

“I never went into the air thinking I would lose.”

– Cmdr. Randy Cunningham, USN

News in Brief

Media award

Congratulations go out to Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde who placed second in the best new writer category in the Air Education and Training Command Media Awards.

Promotion ceremony

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

For more information, call 298-5667.

Wellness fair

A women's wellness fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7 at the Fiesta Community Center. Several organizations will be offering information on the key to better health.

For more information, call 298-5474.

Lt. Col. select party

There will be a Lt. Col. select party at 6 p.m. March 7 at Club XL.

Mission status

(As of Feb. 21)

Days ahead or behind with mission capable rate

T-37	0.55	85.0%
T-1	-0.60	79.3%
T-38	-0.75	81.3%
T-6	N/A	79.5%



Photo by Dave Niebergall

Getting the plane...

Capt. Darrel Judy, 84th Flying Training Squadron K Flight commander, and 2nd Lt. Don Hicks, student pilot, wait to receive their aircraft assignment at the 84th FTS flight desk. Lieutenant Hicks became the first student to fly the T-6 Texan Feb. 21. See story and photos on page 10.

SECAF, CSAF: war requires team effort

By Master Sgt. Rick Burnham

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Despite dramatic successes in recent armed conflicts, the Air Force would only present a portion of the forces brought to bear against Iraq, if indeed war is needed to disarm the forces of Saddam Hussein.

Winning such a conflict will require a team effort, said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche, bringing together the combined efforts of not only each of the nation's armed services, but reserve forces and their civilian employers as well.

The secretary's comments came Feb. 19 during an interview with correspondents from Washington-based radio station WTOP. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper joined him during the broadcast, which included questions from call-in listeners around the national capital region.

See 'Iraq,' page 4

CSAF briefs Senate on service's 2004 outlook

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper joined the other service chiefs Feb. 25 to give the Senate Armed Services Committee his view of how fiscal 2004 is shaping up.

Jumper testified on areas ranging from manpower shortages and concerns about aging aircraft to the promises of future aircraft currently in development.

The general addressed the increased operations tempo under which the Air Force worked throughout 2002 and into 2003. According to General Jumper, more

than 25,000 airmen have deployed during operations Enduring Freedom, and Northern and Southern Watch, launching nearly 80,000 sorties. In addition, more than 25,000 sorties have covered American skies as part of Operation Noble Eagle. And, airmen also participated in several humanitarian missions worldwide.

“Our (operations) tempo has been high and our people have been sprinting for a long time, but they never failed to answer the call,” General Jumper said.

One of the ways the Air Force has worked to relieve the stress in deployment schedules is to make

more people available for deployment. A secretary-of-defense mandate called for the services to examine the jobs done by military members to see if civilian employees could do them.

“If you take those tasks that do not need to be done by people in uniform and slip those people back over to uniformed slots, we can relieve the tension on our deployed forces,” General Jumper said. “In the Air Force alone, we found 12,000 people doing what we think didn't have to be done by people in uniform.

“So it's not just a matter of add-

See 'CSAF,' page 4

Commanders' Corner

Lt. Col. Francis Brown

84th Flying Training Squadron commander

Remember, we are good guys

In March 1999, I was deployed to Vicenza, Italy, in support of Operation Allied Force. I was assigned to the Combined Air Operations Center working the night shift planning combat missions and air operations over Kosovo and Yugoslavia. It was hard work and long hours, but very rewarding.

Work started at about 4 p.m. and I usually got back to my hotel at about 8 a.m. for a quick breakfast and some sleep. At 3 p.m., I would get up, have a quick shower and head back to the CAOC for another shift. Everyone at the CAOC worked this type of shift as part of what was required to get the mission done – U.S. Air Force standard. This became the typical routine seven days a week.

In May, after the war had been going on for about five weeks, people were starting to get tired, irritable and edgy showing the wear and tear you would expect with that kind of an ops tempo. Additionally, you could feel a general loss of focus and frustration amongst the members of the team.

One night, I was in the Combined Forces Air Component Commander's office and I noticed a phrase written up on his white board. It was the only writing on the board. "Remember, we are the good guys," it read. I found it quite profound, and it bolstered my sense of urgency about what we were doing. I still carry that memory with me today. I think it is worth reflecting upon with the current war clouds on the horizon.

For many of us serving our country in the military, we can attest that day-to-day life can have many hardships and can place a burden on the military member and their families. Not to mention the added stress of deployment and possible combat.

At this time in our history, when many of us are serving in far away places, it is time to remember to center ourselves and others on what our purpose is all about. Remember what the United States stands for and why we are out there preparing to enter the fight – because, we are the good guys.

"Remember what the United States stands for and why we are out there preparing to enter the fight ..."

Regardless of the theater, if the United States is involved, we are doing it for the right reasons. Things may arise during the fog and friction of war that makes people wonder about our purpose, express their objections or just lose focus. Support for our deployed troops and their families is more important now

than ever.

We all have acquaintances, friends or family deployed. There are also many members of Team XL deployed into the area of responsibility. Now is the time to send them an email or a handwritten note or box up some cookies to remind them of their support network back home. Stay in touch with the families that are left behind here and at other bases. Remind families and friends how important the mission is and what it is all about. Defending freedom and democracy and knowing that we are the good guys may make it easier to work toward the mission. It's what keeps me going.

Help children cope with deployment

By Capt. (Dr.) Tim Sheahan
379th Air Expeditionary Wing

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM – Deployments are often very stressful for the people left behind. Those affected most may be the deployed member's children.

Changes seen in children can be distressing for both the stateside and deployed parent, as well as the child struggling with the parent's departure.

The most important information for concerned parents is that their child's response to the deployment,

while distressing, is normal. Children cannot respond to change the way adults do, and are unlikely to say "Daddy, I'm sad Mommy's gone, and scared she won't come back."

Here are some common scenarios and helpful information.

When Mommy deploys, the child may cling to Dad. The child may act afraid to go to school, become upset if Dad is out of sight, or may want to sleep in the same bed. This may suggest the child is afraid that since Mommy left, Dad may also. Dad must reassure the child

and spend time with him or her. Dad must assure the child he is not going anywhere, and that Mommy is coming home as soon as possible.

Another common scenario is to have an "angelic" child become a disobedient "monster." A drop in grades may occur, as may acting out (hitting others, biting, breaking rules, etc). These are the child's tests to see how much of his or her life has changed. Something like "Hmm ... Mommy is gone, I wonder if the rules have changed about what I can do."

See 'Children,' page 3



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

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

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



Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training
Wing commander

phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

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

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

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

AAFES	298-3176
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Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
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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

**“Together
we XL”**

– 47th FTW motto

Enlisted perspective: people, our priority

By Chief Master Sgt.

Gerald R. Murray

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

As units throughout our Air Force deploy, posture for deployment or ramp up for accelerated operations at home, it's important to know that senior leaders are aware of how hard each of you is working, and that they are grateful for your dedication to the mission.

Nowhere is that appreciation more evident than in the President's 2004 budget proposal, which was unveiled last week. In that proposal, the largest chunk of Air Force money is focused on you – our greatest asset. People and quality-of-life initiatives make up 34 percent of the \$93.5 billion in Air Force money.

The most tangible part of that budget for most of us is the proposed pay raise, which ranges from 2 percent for our E-1s to 6.25 percent for our most senior NCOs. I want to take a moment and explain the “why's” behind this proposal, and what it means to you as an enlisted airman.

We have enjoyed several targeted pay raises in the past four years in a concerted effort to bring

our military pay into a comparable scale with that of our private sector counterparts with the same level of education and experience. We have been very successful in doing that for the majority of our junior ranks – the compensation for an airman entering the Air Force out of high school is better than 85 percent of their former classmates who chose to go to work in the private sector.

That does not take into consideration enlistment bonuses, or other special and incentive pays the Air Force provides to some skills.

“While we know we can never pay you enough for the sacrifices you and your families make for our country, targeted pay raises are a good way for us to reward ...”

However, the gap between civilian and military pay widens at the NCO and Senior NCO ranks, with our senior NCOs in some cases earning only half of what their civilian counterparts with the same skills, education and experience level earn. The 2004 targeted pay-raise proposal will continue to address that gap, giving an average pay raise of 4.6 – 4.8 percent to NCOs, and between 5 percent to 6.25 percent for senior NCOs.

Another factor considered in setting this proposal was the time a per-

son spends in a particular grade.

E-1s are in a transitional phase of their career. By the time an airman completes basic training and technical school, most are already E-2s and E-3s. The high promotion rates of the past few years have also driven average sew-on times down; the average time for promotion to staff sergeant is now 4.6 years, significantly less than years past. Those same E-1s coming in now with a 2 percent pay raise will enjoy the benefits of the NCO targeted pay raises much sooner than in the past.

While we know we can never pay you enough for the sacrifices you and your families make for our country, targeted pay raises are a good way for us to reward the skill and experience of our retention-based force while giving our young airmen motivation to advance as they look up the pay scale.

In today's environment of high operations tempo, deployments and demanding missions, every member of our force is an integral part of the team, and we will continue to seek adequate pay and compensation for all you do. The Air Force needs each one of you to understand the immense value you are to the organization and to continue to carry your weight every day. Thank you for your dedicated service, and what you do for our Great Nation.

absent. Let the child know all feelings are okay.

Get a copy of your child's favorite book, read it on an audio tape, and mail it home.

The stay-at-home parent should plan special outings regularly.

The stay-at-home parent should keep in touch with teachers to monitor behavior and performance at school. Many bases have programs available for family members of deployed personnel. Call the family support center.

Conduct an Internet search for “children” and “deployment.” You'll find a wealth of material.

As tough as life may be for the deployed member, we tend to forget how our families can be affected. Managing your own stress is very important, but we must commit to easing the stress of those too young to do it for themselves.

‘Children,’ from page 2

This is not malicious or manipulative, but born of uncertainty. Consistent discipline is crucial. Mommy isn't there, but the rules and consequences that exist to keep the child safe have not changed. This will provide a sense of comfort and consistency.

If you are deployed, here are some general tips to help your child cope with your absence:

Keep in touch! Both parents should work hard to send letters, videos, pictures, back and forth. A letter written from you to your child in its own envelope is invaluable towards making him or her feel special. Be liberal with “I love you.”

The stay-at-home parent should keep your picture in a prominent place. He or she should ask the child about any feelings regarding the deployed parent being

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

'Iraq,' from page 1

"Although we'll use airpower right off the bat," Dr. Roche said, "our armed services fight as a team."

General Jumper agreed, adding that recent advancements in technology will produce some very significant results.

"We never fight alone," the general said. "It's a coordinated effort among all the services, and we certainly do our part. But we never pretend that it's all about airpower. We're going to go in there, if the President asks us to do this, with much more striking power than we've had in the past, certainly more than we saw in Desert Storm. I think you're going to be very surprised and pleased with what you see."

That improved striking power will require a powerful blend of airpower from a variety of different sources, Dr. Roche said.

"It's a combat air force, not just the Air Force," the secretary said. "It will also be naval air and Marine Corps aviation, so it's the combat air force of the United States."

And that includes measures by civilian employers, whose sacrifices in support of Guard and Reserve

call-ups have become commonplace in recent years, particularly since Sept. 11, 2001. General Jumper called those sacrifices an absolute key to the success of America's armed forces.

"We can't tell you how thankful we are for all the employers out there who let go of some of their best people to put on the uniform and come on active duty," he said. "You can't tell the difference (between active duty and Reserve) when you are out there."

It is all about the "total force concept," Dr. Roche said, a prescription for success when it comes to armed conflict.

"We have had a total force concept for some time that works very, very well," he said. "We can do things with our active force immediately and not have to rely on the Reserves or Guard, but if we start to do a lot then we very much do rely on the Guard and Reserves. But instead of them having unique, niche roles, they do everything that the rest of the Air Force does, and so therefore they add to it."

For a complete transcript of the interview, go to http://www.issues.af.mil/speeches/SECAF_CSAF_WTOP.htm.

'CSAF,' from page 1

ing end-strength. It's a matter of making efficiencies of what you (have)," he said.

Another point of institutional stress facing the service is the cost of maintaining an increasingly geriatric aircraft fleet, General Jumper said.

"Our average aircraft is 23 years old – the oldest we've ever had to deal with," General Jumper said. "We're facing corrosion and fatigue problems we've never seen before."

The cost of maintaining the aging fleet is increasing at a rate of about 10 percent per year, General Jumper said. In addition, maintainers are working about 200,000 extra man-hours per year to inspect engines.

On the plus side, the general praised the potential of the F/A-22 Raptor and the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft.

"The F/A-22 will give us 24-hour stealth capability for the first time," he said. "It's already got the qualities of the best air-to-air fighter

in the world, but its main focus will be on what it can do air-to-ground.

"The Joint STARS is magnificent sensing device that we join with ground forces to give them moving target indications on the ground," he said.

According to General Jumper, the service is planning to upgrade the next generation of JSTARS to the Boeing 767.

"This will be the baseline aircraft for our multi-sensor command and control aircraft that will do the integration of space, manned and un-

manned platforms that we think will take us into the future," he said.

Those additions to the fleet, along with a "total force" cadre of active duty, Air Force Reserve,

Air National Guard and civilian men and women who are the "best in the world," makes today's Air Force more ready than ever to answer the call.

"The Air Force has never not been ready," General Jumper said. "We're ready for anything the president asks."

"The Air Force has never not been ready. We're ready for anything the president asks,"
– General John P. Jumper,
Air Force Chief of Staff

Mail delays

Due to a recent snowstorm a 436th Aerial Port Squadron mail processing warehouse collapsed at Dover Air Force Base, Del., causing mail delays to the European and Southwest/Central Asia theaters.

Customers can expect delays with registered mail and large parcels until the United States Postal Service, Air Mobility Command and the Military Postal Service can reroute mail. Mail inside the facility cannot be retrieved until the building is declared safe to enter. Customers may expect some damage to have occurred to mail in the facility.

Tricare hours

The Tricare Service Center in the Laughlin clinic will now be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday effective Monday.

For more information, call (800) 406-2832.

Friendship tree

The Child Development Center is painting a friendship tree on a large sheet of paper and mak-

Newslines

ing the leaves of the tree out of children's handprints. Any Laughlin child not in the CDC may go to the Fiesta Center Monday and add a handprint.

For more information, call 298-5224.

Space-A travel

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

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

Active duty members must be in a leave or

pass status to register for space-available travel, and remain so throughout the travel.

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

Club member scholarships

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

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

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

Commissary provides service, savings during deployments

By Carole Young
Defense Commissary Agency

Military service members make many sacrifices to defend our country, among them: personal, professional and financial. All three seem to coincide when a service member is deployed or a Guard or Reserve member is activated, sometimes facing a reduction in household income.

The Defense Commissary Agency can help by providing significant grocery savings of 30 percent or more to service members and their families – when they use their commissary benefit regularly. Shoppers can expect to save even more on meat and produce purchases and frequent case lot sales help shoppers realize even bigger savings.

In addition to working hard to ensure exceptional savings for the military community, DeCA is committed to providing excellent name brand products, produce and meats, and efficient service that's second to none. Grab-and-go sections, early bird and assisted shopping and 30-minute parking spaces are conveniences you'll find at many commissaries. Cooking demonstrations, "Meat Made Easy" preparation instructions and recipes are all part of DeCA's commitment to service.

Take note of some of these tips to help make deployments easier – and make the most of commissary shopping.

■Arm yourself with infor-

mation. Before deploying, make sure family members are provided with the correct information and documentation needed for commissary shopping. Tips for preparing for deployment can be found on http://deploymentlink.osd.mil/deploy/prep/prepare_deploy_checklist.shtml.

■Guard and Reserve members should have a commissary privilege card. Unless activated, Guard or Reserve members and authorized family need to show a privilege card along with a military identification card to take advantage of their 24 shopping days at the commissary. Service members should go to their local unit to get information concerning the privilege. DeCA does not issue the privilege card; the unit does. For more information on Guard and Reserve shopping privileges visit http://www.commissaries.com/guard_reserve.htm.

■Shop the commissary every day. When serving on active duty or in a training status, deployed service members and activated Guard or Reserve members and authorized family members have unlimited usage of the commissary.

■Save money with manager's specials. Commissaries feature hundreds of unadvertised specials providing additional savings to customers. Commissaries also receive price reductions on locally delivered items such as beverages and snacks.

Shopping more frequently, not just payday, often nets additional savings.

■Send the gift of commissary savings. That's the "Gift of Groceries." It's a commissary gift certificate anyone can purchase over the Internet or by a toll-free call, but only authorized shoppers can redeem them at the commissary. Good at any commissary, they can be purchased most easily online at <http://www.commissaries.com>.

They can even be donated through the USO, the Fisher House Foundation Inc. or the Air Force Aid Society to military families in need.

■Shop smart. Families of deployed service members often eat less "big meals" at home, but eating out at the local pizza parlor or fast food restaurant is not the way to save money. Skip the "desperate" dinner out and pick up fast and convenient meals at the commissary instead. Bring home popular and inexpensive meals such as pizza, hot dogs and frozen entrees for the family. Stock your pantry shelves with a classic budget-friendly (and universally kid-approved) food, macaroni and cheese. Bagged salad prices at the commissary can't be beat and Grab-and-Go or deli sections have freshly prepared sandwiches and side dishes.

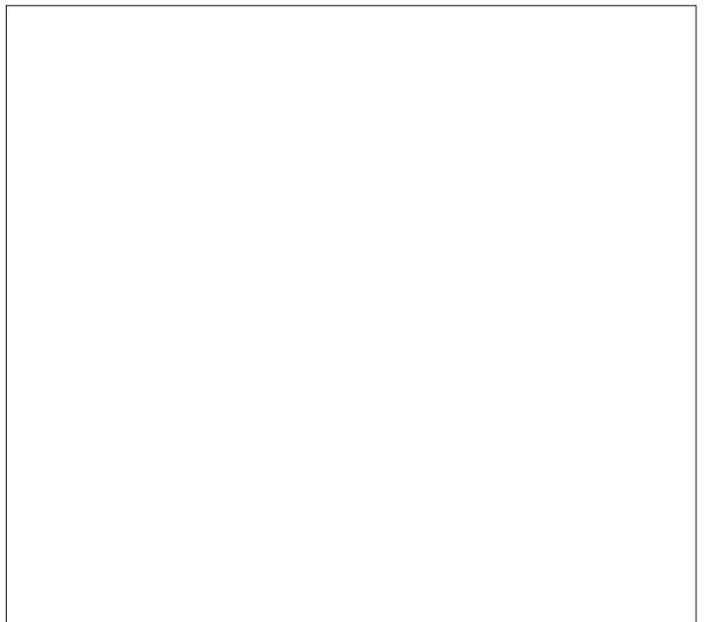
Remember, nothing beats preparation for saving money and being ready for deployment. That and shopping in your commissary!



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

And the winner is...

Lt. Col. Jennifer Graham, 47th Mission Support Squadron commander, judges one of the nine doors Buena Vista Elementary School entered in the Black History Month door decorating contest Wednesday. Buena Vista had the most classroom participation of the six schools that entered the contest.



U.S. military trains exiled Iraqi forces in Hungary

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – U.S. soldiers are training Iraqi exiles and expatriates at a Hungarian air base to aid U.S. forces should an invasion of Iraq become necessary.

About 700 U.S. soldiers are working at Taszar Air Base, Hungary, to train up to 3,000 Free Iraqi Forces, said Army Maj. Robert Stern, a spokesman for Task Force Warrior in Taszar. Americans in the task force dubbed the training area “Camp Freedom.”

The Iraqi volunteers, many of whom were tortured by Saddam Hussein, will help U.S. and coalition units in dealing with civil-military affairs.

“The training of the first group has gone very well,” Major Stern said. “These are motivated individuals who are looking forward to beginning their job in support of coalition forces.”

He said the trainers are also happy with the way instruction is going. He said there were some

bumpy spots at the beginning, but the Americans adjusted their style of instruction to fit the group. “Obviously, the first difficulty was having training conducted both in English and Arabic,” Stern said. “Second, the drill sergeants had to change their styles from teaching U.S. basic trainees to training civilians.”

The instructors changed their style, interaction and dynamics and said they would apply lessons learned to the next group.

The Iraqis’ training is divided into two phases. The first focuses on basic soldiering skills – marching, map and compass reading, radio operations, physical training, self-defense – military structure and basic U.S. military terminology.

Officials stressed that the volunteers are not military and are not being trained to take part in direct com-

bat. But they do need to know how to defend themselves. Therefore, they fire 9 mm pistols, identify land mines and learn defenses against a chemical or biological attack.

Civil affairs instructors take over for the second phase of training. The

“They will serve as the coalition link between nongovernmental agencies and the displaced citizens of Iraq,”

Maj. Robert Stern,
Task Force Warrior
spokesman

Army envisions the Free Iraqi Forces helping with interpreting for coalition forces, being guides, helping to handle refugees, helping administer refugee camps, dealing with POWs and help-

ing with rear-area security. The Iraqi volunteers will advise commanders on local Iraqi attitudes and help commanders as they interact with the people of the country.

“The biggest role they will fill will be facilitating coordination between coalition troops, humanitarian agencies and people who need help,” Major Stern said. “They will serve as the coalition link between non-

governmental agencies and the displaced citizens of Iraq.”

The volunteers have all been thoroughly screened by U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies. Many have lived in the United States for years. Others are more recent exiles. Ages of the volunteers run from 18 to 56, officials said.

The men will receive \$1,000 per month with additional pay for supporting family members, specialty qualifications and recognized leadership skills.

The Americans training the volunteers come from 28 different Army units across the United States. The soldiers are the same who train officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers. Before the training started earlier this month, the Americans gathered at Fort Jackson, S.C., to prepare for the mission.

Once finished, the volunteers will fly to the U.S. Central Command area of operations. “The Free Iraqi Forces will be employed consistent with their capabilities and in concert with the coalition plans,” officials said.



Photo by Scott H. Spitzer

Winter wonderland...

MCGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N.J. – Jay Bane, a contractor with McGuire’s

transient alert, moves a fire bottle into position here on a snowy morning.

First black woman pilot earned wings here 21 years ago

By Jenny Crider

Air Education and Training Command history office

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Twenty-one years ago, then 2nd Lt. Theresa Claiborne graduated from pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base Texas.

That she was a woman graduating from pilot training was nothing new for the Air Force. Women had been participating in pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, Ariz., since 1977. What did make her graduation from undergraduate pilot training significant was the fact she was the first black woman to graduate.

She and her fellow pilots in Class 82-02 graduated Sept. 16, 1982.

Daughter of retired Tech. Sgt. Morris Claiborne, she graduated from California State University before entering pilot training. After completing pilot training, she got her wish to train on “heavies” when she went to Castle Air Force Base, Calif., to train to fly KC-135 Stratotankers. At the time, women



Courtesy photo

2nd Lt. Theresa Claiborne sits in the cockpit of a T-38 before a training flight at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, in 1982.

were barred from flying combat aircraft, a restriction removed in 1991.

She went on to fly tankers as a member of the Air Force Reserve and, in the civilian world, went on to become a first officer for United Airlines flying Boeing 747-400s.

In a March 1997 *Ebony* magazine interview, she said she never felt any limitations because of her race or gender in pursuing her desire to fly.

“I never quit at anything,” she said in the interview. “I just always felt that I could do whatever I wanted to do. In high school, we



Courtesy photo

2nd Lt. Theresa Claiborne conducts a preflight check on a T-38 prior to a flight while in Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin Air Force Base in 1982.

didn't have girls' sports teams, so I played on the boys' soccer team. That's my personality – if a boy can do it, I can do it too.”

She recently retired from Beale Air Force Base, Calif., as a Lieutenant Colonel and is now residing in Sacramento, Calif.

Plaza dedication honors American patriots

By Carl Bergquist
Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – “The monument is just beautiful, but Sherry would never have believed this,” said Evelyn Olds after she and her husband, Delbert, unveiled the memorial honoring their daughter, Senior Master Sgt. Sherry Olds.

Sergeant Olds was one of the people killed in the 1998 American embassy bombing in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mrs. Olds said Sherry “didn’t accept recognition very well” and would have been surprised by the tribute, which was made possible by several former classes of Gunter Annex’s Air Force Senior NCO Academy.

Sergeant Olds’ memorial is one of 11 similar monuments in the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall’s Heritage Plaza on Gunter. The memorials, which were paid for by private donations, were unveiled during the plaza’s dedication ceremony Feb. 15.

“The memorial to Sergeant Olds, who was killed just two weeks after completing her SNCOA training here, is one of 11 tributes to those who served their country valiantly and paid the ultimate sacrifice,” said Chief Master Sgt. David Hamel, director of the Enlisted Heritage Research Institute and master of ceremony for the dedication.

Other monuments unveiled by family members or those having an intimate knowledge of the event or person memorialized included memorials venerating America’s Bicentennial; former Army Air Corps’ enlisted pilots; those lost during campaigns in Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, and Delta Forces in the Iran hostage rescue attempt; allied forces in Kosovo; military working dogs from the Vietnam War; and victims of the Khobar Towers bombing near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, in 1996.

“The plaza is wonderful and I’m honored to be here,” said retired Army Sgt. Maj. Gary Heiser, whose son, Senior Master Sgt. Michael Heiser, died at Khobar Towers. “The recognition is good as sometimes people forget what these monuments stand for.”



Photo by Melanie Rodgers

Delbert and Evelyn Olds admire the monument to their daughter, Senior Master Sgt. Sherry Olds, following the Heritage Plaza dedication ceremony

Feb. 15. Sergeant Olds was one of those killed at the 1988 American embassy bombing in Nairobi, Kenya.

Sergeant Heiser’s mother, Fran, said both the ceremony and the memorials serve an important purpose.

“All of us want to keep the awareness level about these events high,” she said. “The plaza really helps us do that.”

Those sentiments were also shared by George Beekman, whose stepson, Airman 1st Class Joshua Woody, also died at Khobar Towers.

“The ceremony was fantastic,” he said. “The plaza allows them (those honored) to not be forgotten.”

The ceremony featured several participants wearing authentic or reproductions of period military uniforms and brief narrations on the significance of each memorial.

Joined by four other former Army Air Corps

enlisted pilots, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Edwin Wenglar participated in the unveiling of the group’s monument.

“There are about 600 enlisted pilots left, but our numbers are dwindling rapidly because most of us are in our mid-80s,” said the general, who went on to become the group’s highest ranking member. “We were involved in 22 campaigns and our flag on permanent display at EHH bears a battle streamer for each campaign.”

In his closing remarks to the more than 300 guests, Chief Hamel summed up the essence of the day’s events.

“This ceremony brings a special note to many of you for many reasons,” he said. “But if it has never been said before, let it be said now: To those honored, welcome home and thank you for your service to our great nation.”

Student pilots b

**Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class
Timothy Stein
Editor**

A new era is upon Laughlin Air Force Base since the first T-6 Texan II student sortie took place here Feb. 11.

Second Lieutenant Don Hicks, 84th Flying Training Squadron student in Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Class 04-04, had the honor of being the first student to take the stick and pilot the aircraft through the Texas skies.

"It was great," said Lieutenant Hicks, a 23-year old from Puyallup, Wash. "I was so excited to finally get up there."

Capt. Darrell Judy, 84th FTS K Flight commander, was the instructor pilot flying with Lieutenant Hicks on the milestone flight. "He did as well as I expected him to do," said Captain Judy. "He was where a student pilot should be on their first flight."

For Lieutenant Hicks, it was a dream come true. "Ever since I was a young kid, I have wanted to be a pilot. To finally get up there in an Air Force

plane was unbelievable."

Lieutenant Hicks said he wasn't too nervous about being the first student to fly the T-6. "I was a little," he said. "But I was too excited to feel it much."

The flight, which was almost canceled due to weather, went off without a hitch.

Captain Judy performed the take off and landing, but Lieutenant Hicks got to try several maneuvers once they were in the air.

"It was so much different from any plane I have flown before," said Lieutenant Hicks, who has had his private pilot's license for four months now. "There is a big difference between the Cessnas I've flown and a high-performance Air Force aircraft."

Captain Judy said he didn't really feel any different going into this flight than he would with a new student in a T-37.

"There are some differences in the aircraft," said Captain Judy. "The big one being, in a T-6, the instructor sits behind the student. The student controls many of the instruments the instructor cannot reach, unlike in a T-37, where



(Photos clockwise from above) Second Lt. Don Hicks, 84th Flying Training Squadron student pilot, and Capt. Darrell Judy, 84th FTS K Flight commander, walk down the flightline towards the T-6 aircraft they are going to fly.

The T-6 Texan II, with Captain Judy and Lieutenant Hicks inside, begins its taxi down the flightline. They were the first of five T-6 sorties flown Feb. 21.

Captain Judy double checks to make sure Lieu-

tenant Hicks is all strapped in and goes over some last-minute instructions.

Captain Judy and Lieutenant Hicks go over checks to make during their aircraft walk around. Pilots check to make sure everything looks in order outside the aircraft.

Lieutenant Hicks dons his helmet and tests to make sure his oxygen mask works correctly before heading out to the aircraft.



begin flying T-6

the instructor sits side by side with the student.”

To compensate for this, T-6 students are given more simulator time than their counterparts who train in the T-37.

“The extra time in the simulator shows,” said Captain Judy. “The students feel more comfortable when they get in the real cockpit the first time.”

There are currently 11 students beginning their training in the T-6. SUPT Class 04-04 was split in half, with the other half training in the T-37. For now, every other new training class will have half its students train in the T-6, said Captain Judy.

This will change as Laughlin receives more T-6s. Eventually all student pilots will begin their training on the T-6.

“The T-37 is a great airplane,” said Captain Judy. “The T-6 is just more advantageous to the Air Force.”

Captain Judy cited the T-6’s lower maintenance costs,

better fuel efficiency and advanced avionics as the reasons the T-6 has an advantage over the T-37.

“With the better fuel efficiency, if I’m teaching a student a maneuver and he is having problems with it, we can stay up there longer practicing,” said Captain Judy.

So far the transition into the T-6 has been going well, said Captain Judy.

“There have been a few bumps in the road here and there,” he said. “It is a learning process. This is the first time we have taught this aircraft.”

Four other T-6 training sorties were flown Feb. 11. Flying them were: Capt. Scott Jones and student pilot, 2nd Lt. Ben Horton; Capt. Eric Moraes and student pilot, 1st Lt. Glenn Garcia; 1st Lt. Will Hartman and student pilot, 2nd Lt. Tim Chapman; and 1st Lt. Winston Wolczak and student pilot, 2nd Lt. Kevin Murray.





Photo by Tech Sgt. Adam Johnston

Thunder mountains

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (AFPN) — Two A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group climb after takeoff against the backdrop of the snow-covered mountains of the Hindu Kush at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, on Feb. 21. The A-10s provide close-air support for Army ground forces in the region as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

- Saturday* ● 5 p.m., Mass
- Sunday* ● 9:30 a.m., Mass
- Thursday* ● 6 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., R.C.I.A.
- Reconciliation* ● By appointment
- Religious Education*
 - 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

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

Protestant

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

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

Chaplain describes prior missions to 16 countries

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Conde

Staff writer

Because chaplains must have a three-year Master of Divinity degree and two years of pastoral experience to be accepted in the Air Force, they usually enter their military career with unique and interesting histories.

With less than one year in the Air Force, Chap. (1st Lt.) Terri Gast is beginning her third career. After graduating from Evangel University in Springfield, Mo., in 1985, she worked in business for six years before being called to full-time ministry and attending seminary for her master's degree. Since 1988 Chaplain Gast has also traveled to 16 countries related to Christian missions.

From 1996 to 1998 she served as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) missionary at Lithuania Christian College in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Following Lithuania, she served as a missionary in residence in the worldwide ministries division of the Presbyterian Church and as an associate pastor with a church in Michigan.

While she was an associate pastor, she learned of a shortage of liturgical clergy in the Air Force. Chaplain Gast said she quickly realized God was asking her to serve as a chaplain in the military.

"My mission and pastoral experience prepared me for being a chaplain in the Air Force," said Chaplain Gast. "Currently there are only 23 women chaplains in the Air Force," she said. "So, recruiting another female chaplain was a high priority for the Air Force Chaplain Service."

Chaplain Gast said her prior experiences were all steps toward becoming an Air Force Chaplain. Recalling these steps, the Tampa, Fla., native remembers the first of her trips abroad. "I had never been out of the country before," she said. "That trip was the most life changing. One of my closest friends died of cancer the week before I went on that trip. I was at her funeral four days before I left for Vallejuelo, Dominican Republic, to help build a school in a village of 1,000 people."

Chaplain Gast said she had a glimpse of her own mortality as she sat staring at the casket holding her long-time friend who was the same age she was. "I thought, 'that could be me in that casket, and what have I done with my life?'" she said. "That pretty much prepared me for anything that I was about to face."

Four days later she arrived in the Dominican Republic and was faced with an experience that has helped her to grow as a person and help people in need. "The poverty was heart wrenching. I took a bath in a river in my swimming suit for two weeks, used out-houses and dealt with tarantulas," said the chaplain. "But I wasn't focused on myself. I realized on that trip that the only things that mattered in my life were my relationship with God, and my relationship with other people. My friend's recent death showed me that was the only thing that was going to outlast me when I leave this earth, and that's what changed me."

Part of her change can be attributed to the people she met in the Dominican Republic. "When our bus



Courtesy photo

Chap. (1st Lt.) Terri Gast holds children recovering from tuberculosis at Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti in 1989. This was the second of 16 countries she has assisted.

pulled up, this old woman came out and said, 'mi casa es su casa,' [my house is your house, in Spanish] and she was beaming," said Chaplain Gast. "She was so proud because her house was one of the better houses, and it was a two-room [cement block] house with no furniture in it."

The elderly woman and her husband moved out of the house and into a stick hut behind the house to allow the mission team to stay there. Chaplain Gast remembers questioning if she would move into her garage so strangers from another country could move into her house. "I knew that I wouldn't," she said. "So, it was very, very humbling. I looked at my purpose in life differently."

Chaplain Gast said being faced with such a humbling experience changed her outlook of "what can I gain and how [can I] move up the corporate ladder?" of the Fortune 500 Company she worked for at the time.

The change guided and helped her lead a team that worked a week at Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti a year later which left her speechless. "In all my travels, I've never seen poverty like I did in Haiti," said the chaplain. "I wondered why I was born an American. I could easily have been born Haitian. I couldn't reconcile that in myself. One of my friends said 'often, as Americans, we're materially rich, but we can be spiritually poor. In other countries, people may not have much, but there's often a spiritual richness that we're lacking.' That helped me deal with what I was feeling at the time. It deepened the growing determination in me to use the things God has given me for good in the world."

Chaplain Gast's determination led to other short-term missions around the world in countries such as Armenia, Guatemala, Jamaica and Mexico. Work in Lithuania took her to Rus-

sia, Latvia, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. In 1999 she co-led a team to London, Berlin and Istanbul for the worldwide ministries division of her church.

Although she has been to many places others might go to vacation, Chaplain Gast said that mission trips are different than vacation. "When you are there living with these people, in their own environment, you see them in a new light," she said. "I got to see another side - the poverty and the extremes that most people in the posh resorts don't see. I also got to experience their culture, be in their homes and see the world through their eyes."

These experiences taught her that all people have the same basic needs. "We all need love," she added. "We all need a sense of purpose and meaning and to be treated with dignity and respect. And from a Christian standpoint, we all need God."

The *XLer*

Hometown: Denison, Texas

Family: Wife, Cindy

Time at Laughlin: Two years, eight months

Time in service: 26 years, five months

Greatest accomplishment: Making chief master sergeant in the world's greatest Air Force

Hobbies: Racquetball, watching war movies and reading leadership books by John Maxwell.

Bad habits: Being too competitive in sports.

Favorite band: Journey

Favorite movie: Somewhere in Time

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My grandfather, he died when I was a very young child.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Chief Master Sgt. Johnny Hall
47th Flying Training Wing manpower

3 x 5

Computer Training

Bandsman supports 'Gods and Generals'

By Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Campeau

U.S. Air Force Band

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. – The subject of war has always been a favorite in Hollywood, and "Gods and Generals" is the latest epic drama dedicated to telling the story of the Civil War.

For one senior noncommissioned officer here, the film represents more than just a historical piece on perhaps the most turbulent times the United States has ever known. It signals a unique opportunity to pay tribute to the historic music used in the production of the film.

Master Sgt. Jari Villanueva from the U.S. Air Force Band here served as assistant to the music producer for "Gods and Generals" and even played a small part in the film.

The film is based on the novel by Jeff Shaara and was filmed in and around Sharpsburg, Md., and other historic locations in Virginia and West Virginia.

Villanueva first became interested in Civil War music 17 years ago. It all began on a bus ride to Arlington National Cemetery. Villanueva, then a bugler for the U.S. Air Force Ceremonial Brass, was asked a simple question. "What is the origin of the bugle call Taps?"

"I didn't know," he said. The quest to find the answer has taken him on an incredible journey that has spanned nearly two decades and has earned him national recognition as an authority on the subject.

Villanueva's exhaustive research is recorded in a 60-

page booklet titled "24 Notes That Tap Deep Emotions." In 1999, he coordinated an exhibit about the history of Taps and military bugling for Arlington National Cemetery's visitor center, and he is constantly in demand for interviews on the subject from reporters across the nation. In March, the History Channel will air an interview with Villanueva titled "Taps – The Ultimate Sacrifice."

Villanueva first became involved with "Gods and Generals" when he was hired as an extra in the movie. The re-enactment coordinator was looking for an authentic bugler, and the sergeant's experience with local Civil War events made him the obvious choice. As questions about the music came up, Villanueva was on hand to answer them.

"One thing led to another," Villanueva said, "and the next thing I knew, I was hired as an assistant to the music producer."

"Jari is the kind of human being you don't find every day," said David Franco, the film's music producer and 25-year industry veteran. "We became good friends immediately."

Villanueva ensured the historical authenticity of the film's music, including the bugle signals associated with the on-screen action.

Together with Franco, he arranged a fife and drum tune, "Upon the Heights of Alma," a Crimean War melody that was used by the Irish Brigade at the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862.

Villanueva also serves on the music production staff for the U.S. Air Force Band.

Basketball standings

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L	PF	PA
87th	10-0	493	338
86th	8-3	444	364
OSS#1	7-3	422	325
LCSAM	4-6	288	296
84/85th	1-8	282	354
OSS#2	0-10	222	407

Western Conference

Team	W-L	PF	PA
CES	8-1	513	361
SFS	8-3	436	314
MED GP	5-3	345	304
Compt.	3-7	353	491
LSI	3-7	356	431
CCS	2-8	278	372

CES smashes OSS No. 2, 52-25

By Airman 1st Class
Timothy Stein
Editor

The 47th Civil Engineer Squadron shammed the 47th Operations Support Squadron No. 2, 52-25, in a basketball intermural game Wednesday at the Fitness Center.

OSS was outmatched in every aspect of the game. The CES squad was bigger, faster and more talented. They also had a solid bench, allowing them to sub players

in and out for rest. OSS was forced to compete with only six players. By the end of the game the fatigue of running up and down the court with little rest showed on their faces.

CES started the game with a 23-0 run. They were led by the spirited play of Ray Dunklin and Luis Lopez.

OSS finally got on the board with five minutes left in the first half when Paul Oceanak let one sail from three-point land. Oceanak

quickly added two more points and suddenly OSS was on a roll. Unfortunately for OSS it only lasted until the end of the half. The score was 25-9 at halftime.

The second half started in much the same way for CES. They outscored OSS 20-2 in the first 12 minutes. OSS put up a few baskets at the end of the game but it was a case of much too little much too late.

The final score was CES 52, OSS No. 2, 25.

Health activities for March

March is National Nutrition Month. The Health and Wellness Center will have several activities throughout the month in observance.

There will be a **Women's Health Fair** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7 at the Fiesta Center; a **Quick and Healthy Foods Taste Test** from 11

a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 13 at the base exchange; and a **Lion's Club Health and Fitness Fair** from 9 a.m. to noon March 13 at Buena Vista Park.



Sportslines



3-point shoot-out

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

For more information, call 298-5251.

Aerobics schedule

Step, Spin, Cardio Kickboxing and

Power Yoga classes are available at the XL Fitness Center for all Laughlin people to attend.

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

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

XL Fitness Center hours

**Monday –
Thursday:**
5 a.m. to mid-
night

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

**Saturday –
Sunday:**
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.