

Laughlin marks POW/MIA Day in ceremony, pages 10 and 11

Border Eagle

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Sept. 26, 2003

Newslines

Change of command

Col. Paul Ackerley will relinquish command of the 47th Operations Group to Col. Steven Kwast during a change-of-command ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Monday on the flightline in front of base operations.

For more information, call 298-4777.

TRICARE Web site

TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Plus beneficiaries are now able to schedule and cancel routine medical appointments on the Web via Triage Online at www.tricareonline.com.

Routine and follow-up medical appointments, annual eye exams, routine physicals, pap smears, well-baby exams, school physicals and a first visit with a new Primary Care Manager can be scheduled at this site.

Users must first register on the Web site. Once registered, users can also learn about a specific provider, a particular clinic and research various health care topics.

Brochures and step-by-step instructions on how to register and use the Web site are available at the 47th Medical Group.

For more information, call 298-6430.



Photo by Jose Mendoza

Spray down...

Col. Paul Ackerley is hosed down by Lt. Col. Mark Mattison, 87th Flying Training Squadron commander, after his final flight at Laughlin Air Force

Base. Colonel Ackerley will relinquish command to Col. Steven Kwast during a change-of-command ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Monday.

Deployment stats

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

Mission status

Airframe	(As of Sept. 19) Days behind or ahead	Mission Capable Rate
T-37	2.71	91.6%
T-1	4.10	79.7%
T-38	1.87	76.9%
T-6	3.83	91.9%

Base to hold picnic, down day

By Jim Teet
Public Affairs

Monday and Tuesday wrap up a successful fiscal year for Team XL. To mark this event, Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, has planned several special activities for all Laughlin members.

Colonel Woodward will conduct a wing commander's call Monday in Anderson Hall auditorium for all military and civil service members. To accommodate base work schedules, calls will be held at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Anderson Hall has been designated an alternate work site for all civilian employees attending at

these times.

Following the last commander's call, a wing picnic will begin at 3:30 p.m. at the base picnic park, located next to the RV park behind the Base Exchange. All base members and their families are welcome to celebrate the successful completion of a busy year.

To accommodate civilian workers' schedules, Colonel Woodward has declared the picnic area as an alternate work site from 3:30 to 8 p.m. Fun activities, food and entertainment will be available throughout the picnic, including an opportunity to dunk base leaders and contribute to the Combined

See **Picnic**, page 4

Leadership skills, safety go hand in hand

Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. Kelly Fletcher
47th Flying Training Wing safety chief

As the chief of wing safety, you would expect a topic discussing safety in the workplace, but I thought it would be more fitting to cover a small component of the leadership equation and the influence it can have on an effective safety program.

Many view leadership skills and safety as separate and distinct entities; I've been guilty of that, and I'm sure many others have too. Actually, leadership skills and safety go hand in hand, and one cannot exist without the other.

After being in many different organizations, one thing has stood out that impacted the leadership skills and the safety mindset of the organization: The climate within the unit was developed by effective communications and supported by unit

supervision. It also had the welcome side-effect of being an outstanding unit to which everyone was proud to be associated with.

Communication is critical to mission success. How does this apply to leadership skills? Effective communication skills set the tone within a unit because it directly impacts the perception of its leader.

Have you ever been in a unit led by the volume of the message with little regard to feedback? While the words get out, the lack of proper feedback turns people off and can lead to a climate that breeds fear and distrust.

When talking about communication, I don't only mean the sending of information, but also receiving. The listening part of communications is one of the most difficult to master. We all need to be reminded that regardless of position, we all contribute to the effective communications within a unit.

Many of us will experience our lack of listening skills as football season kicks off. We're usually so busy tuning in to the game that we tend to tune others out. This same scenario can happen as we focus on daily duties – we could tune out necessary feedback that ensures a safe work environment.

Effective communication helps build a climate that gives people the ability to freely address issues or problems in a supportive environment. It builds the foundation for a productive safety attitude within the unit and fosters a supportive and focused resolution system to protect people and equipment.

To help improve communications skills, "Listening Effectively" by John A. Kline is available through Air University Press (<http://aupress.au.af.mil>). It and many more publications are available free to military members and Department of Defense civilians.

"We all need to be reminded that regardless of position, we all contribute to effective communications within a unit."

Border Eagle commentaries

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

Commentaries can be written about any aspect of Air Force

life you find interesting. Commentaries should be 250 to 500 words in length. Public Affairs reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity.

Commentaries for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the Public Affairs Office, building 338. The deadline to submit a commentary is close of business each Thursday, the week prior to publication. For more information, call 298-5393.

Border Eagle

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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.

Newest airmen now train to be warriors

By Col. Robert Holmes
 37th Training Wing commander

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – “Warriors: training for success, training to win!”

These words guide 37th Training Wing leaders and instructors in setting the conditions for training our newest airmen at Lackland and their transformation as members of the world’s greatest Air Force.

The leaders and trainers here are responsible for and accountable to each of these new airmen to instill in them a war fighter’s spirit. Additionally, we bolster their confidence with awareness that they are a vital resource in America’s air and space force; and their success ultimately results in a winning Air Force.

We strive to instill in our new airmen the commitment to defend our nation against all who threaten our way of life, especially in the present war on terror. Moreover, we emphasize that airmen are peacemakers in a worldwide community.

Our rapid global reach enables us to conduct peace missions and provide humanitarian aid and relief around the world with the same assets we use to wage war. We employ cutting edge technology that leads the world in information superiority. In short, we are the best.

However, the 37th Training Wing, and ultimately our Air Force, cannot be the best and perform its core combat or peace-making tasks without great people – airmen and civilians. People are more important than our equipment or processes. In reality, if we don’t have the people, we don’t have a mission. There should be no doubt. Our greatest resource is the men and women who serve with pride; adding their worth and value to our force; executing our mission.

As warriors and airmen, our core values are the bedrock by which we live and execute our mission. Integrity, service and excellence serve

to guide us as individuals and as Air Force members. With this internalized value system, doing what is right when no one is looking becomes simple, a way of life.

Integrity, service and excellence are not bumper stickers, but the core of our existence as the world’s best Air Force. Recently, the actions of both our airmen and civilians during operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom displayed these core values in action.

Our expectations are set very high for today’s newest airmen. We expect them to carry out vital Air Force missions. To make these expectations a reality, we leaders and trainers set the conditions for their success.

It only follows that leaders are accountable to the people they lead. We are responsible to make sure our airmen are trained and ready to meet mission goals.

We should expect the best from the airmen we lead; so at

times we must be tough and demanding as leaders. We can be even tougher and more demanding; but, ensure it is done with clarity, dignity and respect, on and off duty.

It is simple. If you give respect you will get it. Supervisors who lead people to the mission, with dignity and respect, will ultimately lead them to success.

In addition to exceptional leadership, we must provide positive motivation. Fear and harassment are never used as leadership tools. In today’s Air Force, people serve because they want to serve, not because they are being forced to march with muskets.

This doesn’t mean we are a softer Air Force – but rather the opposite. It means we are smarter; we are tougher on ourselves and know how to do it better. Commitment to our Air Force and our mission will be there because of our core values. It will be there because as airmen, we fiercely desire to accomplish the mission.

We will do this because we are warriors, training for success, training to win!

“We should expect the best from the airmen we lead; so at times we must be tough and demanding as leaders.”

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

Col. Dan Woodward
 47th Flying Training Wing commander



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

What the ????

Laughlin members remind people the 2003 Combined Federal Campaign is under way at Laughlin by dressing up and greeting cars as they come in the front gate. Laughlin's goal for the CFC is 100 percent contact with all Laughlin employees.

Picnic, from page 1

Federal Campaign at the same time.

Colonel Woodward has declared Tuesday to be a wing down day. All military members are granted a pass, unless directed to be on duty by their immediate supervisors. Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training students are considered mission essential if academics or simulator training are scheduled for Tuesday. Those members who must work because they are mission essential or are required to accomplish year-end close-out actions should plan another day off with their supervisors.

Supervisors of civilian employees should arrange liberal-leave procedures for Tuesday. This means employees who are not mission essential may choose to work or schedule time off using authorized absence. This includes annual leave, previously earned compensatory time off or a time-off award, or leave without pay.

Civilians who are required to work should arrange an alternate leave day with their supervisors. Employees on a temporary appointment "not to exceed 90 days" are not authorized annual leave, but they may be able to arrange time off using one of the other forms of authorized absence.

Wing picnic schedule of activities

All activities at the base picnic grounds

3:30-3:45 p.m. – Ceremony honoring deployed personnel from Laughlin

3:45-8 p.m. – Free hamburgers, hot dogs and sodas, music, fun and events (beer and wine – pay as you go)

3:45-4 p.m. – Squadron water balloon contest Two members of each squadron (first sergeants are arranging the contestants) toss balloons back and forth without breaking them. Winning team will receive free phone cards (courtesy of the first sergeants).

4-6:30 p.m. – Dunking booth

Take a shot at the colonels, command chief and first sergeants in the dunking booth. A dollar buys three chances and all funds raised go to the Combined Federal Campaign fundraiser to support the following base organizations: Child Development Center, Youth Center, Friends of the Family Support Center and Laughlin's American Red Cross.

Dunking booth schedule:

4:00-4:15 p.m. – Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander

4:15-4:30 p.m. – Col. Keith Traster, 47th FTW vice wing commander

4:30-4:45 p.m. – Col. Vic Hnatiuk, 47th Mission Support Group commander

4:45-5 p.m. – Col. Chuck Hardin, 47th Medical Group commander

5-5:15 p.m. – Col. Steven Kwast, 47th Operations Group commander

5:15-5:30 p.m. – Chief Master Sgt. Ted Pilihos, 47th FTW command chief

5:30-5:45 p.m. – Master Sgt. John Bock, 47th OG first sergeant

5:45-6 p.m. – Master Sgt. Dave Smith, 47th MSG first sergeant

6-6:15 p.m. – Master Sgt. Karla Jordan-Hunnicut, 47th MDG first sergeant

6 p.m.: Colonels vs. Chiefs Horseshoe Contest:

Chiefs

Chief Pilihos
Chief Prothro
Chief Brennan
Chief Scott

Colonels

Col. Woodward
Col. Traster
Col. Hnatiuk
Col. Hardin

Entertainment

Music: DJ – Sergio Diaz – 3:45-8 p.m.

Volleyball: Set up – but no organized teams – 3:45-8 p.m.

Horseshoes: For everyone, and the Colonels vs. Chiefs competition at 6 p.m.

Bounce Castle: For the kids – 3:45-8 p.m.

Laughlin's Tiger Team digs into education

By Capt. Paula Kurtz
Public Affairs

Safety, discipline, gangs, drugs and accountability are a few of the issues currently under review by the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School Board Superintendent, Bobby Fernandez, since he was named interim superintendent July 26.

Responding to a call from Laughlin and Del Rio parents to improve processes and policies throughout the school district, Mr. Fernandez began his tenure as superintendent with visits to each of the district's 14 elementary, junior high and high school campuses following his formal selection by the school board recently. During the campus visits Mr. Fernandez met with staff and faculty members to address concerns, outline standards and communicate expectations.

"I've been with the school district for 32 years, so I'm pretty familiar with the areas where we excel and the areas where we need to improve," Mr. Fernandez said during a Sept. 16 meeting with leaders from Laughlin and the Del Rio community. "Laughlin has made it easier to discuss these issues by bringing them to the public," he explained, referring to a series of stories run by the Del Rio News Herald following a town hall meeting of Laughlin's parents Aug. 12. "The concerns at Laughlin are not any different than those of other parents in our community."

Before taking his presentation to campus principals and faculty, Mr. Fernandez first addressed the staff at the district office, pointing to new programs and requirements at the federal and state levels that have raised standards and expectations. The federal government's No Child Left Behind program and

the state's new academic skills test are two examples he used.

"If we are to meet those new expectations, then business as usual will not work for us," Mr. Fernandez said. "So I have raised our standards and the bar as we go along."

Although he admits much work remains to be done, Mr. Fernandez outlined a few initiatives already planned or implemented within the district.

Safety and discipline

- Directed campus faculty and staff to ensure an adult is present to supervise students upon their arrival on campus and while waiting for transportation after dismissal. An adult will be present at all times when a student is on campus, and will designate areas where students will congregate under this supervision. If necessary, we will stagger arrival and dismissal times of staff in order to accomplish this task, Mr. Fernandez said.

- Directed counseling staff to provide in-service training to faculty and students on bullying and to implement policies to put an end to it.

- Directed staff members to monitor hallways and restrooms throughout the day, including during class time.

- There must be a follow-up on misconduct reports.

- Profanity is not allowed by anyone at any time on our campuses

- Visitors to a school campus must check in with the office.

- Establish and monitor schedule of security personnel.

- Faculty and staff must establish and monitor appropriate student dress code for each campus; dress codes submitted to Superintendent's office for approval.

Gangs and Drugs

- Inform and remind students of

new expulsion policy for drug violations

- Assign faculty members to monitor appropriate areas throughout the campus, inside and outside

- Designate campus areas that are off-limits when not appropriately supervised.

Accountability

- Faculty members will: contact parents on a regular basis; monitor student progress reports; conduct regular PTO meetings; monitor and approve all PTO fundraisers and accounting procedures

"From the feedback I've received from parents, the changes are already noticeable," said Col. Keith Traster, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander and the base's liaison to the school board. As liaison, Col. Traster heads Laughlin's tiger team on education issues which is tasked to research issues of concern to base parents and work with the school board to find acceptable solutions. The tiger team convened for its second meeting Sept. 15.

Following is a status report on current issues:

- **Issue:** Early pick-up and late drop-off times for base children on school buses

- **Status:** Research found problem to be with only two buses rather than the entire fleet. Resolution still working.

- **Issue:** Quality of substitute teachers/tutors

- **Status:** Laughlin is developing a list of potential candidates to serve as substitutes and tutors. School district is interested in expanding its pool of substitutes and is considering offering a class for those who are interested.

- **Issue:** Can home-schooled children attend public schools for

extracurricular activities?

- **Status:** State law gives local school districts the option of supporting home-schooled children. The SFDR CISD has elected not to open classes and activities to home-schooled children. Issue closed.

- **Issue:** Consolidated list of PTO and school district meetings

- **Status:** In-work

- **Issue:** Community Outreach for base members to help teachers with relocation into new high school

- **Status:** Tiger Team is currently researching the school district's need for assistance with this project and a potential list of specific tasks that need to be accomplished.

- **Issue:** Implementation of a wing mentoring program between Laughlin members and individual children in junior high and high school.

- **Status:** Wing commander supports base involvement in schools' mentorship programs. Feature story planned for Oct. 3 Border Eagle.

- **Issue:** Grade scale policy for advanced placement classes

- **Status:** School district committee is currently reviewing this issue, and it will be discussed at a future school board meeting.

While work continues on improvements across the school district, Mr. Fernandez along with base and community leaders all agreed on one issue at the Sep. 16 meeting – everyone is working toward the same goal.

"We all need to be challenged at one time or another," said Mayor Dora Alcalá, who chaired the meeting. "It is good for things like this to be brought to light. If we can work together and help each other, we can give our children a better opportunity to excel in school."

New Texas law restricts license plate frames

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

Since Sept. 1 it is illegal to alter or obscure the letters or numbers on Texas vehicle license plates.

A new law amends the current Texas Transportation Code and should be enforced equally upon drivers of all makes and models of vehicles ranging from modified sports cars to mini-vans.

The law also makes it an offense to place a coating, covering or protective material that distorts angular visibility or detectability of

the license plate or alters or obscures the letters or numbers on the plate, color of the plate or another original design feature of the plate.

The legislation, written by a Houston delegate to assist toll-road authorities in their use of optical scanners to read motorists' license plates, now has everyone scrambling to check out the legality of their plates.

Anyone having accessories surrounding their plates, to include to extra-

neous lighting (e.g., neon or strobe) and license plate frames that are expressive, advertise a car dealership or show off an alma mater,

may be breaking the law and could be ticketed by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Car dealerships

have traditionally sold cars with frames advertising the dealership and may go unnoticed or forgotten by the owners who may be noncompliant unknowingly.

Some dealerships have

begun issuing letters to customers notifying them of the law and offering new frames. Drivers with a plastic cover over the entire plate, even if transparent, may also be in violation.

A good test for determining whether a plate is in violation is to see if the frame or other device on the license plate obstructs the view of any numbers or letters on the plate. If not, then the plate probably is in compliance with the new law.

However, this law will be enforced by a variety of law enforcement personnel, including city police departments and sheriff's deputies. These individuals may

use their discretion to determine on a case-by-case basis whether a license plate complies with the law.

Since it's possible for law enforcement personnel to have differing opinions about the same plate, owner may want to we remove any obstructions to avoid a ticket.

Tickets have already been issued for violations of this law in San Antonio and Dallas with reported fines up to \$200. Making a fashion statement is not worth the cost of a potential fine. If there is any confusion about the legality of the frame on a license plate, the best action is to remove it.

"If there is any confusion about the legality of the frame on a license plate, the best action is to remove it."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ben Bloker

Roughing Isabel...

A videographer from the 1st Communications Squadron braves the water and wind of Hurricane Isabel to document damage

caused by the storm near the Air Combat Command headquarters building at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

19th AF command chief visits Laughlin

By Airman 1st Class
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

The new 19th Air Force command chief stopped at Laughlin two days last week for a site visit.

Chief Master Sgt. Timmothy Dickens visited Laughlin to learn about the mission, the installation, issues facing the people here and try to dispel any rumors that may be out there.

"[Laughlin] has an awesome mission," said the chief. "The entire team is taking care of business. Team XL is awesome." Chief Dickens, who became 19th Air Force command chief Aug. 1, said he joined the Air Force at 17 because that is all he ever wanted to do.

"As long as I've been old enough to make decisions, I've wanted to be in the Air Force like my father," said Chief Dickens. "I see it as an honorable profession."

Chief Dickens started his career in supply, just like his father. He has taken on many special assignments between supply duties. He worked twice for the Presidential Honor Guard, the second time as superintendent. He was a sergeant major at the Air Force Academy where he helped train cadets

as a military training instructor. He also served as command chief at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. From there he became 19th Air Force command chief.

Chief Dickens said his job is to be the eyes and ears of Maj. Gen. James Sandstrom, 19th Air Force commander.

"I deal with health and morale, welfare, good order and discipline, effective utilization of manpower, quality of life issues and enlisted professional development for all the men and women assigned to 19th Air Force," said Chief Dickens. "I want to make sure people are as knowledgeable as possible about the issues which affect them."

Chief Dickens sees many changes in the Air Force from when he first started out. "There has been a shift in the knowledge level of our folks in the Air Force," the chief said. "[New airmen] are smarter; they are more inquisitive. It is up to us to get them to understand how important it is they focus on the jobs they have selected and are training in."

The chief sees expeditionary readiness as the biggest issue facing Air Force today. While he feels Air Force has done a good job so far, he believes even more atten-



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Chief Master Sgt. Timmothy Dickens, 19th Air Force command chief, shakes hands Staff Sgt. Kathleen Crowell, 47th Aero-medical Dental Squadron dental flight NCO in charge, during a tour of the dental offices. Chief Dickens toured many Laughlin facilities last week.

tion should be given those families and workers left behind. "We need to ensure people are prepared professionally but also make sure they do what they need to do personally," he said. "The individuals and the leadership on the installation need to make sure they stay focused on the family members and the coworkers left behind.

We need to make sure folks are prepared and their families are taken care of."

The chief said he hopes that during his time as command chief, he is able to help keep the stress level low and the knowledge level high. "I want to make sure people get all the information they need to do their job," he stressed.

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

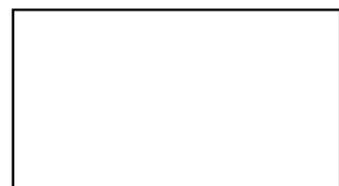
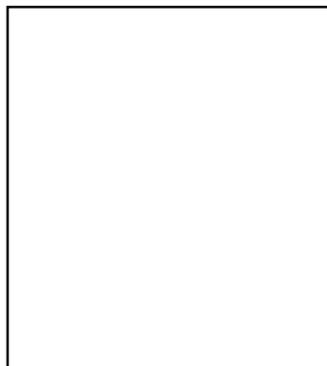




Photo by John Rossino

Wrapping a raptor...

John Fotey (left) and Andrew Velasko paint the 325th Fighter Wing designation on the tail of an F/A-22 Raptor at the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company assembly plant in Marietta, Ga. The jet, Raptor 18, will be used to train pilots in the 43rd Fighter Squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. One aircraft each month is expected to arrive at Tyndall following Raptor 18's arrival.

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.

POWs, those MIA: Gone,

By Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark
Staff writer

Prisoners of war and those missing in action were remembered here Sept. 19 with an air power call and POW/MIA retreat ceremony.

During the air power call, three former North Vietnam POWs spoke about their experiences. At the retreat ceremony, retired Maj. Gen. Gerald Prather, graduate of cadet aviation class 56-Uniform, spoke about one of his classmates who was declared MIA in 1965, and the Marine Corps color guard retired the last American flag that flew over Iwo Jima.

"This flag flew over the island where we lost so many military personnel," said retired Senior Master Sgt. Paul Bockman, who accompanied the flag on behalf of Black Pearl Veterans of Iwo Jima. "We need to keep the patriotism in this country."

Laughlin is the second Air Force base to fly the flag in its journey across the United States. "The flag has flown over 20 states and the island of Puerto Rico," said Sergeant Bockman. "It is our goal to fly it over all 50 capitols. It's important that the young people don't forget where our nation came from."

In addition to having the last stars and stripes that flew



Photos by Jose Mendoza

A three-ship Missing Man formation began the prisoners of war and missing in action retreat ceremony Sept. 19. The formation is symbolic of the loss of a comrade in arms and honors those who never returned.



Members of the 47th Security Forces Squadron march through Laughlin on POW/MIA day with 30-pound rucksacks. Each member carried one name of a POW to pay tribute to the individual and all POWs and those MIA.

... *but not forgotten*

over Iwo Jima here, three former Vietnam POWs helped flight members ensure they don't forget. Retired Lt. Col. Ken Cordier, held captive five years, four months; James Madison, held captive six years, four months; and Thomas

Madison, held captive five years, 11 months spoke about how they were captured and the conditions they lived in. "Everyone was treated the same and that meant torture," said Colonel Cordier. "I don't think you can truly appreciate

something until you lose it ... freedom. You must remember your oath as fighting men and women and cling to that." "Combined, they spent more than 18 years as POWs serving the United States under circumstances many will

never be able to fully understand or imagine," said Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander. "Each of these warriors is a true American hero, and we owe them our gratitude and deep respect."



1st Lt. Monica Mahoney and 2nd Lt. Ademola Elliotte, honor guard members, fold the POW/MIA flag during the retreat ceremony here.



Retired Col. Ken Cordier, retreat ceremony guest speaker, and Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, salute the POW/MIA wreath.

(Upper right) Retired Maj. Gen. Gerald Prather, member of aviation cadet class 56-Uniform, speaks to attendees at the POW/MIA retreat ceremony about a classmate from his graduating class who was declared MIA in 1965.

(Right) Lieutenant Elliotte assists members from the Marine Corps color guard in retiring the last American flag to fly over Iwo Jima.



The *XLer*

Airman Benjamin Hill
 47th Mission Support Group

Hometown: Brookings, S.D.

Family: Wife, Jennifer

Time at Laughlin: One year

Time in service: One year, four months

Greatest accomplishments: Graduating from high school

Hobbies: Music, cars and sleeping

Bad habits: Procrastinating
Favorite movie: "Menace II Society"

Favorite musician/band: Jay-O Felony, Crooked I

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My grandparents, so I can tell them how much of an influence they had on my life.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark



Laughlin Salutes

Airman Leadership School graduates:

All Senior Airmen:

- Aimee Miller, 85th Flying Training Squadron
- Cassie Bone, 47th Medical Operations Support Squadron
- Kevin Nelson, 47th Operations Support Squadron
- Rodney Kizzia, 47th Security Forces Squadron
- Scott Fooshee, 47th OSS

- Teddy Valdes, 47th OSS
- Loretta Yabut, 86th Flying Training Squadron
- Michael Brown, 47th Communications Squadron
- Heinzl Jno-Baptiste, 47th Medical Support Squadron
- Stacy Kelly, 47th SFS
- Joshua Aston, 47th SFS
- Annika Preciado, 47th OSS
- Joe Hale, 47th OSS
- Becky Hale, 47th

- Aeromedical-Dental Squadron
- Heather Sanders, 47th Flying Training Wing

Below the Zone selectees:

- All Airmen First Class:
- Charles Barber, 47th MDSS
- Kevin Bombara, 47th CS
- Amanda Ritter, 47th OSS

Iraqi children awaiting first day of school

By Tech. Sgt.
Mark Getsy
506th Air
Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq – Schools here are still a week away from opening, but smiling children are already climbing the gates, eagerly waiting for the first day of class.

Why? Because Air Force and Army volunteers have extended a helping hand so these children can further their education in modernized facilities.

Members of the Air Force's 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron at Kirkuk Air Base and the Army's Battle Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Airborne, have teamed up to renovate two schools in the local area.

The first school, a model for the rest of the Kirkuk schools, is sched-

uled to open for class Wednesday.

"We adopted the schools because they were close to our safe houses," said 1st Sgt. Richard Weik, the Army project officer. "The first thing we did was go around and assess the electrical and plumbing situation. It was a mess."

The Army called in Air Force electricians to help get the school ready for business.

Tech. Sgt. Jack Vollriede, an electrician for the 506th ECES, said Air Force electricians were already in the area working on Army safe houses when they heard about the project.

"The Army asked us if we would check out the electrical work being done at the school," said Sergeant Vollriede. "I saw the work needing (to be) done was similar to what I do in my civilian job back home so I asked others in my



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charlein She

Iraqi students wait impatiently at the gates for the opening of their new school. Army and Air Force troops volunteered to renovate two local schools near Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

shop to volunteer and help out with the project."

Since mid-September, more than 10 electricians have been working daily to get the schools up and running. Sergeant Vollriede said it is hard at times to find the right parts, but the team has managed to accomplish a great deal in a short period of time.

"We have completed five electrical service panel replacements, installed emergency lighting, fixed all the interior lighting and even fixed the school bell," he said. "We are now working on installing grounded outlets for computers in all the class-

rooms and offices."

Sgt. 1st Class Edwin Gorgas, project officer for the second school, said the renovations are only in the beginning stages, but they are a great improvement from what they initially saw.

"When we got here, the doors were ripped out, only two lights worked and the bathrooms were disgusting, to put it nicely," Sergeant Gorgas said. "We're hoping to have all the doors replaced, the plumbing fixed and all the lights working before school starts. Then our goal is to build a courtyard, cafeteria, teachers' lounge and a library."

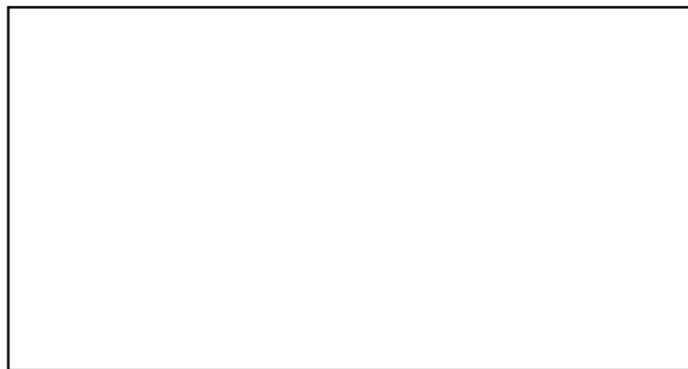
Sergeant Vollriede said that help for the schools extends all the way back to the United States. Children back home are writing letters to wish the Iraqi children good luck, and many vendors and organizations are sending school supplies, he said.

"(There are) already eight schools in Illinois donating items and the number is growing," said Sergeant Vollriede.

An American veterans group is sending care packages and U.S. businesses are sending supplies, said Sergeant Vollriede.

Sergeant Weik said working in the schools and helping out the children is a good stress reliever.

"(There are) times we're in a firefight or something earlier in the day," he said. "It always feels good to come here afterward and be able to do something for the children."



Rapcon member walks over competition

Last week, Kerry Miller, 47th Operations Support Squadron, beat the other competitors to take the weekly crown by picking 11 games correctly in the Border Eagle/Services weekly football contest.

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

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

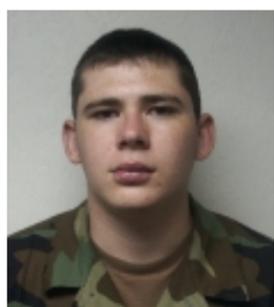
Drop boxes will be located at Club XL, Club Amistad, Cactus Lanes, Silver Wings and the

Chaparral Dining facility.

The players for this week are: Tech. Sgt. Victor Tamez Jr., Airman 1st Class Michael Frank, Scott Kline, Senior Airman Kevin Balch and Airman 1st Class Christine Kline.



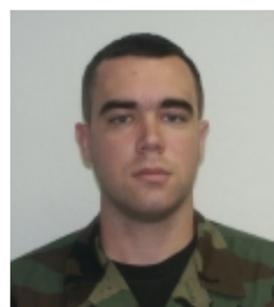
**Tech. Sgt.
Victor Tamez Jr.**



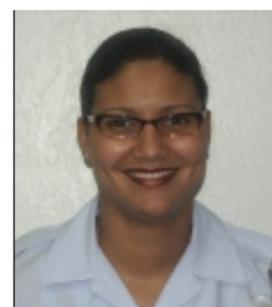
**Airman 1st Class
Michael Fronk**



Scott Kline



**Senior Airman
Kevin Balch**



**Airman 1st Class
Christine Kline**

Games:

K.C. at Bal.
 Phi. at Buf.
 Atl. at Car.
 Cin. at Cle.
 Jax. at Hou.
 S.F. at Minn.
 Tenn. at Pit.
 Ariz. at St.L.
 N.E. at Wash.
 S.D. at Oak.
 Det. at Den.
 Dal. at N.Y.Jets
 Ind. at N.O.
 G.B. at Chi.

Kansas City
 Philadelphia
 Carolina
 Cincinnati
 Houston
 San Francisco
 Tennessee
 St. Louis
 New England
 Oakland
 Denver
 New York Jets
 Indianapolis
 Green Bay

Kansas City
 Buffalo
 Carolina
 Cleveland
 Houston
 Minnesota
 Tennessee
 St. Louis
 Washington
 Oakland
 Denver
 Dallas
 Indianapolis
 Green Bay

Kansas City
 Philadelphia
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 Cincinnati
 Houston
 San Francisco
 Tennessee
 St. Louis
 New England
 Oakland
 Denver
 New York Jets
 Indianapolis
 Green Bay

Kansas City
 Buffalo
 Carolina
 Cincinnati
 Houston
 San Francisco
 Pittsburgh
 St. Louis
 Washington
 Oakland
 Denver
 Dallas
 Indianapolis
 Green Bay

Baltimore
 Buffalo
 Atlanta
 Cincinnati
 Jacksonville
 San Francisco
 Tennessee
 Arizona
 Washington
 Oakland
 Denver
 New York Jets
 Indianapolis
 Green Bay

XL Fitness Center hours

Monday - Thursday:
 5 a.m. to midnight

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

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

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

Sportslines

Cycling program

The Air Force is offering an incentive cycling program.

Indoor and outdoor cyclists of all abilities may participate by recording their mileage to earn exclusive cycling accessories.

All types of cycling are authorized for mileage including recreational outdoor, mountain

biking, racing, stationary and recumbent cycling and spinning classes.

The program is open to all base personnel including active duty, family members, Department of Defense civilians and retirees.

For more information, call the XL Fitness Center at 298-5251 or Outdoor Recreation at 298-5830.