

Border Eagle

New Laughlin AEF center streamlines processing

By Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi
Staff writer

Thirteen deployed 47th Security Forces Squadron members returned home May 27 after supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and were greeted by XL'ers from across the base for one-stop inprocessing.

The new \$50,000 Laughlin Air and Space Expeditionary Force center, designed to accommodate more than 90 deployees at a time, allowed the returning members to turn in their gear and to complete all in-processing briefings in one location within a two-hour period.

The new center includes a personnel deployment and equipment facility, personnel readiness center, the logistics office, and the reception and deployment line.

"This idea of the new deployment facility streamlines the mobil-

See **Center**, page 4



Photo by Capt. Paula Kurtz

In memory ...

Col. Steven Kwast, 47th Operations Group commander, accompanied by Dr. Roberto A. Cuellar, commander of American Legion Post 585, places an American flag on the grave of a World War II veteran during a Memorial Day ceremony at Westlawn Cemetery in Del Rio Monday. More than 75 people attended the service which paid tribute to all servicemembers who have sacrificed their lives defending America.

XLers earn Air Force airfield operations awards

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public affairs

Two Laughlin members recently received Air Force-level awards for work they accomplished this past year in airfield operations.

Maj. Eric Shafa, 47th Operations Support Squadron Airfield Operations Flight commander, earned the 2003 Col. Derrel L. Dempsey Officer of the Year Award. In addition, Master Sgt. David Doan, 47th OSS Control Tower chief controller, won the 2003 Air Traffic Training Achievement Award for his work as the chief of air traffic

control training last year.

"I was completely surprised to win at the Air Force level with such tough competition," said Major Shafa. "The incredible effort to accomplish the mission at Laughlin and in deployed locations by all the folks I worked with made it possible to compete."

The flight commander said it speaks volumes about their work ethic and the fact that the troops in Laughlin's airfield operations flight truly live by their motto, "Always Professional."

Among his many accomplish-

ments in 2003, Major Shafa completed the Air Force's first simultaneous transition to the new digital airport surveillance radar and the standardized terminal automation replacement system. The transition provided the ability to see and control aircraft better and improved air traffic control reliability and accuracy. In addition, he hosted Hungarian air traffic controllers and helped them gain insight on Laughlin's airfield operations. The Hungarian controllers returned to their country with

See **Airfield**, page 4

Newslines

Civil Engineering closed

The 47th Civil Engineer Squadron will be closed from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. today.

For emergency customer service, call 398-5488.

Changes of command

The 47th Comptroller Flight will hold a change of command at 9:30 a.m. Monday at Club XL.

The 47th Security Forces Squadron will hold a change command at 3 p.m. June 11 at Club Amistad.

The 86th Flying Training Squadron will hold a change of command at 8 a.m. June 14 on the flightline outside of Anderson Hall.

All base members are invited to attend.

Equal employment seminar

An equal employment opportunity workshop for supervisors is set for June 17 through 19. The workshop is designed for civilian, military supervisors and civil service personnel. Sign up in the EEO office by June 16.

For more information, call 298-5491.

SUPT Class 04-10

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-10 will graduate at 10 a.m. June 11 in Anderson Hall auditorium.

All base members are invited to attend.

Deployment stats

Deployed: 17
Returning in 30 days: 11
Deploying in 30 days: 8

Mission status

(As of Tuesday)
Days behind or ahead:
T-37, -8.88 T-1, 2.32
T-38, -4.82 T-6, -10.42
Mission capable rate:
T-37, 87.7% T-1, 81.9%
T-38, 75.9% T-6, 78.9%

Dump bad habits to lighten load



Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. Bruce Gunn
47th Comptroller Flight
commander

Many years ago when I was a scoutmaster for a Boy Scout troop, a long-time scouter gave me some sound advice, "Always look for a lesson in what you're doing and learn from it."

Monday, we celebrated Memorial Day and honored those who gave us so much. It was a day of reflection and introspection. It was a day set aside to think of departed loved ones, the sacrifices they made, and lessons their lives teach us.

What better tribute to our forbearers than to examine their efforts and use their examples to improve our lives.

Socrates said, "The unexamined life isn't worth living." That thought, while interesting, is a bit nebulous for most of us. So, here's a variation that brings it down to earth, "The unexamined item isn't worth carrying," Anonymous hiker.

That thought has become quite popular among weight-

conscious hikers. It's a simple thought, yet very profound. Think about it. If you were crazy enough to want to hike the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, a distance of 2,100 miles, with a pack load of gear, would you carry 60 pounds of gear or 20? The obvious answer is 20.

Why? Because 20 sounds like a reasonable load, while 60 sounds like a crushing burden. Who would want to carry such a huge load? Guess what, many people hike that very trail every year carrying that very weight. Do they like carrying that weight? Do they like the pain it causes them? Do they like the slow pace it forces on them? No, most don't.

So, why do many continue to carry heavy loads on the trail? Simply, some think these extra items might add fun to their journey. Most don't adequately examine their gear for utility. Thinking they'll need or enjoy various items, they haul them along. In reality, most of the items never get used and actually do harm to the hiker because they cause excess weight, sore joints, slow pace, and sub-optimal enjoyment. In fact, heavy loads often cause people to give up their quest to complete the journey.

Some hikers learn from the mistakes of earlier hikers. Some learn from their pain and dump the unnecessary gear early in their journey. Some learn 2/3 of the way through. Some never learn the lesson.

How many of us haul useless or harmful habits down our trail of life? All of us do. Why do we do this to ourselves? For the same reasons stated above. We either think these habits will provide some fun in our lives or we simply don't examine them for their utility. In the end, our bad habits simply harm us. Dumping them results in a lighter load and increased happiness.

Some of us learn from the mistakes of those gone before. Some learn from our mistakes and dump the harmful habits early in life. Some learn at the age of 50. Some never learn the lesson.

Now for the loaded question: Are you carrying unnecessary loads through life? If so, why? Nobody can tell you how to live your lives, but many have gone before and left useful life lessons that can guide you to a better, happier life. This year, pay true honor to those who went before...by learning from them. The examined life is a wonderful thing.

Risk management doesn't only work on farm

By Maj. Mark Murphy
23rd Maintenance
Squadron commander

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. – One of the advantages of growing up on a hog farm is that education comes quickly and lessons have a way of staying with you forever.

One blustery spring day when I was about 12, my father asked my brother and me to take the manure spreader out and unload it on the fields. The manure

spreader is a big wagon pulled behind a tractor. As you drive, a powered conveyor system pushes the wagon's contents into steel beaters that spin rapidly, throwing wet, sloppy pig waste high in a big brown fan shape in every direction behind you. You can spray half a ton of the stuff in about two minutes.

On this particular day, my brother drove the tractor and I sat on the fender next to him. Our load had been

fermenting in a pile behind the barn for about two months. All went well on the first pass across the field, although the 30-knot headwind made us squint a bit. We reached the end of the field, cut power to the spreader, kicked the left brake, spun the tractor around 180 degrees, lined up for a return pass and turned the power back on.

Did I mention the headwind? At this point it became a tailwind. We

were instantly engulfed in a slimy brown monsoon. We panicked.

My brother's first instinct was to kick in the clutch, which simply stopped us from moving forward and made things worse. He quickly realized his mistake and made another by letting it go with a lurch, sending us careening wildly across the field because steering was now low on the priority list.

See **Risk**, page 3

Border Eagle

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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 sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.



Actionline
298-5351 or
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training Wing commander

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

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

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.

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

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

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
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

"Train the world's best pilots and deploy expeditionary forces worldwide to fight and win America's wars ... period!"

— 47 Flying Training Wing motto

Captain finds grass greener this side of fence

By Capt. Shannon Smith
14th Security Forces Squadron

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — I got a call recently from the deployment manager at Air Education and Training Command Security Forces, a person I've become well acquainted with during my brief tenure as a squadron commander.

He asked me if my unit could "step up to the plate" and support yet another out-of-cycle deployment tasking.

Such is life in today's operational Air Force. Many Airmen in my unit have deployed four or five times, and that's just during their first term of enlistment. These deployments take their toll on individuals, their families and the people at home station who work twice the hours just to keep things going in their absence.

All these factors beg the question we all ask ourselves at one point or another: Is the grass greener on the other side?

Three years ago, I received a flier from a very reputable junior military officer recruiting firm. The company specializes in placing officers with four to 10 years of service into top-tier corporate jobs across the country. I'd gotten these fliers before and always tossed them in the trash, but this time I hung onto one because I was starting to get burned out.

I'd recently returned from a remote assignment only to be

rewarded with a 14-hour-a-day, six-day-a-week job with no relief in sight. My wife and I were expecting our first child and were entertaining thoughts of permanently moving closer to home. With all this in mind, I called the number on the flier.

After attending the company's initial presentation, I interviewed and was accepted as a candidate for the corporate placement program. Shortly thereafter, I informed my commander of my intention to separate from active duty.

My military background significantly enhanced my value to corporate America. I'll never forget what one potential employer said to me during an interview. He asked me, "Do you know why we like to hire military people?"

In my infinite wisdom, I rattled off several impressive, detailed responses. None were what he was looking for. He simply stated, "Because they show up for work on time."

Never before or since has anyone so completely encapsulated the high caliber of military people with such a brief, yet powerful comment.

Soon after the interview, I accepted a great offer to work for one of America's largest companies. The base salary was significantly higher than my military pay, the medical plan and stock options were first rate, and the location was just a couple hours from home.

After a month or so, I realized I was doing a lot less work than I ever did in the military. The job was everything I dreamed of. But surprisingly, I dreaded going to work every day.

Why, you ask? I found I missed the camaraderie. I missed the smell of jet fuel. I missed the Air Force song. I missed putting on the uniform. I missed being around people who come together when their backs are against the wall and make extraordinary things happen.

But most important, I missed being a part of something larger than myself. I missed being part of the world's greatest air and space force and prayed desperately for the opportunity to return.

As an improving economy enhances the job market and the war on terror gets tougher, you — like me — might find yourself contemplating the merits of life outside the Air Force.

When you do, remember this: You'll never be associated with a finer group of people, nor will you answer a more noble calling than the one to serve your country and protect our way of life.

The intense job satisfaction that comes from such an honorable pursuit is something I didn't truly appreciate until I stepped away from the military. Fortunately, the Air Force welcomed me back with open arms.

For me, the grass is definitely greener on this side of the fence, and this is where I intend to stay for a very long time.

'Risk', from page 2

Arms and legs thrashed everywhere as we both fought each other for the controls, trying to shield our eyes and bumping heads while fumbling for the now-slippery power take-off lever between the pedals. Opening one's mouth to speak was out of the question.

That was the day I learned a valuable

lesson about personal risk management. My brother and I hadn't properly assessed the situation ahead of time or considered the possibility of anything going wrong. Had we done so, we might have driven a different path that didn't put the wind behind us, worked out emergency procedures to delegate tasks and prepare for rapid shutdown, spent more time becoming

proficient with the tractor's controls and worn rain gear.

So far in fiscal year 2004, Air Combat Command has lost 14 of its members to mishaps. Most of those could have been prevented if people had applied PRM principles and thought things through before proceeding.

My father didn't call it PRM, but he summed it up simply: What is the

cost of being wrong? Take a look at the whole picture when you're doing something risky, and consider the cost if something unforeseen happens or you're not as good as you think you are.

If you're not willing to pay that bill, look for ways to do it smarter so the cost goes down. Take it from me: Sometimes that bill isn't what you think it is.

Center, from page 1

ity-requirement processes and individually-scheduled appointments, not only for the deploying and deployed individuals but also for all agencies required to process them," said Capt. Patricia Rodriguez-Rey, military personnel flight commander here. "It is a wonderful idea because it saves lots of time."

According to 1st Lt. Kendra Lowe, base sponsorship programs officer in-charge, Club Amistad was formerly the reception venue for members returning from deployments.

Lieutenant Lowe said after a reception at the club, returnees would have to set appointments with different agencies, such as finance, the medical center, legal office and family support center among others. Also, each person had to attend briefings individually from these agencies.

The situation was different for the first time on May 27 when the deployed security forces members in-processed using the new facility.

"We (briefing agencies) became easily accessible to the deployed members," said Lieutenant Lowe. "Instead of them coming to us, we came

to them."

Lieutenant Lowe pointed out that through the new one-stop-shop in-processing, complications that the deployed members could face, such as missing appointments, conflicting schedules and improperly filed travel vouchers, were alleviated.

The deployed security forces members said having every agency coming in to brief them in less than two hours saved time and enabled them to see awaiting friends and family members in no time.

"After our arrival from deployment, we were all tired, weary and eager to go home to our families for two weeks off," said Master Sgt. Prince Smith, 47th SFS training and resources superintendent and the leader of the deployed members. "Therefore, getting everything done at a one-stop-shop is a very good standard because it prevented us from running around the base to meet appointments."

The team thanked Laughlin members for the first-hand reception. Also their thanks went to the wing commander, now deployed to Pakistan, who sent Christmas cards to the team in December.

Airfield, from page 1

what they learned here to make improvements in their airfield operation procedures.

While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Major Shafa organized and directed the first forward air traffic control teams in Northern Iraq. He also masterminded a tactical plan that provided continuous wartime air traffic control for hostile areas using only night vision devices, portable airfield lighting and mobile radios. In addition, the major coordinated airfield security, aircraft movement and refueling options at a remote Iraqi airfield for a high-level visit.

"We're extremely fortunate to have Major Shafa on our team," said

Lt. Col. Bob Craven, 47th OSS commander. "He is a selfless, tenacious and highly-experienced leader I can depend on to produce results and guarantee success."

Sergeant Doan, who is currently deployed, said he feels very lucky to have had such a great year.

"I made E-8, I'm deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and I won this Air Force award," he said. "What assisted me in 2003 was having all Laughlin controllers help out, and they were very willing and patient to learn about our new equipment and procedures we obtained."

Sergeant Doan also attributed his success to his wife's support and his commanders, Major Shafa and Colonel Craven.

13 SFS members return from six-month deployment

By Airman 1st Class
Olufemi Owolabi
Staff writer

After fulfilling their six-month mission supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, 13 deployed Airmen from the 47th Security Forces Squadron were welcomed home May 27.

Dozens of Laughlin members, squadron co-workers and family members turned out and treated them to a barbecue-party reception following their in-processing at the new base Air and space Expeditionary Forces center.

The returning team, deployed Nov. 19, consisted of a team leader, Master Sgt. Prince Smith, and 12 other Airmen - eight of whom deployed for the first time.

Sergeant Smith, a flight sergeant in charge of more than 70 people, supervised all security operations involving base emergencies on a daily basis. Also, he ensured his team and other personnel were well trained and equipped

to carry out assigned duties.

"We were there as a law-enforcement team and to help set up security forces operations," said Airman 1st Class Matthew Baker, one of the Airmen who deployed for the first time.

In addition, Sergeant Smith said the team performed three main duties. "Our assigned duties were personnel protection, aircraft and flightline security and ammunition storage security."

Though being deployed with eight first-timers, Sergeant Smith said this did not in any way prohibit execution of their assigned duties.

Several members said they were motivated by their leader, and they were well trained before they left Laughlin.

Before departing Laughlin, Sergeant Smith informed his group what to expect at the deployed location - longer working hours, interaction with other nationalities, more awareness and actions to take during threat conditions.

Furthermore, Sergeant Smith said the team underwent a four-day field training exercise here before leaving.

"Primarily, the exercise gave the team a mindset of the expeditionary forces' roles and trained them on what to do in wartime and deployed locations," he added.

When the team completed its mission, Sergeant Smith said penetrations and incidences on their assigned base were reduced by 90 percent.

Team members said their mission was successful because they were focused and abided by their leader's instructions.

According to Airman Baker, Sergeant Smith's slogan was "Nobody leaves his area of responsibility unless the mission is completed."

Sergeant Smith said he was glad to come back home safely with his team, and he thanked Laughlin members for the reception given to them.

"They (the commanders) gave me a lot of room to work with," he said.

Included among his numerous accomplishments this past year, Sergeant Doan was the top unit training manager as he was awarded Laughlin's Training Manager of the Year Award in 2003.

He was also identified as one of only two outstanding performers during the Air Traffic System Evaluation Program, an assessment where his training program was rated 97 percent compliant and best in the command.

When Laughlin obtained the T-6 Texan II aircraft, Sergeant Doan developed and coordinated training for its emergency landing procedures. He also developed new air traffic control scenarios to enhance training and proficiency capabilities for more the 170

members within his squadron.

"Sergeant Doan is clearly a superior leader, air traffic controller and training manager," Colonel Craven said. "He has been key to our mission success and set the standard for all future air traffic control training leaders to follow."

"It's exciting and an honor to know that some of the Air Force's very best are right here at Laughlin," Colonel Craven said. "It's a direct reflection of the caliber of people we have throughout the airfield operations flight and the 47th OSS Rattlers. Individual awards like this don't happen in a vacuum. It takes a cohesive team of mission-focused professionals to create an environment where people are able to realize their full potential."

Legal officials provide political activity guidance

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The upcoming presidential election. The war on terrorism. The 9/11 Commission.

There are a number of issues out there and an even greater number of opinions.

It is important to remember military members and Department of Defense civilian employees are subject to limits on their political activities, according to officials at the Sheppard Law Center.

Military members can find the rules for political participation in DoD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty, and Air Force Instruction 51-902, Political Activities by Members of the Air Force.

Civilian employees are governed by Section 6-200 of the Joint Ethics Regulation.

For military members, failure to comply with these requirements may be chargeable under Article 92, UCMJ,

failure to obey a lawful order or regulation.

The following is a list of permissible and prohibited political actions.

Active duty military members may:

- Register and vote
- Express an opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the armed forces
- Contribute money to a political organization, including parties and committees to elect specific candidates
- Attend political meetings or rallies as a spectator when not in uniform
- Join a political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform
- Serve as an election official, if such service is not as a representative of a partisan political party, does not interfere with military duties, is performed while out of uniform and has the prior approval of the major command commander or equivalent authority

■ Display a political sticker on the member's private vehicle, or wear a political button when not in uniform and not on duty

■ Sign a petition for specific legislative action or a petition to place a candidate's name on an official election ballot if the signing does not obligate the member to engage in partisan political activity and is done as a private citizen

■ Write a personal letter, not for publication, expressing preference for a specific political candidate or cause

Active duty military members may not:

- Be a candidate for or hold civil office except as authorized by DoD Directive 1344.10
- Allow or cause to be published partisan political articles signed or authorized by the member for soliciting votes for or against a partisan political party or candidate
- Speak before a partisan political gathering of any kind

for promoting a partisan political party or candidate

■ Participate in any radio, television or other program or group discussion as an advocate of a partisan political party or candidate

■ Solicit or otherwise engage in fund-raising activities in federal offices or facilities, including military installations, for a partisan political cause or candidate

■ Make campaign contributions directly to a partisan political candidate

■ Sell tickets for or otherwise actively promote political dinners and other such fund-raising events

■ March or ride in a partisan political parade

■ Serve in any official capacity or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club

■ Perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee during a campaign or on election day

■ Engage in the public or organized recruitment of others to become partisan candidates for nomination or election to a civil office

■ Display a large political sign, banner or poster on the top or side of a member's private vehicle

DoD civilian employees may:

■ Do all of the political activities active duty military members may do

■ Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections

■ Assist in voter registration drives

■ Express opinions about candidates and issues, to include making speeches

■ Hold office in political clubs or parties

■ Distribute campaign literature in partisan elections

■ Be active at political rallies and meetings

■ Campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections, referendum questions, constitutional amendments or municipal ordinances

DoD civilian employees may not:

■ Use official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election

■ Be candidates in partisan elections

■ Wear political buttons on duty

■ Solicit political contributions from the general public, subordinates or members of other federal labor or employee organizations

■ Engage in political activity while on duty, in any federal workplace, wearing an official uniform or displaying official insignia, or using a government or government-leased vehicle

■ Knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has any business with DoD

■ Contribute to the political campaign of another federal employee who is in the employee's chain of command or supervision

The most important thing to remember is to check the rules before engaging in a political activity. Also, when in doubt, seek further advice from a unit voting representative or the Laughlin legal office.

(Courtesy Air Education and Training Command News)



Ciudad Acuña cracking down on underage drinking

By Capt. Preston Young
Legal office

Ciudad Acuña officials are making a tougher stand against underage drinkers this spring by issuing curfews, stiff fines, detention, parental notification and mandatory drug testing.

Ciudad Acuña and Del Rio officials are collaborating to dispense information about the more stringent drinking rules being imposed to at-risk youth that patronize bars, nightclubs and any other establishment that sells alcohol.

This crack down by Ciudad Acuña was executed several weeks ago to prepare for the high school prom celebration season and the upcoming summer months when children are out of school and tend to do more partying in Del Rio's sister city.

The enforcers for the discouragement and protection of underage drinkers will be the Ciudad Acuña police, tasked to make unannounced visits to drinking establishments to ensure compliance with local ordinances and Mexican law.

After an 11 p.m. curfew, young adults found in a drinking facility will be "carded" for identification proving their date of birth and if under the Mexican drinking age of 18, they will be apprehended, booked and detained until they can be placed in the custody of a parent or legal guardian.

The process of booking may involve entry of the youth's name, the crime, and possibly fingerprinting or

photographing, an important step in keeping track of violators since second offenses for underage infractions may result in incarceration.

Parents and legal guardians will have to go into their wallets when picking up their errant youth from Mexican authorities and fines are often hefty. Fines start at \$150, for children under 18 that are found in a place after curfew where liquor is sold, even if drinking alcohol is not observed or proven. Fines can reach as much as \$1,200 for an underage drinker, a high fee to pay for deterrence purposes and to absorb the cost of a doctor's exam to determine the degree of intoxication.

While a doctor's exam may include either the use of a breathalyzer or blood test, it is certain that all youths will be required to submit to a mandatory urine test.

Ciudad Acuña officials are hoping that these procedures will help curb the startling statistic that Del Rio's sister city has the highest recorded rates of sexual assault and teen pregnancy in all of Mexico.

The focus of this crack-down, however, is not targeting a particular sex nor is it designed to trap young American visitors who have traditionally flocked across the border to enjoy looser drinking laws. Although most of the detainees to date have been young girls from both Mexico and the United States, these stringent procedures will be enforced equally amongst all youth regardless of nationality or gender.

Unsafe practices lead to boating disasters

Common sense ORM can avert summer tragedy

By 1st Lt. Lindsay Logsdon
Public affairs

Several years ago three people were night fishing near the Highway 277 bridge over Lake Amistad when a windstorm capsized the boat. Darkness, wind and rough water disoriented the group as they tried to swim to shore without life jackets. The next morning all three bodies were recovered by park rangers.

Greg Garetz is a 21-year Devil's River District Ranger who offers many easy-to-follow safety tips for boaters to avoid similar situations.

"Some of the most common things I see boaters do incorrectly are not turning on their boat's running lights at sunset and not enough life jackets for everyone on board," he said. "Most accidents occur in the low light of dusk."

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department requires all boaters to have easy access to

a correctly sized life jacket. Children under 13 years are required to wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket while the boat is moving. Ranger Garetz said, "Sometimes people think the bigger life jacket gives more flotation. It's not safer because if a child falls in the water and raises her hands overhead, the jacket will pop right off."

The use of a Coast Guard-approved life jacket would eliminate nearly 85 percent of boating fatalities, according to TPWD statistics.

Alcohol consumption is another common practice boaters should avoid. Ranger Garetz encourages use of a designated boat operator who won't consume alcohol while boating. "When you drink and drive a boat, you

put everyone on board at risk," he said, noting that 50 percent of all boating accidents involve alcohol.

Another common mistake the ranger witnesses is overloading.

"Boat camping is popular and I see people try to load all the camping gear and people in one trip," he said. "The boat could swamp or capsize when overloaded."

Amistad Recreational Park Rangers and TPWD game wardens enforce safe boating on Amistad and will randomly stop and inspect boaters for proper safety equipment. Items boaters are usually cited for include not

enough or improperly-sized life jackets, missing or expired fire extinguishers and no type IV flotation device or float cushion. Tickets also may be written for boating while intoxicated, which carries similar penalties to those for driving while intoxicated.

Park rangers, game wardens and Laughlin South-

winds Marina staffers can give boaters more details on safe boating. Before using a Laughlin boat, a boating safety course is mandatory. The written and hands-on tests are offered by the Southwinds Marina. For more information contact the marina at 775-7800.

For those who already own a boat a water safety course is also offered through the TPWD online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us or call 1-800-792-1112.

For boaters who do not know the rules, rangers and wardens can make arrests or terminate a boater's voyage based upon any unsafe activity previously mentioned.

While these are all factors boaters



Photo by 1st Lt. Lindsay Logsdon

Amistad National Recreation Area park rangers prepare to launch a new ranger boat for Box Canyon. The new boat will be used for patrols and rescue operations.

can control, a few uncontrollable elements of the lake still need to be taken into account. "People panic [when a storm hits] and they want to get off the lake, so they race back to the boat ramp. The wisest course of action in a thunderstorm is to drive into a cove or behind an island to wait the wind out. Then boats don't have to travel in the worst part of the storm," said Ranger Garetz.

Since the lake level is up, the waves build in size quickly whenever there is wind. "We can change from a calm lake to five-foot waves in a matter of minutes with a northern [wind]," he said. Although not required, a weather radio is a piece of safety equipment boaters should carry.

Like weather, Amistad's depth is another rapidly changing factor. "A lot of large islands are just barely underwater," warns Ranger Garetz. "[Boaters should] look for vegetation just above the water because limestone is usually not much deeper." Near the shoreline, rising waters may barely submerge sand bars or rock fingers.

Over the Memorial Day weekend no accidents or injuries were reported and Ranger Garetz said only one boat broke down.

"As long as boaters pay attention to the weather and make sure they have enough life jackets for everyone they should have a safe and enjoyable voyage on the lake."

President Bush dedicates WW II memorial

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Bush officially dedicated the National World War II Memorial on Saturday during a ceremony that featured more than 100,000 military veterans and guests.

“We will raise the American flag over this memorial that will stand as long as America itself,” the president declared to the audience, many of whom were attired in their World War II uniforms.

More than 600,000 individual contributions paid for the \$195 million bronze and granite memorial, President Bush said. Former presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, as well as former Sen. Bob Dole, actor Tom Hanks and NBC newsman and author Tom Brokaw accompanied him at the ceremony.

Many people, President Bush said, “believed that democracy was finished” just before America entered the war on the side of the Allies after the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

At that time, totalitarianism seemed poised to engulf the world, he said, as the Nazis had marched into Paris the year before and Imperial Japan continued its territorial expansion in the Far East.

America and its Allies banded together to confront the Axis threat and its ideologies of death and oppression, President Bush said.

America entered World War II after a decade-long economic depression and with a standing army that ranked 17th in the world in size, President Bush said. To win the

war on two fronts, Americans “had to work and save and ration and sacrifice as never before,” he said. Citizens grew victory gardens and bought war bonds, he said.

American women toiled in factories or joined the military, while African-Americans and Japanese-Americans and others “fought for their country, which wasn’t always fair to them,” President Bush said. Civil rights advances that followed the end of the war “made us a better country,” he said.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stood up to the world’s dictators, President Bush said. President Roosevelt “understood the character of the American people,” and rejected the Axis powers’ contention that they belonged to a master race and therefore were fated to conquer and dominate the world, he said.

The 16 million Americans who put on uniforms to serve in the war “gave the best years of their lives to the greatest mission their country ever accepted,” President Bush said.

U.S. forces fought with courage and bravery and “are remembered for their goodness and decency,” he said. More than 400,000 U.S. servicemembers died in the war. The nation is indebted “to an entire generation of Americans,” not only to those who died, but also to those “who fought and worked and grieved and went on,” he said.

Those who served America in uniform during World War II “saved their country,” President Bush said, and “thereby saved the liberty of mankind.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

The largest gathering of World War II veterans since 1945 assembled on the National Mall to witness the dedication of their long-awaited memorial Saturday.

Homeland Defense Journal

An on-line subscription form is available at www.homelanddefensejournal.com. Subscriptions are free to federal, state, local and Department of Defense decision-makers, supervisors and managers.

Bush praises Iraqi government, says U.S. troops will stay

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Bush praised the new Iraqi interim government, saying it possesses “the talent, commitment and the resolve to guide Iraq through the challenges that lie ahead.”

Bush spoke during a White House press conference Monday. He said U.S. troops will remain in Iraq to help maintain order and stability and help the Iraqi government set up security forces.

He said the U.S. forces in the country will remain under U.S. control. “The American people need to be assured that if our troops are in ... harm’s way, they will be able to defend themselves without having

to check with anybody else other than their commander,” he said. “At the same time, I can assure the Iraqi citizens as well as our friends in Europe, that we have done these kind of security arrangements before. Witness Afghanistan. There’s a sovereign government in Afghanistan, there are U.S. troops and coalition troops there, and they’re working very well together.”

Bush said that Iraqi security forces will have their own chain of command. Iraqis, not coalition commanders or Americans, will command the Iraqi army.

The president praised the role that U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi played in choosing the men and women who will be in the in-

terim government.

Bush called Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi a strong leader who “has always been an Iraqi patriot.”

The president said he had “zero” input into Brahimi’s decision on interim Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawar, an engineer from northern Iraq.

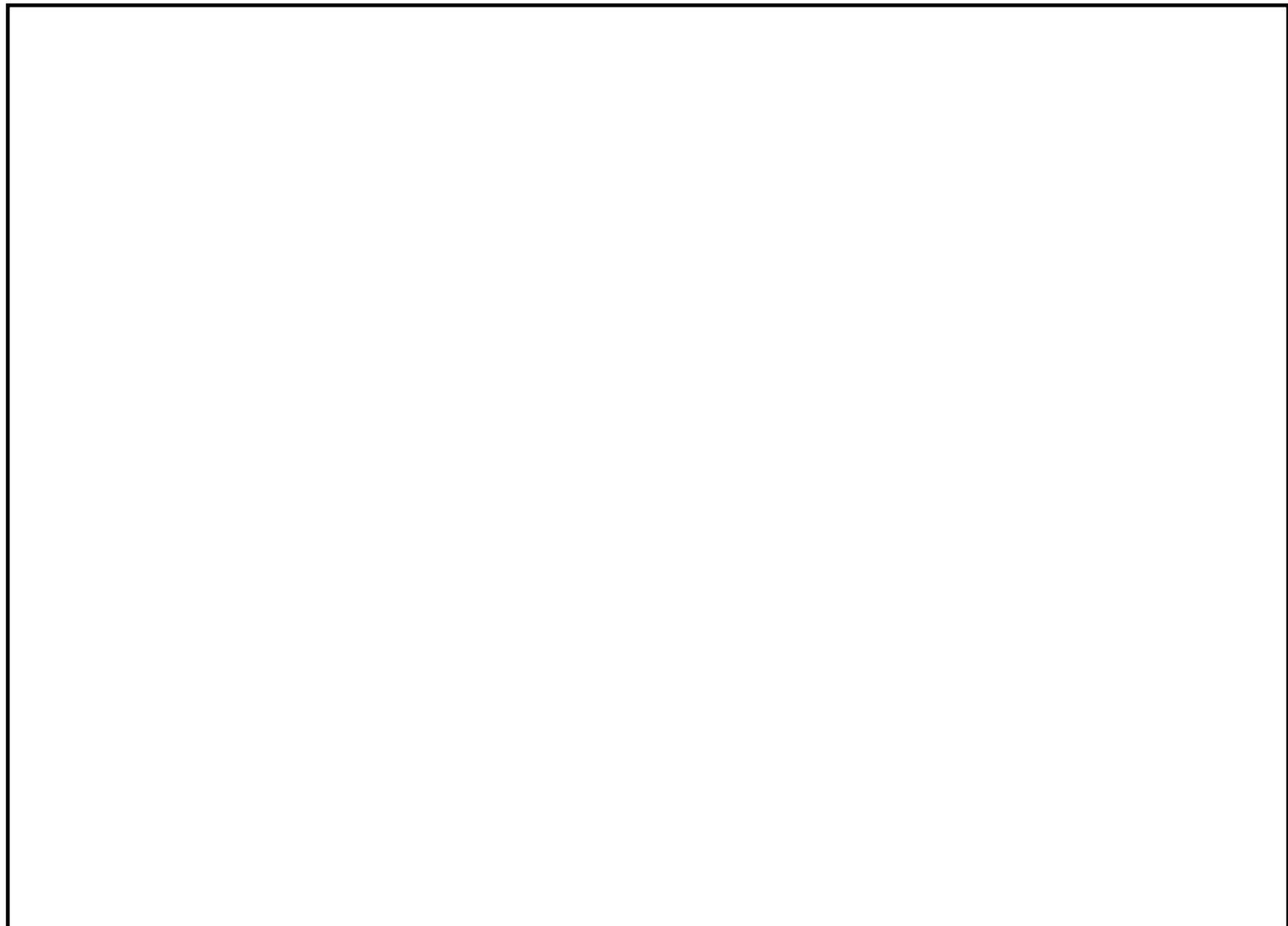
The 33-member cabinet contains members from all over Iraq. There are six women in the cabinet, and all major ethnic groups and religions are represented.

“The foremost tasks of this new interim government will be to prepare Iraq for a national election no later than January of next year and to work with our coalition to provide the security that will make that elec-

tion possible,” Bush said. “That election will choose a transitional National Assembly, the first freely elected, truly representative national governing body in Iraq’s history.”

The president said he spoke with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan about a Security Council resolution that will “express international support for Iraq’s interim government, reaffirm the world’s security commitment to the Iraqi people and encourage other U.N. members to join in the effort of building a free Iraq.”

Bush said the interim government brings Iraq one step closer to a fully sovereign nation with a representative government that protects the rights of all Iraqis as it serves their needs.



Airmen clean up Seminole cemetery

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public affairs

Scouts Association, a group of scout descendants.

"The work Laughlin volunteers come out here to do helps us a lot, and we are very appreciative for what they do for us," said Beverly Wright, vice president of the association.

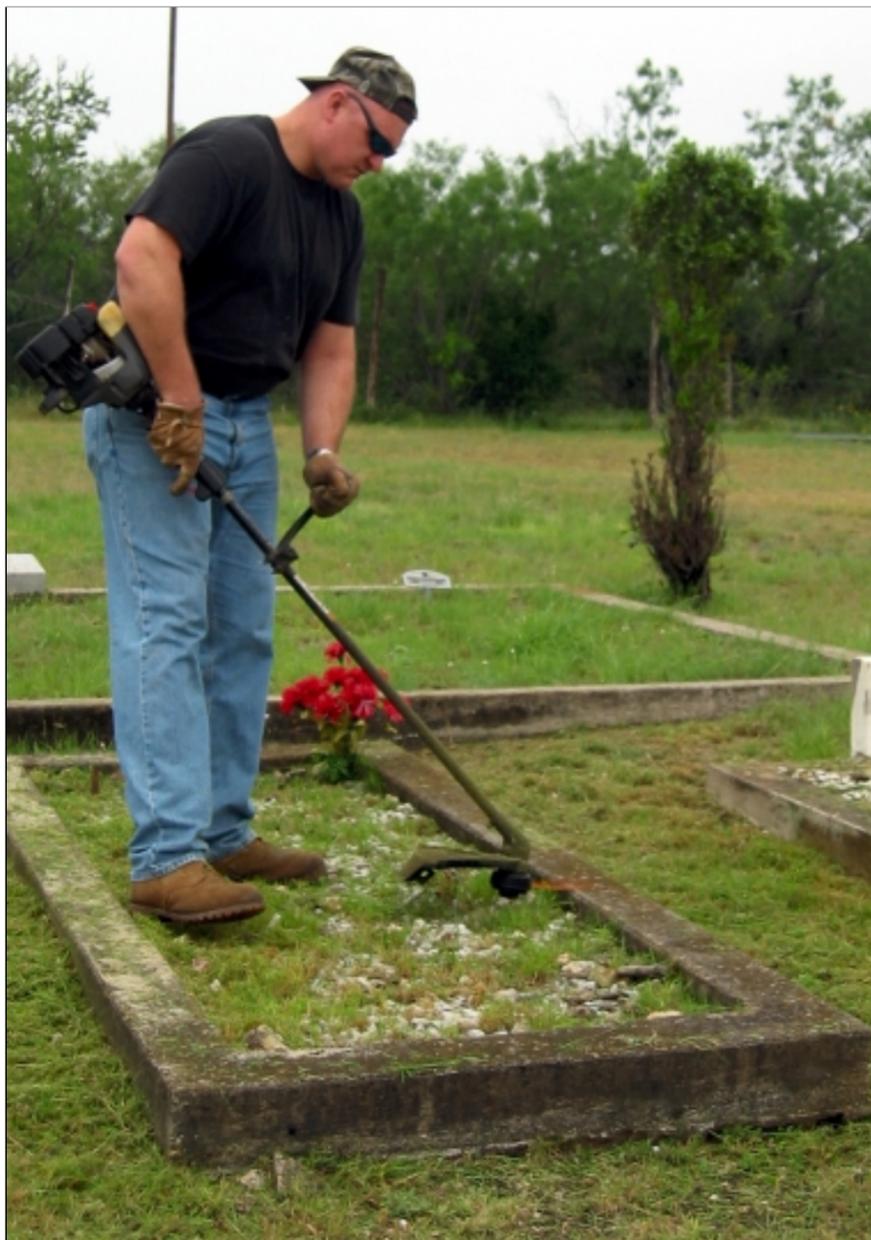
Pete Pierce, a member of the association, said he also appreciates the help. He added that the work these volunteers do creates a positive relationship between the Brackettville community and Laughlin.

A group of Laughlin volunteers periodically help maintain the cemetery as needed. A team of XLers joined members of Randolph Air Force Base's 19th Air Force to clean up the cemetery in November.

Sixteen Laughlin members teamed up May 28 to refurbish the Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery near Brackettville.

The group gathered their tools and cleaning supplies, traveled to the site and spent the day mowing grass and cutting weeds around headstones at the cemetery.

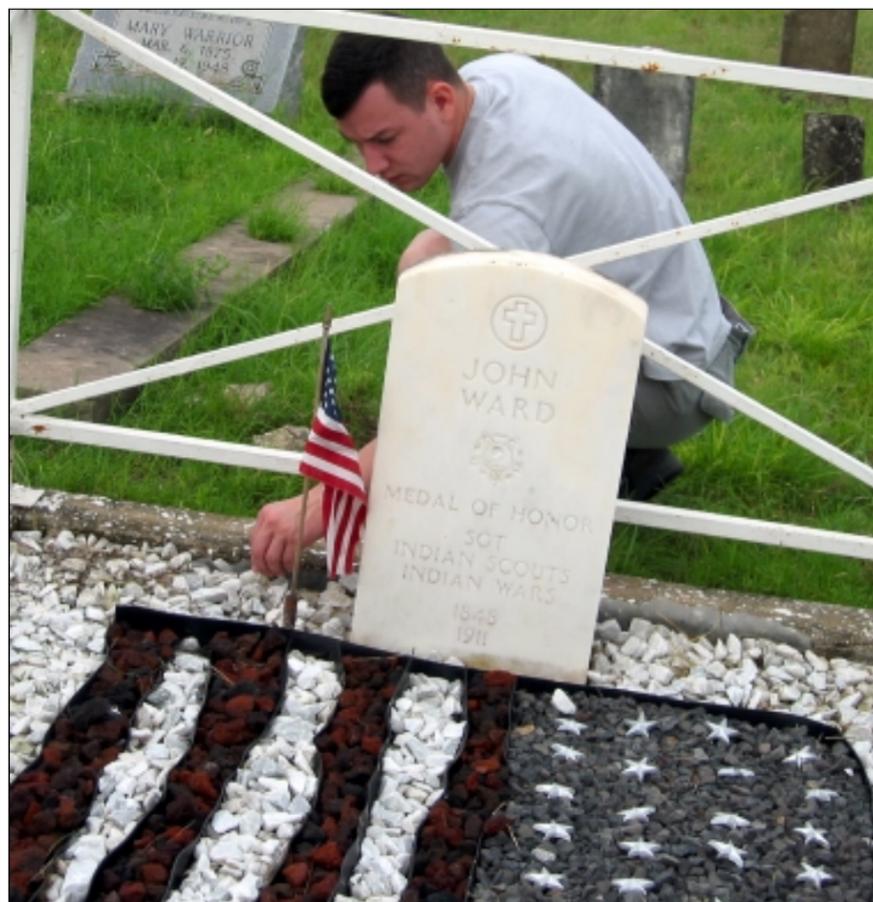
Established in 1872 for Negro Seminole Scouts who played a major role in protecting the Texas frontier, the cemetery is also the burial site of four Medal of Honor recipients. It is maintained by the Seminole Indian



Tech. Sgt. Eric Maye, 47th Mission Support Squadron First Term Airmen Center instructor, rids a grave of weeds.



Airmen 1st Class Daniel Mattson, left, and Oscar Vargas, both of the 47th Communications Squadron, add dirt to fill in a sunken grave at the Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery.



Staff Sgt. Will Marchand, 47th Medical Group, clears debris from around the headstone of Medal of Honor recipient John Ward.

The *XLer*

Airman 1st Class Sadex Brandford
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

Hometown: Kingston, Jamaica

Family: Single and not looking for one

Time at Laughlin:

One year and five months

Time in service:

One year and 10 months

Greatest accomplishment:

Getting my Air Education and Training Command Instructor Badge at the aerospace physiology unit

Hobbies: Playing video games, swimming, working out and clubbing

Bad habit: Continuously tripping Mindy when she is walking in front of me

Favorite movie:

“XXX” and “Lord of the Rings”

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?

My Aunty Lola. She was a very funny and headstrong person. She passed away two years ago.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

Chapel information



Catholic

Monday - Friday

● Mass, 12:05 p.m.

Saturday

● Mass, 5 p.m.; Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment

Sunday

● Mass, 9:30 a.m.; Religious Education, 11 a.m.

Thursday

● Choir; 6 p.m.; Rite of Christian Initiation, 7:30 p.m.

Protestant

Wednesday

● Choir, 7 p.m.; Protestant Women of the Chapel Ladies' Bible Study, 9 a.m.

Sunday

● General worship, 11 a.m.; Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater

For information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.

Shop the commissary...
the military's premier benefit

Please
recycle

If you know of or suspect
fraud, waste and abuse,
call the FWA hotline at
298-4170.

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/ keeps you informed about events.

Tips for driving safely and cell phone usage

- Use a hands-free device and position the phone within easy reach.
- Do not take notes or look up phone numbers while driving.
- Let voicemail answer phone calls during inconvenient situations on the road.
- Know your wireless phone features. Speed dial can be used without taking your eyes off the road.

Pass in review...

The Class of 2004 marches past Lt. Gen. John Rosa, U.S. Air Force Academy superintendent, during the graduation parade at Stillman Parade Field Monday in Colorado Springs, Colo. A highlight of the parade was a flyover by an F/A-22 Raptor.



Photo by Charley Staff

CCS defeats Med Group, 2-0, in playoff volleyball action

By Senior Airman
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

The combined team of the 47th Contracting Squadron, 47th Communications Squadron and 47th Services Division defeated the 47th Medical Group, 2-0, in intramural playoff volleyball action Wednesday night at the XL Fitness Center.

While the Med Group lost both games by around five points, they put up a fight each game.

The Med Group jumped to an early 3-point lead in the first game, and CCS responded by putting up 7

straight and opening up a 4-point lead. It looked like CCS might walk away with an easy victory but the Med Group fought back. They tacked on another 6 to take a 9-8 lead. CCS rebounded, scoring two quick points and capturing the lead, which they held for the rest of the game. The Med Group traded off points with CCS after losing the lead but couldn't catch up. CCS walked away with the 25-20 victory.

Both teams scored points in streaks during the second game. CCS nailed 6-straight points to start the game mostly off their serve. The Med Group returned fire and

tacked on three quick points of their own. After giving one point up to CCS, the Med Group rallied off seven more points in a row to go up 10-7.

CCS tied the match up at 12, but the Med Group quickly added three more points to take a 15-12 lead. CCS kept pounding away

however and tied the game again at 17. Both teams played hard in the final minutes of the game but in the end CCS proved too much for the Med Group to handle. After the dust had settled, CCS claimed the victory 25-19.

The loss ended the Med

Group's season. CCS went on to play the combined team of the 84th and 85th Flying Training Squadrons later Wednesday night.

The 84/85th won that game and earned the right to play the 87th FTS Thursday night for the base intramural volleyball championship.

Abdominal muscles used for more than tray table

Fitness commentary
by Bill Goins
47th Aeromedical-
Dental Squadron
exercise physiologist

I hate to be the one to break it to you. Your abdominals are not supposed to be a built-in beer holder or a personal lint trap. You may know exactly how you want your abs to look, but do you know what your abs do? Remember, not a drink holder.

They're actually some of the most important and multifunctional muscles in the body. Here are the seven most important functions they serve:

1. They are postural muscles, meaning you could not even sit up or stand without them. This makes them very important to your posture and health

while at work all day.

2. They cooperate with the diaphragm to assist in the breathing process. Don't like to work on your abs? Stop breathing!

3. They stabilize the spinal column and prevent the central nervous system from being impinged by instabilities in the spine.

4. They protect the internal organs from blows to the mid-section. In other words, they do for the digestive organs what the ribs do for the heart and lungs. Professional boxers and fighters have incredibly strong abdominal muscles to act as "body armor" for their internal organs.

5. They transfer forces from the upper extremities to the lower extremities and vice versa during activities ranging from leaping to reaching.

6. They stabilize the body when forces act on it, or parts of it. For example, if you hold

an arm straight out to one side and I push on your hand, your abs will contract to keep you from falling over. They are crucial for good balance.

7. They even initiate movements in your limbs. For example, when you walk, your core muscles contract before any muscles in your legs do.

As you can see, your abdominal muscles are probably the second most important muscles in your body after your heart muscle. You need to take care of your abdominals so they can take care of you.

Keep all of this in mind when you execute your workout program. Developing your abs not only develops muscles that help make you look good, but also help you do everything from walk, to bend over, to breathe.



Fitness Fact:

Did You Know? You burn about the same number of calories doing six sessions, five minutes each, of an activity as doing one session of 30 minutes. So,

the next time you say you don't have time to exercise ... stop making excuses.

West Nile Virus: treatable, preventable

By Staff Sgt. Irene Schwaninger
Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

West Nile Virus, first identified in 1937 in the West Nile region of Uganda, spread to the United States in 1999.

Experts believe WNV is established as a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall.

Eighty percent of people infected with mosquito-borne viruses do not become ill and have no symptoms. For persons who do become ill, the time between the mosquito bite and the onset of symptoms, known as the incubation period, ranges from three to 14 days. Two clinically different types of disease occur in humans. Symptoms of the viral fever syndrome include fever, headache and malaise.

These symptoms persist for about two to seven days and affect approximately one in five infected people. In rare cases, the virus can cause a more serious brain infection such as aseptic meningitis or encephalitis, affecting approximately one in 150 infected individuals. These infections begin with a sudden onset of high fever and a headache and may progress to stiff neck, disorientation, tremors and coma.

Severe infections can result in permanent brain damage or death. Most

deaths occur in persons over 50 years of age.

Transmission

The virus is transmitted to people and animals by bites from infected mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are infected by feeding on a bird with virus in its blood. The virus is transmitted to a new host in the mosquito's saliva when the insect bites another person or animal.

Humans and horses are dead-end hosts because they cannot infect other mosquitoes.

In a very small number of cases, WNV has spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, breast-feeding and during pregnancy from mother to child. WNV is not spread through casual contact such as touching or kissing a person with the virus.

WNV is prevalent in the warm months when mosquitoes are most abundant.

Treatment

There is no specific treatment for WNV infection. In cases with mild symptoms, people experience symp-

ptoms such as fever and aches that pass on their own. In more severe cases, people may need supportive treatment from a medical facility.

Do you have WNV?

Mild WNV illness improves on its own, and people do not necessarily need to seek medical attention for this infection. If symptoms of severe WNV illness develop, such as unusually severe headaches or confusion, persons affected should seek medical attention immediately.

Severe WNV illness usually requires hospitalization. Pregnant women and nursing mothers are encouraged to talk to their doctor if they develop symptoms that could be WNV.

Prevention

Prevention is key. Being aware of prevention activities will reduce the disease in the population.

- Avoid Mosquito Bites
- Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants and socks sprayed with repellent while outdoors.
- Stay indoors at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Spray insect repellent containing

DEET on exposed skin and clothing when outdoors. Adults and children more than 2 months of age can use preparations containing up to 35 percent DEET. Don't put repellent on children's hands because it may get in their mouth or eyes.

- Keep mosquitoes outside by fixing or installing window and door screens
- Drain standing water. A small amount of standing water can be enough for a mosquito to lay her eggs. Look around every week for possible mosquito breeding places.

- Empty water from buckets, cans, pool covers, flower pots and other items. Throw away or cover up stored tires and other items that aren't being used. Clean pet water bowls weekly. Check if rain gutters are clogged. If water is stored outside or if there is a well, make sure it's covered up.

Dead Birds

Don't handle dead birds with bare hands. Public health should be called at 298-6347 or 298-6436 if the bird is a crow or dove. (Crows are not commonly found in this area, the large black birds that we have are Grackles and cannot be tested for the virus.)

Additional information is available at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm



XL Fitness Center hours

Monday - Thursday:
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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

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

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