

Medical group announces changes to inpatient services, page 4

Border Eagle

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Maintenance digs into new T-38C trainer

By Senior Airman
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

As the 47th Maintenance Directorate prepares to send their first T-38 to Mesa, Ariz., to receive T-38C modifications next week, aircraft maintainers are learning how to maintain, take apart and put back together their first maintenance model now and expect another one today.

The difference between the T-38C and the T-38A, which the 87th Flying Training Squadron is currently flying, is a more advanced avionics system in the cockpit, said Charles Berndt, 47th MX T-38 division chief.

See 'T-38C', page 4



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

Jaime Pacheco, 47th Maintenance Directorate T-38 maintainer, checks out the new components on Laughlin's first T-38C. The maintainers are expecting their second aircraft today.

Air Force announces uniform board results

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Air Force officials recently released the results of the 96th Air Force Uniform Board held June 18 and 19.

The chief of staff approved a number of changes, affecting everything from cell phones to scarves.

Among the changes are:

- Establish a standardized Air Force physical training uniform.
- Redesign the female lightweight blue jacket.
- Authorize the lightweight blue jacket to be worn indoors.
- Authorize, as an option, to have the Air Force symbol embroidered on the lightweight blue jacket.
- Offer the A-line skirt as an optional item.
- Redesign and revise maternity uni-

forms.

- Authorize the black scarf only with all Air Force uniforms, eliminating white, gray and olive drab options.
- Authorize conservative ornamentation on nonprescription sunglasses and eyeglasses.
- Authorize one small, black, nondescript personal digital assistant, pager or cellular phone at a time to be worn on the uniform belt.
- Allow females to wear small, black spherical earrings when in uniform.
- Allow black web belts or black riggers belts with nondescript buckles as an optional item with the battle dress uniform.
- Remove the requirement to wear a tie or tab with short-sleeved shirt or blouse while traveling on a commercial airline.
- Authorize wear of a backpack over both shoulders.

- Authorize only a solid-color black backpack with blue uniform combinations and solid black, olive drab or woodland camouflage backpack with battle dress uniforms.
- Redesign the security forces beret.
- Allow the wear of plain black conservative hairpins, combs, headbands, elastic bands and barrettes with all female hair colors.
- Allow males to cleanly shave their heads or have military high-and-tight haircuts; females are not authorized to shave their heads or wear high-and-tight haircuts.

More information about these and other uniform board decisions will be included in the next update of Air Force Instruction 36-2903, being released this summer.

Questions should be addressed to the Laughlin military personnel flight at 298-5276.

Newslines

Change of command

The 47th Mission Support Squadron will hold a change of command at 9 a.m. today at Club XL. All base members are invited to attend.

Health forum

The Health Consumer's Advisory Council is holding a meeting at 1 p.m. today in the wing conference room.

The meeting is a forum for exchanging information between the providers and consumers of health care at Laughlin.

For more information, call 298-6311.

Retirement ceremony

A retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Gerald Norris, 47th Contracting Squadron, will be held at 3 p.m. today at Club Amistad. All base members are invited to attend.

Medical townhall meeting

The 47th Medical Group is holding townhall meeting 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the base theater to discuss changes to inpatient service at Val Verde Regional Medical Center for retirees and family members.

For more information, call 298-6312.

Deployment stats

Deployed: 14
Returning in 30 days: 0
Deploying in 30 days: 0

Mission status

(As of Tuesday)

Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -11.05 T-1, 1.25
T-38, -4.11 T-6, -12.31

Mission capable rate:

T-37, 85.8% T-1, 81.4%
T-38, 80.9% T-6, 76.5%

Civil engineer squadron helps make changes at Laughlin possible



**Commander's
Corner**

By Lt. Col. Marc Pincince
47th Civil Engineer Squadron
commander

As you look around Laughlin Air Force Base, one thing you'll notice is change, a physical transformation of the base's landscape and facilities.

Laughlin has been blessed with an ability to move its facilities and supporting infrastructure forward into the 21st century. Such blessings didn't and don't just happen. People worked hard for them.

Most of the work you see happening now began years ago, when someone just like you said to themselves something like, "I know what we need to make this base better," but they didn't stop there. They communicated their idea to people who could make it reality. They may have shared their idea with their boss or their boss's boss, or even directly to the command chief master sergeant or wing commander. Eventually, their idea made its way to at least one of two key support organizations on Laughlin.

Someone knew to take the idea to the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron or to the 47th Communications Squadron. They knew that by submitting an AF Form 332 to CES or an AF Form 3215 to CS they'd get their idea officially loaded into "the system." They knew this was how to get a professional review of the merits of their idea, any technical support needed, and consideration for funding, which is absolutely necessary to make any idea reality.

CE and COMM both have our own separate methods for vetting work requests, but once an idea

(work request) is loaded into either the CES or CS "system" the request is run through a process to determine its viability, its criticality to the mission, its relative priority with respect to all other work requests, and any supporting requirements. We also determine which funding source is right for the requirement. The right source of funds is determined by the type of work, what organization the work supports, Federal law, and DoD and Air Force instructions.

CES and CS work the highest priority requirements first, balanced against available funding sources and the likelihood of receiving necessary funds. The priorities flow from the wing commander.

Both squadrons build a program of our respective requirements. The program is our way of informing the command of our needs. It is the start of our process to obtain funds. The program includes each known requirement within our system, and each requirement's scope, cost, and fiscal year needed.

At this point, CES and CS rely heavily on support from the 47th Comptroller Squadron. We look to them to help us properly present and advocate our requirements to the command financial functionals.

When it becomes clear that we will receive funds to execute our requirements, CE and COMM look to the 47th Contracting Squadron to help us successfully award contracts to execute the work. There are other contracting agents used by CE and CS, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, but CONS is essential to the majority of the work done on Laughlin – even much of that done by the corps and AFCEE requires support by CONS.

Throughout the entire process described above, CES and

CS work diligently, often with each other and always with the contracting agent to draft preliminary designs and contract documents needed to award the contracts. Once the contracts are awarded, all three entities work together to keep the work on track, on time and within budget. Working with their contracting agents, CES and CS oversee design and construction activities to ensure the final product is technically sound and meets the needs of the customer.

A result of this effort is the substantial change you see as you look around Laughlin. Change like a new center runway; a new security forces squadron headquarters; a new combat arms training facility; a new heritage park, a world-class fitness center nearing its completion; a new wing headquarters just beginning its foundation work, anti-terrorism/force protection enhancements and a top-notch air expeditionary forces center with a new personnel deployment facility.

There is also change you don't see such as new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; latest-technology communication infrastructure and systems; numerous electrical system improvements; and work on plumbing systems. There's much more work I could list, like recent improvements to Club Amistad and the west gate Jogging trail, but you know what's out there is the fruit of labor of many who took action to move Laughlin forward on our endless journey, to always be the best pilot training base in the world.

Next time you see something under repair or being newly constructed; remember the effort and, more importantly, the people behind it. You have them to thank for their support to you. Together, we all should be thankful to be part of the continued strengthening of the world's best Air Force.

Border Eagle

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

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

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.



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 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 world-
wide to fight and win
America's wars ... period!"*

— 47th Flying Training
Wing motto

Professional image a must



**Chief of Staff's
Sight Picture**

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

Our new Air Force fitness program has been in effect for nearly six months now and I am very pleased with what I see going on around our Air Force.

Airmen are exercising more and fitness center usage is up. I'm glad to see so many Airmen incorporating physical fitness into their routine – an active lifestyle can provide important benefits to personal physical and mental well-being.

But as I've said before, there's a zero percent chance we got the program one hundred percent right the first time. I continue to receive feedback and we'll continue to make changes as needed.

In my first "Fit to Fight" Sight

Picture, I spoke directly to commanders about their responsibilities – including their responsibility to ensure their people pass the commander's eyeball test. Feedback suggests this area requires more emphasis. As I've said, commanders must be out routinely exercising with their unit to evaluate their squadron's overall fitness and that of individual members. Equally important, commanders must ensure Airmen present a professional image while in uniform. They must lead by example – demonstrating an example of a professional image for their Airmen to follow and enforcing the standards they embody. There will be some individuals who can pass our fitness standards but do not present a professional military image. In these instances, I expect commanders to provide direct feedback to those individuals and, if needed, mandate their participation in the multiple fitness educational programs offered by our Health and Wellness Centers. An upcoming change to our

fitness AFI will clarify commanders' discretion in referring Airmen for training.

Additionally, I continue to receive feedback regarding the components of the fitness test and scoring methodology. This fall, the Surgeon General will convene a panel of medical experts from inside and outside the Department of Defense to analyze our first year of fitness testing results and determine if our standards are where they need to be.

As these standards are reassessed, we will continue to examine how we document unit and individual fitness scores on performance reports. This overall review will also include input from commanders to evaluate compliance, identify shortfalls, and recommend course corrections to ensure we are on track with providing an environment that supports fitness and appearance standards.

Physical fitness and a professional image – two important aspects of being an Airman.

When 'Batman' went to bat for me

By Chaplain (Col.) Harold Ray
11th Wing

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. – I read a story recently about Jackie Robinson, the first black baseball player to play in the major leagues.

In 1947, the Brooklyn Dodgers' owner, Branch Rickey, told him, "It'll be tough. You are going to take abuse, be ridiculed, and take more verbal punishment than you ever thought possible. But I'm willing to back you all the way if you have the determination to make it work."

Mr. Rickey was right. Players intentionally ran over him. Both players and fans verbally abused him with racial slurs and digging comments; even his teammates took part in the fray.

About midseason, Mr. Robinson was having a very bad

day. He fumbled grounders, overthrew first base and batted even worse. The crowd was booing. Then something special happened. Pee Wee Reese walked over from shortstop and put his arm around Jackie Robinson and indicated his acceptance of the player.

Mr. Robinson later said, "That gesture saved my career. Pee Wee made me feel as if I belonged."

When I read that story, I thought back to many years ago when I first enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed at Plattsburgh Air Force Base in upstate New York. I was barely 18 years old and leaving the Deep South for the first time for a new environment, a new culture and a new direction in life. I didn't adjust too well the first several months. I was not passing my career devel-

opment courses and not doing well on the job. I felt myself going under and was convinced my Air Force career would be short-lived.

Then something special happened.

My supervisor, Master Sgt. Bill "Batman" Clark, put his arm around me and said, "You can do it."

He convinced the commander to give me another chance. He took extra time with me and made sure I had extra time to study. He invited me to his home on weekends and holidays and made sure I had a home-cooked meal.

How many of you have experienced someone putting an arm around you and giving you that boost when you needed it most? How many of you have put your arm around a young enlisted troop, or a young officer, or spouse?

I pray that each of you does.

Medical group loses two physicians assistants: Val Verde Regional Medical Center helps retirees, family members

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
47th Medical Group
commander

Change. It's inevitable – like summer turning to autumn, or the end of the baseball season – and sometimes it's bittersweet.

For the past six years, the 47th Medical Group physicians have admitted and cared for all of our own patients who need inpatient care at Val Verde Regional Medical Center. We've always consulted the fantastic physicians in the Del Rio community to provide the best service to our patients.

In the past six years, though, the

medical group manning levels have been steadily changing to keep pace with the needs of our Air Force and our country, especially as we continue to fight the Global War on Terror. Our staffing now reflects the loss of two physician assistants who cared for many of us while the physicians were managing care for a patient at the VVRMC.

While we care for over 4,500 people here at the clinic, and average over 1,000 patient visits each month, there are only four patients admitted to the hospital on average each month.

So, beginning Aug. 1, our physicians will focus their efforts on out-

patient care here at the clinic. Active duty members requiring hospitalization at VVRMC will be managed by physicians from the 47th Medical Group. Family members, retirees and their family members, will be admitted and managed by VVRMC physicians when they require hospitalization.

We know the physicians in the Del Rio community will provide great inpatient care, just as they now provide to our pediatric and obstetrical patients.

The change is bittersweet, but we know it's the right and safest thing to do for our patients. We know they will have great care when they need

to be in the hospital, and we know we'll be able to provide better service in the 47th Medical Group outpatient clinic. But we also know the familiarity of the "blue suit" doctor will be missed. Just like the end of the season.

A series of Town Hall meetings are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the base theater to answer questions about this change.

For additional questions or concerns, contact the Medical Group's Patient Advocates, 1st Lt. Matt Wolthoff, at 298-6368, or Cap. Mark Bain or 2nd Lt. Jody Cowan at 298-6430.

Taking care of their own, Airmen donate \$6.7 million

Air Force Assistance Fund raises most money in 15 years

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER – Air Force people are giving more than \$6.7 million to this year's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign – \$800,000 more than last year.

The fund raises money for four Air Force-related charities that benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Air Force people,

surviving spouses and families.

"The 2004 campaign raised more money than any other since 1989 when we had twice as many people in the Air Force," said Mr. John Lowrance, project officer for the AFAF campaign. "The generous gifts donated by our active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired members shows a real appreciation for the help these charities provide our Air Force family."

This year's campaign was helped by 18,000 new contributors. About 71 percent of donations are desig-

nated for the Air Force Aid Society, the largest of the four charities said Mr. Lowrance.

"Its great news that this year's AFAF campaign was the most successful in years, and as a result, lots of Airmen and their families will benefit from these generous contributions," said retired Lt. Gen. Mike McGinty, Air Force Aid Society's chief executive officer. "Once again it proves that Gen. Hap Arnold's 'Airmen-helping-Airmen' philosophy lives on in today's Air Force."

Airmen are asked during the cam-

aign to contribute to one or more AFAF charities through cash, check or payroll deduction.

The charities include the Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Foundation, the Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

This was the 31st year for the campaign.

For more information on the AFAF, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund.

'T-38C', from page 1

"The entire cockpit has been totally changed," said Mr. Berndt. "It has been moved or replaced with newer integrated electronics."

Laughlin is one of the last bases in the command to start the transition from the T-38 to the T-38C.

Maintenance personnel began training on the new model, when the division's 12 avionics personnel attended a

two-week class offered by Boeing to teach them the specifics of the new avionics system. Mr. Berndt said that the rest of his crew not directly involved with the avionics system will receive a two-hour presentation to get familiar with the system.

Mr. Berndt said he does expect some growing pains with the new system.

"As with any new piece of equipment, whether it be a new car, a new airplane, or a new computer, the

maintainers will go through a learning curve," he said. "It will take some time to get used to working on the new equipment. Obviously they can't learn everything about it in two weeks. It will take some time before they are as proficient and comfortable with the C-model as the A-model. That is natural, that is expected."

Another factor adding into the learning curve is the fact the division also has to prepare current T-38As for

the C-model makeover.

"We have to send our aircraft to Mesa, Ariz. to receive the new electronics, and before we do we have to perform an extensive pre-input inspection checklist [on the aircraft] that, depending upon what is found, could take well over a week to complete," he said.

Once shipped to Arizona, it takes about two months for the contractor to complete the modifications, he said.

When the aircraft return,

the division has to do another inspection on them to make sure they are ready to fly. The inspection, which ensures all the new components are working correctly, lasts only a couple of days unless discrepancies are found.

The process of transforming Laughlin's entire T-38 fleet to T-38Cs is expected to take about a year. The 87th FTS will begin flying the T-38C in late September.

After four years, Air Force symbol now official

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The Air Force symbol is now official, four years after the service first applied for trademark protection.

“I’m proud our symbol is now an official part of our heritage,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper. “It represents our storied past and links our 21st Century Air Force to our core values and capabilities.”

The decision to designate it as the official symbol of the Air Force demonstrates the service’s conviction to preserving the symbol’s integrity and should ease concerns that the symbol is temporary or remains a test. Trademark protection designates the symbol as exclusive property of the Air Force and gives the service authority to control and enforce its use.

A team of lawyers, public affairs



officers, artists and historians are working to expand guidance and standards for the use of the symbol. An official Air Force Instruction is scheduled for release in fiscal 2005.

In the meantime, the intent is to expand use of the symbol today and protect it for the future. Use must be consistent with applicable Air Force instructions and symbol guidelines posted at www.af.mil/library/symbol/.

When Air Force officials began testing the symbol in 2001, it appeared on a limited number of base entry signs

and water towers and a small number of aircraft and vehicles. Acceptance during the test was so widespread that in 2002, 90 percent of Airmen surveyed thought the symbol was already official.

“Since then, I’ve seen Airmen wear it, drive it, eat it, carry it, embroider it and even brand it,” said Maj. René Stockwell, of the Air Force public affairs national outreach and communications division, who manages the symbol Trademark licensing program.

The service is licensing use of the symbol on a variety of commercial goods, from candy and furniture to tires and jewelry, which allows Airmen to display their service pride off-duty.

On duty, the symbol is featured on optional military tie tacs, the proposed utility uniform and gray boots, the Air Force lightweight blue jacket and is being showcased in Air Force marketing campaigns.

“We’ve used the symbol to help encourage people to join, Airmen to stay and [to] build understanding, appreciation and support for America’s Air Force,” Major Stockwell said.

Airmen and their families can help protect the integrity of the symbol by adhering to the guidelines online, the major said.

They have an implied license to use the Air Force symbol on personal items such as printed materials, food, clothing, literature and briefings. These items must be intended for personal or internal use only, not used for retail sales, advertising or unauthorized endorsements.

Any commercial use of the symbol, by individuals or companies, requires completion of a license agreement with the Air Force, Major Stockwell said.

People with questions not covered online can e-mail the Air Force Symbol office at afstory@pentagon.af.mil.

Access education information at the click of a mouse.

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



Photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Gimme a break ...

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Airman 1st Class Christopher Griep inspects a C-130 Hercules brake assembly carrier. The Airmen of the 374th Maintenance Squadron’s pneudraulics element overhaul, modify and test all pneudraulics components of C-130s assigned and in-transit at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

New Air Force policy simplifies claims process

Compiled by the 47th Flying Training Wing legal office

Effective now, individuals filing claims for loss or damage to property transported or stored at government expense are no longer required to first file a claim against their private insurers when pursuing a claim against the Air Force.

This policy change is limited to those claims involving loss or damage to household

goods or vehicles shipped or stored under government contract.

Prior to this change, individuals had to file with their private insurance company before a claim could be processed against the Air Force. However, because insurance companies would consider the frequency of claims filed by a person in deciding whether to insure or renew an insurance policy, some military members have been denied new

policies because of the transient nature of the military lifestyle.

This policy change only applies to claims involving moves made pursuant to a government contract and not those arranged by the claimant even if the government will later reimburse the cost of the move. This new policy does not eliminate the requirement that claimants first file a claim directly against their moving company if they have

purchased full replacement value insurance.

Two other exceptions to the policy are that members must still file a claim against their insurance company when their loss was caused by an "Act of God" or other unusual occurrence that may relieve a contractor of liability under law or the extent of their loss was catastrophic, such that a majority of their personal belongings have been damaged or destroyed.

While the new policy does not prohibit anyone from filing a claim with his or her insurance company if so desired, a claimant is still prohibited from receiving full compensation on a claim from both the Air Force and a private insurer for loss or damage to the same item.

For more information about this policy or the claims process in general, please contact Staff Sgt. Amanda Staggers at 298-5635.



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

It's just like a car ...

Cadet 2nd Class Carl Chen, a junior at the Air Force Academy, receives instructions from Airman 1st Class Mindy White, 47th Aerospace Physiology journeyman, on how to strap into an egress chair Wednesday. Cadet Chen is one of six Academy and R.O.T.C. cadets on base for three weeks to learn about the operational Air Force.

Commander's Access
Channel:
Tune to **Cable Channel 34**
for information about
events and
activities at Laughlin.

Air Force operations in Iraq highlighted on AFTV News

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) – What is fast becoming the Air Force hub for its operations in Iraq is spotlighted in the latest edition of Air Force Television News.

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

Tech. Sgt. Pachari Lutke reports from Balad Air Base, Iraq, on how Airmen there are supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Master Sgt. Jim Lawson reports on another aspect of Air Force operations at Balad; the role air traffic controllers play in handling both Air Force and Army aerial traffic into and out of the base. And, in another area

of Southwest Asia, Tech. Sgt. Tony Castro boards a KC-135 Stratotanker to report on how aerial refuelers in the region are supporting Air Force missions over Iraq.

Tech. Sgt. Bill Scherer is at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., to report on how Airmen help Soldiers train for parachute jumps from C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

Tech. Sgt. Joy Josephson reports from the California coast where several Air Force master sergeants are furthering their professional military training at a Coast Guard noncommissioned officer academy.

Sergeant Scherer shows how a

group of reservists from Pennsylvania plays an important part in missile launches, but does so far from the launch pad.

In Omaha, Neb., it is "battered" for 1st Lt. Jason Szuminski, an Air Force reservist who also pitches for a Chicago Cubs farm club. Staff Sgt. Leigh Bellinger reports on the two hats the lieutenant wears and how the nation's pastime is furthering his Air Force career.

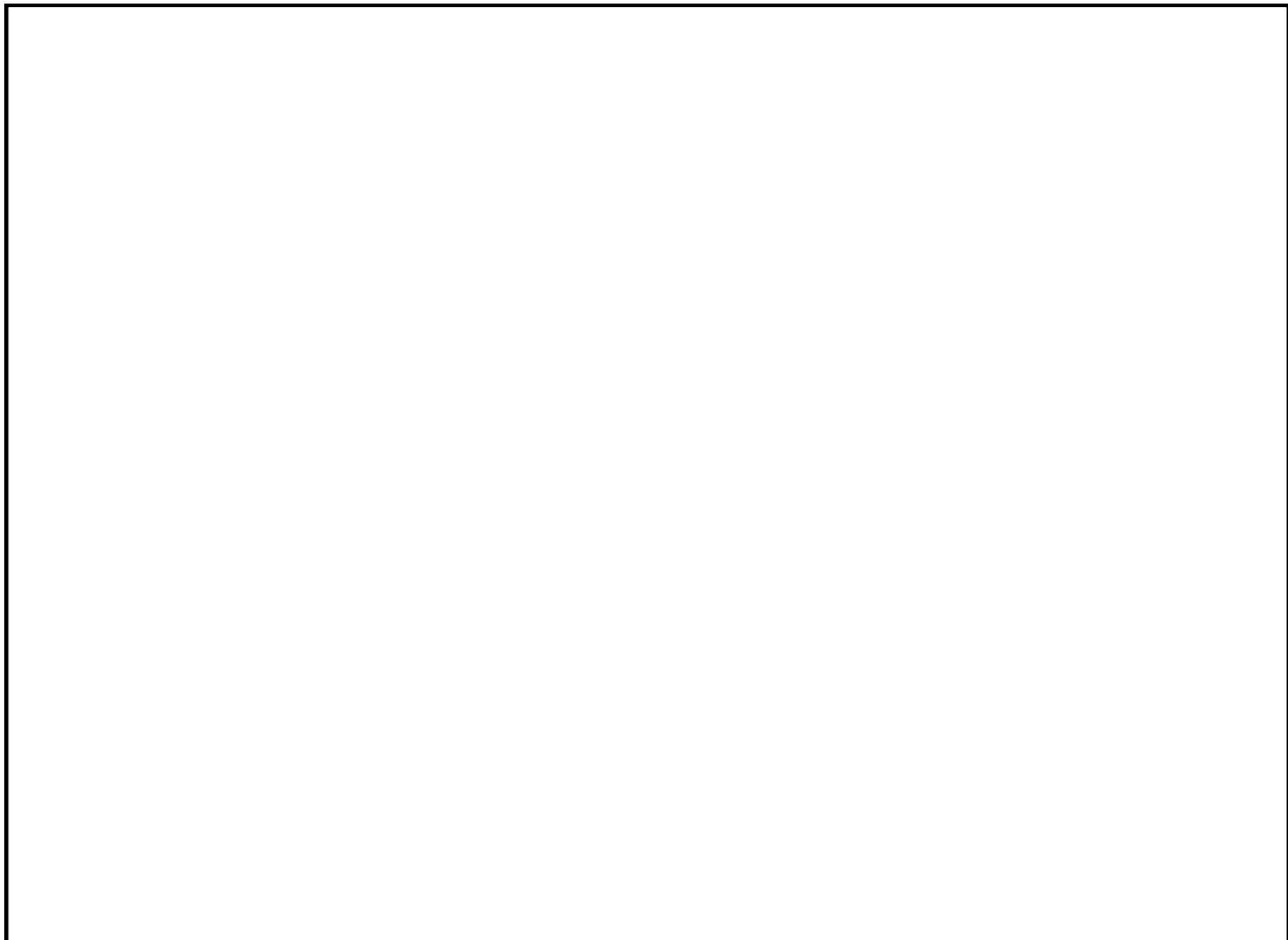
Tech. Sgt. Rusty Barfield travels to a tiny speck of land in the middle of the Pacific Ocean to chronicle the end of an era for Johnston Island. The location for testing atomic weapons decades

ago and later a dumping ground for chemical weapons, Johnston Island is being turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department.

Air Force Television News is a biweekly production of Air Force News Service. It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide and is seen on some 600 cable TV outlets nationwide.

It is also available on the Internet at www.af.mil, and can be seen regularly on The Pentagon Channel.

The program is closed-captioned. Viewers can comment on the program by sending an e-mail to aftvnews@afnews.af.mil.



Laughlin K-9 unit: Vital tool for base protection

Story by Airman 1st Class
Olufemi A. Owolabi
Staff writer

For many years, the Air Force has made canines' super-sensitive sense of sight, scent and sound a vital tool to aid mission accomplishment and to maintain safety of personnel and materials on military bases.

The 47th Security Forces Squadron military working dog program, which trains, educates and maintains the K-9 unit here combines the talents of dogs and handlers to perform law enforcement duties.

For the 47th SFS K-9 unit duties

and responsibilities range from base patrol, installation entry/exit point checks, traffic stops, random vehicle inspection, health and welfare checks, explosive detection and locating narcotics, suspects, missing persons or illegal aliens.

"A dog's great sense of sight, scent and sound are vital characteristics that allow a dog to perform functions that a human might have trouble performing," said Tech. Sgt. Michael W. Kyker, 47th SFS Kennel Master and MWD section NCO in charge.

The Laughlin K-9 unit is comprised of the NCOIC, who oversees the entire MWD program; a dog trainer,

who ensures that every dog is trained in its duties, and dog handlers, both of whom work together with the dogs on a daily basis to ensure they perform assigned duties.

"We all work together as a team with the dogs and make sure we understand them so that they can do their primary duties—to detect and deter any criminal activity," said Sergeant Kyker.

Like any enlisted Air Force member, all Air Force MWDs start their military training at Lackland Air Force Base where they learn all basic military working dog duties. The dog training school at Lackland AFB teaches the dogs how to obey basic commands and how to respond when they detect concealed drugs and explosive. "Depending on what the dogs are trained to do, most training takes approximately three months," said Staff Sgt. Frank E. Munderback, a MWD Trainer here.

In addition, Sergeant Kyker said the time of the training also depends on the breed and level of understanding of the dog. He said most military K-9 units use German and Dutch shepherds, rottweilers or Belgian Malinois, age ranging between six months to three years.

Characteristics of these dogs, such as the hunt-and-fetch drive, intelligence, knowledge of basic obedience commands, ability to detect a target scent and nature of barking, determine the use and eligibility of a certain breed for a particular job.

"All dogs have a natural instinct to bite, but some breeds have a stronger drive for protection than others," Sergeant Kyker explained.

Once a dog has been purchased by the military, the dog gets a tattoo on the inside of its ear and microchips implanted under their skin to identify them, before being assigned to a unit.

In the assigned unit, the dogs are required to continue, with the assigned handler, MWD rapport training, all proficiency training, and they must pass an annual base certification test in their area of specialization, witnessed by the wing commander or his appointed magistrates, Sergeant Kyker said.

On the other hand, the handlers must have attended a canine school and learned how to work dogs before han-



Thursday Janiss demonstrated her attack and apprehension skills during a military working dog training session. During such training, a handler shows his trainer he can control his dog using different commands.

dling them, he added.

One advantage of using a dog as a team mate is its reliability, Sergeant Munderback said.

"Anytime somebody tries to harm the handler, the dog will jump up and protect without any thought of what is going to happen to it," Sergeant Kyker said.

Apart from serving the base, 47th SFS dog teams deploy to perform security and protection duties all over the world.

They also assist the Del Rio community law enforcement agencies whenever there is a special need for them, with the approval of the wing commander, he added.

"Laughlin military working dogs are awesome to watch, they are great assets to the Air Force, the base and the community in general," Sergeant Munderback said.

According to Sergeant Munderback, estimates have shown that each dog is worth approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000 after it has been fully trained.

"Remember these are Military Working Dogs, not pets. Please keep your distance and respect the dog", said Sergeant Kyker.

For information on K-9 demonstrations, contact the 47th SFS MWD section at 298-5860.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi

Janiss, a 47th Security Forces Squadron military working dog shows her trainer how aggressive she is as her handler, Staff Sgt. Eric I. Morales, holds her back during an attack-tactics training here. Janiss is a two-year-old Belgian Malinois and completed a two-week familiarization training with her handler Wednesday.

The *XLer*

Airman 1st Class Sean Neal
47th Mission Support Squadron

Hometown: Long Beach, Calif.

Family: Wife, Darima; and two dogs

Time at Laughlin:

One year and three months

Time in service:

Three years and seven months

Greatest accomplishment:

Making into the Poets Honor Society and being able to re-enlist

Hobbies: Sleeping, eating and playing basketball

Bad habit: Being lazy and sleeping too much

Favorite movies:

“Menace II Society” and “The Mack”

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

My grandparents. As I got older I lost touch with them and I want to ask all the questions I wanted to ask before it is too late.

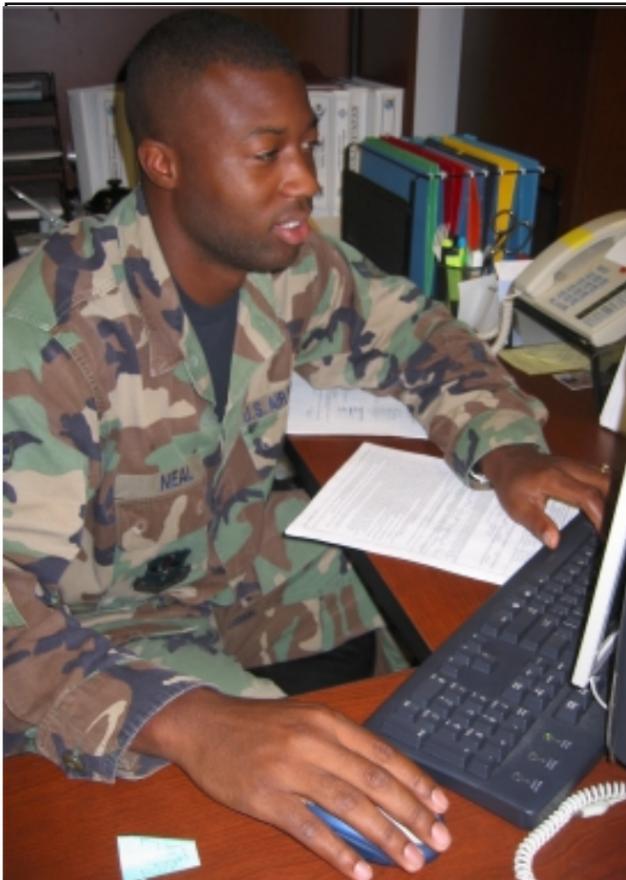


Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein



Laughlin Salutes

SUPT Class 04-10 awards

Daedalian award:
2nd Lt. Jerod Rife

Academic award, airlift/tanker track:
Capt. Kevin Woods

Academic award, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Jerod Rife

Flying training award, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Jerod Rife

Flying training award, airlift/tanker track:
Capt. Kevin Woods

Airlift/tanker Distinguished Graduate:
Capt. Kevin Woods and 2nd Lt. Kevin Gallaway

Fighter/bomber Distinguished Graduate:
2nd Lt. Jerod Rife

Outstanding Officer of Class 04-10:
Capt. Anthony Fyke

AETC Commander's Trophy, airlift/tanker track:
Capt. Kevin Woods

AETC Commander's Trophy, fighter/bomber track:
2nd Lt. Jerod Rife



The Air Force rewards good ideas with money. Check out the IDEA Program data system at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil> or call Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mayo at 298-4355.

Chapel information



Catholic

Monday - Friday

● Mass, 12:05 p.m.

Saturday

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

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

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

Sunday

● Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater; General worship (a blend of Liturgical and contemporary worship), 11 a.m.

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.



OSS crushes Services, 15-7, in softball

By Senior Airman
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

The 47th Operations Support Squadron made short work of the 47th Services Division, 15-7, in intramural softball play Wednesday at Liberty field.

OSS earned almost half of their runs in the top of the first inning when they were able to bat through their entire line up and score seven runs. Quantrell Anderson and Kevin Nelson each had a double – driving in two runs. Services was unable to answer the hitting onslaught of OSS, managing only one single in the bottom of the first.

The second inning was much of the same with OSS getting three more

points one of them off a solo home run by Robert Bone. Services got on the board in the bottom of the second on a sacrifice fly.

The top of the third inning was rife with controversy. An OSS batter was called out and ejected from the game before even seeing a pitch when he went up to bat with an illegal bat. The call showed both teams that the umpires were there to do their job and knew the rules of engagement. Services was able to add two more runs to their total in the bottom of the third after shutting down OSS.

OSS bounced back in the top of the fourth with three more runs, including an inside-the-park home run by Matt Pope. OSS also held Services to one single in the bottom of the fourth.

Services added three runs to their total in the fifth, to bring the game within seven points with one inning remaining. It was the closest they would get.

OSS added two more in the sixth and held Services to just one point before the game was called due to time.

The win puts OSS at 4-2 and tied for first place in the American League with the 84/85th Flying Training Squadron and half a game ahead of the 87th FTS who are 4-1.

The loss drops Services to 1-5 and keeps them near the cellar in the National League. The 47th Civil Engineer Squadron currently holds first place in the National League with a league best 6-0 record.

Intramural Softball Standings

	<u>Team</u>	<u>W-L</u>
<u>American League</u>	84/85th	4-2
	OSS	4-2
	87th	4-1
	LCSAM 2	3-1
	LCSAM 1	3-2
	Del-Jen 1	3-2
	86th	2-3
	Del-Jen 2	2-4
<u>National League</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>W-L</u>
	CES	6-0
	SFS	4-2
	CCS	3-3
	LSI	3-3
	MED GP	2-5
	SVS	1-5
	MSS	1-7

Air Force Marathon set for Sept. 18

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Air Force officials will hold the 8th annual Air Force Marathon here Sept. 18. The marathon will include a half-marathon, wheelchair race, four-person relay and 5K race.



race is open to the public. Besides traditional awards for top finishers of each race, marathon committee officials will present awards to the top finishers from each major command, as well as to the command with greatest participation.

The deadline for early registration is Sept. 7. The

“The Air Force Marathon is open to the public,

but being a military marathon, we felt that we needed to increase the military base competition,” said Bob Brodess, Air Force Marathon director.

The medals will be imprinted with the F-117 Nighthawk, this year’s featured aircraft.

The course is unchanged from the past, marathon officials said.

For more information about marathon events, visit the Air Force Marathon Web site at www.afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil.

Laughlin quarterly fitness stats

(Air Force goal is 50 percent of base tested)

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>Percent Complete</u>
47th Medical Group	40%
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron	51%
47th Medical Operations Squadron	52%
47th Medical Support Squadron	55%
47th Operations Group	47%
47th Operations Support Squadron	52%
84th Flying Training Squadron	34%
85th FTS	44%
86th FTS	55%
87th FTS	22%
47th Mission Support Group/47th Flying Training Wing	63%
47th Mission Support Squadron	63%
47th Security Forces Squadron	49%
47th Civil Engineer Squadron	50%
47th Contracting Squadron	64%
47th Communications Squadron	45%
47th Comptroller Squadron	53%