

**“God grants liberty only to those who live it and are always ready to guard and defend it.”**

– Daniel Webster

## News in Brief

### Promotion ceremony

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

For more information, call 298-5667.

### Graduation

Members of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 03-10 will graduate at 10 a.m. June 6 in Anderson Hall auditorium.

### Vehicle stickers

Laughlin members needing DD Form 2220, vehicle decal, can now pick them up at the pass and registration office in building 146 from 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Members should bring vehicle registration, insurance, state drivers license and ID card.

For more information, call 298-5349.

## Mission status

(As of May 23)

Days ahead or behind with mission capable rate

T-37	-1.49	87.3%
T-1	1.20	80.3%
T-38	-2.66	76.8%
T-6	-2.02	82.0%

## Memorial Day weekend on the lake...



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Laughlin members headed out to Southwinds Marina Family Day Saturday for some fun in the sun. Those attending were treated to free boat rides, food, games and more.

(Above) A pontoon boat loaded with Family Day attendees leaves the marina for an hour-long tour of Lake Amistad.

(Right) Jacob (2), son of 2nd Lt. Aaron and Jennifer Wiley, practices hola-hooping while attending Family Day activities.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

## Split disbursement now mandatory for military

**By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker**  
*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON – All military travelers must now select the split disbursement option on their travel voucher claims to directly pay their government travel card expenses, according to finance officials.

Split disbursement requires travelers to tally up their GTC expenses and authorize enough funds to be sent automatically to Bank of America to pay off their charges, said Michael G. Weber, Air Force travel card program manager at the

Pentagon. Any remaining travel settlement will still be sent to the traveler's personal account.

“Although this change was mandated by the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act to reduce the number of delinquent travel card accounts, split disbursement really is a win-win for everyone,” Weber said. “It simplifies the payment process for travelers, gets the bank their money more quickly and reduces the number of delinquent accounts.”

Nearly half of all Air Force trav-

elers already use split disbursement on a regular basis when filing their vouchers because it simplifies the process for them, Weber said.

“Airmen no longer have to wait for their travel money to be credited to their personal accounts before they can mail a check to the bank,” he said. “It saves them the cost of a stamp or a trip to a bank branch and gets the money to the bank within two or three days.”

By having all travelers pay off

**See ‘Split’ page 4**



## Commanders' Corner

**Robert Wood**  
47th Maintenance Directorate director

# 101 critical days under way

Memorial Day began "101 critical days of summer," and I can't help but express the importance of having able-bodied fun rather than spending weeks of misery in the hospital.

The nice weather and long summer days call us to play as hard as we work, but keep in mind it only takes a split second distraction for any of us to have an accident that may require time at the hospital or worse.

We all push ourselves a little harder when summer comes compared to the colder seasons. With longer days, it's tempting to put in a full day's work and then play hard far later into the evening.

With less sleep, we can put our-

selves at risk for loss of concentration – one thing that allows split-second distractions to affect how we safely go about playing or handling business.

At my desk, that moment of distraction might lead to a harmless fumbled keystroke on my computer. Imagine the consequences behind the wheel of a moving car or when using a complicated technical order.

Air Education and Training Command's critical days safety awareness is here for that reason. Statistically, the potential for time lost to injury is greater between the outset of Memorial Day and the conclusion of Labor Day weekend. However, with a good team effort,

we can beat that potential and continue to support our mission and enjoy the summer.

We all need to be tuned in as a team to ensure everyone employs proper safety measures. That means we take an authentic interest in one another and ensure there is rest time between work and play.

We have plenty of rules and regulations that cover these areas, but the motivation that makes them easy to follow is how we legitimately show our concern for each member of our team.

We can anticipate fun along with hard work and accomplish both by being well-focused, well-rested and concerned about each other.

## Seatbelt use – significant safety issue

**Master Sgt. David J. Smith**

47th Mission Support Group first sergeant

We all have our pet peeves. Mine admittedly is lack of safety, especially seatbelt use.

As a trainer, supervisor, flight superintendent and currently first sergeant, one of my main concerns is the safety and the well-being of my folks, peers and supervisors.

I'm not going to delve into the grisly details of what can, and will most likely happen to you or your passengers should you fail to buckle up. Having recently reviewed a report on fatalities in 8th Air Force for fiscal year 2002 involving four-wheeled vehicles, I can tell you that three out of five fatalities were not wearing seatbelts.

Some of my passion for safety and seatbelt use comes from being a Motorcycle Safety Foundation instructor and quality assurance evaluator at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., where I issued the most write-ups for failure to use seatbelts.

There are Air Force operating instructions that direct seatbelt use. What never ceases to amaze me is the ridiculously high number of Air Force members and their dependents I have observed, on and off base, not wearing their seatbelts. On one occasion, I observed a driver putting on his seatbelt as he approached the gate. This told me he knew seatbelts are required, and the gate guard could issue him a ticket.

I'm pretty confident that somewhere along the line everyone who operates or rides in a vehicle has been briefed on the importance and requirement of seatbelt use.

What tends to strike me as funny is the way my own kids kick up a fuss if I should start to move the car if one of them isn't properly buckled up. I say funny because it is then I think of how they came to learn the importance of seatbelt use and the possible consequences of not using them. Their seatbelt use is second nature because mom and dad have drilled the importance time and again, kind of like what I'm doing here.

Back when my youngest son, Josh, was in kindergarten, he once refused to ride in a car with another parent on a field trip because the parent wasn't using a seatbelt. He understood seatbelt safety at a very young age.

Admittedly, there was a time when I didn't always use my seatbelt. What changed me was being briefed that should I get into an accident without being buckled up, I would very likely pay my own medical expenses, if I survived. Or worse, my family would more than likely incur those expenses if I didn't survive the accident.

The bottom line is that seatbelt use is mandated by Air Force operating instructions and most states, including Texas, have laws directing seatbelt use. Perhaps buckling up is a habit we all should live with. I'll be looking out for you. Will you look out for others? After all, it's the right thing to do.



### Editorial Staff

**Col. Dan Woodward**  
Commander

**Capt. Paula Kurtz**  
Public affairs chief

**2nd Lt. Lindsay Logsdon**  
Internal information chief

**Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein**  
Editor

**Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde**  
Staff writer

The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

#### Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

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

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil) or [yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil](mailto: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 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.



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

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

***“Excellence –  
not our goal, but  
our standard.”***

- 47th FTW motto

## Airman learns importance of seeking help

Senior Airman  
Heather Shelton

86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – My story isn't about how I urinated all over myself while performing a field sobriety test, or how I struggled with the female security forces member who put me in cuffs after I was apprehended for driving under the influence.

My story is about the realization and acceptance of the mistake I made, and the effect it's had on me and the people around me.

The realization of what I did began to sink in during my verbal reprimand from the vice wing commander about my recent behavior.

As I stood at attention in front of him, he looked up from his desk after reading my charges and asked one simple question, “Why?”

No matter how hard I thought about it, all I could think of was the usual, “I made a bad decision ... I had a lapse of judgment.” He sat behind his seemingly larger than normal desk, in a room in which I felt so small, and said, “No. That's not good enough. Why?”

As I looked slightly above his frightfully piercing blue eyes, I stood there trembling, trying to muster a more acceptable answer. No matter how hard I tried to use my gift for saying what people wanted to hear, I couldn't form a complete thought. It was like every word in my vocabulary had instantly vanished.

At that moment, his question seemed to be the most profound thing I had ever heard. I thought, “Why? What does he mean, why? How do I answer this?”

Because I couldn't answer his question, and was completely baffled by it, I sought help. It's because of the help I received that I can say this: I didn't care about anyone else – it was all about me. My need to drink, and lack of control over it, clouded the thoughts of whom I'd disappoint or possibly even hurt.

I too, was one who rolled my

eyes at the ever-popular saying, “If you drink, don't drive. If you drive, don't drink. If you're drunk and you need a ride, call someone.”

Personally, I couldn't really picture my supervisor being too thrilled about rolling out of bed at 3 a.m. on a weekday to come pick me up at a bar. I could just see the look on his face, and hear the tone in his voice during the stern lecture I'd surely receive.

Flashbacks of busting curfew in high school entered my head, and out of sheer fear of reliving those torturous speeches, I thought to myself, “I'm fine. I'm a good driver. I can do this.” Looks like I was wrong. A quick read of the police report will tell you just how wrong I was.

But, I shouldn't have been afraid. Because right now, I'd take a good, late-night verbal assault over everything I've put the people through who care about me.

The apathetic looks, eyes-to-the-ground headshakes and sighs of disappointment will haunt me for a long, long time. The past really doesn't go anywhere ladies and gentlemen; it just floats in the background waiting to be introduced to those who bring it up.

Day after day, for the rest of my career, questions will be asked. It's the questions I fear most. Answering the phone and hearing in response to my greeting, “Senior Airman Shelton? Wait, aren't you a staff sergeant? Whoa ... what happened?”

Sadly, questions aren't the only things that add to the humiliation of a “hard bust.” When people think about losing a stripe, they usually worry about losing money or having to start promotion dates all over again. But wait, there's more. There are the little things that get overlooked until you're forced to face them. For me, that walk of shame has included:

■ Changing my e-mail signature block

■ Answering the phone at work

■ Getting all new uniforms so the unfaded spot the larger stripes once covered doesn't show

■ Knowing the entire KMC and Air Force Public Affairs career field will see my name has changed in the base paper and in stories on the Web. See it and simply wonder

■ Bumping into old classmates or co-workers and getting puzzled looks

■ Getting a new ID card and new checks printed

■ Having to pay out of my own pocket to move into the dorm, while finding a place to store my extra belongings that won't fit in the room

■ Finding transportation to and from work, meetings, appointments, the commissary, all the while knowing I have a beautiful brand new car I can't drive

■ Breaking the news to my parents who are retired military and hearing they've shared the news with other retired military family members

■ Explaining to my little sister, the little girl who used to idolize me, how I shamed myself and my unit

Unfortunately, the list doesn't stop here. Every day, I'm presented with a new obstacle or embarrassing moment that I never imagined I would ever have to deal with. Yet still, I consider myself very lucky. Not only could my punishment have been a lot worse, I could have hurt or even killed someone.

Now, I have a second chance. Because of great support from friends and co-workers, and the help I've received, I can get through this. Not only can I get through it, I can prove to others, and to myself, that I am indeed a valuable member of the Air Force team. But, I can't do it alone. No one can.

My advice to those who read this is always have a plan and stick to it. However, if your plan fails, pick up the phone and ask for help, whatever your problem may be. Don't stop if you can't reach someone right away, keep dialing until someone picks up – someone always picks up.

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

# Newslines



Photo by Pat Watson

## While you were away...

47th Maintenance Directorate employees Juan Ibarra Jr. (front) and Juan Gonzalez modernize interior finishes in the director of maintenance's

office. Their self-help project spared taxpayers at least \$2,500 in contract labor.

## Parent pins

All uniformed airmen can now sign their parents up to receive a lapel pin. The pins are about three-fourths inch square and feature a silver letter "P" cradled within the Air Force symbol.

Members may get their parents a pin at [www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com). Signing up will require airmen to enter the names and addresses of up to two parents or parental figures.

The program is voluntary and comes at no cost to those participating.

## Honor guard

The Laughlin honor guard is looking for individuals to serve as ceremonial guardsmen. Ceremonial buglers or trumpet players are also needed. A full ceremonial uniform will be provided at no cost.

For more information, call 298-4340.

## Self-inspection results due

All base units must forward their semi-annual self-inspection results to the inspector general by July 10.

Capt. Mimi Banks will review appointment letters and send a standardized template for those needing an update. Additionally, she will send a recommended template for reporting self-inspection results.

For more information, call Lt. Col. Robert Seaberg, interim inspector general, at 298-5638.

## 'Split' from page 1

their travel card bills automatically, the Air Force should see a decrease in the number of delinquent accounts, he said. This is especially true if a traveler returns from a TDY as a billing cycle is about to turn over, because they can pay off the card before their account becomes 30 days past due.

If a traveler charges more to their GTC than they were authorized, they still must select split disbursement and also reimburse the bank any additional charges, he added.

"Selecting split disbursement on a travel voucher, whether done manually or on an automated travel system, is easy and requires only a few clicks of the mouse or one block

to be checked on a form," Weber said.

Supervisors and approving officials are required to verify travelers selected split disbursement before signing off on any voucher, he said.

"If split disbursement is not selected on a voucher, it will be returned to the traveler to be redone," he said. "This may delay the processing of the claim and potentially

put the traveler's GTC account into a past-due status."

Although split disbursement is not yet mandatory for civilian employees, Weber encouraged them to take advantage of its timesaving benefit.

For more information, Air Force travelers can contact their finance office or unit travel card program manager.

ONLINE  
news



Access breaking news at United States Air Force Online News, the official newspaper of the United States Air Force. A simple click to [www.af.mil/news/](http://www.af.mil/news/) keeps you informed about events.

# Med group discusses Tricare Plus with retirees

By Capt. Paula Kurtz  
Public Affairs

The 47th Medical Group hosted a town hall meeting at the Fiesta Community Center Wednesday to discuss the newly implemented TRICARE Plus program with those affected by the program – retirees over the age of 65 who reside in the Del Rio area.

After implementing TRICARE Plus in March, the 47th Medical Group received a multitude of questions and bit of negative feedback from many retired members. Col. Chuck Hardin, 47th Medical Group commander, decided to hold a meeting to answer questions and address concerns.

“We didn’t communicate with you like we should have,” Colonel Hardin said in his opening remarks to the more than 100 retired members in attendance. “We can’t undo what’s been done, but we can try to make things as right as we possibly can.”

TRICARE Plus is an enrollment program offered at many military treatment facilities to those beneficiaries who are eligible for care, and who are not enrolled in TRICARE Prime, a civilian Health Management

Office, or Medicare HMO. Retired members over the age of 65 and their spouses have priority for enrollment in the program, however, the number of patients who may enroll depends on the clinic’s patient capacity. Those who are not enrolled are encouraged to establish a relationship with a provider downtown for primary care services.

At Laughlin, the 47th Medical Group decided to adopt the program earlier this year when it became apparent that space-available care was not meeting the needs of the local retired population. Laughlin is the last of 13 Air Education and Training Command bases to implement the program.

“Space available care is the worst kind of care for people with complex medical problems,” Colonel Hardin explained to the group. “Consistent care with a provider who knows you is the kind of care you should all be seeking.”

Before implementing TRICARE Plus, the medical group first checked with medical facilities downtown to ensure those providers could take on those patients not enrolled here. Then, after identifying the 520 members who are eligible for enrollment, the medical group held a random lot-

tery to select the 117 members that the clinic currently has the capacity to enroll. Letters were sent to both those selected and non-selected.

“The biggest mistake we made was not giving you the opportunity to ask questions,” Colonel Hardin said. “We hope that’s what we’re going to give you the opportunity to do tonight.”

Colonel Hardin also acknowledged that some members had questioned the integrity of the lottery system, and assured those present that the lottery was conducted randomly and fairly by a six-person, cross-functional team from the medical group.

“In the future, if we have additional enrollment opportunities, we will invite some beneficiaries to participate as witnesses or actually perform the lottery if that’s what they want to do,” Colonel Hardin said.

To further emphasize the integrity of the lottery, Colonel Hardin provided statistics on the numbers of officers, enlisted, and widows selected, and explained that those who feel they have an exceptional circumstance can request an exception to policy from the wing commander.

Although those not enrolled are

encouraged to find a primary care provider in Del Rio, Colonel Hardin explained that services such as pharmacy, laboratory, radiology and optometry will still be available to non-enrollees. In addition, primary care services will continue to be accessible at the Laughlin clinic on a space-available basis.

During the question and answer segment of the meeting, attendees hit on a broad range of issues. However, one recurring concern addressed the quality of emergency care available at local-area medical facilities. Colonel Hardin advised individuals who have problems or issues with downtown care, to report them to the TRICARE service center located in the 47th Medical Group clinic.

“There is a process in place to investigate complaints and problems,” Colonel Hardin said. “I’ll be glad to do all I can to help, but I can’t do anything if I don’t know about the problem.”

“We want to take care of you,” Colonel Hardin emphasized to the group. “We want you to have good medical care, and we’re going to do everything we can to take care of as many of you as we can right here in the 47th Medical Group.”

## OSI says Eagle Eyes program working

Compiled from staff reports

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations has established the Eagle Eyes program, a global neighborhood watch program to prevent terrorism and criminal activities which pose a force protection threat to personnel, facilities and resources in military and civilian communities.

According to Laughlin’s Office of Special Investigations, communities are asked to be on the antiterrorism team by being extra eyes and ears of law enforcement and to be aware of what activities belong in and around their base, neighborhood and community. Suspicious activities could include surveillance-taking pictures, note taking, question asking, tests of security and individuals attempting to acquire explosives, weapons, uniforms or base decals.

In recent months there have been many calls across the Air Force to report suspicious activities.

Early this month at an Air Combat Command base, a suspicious vehicle with four Middle Eastern males was parked at a credit union directly across from the main gate. Security forces personnel stated the individuals appeared to be watching the front gate of the installation before leaving at a high rate of speed.

Another base reported a break-in at an off-base storage unit. Several items were stolen, including military uniforms, military documents, dependent identification and passports.

In April, an Air Force member reported an unknown female caller who asked him about personnel and asset deployments from his base. The caller asked about specific type and number of departing aircraft as well as the number of personnel deploying.

In the Midwest, an alleged Middle Eastern male approached a fast food worker and requested information about any local military facilities.

At another base, a known foreign national approached security forces members and asked questions regarding security and search procedures.

The Eagle Eyes program is one of AFOSI’s highest priorities. Every report is investigated immediately and thoroughly. The program has been successful to date due to concerned individuals taking the initiative in being aware of their environment and immediately reporting these activities.

“It is particularly important here on the border for military and civilians to report any suspicious activities,” said Special Agent Tim Peterson, special agent in charge of AFOSI Det. 410 at Laughlin.

## Nation pays tribute to those who died defending freedom

By Jim Garamone

*American Forces Press Service*

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY – “God is crying too,” said 4-year-old Robert as he and his family participated in the Memorial Day ceremonies here Monday.

Robert was one of thousands who sat through the rain to honor the men and women who have died in defense of the United States. He and those gathered listened as President Bush spoke for the nation in tribute to the fallen.

“We come to this Memorial Day with deep awareness of recent loss and recent courage,” Bush said during his speech.

The president spoke of Americans who fought for freedom throughout U.S. history. “Today we honor the men and women who wore the nation’s uniform and were last seen on duty,” Bush said, “from the battles of Iraq and Afghanistan to the

conflicts of Korea and Vietnam, to the trials of world wars and the struggles that made us a nation.

“Today we recall that liberty is always the achievement of courage. And today, we remember all who have died, all who are still missing and all who mourn.”

He said that in every generation, the United States has found people who were equal to the needs of the times. “The farms, small towns and city streets of this land have always produced free citizens who assumed the discipline and duty of military life,” he said. “And time after time, they have proved that the moral force of democracy is mightier than the will and cunning of any tyrant.”

Bush said that American service members have not fought for glory, but to fulfill a duty. “Their sacrifice was great, but not in vain,” he continued. “All Americans and every free nation

on earth can trace their liberty to the white markers of places like Arlington National Cemetery. And may God keep us ever grateful.”

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld introduced the president. He said that the graves that surround the Memorial Amphitheater contain “the heroes of our heritage.”

He said the cemetery contains their monuments, but it also contains their dreams.

Both Bush and Rumsfeld stressed the obligations that go along with service members’ sacrifices. “Today we face new threats,” Rumsfeld said. “They will be met with the same courage, the same commitment, and like the foes of times past, they too will be defeated.

“This is our pledge to the men and women who have gone before,” the secretary declared. “It is our responsibility to our children and their children and all who follow.”



# Laughlin members learn defense travel system

By 2nd Lt. Lindsay Logsdon

Public affairs

Organizational defense travel administrators have been training the past two weeks to learn all about the defense travel system, which is scheduled to go live here July 11.

DTS will replace the current manual TDY travel system Laughlin uses. "The current travel process from start to finish will disappear," said 1st Lt. Travis Logsdon, 47th Flying Training Wing financial services officer. "The whole process will be completely online. You won't have to use your orderly room to initiate travel orders and you won't have to file your travel voucher at finance."

The purpose of the training is for the ODTAs to learn the policy and functionality of DTS, said Jamin Keene, a program trainer based in Arlington, Va. Local travel administrators will train all users and administer the new system.

The 86th Flying Training Squadron ODTA, Airman 1st Class Lani Ford, said, "Right now I do everything and [DTS] will decrease my paperwork. Now instead of going to the orderly room people will go to a computer."

"The new travel system is not that difficult. It's kind of like using Expedia," said Mr. Keene.

Even people who have never used an online travel system find the new system

easy. "I have never [used online travel] myself and I can use it," said Airman Ford.

Along with being easy to use, DTS offers other advantages. These include eliminating paperwork and

manual processing as well as allowing the user to get paid within 72 hours of the authorizing official's approval. The greatest benefit will be "...less time running papers around and more time sup-

porting the mission," said Mr. Keene.

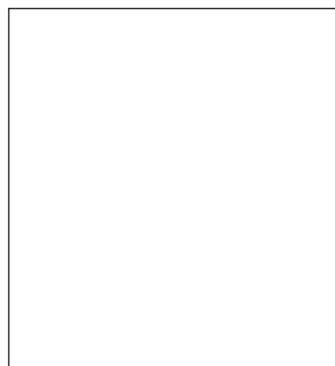
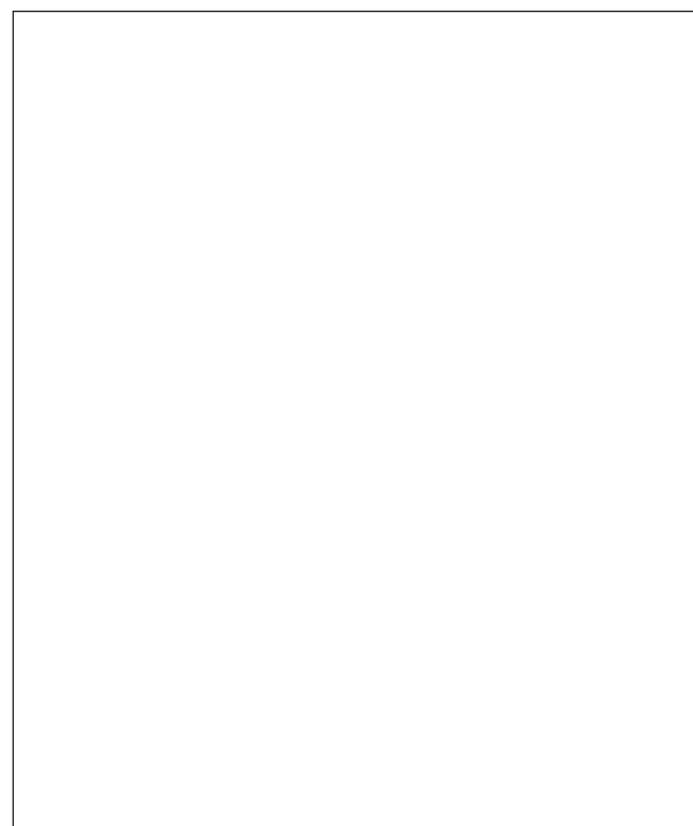
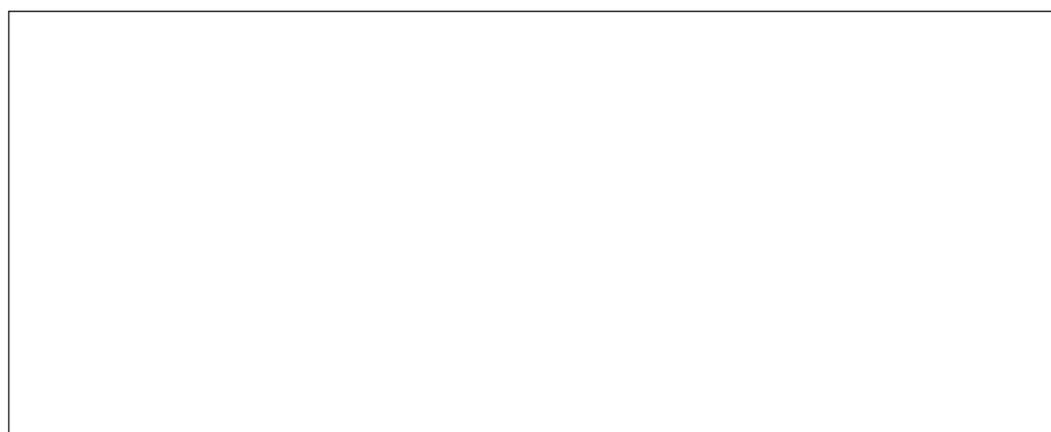
For more information on DTS, call Staff Sgt. Davis Reeves at 298-5320 or access online information at [www.defensetravel.osd.mil](http://www.defensetravel.osd.mil).

## Laughlin organizational defense travel administrators

- 47th Flying Training Wing staff agencies.....Senior Airman Anna Workman – 298-4706
- 47th Mission Support Squadron.....Tech Sgt. Mario Rangel – 298-4320
- 47th Security Forces Squadron.....Senior Airman Daniel Olivares – 298-5588
- 47th Civil Engineering Squadron.....Airman 1st Nathaniel Bolen – 298-4316
- 47th Communications Squadron.....Senior Airman Michael Brown – 298-5200
- 47th Contracting Squadron.....Delores Torres – 298-5116
- 47th Medical Group.....Capt. Mark Bain – 298-6323
- 47th Maintenance Directorate.....Ron Ostrander – 298-5513
- 47th Operations Support Squadron.....Airman 1st Class Angelica Flores – 298-5442
- 47th Services Division.....Leticia Rocha – 298-5810
- 84th Flying Training Squadron.....Tech. Sgt. Shelly Robison – 298-5499
- 85th FTS.....Amy Hougnon – 298-5399
- 86th FTS.....Airman 1st Class Lani Ford – 298-5850
- 87th FTS.....Airman 1st Class Lashonda Lanehart – 298-5919



Do the world a favor and recycle this newspaper



# AF opens hospital in Iraq

**By Maj. Jon Anderson**  
407th Air Expeditionary  
Group Public Affairs

**OPERATION IRAQI  
FREEDOM** – The “medical  
torch” passed from the Army  
to the Air Force at Tallil Air  
Base in southern Iraq with  
the grand opening of the Ex-  
peditionary Medical Support  
hospital. After nearly six  
years of development,  
EMEDS is the latest in expe-

dition-  
ary  
medical  
care.

The  
Army’s  
86th  
Combat  
Support  
Hospital  
is sched-

uled to close because the  
base no longer needs its 80-  
bed capacity, according to  
base officials. The replace-  
ment EMEDS unit is a 10-  
bed hospital.

“In the first day and a  
half, we treated 12 emer-  
gency patients, one of whom  
might not have survived had  
EMEDS not been here,” said

Col. (Dr.) Darr LaFon, com-  
mander of the EMEDS.

“One of the big reasons the  
new hospital was able to  
quickly and effectively  
(treat) these patients is our  
radical approach to medical  
care. We’ve incorporated  
Air Force, Navy, Marines  
and Army medical profes-  
sionals for the first time in  
Iraq.”

The facility staff offers a

full range  
of medi-  
cal treat-  
ment,  
said  
Colonel  
LaFon.

“We  
provide  
nearly  
every-

thing you’d expect back in  
the states,” said Capt. Karen  
Murry, a critical care nurse.

The new facility in-  
cludes a pharmacy, routine  
and emergency medical care,  
and an operating room. It  
also offers dental care and  
life-skills counseling.

Dental care is already a  
hit, according to the non-

commissioned officer in  
charge of dental services.

“We’ve had some people  
in who haven’t been able to  
see a dentist in nearly six  
months, and you bet they’re  
happy to see us,” said Staff  
Sgt. Robyn Nuss.

While they are not yet  
providing cleanings, Sergeant  
Nuss said one dentist is now  
on the job and another ex-  
pected in the near future.

“We may be the only  
dental clinic in southern Iraq  
judging from how far our  
military patients are driving.  
The word’s out that dental  
care is finally here,” said  
Sergeant Nuss.

The life-skills depart-  
ment has only been here for  
a brief time, “but already  
business is picking up as  
people hear about our ser-  
vices,” says Maj. Tony  
Satterfield, life-skills chief  
and a clinical psychologist.  
“We’ve been able to help  
others in our traditional  
counseling role, but we plan  
to steadily add more preven-  
tative help, such as stress-re-  
duction and tobacco-cessa-  
tion classes.”



Photo by Master Sgt. John E. Lasky

## In memory ...

SURESNES, France – Staff Sgt. Joe Grasso plays Taps during Memorial Day ceremonies at Suresnes American Cemetery, Hauts-de-Seine near Paris. Sergeant Grasso is a member of United States Air Forces in Europe Band.

**“We provide nearly  
everything you’d expect  
back in the states.”**

– **Capt. Karen Murry**  
Expeditionary Medical  
Support hospital  
critical care nurse

## New edition of AFTV News now showing on channel 34

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – The end of an era in Turkey and Air Force ground support in the wake of the war against Iraq spotlight the latest edition of Air Force Television News.

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

Senior Airman Israel Aviles reports on the end of Operation Northern Watch, a decade-old operation that enforced the northern no-fly zone over Iraq. Master Sgts. Erik Brazones and Rob Ivie are at the Baghdad, Iraq, airport to report on Air Force construction crews rebuilding the airport's main runway and the security forces who are

guarding against terrorists while the work is being done.

At Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, Staff Sgt. Leigh Bellinger reports on the hiring of part-time firefighters from nearby Abilene to overcome a shortage of base firefighters caused by deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sgt. April Lawrence has two reports in the program. The first is from Fairchild AFB, Wash., where she reports on aircrews being trained on how to survive in hostile territory. Her second report profiles a neonatal critical care unit in the Air Force, the only one of its kind in the military.

Staff Sgt. Joe Wallace follows the daily life of an airman at Scott

AFB, Ill., who is taking care of her family while her husband is deployed, and who also appears regularly on a local radio talk-show to discuss her hectic life.

There are two stories in this edition dealing with recruiting. Master Sgt. Paul Firman follows one of the 10 outstanding Air Force recruiters, while Sergeant Bellinger is at McChord AFB, Wash., to highlight the Air Force Reserve Command recruiter program.

Last, Staff Sgt. Pachari Lutke features an airman whose career is back on the fast track after receiving a cochlear implant. After the surgery at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland AFB, Texas, the airman is

back on the job in Tennessee.

Air Force Television News is a biweekly production of Air Force News Service. It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide, and is seen on more than 700 cable television outlets nationwide. It is also available on the Internet at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) and can also be seen regularly on The Pentagon Channel.

Profiles of the Electronic News Team reporting staff are also available at the web site. The program is the only military production offered with closed captioning. Viewers can comment on the program by sending e-mail to: [aftvnews@afnews.af.mil](mailto:aftvnews@afnews.af.mil).

**(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)**

# Deployed airmen help Iraqi school

**Capt. David P. Lester**  
380th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM – Reaching out across miles of desert, a group of airmen helped Iraqi schoolchildren Sunday when it delivered the results of a “Win the Peace” program drive.

Nine men and women representing the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing traveled Baghdad from their forward-deployed location to deliver more than \$7,500 worth of school supplies.

The wing’s “Win the Peace” program started in late April with the goal of

collecting \$6,000 in three weeks. By the end of three weeks, there was more than \$7,500 in donations.

As the convoy arrived at the school, it was swarmed by dozens of children who were looking for candy. The school, which has been neglected for years, is located in a poor neighborhood and is shadowed by a tall burned-out building damaged in the war.

“You could see the light in their eyes and hear the excitement in their laughter,” said Chaplain (Capt.)

John Sackett. “In our discussions with the teachers, you could sense their love for the children and their desire to teach.”

After visiting with the children, the airmen unloaded the donated materials.

“Our goal was to make personal contact with the school and determine what

they really needed,” said Harrison. “But ultimately, our goal here was to deliver hope because the future of Iraq rests with its children.”

Coalition reconstruction and humanitarian assistance officials recently started an adopt-a-school program.

“The timing of the adopt-a-school program couldn’t have been better,” Sackett said. “[The officials] had schools in need and were looking for a sponsor, while we had the money ... were looking for a school.”

The adopt-a-school program is intended to help re-establish adequate schools throughout Iraq. Officials

estimate about 16,000 schools need assistance.

“We are extremely excited about being the pilot group for a national program,” said Sackett. “But more importantly, we are excited about helping the children of Iraq!”

Wing airmen said they realize there is not a “quick-fix” solution for the school.

“We know that our presence [at the school] cannot be fleeting,” said Col. Greg Augst, 380th AEW commander. “The goal of this wing is to establish a long-lasting relationship, because we are here, we want to help, and we can make a difference.”

---

**“Our goal was to make personal contact with the school and determine what they really needed.”**

**– Harrison  
deployed airman**

---

# Country star shows appreciation for military

**By Staff Sgt. Shane Sharp**  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – One of country music’s biggest stars visited Colorado Springs to thank the troops with a free concert May 21.

Tim McGraw and the Dance Hall Doctors played to more than 20,000 area military members at Pershing Field on Fort Carson.

“The band and crew were completely enthused at the chance to come here,” said McGraw. “We had a week off and figured there’s no better thing we could do than stop off and thank the troops. It’s a privilege and honor to be here.”

Country music has traditionally been a large supporter of the military, and McGraw is no exception.

“There’s nothing more American than camouflage and country music,” said McGraw. “Whether you believe in a mission or not, when these guys go over there and put their lives on the line, you’ve got to be behind them

100 percent.”

That kind of support goes a long way.

“It’s nice to know there are people out there who appreciate us protecting them,” said Airman 1st Class Corrine Buth from the 10th Medical Group.

The same sentiments echoed throughout the crowd.

“Things like this mean a lot to the troops,” said Senior Master Sgt. Chris Macmullin, of the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center. “It’s nice to be appreciated.”

Airman Crystal Chenard and Staff Sgts. Christy Gravitt and Leahanna Neas, all from the 21st Space Wing Operations Center here, begged their way up to the front of the crowd before the show began.

“We had to convince some nice Army guys to let us stand in front of them,” said Gravitt. “We’re so excited to be here.”

“It’s great to know that someone actually appreciates what we’re do-

ing,” said Chenard.

“It really shows support when people like Tim McGraw take time to say thanks,” said Neas.

“It really means a lot,” said Robin Brooks, whose husband is in Iraq with the Army. “When he left, he wasn’t feeling so appreciated with all of the protests against operations in Iraq. It would make him feel good.”

That’s what the concert was all about.

“We wanted to give families a break, just a relief for a couple hours not to have to think about all the stuff that’s going on in the world and not to have to think about somebody being gone,” said McGraw.

With signs like “My daddy thanks you” and “My daddy’s got your back” waving in the crowd, McGraw saluted to thank everyone for their service and sacrifices.

“We appreciate what you do and what your families go through,” said McGraw. “There’s nowhere else we’d rather be tonight.”



Photo by Budd Butcher

FORT CARSON, Colo. – Country music star Tim McGraw performs May 21 to more than 20,000 airmen, soldiers, sailors, Marines, and family members during a free concert to show appreciation for the military.

**Are you meeting Air Force dress and appearance standards? Review AFI 29-03**

# Logistics division keeps Laughlin ready

By Airman 1st Class  
Timothy J. Stein

There is little that goes on at the base they aren't involved with. From transportation to shipping household goods on- and off-base to making sure an airman being deployed to Iraq has all his gear, the 47th Logistics Readiness Division is there.

"We provide the parts, fuel and transportation needs of the 47th Flying Training Wing," said John Puckett, 47th LD deputy director.

Logistics is made up of four main parts, said Mr. Puckett, which consists of supply, transportation, fuels and logistics plans.

"There isn't much that happens on this base we don't play a part in," Mr. Puckett said.

Logistics differs from many base agencies in that it contracts out most of its work, said Mr. Puckett. The main contractor is Trend Western which works transportation, supply and fuel. Trendwestern then subcontracts out to such companies as Del-Jen, which works civil engineering; and T-Square, which works air field operations.

"The contractors play such an important role," said Mr. Puckett. "They are the ones doing almost all the work."

Logistics also employs quality as-

urance personnel who monitor the contractors to make sure they are honoring the contract.

"We make sure [the contractors] are doing their jobs according to regulations," said Tech Sgt. Pamela Lee, a quality assurance personalist.

On the transportation aspect of logistics there are three parts, said Mr. Puckett. Logistics takes care of all the government vehicles on base and they are also in charge of the transportation management office manage freight.

On the supply side of the house, logistics takes care of all the aircraft parts. They process approximately \$110 million worth of property a year through logistics. Forty-five million of that is just disposable parts such as nuts bolts and seals. They also supply the basic equipment airmen need to take on deployments such as gas masks and chemical gear.

Another main focus of the logistics division is fuel storage and dispersal. Simply put, they put fuel in airplanes, said Mr. Puckett. They also supply the fuel for government vehicles.

The last branch within the logistics readiness division is log plans. When the wing receives a tasking to deploy, the log planners figure out who will go. They also handle sup-

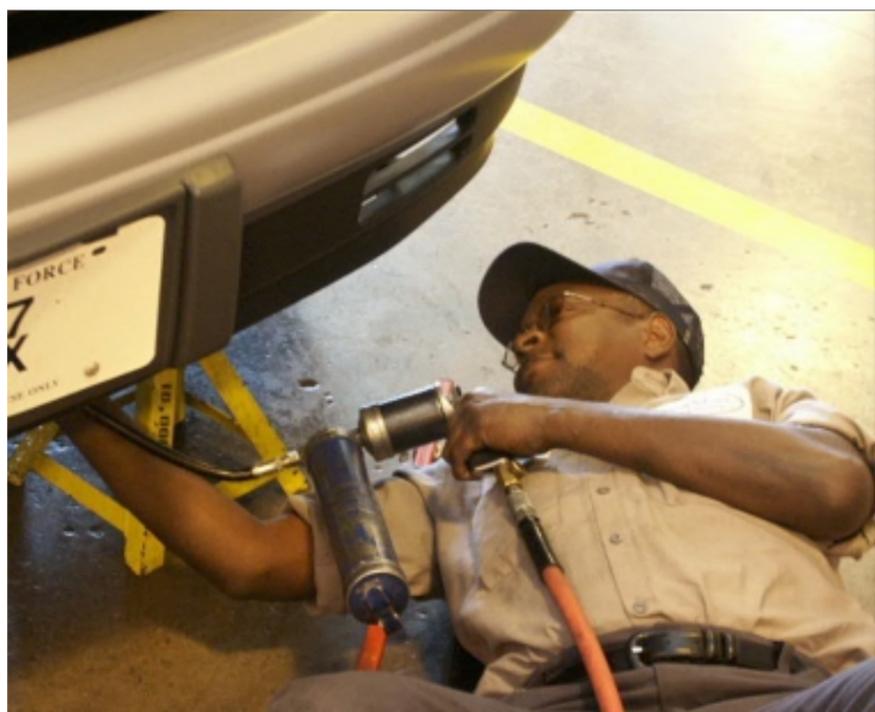


Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Clifford Hollaway, Trend Western vehicle maintenance, works on a truck in the vehicle maintenance shop. Trend Western is the main contractor of the 47th Logistics Division.

port agreements.

Support agreements are agreements made between Laughlin and civilian agencies, said Mr. Puckett. For example, Laughlin's uses other peoples outlying airfields if need be. Laughlin needs a support agreement saying what it will provide the people

who own that airfield in exchange for using it.

From the fuel for planes to the supplies people need when they deploy, logistics is there helping out.

"It is quite the operation," said Mr. Puckett. "It is bigger than people think."

## Ounce of prevention could be worth lives

By John Alexander

47th Civil Engineer Squadron  
assistant fire chief

Accordingly to the National Fire Protection Association, the number one cause of accidental fires in manufactured homes is inadequate maintenance of the mechanical systems.

These systems, including heating equipment, such as furnaces, space heaters, water heaters and kitchen stoves, as well as electrical systems and electrical appliances, require routine maintenance. If these systems are not properly maintained the potential for fire increases. Fires in all of

these systems are preventable.

Fires caused by a homeowner's carelessness, such as a grease fire or a fire that started because flammable liquids stored inside the home, are also preventable. Here are some simple steps you can take to decrease the chance of becoming a casualty in your home:

- Have a minimum of two smoke alarms installed in your home regardless of sleeping space arrangements
- Keep one fire extinguisher in the kitchen and another near the furnace
- Smoke alarms should be installed in accordance with manufacturer guidelines
- Test your smoke alarms once a

month and replace the batteries at least once a year

- Do not store combustibles or flammables near heat sources
- Never overload outlets, extension cords or electrical circuits. If the circuit breaker trips or fuses blow, immediately call a licensed electrician to check your system
- Have an escape plan and practice escape routes with your family
- Install skirting material to keep leaves and other debris and combustible items from blowing under your manufactured home
- Make sure at least one window in every bedroom can be used for easy and fast escape in case of fire.

If there is a fire, get out immediately, go to a neighbor house and call the fire department using the 911 emergency system.

All residents of privately owned manufactured homes located on Laughlin are responsible for their families safety and fire prevention.

To help you develop a sound home fire safety program, the fire department can visit your home by an appointment time that you select, for a home fire inspection and orientation.

For further information, contact the fire prevention section, at 298-5037 or 298-5633.

## The *XLer*

**Airman 1st Class Andretti Seno**  
*47th Flying Training Wing chapel assistant*



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

**Hometown:** Oceanside, Calif.

**Family:** Mother and three older sister

**Time at Laughlin:** One year and one month

**Time in service:** One year and six months

**Greatest accomplishments:** Crossing into the blue

**Hobbies:** Outdoor activities, sports and watching movies

**Favorite music:** Anything that catches my ears

**Favorite movie:** "Braveheart"

**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My father. I want to go fishing with him and share with him my life, ever since he passed away.

