

Highest ranking female pilot speaks at graduation... See page 5

Border Eagle

Vol. 51, No. 33

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Aug. 22, 2003

Newslines

Congratulations

Congratulations to Laughlin's candidates for Intermediate Developmental Education: Capts. Diane Vitas and Jason Vitas, both assigned to the 85th Flying Training Squadron.

Dynamite destruction

Unserviceable dynamite removed from the canine scent kit will be destroyed from 8 to 9 a.m. Tuesday at an area on the opposite side of the airfield. Laughlin members should be aware they may hear loud explosions during this time.

For more information, call 298-5541.

USO Show

A USO troupe will hold a performance 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Fiesta Center. The performance is free and open to all base personnel.

For more information, call 298-5826.

Centennial of Flight Celebration

Laughlin members are invited to attend the 47th Flying Training Wing's Centennial of Flight Celebration scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Sept. 13 at Hangar 1.

Dress for the event is civilian clothes (open collar, slacks) or period uniform.

Tickets are \$15 and will go on sale next week through squadron representatives. Tickets for members E-6 and below will be paid through fund raising. A full story on the celebration will appear in next week's Border Eagle.

Mission status

(As of Aug. 15)

Airframe	Days Behind or Ahead	Mission Capable Rate
T-37	0.48	90.5%
T-1	1.60	79.5%
T-38	-0.78	74.1%
T-6	-0.68	88.4%



Courtesy photo

A Laughlin T-1A Jayhawk sits mired in mud Saturday after rolling off the runway during landing at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. The accident is currently under investigation.

Laughlin plane rolls off runway at Keesler

Compiled from staff reports

A T-1A Jayhawk assigned to the 86th Flying Training Squadron rolled off the runway Saturday at approximately 10:20 p.m. at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

The crew was on a routine cross-country navigation proficiency training mission at the time of the accident and was immediately taken to the Keesler Medical Center for medical observation.

The T-1A aircraft is a medium-range, twin-engine jet trainer used in the advanced phase of specialized undergraduate pilot training for students selected to fly airlift or tanker aircraft.

The Jayhawk is also used in specialized undergraduate pilot training at Columbus AFB, Miss., Vance AFB, Okla., and Randolph AFB, Texas.

The cause of the accident is under investigation by safety officials.

Enjoy America's rights but remember responsibilities



Commander's Corner

By Maj. Bruce Gunn
47th Flying Training Wing comptroller

Recently, some friends were discussing ways of contributing to society, but found themselves discouraged with the idea of adopting a highway because people don't seem to care about their responsibilities as Americans anymore.

"Every day my yard has another beer bottle thrown on it by someone who apparently thinks it's his right to litter my yard," said one of my friends.

As Americans, we cherish our rights, and we should, but we should also make every effort to protect those rights. Isn't that what the U.S. Air Force is about? To protect this country and our rights?

Our founding fathers went so far as to solidify them into the Bill of Rights and I, for one, am grateful they did. If you don't know what's in it, do something novel and read the document.

What about our responsibilities? The problem with some Americans is that we're often too quick to boast of our rights and too slow to claim our responsibilities.

How often do you hear folks saying, "I have the right to say what I want, do what I want or dress as I please." But how often do you hear people proclaim their responsibilities?

That message is frequently drowned out by the relentless emphasis on rights above all else. Actually, quite a few of us talk about duty and demonstrate a respect for our "societal responsibilities."

Most of us care for our families, earn our own money or serve selflessly in

"The problem with some Americans is that we're often too quick to boast of our rights and too slow to claim our responsibilities."

some capacity. But as a whole, I think we have a long way to go in this country toward developing a sense of responsibility.

Perhaps what we need is a bill of responsibilities to augment the Bill of Rights. Think about it. What would our country be like with a bill of responsibilities? What would be in such a document?

I'll propose a few possibilities to give you something to ponder. Perhaps:

- Show respect for other people
- Respect the environment
- Respect the property of others

- Take responsibility for the care of your family
- Get and hold a job to earn your own way
- Don't knowingly do things that present undue hazards to others
- Look for ways to help the community through service
- Participate in our republican form of government.

Since such a document is unlikely to appear any time soon, it is our task to focus our efforts toward being more responsible people and citizens. Most of us share a sense of responsibility, but sometimes we lapse and do something, shall we say, well below optimal.

The challenge I present to each of us is to focus not only on our rights, but on our responsibilities as well. Look within, identify areas in which we act responsibly, identify others in which we don't and delete the latter from our lives.

When we have converted ourselves to a more responsible mode of living, let's try to convert our friends and neighbors.

President John F. Kennedy summed up this idea quite well by saying, "And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country."

Border Eagle

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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.clark@laughlin.af.mil.



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

Question: My complaint is the Pepsi machines with 50-cent beverages were replaced with Coke machines that sell beverages for 60 cents, and they don't have Dr. Pepper.

Answer: Thank you for giving me an opportunity to explain the recent change to our Army and Air Force Exchange

Service vending contract at Laughlin. AAFES awards contracts based on the service provider who offers the highest fee percentage back to AAFES and, in return, back to the base. In this case, Coke was awarded the primary contract, which provides 80 percent of the base business, and Pepsi, the secondary provider, was awarded the remaining 20 percent. This is the first time in 10 years that Laughlin has had a choice between the two vendors.

Within the next 180 days, AAFES will be conducting an installation survey of need to determine expansion and placement of additional machines, or in some cases, relocation of existing machines to better serve customers.

To answer your pricing question, AAFES figures its price by surveying similar vending operations in the local economy. The price that occurs most frequently is the price AAFES sets as the price

for the base. Since Laughlin had not accomplished a survey in five years, the machines were lower than economy standard; the new prices reflect the result of the local survey.

If you would like to have a Pepsi machine relocated to your area, please contact the base exchange at 298-3176 and they will be happy to take your request for change of service and forward it to the vending contract division.

Children must stay alert when returning to school

By Staff Sgt. Wallace Greenwood
56th Fighter Wing Safety

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — As the end of summer approaches and a new school year begins, students and parents should keep in mind safety concerns associated with going back to school.

For more than 23 million students nationwide, the journey back and forth to school will involve riding on a school bus.

According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration, school bus-related incidents killed 164 people and injured an estimated 18,000 people nationwide in 1999. In 2001, 26 students were killed and 9,000 injured in school bus accidents.

Although the numbers have decreased dramatically, there is one common thread that remains: The majority of deaths and injuries sustained by students didn't occur in a crash, but as the pupils were entering and exiting the bus.

The following are a few safety tips:

- Arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
 - When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness.
 - Line up away from the street as the school bus approaches. Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
 - If you drop something near the bus, tell the driver before picking it up.
 - Make sure the bus driver knows where passengers are at all times.
 - When on the bus, never put your head, arms or hands out the window.
 - Before reaching a stop, get ready to leave by getting your books and belongings together.
 - Wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat.
 - If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, make sure the driver sees you and wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
 - Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times.
- Although drivers of all vehicles are required to stop for a school bus when it is stopped to load or unload passengers, you should not rely on them to do so. Pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 5 to 14.

Officials release fitness-test details

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Beginning next year, Air Force officials will implement a new fitness test completely different than what airmen today are familiar with. The more functional test will include a 1.5-mile timed run, a muscular-fitness test of push-ups and crunches and a body composition test. It is designed to measure the general health of airmen, said Maj. Lisa Schmidt, chief of health promotions operations at the Air Force surgeon general's office.

"The goal is to have a healthy, fit force that can deploy at any time," Major Schmidt said. "Our goal is to prevent the onset of diseases such as heart attacks, stroke, high-blood pressure and high cholesterol. Basically, it is about keeping members healthy so they will perform optimally, in-garrison and deployed. Healthy members are more heat-, stress- and fatigue-tolerant, and less prone to illness and injury."

To measure airmen's overall

fitness, Major Schmidt's office and a panel of health and fitness experts developed a three-component measurement system that looks at aerobic fitness, body composition and muscular fitness, she said.

An airman's performance in each of the three component areas will earn points. They can earn a maximum of 50 points on the aerobic portion of the test, 30 points on the body composition portion and 20 on the muscular fitness portion.

The total number of points earned on the fitness test will put the airman into one of four categories: 90 or greater is excellent, 75 to 89.9 is good, 70 to 74.9 is marginal, and less than 70 is poor, Major Schmidt said.

"Scores based on health provide an opportunity for earlier intervention," Major Schmidt said. "If somebody scores in the marginal or poor category, we know they are at higher risk for disease. Therefore, we intervene with education and more frequent testing to monitor their progress."

People scoring marginal on the test will attend a two-hour healthy-

living workshop that focuses on lifestyle behavior, time management and fitness education, Schmidt said.

Intervention for people scoring in the poor category involves the healthy-living workshop, an individualized exercise program and a weight-loss program for those who exceed body fat standards. It also involves mandatory exercise five days a week, she said.

The test for body composition is still being finalized, but it will measure how much body fat a person has, Major Schmidt said.

Tests for other components of the fitness standard have already been determined. A 1.5-mile run will determine aerobic fitness. Airmen who are not medically cleared to run will take the cycle-ergometry test. Muscular fitness will be determined by both push-ups and crunches, which will be similar to those done in conjunction with the cycle-ergometry test.

Airmen's scores on the new fitness test will also determine how often they need to retest. People scoring "good" or "excellent" will

retest after a year, while those scoring "marginal" will retest after six-months. Airmen scoring "poor" will retest after 90 days.

Just how many push-ups and crunches airmen will have to do, or how fast they will have to run, has yet to be finalized. Major Schmidt's office has developed draft charts for the composite score. The fitness standards on the draft charts are tailored to both age and gender.

While the charts are not available yet, airmen who are not already involved in some sort of exercise program should begin now, Major Schmidt said.

"If you are not doing anything now and have concerns, see your doctor first," she said. "Begin slowly with an aerobic-exercise program such as running, jogging, swimming or biking, working up to at least 30 minutes on most days of the week. Muscular fitness and flexibility also need to be part of a balanced fitness program."

For information or questions about starting a fitness program, contact the health and wellness center at 298-6464.

Newslines

BX grand reopening

The Laughlin base exchange is holding a grand reopening ceremony 10 a.m. today. The ceremony will officially open the newly renovated exchange. The renovations updated the interior of the store, making it lighter and brighter, and introduced many new items to the facility. Army and Air Force Exchange Service will also officially open the new Enterprise Car Rental location in the mall area of the BX. There will also be drawings for giveaway items, special promotion and a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Band of the West

The Air Force Band of the West will be performing 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Paul Poag

Theatre. The performance is free but tickets are preferred. Tickets are available at Outdoor Recreation and the Del Rio News Herald.

Ticketed attendees must be seated 7:15 p.m. or the seat could be given to the general public.

Hunting meeting

The Val Verde Military Sportsman's Club will hold a meeting at 6 p.m. Sept. 5 for Laughlin members interested in archery and small game hunting.

Hunters must present a valid hunters safety card or proof of a hunting safety course; Texas resident, special resident or non-resident hunting license; or combination hunting/fishing license and a valid military, Department of Defense, Air Force or Air Education and Training Command identification card to hunt on Laughlin Air Force Base. Base-hunting permits will be issued at the meeting. The cost is \$5.

The will be additional meetings to issue hunting permits for the gun deer hunting season later in the year.

For more information, call 298-5860 or 298-5456.

West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus has been detected in several horses in Val Verde County. At press time fogging was scheduled at Laughlin from 1 to 5 a.m. today. Residents are reminded to take personal-protective measures against mosquitoes.

■ Drain all sources of standing water, as this is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

■ Prime mosquito feeding times are dawn and dusk; avoid being outside during these times or use insect repellent or wear long sleeves and pants.

Look for more information on the West Nile Virus in next week's edition of the Border Eagle.

Highest ranking female pilot visits Laughlin

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Clark
Staff Writer

The Air Force's highest-ranking female aviator visited Laughlin Aug. 15 to speak to Laughlin's newest pilots, class 03-13.

Before 26 airmen pinned on their wings, Maj. Gen. Betty Mullis, Air Education and Training Command mobilization assistant, spoke about many topics including motivation and balance, and their importance to service.

"I believe the most important part of my message was to try to be personal and remind people why we're serving," said General Mullis.

"When we raise our hands and swear to support and defend the constitution of the United States against

all enemies foreign and domestic, we are pledging our support not to just a piece of paper, but we acknowledge that there's an ultimate price we might have to pay in order to do that," she said. "We're promising to support and defend our American ideals and that's what's really important."

General Mullis said she joined the military 31 years ago for economic reasons when the workforce wasn't "female friendly."

Her father wasn't happy with the idea of her joining the military. "He was suspicious of my motivation," she said. "He didn't think I really understood what I was promising to do."

The general admitted that she didn't understand until her father, an Army World War II combat veteran, pinned on her wings, nine years after joining the

Air Force.

"That's when I really became a patriot," she said. "The night before my graduation, he shared with me some of his experiences in the Pacific. He is a Purple Heart-wearing, highly-decorated veteran who is a very private man. I don't think he had shared his experiences with very many people, certainly none I was aware of."

Filled with patriotism, the general advises young women to be confident and maintain focus on their goals.

"Don't sweat the small stuff," said the general, who, in 1996, was the first McClellan Air Force Base, Calif., femal wing commander. "There are a lot of peripheral things that will happen but just keep that goal in mind and keep on keeping on."



Maj. Gen. Betty Mullis

General Mullis pointed out that service members have beat the odds by joining the military.

"Polls today show people admire the military," she said. "People admire what we do, but they don't want their children to join. So (during the ceremony), I thought it was very important to thank and acknowledge the parents."

Along with acknowl-

edging the parents, General Mullis also talked to the pilots about finding balance.

"We don't want our families to become victims of a failure to communicate. It's not easy because we ask our families to give up a lot when [military] spouses are away. Without support from our [families], it makes it difficult to do what we do."

While service members may experience difficult times, the general said the Air Force has provided airmen with a moral compass.

"Integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do, that's our true north," she added. "If we always think of that code, it will always help us find the right direction in the military."

Heard any
good stories
or news
lately?
Get the
story
straight.
Contact your
public
affairs
office at
298-5988.

Airmen can select race in personnel file

By 2nd Lt. Tiffany Ewton
47th Mission Support Group
customer service chief

Since February, all airmen have had the option of selecting more than one race code in their official personnel file.

The revised race code titles and Hispanic declaration category came about as an answer to an Office of Management and Budget directive instructing all federal agencies, including Department of Defense, to standardize race data.

As part of the data conversion, most airmen's race designations

automatically changed to fit the new category. The previous race code Asian/Pacific Islander has been divided into two separate codes Asian and Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander.

During the update all persons in the Asian/Pacific Islander category were automatically designated Asian. Also, the former other and unknown options were converted to decline to respond.

Lt. Col. Jennifer Graham, 47th Mission Support Squadron commander, said, "The Air Force supports and encourages diversity in the work force. It is important for

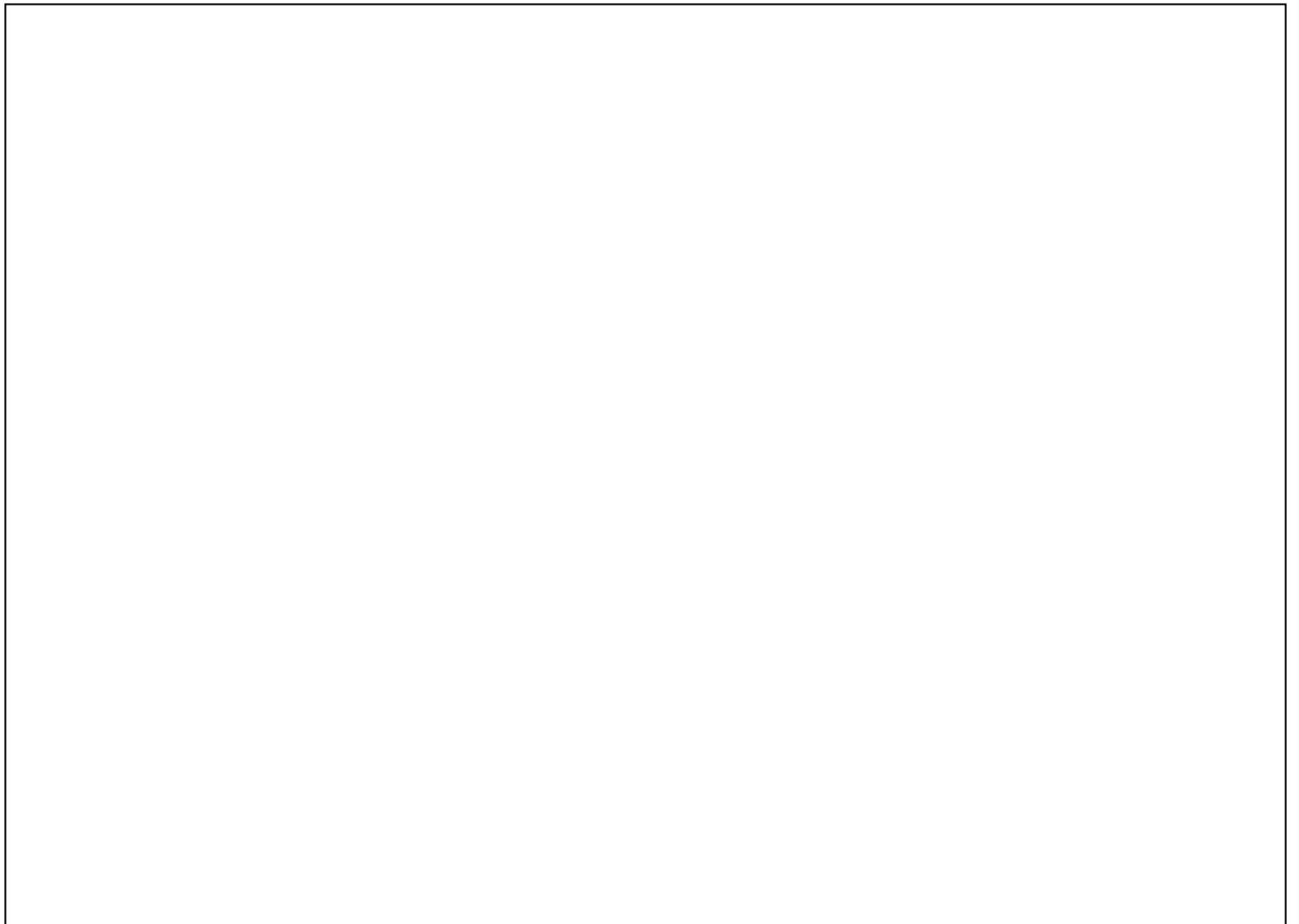
all Air Force members to ensure their race and ethnicity is properly recorded in these systems because the member determines these data fields. We are encouraging all Air Force members to review their records to ensure these important fields are correct."

The easiest way for members to view their racial designation is on the Virtual Military Personnel Flight by clicking the "vMPF" button at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil. Descriptions of each race category are available on the personal information page under the records review link.

The race categories are Ameri-

can Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and White. The Hispanic declaration code is a separate category in which you can select Hispanic, latino or not hispanic or latino.

Everyone is highly encouraged to review their race and ethnicity information, especially those who are Hispanic or a Pacific Islander. Members are also highly encouraged to review other areas of their personnel record such as decorations and service dates to ensure all information is correct.



Air Force spotlighted in August flight history

Aug. 12, 1915: A British seaplane launched a torpedo that destroyed an enemy vessel in the Dardanelles, marking the first time an airplane had sunk a ship.

Aug. 25, 1932: Amelia Earhart became the first woman to complete a non-stop transcontinental flight, from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey.

Aug. 5, 1943: Jacqueline Cochran assumed duties as director of Women Airforce Service Pilots, a new organization that merged her Women's Flying Training Detachment with the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron. Nancy Harkness Love, former WAFS commander, became WASP executive with the ferrying division of Air Transport Command.

Aug. 17, 1946: Sgt. Lawrence Lambert became the first person in the United States to successfully eject from an airplane by means of an ejection seat. He escaped from a P-61 flying more than 300 miles per hour over Ohio at an alti-

tude of 7,800 feet.

Aug. 10, 1949: President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act amendments of 1949, revising the unification legislation of 1947 and converting the National Military Establishment into the Department of Defense.

Aug. 4, 1955: Captured on Jan. 13, 1953, crew members of a special operations B-29 called Stardust 40 were released by China. They were held longer than any other prisoners of war during the Korean conflict.

Aug. 15, 1957: Gen. Nathan F. Twining became the first Air Force officer to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Aug. 7, 1959: Explorer 6, a U.S. satellite, transmitted the first television pictures from outer space. The first intercontinental relay of a voice message by satellite also took place. The voice was that of Maj. Robert G. Mathis.

Aug. 26, 1967: The North Vietnamese captured Maj. George E. Day, after shooting down his F-100

Super Sabre aircraft. Severely wounded, he was taken to a prison camp for interrogation and torture. Despite his crippling injuries, Major Day escaped and evaded the enemy for two weeks. He had crossed the demilitarized zone and came within two miles of a Marine Corps base when he was shot and recaptured. Back in prison and in poor health, he continued to resist his captors until he was released in 1973. For his bravery, he earned the Medal of Honor.

Aug. 21, 1970: Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird announced the Total Force Concept of the armed services, making the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard, rather than the draft, the initial sources for augmentation of the active force.

Aug. 12, 1977: Released at an altitude of 22,800 feet from the top of a specially modified Boeing

747, Enterprise – the first space shuttle – completed its first descent and landing.

Aug. 3, 1981: Air Force air-traffic controllers began to man U.S. airport facilities, replacing striking federal civilian personnel.

This action allowed commercial airlines to continue service despite the illegal strike.

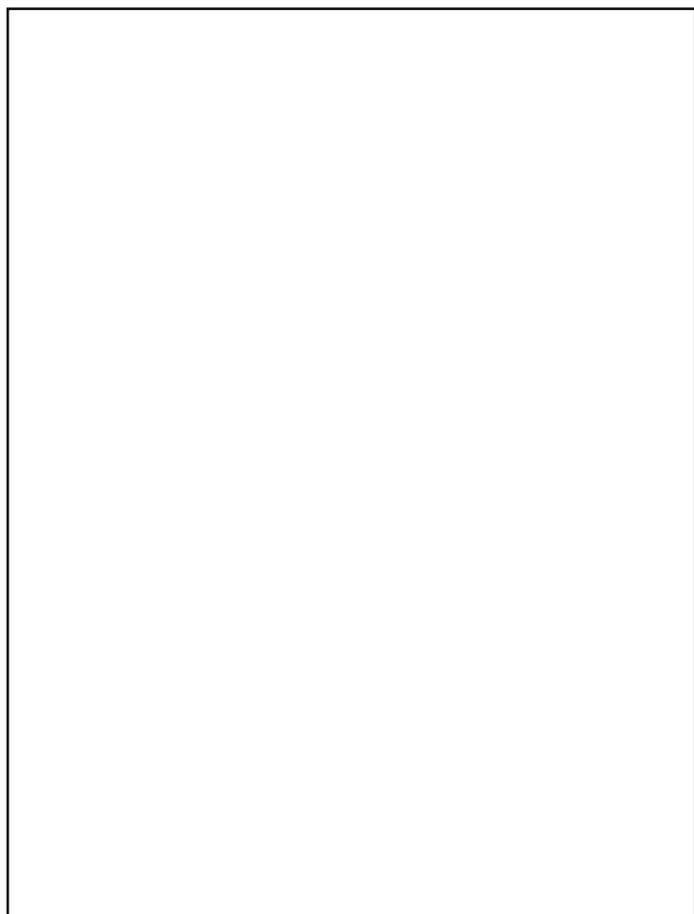
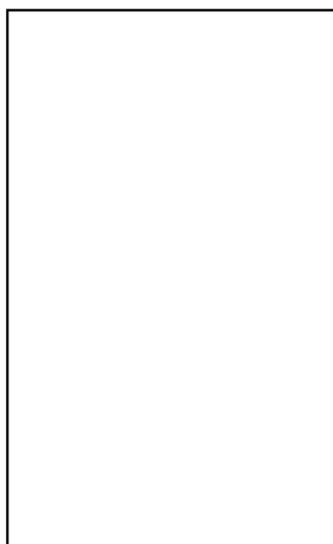
Aug. 30, 1983: Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford, became the first black astronaut to journey into space. He rode aboard Challenger on the eighth space shuttle mission.

Aug. 24, 1989: The space probe Voyager 2 left the solar system after a 12-year journey.

Aug. 7, 1990: The United States launched Operation DESERT SHIELD to defend Saudi Arabia from a possible Iraqi invasion. Among the first deployments was a 15-hour, 8,000-mile flight of 24 F-15C Eagles from Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, with 12 inflight refuelings.

Aug. 6, 1993: Dr. Sheila E. Widnall became the first woman secretary of the Air Force and the first woman to head any of the military services.

Aug. 24, 2001: At Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, the Air Force imploded the last of the Minuteman III missile silos in accordance with the terms of the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.



New edition of AFTV showing on channel 34

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — The work of Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard in three north-eastern states to keep people and supplies moving to and from Southwest Asia is spotlighted in the latest edition of Air Force Television News.

AFTV plays at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday on the Laughlin commander's access channel, base cable channel 34.

Staff Sgt. Bill Scherer visits Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., an ANG unit at Bangor, Maine, and Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., to show how airmen at these three locations link up to provide a vital airbridge.

Staff Sgt. Joe Wallace shows the effects the war in Iraq has had on deployment and the joy of airmen returning home. Sergeant Wallace goes to Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., for the reunion of an Air Force family and its newest member.

Staff Sgt. Leigh Bellinger is at Sheppard AFB, Texas, to watch as medics learn how to better treat

wounded on the battlefield. Bellinger also reports on an Air Force pilot training course for NATO pilots.

The increased threat of terrorism and the use of weapons of mass destruction is causing a rethinking of how the Air Force must react to such a threat. Tech. Sgt. Pachari Lutke uses an exercise at Robins AFB, Ga., to show how the military, other government agencies and the private sector are working as a team to combat the threat.

Air Force Television News is a biweekly production of Air Force News Service. It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide, and is seen on more than 700 cable TV outlets nationwide. It is also available on the Internet at www.af.mil, and can be seen regularly on The Pentagon Channel. The program is also closed captioned. Viewers can comment on the program by sending e-mail to: aftvnews@afnews.af.mil.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

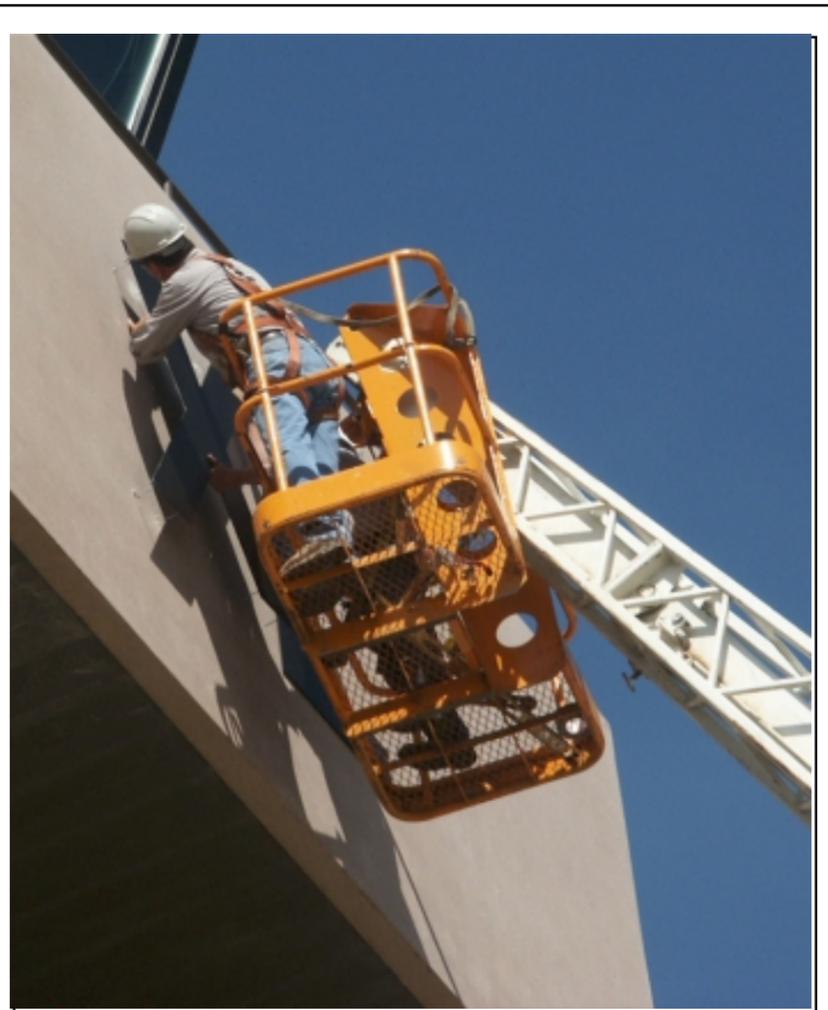


Photo by Airman 1st Timothy J. Stein

A little to the left...

Members of Del-Jen, INC., place a large X and L on the face of the control tower. The workers installed two sets of the letters Tuesday, one set facing the airfield and one set facing the base proper.

Laughlin airman convicted of larceny

Compiled from staff reports

A military judge sentenced a Laughlin airman to a bad conduct discharge, 120 days confinement and a reduction to airman basic after she was convicted of larceny and attempted larceny in a special court-martial Aug. 13.

Airman First Class Shari Loving, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron, pled guilty to stealing more than \$400 from a fellow airman and almost \$900 from the Air Force. In addition, she pled guilty to attempting to steal more than

\$580 from another airman. One charge of making a false official statement was dismissed.

"Trust is a fundamental principle inherent in unit cohesion and the accused in this case violated the Air Force's trust by stealing from other airmen and the military," said Capt. Preston Young, 47th Judge Advocate assistant trial counsel. "The Air Force can't operate effectively if good order and discipline is jeopardized and won't tolerate it."

Airman Loving was initially investigated for making inappropriate purchases with her government pur-

chase card after she used the card to make personal payments to mobile phone and cable television providers. She also used the card to purchase a computer software upgrade and a flat screen monitor.

During the investigation, it was discovered that the Airman Loving had used the checking account information of two other airmen to electronically pay her personal debts, including a car payment. In one case, her attempt to electronically steal money was unsuccessful.

During the court-martial, the

judge heard an audiotape of a phone conversation Airman Loving had with her car loan company. In the tape, she can be heard impersonating her victim and making arrangements to charge the other victim's checking account to make her own car payment.

Captain Young and Major Joseph Kiefer represented the Air Force, and Captain John Page defended the airman.

The convicted airman will be confined in a military facility. Her discharge will be executed when the appellate process is complete.

Ancient treasures

Rock art unveiled in nearby S

By Master Sgt. Lee Roberts
Special to 47th FTW Public
Affairs

Concealed in the arid canyon lands of South-west Texas are some of North America's most ancient treasures. Located just 45 miles west of Del Rio off U.S. 90, Seminole Canyon State Park and Historical Site features what is known as the "rock art of Fate Bell Shelter."

According to a park brochure, the earliest paintings at the park are known as Pecos River Style. They date back nearly 4,000 years and are multicolored, complex illustrations of the almost universal religion of hunters and gather-

ers around the world.

Terry and Kathleen Burgess, volunteer tour guides from the Rock Art Foundation, routinely lead interpretive tours into Seminole Canyon where they say visitors to the park seem to fall in love with the ancient pictographs, rugged limestone terrain and spectacular canyon views.

People often show up just wanting to see what's at the park, and are then surprised to learn that the park has prehistoric paintings, Kathleen said. "We have world class art here ... a Texas treasure that few know about," she said. "This kind of exquisite artwork just can't be seen anywhere."

Terry said that seeing the rock

art is an unforgettable not to mention educational experience, one that people at Laughlin would really enjoy. "It's really an outdoor geology class that's fun for everyone," he explained.

While the park features guided tours into the canyon to view the rock art, there is also camping, picnicking, bicycling, and hiking available. Also, there is an interpretive museum and gift shop on site.

Aida Mettleton, office manager at the visitor's center, said the park's interpretive museum chronicles the history of the Lower Pecos region from its first inhabitants nearly 12,000 years ago all the way up to the railroad and ranching eras a little more than 100 years ago.

However, Ms. Mettleton said, if someone wants a park ranger or volunteer tour guide from the Rock Art Foundation to lead them on a two-mile round-trip tour into Seminole Canyon, he or she can do so for a nominal fee. Tours into Seminole Canyon are available Wednesdays through Sundays at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Each tour lasts approximately two hours, but Ms. Mettleton cautions that because of the steep terrain hikers should be in good physical shape and have water for the trek.

In addition, Ms. Mettleton said, visitors can reserve campsites that have hookups for water only or with water and electricity by calling (512) 389-8900. Picnic tables with fire rings and grills are available in the day-use area, she added.

Finally, park officials said there are eight miles of trails for



Terry Burgess, a volunteer tour guide, points to a famous panel in the park titled "The T" during a tour. The panel features a large, stylized human figure. Although the caption mentions bicycling and hiking, the image shows a close-up of the rock art.

(Editor's note: For information about Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site, call (800) 792-1112 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us. To learn more about the Rock Art Foundation, call (888) 762-5278 or visit www.rockart.org.)



A tour group makes its way to see the "rock art of Fate Bell Shelter" Aug. 10 during an interactive tour of Seminole Canyon.

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Photos by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts

uide from the Rock Art Foundation, makes a point about the most he Triad.”



Terry Burgess explains how the elements caused this limestone rock formation.



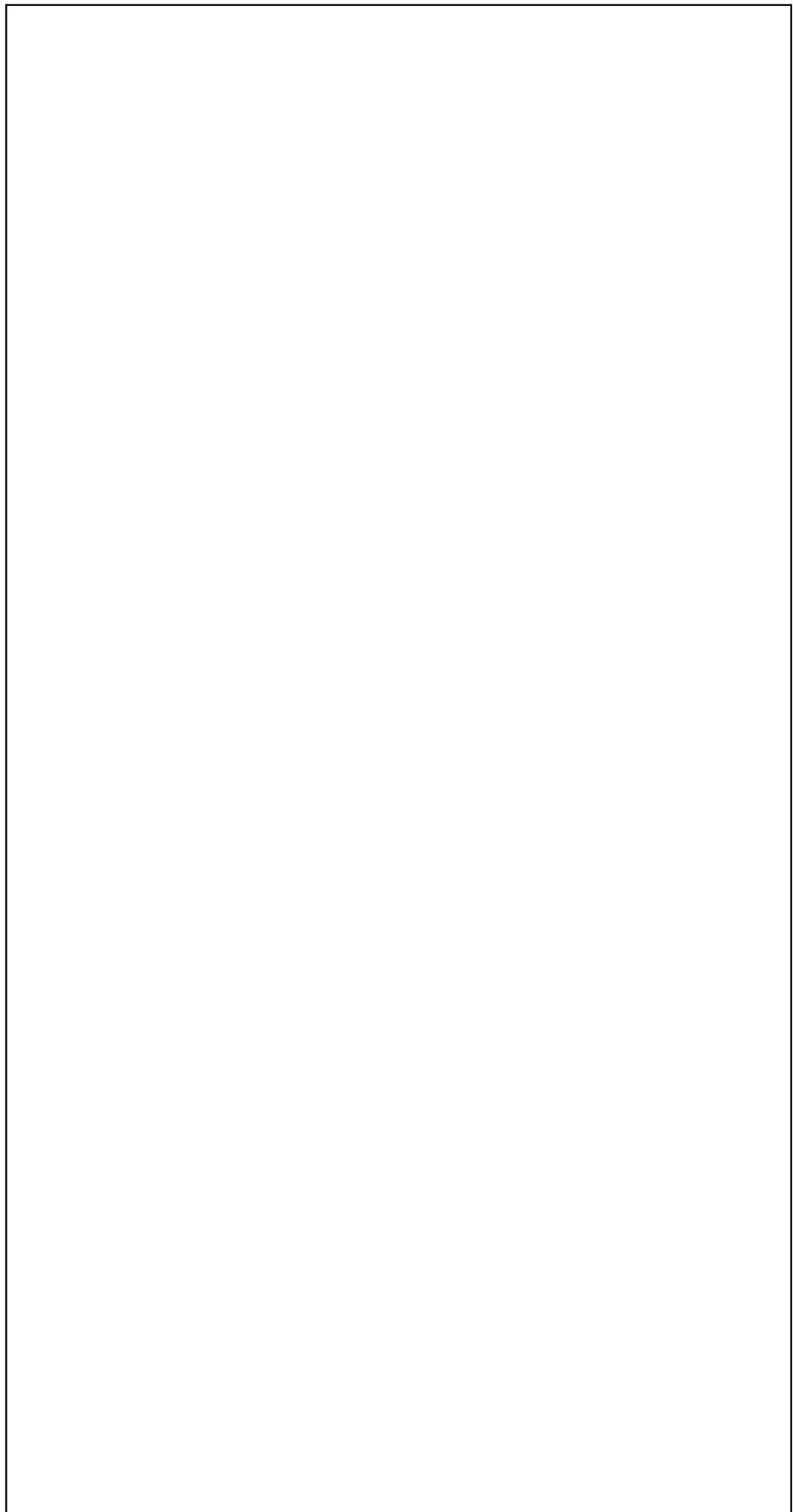
Seminole Canyon State Park and Historical Site includes a visitor's center with interpretive museum.



Photo by Airman 1st Yvonne Clark

Showing the way...

Tenice Stewart, officers spouses club board member, gives information about OSC to new member Jodi Gehrke during a membership drive. The next OSC drive is Sept. 17. The enlisted spouses club has a membership drive 7 p.m. Tuesday at Club Amistad.



Robots display force-protection prowess at expo

By James Coburn
37th Training Wing
Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – A demonstration of the latest in robotics and sensor technology gave security forces directors from Air Force commands worldwide some new ideas in how to protect bases and people without endangering personnel.

Robotics experts put 12 robots through some amazing paces, including one that crawled up walls and across ceilings, another that clambered over rocks with six rotating legs and a third

that wriggled like a snake through a pipe, during the Aug. 6 demonstration at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio.

The technology was brought together as the featured attraction of an exposition at Southwest Research of activities by the Force Protection Battlelab, located in the Air Force Security Forces Center here. The lab often uses Southwest Research to investigate its force protection concepts.

“This event served as the first time we’ve seen such a diverse group of robotic capabilities with force protection application

brought together in a single venue,” said Brig. Gen. James Shames, Air Force director of security forces at the Pentagon.

General Shames was in San Antonio to lead a two-day meeting of the 2003 Expanded Security Forces Executive Council at the Lackland center.

In addition to security forces directors, he said another 230 security professionals attended, including representatives of the Joint Robotics Working Group, Homeland Security Department, Center for Robotic Assisted Search and Rescue, Federal Emergency Management Agency, FBI and San Antonio Police Department.

Among the robots shown in action was the “Wall Crawler,” which can motor up walls and across ceilings on six wheels. It adheres to various surfaces, including brick walls, by means of a louvered fan that creates a low-pressure region between two adjacent surfaces, said Bryce Wiedeman, vice president of operations for Avionic Instruments Inc.

The 8.5-by-6.5-inch robot can be equipped with a video camera on a boom, he said, “that allows us to take



Photo by Robbin Cresswell

Bryce Wiedeman motors a six-wheeled robot along a wall by remote control during the Lackland Force Protection Battlelab Exposition Aug. 6 at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. A process called “vortex attraction” that works in both air and water holds the robot to the wall.

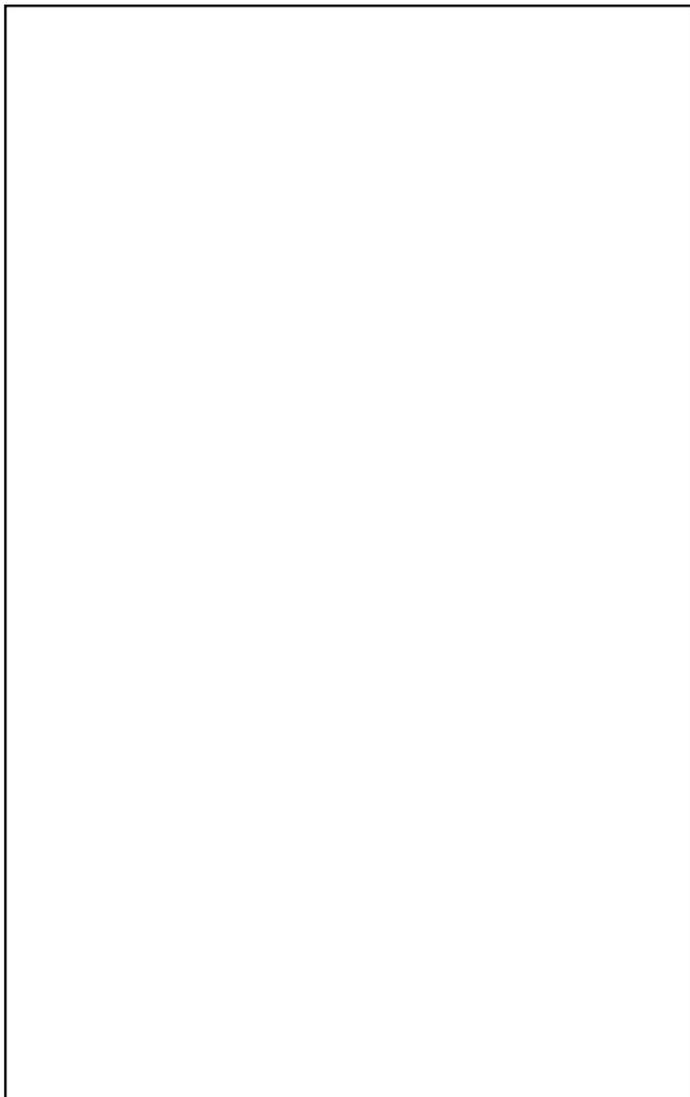
a little peek around a corner or over a ledge into a window.”

Col. Tommy Dillard, commander of the battlelab at Lackland, explained what robotics can do for force protection of security forces in the future.

“From an Air Force perspective, we’re looking at robots in the future to do a lot of the force protection deeds that we have right now,” he said. “Why put a person in harm’s way if you can take a machine and new technology to go ahead and do a first look?”

“Robotics, we think, can enhance our ability to protect our installations, people and resources,” Colonel Dillard said. “One of the things we want, and have asked the industry to do, is to be able not only to detect (with robots) but to start a neutralization phase before we can get response forces out there.”

“And we think robotics is going to revolutionize how we do that part of the business – not to replace cops or anything like that, but simply to make us better.”



The *XLer*

Airman 1st Class Thomas Flott

47th Communications Squadron network technician

Hometown: Phoenixville, Pa.

Family: Mom, Monica; dad, Michael; brothers, Damian, Joel and Josh; sister, Michelle

Time at Laughlin: One year, one month

Time in service: One year, six months

Greatest accomplishments: Leading the personnel computer common operating environment project, recording my own music

Hobbies: Song writing, singing, playing guitar, reading, computers, sports

Bad habits: Being evasive

Favorite movie: Snatch

Favorite musician/band: Weezer, Alkaline Trio, Third Eye Blind, Dashboard Confessional

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? Adam, to tell him not to eat the fruit.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy Stein

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 Community Fellowship

Protestant

Sunday

- 9:30, Sunday school

- 11 a.m., General worship

Wednesday

- 7 p.m., Choir

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

Do the world a favor and recycle this newspaper.



(Left) Airman 1st Class Matthew Tiegan, 47th Communications Squadron, maxes out on incline sit ups. (Bottom) Tech. Sgt. Marcel Brown, 47th Flying Training Wing legal office, performs leg presses.



(Above) Airman 1st Class Ronette McBean, 47th Contracting Squadron, easily runs 1.5 miles twice weekly. (Right) Airman 1st Class David Althoff, 47th Operations Support Squadron, performs push-ups during a workout.

Getting fit to fight!

Laughlin airmen prepare for new fitness standards

By Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark
Staff writer

Maintaining a physical fitness routine has always been a requirement for military members, but a new Air Force fitness program is scheduled to begin Jan. 1.

According to Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, the program was released to get airmen back to the basics of running, sit-ups and pushups.

The new fitness program will require men and women to complete a 1.5-mile run, 34-42 push-ups

for men, 13-19 for females (depending on age) and 38-53 sit-ups for men and women within two minutes.

"We will start this program Jan. 1," stated General Jumper in a recent sight picture. "... The message is simple: if you are out of shape, fix it."



Photos by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark