

# Border Eagle

## Tornadoes touch down at Laughlin

Compiled from staff reports

Two tornadoes touched down on Laughlin April 26 and base officials want all members to know what to do if the event repeats itself.

"The base populace needs to know what to do in case of severe weather conditions like we had April 26," said Col. Keith Traster, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander. "When the tornado siren goes off, people have to be aware of what it means and what actions to take."

Actions like Jim Teet, 47th FTW public affairs external information chief, took upon hearing the siren.

"I grabbed my wife and headed to the new visitors quarters where people who live in the mobile park home are supposed to go," said Mr. Teet. "We had to stay there for two hours until



Photo by A.J. Alejandro

**This tornado touched down on the south end of Laughlin's runway on April 26. Another tornado touched down on the northwest end of the base.**

given the all clear to return home."

Colonel Traster said he wants everyone on base to know what to do in a similar situation.

Tornadoes have been reported in the local area as early as February and as late as September. Two weather

notifications associated with tornadoes, a watch and warning, help Laughlin prepare for these conditions.

"A watch is when conditions are favorable for a tornado to occur," said

See **Weather**, page 4

## Climate survey reveals progress in most areas

By Nicole Gamez  
Air Force Climate Survey team

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The 2003 Air Force Climate Survey results have been analyzed, and final reports have been released to unit-level leaders for action.

The survey ran Oct. 1 to Nov. 23.

"As the leaders of the world's greatest air and space force, we share a commitment to continually seek improvement. The survey results give our leaders targets for improvement from the people who know best – our Airmen," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper. "For the survey to be a true success, leaders must now take this information and use it to focus their efforts within their organizations. I urge leaders to brief the re-

sults to their members and then translate that information into action."

Previous surveys included active-duty Airmen and appropriated-fund civilians. To provide a clearer picture of the entire force, the 2003 survey included the Reserve, Guard and nonappropriated-fund civilians. More than 50 percent of the total force took the survey.

It addressed job characteristics, unit resources, core values, supervision, unit chain of command, training and development, and job enhancement. It also focused on teamwork, participation and involvement, recognition, unit flexibility, general satisfaction and unit performance outcomes.

The Air Force Manpower Agency's survey team here worked with experts at the U.S. Air Force

Academy's department of management to ensure accurate analysis of the survey data.

Each question was answered on a six-point scale ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree." The total percentage of "agree" responses are the sum of "strongly agree," "agree" and "slightly agree" percentages.

Air Force-wide, unit performance outcomes, job characteristics and core values were the highest rated factors at 94-, 92-, and 87-percent agreement respectively. These results indicate that people believe they are meeting their missions' goals, find their jobs important and challenging, and believe that their unit understands and demonstrates Air Force core values, offi-

See **Survey**, page 4

### Newslines

#### Change of command

The 47th Medical Group will hold a change of command ceremony at 9 a.m. May 14 at Club XL.

Col. (Dr.) Laura Torres-Reyes will take over command from Col. (Dr.) Chuck Hardin.

#### DEFY graduation

A Drug Education For Youth graduation is set for 9 a.m. May 22 in the Chapel Hall Annex.

#### Park University

Registration of the summer term at Park University runs from May 17 to June 14.

For more information, call 298-5593 or 298-3061 or stop by the education office.

#### General election

Texas residents are reminded a general election is being held in Del Rio Tuesday. Voting items include: city and county officials and the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated School District Construction Program.

#### New security forces building

The 47th Security Forces Squadron has moved into their new facility on the corner of 4th Street and Colorado.

All customer service functions are available at the new location except Pass and Registration which is still located in the 47th Mission Support Squadron.

#### Deployment stats

Deployed: 26  
Returning in 30 days: 17  
Deploying in 30 days: 3

#### Mission status

(As of Tuesday)

Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -8.04      T-1, 1.76  
T-38, -4.84      T-6, -6.40

Mission capable rate:

T-37, 90.7%      T-1, 85.2%  
T-38, 74.8%      T-6, 73.1%

# Contracting does more than meets eye



## Commander's Corner

By Maj. Michael Claffey  
47th Contracting Squadron commander

Have you ever walked or driven by the sign for an office and not known what in the world the people inside did for eight hours (or more) each day? One of my recent favorites is "Nuclear Medicine." Maybe "Contracting" belongs on this list.

The contracting squadron is an organization comprised of roughly 34 professionals who exist for the sole purpose of supporting our customers; most notably the wing commander. That said, our focus is to support the wing's mission to "Train the World's Best Pilots and Deploy Expeditionary Forces to Fight and Win America's Wars...Period!"

Specifically, we lay the foundation for the wing by "providing efficient access to the full spectrum of private industry capabilities while ensuring contingency contracting readiness in support of worldwide deployments." Still a mystery? Please stay with me.

Again, our two-fold mission statement directly correlates to the wing's mission. To begin with, our day-to-day driving force is to enable the wing to keep flying and thereby produce the best pilots in the world. We do this by working with our base customers to provide access to private industry (i.e., contractor) capabilities. In the simplest terms, we serve as business advisors to all of you. Whether you plan on

**"Part of the pride of being assigned to Laughlin is the willingness of folks from every group, directorate and staff agency to work together as part of Team XL. We want to be known as proactive, efficient, and thorough business leaders all striving to provide the best, most timely advice and support to you, our customers."**

putting a contract in place for services or products to support your unit or you need to learn about our Government Purchase Card and quality assurance programs in greater detail, we want to be one of the first organizations you speak to.

Secondly, we actively support the expeditionary component of the wing mission by ensuring our military work force is trained and ready to deploy. In fact, we have sent one officer and four enlisted members on deployments to various locations throughout the world within the past two years. Not bad considering our military population usually hovers around 14 or 15.

Now, let's discuss some specifics. From a pure numbers perspective, we have approximately 700 contractor employees who come to work on any given day at Laughlin. Our squadron is a critical enabler to making this happen.

We administer the Base Operations and Support Services contracts, in addition to functions within the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron, such as military family housing maintenance, renovation of senior officer quarters, and grounds maintenance. We are

also responsible for contracts within the 47th Operations Support Squadron, Airfield Management and the Logistics Readiness Division, to include vehicle operations and maintenance, the traffic management office, fuels, and supply.

Also, we manage the Engine Regional Repair Center contract, responsible for repair and maintenance of engines from Vance, Sheppard, Randolph, and Laughlin, not to mention the contracts for food service at our enlisted dining facility, simulator instruction, custodial service, recycling and refuse, sports officials, aerobics instructors, multimedia base information transfer center, postal service center and furnishings for the new visitors quarters, security forces building, and Fitness Center.

In addition, one of our roles is to assist in processing the paperwork to allow contractor employees access to the base to keep our pilots flying.

But, stop right there. This does not even begin to mention any of our construction projects. Our new center runway just completed construction this week. Also, we're awarding and managing the outside runway design and construction contract. In the next few months, you will see "ground breaking" on Laughlin's new education center; a multi-phase, multi-million dollar effort. Further, we're working steadfastly on apron rows for the airfield, a new phase in the Heritage Park construction, finishing up our HazMat pharmacy building and constructing an addition to the fire department.

See **Contracting**, page 3

## Border Eagle

### Editorial Staff

Col. Dan Woodward  
Commander

Capt. Paula Kurtz  
Public affairs chief

2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston  
Internal information chief

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill  
PA NCO in charge

Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein  
Editor

Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi  
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, 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 [sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil).

# Chief of Staff unveils new reading list



## Chief of Staff's Sight Picture

By Gen. John P. Jumper  
Air Force Chief of Staff

The collective abilities of our active, guard, reserve, and civilian Airmen provide our Air Force a full spectrum of capabilities that are second to none. To sustain our dominance and understand the world in which we operate, we must develop a wider perspective and an appreciation of views other than our own. I encourage each of you to make time for professional reading as part of your continuing development as Airmen.

As our Air Force continues to adapt to new and enduring challenges across the spectrum of conflict, I intend to adapt my

Reading List as well. This year, I added three new books that offer insight into ongoing conflicts and furnish organizational and leadership success stories. Although I may not endorse all views or interpretations of selections on my Reading List, I have found them informative and thought provoking. Here's a brief explanation of the three new additions:

"An Army at Dawn", by Rick Atkinson, provides a superb historical assessment of the invasion and ensuing war in North Africa in 1942-1943. This book combines in-depth insight into Allied campaign planning, strategy, and tactics directed at ejecting the German Army from North Africa. The leadership traits and wartime relationships of Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, Montgomery, and Rommel are thoroughly chronicled, and are instructive to leaders in the 21st Century.

"Of Paradise and Power", by Robert Kagan, examines the past and present

geopolitical dissimilarities between Europe and the United States, providing an understanding of diplomacy in the post-Cold War world. This book offers a thought-provoking post September 11th appraisal of America's preparedness to respond to strategic challenges around the world.

"The Age of Sacred Terror", by Steven Simon and Dan Benjamin, illustrates the intellectual foundation of radical Islam and offers an in-depth analysis into the beliefs of those responsible for waging a Jihad against the West. This book also provides a revealing description on the different understandings of Islam and its ancient and deep-rooted history.

As in the past, these books will be made available through our institutional schools at Air University and our Air Force libraries. The updated reading list, complete with a brief summary of the new selections, can be accessed at <http://www.af.mil/csafreading/>.

## Contracting, from page 2

Also, as I'm sure many of you noticed during the recent exercise, we are nearly complete on a major bollard installation project throughout the base and numerous, on-going improvements to our military family housing.

On top of all that, we also oversee and implement the Congressionally-mandated Small Business Program for Laughlin, and

help execute most of the dollars Laughlin receives during the infamous "year-end closeout" each September.

All of this occurs while another skilled team works to process each Air Force Form 9 we receive and maintain our computer hardware and software infrastructure, which is needed to perform everything else I have mentioned.

However, it is extremely important to

point out we need our partners and customers throughout the base and at the headquarters levels and above in order to succeed. Part of the pride of being assigned to Laughlin is the willingness of folks from every group, directorate and staff agency to work together as part of Team XL. We want to be known as proactive, efficient, and thorough business leaders all striving to provide the best, most timely advice and support to you, our customers.



## Actionline 298-5351 or [actionline@laughlin.af.mil](mailto: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 gen-

eral 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.

<b>AAFES</b>	298-3176	<b>Clinic</b>	298-6311
<b>Finance</b>	298-5204	<b>Commissary</b>	298-5815
<b>Civil Engineer</b>	298-5252	<b>Dormitory manager</b>	298-5213
<b>Civilian Personnel</b>	298-5299	<b>EEO</b>	298-5879
		<b>FWA hotline</b>	298-4170
		<b>Housing</b>	298-5904
		<b>Information line</b>	298-5201
		<b>Legal</b>	298-5172
		<b>MEO</b>	298-5400
		<b>Military Personnel</b>	298-5073
		<b>Public Affairs</b>	298-5988
		<b>Security Forces</b>	298-5900
		<b>Services</b>	298-5810

## Pool closure

**Question:** I am calling regarding that they said the pool was going to be closing in May for a month for maintenance. I was just wondering why would they do that in May, and not in the

winter months.

**Answer:** In March, leaks were discovered in the circulation system which requires the pool to be drained for needed repairs.

While the timing is unfortunate for the spring swimming season, the

Services Division is taking maximum advantage of the opportunity to perform other maintenance repairs to the pool liner, as well as painting the deck and making repairs in the restrooms.

The decking will be painted with new non-slip paint and new pool lad-

ders will be installed which will reduce the risk of accidents. All repairs should be complete, and the pool should be in first-class shape in time for our summer grand opening, May 29 at 11 a.m.

Be sure to bring the family out to enjoy the festivities!

## Weather, from page 1

Tech. Sgt. Cassandra Ablieghter, 47th Operation Support Squadron superintendent of weather operations. "A warning is given when a tornado is imminent and people should take cover to protect themselves."

The weather flight plays a major role in protecting the base from natural disasters. Weather is tracked with many different tools here as well as equipment at Barksdale Air Force Base, which joins efforts with Laughlin to forecast weather throughout the local area, and the National Weather Service, which provides Laughlin with civilian weather watches and warnings.

Weather notifications circulate after the local weather has been analyzed and atmospheric conditions indicate tornadoes or other severe weather conditions could pass through the local

area. Usually, the weather flight issues a tornado or severe weather watch first to base agencies such as the air traffic control tower, the flying training squadrons and the command post. The latter relays the information to the base populace via e-mail. If the storm takes a turn for the worst, the weather flight will issue a tornado warning in the same fashion.

The command post notifies the entire base of a tornado warning with a long, steady siren that sounds throughout the base following a verbal notification through the base public announcement system, or "giant voice." Once the siren is heard, people should seek shelter immediately.

Most people should shelter exactly where they are. The exception is for those who live in the mobile home park and family camp. These residents should seek shelter at the Laughlin Manor billeting office.

## What to do during a tornado

A tornado is indicated by a three- to five-minute steady siren over the base Giant Voice system.

This means a tornado has been confirmed in the local area. When this siren is heard, everyone should immediately take the following actions:

Housing and dormitory residents should take shelter in a bathroom or hallway without windows, and remain in place until the "all-clear" is heard.

Residents of the Base Mobile Home Park and FAMCAMP are to take shelter in the new Laughlin Manor.

The all-clear signal is a short "warbling" siren followed by voice announcement of ALL CLEAR over the base Giant Voice system.

If you hear the siren, please ensure the safety of your family and neighbors and seek shelter immediately!

"If you are caught outside, get to the nearest building and shelter there," said Master Sgt. James Martin, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron readiness flight chief. "Go to the innermost room of the building and get under a desk for additional [protection]"

Because tornadoes are capable of massive destruction, Sergeant Martin advises base people to stay in a safe place such as under a sturdy desk until advised it's clear. "It is important that everyone is informed and has a plan of action in case of natural disasters," he said.

## Survey, from page 1

cials said.

Eighty-six percent of the survey participants said that people in their work groups exercise teamwork and perform essential work that is considered above and beyond the call of duty. Eighty-five percent of respondents agreed that they have the required training to do their jobs, and that they have opportunities for professional growth.

Overall, supervision was rated at 84 percent, while 81 percent believed their chain of command positively influenced the direction, people and culture of their units.

Although active-duty Airmen and appropriated-fund civilian participants' ratings increased from the 2002 survey, the results showed room for improvement in several areas. Seventy-eight percent of the respondents are generally satisfied with their jobs, are involved in their work place's decisions and believe their units respond well to change.

Since the first survey in 1997, acknowledgment of exceptional performance and management of time, people and equipment areas continue to score low in the survey; however, both have continued to increase. Comments received in the recognition area indicate that a simple "thank you" for a job well done can be just as effective as a formal award, officials said.

Sixty-five percent of participants

agree morale in their unit is high. This number has increased from 55 percent in 1997.

In comparison with other components, active-duty Airmen rate all factors lower than reservists, guardsmen and civilians. Officers consistently rate all factors higher than enlisted Airmen and civilians with the exception of the unit resources factor.

Since 2002, the number of active-duty Airmen (deployed and at home station) who intend to remain in the Air Force has decreased significantly.

Analysis by Air Force Academy officials revealed that the chain of command as a whole, rather than the commander or supervisor alone, drives performance, satisfaction, organizational commitment and one's intent to remain in the Air Force. Further analysis revealed that of all the factors the survey addresses, an Airman's career intentions are most affected by organizational commitment and satisfaction, not by work hours.

According to the survey results, ratings increased in units where leaders used the results positively. The 2003 factor ratings were compared against the question, "Did my leader use the results in a positive way?" The results showed leaders who shared results and used ideas and suggestions had higher positive responses in all factors. Leaders that took action on previous survey results also increased their units' overall scores, officials said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

## Making eagle ...

Chris Bordenave, son of Joy and Lt. Col. Paul Bordenave, 87th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, recites the Scout Oath given to him by Jerry Garcia, Boy Scout Troop 280 scout master, April 30 at the base chapel during a ceremony where Chris became an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts.

# Presence policy helps define expeditionary force

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

WASHINGTON – The secretary of the Air Force recently signed a policy clearly defining the structure and role of the air and space expeditionary force within the joint warfare environment.

The Air and Space Expeditionary Force Presence Policy, among other things, defines AEF, outlines its command structure and explains how its capabilities will be served up to joint combatant commanders, said Brig. Gen. William L. Holland. He is the director of air and space expeditionary force matters.

“This policy is the overarching document that guides the Air Force through what we’ve been doing for the last couple of years,” General Holland said. “It codifies those processes, and the policy that guides those processes, in how the Air Force organizes,

trains and equips to meet combatant commander’s requirements.”

The policy now allows combatant commanders to ask the Air Force for services in terms of capability. In the past, they would present their needs in terms of units, aircraft or numbers of people, the general said.

“Perhaps the combatant commander has a requirement for close-air support,” General Holland said. “Depending on the background of the combatant commander and his staff, they may automatically think of the A-10 [Thunderbolt II].”

Having a combatant commander ask for a specific type of aircraft, or even a specific unit, can be taxing on the Air Force, the general said. For example, if a combatant commander has priority and asks for a specific Air Force unit, the unit may be pulled away from work it is already engaged in.

“If they ask for an A-10 and we don’t have one available, it becomes a matter of taking it from somewhere else – so then somebody else’s needs may go unfulfilled,” the general said.

General Holland said it would be more efficient for the commander to say what capability he or she needs and to then let the Air Force decide how best to provide it. The policy allows that to happen.

The policy will soon be available to all Airmen on the

Air Force’s publishing Web site. The general said he hopes Airmen will take the time to read the document, because it explains in full what the service has been asking them to do for so long.

“(It) will provide Airmen with the strategic vision of why they are being asked to do what they are being asked to do,” he said. “We have a lot of smart folks out there who will do just about anything if they understand why. Senior leaders are always

looking for a better way of explaining it to them, and the (policy) helps us with that.”

The policy also solidifies what Air Force leaders have been talking about for years, the general said. It turns what before had seemed to many a concept or an idea, into something leaders can point to.

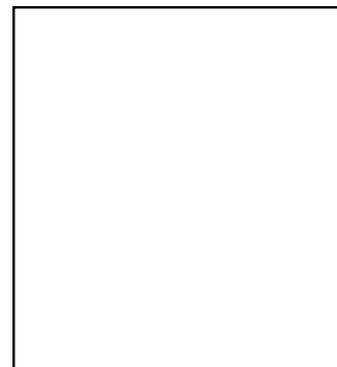
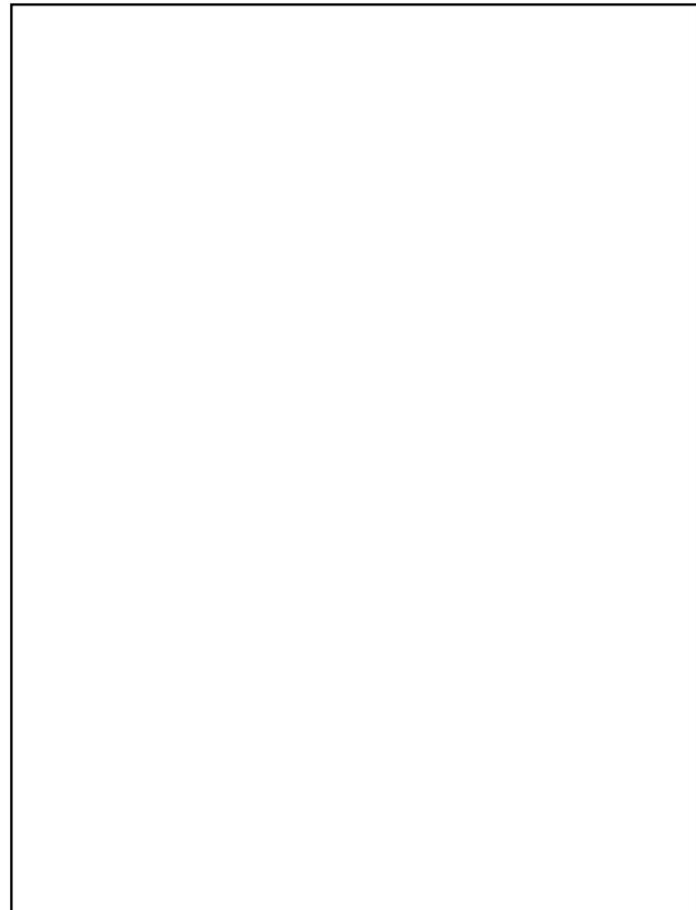
“The AEF is no longer a concept; it is a reality,” General Holland said. “It is so because we have been doing it and have been successful at doing it.”



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

## Out with the old ...

A construction worker uses a Bobcat to dismantle the building that once housed the Border Federal Credit Union Wednesday. A new wing headquarters building will be built on the site after the demolition is complete.



## Base honors military spouses, their value to mission

*Wives, husbands provide pillar of support for family, Air Force life*

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill  
Public affairs

Laughlin will conduct a variety of activities this month to honor military spouses and the important part they play in helping the wing accomplish its mission.

The activities are in conjunction with Military Spouse Appreciation Day, which is observed today.

"Military spouses are the life blood of the Air Force family," said Sabrina Pena, lead work life consultant at the family support center here. "They are the ones who keep things going while the military member is deployed, which is critical in supporting the mission."

Ms. Pena said that often military spouses do not see their link to the Air Force mission, but their continued supporting role is crucial.

"Activities and events planned for

Military Spouse Appreciation Day is just one way the Air Force can say "Thank you for everything you do everyday," she said of military spouses.

Military Spouse Appreciation

Day is observed each year on the Friday before Mother's Day and in conjunction with National Military Appreciation Month.

Events planned for military spouse appreciation include a shopping trip to

San Marcos, a crafting extravaganza and a health fair.

Spouses who have signed up for the shopping trip will travel to San Marcos on Saturday. The last day to R.S.V.P. was May 5.

The crafting extravaganza will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 22 in the Fiesta Center ballroom. The extravaganza is open to all base members and will offer free and minimal-fee workshops on crafting and scrap books along with prizes and fun.

The health fair will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 26 in the Fiesta Center ballroom. The fair is open to all base members and will include workshops, prizes and a children's area.

For more information on military spouse appreciation activities and events, call the family support center at 298-4032.

This annual appreciation honors military spouses for their valued com-

mitment as they cope with demands of the Air Force mission, especially during this time as military forces fight the global war on terrorism.

"Military spouses have always been critical to the success of our nation," said Lt. Col. Steven Moore, 85th Flying Training Squadron commander. "With the high operations tempo our military has experienced the past few years, it has become more important. The acts of



terrorism and blatant aggression towards our way of life have only made families and spouses more committed to our nation's military."

The commander said our families see the threats to our country daily and understand the sacrifice required by all to protect the nation.

As the war on terrorism consistently keeps the military member deployed overseas for varying periods of time, the spouse's role also is valued in helping maintain the military family unit.

"My husband is currently on temporary duty and I understand the difficulties involved in maintaining 'sanity' and routine within the family during his absence," said Trasi Mullin, wife of Lt. Col. Brian Mullin, 47th Operations Support Squadron director of operations. "The most important thing I can do as a military spouse is support my husband with his, and our, commitment to our country by understanding these separations, short and long, are a necessary and temporary part of securing a safer world."

There are numerous challenges a military spouse must confront in order to deal with the daily stresses of military life.

How the spouse manages those challenges can play a factor in how well their military member accomplishes the mission.

Mrs. Mullin said one of the best ways to cope with the challenges is to remember that the military is similar to a large civilian cooperation and that there are stresses in every work life.

"Military spouses should always be proud of their part in supporting our country by providing a happy, safe and loving environment for our Airmen when they come home ... and a hot meal doesn't hurt," she said.

Also, Mrs. Mullin suggested spouses be involved and take advantage of the various organizations on base that offer opportunities for spouses and children to interact.

"Remember that you (spouses) are not alone and that you occupy a very important role in the military family," she said.

Because most of us are away from our own families, the squadron family also becomes important in times of joy, sorrow, stress and happiness, Colonel Moore added.

"Each spouse's contribution and support of the squadron is critical," he said.



May 9, 2004

Access education information at the click of a mouse.

Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center  
at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>

## Prevention, screening allow Airmen to come home healthy

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

WASHINGTON – Surgeons general from the Army, Navy and Air Force testified before Congress on April 28 on the status of health care in the services.

Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) George Peach Taylor Jr. spoke to members of the Senate Appropriations Committee defense subcommittee. He said the Air Force's predeployment efforts at disease prevention and in-the-field disease identification systems are allowing Airmen to return from deployments healthier than ever.

"Our people are coming back in better health because of individual disease-prevention efforts, but also because of the incredible deployment health-surveillance program that we have fielded," Dr. Taylor said. "From our preventive aerospace medicine teams to our biological augmentation teams, we are helping to protect the area of responsibility from biological and environmental threats."

Dr. Taylor told senators the Air Force is using equipment that can iden-

tify disease-causing pathogens in about two hours. In coming years, he said, Air Force officials hope to use even better equipment to identify disease before it can cause serious illness.

"We hope to reduce the time even further, through new, more advanced – indeed, break-through – genome-based technologies," he said.

The senate panel asked about shortages of doctors, nurses and dentists within the reserve components of the services. Dr. Taylor said the shortage may be due in part to the difficulty of running a medical practice coupled with the potential of being deployed more than a quarter of a year at a time.

"It is difficult in today's medical practice," Dr. Taylor said. "Many of the providers operate close to the margin. Taking them out for long periods of time can often destroy a practice. We are trying to work ways where we can bring them on deck for short periods of time through a volunteer system so they can work perhaps 30 days every couple of years. Certainly pay and environment of care is an aspect."

Senators also asked about the increase in eye and limb injuries seen coming off the battlefield. The in-



Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

**Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) George Peach Taylor Jr. answers questions on Capitol Hill about disease prevention efforts at overseas locations. Dr. Taylor spoke April 28 during a hearing of the Senate Appropriations Committee defense subcommittee.**

crease is, in part, because of the improvement of protective gear – body armor – for the chest and abdomen, said Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) James B. Peake.

While the gear goes a long way to improve the chance a wounded servicemember will survive what in the past might have been a fatal injury, it does not protect the limbs and eyes. A

person who, in the past may not have lived through an injury, can live today – but finds he or she is without sight or limbs, he said.

All three service surgeons general said that developing better protection for the head, eyes and limbs is critical, and they are actively working with body armor-designers to address the physical requirements.

## 9/11 caused reassessment of Saddam threat, policy official says

By Gerry Gilmore  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on America it became apparent to senior U.S. policy makers that Saddam Hussein and his regime had to go, the Defense Department's top policy official said here Tuesday.

Officials believed U.S. and U.N. efforts to contain Saddam since the end of the Gulf War had largely failed, Douglas J. Feith, undersecretary of defense for policy, said in remarks at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. AEI is a public policy "think tank."

"President Bush concluded, in light of the 9/11 attacks, that it was necessary to remove Saddam Hussein by force," Feith explained. "The danger was too great that Saddam might give the fruits of his (weapons of mass destruction) programs to terrorists for use against the United States." And that threat, Feith emphasized, "did not hinge on whether Saddam was actually stockpiling" chemical or biological weapons.

The president told the American people and the world, Feith noted, that removing Saddam and his regime "would make the world safer, would free the Iraqi people, and would open the way for the development of

democratic institutions in Iraq that could inspire the growth of freedom throughout the Middle East." A free and democratic Iraq, Feith pointed out, also would help counter ideological support for terrorism throughout the world.

Although weapons of mass destruction have yet to turn up in Iraq, Feith insisted that "no one can properly assert that the failure, so far, to find Iraqi WMD stockpiles undermines the reasons for the war."

Today, a year since the end of major combat operations in Iraq, Saddam Hussein is in U.S. custody. U.S., coalition and Iraqi officials, Feith noted, are working to transfer power to a new Iraqi govern-

ment "that will govern by compromise and consensus" among the country's ethnic and sectarian groups.

"We want Iraqis to run their own country," Feith said, noting that the United States and its allies don't want to control or exploit Iraq or its resources.

Feith said the United States and its coalition partners are helping Iraqis assume control of their economics, politics and security. A sovereign Iraqi government, he noted, "will be better able to marginalize its extremist opponents politically, while coalition forces defeat them militarily."

The June 30 handover of power in Iraq, he said, repre-

sents the "worse possible scenario" for insurgents.

"The Baathists and terrorists fear the return of sovereignty to the Iraqi people, and that's why they're trying so hard to derail it," Feith explained.

And Iraqis should know, he said, that the insurgents offer only a return to oppression.

"We are still at war" in Iraq, Feith said, adding that insurgents likely will become more violent as June 30 approaches. The U.S.-led coalition, Feith emphasized, has "the will, the forces, the resources and the strategy to succeed."

"What we are fighting for is important and right," he said.

## Congress, nation designate military appreciation month

By Gene Harper  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – Both chambers of the U.S. Congress have adopted a resolution calling for Americans to recognize and honor U.S. servicemembers during May's National Military Appreciation Month.

Virginia Rep. Tom Davis, along with 16 co-sponsors, introduced Concurrent Resolution No. 328 in the House in November. The Senate agreed to it without amendment and by unanimous consent April 26.

The resolution states that the House, with the Senate concurring, "supports the goals and objectives of

a National Military Appreciation Month." It also "urges the president to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, localities, organizations and media to annually observe (the month) with appropriate ceremonies and activities." Finally, the resolution urges the White House Commission on Remembrance to "work to support the goals and objectives" of the month.

The Senate first passed a resolution in 1999 designating National Military Appreciation Month. That declaration summoned U.S. citizens to observe the month "in a symbol of unity, ... to honor the current and former members of the armed forces, including those who have died in the

pursuit of freedom and peace."

Traditionally, May has focused on the military in many ways. For example, Public Service Recognition Week, celebrated the first full Monday through Sunday in May since 1985, recognizes the roles of public servants, including the military, at local, state, regional and federal levels. As a part of the week, communities across America showcase military equipment and servicemembers from U.S. installations. The largest event takes place on Washington's National Mall, where more than 100 federal agencies, including the military services, put their activities, people and equipment on public display. This year's mall event is Thursday to Sunday.

Armed Forces Day, created in 1949, is an annual event held on the third Saturday in May, with activities at U.S. military bases worldwide. This year's celebration is May 15.

The month culminates with Memorial Day, a federal holiday on the last Monday in May. The day, dating from the Civil War era, traditionally has marked recognition of those who have died in service to the nation. Each year on Memorial Day, the White House Commission on Remembrance promotes one minute of silence at 3 p.m. local time to honor the military's fallen comrades and to pay tribute to the sacrifices by the nation's servicemembers and veterans.



# World War II Memorial opens

By Thom Robinson  
11th Wing Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Almost 50 years after the “Greatest Generation” saved the world, a grateful nation paid its respects to the 16 million Americans who served freedom’s cause with the opening of the World War II Memorial here April 29.

While the official dedication ceremony for the landmark will not occur until May 29, National Park Service officials decided on a “soft opening” for a number of reasons. The primary reason being the number of surviving World War II veterans is dwindling, and about 1,100 of them pass away every day, officials said.

From idea to completion, the World War II Memorial has taken almost 20 years to be realized. In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the bill authorizing the memorial to be built; in 1995, the memorial site

was dedicated; and construction began in September 2001.

Early on, project critics were concerned about the size and placement of the proposed memorial distracting from other landmarks in the area, but those fears seem to have been unwarranted, officials said. Many who have previewed the new memorial have praised its design, placement and appropriateness, officials said.

The monument design includes sweeping views both east and west of the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. It features granite pillars, a large paved plaza, arcs of stone, low waterfalls, bronze wreaths and 4,000 gold stars – each star representing 100 military deaths.

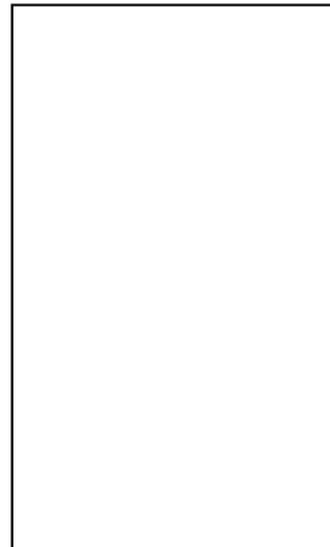
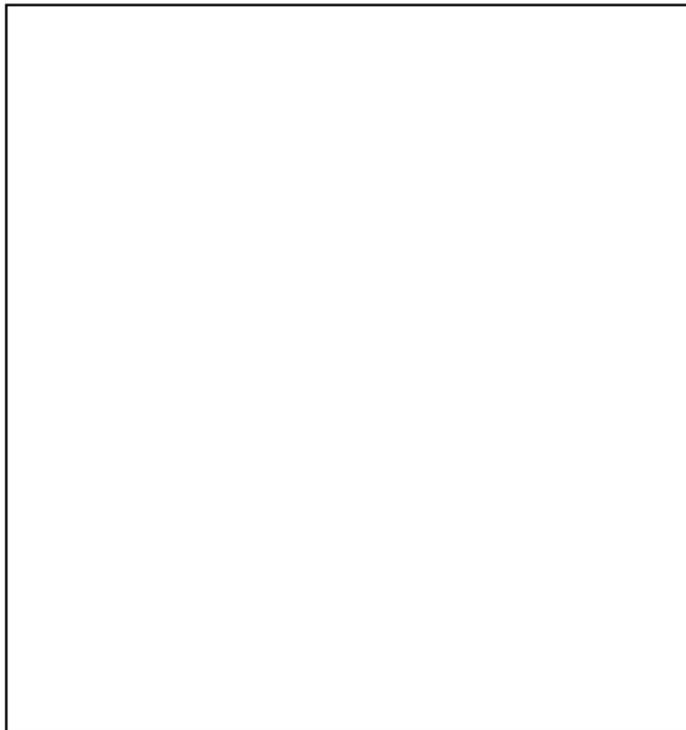
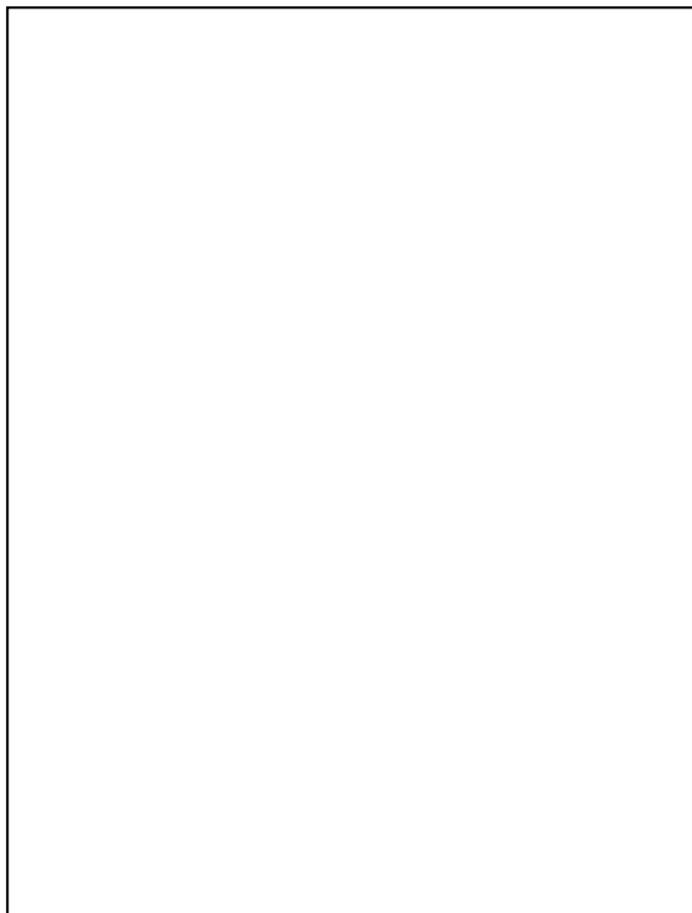
Some people who have visited the memorial said it inspires reflection, gratitude, pride and patriotism – everything a memorial to the heroism displayed by the “Greatest Generation” should do.



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

## Nice ride ...

Master Sgt. Ricky Harting, 47th Services Division superintendent, checks out one of around 70 motorcycles at the motorcycle awareness show at Club Amistad April 30. The show was put on to allow motorcyclists the chance to show off their bikes and to promote safe driving practices.



# Contractors replace center runway continue parking ramp construction

Story and photos by Airman  
1st Class Olufemi Owolabi  
Staff writer

The final phase of a \$6.8 million two-phase repair project of Laughlin's center runway was completed on Wednesday as scheduled.

The 75-day project repaired a 600-foot threshold and resurfaced 8,300 feet of the center runway with asphalt. Contractors also laid and marked the pavement, installed runway lighting and constructed a drain-

age crown.

The first phase of the runway repair project started in December and was completed in January. It consisted of placing and leveling new concrete on the center runway from the north threshold.

In addition to the runway project, a \$3.5 million ramp construction project started in November and is scheduled for completion by mid-August.

"We need to ensure the pilots have a safer runway," said 1st Lt. Meaghan

White, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron project manager.

The need to repair the center runway arose because the old asphalt was causing potential foreign-object damage.

Moreover, Lieutenant White said standing water and drainage problems caused by grooves on the runway made it extremely unsafe for aircraft during takeoffs and landings.

"The primary focus of the project was to put a drainage crown on the runway," she said. "The crown, designed to change the runway from a previously flat surface to a slightly sloped surface, with its highest point at the center, makes it possible to shed the standing water to the sides of the runway."

Generally, she said the runway's base, sub-base and pavement were completely replaced. Other sections in good shape were resurfaced with asphalt.

Likewise, Robert Estrada, the parking ramp construction project manager, said the second phase of the ramp project consisted of laying the subgrade and the base.

"Because Laughlin had the ramp for more than 45 years, the concrete on the ramp was wearing beyond repair," said Mr. Estrada. "The concrete

had to be replaced completely."

Also he said an increase in the mission, with an increased number of heavy aircraft, brought about heavier loads on the ramp. That caused moderate FOD hazards and rubber sealing on the slabs to deteriorate.

According to Lieutenant White, all transient flights to Laughlin were greatly decreased during the ramp construction.

In addition, Maj. Vincent Alcazar, 47th Flying Training Wing center runway closure project officer said the construction significantly affected flying operations.

He said that before the construction, Laughlin, basically with three operational runways, used the center runway for all takeoffs and a majority of other instrument-approach procedures.

"During the construction project, the T-1s and T-38s shifted their operations to the outside runway, while T-6s and T-37s confined their operations to the inside runway," Major Alcazar said. "The T-1s and T-38s were forced to operate exclusively on 'slot times.'"

'Slot times' are periods when T-1 and T-38 operations do not overlap.

"Though the slot times worked well, they limited flying options in the 86th and 87th Flying Training Squad-



Larry Barton uses a roller screed as Robert Gallegos (left) of MKG Construction Company, Del Rio, manually levels concrete on the ramp project.



rons," M

Des closed c which in in flying hered to ing oper of stude

"The sive plan and con agency t local fly hensive

Have shape af speeds u num tra ing with "It a dent pil day," he

The in 1943 to its cu 1952.

In th nance w pleted. said, mi plished c tersectio

"Un of repai said.

She project t teamwo contract gineer a the cont

"We especial sure the schedul

A cont on the nal pha project

# Runway, Construction

s,” Major Alcazar said.

Despite limitations, he said the revised center operating runway plan, which incorporates all guidelines used for flying operations was strictly adhered to and ensured successful training operations and on-time graduation of student pilots.

“The purpose of this comprehensive plan was to mitigate the hazards of confusion of aircrews and every agency that had something to do with the flying by giving them comprehensive guidelines,” he said.

Having the runway back in good shape after completion of the project speeds up flying operations to maximum training outputs without work within the slot times, he added.

“It also allows our T-38 solo student pilots to fly at any time of the day,” he said.

The center runway, originally built in 1943 with 6,600 feet, was extended to its current length, 8,858 feet, in 1992.

In the 70s, miscellaneous maintenance was done and an overlay completed. By 1996, Lieutenant White said, minor repairs had been accomplished on the runway and taxiway intersections.

“Until now, we have not put a lot of repair work on the runway,” she said.

She attributed the success of the project to partnership, hard work and teamwork between base units, such as contracting, security forces, civil engineer and operations squadrons, and the contractor.

“We all worked around the clock, especially during bad weather, to make sure the project was completed as scheduled,” she said.

**Contract worker lays asphalt on the center runway in the final phase of its construction project Wednesday.**



**Polo Hernandez, left, and Hector Cassio of MKG Construction Company pour concrete as they prepare to apply it to the ramp construction project.**



**From left, Juan Ramirez, Alex Noyola and Juan Vela, of MKG Construction Company, finish concrete as they replace Laughlin's parking ramp.**

## 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

### Chaplain Staff

*Wing chaplain:*

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic

*Senior Protestant:*

Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian Church, USA

*Protestant:*

Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian Church

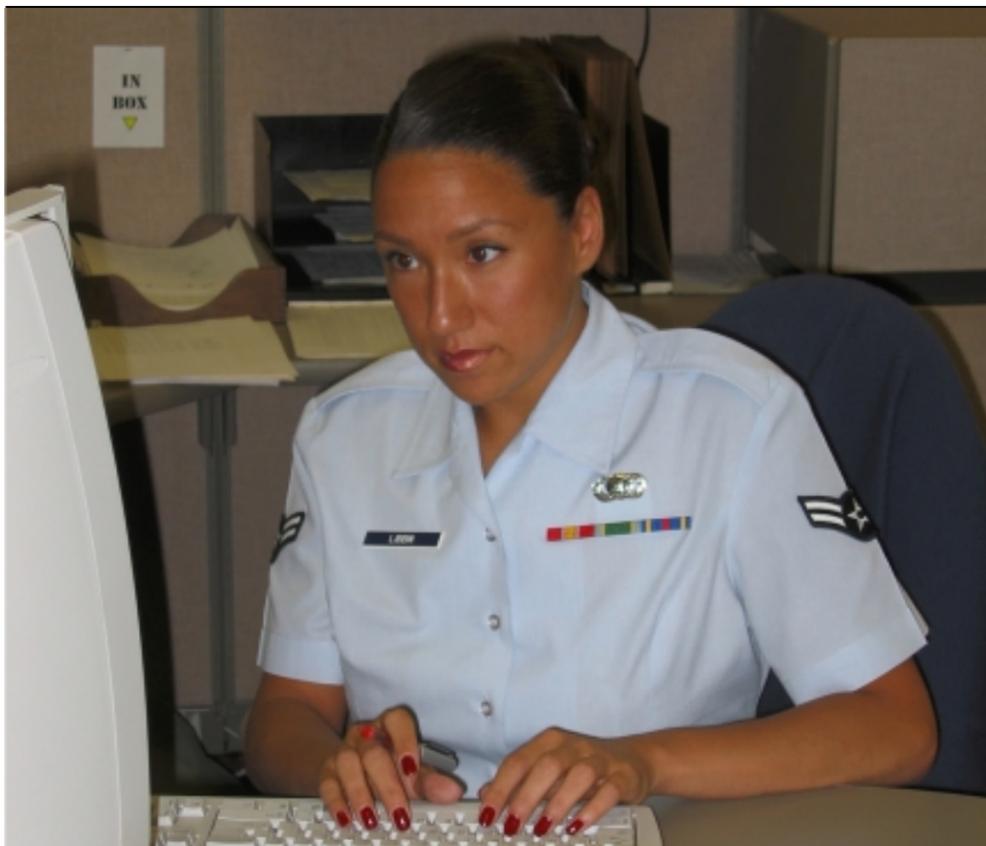
*Protestant:*

Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

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

## The *XLer*

*Airman 1st Class Angela Libbin  
47th Comptroller Flight*



*Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein*

**Hometown:** Milton, Fla.

**Family:** Son, Jax

**Time at Laughlin:**

One year

**Time in service:**

One year, five months

**Greatest accomplishment:**

Raising a 5-year-old who

speaks like a 30-year-old

**Hobbies:** Reading, tanning and watching the Food Network until the wee hours of the morning

**Bad habit:** Talking way too loud and tanning

**Favorite movie:**

**"Gone With the Wind"**  
*If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?*

My dad, to get all the answers I needed to all the questions I never asked.

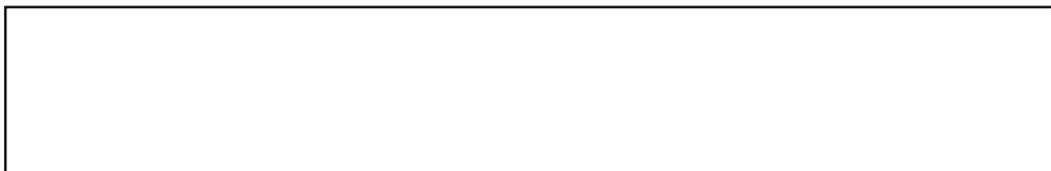


## Commander's Access Channel

Tune to  
**Cable Channel 34**  
for up-to-date information about  
events and activities  
at Laughlin.

## 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.



3x10 armed forces  
(Bank from anywhere)



## Laughlin Salutes

### SUPT Class 04-08 awards

**Daedalian award:**

2nd Lt. Max Christopherson

**Academic award, airlift/  
tanker track:**

2nd Lt. Matthew Murphy

**Academic award, fighter/  
bomber track:**

2nd Lt. George Houghton

**Flying training award,  
fighter/bomber track:**

2nd Lt. Nikolaos  
Stathopoulos

**Flying training award,  
airlift/tanker track:**

2nd Lt. Sandie Ramsey

**Airlift/tanker Distin-  
guished Graduates:**

2nd Lt. Sandie Ramsey and  
2nd Lt. Paul Erickson

**Fighter/bomber Distin-  
guished Graduate:**

2nd Nikolaos Stathopoulos

**Outstanding Officer of  
Class 04-05:**

1st Lt. Andy Lee

**AETC Commander's**

**Trophy, airlift/tanker  
track:**

2nd Lt. Sandi Ramsey

**AETC Commander's  
Trophy, fighter/bomber  
track:**

2nd Lt. Nikolaos Stathopoulos

### Laughlin May Re-enlistees

■ Tech. Sgt. Robert Bone,  
47th Operations Support  
Squadron

■ Staff Sgt. Cassie Bone,  
47th Medical Group

■ Staff Sgt. Michael Kyker,  
47th Security Forces Squad-  
ron

■ Staff Sgt. Mark Mercer,  
47th Aeromedical-Dental  
Squadron

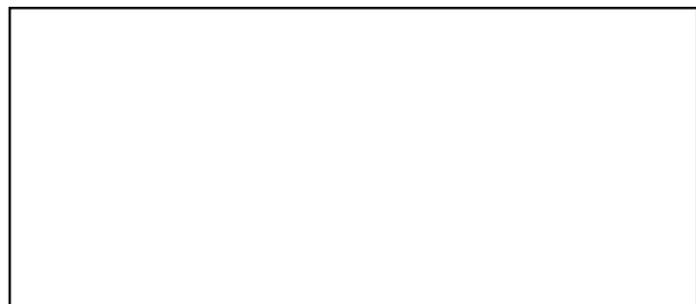
■ Staff Sgt. Michael  
Patterson, 47th Civil Engi-  
neer Squadron

■ Senior Airman Rikki  
Bland, 47th OSS

■ Senior Airman Ernest  
Chapko, 47th CES

■ Senior Airman Spencer  
Duclos, 47th SFS

■ Senior Airman Jeremy  
Wray, 47th CES



# Back pain manageable by changing daily habits

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

Low back pain is a common health problem.

It is second to headaches as the most frequent cause of pain and second to the common cold as a reason for provider visits. It's the primary cause of lost workdays and disability among adults under the age of 45.

Most low back pain results from daily habits – lack of activity, long periods of sitting, poor posture and improper lifting – as well as poor fitness levels. The following are some day-to-day prevention tips:

■ Extended sitting puts more pressure on the spine than any other position. Get up frequently to stretch or walk around. Slouching irritates tired back muscles, so people should sit “tall” with their neck straight, in a chair with a straight back or low-back support.

■ A supportive mattress can make a huge difference. Backache upon waking each day can mean the mattress is either too soft or too firm. One study found a “medium-firm” mattress reduced disability to low-back pain more than medical or physical interventions.

■ Regular exercise is the most potent weapon against back problems. Now come on, you didn't really think I was going to write an article without tell-

ing you that regular exercise was a solution to the problem did you? Try walking, swimming, biking, or other non-impact activities recommended by a health provider.

■ Proper weight training can help strengthen back muscles to offset undue strain. Learn proper lifting techniques: bend at your knees, not at your waist; let your leg muscles do most of the work. Keep the lifted item close to your body, and avoid twisting while carrying the item. Lifting and carrying heavy loads beyond your capability can lead to serious back pain. Get someone to help you lift!

■ Last, but definitely not least, carrying around an extra 10, 20 or 30

pounds or more of extra body weight is a burden a back can do without. Practice proper nutrition guidelines to help manage a healthy body weight. Your back will thank you.

Back pain is a serious pain in the back. You can help avoid experiencing back pain by paying a little more attention to your daily activities. Be aware of how you are using, or mis-using, your back while sitting, sleeping, exercising, etc.

Take care of your back and it will take care of you.

If you have a question for the exercise physiologist, please send your written question (please print legibly) to 47ADS/SGGZ, Attn: Mr. Bill Goins

## Med group defeats MSS/Wing, 2-0, in intramural volleyball

**By Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein**  
*Editor*

The 47th Medical Group intramural volley-

ball team made short work of the team comprised of the 47th Mission Support Squadron and wing staff agencies, stealing the match 2-0 in intramural volleyball action

Wednesday night at the fitness center.

The first game in the best-of-three match was closer with the Med Group winning 25-17.

The Med Group got the board first in the first match but the MSS/Wing squad fought back to take an early 3-2 lead. The Med Group regrouped and tallied four straight points giving them a 6-3 lead. They didn't trail for the rest of the game.

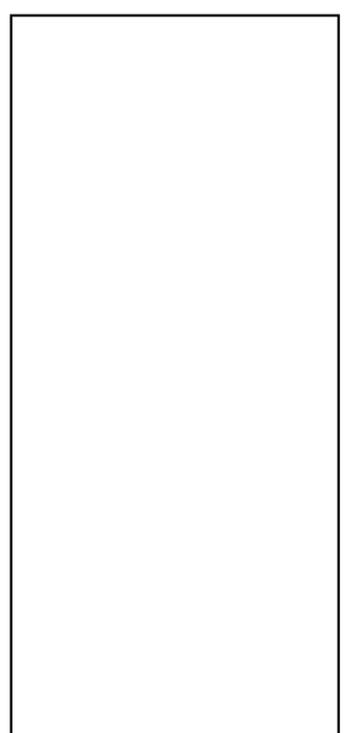
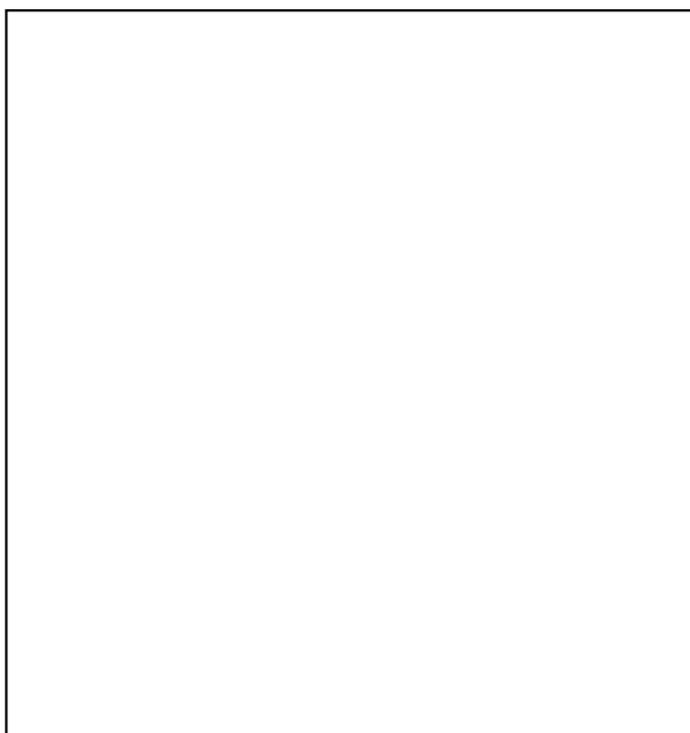
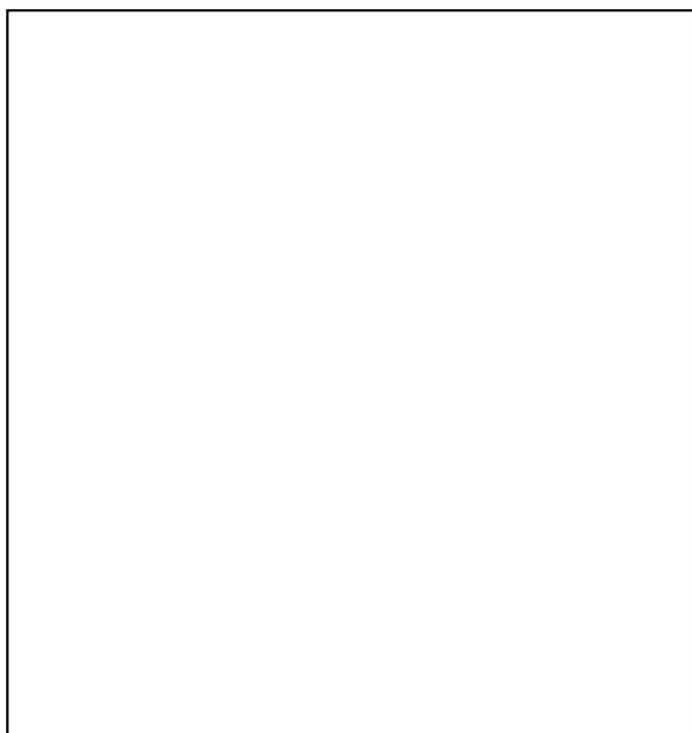
MSS/Wing tried but couldn't come up with any answers to the Med Group's offense. The Med Group nailed the win, 25-17, in only 15 minutes of play.

The MSS/Wing jumped to an early lead in the second game. Down, 8-7, 10 minutes into the match, Med Group went on a tear, scoring eight unanswered points to take the lead at 15-8. MSS/Wing was unable to recover, handing Med Group the win, 25-12,

and the match, 2-0.

The win vaults Med Group into second place in the Western Conference following the team comprised of the 47th Communications and Contracting Squadrons. The loss keeps MSS/Wing in fourth place.

In the Eastern Conference, the 87th Flying Training Squadron continues to lead with a perfect 7-0 record.



## Laughlin quarterly fitness stats

(Air Force goal is 33 percent of base tested)

Squadron	Percent Complete
47th Medical Group	40%
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron	26%
47th Medical Operations Squadron	38%
47th Medical Support Squadron	26%
47th Operations Group	55%
47th Operations Support Squadron	35%
84th Flying Training Squadron	17%
85th FTS	24%
86th FTS	16%
87th FTS	11%
47th Mission Support Group	33%
47th Mission Support Squadron	36%
47th Flying Training Wing	42%
47th Security Forces Squadron	42%
47th Civil Engineer Squadron	32%
47th Contracting Squadron	57%
47th Communications Squadron	38%
47th Comptroller Flight	50%

## Sportlines

### Aerobics class

The fitness center is holding an aerobics variety class at 8 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call 298-5251.

### Softball meeting

A softball coaches' meeting is set for 2 p.m. May 18 at the Fiesta Center.

For more information, call 298-5251.

### Golf meeting

A golf coaches' meet-

ing is set for 2 p.m. May 24 at Leaning Pine Golf Course. Coaches are reminded letters of intent are due to the fitness center May 14.

For more information, call 298-5251.

### Six person relay

The fitness center is holding a six-person 1.5-mile relay at 1 p.m. May 28 at the base track.

Teams must sign up by May 26. For more information or to sign up, call 298-5251.

## Fitness Fact:

**Did You Know?** It takes approximately an one hour aerobics class to burn off one Egg McMuffin.

It takes approximately 73 minutes of biking at 10 miles per hour to burn off one beef burrito.

It takes approximately 40 minutes of walking to burn off one beer.



## Fit to Fight Warrior of the Week

**Tech. Sgt. Dana Anderson**  
47th Comptroller Flight



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

**Fitness philosophy:** My goal is probably similar to many: "Prevention to get the most out of our lives and performance to get the most out of each day that we live."

**Favorite healthy treat:**

Granola bar and scrambled egg whites with vegetables

**Fitness assessment score:**

92  
**Fitness tip:** Start with a basic foundation: warm-ups, stretching, strength building and aerobics. As you

progress be creative and add supplements to your program.

**Fitness goals:** Running a 9-minute 1.5-mile and increasing my bench press to 160 pounds by July

## Volleyball standings

(As of Thursday)

### Western Conference

Team	W-L
CCS	7-1
MED	5-2
CES	4-3
MSS/Wing	1-6
SFS	0-7

### Eastern Conference

Team	W-L
87th	7-0
84/85th	3-2
86th	4-3
OSS	2-5

## 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.