

# Border Eagle

Vol. 51, No. 42

www.laughlin.af.mil

Oct. 24, 2003

## Newslines

### Laughlin mourns death

The 47th Flying Training Wing would like to extend its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Shirley Pritchett, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron, who recently passed away.

### Daylight-saving time starts

Daylight-saving time starts Sunday. Everyone should set their clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday morning or before they go to bed Saturday night.

### West gate to close early

The west gate will close promptly at 9 a.m. Oct. 31 to support the Storybook Parade at Ribas-Dominicci Circle.

### Promotion ceremony set

An enlisted promotion ceremony is set for 4 p.m. Oct. 31 at Club Amistad.

### Thanksgiving feast tickets on sale

Tickets for the chapel's Thanksgiving feast Nov. 12 at Club XL are now on sale at the chapel administrative office. Tickets are \$5 for adults, and children ages 8 and under eat for free. Only 300 tickets are available.

For more information, call 298-5111.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

### Hanging with cops and dogs...

Juan Jose Morin Jr., Laughlin's first-ever "Pilot For a Day," pets Cash, a 47th Security Forces Squadron working dog, while Robbie's handler, Staff Sgt. Michael Kyker, tells Juan about the dog's job. Juan spent

Oct. 17 touring the base and riding in a T-1 simulator as part of the wing's new program for terminally ill or handicapped children. For more on Laughlin's newest pilot, turn to page 13.

## Deployment stats

Deployed	Returning next 30 days	Deploying next 30 days
50	31	29

## Mission status

(As of Oct. 17)

Airframe	Days behind or ahead	Mission Capable Rate
T-37	-3.56	94.1%
T-1	1.60	82.5%
T-38	-1.56	82.1%
T-6	-3.94	93.1%

## AF releases fitness standards

WASHINGTON – Air Force leaders released the fitness-scoring charts that will be used beginning Jan. 1.

"The amount of energy we devote to our fitness programs is not consistent with the growing demands of our warrior culture. It's time to change that," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper in a Sight Picture released in July, explaining the rationale behind the change.

Officials said the fitness score will include four components: crunches, push-ups, an abdominal-circumference measurement and the 1.5-mile

timed run. People who are not medically cleared to run will continue to take the bike test. The component scores are then added to get a composite fitness score and determine if the person falls into the excellent, good, marginal or poor category. The charts are available online at [www.af.mil/news/USAF\\_Fitness\\_Charts.pdf](http://www.af.mil/news/USAF_Fitness_Charts.pdf).

Fitness categories will determine how often a person must retest. For instance, a composite score of 70 to 74.9 places the person in the mar-

See **Fitness**, page 4

# Leadership starts with personal responsibility



## Commander's Corner

By Col. Keith Traster  
47th Flying Training Wing vice commander

A couple of weeks ago, I had the honor and pleasure of spending some time with a man I admire greatly, retired Col. George "Bud" Day, our nation's most decorated Air Force officer.

Colonel Day's life reads like a Hollywood movie – from his time as a Marine in World War II to becoming a lawyer, then a fighter pilot in Korea, and then his five plus years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. There is one recurring theme in his life: leadership and personal responsibility.

Colonel Day feels that leaders have the responsibility to always lead from the front regardless of the circumstances. Colonel Day's outlook comes from his strong sense of personal responsibility to his God, his family and his Air Force.

After my most recent time with him (he was also my advanced degree instructor during the mid-80s), I reread his book and found his point of view directly applicable to today's Air Force. After all, he knows of what he speaks because he relied on this outlook to come home with

honor despite suffering through extreme cruelty and deprivation for over five years in North Vietnam.

While most of us will never be asked to make anything near the sacrifices of Colonel Day, we owe it to our organizations, our fellow airmen, our families and ourselves to demonstrate leadership and responsibility. Regardless of our rank or position, we must remember each of us is a role model, and for that reason we must always exhibit the behavior befitting members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Whether you are the most senior general or the most junior airman, you are always being watched. From that 5-year-old little boy or girl who would love the chance to become a "blue suiter" to the newest airman in your unit looking for the right way to get the job done, there is always a set of eyes on you. Even your peers are checking to see if you are a person of integrity who does what is "right," not what is easy. You should constantly ask yourself, "Am I measuring up?"

Don't forget Colonel Day's premise that as members of the armed forces, we are leaders at all levels, and therefore, have the responsibility to lead at all times.

This is not a choice; it's an obligation!

We must set the example for others to follow, whether it's something as simple as keeping our haircut within regulations and our uniform sharp, or by making the tough decision to pass "bad news" up the chain because it's the right thing to do ... We must set and uphold the standards.

Your actions off duty are key as well. We are in the military 24/7, even when in civilian clothing, so the next time you are

downtown, don't forget you are being watched – act accordingly!

If a great American like Colonel Day can go through a living hell for over five years in a POW camp and return

**"Regardless of our rank or position, we must remember each of us is a role model, and for that reason we must always exhibit the behavior befitting members of the U.S. Armed Forces."**

with honor, the least we can do is honor him, the many other Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice and our nation by always acting responsibly.

Because of the sacrifices of these great Americans, we now have the privilege of wearing the uniform of our nation's armed forces. But along with this privilege comes a personal responsibility.

Don't let your Air Force, your country, your family or yourself down. Set the example – be a responsible leader.

## Border Eagle

### Editorial Staff

Col. Dan Woodward  
Commander

Capt. Dawnita Parkinson  
Public affairs chief

2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston  
Internal information chief

Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein  
Editor

Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark  
Staff writer

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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](mailto:timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil) or [yvonne.clark@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:yvonne.clark@laughlin.af.mil).

# View from the top: Values provide code for behavior

**By Gen. Don Cook**  
*Air Education and Training  
Command commander*

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Integrity. Service. Excellence. They are not just words. They represent vitally important concepts and are collectively the core values our United States Air Force thrives on.

Recently, a severe error in judgment by some individuals in our command cast doubt on the seriousness with which we hold these values true. A single misguided event has essentially tarnished every one of us in uniform, and two officers were relieved of command as a result.

I won't go into great detail about the event because to do so would not only be in bad taste, but wouldn't serve any useful purpose. I will tell you, I was so incensed by the inappropriate conduct of these six young officers and the complete absence of officership, that I personally spoke with each one of them and explained that their irresponsible behavior goes against everything our command and Air Force stand for and more

importantly, what Americans expect of their Air Force.

Why did these officers think it was acceptable to invite female "dancers" to entertain them at a ceremony marking a significant step in their training? Maybe they and others didn't understand the importance of our core values. So, here's a refresher:

**Integrity:** First and foremost this word means being honest with yourself and with others and doing the right thing even when no one is looking. It also means adhering to a code of conduct. Integrity is arguably the most important of our core values because it sets the foundation for all other values and is also the most visible and valuable. Everyone is responsible for the collective integrity of our Air Force.

**Service:** Remember each of us has taken an oath of office to support and defend the Constitution. You are a servicemember 24 hours a day, seven days a week, not Monday through Friday! This means balancing your personal life against the requirements of your nation and the Air Force. While your country

comes first, commitment to one's family is totally consistent with military service.

**Excellence:** Do the absolute best you can at all times. The American people place an enormous amount of trust and responsibility in our abilities to protect them, defend their rights and ensure their freedom. They deserve nothing less than our very best, and we have a well earned reputation of excellence.

When just one of these three core values is compromised, everyone loses because that compromise can lead the American people to doubt our commitment and question our integrity. We must hold ourselves to a higher standard, ensuring our ethics and moral codes are above reproach. You deserve it, your fellow airmen want it, and your country depends on it.

Don't let them or yourself down because you couldn't – or wouldn't – hold yourself to that standard. If you see or become aware of inappropriate behavior in others, you must have the courage to speak up and correct it on the spot.

Remember, your day-to-



**Gen. Cook**

day actions reflect directly upon the Air Force at all times. They show pride and honor to those who served before and provide a road map for tomorrow's airmen.

Inappropriate behavior of any kind has no place in our command, much less in the Air Force. If you have never thought about the meaning of these values and their place in your life, it is time to do so. I expect every member of this command to make our core values a part of their daily life, accept them as a personal code of conduct and make the American people proud of their Air Force. Enough said!



**Col. Dan Woodward**  
*47th Flying Training Wing commander*

## Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the

general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

**AAFES** 298-3176  
**Accounting and Finance** 298-5204

<b>Civil Engineer</b>	298-5252
<b>Civilian Personnel</b>	298-5299
<b>Clinic</b>	298-6311
<b>Commissary</b>	298-5815
<b>Dormitory manager</b>	298-5213
<b>EEO</b>	298-5879
<b>FWA hotline</b>	298-4170
<b>Housing</b>	298-5904
<b>Information line</b>	298-5201
<b>Legal</b>	298-5172
<b>MEO</b>	298-5400
<b>Military Personnel</b>	298-5073
<b>Public Affairs</b>	298-5988
<b>Security Forces</b>	298-5900
<b>Services</b>	298-5810

# Newslines

## Quarterly awards luncheon set

Today is the last day to buy tickets for the Quarterly Awards Luncheon set for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Club XL. Tickets are available through squadron representatives.

## Classes offered for network users

Public key infrastructure and common access card orientation classes will be held Tuesday through Thursday at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. The classes are 45 minutes each and will cover a few finer points of the PKI and CAC. Attendance is highly encouraged for all network users.

## Commissary hours change

The commissary will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays starting Nov. 14.

## Mentorship link changed

The Web site for applications to be a mentor to Del Rio school children has changed. The new site is <http://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/support/mss/mentorship.html> or it can be accessed through the Laughlin homepage under the "Wing Mentorship" link.

Volunteers must save the application onto a disc or hard drive and then e-mail it to Judy Rhinesmith at [judy.rhinesmith@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:judy.rhinesmith@laughlin.af.mil).

## Airman's Attic accepting items

The Airman's Attic is in need of furniture and household items. It also accepts donations of small appliances, uniforms, children's clothes and baby items. The attic is open 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays and is located next to the fitness center in building 360.

For more information, call 298-1251.

## Marquee requests changed

To request information to be placed on the front gate's electronic marquee, please download the request form from <http://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/wing/Wing%20Web%20Page/Wing%20Web%20Page.htm>. The form may be sent via fax to 298-4322 or via e-mail to [latanya.denmon@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:latanya.denmon@laughlin.af.mil) or [anna.mayo@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:anna.mayo@laughlin.af.mil).



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

## It takes two to hold it...

**Maj. Gen. William Fraser III, Air Education and Training Command director of operations, poses with Capt. Katrina Gieselman, 85th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, and Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, after General Fraser presented Captain Gieselman**

**with the General James H. Doolittle Trophy, which she earned while stationed at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The Doolittle trophy recognizes the most outstanding Air Mobility Command aircrew that best characterizes and epitomizes qualities and traits for which General Doolittle is famous.**

## Fitness, from page 1

ginally fit category. This designation requires retesting at six-month intervals. A score of less than 70 places a person in the poorly fit category. That score requires a retest every three months. People at the marginal and poor levels also will participate in educational programs.

Air Force leaders encourage commanders to recognize people who attain an excellent fitness level or make substantial improvement.

"The focus of the new fitness program is not the assessment. The program is about integrating fitness into our culture and our members adopting fitness as a way of life," said Maj. Lisa

Schmidt, the Air Force Surgeon General chief of health promotion operations.

Officials are finalizing the instruction related to the program and plan to publish it by January. It will address unit physical training, testing procedures, and programs to facilitate improvement, they said.

The Air Force has established an e-mail account for comments at [fitness.program@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:fitness.program@pentagon.af.mil). Officials emphasized that the Air Force fitness program will be reviewed annually for continuous improvement.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

# Laughlin hires wildlife expert to deal with birds

## Goal is to decrease large bird strikes

By Airman 1st Class  
Yvonne Clark  
Staff writer

Aircraft bird strikes and various wildlife animals occupying runways are common at most Air Force bases, but a new full-time base employee is expected to soon decrease the number of potentially dangerous animals at Laughlin.

Dedrick Pesek, U.S. Department of Agriculture wildlife biolo-

gist, was recently hired to minimize the dangers large birds and animals bring to the aircrew and aircraft here.

"We haven't had any severe injuries here thankfully, but we've had high-dollar damage to aircraft because of bird strikes," said Capt. Matt Anderson, Laughlin Bird-Aircraft Strike Hazard manager. "On average, we spend more than \$200,000 per year repairing our aircraft from bird strikes – not to mention the threat these strikes bring to the aircrews flying these aircraft. If a large bird goes down

an engine, it's a big threat, so we've hired Mr. Pesek to help reduce these risks."

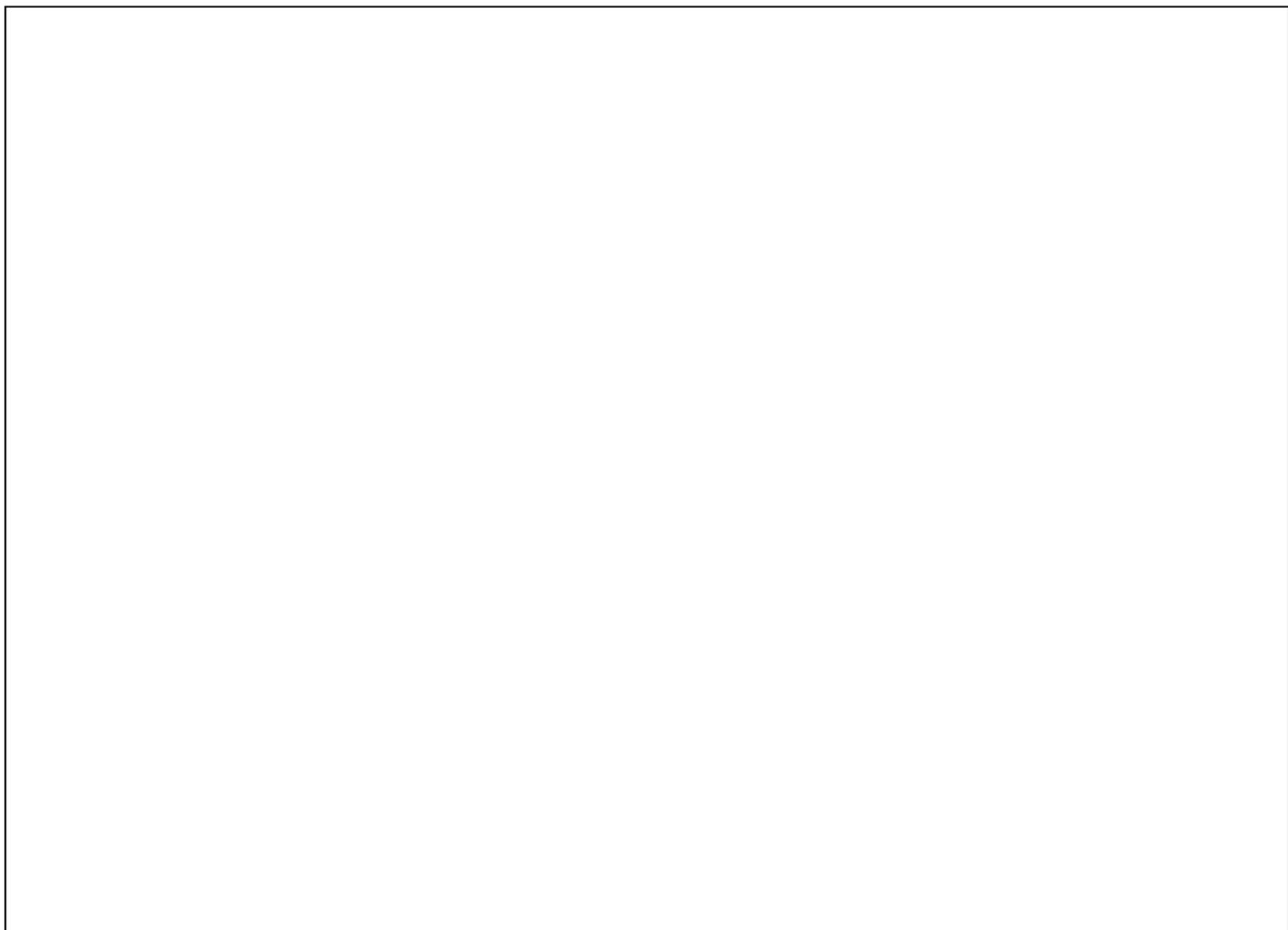
Through an array of techniques, Mr. Pesek has been successful in helping to reduce the amount of wildlife surrounding Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., and many counties in Texas. "There really is no one solution to solve the problem, but there are many strategies to use," said Mr. Pesek.

These strategies include loud noises and habitat modification, which makes the base area a less

pleasant environment for the animals, said Mr. Pesek.

"I'm here to keep potential threats off the runways and help reduce the risk of air strikes to Laughlin," said Mr. Pesek.

"Our goal is to reduce our bird strikes by half," said Captain Anderson. "We know our aircraft will hit small birds, which is something we can't really do anything about, but we'd like to reduce hitting the larger birds by almost 100 percent. Our new wildlife services employee can help make that happen."





# Graduation

## SUPT Class 04-01



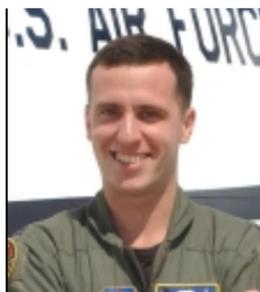
**Capt. Matthew Fehrman**  
C-17  
McCord AFB, Wash.



**1st Lt. Thomas Gonzalez**  
C-130  
Dyess AFB



**1st Lt. Shawn Johnson**  
T-1  
Laughlin AFB



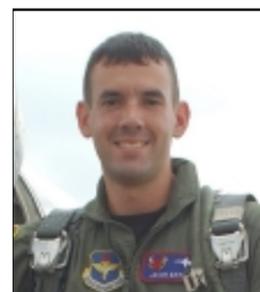
**1st Lt. Timothy Kurutz**  
KC-10  
McGuire AFB, N.J.



**1st Lt. Mark Lennon**  
KC-135  
Kadena AB, Japan



**1st Lt. Lance Vivion**  
KC-135  
MacDill AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Jason Barta**  
F-16  
Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. John Bengtson**  
C-17  
Charleston AFB, S.C.



**2nd Lt. Nathan Bump**  
C-21  
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio



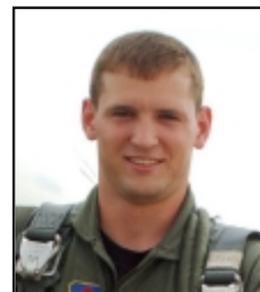
**2nd Lt. George Collings**  
F-16  
Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Jared Detloff**  
C-21  
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio



**2nd Lt. Brian Erickson**  
A-10  
Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Chad Fuller**  
T-38  
Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. Zoltan Homonnay**  
B-1  
Dyess AFB



**2nd Lt. Douglas Manley**  
KC-135 (ANG)  
Key Field, Miss.



**2nd Lt. Carl McBurnett**  
C-21  
Andrews AFB, Md.



**2nd Lt. Matthew Nicol**  
C-130 (ANG)  
Mansfield Lahm Airport, Ohio



**2nd Lt. Robin Prosser**  
F-15C  
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Shelby Robb**  
T-6  
Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. Ryan Sanjenis**  
E-3  
Tinker AFB, Okla.



**2nd Lt. Matthew Smith**  
F-16 (ANG)  
Springfield-Beckley MAP, Ohio



**2nd Lt. Seth Talbot**  
KC-10  
McGuire AFB, N.J.



**2nd Lt. Andrew Tenenbaum**  
A-10  
Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Andrew Vail**  
RC-135  
Offutt AFB, Neb.



**2nd Lt. Jason Wilbur**  
C-17  
McCord AFB, Wash.

# Security forces, safety gear up for Halloween

## Compiled from staff reports

The 47th Flying Training Wing Safety office and the 47th Security Forces Squadron have teamed up once again to make this Halloween safe for all Laughlin's ghosts and goblins.

Trick-or-treating hours are set from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31.

Prior to Halloween, the safety office is providing safety pamphlets to the library, the youth center and the child development center to educate parents on how best to prepare for the holiday.

Additionally, the safety office is providing glow-bracelets for trick-or-treaters at the base library at 5 p.m. Oct. 31. Safety employees will

move to the reunion area at Ribas-Dominicci Circle at 6 p.m. and into the housing areas to continue handing out the bracelets and other glow-wear.

Also from 6 to 8 p.m., the security forces "Goblin Patrol" will be in the housing areas in uniform monitoring safety and reuniting any lost children with their parents, said 1st Lt. Mike Isbill, 47th Security Forces Squadron officer in charge of training and resources. Parents should make children aware of the Goblin Patrol before setting out for the evening. In the event a child is separated from his parents, any base member should help him find a Goblin Patrol members to escort him to the rally point at Ribas-Dominicci Circle. If parents cannot locate a son or daughter,

they should notify a Goblin Patrol member, then move to the reunion area to pick up the child.

Drivers near housing areas should be alert for trick-or-treaters and limit their speed to 5 miles per hour. Driving children around while trick-or-treating is discouraged.

Security forces would like to reiterate that off base visitors may only be sponsored on base according to current policy.

Once trick-or-treating is over, the BooMobile will pick up children at the Club XL parking lot at 8:15 p.m. and take them to the Fright Night Moviethon at the base movie theater. Parents whose children attend this event will need to pick them up at 11 p.m. at the theater.

For more safety information, call 298-4315.

## Halloween Safety Tips

### For Adults:

- Have children eat dinner before setting out.
- Young children should be accompanied by an adult.
- If children go out alone, set a time for them to return, and have them wear a watch readable in the dark.
- Parents and children should both know where children are going; encourage children to use the buddy system..
- Look for costumes made of flame-retardant material.
- Tell children to bring the candy home to be inspected before consuming anything.
- Look at the wrapping carefully; toss out anything that looks suspicious.
- Clear your yard of ladders, hoses or flower pots that could trip children.
- Pets may get frightened; keep them inside during trick-or-treating hours.
- When possible, use battery-powered lights instead of candles. If you do use candles, make sure paper decorations are away from flames; make sure flames are away from areas children will be using to trick-or-treat.

### For Trick-or-Treaters:

- Carry a flashlight. Wear clothing with reflective marking or tape. Make sure your costume does not drag the ground.
- Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house.
- Carry only flexible or cardboard knives, swords and other props.
- Walk; do not run. Stay on sidewalks if they are available. If there is not a sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.
- Stay in a familiar neighborhood. Approach only houses that are decorated or with a porch light on.
- Do not cut across yards or driveways.
- Stay away from and do not pet animals you do not know.

## Chapel hosts alternative to Trick-or-Treating event

The base chapel is hosting a harvest festival at the chapel annex Oct. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. This event is being offered for those families not wishing to trick-or-treat.

For more information about this event, contact the chapel at 298-5111.

## Halloween Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Today	7 p.m.	Halloween party and adult costume contest	Club Amistad
Thursday	5 to 8 p.m.	Family Fun Night	Club XL
Oct. 31	9 to 10 a.m.	Storybook parade	Ribas-Dominicci Circle
Oct. 31	5 p.m.	Ghostly Gathering (glow-bracelet distribution)	Bookworm Library
Oct. 31	6 to 8 p.m.	Trick-or-Treating	Housing areas
Oct. 31	6 to 8 p.m.	Goblin Patrol	Housing areas
Oct. 31	7:45 p.m.	"Trunk-or-Treat" - Children's costume contest	Club XL parking lot
Oct. 31	8:15 p.m.	BooMobile will pick up kids for Fright Night	Club XL parking lot
Oct. 31	8:30 to 11 p.m.	Fright Night Moviethon	Base Theater
Oct. 31	8:30 p.m.	Miller VIP special guest visit	Club XL parking lot
Oct. 31	9 p.m.	Apple Bobbin' contest	Club XL parking lot
Oct. 31	10 p.m.	Adult costume contest	Club XL parking lot
Oct. 31	10:30 p.m.	Frozen T-shirt contest	Club XL parking lot

# Vice chief of staff discusses reconstitution

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

WASHINGTON – Department of Defense leaders met with the House Armed Services Committee subcommittee on readiness Tuesday to discuss force reconstitution.

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley told committee members that reconstitution is one of the Air Force's top concerns.

"Our No. 1 task is to continue the global war on terrorism while reconstituting this force," General Moseley said. "You will hear loud and clear that America's armed forces have a plan for this important task."

Reconstitution means replenishing materials and munitions expended during operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, repairing any damaged aircraft, replacing any destroyed equipment, and ensuring that airmen are caught up on

critical training requirements, he said.

The Air Force, he said, has a four-part plan to accomplish force reconstitution. The plan includes getting the air and space expeditionary force battle rhythm back into normal rotation and restoring equipment to a combat-effective state. It also incorporates OEF and OIF lessons into existing platforms and equips forces currently engaged in stability operations with the tools necessary to accomplish their mission.

He emphasized that training was key to getting the Air Force back into its regular operations tempo.

"To resume this tempo, we must focus on reconstituting capabilities, not just commodities," he said. "Beyond just equipment, the Air Force warfighting capabilities will depend on a continued emphasis on advanced joint composite force training and maintaining a sustained battle rhythm for the entire force."

While capabilities from nearly

all of the 10 AEFs had been tapped to carry out operations for OEF and OIF, General Moseley said he expected that most of the force would be back to regular operations tempo by early 2004.

"Resetting and reconstituting this force will be challenging," he said. "However, by March we expect our fighter and bomber force will be ready to resume normal rotation, and we will have completed the repositioning of our war-reserve stock. By March, we also expect that most of our deployable equipment and consumables will be reconstituted."

The special assistant for air and space expeditionary forces, Maj. Gen. Tim Peppe, said earlier this year that AEF rotations will be back on schedule by that time as well.

Not all of the force will be back to normal operations tempo by March, General Moseley said. Because of sustained combat operations and high demand, expeditionary combat-support units, intelli-

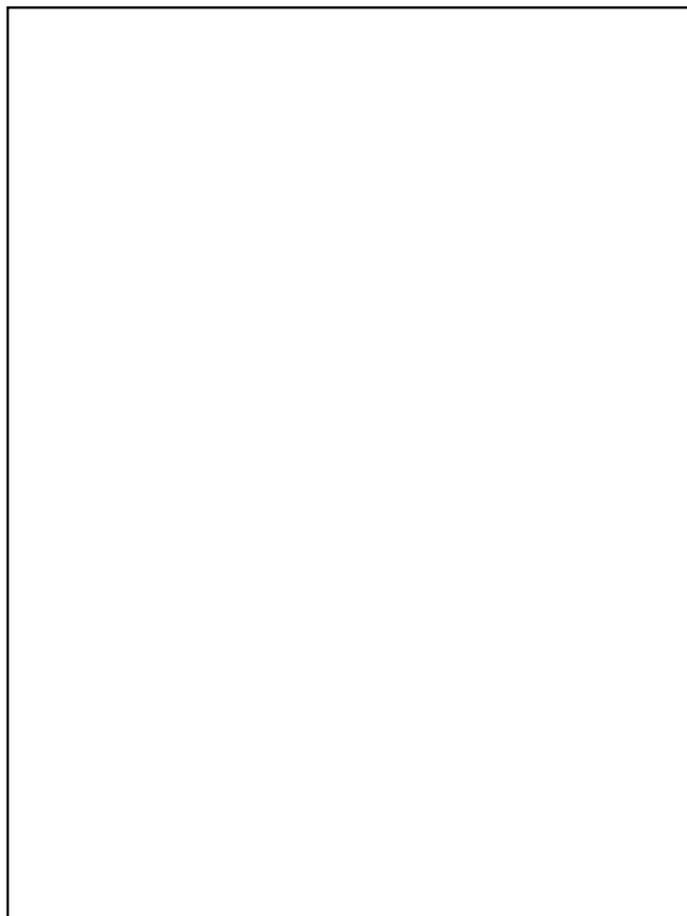
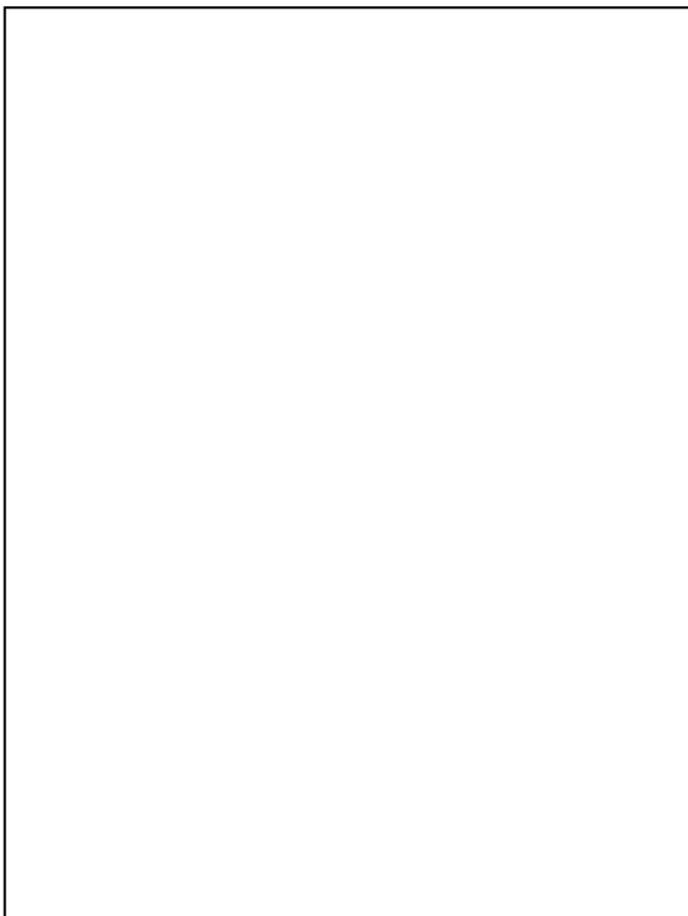
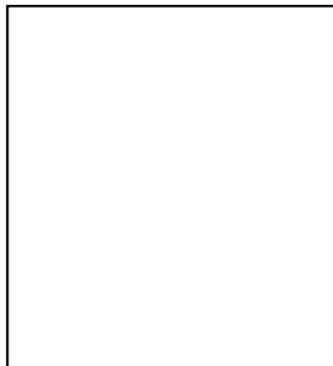
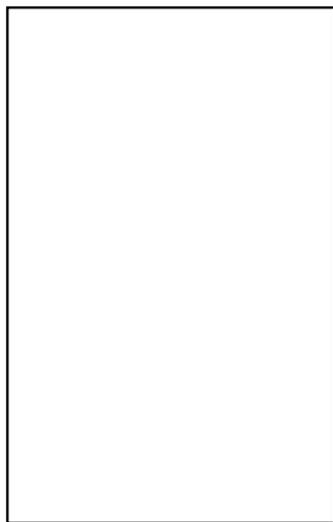
gence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets, and security forces will not meet the deadline.

"It will take the continued hard work and innovation of our airmen to mitigate these delays and ready us as quickly as possible," he told committee members.

Of interest to some committee members was if the Air Force planned on reconstituting the KC-135 Stratotanker fleet.

"As the air commander for both OEF and OIF, I can tell you that the tankers were the backbone for the joint and combined effort," General Moseley said. "To reconstitute this fleet is going to require some hard work and newer airplanes."

The Air Force is working on a plan to lease as many as 100 new tankers to replace tankers currently in service – some that date back to the 1950s. Under the lease option, the Air Force can field the new fleet of tankers more quickly than with a traditional procurement plan.



# SGLI designation may have unintended consequences

**By Capt. Preston Young**  
*47th Flying Training Wing Law Office*

Members having designated that their Servicemember's Group Life Insurance benefits are distributed "by law" may be giving these monies to unintended beneficiaries.

Designating the distribution in this way creates uncertainty as to who will be the recipients of the insurance proceeds upon death.

Under the SGLI benefit program, each servicemember is entitled to leave up to \$250,000 to the person(s) or entity(ies) that the member cares about most. Unfor-

tunately, servicemembers unknowingly put the payout to intended beneficiaries at risk through carelessness or as a result of being misinformed.

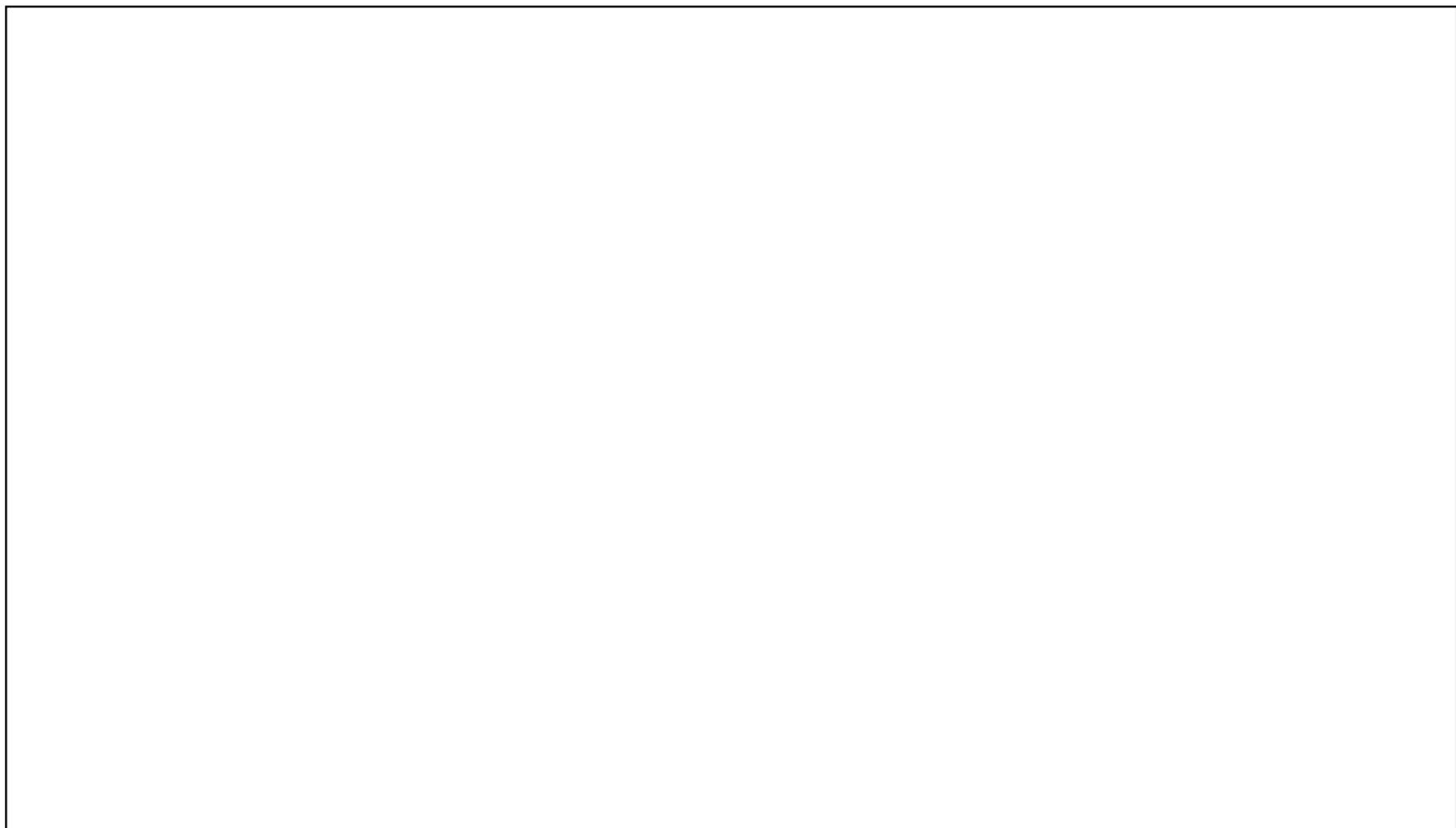
When members use "by law" as a beneficiary designation, they deny themselves the opportunity to take control of the distribution of proceeds to their loved ones or beloved institutions and create a significant risk of delays in payments, payments to unintended beneficiaries, and protracted and costly court litigation. By using the "by law" designation a court may interpret the distribution of the benefits using the SGLI statute and state laws to determine a different

outcome than the member intended. It is not uncommon for litigation to be brought by persons claiming the member intended they receive the SGLI proceeds or attempting to include themselves within the class covered by the term "by law." The member is strongly encouraged to avoid these potential problems by taking the time to consider and name specific beneficiaries in their SGLI policy. Doing so gives the member absolute power to control to whom the disposition is to be paid. Since this benefit can positively impact the future of the person named, such as a relative or friend, or an entity, such as a charity or church, it is

worth taking the extra time to ensure that the member's wishes will be carried out by expressly naming beneficiaries in the policy.

The member should also periodically review and update beneficiary designations to ensure they continue to reflect current intentions for payout. Suggested review should occur, at a minimum, upon a permanent change of station, preparation for deployment, and at major events in one's life like a birth, death or marriage.

The customer service desk at the military personnel flight should be able to assist service members in reviewing their current SGLI paperwork and updating it as needed.



## Absentee voting, registration begins

By 2nd. Lt. Tiffany Ewton

*47th Mission Support Squadron customer service chief*

Through Jan. 31, the inspector general is making unannounced visits to all services' installations to evaluate compliance with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

The UOCAVA states that absent uniformed services voters, their spouses and dependents, and overseas voters who no longer maintain a residence in the United States may register and vote by absentee ballot in all elections for federal office. Overseas voters are eligible to register absentee in the jurisdiction of their last residence.

To qualify for a federal write-in absentee bal-

lot while overseas, the member must have a foreign mailing address or APO/FPO postmark.

Servicemembers and those in their households who are not registered to vote may complete a registration form with a Laughlin voting representative. Regardless of the member's branch of service, the Laughlin voting representatives may still provide assistance. There are slightly different instructions for military voters and civilian voters, but people may gain information through their unit voting counselor.

The legal office can assist individuals who are unsure if they are eligible to vote in a particular state. Oftentimes, individuals may claim residency in a state because that is where they choose to vote, but they are unaware that the state may

start taking taxes out.

Deployed members may vote absentee but should make every attempt to register prior to deploying.

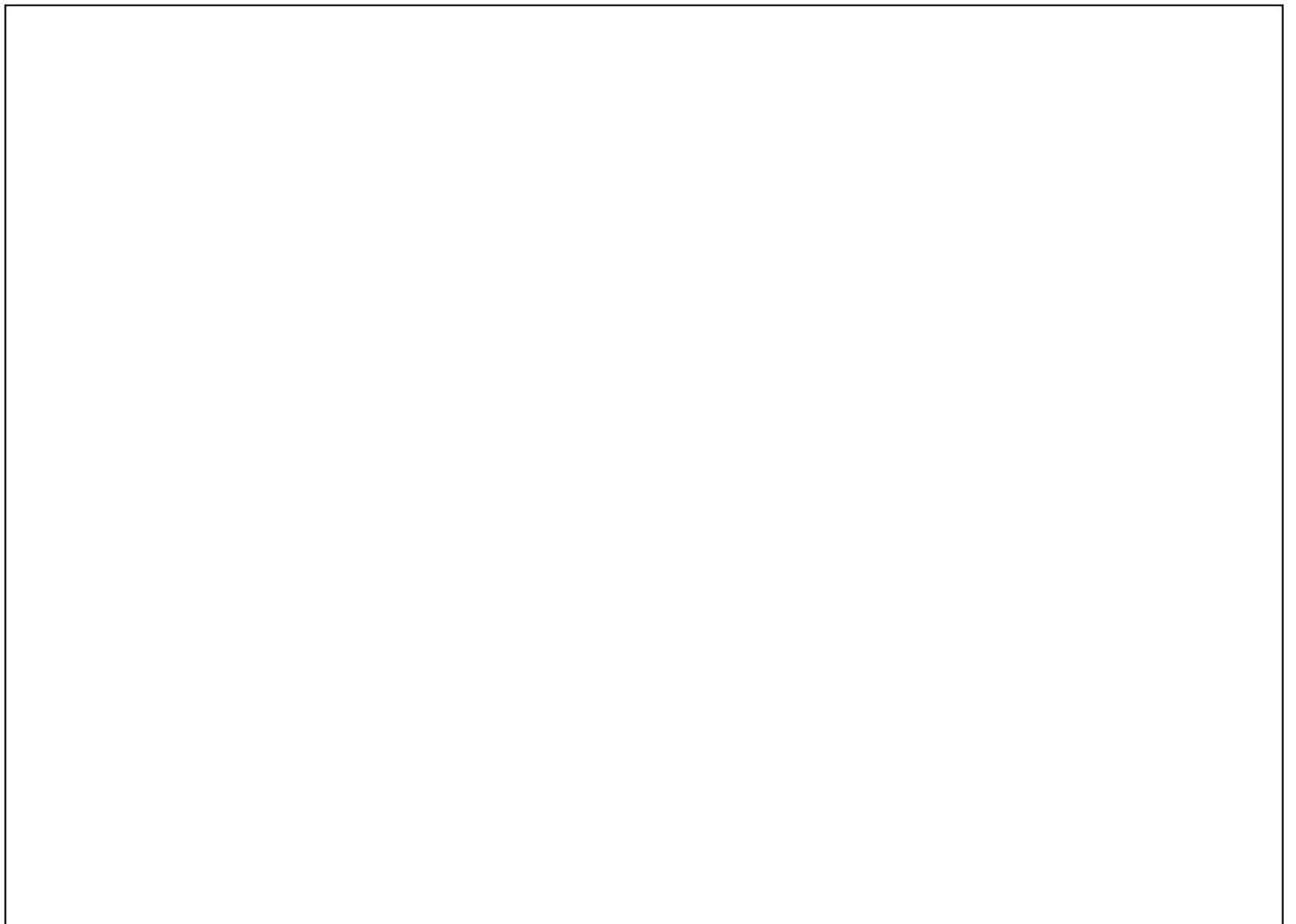
Voting is important because elected officials control when and where forces fight, the equipment that will be used and also decide pay and benefits.

Laughlin's installation voting officer is Maj. Brad Wensel and the assistant IVO is Lt. Col. Ron Stevens.

To access the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site, log on to: <http://www.fvap.gov>.

Educational materials and other information regarding voting procedures will be available as the primary election gets closer.

For more information, call Major Wensel at 298-5405 or Colonel Stevens at 298-4777.



# XLers control air traffic all over world

By Airman 1st Class  
 Yvonne Clark  
 Staff writer

From humanitarian to offensive missions, U.S. aircrews execute vital missions across the globe. While these air operations are performed, ground personnel ensure pilots use the safest airways.

"Whether they're controlling aircraft in austere environments or establishing airspace and work facilities in host nations, air-traffic controllers have always been instrumental in accomplishing the mission," said Capt. Eric Shafa, 47th Operations Support Squadron airfield operations flight commander.

In April, Captain Shafa and 17 air-traffic controllers from various bases in the United States were called to duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This particular deployment was not like any other deployment; it was very unusual," added the captain, who has deployed several times during his 10-year career. "Our team was a special team put together based on a request for forces prepared by the special operations forces."

During the three-month deployment, Captain Shafa worked in about six different locations in Iraq, performed duties in Jordan and later worked with other governmental agencies in Bahrain.

As part of the request for forces, the 18-man team

was sent to relieve the combat communications air-traffic controllers who were maintaining airfields that special forces had secured in their missions to ensure U.S. aircraft were capable of being controlled.

"Anywhere we have aircraft and air operations, there are Air Force controllers on the other side of the [pilot's] microphone in a tower, radar facility or on the side of a runway with mobile equipment ensuring our flyers can safely execute the mission," said the captain.

"These [combat controllers] were spending several months at a time at these airfields because air-traffic controllers weren't in theater. Because the combat controllers career field is so limited [on personnel], they were taking assets out to work these airfields when there are conventional air-traffic controllers who can roll in and work these fields."

As the only officer in the group, Captain Shafa led his team through the different airfields that had been secured and assigned different teams to relieve the combat controllers. "We were like a mobile traffic control team," said Captain Shafa. "Every time there was a stable field that needed controlling, they'd move us in and let the other forces move out, so we had to be very flexible. Getting people in the mindset of not locking into one area was one of the hardest things to do.



Courtesy photo

**The first radar-approach control center established on Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. The mobile unit was brought from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.**

We all had to be able to cope with the situation of not knowing where we were going to be the next day, if we were going to be on a helicopter, airplane or vehicle convoy."

The team maintained these airfields in various conditions. "We worked in overt and covert conditions," he said. "We had night-vision goggles because some of the airfields were still somewhat hostile, so we landed the aircraft in totally blacked out conditions."

In addition to working during hostile conditions, the team was also shot at during a move to another airfield. "The biggest issues were not so much when we were in the air, but when we were in vehicle convoys," said the captain. "Some of the instances were pretty eerie, but luckily nobody got hurt. When bullets start flying, you realize there's somebody out there trying to kill us, so we all really relied on each other. Everybody was really focused. There was never

any question about the mission."

Although Captain Shafa was the only Laughlin member on his team, many other Laughlin air-traffic controllers were deployed to other air bases in Middle Eastern countries.

Tech. Sgt. Pope Johnson, 47th OSS air-traffic control watch supervisor, deployed to Jordan in February, then was sent to Oman about a week before the war began. "It was hectic when I got there," he said. "There was a lot of tension. We didn't know what was going to happen next."

Sergeant Johnson said although he was about 50 miles from the border of Iraq, he could still see flashes and hear faint rumbles from artillery. "I deployed in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm as a young airman," said Sergeant Johnson. "Then, I was scared, but this time I knew I had a job to get done. It's the same job, but a different environment."

Tech. Sgt. Anthony

Fiorillo, 47th OSS air-traffic control watch supervisor, learned about getting the job done in a different environment when he deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, in April.

"We were the first 100 Air Force personnel to arrive in Kirkuk to set up operations," said Sergeant Fiorillo. "This was an old Iraqi base. It was the first time the air space had been opened since the war began, so we initially set up the radar system in Iraq."

Since the base had not been set up, Sergeant Fiorillo and the other military members there helped make conditions better for others to follow. "When we first got there, there was no running water, no electricity ... we had nothing initially," said Sergeant Fiorillo. "It's better there now. They have a chow hall, showers, electricity, computers and phones. We helped make things better."

There are currently more than 50 XLers deployed around the world.

## Chapel Schedule

### Catholic

- Saturday* ● 5 p.m., Mass  
*Sunday* ● 9:30 a.m., Mass  
*Thursday* ● 6 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m.,  
Rite of Christian Initiation  
*Reconciliation* ● By appointment  
*Religious Education* ● 11 a.m. Sunday

### Nondenominational

- Sunday* ● 6 p.m. Officer Christian  
Fellowship, call 298-2238  
*Friday* ● 7 p.m., Unity in Commu-  
nity Fellowship

### Protestant

- Sunday* ● 9:30, Sunday school  
● 11 a.m., General worship  
*Wednesday* ● 7 p.m., Choir practice

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

## 'Pilot for a Day' program brings smile to child's face

**By Airman 1st Class  
Timothy Stein  
Editor**

Laughlin's newest pilot, 13-year-old Juan Jose Morin Jr., was flying a T-1 over Lake Amistad, enjoying the flight when the power went out and cut his first simulator flight short.

Juan is the first child to take part in Laughlin's "Pilot for a Day" program, which gives terminally ill or handicapped children a first-hand look at what the Air Force does and lets them take part in it.

"It is all about putting a smile on someone's face," said Capt. Brad Brumbaugh, project coordinator. "It makes a difference in a child's life."

Dora Morin, Juan's mother, agreed. "(Juan) loves it. It is great. It really shows the military cares."

Sharlene Perez, a Texas Department of Health social worker, recommended Juan to be the first child to go through the program after she received a phone call from Maj. Nina Watson, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron health promotions flight commander, who asked her if she knew any children who she thought would benefit from the program.

"I told her we had plenty of children who would love to take part in

this program," said Ms. Perez. "I was real excited when I heard about it."

Juan, who is confined to a wheelchair, suffers from Melas Syndrome, a rare muscular disorder that is caused by a defect in the genetic material found in part of the cell structure that releases energy. There is no known treatment for the disease, which is progressive and fatal.

Juan started his day with a tour of his host squadron, the 87th Flying Training Squadron. After a light breakfast, he was given a flight suit along with patches, flight cap, scarf and a personalized nametag.

After he suited up, it was time to see some airplanes. A T-38 Talon was brought to the front of the base operations building so Juan could see one close up. After that, it was on to the tower for a tour.

"He was smiling the whole time watching the planes taking off and landing," said Capt. Brumbaugh. "And that is what this program is all about."

After a pizza lunch, it was on to the simulator building so Laughlin's newest pilot could finally fly.

"He enjoyed the simulators the most," said Mrs. Morin.

Juan was in mid-flight when a power outage cut the ride short. Instead of

starting the flight again Juan, his parents and Ms. Perez continued on to the final stop of the day, the fire department.

At the fire department Juan got to inspect all the fire trucks and try on a fire helmet. Members of the fire department showed him how the trucks shoot water to put out fires.

The 47th Security Forces Squadron also stopped by to show Juan a military working dog demonstration. Juan even got to watch his father, Juan Jose Morin Sr., learn how to handle a military working dog.

While the security forces team was setting up the dog show, Lt. Col. Mark Mattison, 87th FTS commander, stopped by to present Juan a squadron coin. Placing the coin into Juan's hand, he told him that he was now a member of the 87th FTS and that meant he was a member for life. Juan responded by saluting the colonel, something Capt. Brumbaugh had taught him.

The "Pilot for a Day" program is going to be a quarterly event now, said Capt. Brumbaugh.

"It is great to see the difference it can make in a child's life," he said.

"There are many people who worked really hard to make this possible."

**See Pilot,  
page 14**

## The *XLer*

**Staff Sgt. Rodney Robison**  
47th Maintenance Directorate

**Hometown:** Alice, Texas

**Family:** Wife, Shelly; daughters, Emily and Denali

**Time at Laughlin:** One year, nine months

**Time in service:** Eight years

**Greatest accomplishments:** Raising two beautiful girls

**Hobbies:** Sports, model building and camping

**Bad habits:** Not listening completely

**Favorite movie:** "Payback"

**Favorite musician/band:** Clint Black

**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** Neal Armstrong, to ask him about his space exploration.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

### Pilot, from page 13

While Capt. Brumbaugh said he wants to thank everyone who helped make this day special for Juan, he wanted to especially thank the Top 3 organization, the Company Grade Officers

Council, and the 87th FTS.

Mrs. Morin said she also would like to thank everyone involved. "I can't think of anyone else who would go to such great lengths as the military went through for my son. Thank you."

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3x4 the del rio loan co.

# Major earns his rank, takes title

Last week, Maj. Scott Atchison, 96th Flying Training Squadron assistant director of operations, took the weekly prize by picking 11 games correctly.

To enter the weekly contest, individuals can put their

names in contest boxes located at various Services locations for a chance to forecast winners of weekly NFL football games in the Border Eagle.

Five names will be drawn each week to get an opportunity to pick the most winners of that

week's football games.

Drop boxes are located at Club XL, Club Amistad, Cactus Lanes, Silver Wings and the Chaparral Dining facility.

The players for



**Maj. Atchison**

this week are: 1st Lt. Paula Schoch, 1st Lt. Don Hicks, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Cooper, Staff Sgt. Neil Larmon and Senior Airman Kevin Balch.

<b>Games:</b>	<b>1st Lt. Paula Schoch</b>	<b>1st Lt. Don Hicks</b>	<b>Tech. Sgt. Thomas Cooper</b>	<b>Staff Sgt. Neil Larmon</b>	<b>Senior Airman Kevin Balch</b>
Den. at Bal.	Baltimore	Denver	Denver	Baltimore	Denver
Det. at Chi.	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago
Sea. at Cin.	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Cincinnati
Tenn at Jax.	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
N.Y.G. at Minn.	New York	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota
Clev. at N.E.	New England	New England	Cleveland	New England	New England
Car. at N.O.	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina
St.L. at Pitt.	Pittsburgh	St. Louis	St. Louis	St. Louis	St. Louis
Dal. at T.B.	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Dallas
S.F. at Ariz.	San Francisco	San Francisco	Arizona	San Francisco	San Francisco
Hou. at Ind.	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
N.Y.J. at Phi.	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Buf. at K.C.	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City
Mia. at S.D.	San Diego	San Diego	Miami	Miami	Miami

## New XL Fitness Center hours: (starting Nov. 1)

Monday through Thursday:  
5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Friday:  
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday:  
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Holidays:  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Intramural flag football standings

### Eastern Conference Western Conference

<u>Team</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>W-L</u>
LCSAM	0-0	MDG	5-0
84/85th	0-0	LSI	3-2
86th	0-0	CES	1-3
87th	0-0	MSS	0-4
OSS	0-0		