Air Power
Quote of the Week

"Air Power is a force to fatally undermine [an enemy's] ability to wage war."
– Omar Bradley

Vol. 51, No. 7 *www.laughlin.af.mil* **Feb. 21, 2003**

News in Brief

Heritage banquet

The Annual Black Heritage Banquet is set for 6 p.m. Saturday at Club XL. The dinner will include fried chicken, ribs, cat fish, collard greens, candied yams and more. The cost is $15 for club members and $18 for nonmembers.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Prince Smith at 298-5332.

Flea market

The Fiesta Flea Market is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Fiesta Community Center. The event is open to valid base identification cardholders.

For more information, call 298-5474.

Promotion ceremony

There will be an enlisted promotion ceremony at 4 p.m. Feb. 28 at Club Amistad.

For more information, call 298-5667.

Mission status

(As of Feb. 14)
Days ahead or behind with mission capable rate

T-37	**2.00**	**86.3%**
T-1	**0.30**	**79.4%**
T-38	**0.52**	**79.1%**
T-6	**N/A**	**82.2%**

Rumsfeld outlines options for using military in Iraq

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Possible outcomes in Iraq could lead to vastly different levels of outside military intervention in that country, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said today.

Rumsfeld told the Senate Armed Services Committee that at this stage, there are basically four possibilities regarding Saddam Hussein's future in Iraq: He could voluntarily step down and cede power to someone who would voluntarily disarm the country; he could step down and put someone else who is "equally unacceptable" in charge; forces within Iraq could overthrow Hussein; or a U.S.-led coalition could overthrow him.

"Depending on what happened and what the circumstance in the country was would de-

See 'Iraq,' page 4

Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy Stein

Ready, aim, fire...

Mauricio Bocanegra, Treadwestern vehicle operations, practices using a fire extinguisher at the fire station. All employees of Treadwestern, Del-Gen and T-Square receive annual training.

Laughlin receives 'Greenlight' in ESOHCAMP

By Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde
Staff writer

Over 30 experts from Air Education and Training Command inspected Laughlin's Environmental Safety Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program Feb. 10 – 14 to ensure compliance of Air Force instructions and federal and state laws.

Comparable to the operational readiness inspection, Laughlin's overall evaluation was "outstanding." This evaluation was derived from the inspection of major elements of safety and occupational health along with the following 13 protocols: air emissions, cultural resources, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, natural resources, pesticides, petroleum oils and lubricants, solid waste, storage tanks, toxic substances, wastewater, water quality and other environmental issues.

"I think the overall health of the program scored a green light and showed that there were very few high vulnerability findings," said Ramon Flores, 47th Civil Engineering Squadron environmental engineer flight chief. "Most of the issues in the program were management practices, so that means we've done a pretty good job basewide."

The evaluation can be attributed to the new initiatives that gained positive ratings in hazardous waste, solid waste and other environmental issues protocols. Pat Woods, 47th CES senior compliance engineer, created the "Super Skimmer 3000," a device designed to prevent hazardous wastes from entering the sanitary sewer by separating water from the waste sludge. "The skimmer replaces a hand-held suction tube that stirred up the sludge and allowed some wastes to escape," said Mr. Woods. "There was a better way to separate the non-hazardous water from the hazardous sludge. Since the sludge sinks to the bottom, the safe way was from the top, so I came up with the skimmer," he said.

In addition to the "Super Skimmer 3000," innovative community

See 'ESOH,' page 4

Commanders' Corner

Maj. Bruce Gunn
47th Flying Training Wing comptroller flight commander

Change: one of life's constants

Many years ago, my parents took the family to Yellowstone National Park. One of the highlights was watching the geyser, Old Faithful, erupt at predictable intervals throughout the day.

According to the website for the National Park Service, "The famous geyser currently erupts around 20 times a day and can be predicted with a 90 percent confidence rate within a 10 minute variation." In short, it's dependable, predictable and kind of reassuring. It's nice to know some things never change. Fortunately, not all things stay the same. Change is all about us – ever present – and I, for one, am glad it's there sometimes. Let's embrace it.

A certain amount of constancy is comforting and crucial to our sanity. Think about how many things in your life stay roughly the same day in and day out. For example, you wake up in the morning and the house is always warm, food is always available, water always runs hot in the shower, kids are always pleasant to each other, car always starts on demand, law of gravity always makes things fall, sun always comes up in the east and, of course, the boss is always pleasant to you at work.

Well, okay, your list of constants is different than mine. Nevertheless, we all have certain things we can depend on. On the flip side, think of a life in which nothing changes, the same food every day, the same job year in and year out, the same clothes, the same scenery of a geyser erupting. It kind of gets boring after a while.

Now imagine a life without any constants, a life where items on the previous list were different each day. What a confusing mess. One day, you put a book on a table and it stays, the next it falls up. The shower is hot one day, cold the next, and you dread finding out which one it'll be next. Your aircraft flies one day, the next it seems to have no idea what the Bernoulli Principle is.

I bring up constancy and change in the extremes to show the absurdity of life on either end of the spectrum. In reality, we strike a balance between the two. Some of us prefer to be more toward the end where constancy rules, others like more change in our lives. The question isn't so much where you are on the spectrum, but how you react when faced with change.

As Air Force members, we have the heavy honor of defending our nation. The nature of our profession forces us to look for new and improved ways of doing things. In combat, we have to be better, faster, stronger and smarter than our opponents or we lose. In peacetime, we have to do things better, faster and smarter or we lose. This rule applies to everyone whether officer, enlisted, civilian or contractor. This rule screams change at all of us.

How do you react when changes are placed before you? Do you grumble about having to fly a new aircraft or do you embrace the challenge? Do you complain when required to take on new tasks or do you embrace the change? Do you gripe when a new system or procedure is developed or do you welcome the enhanced speed and productivity it will bring?

Check your attitude towards change; embrace it.

Develop, review wellness checklist

By Lt. Col. Harvey Kelley
14th Medical Operations Squadron

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. – Are checklists important? As we train pilots at the 14th Flying Training Wing, checklists are one of the most important tools in the aeronautical decision-making process.

Pilots at all stages of flying from the student to the command pilot use checklists. Pilots use a very extensive checklist during preflight to determine airworthiness of the aircraft.

As there are checklists for the aircraft, there are also checklists to evaluate a pilot's fitness to fly.

These checklists are essential to the safety of the pilot and aircraft.

Is there a checklist people who aren't aircrew members can use to evaluate their health statuses? As the 14th Medical Group preventive medicine flight commander and a dentist by profession, I know optimal health can only be achieved by prevention.

Prevention can be thought of in two ways. One is to prevent accidents, illness or disease. The other is to have an illness and prevent it from progressing.

The following checklist can be used in both areas of prevention.

■ Medications: Am I taking medications as prescribed? Many diseases and chronic problems can be controlled and or prevented with medication.

■ Surgery: In many instances surgery is life saving.

■ Nutrition: Do I eat too much? It has been shown that decreasing the daily intake of food by one third will increase your life by

See 'Review,' page 3

Editorial Staff

Col. Dan Woodward
Commander
Capt. Paula Kurtz
Public affairs chief
2nd Lt. Lindsay Logsdon
Internal information chief
Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein
Editor
Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde
Staff writer

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.

Contents of the Border Eagle are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the Del Rio News Herald of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color or, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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.conde@laughlin.af.mil.**

Life different during deployment

By Chief Master Sgt. Robert Burleigh
82nd Training Wing command chief master sergeant

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – I am currently deployed to Southwest Asia where I have been since Nov. 30.

People here are from various specialties, many of which can be found at any Air Force base. All are vital to ensuring our aircraft get to the right place at the right time.

The nature of the mission, along with our relatively small size and working conditions, provides everyone with an insight as to how valuable each Air Force specialty is in sustaining the war-fighting effort.

The typical duty day is 12 hours long, and most people work six days a week. Since operations run around the clock, the shifts are staggered and people work 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., or noon to midnight. Shift staggering also prevents overcrowding of the latrines, showers, shuttles to and from work and the dining facility.

Everyone here lives in tents. There are eight people per tent; however, individual tent population may change as people rotate in and out. Space is at a premium, so most tents have bunk beds. The top bunk is typically used for storing the A, B and C bags which are filled with all types of gear one might need while deployed. There is also one small wall locker, about 6 feet high and 18 inches wide, for people to store their personal items.

There are no private bathrooms here, as they are all contained in trailers. The base has two laundry tents and, just like at home, we get to do our own laundry.

Our dining facility consists of three large tents, and all the meals are prepared by Air Force services troops. We receive four hot meals a day and are served some of the best food I have eaten in a military dining facility. I do miss real plates, flatware and glasses, as we use Styrofoam plates, plastic flatware and paper cups for our meals.

The services crew also does an outstanding job keeping our morale up. There are game shows, basketball contests, volleyball tournaments, horseshoes, bingo and other fun activities to keep us entertained. Bingo is by far the biggest crowd pleaser. Top prize is at least a $300 value.

We have one pool table, one ping-pong table, six 36-inch televisions and one big screen TV. All TVs have VCRs, DVDs and game access. There is no cable or satellite television here, but the Armed Forces Network provides us with three channels. Moreover, we are able to see live sporting events and news broadcasts.

Our location has two chaplains, and they provide services to meet most religious needs. There is always some type of religious activity during the week to suit everyone. Our choir is a diverse group of people from different denominations.

Generally, the American flag is not flown outside. However, we do post it for ceremonies and special occasions. Although not visible at all times, its significance is always near and dear to everyone's hearts, and is a constant reminder of the importance of what we do and why we serve. Yes, we sacrifice many things for our country, but they are but one small price for freedom.

God bless each and every one of you.

'Review,' from page 2

10 years. Do I eat the right types of food? The body needs the correct amount of proteins, carbohydrates and fats. Do I get enough water? Recommendations are usually about 64 ounces per day.

■ Exercise: Do I move my muscles enough? Muscles need to be involved in an activity that keeps them in condition to perform activities of daily life. Stretching increases flexibility and is important for muscle and bone health.

■ Sleep: Do I get enough sleep and is it good sleep? Research indicates most people are sleep deprived. Studies have consistently shown the average person needs 10 hours of sleep per day.

■ Stress: Am I too stressed? There are many stressors in life. Two that play a major role are mental and emotional. Mental are those that are short lived. An example is a flat tire. The flat gets fixed, and the mental stressor is gone. Emotional stressors are usually chronic and are produced from feelings of not being in control. This type of stressor is associated with chronic health problems.

This checklist will provide a place to start as you look at prevention in your everyday life. Prevention is the foundation upon which to build optimal health and take responsibility for one's own wellness.

Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training Wing commander

Actionline

Call 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.

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Hiring practices

I recently received an anonymous Action Line call from someone who had questions about the integrity of our civilian hiring practices. Let me set the record straight. An applicant qualifies for positions based on experience, education or a combination of both. Due to privacy concerns, our civilian personnel flight will not and should not discuss an employee's records with others. However, the CPF as well as the Air Force Personnel Center are readily available to discuss individual applications with those applicants who were not selected, provided the applicant self-nominated when that position was announced.

'ESOH,' from page 1

environmental awareness initiatives designed to educate elementary-aged children about the environmental programs available through the youth center earned the program a positive rating under the solid waste protocol.

The inspectors also recognized the other environmental issues protocol for innovative use of a website for the installation restoration program. This program was designed to convert all public records to an electronic format for viewing through the internet.

Although positive ratings are recognized during the thorough inspection, the primary reason for an internal assessment is to find and correct areas needing improvement before receiving costly fines from the outside agencies, said 1st Lt. Jadee Bell, 47th CES environmental project manager.

Because the inspections take place every two years, "there's room for new findings as changes take place," said Lieutenant Bell. Some of the areas identified for improvement were improper storage and management of hazardous material, inadequate use and care of personal protective equipment in occupational health. "We'll get a report describing the findings and ways of backing up funding," said Lieutenant Bell. "All of the findings should be able to be fixed within 60 days."

Outstanding ESOHCAMP performers

1st Lt. Jadee Bell, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron

Timothy Selfridge, 47th Maintenance Directorate

Victor Garcis, Del-Gen Inc.

Staff Sgt. Christopher West, 47th MX

Pat Woods, 47th CES

'Iraq,' from page 1

termine how long and what role the military would have to play," Rumsfeld said. "Clearly the goal would be to go in and see that what resulted was better than what was there beforehand."

He said that means the United States "simply has to be willing to stay there as long as is necessary to see that that is done, but not one day longer."

Regardless of how Hussein leaves power, there will be necessary steps for the U.S. military to take in Iraq. Military forces will have to find and destroy weapons of mass destruction and find and deal with terrorist networks operating inside Iraq, Rumsfeld explained.

Humanitarian and reconstruction efforts will demand additional military forces, but the secretary predicted other countries will step up to offer assistance in these areas.

Finally, Iraq must be put on a path to self-governance, much like what has happened in Afghanistan. Rumsfeld said U.S. and international officials will work with the Iraqis to find a solution that is appropriate for Iraq. In Afghanistan, military and civilian aid organizations assisted the people in that country in setting up a loya jirga, a traditional Afghan system for forming a government and choosing leaders.

> ***"We have no interest in other people's land or territory. We have no interest in other people's oil, as some articles seem to suggest."***
> **– Donald Rumsfeld,**
> Secretary of Defense

"The goal would be to get them on a path so that increasingly more and more was handled and managed by the Iraqi people themselves and that less and less was managed by the international community," Rumsfeld said.

He disagreed with suggestions that the United States is only interested in Iraq for economic reasons. "We have no interest in other people's land or territory," he said. "We have no interest in other people's oil, as some articles seem to suggest."

Newslines

Space-A Travel

The Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense has approved a one-year test to evaluate the expansion of space-available privileges for dependents traveling in the Continental United States. The test will allow dependents of active duty and retired uniformed service members to travel within the CONUS when accompanied by their sponsors. The test is set to begin April 1.

Dependents will assume the same category of travel as their sponsor. Retired members may sign up 60 days in advance but no earlier than April 1.

Active duty members must be in a leave or pass status to register for space-available travel, remain in a leave or pass status while awaiting travel and be in a leave or pass status the entire period of travel.

For more information concerning space-available travel and sign-up procedures, go to the Air Mobility Command public Web site at www.public.amc.mil/Spacea/spacea/htm or contact the servicing Department of Defense air terminal of interest.

Virtual emergency cards

All active duty, guard and reserve members at Laughlin have to fill out a Virtual Record of Emergency Data by March 9. The vRED is online and accessible through www.afpc.randolph.af.mil. Once there select "vMPF" logo at the top of the page. The program guides the member through the process of completing his emergency contact information .

For more information, call Freda Borders at 298-5828.

Club member scholarships

Air Force Services is conducting the 7th Annual Club Membership Scholarship Program. Current club members and their family members who have been accepted by or enrolled in an accredited college or university for entry during the fall of 2003 term as a part-time or full-time student are eligible to apply for scholarships.

Entrants must provide a 500 word or less essay on the subject of "Air Force Clubs – Help us make members first." All entries must be submitted to the 47th Services Division chief by July 15.

For more information, call 298-5374 or visit Club XL or Club Amistad.

Any concerns about work, Laughlin or the Air Force should be addressed through the chain of command. If problems persist, contact the Inspector General, Lt. Col. Peter Godwin at 298-5638.

General's visit gives direct insight from AFPC

Discusses stop-loss, force development, new online support

Compiled from staff reports

The Air Force Personnel Center commander provided valuable information about issues from the Virtual Military Personnel Flight, to manning shortages, to stop-loss, to the force development initiative during his visit here Feb. 14 – 15.

"I think that one of the challenges for us at AFPC is going to be reconciling the desire to automate – to be more accurate and to conserve resources – while at the same time trying to provide … personal contact and [a] guiding hand [in] what is going to happen in people's careers," said Maj. Gen. Thomas O'Riordan.

During his visit, General O'Riordan served as the guest speaker at the recent Undergraduate Pilot Training graduation, toured the base and met with Laughlin people to address current personnel issues.

According to the general, the best way to fix current manning problems related to the present high operations tempo is to think about long-term impact.

"Short-term fixes are a bad idea," he said. "We have a tendency to fix yesterday's problem with today's solution, which may not be implemented for another 18 – 24 months. We have to be decisive, but we should also think about the long-term impact of those changes."

While there continues to be a focus on fixing career field shortages through accessions, another tool likely to be used in the event of a near-term conflict is stop-loss.

Stop-loss restricts separation and retirement actions and in past conflicts such as Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Allied Force was implemented for career fields across the board.

This time the general believes the implementation is likely to be more streamlined. "The Air Force is going to try to take a tailored approach that smartly uses that tool, as one of many tools, to make sure that we retain the right skills to accomplish our operational objectives," said General O'Riordan.

"One of the most important things we do is provide support, training and the right alignment for our personnel support," said the general. "At the same time, that helps in terms of overall force accountability.

> ***"Good airmen are espoused technical experts in whatever field they're in. But it's also important that we build those skills to work as a team ... "***
> **– Maj. Gen. Thomas O'Riordan**
> *Air Force Personnel Center commander*

"I think that one of the key things we've done is try to understand what [the] critical shortages are," he said. And then the task is to get those limited number of skilled people to where they can support expeditionary requirements, he said.

It's also important to work on adjusting the flow of skilled people through initial training and retraining, he said.

"I think we're making some good progress in getting the right balance of people, so that we take care of those stressed career fields first," he said.

Although number crunching is a big part of the mission for AFPC members, the general is also focused on improving professional development for Air Force members through the chief of staff's new Force Development initiative.

Currently under development, the program intends to promote "personalized" education and training across all Air Force specialties.

Beginning with a prototype in the acquisitions career field in the spring, the Air Force will focus first on tailoring professional development opportunities for officers, and by the end of the year, follow with programs for enlisted and civilian members.

"We have the objectives in mind," said General O'Riordan. "We are going to tie in together the three important pillars: the institution, the commander or supervisor, and the individual. "The idea is that people are going to have more contact…. There's going to be more of a face to what we do."

While the force development initiative will likely result in more direct contact between members in the field and development team members at AFPC, other new programs are aimed at automating tasks.

One such program is the virtual military personnel flight, or vMPF, which is designed to get data to the customer more quickly, and give them more access to their personnel information from their desktop computer, without having to visit the military personnel flight.

The general also suggested that

Maj. Gen. O'Riordan

Air Force core values are a good overall guide to how people should navigate their career.

"That's just as much a part of our jobs as any other functional part is," he said. "Good airmen are espoused technical experts in whatever field they're in. But it's also important that we build those skills to work as a team, so we're not only exploiting the individual capabilities, but working that into the team environment.

"The main thing that people need to do is not be inwardly focused at all, but question how to mentor and lead and build teamwork around and for them. Do your job and lead other people, and you'll accomplish the needs of the Air Force."

Throughout his tour of Laughlin, General O'Riordan noted the attitudes and work ethic displayed by Team XL members.

"The leaders are heroes," the general said. "They represent the best example of enthusiasm, energy, commitment and frankly, I can't think of a better group of role models for our young students."

United States Air Force

U.S. 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

Air Force identifies new race, ethnic categories

By 1st Lt. Brandon Lingle
Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOPLH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Mixed-race airmen are now able to identify more than one race in their official personnel files because of a change in the Air Force records racial information. Also, each person can list his or her ethnicity.

Some race designations will automatically change to fit the new categories as part of the data conversion. The new categories are part of a government-wide effort to standardize race data.

"Everyone should take a minute to ensure their race preference is correct," said Col. Gary Smith, chief of the field activities division at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

In the past, airmen could select only one race preference, said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Knudson, superintendent of the military equal opportunity branch at AFPC. Now, they will be able to select any number of five newly designated race groups.

The revamped choices are American Indian or Alaska native, Asian, black or African-American, native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander and white.

The easiest way for people to view and update their racial designation is on the Virtual Military Personnel Flight by clicking the "vMPF" button at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/. Race choices and descriptions of the new categories are located on the "personal information" page under the "records review" link, Sergeant Knudson said.

"Most people's current race selections will smoothly transfer into the new categories," said Sergeant Knudson.

But some categories will automatically be re-designated. "Asian/Pacific Islander" will be converted to the "Asian" category, plus the former "other" and "unknown" options will be switched to the new "declined to respond" category.

The federal guidelines also ask people about their ethnic origin, he said. Now all airmen will be asked whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino descent.

For more information, call the Air Force Contact Center toll-free at (866) 229-7074 or DSN 665-5000 or by visiting your local personnel flight.

FEGLI - new premiums, change in age bands

Some Air Force civilian employees and retirees will see a change in the cost of their Federal Employees Group Life Insurance premiums or in their placement into a new age group.

A recent review of the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance premiums by the Office of Personnel Management resulted in the changes effective Jan. 1.

Because of today's generally lower mortality rates, OPM decided to reduce the premium for basic insurance and several of the Option B age bands, and add new age bands for Options B and C, said officials here. There are no changes to Option A premiums or to the existing Option C age bands.

■ **Basic life insurance:**

Current employees: the cost drops from 15.5 to 15 cents per $1,000 of coverage.

Retirees monthly rate: Someone electing the 75 percent reduction, who is under age 65, will see costs drop from 33.58 to 32.50 cents per $1,000 of coverage. It will still be free after age 65. If electing the 50 percent reduction and under age 65, the premium is dropping from 92.58 to 92.5 cents per $1,000 of coverage. After 65, the cost increases one cent from 59 to 60 cents. People under 65 electing no reduction will see the cost drop from $2.3758 to $2.1550 per $1,000 of coverage. After 65, the cost decreases from $2.04 to $1.83.

■ **Option A**:
No changes for current employees or retirees.

■ **Option B**:
Premiums are going down for several of the current age bands. The age band 60-and-above is being expanded into new age bands for ages 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, and 80-and-over. The premiums for the new age bands will change over the next 3-year period.

■ **Option C:**
No changes to premiums for existing age bands, except 70 and over is changed and expanded to 70-74, 75-79, and 80 and over.

Additional information can be found at www.opm.gov/insure/life or the November AFPC BEST newsletter at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm.

(Courtesy of AFPC)

iDEA
Show Us a Better Way

The Air Force rewards good ideas with money. Check out the IDEA Program data system at https://ideas.randolph.af.mil, or call 298-5236.

Fire chief provides safety tips:

By John Alexander
47th Civil Engineer Flight
chief fire inspector

In the United States, fires occur many times a day causing catrophic damage and affecting the lives of everyone, especially the young and very old. Having the attitude that it can't happen to me is fools play. Seventy percent of all fires and 90 percent of all fire deaths occur from fires in the home. One of every 16 U.S. homes will have accidental fires each year.

Many of these fires could be prevented and injury and loss minimized if people followed simple fire safety practices.

Below are do's and don'ts to reduce the chance of accidental fires.

■Never leave cooking unattended.
■Heat oil slowly.
■If grease catches fire, turn off the heat and place a lid over the pan.
■Cigarettes, matches and lighters are a major cause of all fires.
■If you smoke in your home, do not flick ashes onto the floor, or into wastebaskets.
■Leave space for air to circulate around portable heaters.
■Turn off all or unplug all appliances, including coffee makers and hot plates before leaving home or going to bed.
■Overloaded circuits are a constant problem that causes home fires.
■Never run cords under rugs or furnishings.
■Replace any cord or plug that has cracks or visible damage.
■Ensure smoke alarms are tested at least monthly.
■Having a portable fire extinguisher on hand and knowing how to use it is the best preparation you could have.

The fire protection flight is available to give lectures, demonstrations and home fire inspections, call 298-5633.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Eyes in the sky...

John Pennell, 47th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, shows retired Maj. Gen. Gerald Prather the capabilites of the new equipment during a visit to the radar-approach control building Wednesday.

New commander takes reins of 87th Flying Training Squadron

Compiled from staff reports

Team XL recently welcomed a new commander to the 87th Flying Training Squadron.

Lt. Col. Mark Mattison assumed command of the 87th FTS during a change-of-command ceremony Jan. 12.

Lt. Col. Mattison

Hometown: Salina, Kan.
Time in service: 17 and one half years
Education: Bachelor's degree in chemistry from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan. Master's degree in public administration from Oklahoma University.
Previous assignments: Europe, Asia and Conus
Greatest feat: Convincing the most beautiful woman in the world to marry me
Leadership philosophy: People want to know how much you care, more than they care how much you know.
Personal hero: President Dwight D. Eisenhower
Favorite quote: "I study war so that my sons may study economics," John Adams
Hobbies: Racquetball and boating
Bad habit: Too many.

Lt. Col. Mattison

Interested in the Air Force?

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

GPS jamming no 'silver bullet' for adversaries

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Iraq and other potential adversaries may have the ability to jam global positioning system signals, but Air Force war planners are not too worried about the effect of jamming on precision munitions.

In fact, it is a challenge they have been anticipating for a long time, and they are confident in their ability to overcome it.

"From the day we built GPS, we've been working on ways to overcome jamming," said Lt. Col. John Carter, chief of space requirements at the Pentagon. "We're very confident we can do that."

GPS is a constellation of satellites that emit electronic signals while orbiting the Earth. A GPS receiver gathers the signals from multiple satellites overhead, then triangulates those signals to calculate its precise location. Those receivers can be hand-held or mounted in ships, aircraft, vehicles and precision guided munitions.

The United States routinely installs GPS guidance packages in standard 500- 1,000- and 2,000-pound bombs to create the Joint Direct Attack Munitions. The JDAM typically strikes within 13 meters of its target. According to reports, Iraq has acquired several Russian-made transmitters capable of jamming the GPS signal.

In general terms, someone could "jam" a radio signal by transmitting a more powerful signal on the same frequency.

While the tactic may seem easy to accomplish, Colonel Carter said he would not encourage anyone to take the job.

"Anyone who (transmits) on the battlefield can be found, and anyone who can be found can be targeted," he said. "When the bad guys are picking jobs, (they) don't want to pick 'GPS jammer.'"

The Air Force also is looking ahead to ensure future GPS satellites are more jam-resistant, beginning with the current crop of modified GPS IIRs.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Ammons

An F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot with the 79th Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., releases a 2,000-pound Joint Direct Attack Munition. Iraq and other potential adversaries may have the ability to jam GPS signals, but Air Force war planners are not too worried about the effect of jamming on precision munitions.

"One of the features of the modification is something called flexible power, which increases the power level radiated from the GPS," said Peter B. Teets, undersecretary of the Air Force and chief of the National Reconnaissance Office.

That power increase will provide some anti-jam capability, but Teets said the real improvement will come when the GPS III is introduced in about 10 years.

"We recognize the fact that GPS can be jammed," Mr. Teets said. "We're taking steps to make it much more jam-resistant on the satellite side, on the control-element side and on the user-equipment side.

Now showing: Feb. 17 edition of Air Force Television News

A new edition of Air Force Television News is now airing on the commander's access channel, cable channel 34, Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The loss of two Air Force officers in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster highlights the latest edition.

Tech. Sgt. David Pullen profiles Col. Rick Husband, the mission commander, and Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, the payload commander, who were members of the crew who died when the shuttle disintegrated over Texas.

Staff Sgt. Pachari Lutke visits Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., to detail the stepped-up security for shuttle and other launches at Cape Canaveral in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks.

Tech. Sgt. Paul Firman reports on Air Force policy governing the use of stimulants given to flight crews to keep them alert on long missions. In a companion story, Staff Sgt. Joe Wallace visits a laboratory at Brooks City-Base, Texas, where studies are under way to determine how to better keep troops awake and alert during long missions.

Staff Sgt. Leigh Bellinger watches the final days of basic training for an all-Air National Guard flight at Lackland AFB, Texas. Staff Sgt. Bronwyn Tardo is at Malmstrom AFB, Mont., showing how one airman helped save more than 100 dogs and cats brought into the country illegally.

Air Force Television News is a biweekly production of Air Force News Service. It is also available on the Internet at www.af.mil, and can also be seen regularly on The Pentagon Channel. The program is the only military production offered with closed captioning. Viewers can comment on the program by sending e-mail to: aftvnews@afnews.af.mil.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Laughlin Salutes

Noncommissioned Officer Academy graduates:

- Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Brown, 47th Mission Support Group
- Tech. Sgt. Joseph Williams, 47th MSG

Airman Leadership School:

- Senior Airman Paul Williams Jr., 47th Operations Support Squadron

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 ● Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim ● Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

Sunday ● 6:30 p.m. Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238
Friday ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship (activities for children)
Monthly ● Women's fellowship (call 298-1351 for details)

Protestant

Sunday ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
● 11 a.m., General worship (blend of contemporary and traditional worship, nursery provided)
Wednesday ● 10 a.m., Women's Bible study
● 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

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

Thinking about getting out? Think again.

Call the career assistance adviser at 298-5456 for guidance.

Desert Hawk nominated for Collier Trophy

By 1st Lt. Andre Kok
Electronic Systems Center Public Affairs

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. – The Air Force has nominated the "Desert Hawk" unmanned aerial vehicle for the National Aeronautic Association's Robert J. Collier Trophy.

The Desert Hawk was developed by the Electronic Systems Center's Force Protection System Program Office here.

The program, selected over three other programs was sent on to the Air Force level, where it was selected as the Air Force entry.

The Collier Trophy is awarded annually for the greatest achievement in aeronautics or astronautics in America. Recipients include Orville Wright, Neil Armstrong and Chuck Yeager.

The Desert Hawk is a seven-pound unmanned aerial vehicle, which can capture color video or infrared imagery. Launched with a bungee system, the UAV does not require a pilot for operation.

Autonomously executing its flight plan, the UAV feeds data back to the operator at a mobile ground station, said Maj. Mike Giger, FPASS program manager. If necessary, the operator can change the flight plan with the click of a mouse, directing the aircraft to change its flight path or circle over a certain area for a period of time.

Security forces can use the Desert Hawk to collect information if a situation arises, without having to send people into a possibly hostile situation, said Giger.

The winner of the 2002 Collier Trophy will be selected later this month.

The *XL*er

Hometown: Fayetteville, NC
Family: Wife Amy
Time at Laughlin: Two years, five months
Time in service: Two years, eight months
Greatest accomplishment: Getting married to Amy
Hobbies: Hanging out with my wife and friends and working on my house or car
Favorite music: Country
Favorite movie: The Matrix
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? Amy. This should be self-explanatory.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

1st Lt. Jon Hougnon
84th Flying Training Squadron

Tuskegee airman reflects on 'his'tory

By 2nd Lt. Lindsay Logsdon
Public Affairs

One of America's original Tuskegee Airmen visited Laughlin Feb. 12 sharing his time and stories of his life at an enlisted call and as the guest speaker at the Airman Leadership School graduation.

Retired Tech. Sgt. George Watson recalled the fledgling days of the Tuskegee Airmen and the trials and triumphs that marked them. Mr. Watson entered the Army Air Corps Feb. 25, 1942. "I came right out of high school in 1941. There wasn't much to do in my hometown so I volunteered through the draft board to come into the service," he said.

Although Mr. Watson didn't know anything about the Tuskegee Airmen when he decided to join the service, he would be forced to find out. At Fort Dix, N.J., a corporal tested Mr. Watson. "I did very good on [the tests] and said I wanted to go into the infantry. The corporal said, 'no you don't,' and took a pencil and crossed everything off and put Air Corps. I said 'wait a minute I don't know how to fly airplanes'. He said, 'well everybody in the Air Corps is not flying airplanes'," said Mr. Watson.

The Army Air Force began a program in Alabama to train black Americans as military pilots July 19, 1941 at Tuskegee University. "I didn't know anything about it. I was just fortunate that they sent me down there," said the New Jersey native.

The Air Corps was not Mr. Watson's first choice, but upon arrival his perspective changed. "I wasn't that interested in it really, but when I arrived at Tuskegee as part of the ground support it was something else."

For every pilot that flew at Tuskegee there were 10 support people on the ground. Mr. Watson's first interview at Tuskegee determined his job. "A white sergeant interviewed me and wanted to know what I majored in in high school," he said. After the sergeant learned that Mr. Watson had two years of bookkeeping, accounting and typing he was assigned to a typewriter in the corner.

Typing was not all Mr. Watson's job consisted of. "I was working in tech supply. My job was to requisition parts for the aircraft and take care of the records. I also worked with the mechanics and crew chiefs," he said.

With World War II raging, the first Tuskegee-produced flying squadron, the 99th, was finally sent to North Africa in June of 1943. Mr. Watson didn't go overseas until February 1944. "I was overseas 23 months, because they didn't send me back after the war was over," he said.

> ***"The pilot would tell us what was wrong with the plane and what he needed and we made sure we got that part that night so that he was prepared for the mission the next morning."***
> **– George Watson,**
> Retired Tuskegee airman

Overseas, Mr. Watson served in Italy, Germany, England, Turkey and Iran. He was assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group while in Italy. "While overseas I made it my business that when the planes came back off of a mission I was there. The pilot would tell us what was wrong with the plane and what he needed and we made sure we got that part that night so that he was prepared for the mission the next morning," Mr. Watson said.

The overseas tempo marched to the tune of war. "It was long hours, but we didn't really mind. We knew that we were in an elite outfit," said Mr. Watson.

The relationship between officers and enlisted in the 332nd was strong. "We could call these pilots by their first names. We still respected their rank. We got along very good because they were going through the same things that we were," Mr. Watson said.

George Watson

While Mr. Watson was in Italy, segregation ended in the Air Force. "The climate before integration was very bad," said Mr. Watson, who shared his experiences with school children across the country after he had retired from the Air Force.

"When I used to go out to give my talks I always used to dwell on the negative things until I had an experience," said Mr. Watson. After one of his talks a young girl had come up crying asking why people were so mean to him, and he realized that he needed to also tell about his good experiences.

"After that I would tell some of the negative things but I would not dwell on them," he explained.

Mr. Watson is one of the few enlisted men from the original Tuskegee Airmen. At age 82 he still gives talks all over the world. This is the last year he will be traveling abroad and speaking.

As for today's integration climate, Mr. Watson thinks it's healthy. "Sometimes I hear stories from those in the service now, but I look at the rank that they have and I know the times aren't like what we went through. I think, 'Gee maybe we made it good for a lot of them.'"

Tuskegee History

On July 19, 1941, the Army Air Force began a program in Alabama to train black Americans as military pilots. Primary flight training was conducted by the Division of Aeronautics of Tuskegee Institute, the famed school of learning founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881. Once a cadet completed primary training at Tuskegee's Moton Field, he was sent to nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field for completion of flight training and for transition to combat type aircraft. The first classes of Tuskegee airmen were trained to be fighter pilots for the famous 99th Fighter Squadron, slated for combat duty in North Africa. Additional pilots were assigned to the 322d Fighter Group which flew combat along with the 99th Squadron from bases in Italy.

In Sep. 1943, a twin-engine training program was begun at Tuskegee to provide bomber pilots. However, World War II ended before these men were able to get into combat.

By the end of the war, 992 men had graduated from pilot training at Tuskegee, 450 of whom were sent overseas for combat assignment. During the same period, approximately 150 lost their lives while in training or on combat flights.

Additional men were trained at Tuskegee for aircrew and groundcrew duties – flight engineers, gunners, mechanics, armorers, etc. Others were sent to Texas and New Mexico for training as navigators and bombardiers.

(Courtesy of United States Air Force Museum, www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/index.htmAFPC)

Sportslines

3-point shoot-out

The Fitness Center is having a March Madness 3-point Shoot-out at 10 a.m. March 8 at the Fitness Center. Participants must be 16 years or older and must sign up by March 6.

For more information, call 298-5251.

Aerobics schedule

Step, Spin, Cardio Kickboxing and Power Yoga classes are available at the XL Fitness Center for all Laughlin people to attend.

The classes are: Monday – Friday has classes at 9 a.m.; Monday – Thursday includes noon and 5:30 p.m. classes; and Monday and Wednesday Power Yoga is scheduled at 6:30 p.m.

All classes are free and are conducted by certified instructors. For more information, call the fitness center at 298-5251.

Basketball standings

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L	PF	PA
87th	9-0	453	304
OSS#1	6-3	372	294
86th	7-3	401	337
LCSAM	4-5	288	294
84/85th	1-7	282	352
OSS#2	0-9	197	355

Western Conference

Team	W-L	PF	PA
SFS	7-3	434	352
MED GP	5-2	311	264
CES	7-1	461	336
Compt.	3-6	326	448
CCS	2-7	315	401
LSI	2-7	354	431