brief moments to fill out this survey, you can help your leaders understand your concerns and ultimately better serve you and our nation’s interests.”

Previous surveys included active-duty airmen and appropriated-fund civilians. This year, the survey

also will include the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, non-appropriated fund civilians and students in a temporary-duty status.

“We want to make sure all members of the Air Force team have an opportunity to participate,” said Lori Marcum, the survey’s team leader. “Leaders at all levels use the Air Force Climate Survey to target areas for improvement. In order to create positive changes within an organization,

(leaders) must know where to begin. This survey provides everyone an opportunity to speak out about strengths and areas for improvement in their organization.”

The survey runs through Nov. 23 and can be completed online at www.afclimatesurvey.af.mil anytime during the survey period from either a government computer (.mil) or personal computer (.com).

Because Air Force leaders expect candid feedback, the survey team has taken extraordinary measures to ensure privacy by using advanced information-masking software. Anonymity continues to be a key factor of the survey, officials said.

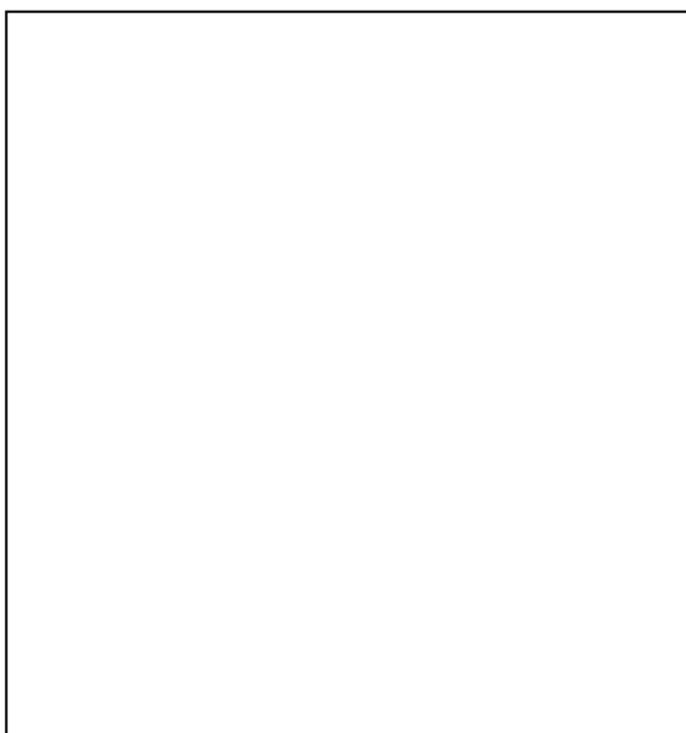
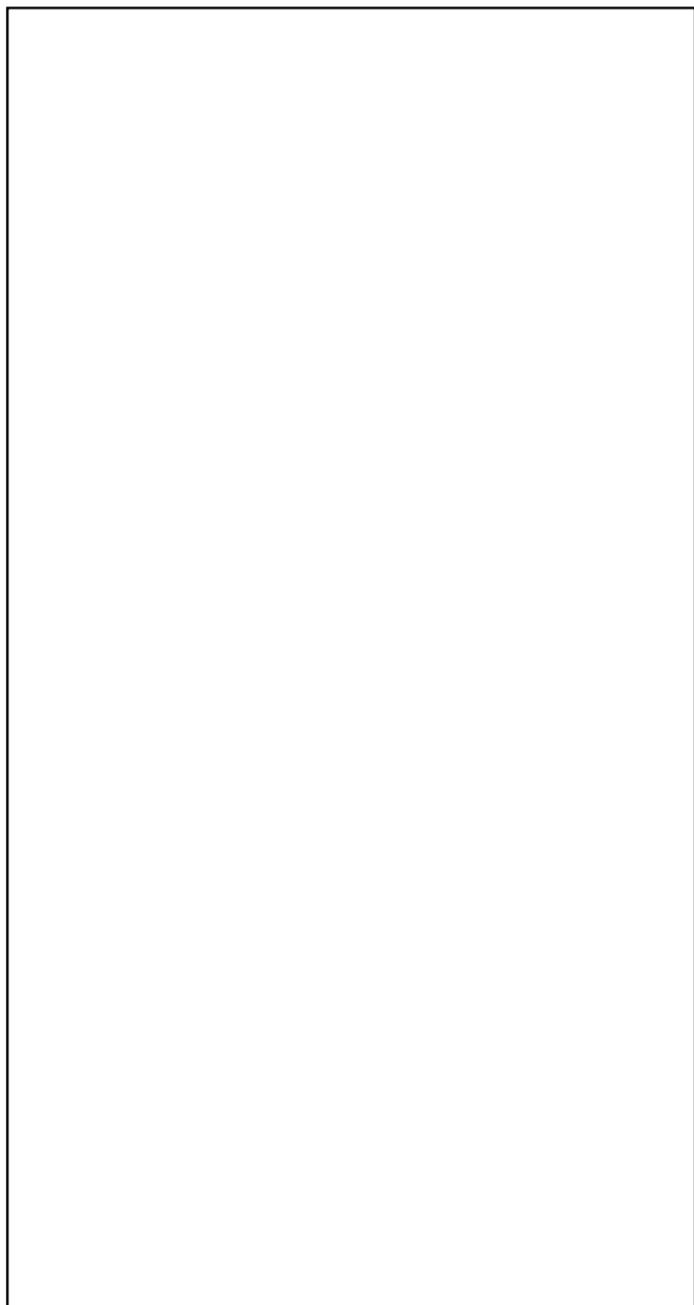
Results will be released early in 2004, said Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff.

“The U.S. Air Force is the finest in the world, a great place to serve and raise our families. We share a commitment to make it better,” he said.

Survey participation has climbed from 39 percent in 1997 and 36 percent in 1999 to more than 65 percent of active-duty airmen and civilians in the 2002 survey.

The 2003 Air Force Climate Survey will cover 13 factors that measure work experience:

- Job
- Resources
- Core values
- Leadership
- Supervision
- Training and development
- Teamwork
- Participation and involvement
- Recognition
- Unit flexibility
- General satisfaction
- Unit performance outcomes
- Job enhancement



BRAC, from page 7

assessment of probable threats to national security through the 20-year period beginning Oct. 1. The plan includes probable end-strength levels and major military-force units needed to meet these threats. Units include Air Force wings, Army divisions and Navy carrier and major combatant vessels.

Officials must also submit an installation inventory to comprehensively list the number and categories of military installations worldwide, both by military department and by active and reserve forces.

The secretary must further submit a description of the inventory necessary to support the force-structure plan. The description also includes excess infrastructure and infrastructure capacity, and an economic analysis of the effect of potential closures and realignments.

If the secretary determines a further round of BRAC is needed, he must certify that an additional round will result in annual net savings for each military department beginning no later than fiscal 2011.

On a parallel track, BRAC law also requires by Dec. 31 the secretary to pro-

pose for public review and comment the selection criteria DOD plans on using to make recommendations.

The criteria must at least include:

- Military value as the primary consideration
- Extent and timing of potential costs and savings
- Economic analysis of the impact on local communities
- Ability of community infrastructure to support current and expanded missions
- Impact of specified environmental costs

Department officials must finalize the criteria by Feb. 16 and publish them in the Federal Register.

Questionnaires used to obtain the base data will be adjusted for service-unique functions and common business-oriented functions.

Service and joint cross-service groups representatives will then assess the data and make recommendations to the secretary of defense. He then makes an independent review and assessment. The secretary must send his recommendations to the BRAC Commission and Congress by May 16, 2005.

Through this process, each base will be treated fairly and equally, according to Gibbs.

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

Two deployed XLers share their experiences

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Clark
Staff writer

When duty calls, it is common for military members to be sent to various locations around the world. While this is expected, two Laughlin members are gaining unique experiences while serving different Middle Eastern countries.

Lt. Col. Robin Squellati, 47th Medical Operations Squadron commander, is currently deployed to Camp Justice Masirah Island, Oman.

Staff Sgt. Theresa Wheeler, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron bioenvironmental engineering journeyman, is deployed to Ganci Air Base, Kyrgyzstan.

"I was extremely excited [to deploy]," said Colonel Squellati, who is serving as the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing medical group emergency room commander. "I've been in the Air Force for almost 18 years and never deployed [until now]. I've been preparing and hoping for this for a long time. It is every bit as good as I thought."

Although Colonel Squellati is a commander at both locations, she said the work and the decisions she makes are very different. "The problems here are [more



Courtesy photo

(Left) Lt. Col. Robin Squellati, 47th Medical Operations Squadron commander, currently deployed at Camp Justice at Masirah Island, Oman, helps unload medical supplies at Camp Justice.

critical]," she added.

Her job requires her to decide what to do with hundreds of units of blood, what to do when medical supplies run out. She also has to deal with having only 50 percent of the medical technicians needed because the rest were Reservists who were sent home. Another requirement she deals with is how to handle critical patients who need air evacuation when the minimum time for a plane to fly to the island is three hours.

"This job has a steep learning curve," said the colonel. "We provide the medical support for combat operations and combat support operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the horn of Africa. We are the laboratory, radiology, pharmacy and specialized

services. There is no one else. The only other option for urgent patients is to take them by plane to a better equipped place. One patient per week has required transport off the island."

While Colonel Squellati is performing more stressful duties in a country far from home and family, she takes part in many of the morale activities offered at Camp Justice. "I attend Bible studies and worship [throughout the week]," she said. "I also like the poker run, where the person who wins isn't the fastest, but the one with the best poker hand. I play bingo one or two times per week and I work out at the gym twice per day."

Colonel Squellati also takes advantage of the

high 80s temperatures and clear blue skies by going to the beach. "The beach is wonderful and boogie boarding is lots of fun."

While members deployed at Camp Justice are not allowed off base, Sergeant Wheeler said she enjoys going off Ganci Air Base in Kyrgyzstan because there is a lot to learn. "This country is very poor, but they have a lot to offer," she added. "It's great to experience different cultures and see how people live. This country is breathtaking."

Sergeant Wheeler said she knew she was deploying to tent city, so she expected sand everywhere. "When I got here, I [saw] rocks, trees and mountains," she said. "It seems so peaceful when you look out into the mountains, but you know you can't

believe that when you're standing in desert camouflage uniforms and ready to move down range at all times."

While Sergeant Wheeler is a bioenvironmental journeyman at Laughlin, she is currently serving as a third country national wing escort supervisor. "We make sure the host nationals working on base do not and cannot gather any intelligence that can be used against us."

Sergeant Wheeler said she was somewhat shocked to deploy for the first time. "I expected to deploy as it's my job to serve my country," she added. "But very rarely do we think it will happen to us. I was very emotional but excited to go."

Deployed now for almost three months, Sergeant Wheeler said her deployment has changed her attitude toward the Air Force in a positive way. "I will remember the bonds I have formed with my deployed comrades," said Sergeant Wheeler. "I think getting deployed is the true reblueing of the Air Force. Airman Leadership School gives you the tools to become a good leader, but deploying gives you the true meaning of serving your country. It also makes you proud to be serving in the U.S. Air Force."

Check out the *Border Eagle* online. The Laughlin Web page has a link or visit us at:
<http://www.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/ftworg/pa/basepaper/index.html>

The *XLer*

Oscar Bocanegra
47th Mission Support Squadron

Hometown: Ciudad Acuña, Mexico

Family: Wife, Lorena

Time at Laughlin: Seven years

Time in service: Seven years

Greatest accomplishments: Marrying my high school girlfriend and completing my master's degree

Hobbies: Soccer, basketball and fishing

Bad habits: Not always putting things back where they belong

Favorite movie: "My Life"

Favorite musician/band: I enjoy all types of music, I don't have a favorite

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? Booker T. Washington. I would like to learn from a man, former slave, who worded endlessly and was successful in freeing his people from ignorance.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

No plans to extend Guard, Reserve

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Air Force officials do not plan to extend the involuntary deployment of Reserve and Air National Guard airmen to Iraq.

About 4,700 ANG and Reserve airmen are deployed supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. According to a senior Air Force official, about 12,000 deployed Air Reserve Component airmen have already returned home.

"The (Air Force's) posi-

tion all along has been that ARC personnel will be released when they've completed what they set out to do," said Col. Richard M. Stedding, senior military adviser to the deputy secretary of the Air Force for Reserve affairs.

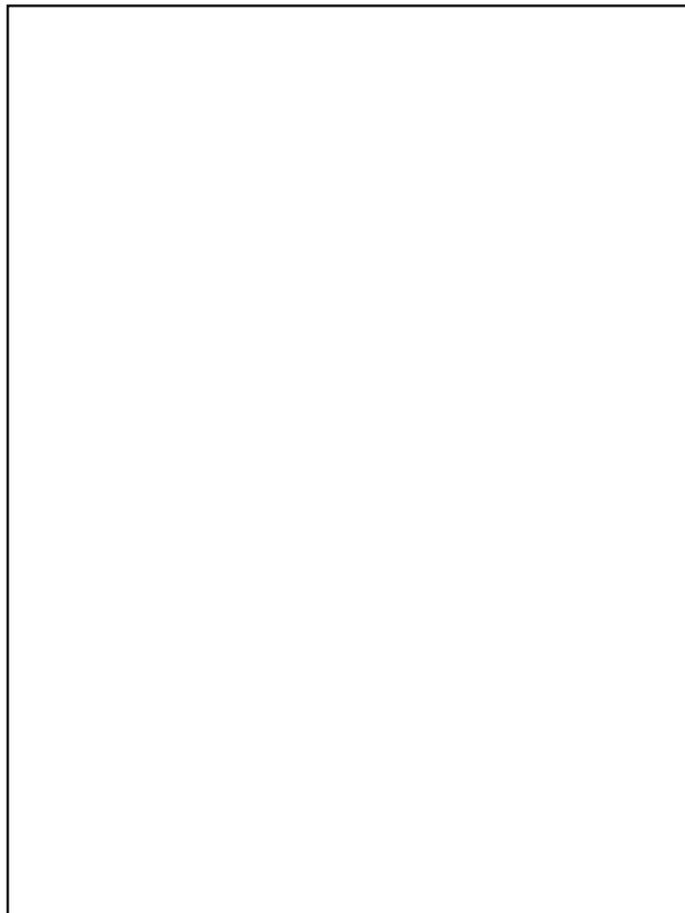
The Air Force is following a standing policy of doing what it can to avoid extending deployments, Colonel Stedding said.

"Combatant commanders have been (asked) to make sure ARC personnel are released... in sufficient time to return to their home

units, reconstitute, take needed leave and process off active duty," Stedding said.

"Many provisions have been made to rotate personnel in order to maintain the health of the force and to meet the needs of the mission," Colonel Stedding said.

"Everything is on track to resume the new steady state rotations of the AEF," Colonel Stedding said. "That's not to say that there won't still be some ARC members mobilized in March, but the numbers should be small and the rationale great."



Small contracts help improve life at Laughlin

Photos and story by
Airman 1st Class
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

(Editors note: This is the fourth in a five-part series about base contractors)

Contractors handle many things on base. They manage everything from airfield operations to engine repair shops. They build huge structures and maintain living facilities. They also do small things people may overlook to help make life at Laughlin better.

"We have many small recurring contracts on base," said 2nd Lt. Tracy Minkley, 47th Contract-

ing Squadron contract specialist. "They are typically for commercial services under \$5 million and [are] awarded annually."

Sports officials, test administrators, aerobics instructors, protestant choir director, chapel bookkeeper and motorcycle safety teacher are just a few of the recurring contracts, that improve life at Laughlin.

These contracts differ from many other contracts in that all are an annual requirement, resolicited and awarded on Oct. 1 each year so service is not disrupted, noted Lieutenant Minkley.

"This is done for

many reasons," she said. "It is often not advantageous for the government to offer options on these contracts, which allow the government to extend the contract for more than one year with the same contractor."

Reasons for this vary, said Lieutenant Minkley, although location is one of the main factors. Being in a remote location limits the number of bids the contracting squadron will receive for some jobs. Limiting the length of the contract gives the government more control over work quality. If the contractor doesn't do a job as expected, the contract doesn't go on for years and years.

Contracts also are shorter term because many of the people who receive these contracts are dependents so many times they would be unable to fulfill the contract over a year or two if options were added

"You can't count on people staying around for five years," said Lieutenant Minkley.

Just because contracts

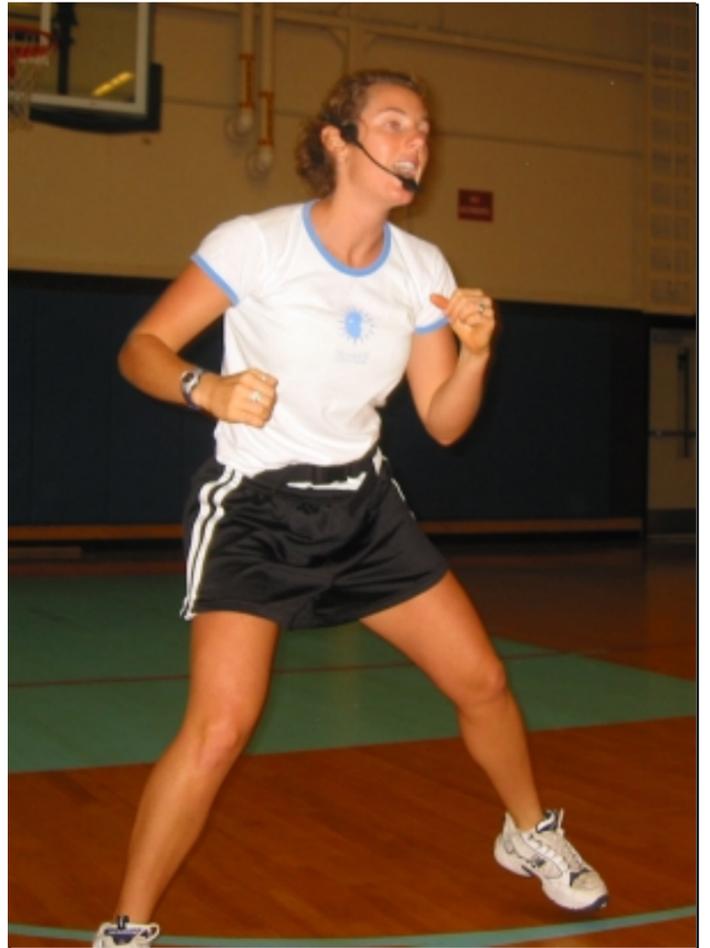


Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

An aerobics instructor, teaches a kick boxing class at the XL Fitness Center. Aerobic instructors are one of many small recurring contracts at Laughlin.

are shorter term doesn't mean the contracts go to the lowest bidder, said Lieutenant Minkley. Each bidder still has to go through an evaluation interview. "We try to award to the contractor providing the best value to the government using

price and evaluation factors such as past performance or evaluation interviews," said Lieutenant Minkley.

There are currently 24 small recurring contracts on base, with each one performing an important task.

"Many people may not notice a lot of the things these people do, but they would notice if these jobs weren't being done," said Lieutenant Minkley. "Each one helps make Laughlin a better place to live and work."

Cop edges out competition for weekly title

Last week, Spc. Jeff McCaskill, 47th Security Forces Squadron, beat the other competitors to take the weekly crown by picking 11 games correctly in the Border Eagle/Services weekly football

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

in the Border Eagle. Five names will be drawn each week to get an opportunity to pick the most winners of that week's football games.

Drop boxes will be located at Club XL, Club Amistad, Cac-

tus Lanes, Silver Wings and the Chaparral Dining facility.

The players for this week are: Tech. Sgt. Thomas Cooper, Kerry Miller, Staff Sgt. Jason Filasky, 1st Lt. Brian Vizzone and Victor Alba.



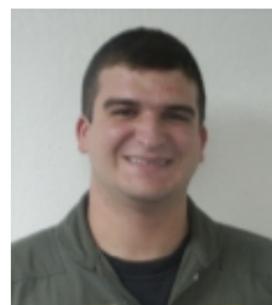
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Cooper



Kerry Miller



Staff Sgt. Jason Filasky



1st Lt. Brian Vizzone



Victor Alba

Games:

T.B. at Atl.
Pitt. at Cin.
Minn. at Det.
K.C. at Hou.
Jax. at Ind.
N.Y.J. at N.E.
N.O. at Tenn.
G.B. at Ari.
St.L. at Sea
N.Y.G. at Wash.
Bal. at S.D.
Cle. at S.F.
Buff. at Mia.
Oak. at Den.

Tampa Bay
Cincinnati
Minnesota
Kansas City
Indianapolis
New England
New Orleans
Green Bay
St.Louis
New York Giants
San Diego
San Francisco
Miami
Oakland

Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh
Minnesota
Kansas City
Indianapolis
New England
Tennessee
Green Bay
Seattle
Washington
Baltimore
San Francisco
Miami
Denver

Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh
Minnesota
Houston
Jacksonville
New England
Tennessee
Green Bay
Seattle
New York Giants
Baltimore
Cleveland
Miami
Oakland

Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh
Detroit
Kansas City
Indianapolis
New England
New Orleans
Green Bay
St.Louis
Washington
San Diego
San Francisco
Miami
Oakland

Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh
Minnesota
Kansas City
Jacksonville
New England
Tennessee
Green Bay
Seattle
Washington
Baltimore
San Francisco
Miami
Denver

Air Force beats Navy, wins softball championship

By Airman 1st Class Sarah Busch
*Air Armament Center
Public Affairs*

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – The Air Force team won the 2003 Armed Forces Women's Softball Championship held Sept. 8 to 10.

“Our goal was not to go undefeated; it was to win the gold,” said Air Force head coach Master Sgt. William Hardy, from Keesler Air

Force Base, Miss.

The Army team defeated the Air Force, 4-3, the first day of the tournament.

“That loss in our first game brought us back into reality,” Hardy said.

“From the beginning of the tournament, we were struggling with our hitting,” said second baseman Senior Airman Peni Nery from Kadena Air Base, Japan. “However, by the last game, we were showing everybody how we

hit. We came through.”

The 10-run rule came into play for the airmen when they defeated the Navy team, 16-4, the last day of the tournament.

The airmen dominated the entire game and pulled out of the sailors' sight in the top of the sixth inning when Staff Sgt. Alicia Pagan from Ramstein AB, Germany, hit a long ball out in left field, bringing in three runners to make the score, 13-4.

The sailors were unable to re-

taliate and were shut out early in the bottom of the sixth inning with a final score 16-4.

“We had the better team bar none, both defensively and offensively,” said Senior Airman Jamie Thompson, from Dover AFB, Del. “I felt like if we played just as hard as we practiced, I knew that we were going to come in and win it.”

The soldiers finished the tournament with a record of 4-5, while the sailors took third with 3-6 and the Marines finished last at 3-6.