

# Border Eagle

Vol. 52, No. 7

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

Feb. 20, 2004

## Sing on...

Staff Sgt. Charles Cook (left), former 47th Security Forces Squadron member, sings during a Tops in Blue performance. Sergeant Cook and Tops in Blue were in Del Rio Wednesday and performed at the Paul Poag Theatre. See story on page 12.



Courtesy photo

## Former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force visits Laughlin

By Airman 1st Class  
Timothy J. Stein  
Editor

The 12th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force visited Laughlin Feb. 13 to be the guest speaker at the wing's annual awards dinner held at the Fiesta Center.

Chief Master Sgt. Eric Benken, who retired in 1999, also spoke to around 40 airmen during an enlisted call at Club Amistad earlier in the day.

During the enlisted call, Chief Benken touched on many subjects including his three points of leadership.

"The first point is not to forget the basics," he said. "Remember what you learned in basic training."

His second point was units should keep standards set high. He told a story about a unit he visited where everyone, from the captain and first sergeant who greeted him to the young airmen he watched work, held themselves to a very high standard.

"It was the probably the best unit I ever visited," he said.

After witnessing the best unit, he said he went across the street to visit with another unit.

The differences were very apparent, he said. This unit was undisciplined and unprofessional from the supervisors down. He said he realized the differences were in the standards set by the units. In the excellent unit, the standards were set very high and everyone met them. In the poor unit,

the standards were set very low and everyone met them.

"People will meet the standards, especially young airmen," said Chief Benken. "If they see the bar set low, they will meet that. Therefore, it is up to unit commanders and supervisors to set a high standard."

The chief's final point of leadership was teamwork. He stressed that only by working as a team can the mission be accomplished.

The chief also talked about differences in the Air Force now and the Air Force when he joined.

"The biggest difference is that now it is a volunteer force," he said.

When he joined the Air Force, the

See Benken, page 4

## Newslines

### Graduation scheduled

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 04-05 will graduate at 10 a.m. today in the Anderson Hall auditorium.

### Black Heritage Banquet set

Today is the last day to sign up for the annual Black Heritage Banquet scheduled for 6 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Fiesta Center. The national theme for the 2004 observance is "Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas."

The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Leon A. Johnson, Air Education and Training Command mobilization assistant to the director of operations. The cost is \$15 for club members and \$18 for nonmembers..

For more information or to sign up, contact Joni Jordan at 298-5914; Tech. Sgt. Lashinya Crivens at 298-5991; Tech. Sgt. Karen Lewis at 298-5607; or Master Sgt. Gerald Norris at 298-5992.

### Warrior call scheduled

A Warrior Call hosting Laughlin members and their families who have gone through a deployment in the last year is set for 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Anderson Hall auditorium.

All Team XL members are encouraged to attend.

## Deployment stats

Deployed:	34
Returning in 30 days:	26
Deploying in 30 days:	6

## Mission status

(As of Tuesday)

Days behind or ahead:	
T-37, -6.48	T-1, 1.47
T-38, -2.02	T-6, -3.22

Mission capable rate:	
T-37, 88.9%	T-1, 79.6%
T-38, 74.6%	T-6, 71.3%

# Assignments: what you make of them



## Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. David Abercrombie  
47th Security Forces Squadron commander

As I near the 20th month of my two-year tour here at Laughlin, I have reached the realization that usually confronts me around this time each tour – I'm soon to PCS, and I haven't seen any of the local sites. So I inevitably spend the last few months of every tour scurrying to visit local attractions and shopping for memorable souvenirs.

The Air Force has provided me the opportunity to not just visit, but to live in locations in America and around the world that would never have been afforded me otherwise. I have had the privilege to set foot on nearly all of the unfrozen continents and to see sites and experience cultures that I never dreamed I would.

When I talk to new airmen, many say that the travel opportunity was a primary reason they joined the service. Yet I often find when I talk to more veteran airmen, they sometimes fall short of their initial aspirations.

I'll never forget my tour at MacDill Air Force Base in beautiful Tampa, Fla., where some people actually complained, "There's nothing to do here." Life is what you make it, and the same holds true for every tour you'll ever have. It's all about attitude.

I find that when I arrive at a new duty station, my number-one priority is to "hit the ground running." I want to get to know my new job and impress my new bosses more than anything. That, coupled with the chore of reestablishing a household, often leaves little time for savoring the local fare. It takes a conscious effort sometimes to make the time for yourself and your family to do the things that really make life enjoyable. Every duty location has something unique that is worth experiencing. Taking the time to find it and do it are what will make the difference for you today and in the future as you look back on your career.

In addition to the uniqueness of the locations, our services organizations do a tremendous job of providing a focal point for information and assistance in taking advantage of the recreational opportunities. Everywhere I have gone, I have been impressed with their efforts to provide truly outstanding support.

At the outset, many people would probably say that Laughlin Air Force Base has little to offer – no amusement parks, not enough shopping, bars, restaurants, etc. I have come to find that what I have valued most from my tour here is nearly intangible. I have never been at a base that had a closer relationship with its local community. It is readily apparent in the support we get from the locals. From our initial welcome to Laughlin to our awards and recognition programs, it is obvious that Team XL and the local community really value each of us and our contribution.

It is the sense of community that has been Laughlin's must-see attraction, and I'm glad I got to experience it.

I hope I can take some of that with me to my next duty station.

# Force shaping – right program at right time

By Col. Thomas Hancock  
11th Wing director of personnel

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. – Since the Air Force became its own service in 1947, its mission has continually changed to meet new threats. As the mission of the Air Force has changed, so has the Air Force itself – increasing and decreasing in size, changing its skill structure and the number of airmen in each

specialty and reshaping itself in general to meet new challenges. This was the case leading up to the Korean War, the Vietnam Conflict, the lengthy Cold War and the numerous regional conflicts that have followed.

Changing the force has become necessary once again. Due to the threat of terrorism and the current situation in Iraq, the Air Force has exceeded its mandated active duty end

strength of 359,000 and must now reduce its size by more than 16,000 people. As Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. John P. Jumper explained in his force-shaping sight picture, this is a temporary situation.

At first glance, it may confuse some people as to why the Air Force needs to reduce its size in the midst of a high-operations tempo. The reason is not only to return to authorized end-strength

levels, but also shift airmen from overage specialties to those that are stressed and undermanned.

For those considering leaving active duty, the program provides several opportunities to separate or retire, primarily through the Limited Active Duty Service Commitment waiver and Palace Chase programs. The rules for leaving active duty via Palace

See **Force**, page 5

## Border Eagle

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

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

# Character defined by doing right thing



## Chief of Staff's Sight Picture

By Gen. John P. Jumper  
Air Force chief of staff

Our Air Force has a proud history of accomplishments that traces directly to the quality of people who make up the total Air Force team.

At every base, wing, and deployed site our airmen rise to challenges every day demonstrating their loyalty and dedication. I am proud to be part of this prestigious team. But, I am always dismayed when I learn of an airman who, as a result of a bad decision, faces disciplinary action.

I wonder if there was a way to help this person, or if someone sitting down with this airman could have prevented this situation.

Because of this, I feel it is essential to reinforce the full meaning of our concepts of character and the standards our core values provide us.

Character comprises the emotional, intellectual and moral qualities that distinguish one group from another – and the

judgment to discern them. Our core values and the unique demands of military service undergird our Air Force character. These values – Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do – endure as the fundamental standards of behavior of our Air Force team.

But, character can be an elusive concept not readily apparent, as it encompasses so many qualities. The true foundation of character is not merely knowing the right thing to do, but also having a firm conviction and the courage to act upon such knowledge. This conviction requires solid moral fiber and ethical strength to do what is right even if no one is there to witness your actions. Our actions over time define our character, just as our character delineates our lasting reputation. When we make the wrong choices, both our character and our reputation are damaged.

Character can rapidly deteriorate when we fail to hold others and ourselves to the high standards our Air Force profession demands. The responsibility of enforcing core values does not fall solely to senior leaders and commanders.

Every airman must embrace and reflect these values, both on and off duty. We must reflect these fundamental values in our daily conduct and help develop those attitudes in others.

If you see a fellow worker or friend cut corners and don't say anything, you are condoning what they are doing.

Failing to correct or report instances where the rules are broken, selectively enforcing rules or turning a blind eye to marginal behavior or performance can perpetuate negative attitudes that can infect organizations.

We are all responsible for each other, and it is essential that we all share a collective sense of mission, values and culture. If we don't, we become part of the problem and jeopardize the mission and the lives of our men and women.

Every member of the Air Force must embrace our core values as the guiding light that drives what we do. I challenge each of you to apply this philosophy in your service to the Air Force and this great nation.

Building character is a lifelong journey. Remember, it is not just knowing the right thing to do; it is having the courage to do it.

We have a responsibility to ourselves, the Air Force, and our nation to maintain a team of unquestionable character.

*(Editor's note: This article is the latest Chief of Staff of the Air Force Sight Picture and may be accessed from the Air Force Issues Web page at [www.issues.af.mil](http://www.issues.af.mil))*



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 general

interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

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

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

<b>AAFES</b>	298-3176
<b>Finance</b>	298-5204
<b>Civil Engineer</b>	298-5252
<b>Civilian Personnel</b>	298-5299

<b>Clinic</b>	298-6311
<b>Commissary</b>	298-5815
<b>Dormitory manager</b>	298-5213
<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

## Civilians shopping at BX

**Q**uestion: I wanted you to know that there are some retired military that are taking civilians into the commissary and base exchange and letting them pick out items and then buying them for all the non-military. I am retired military and on all bases where I was stationed you had to show an ID to enter any

of the facilities. I think that civilians should not be allowed in these stores. They try on clothes and pick out what they want and the retired military buys the items. I thought these stores were for military use only.

**A**nswer: Although there used to be a restriction on civilians from even entering the base exchange and commissary, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Defense Commissary Agency relaxed

their policies several years ago.

AAFES and DECA now allow identification card holders to sponsor guests into stores. Additionally, ID holders are permitted to purchase "bona fide gifts" for civilians. The purchase of items for any other reason is really a moral dilemma of the individuals involved and would be almost impossible to monitor or stop. The reality is, if a valid cardholder makes the purchase, there is no policy violation.

It's important to point out that

base exchanges and commissaries across the country are in rapid decline due to under-use. Their survival is dependent on capturing as much of the active-duty and retiree populations as possible. All military members and valid ID cardholders are encouraged to use these facilities when possible and provide feedback to management when appropriate. These steps are key to preserving these important benefits for years to come.

**Benken, from page 1**

Vietnam War was in full effect and the draft was in place.

"You could see the difference in the people who wanted to be there and the people who were drafted," he said. "Today's Air Force is filled with people who want to be here and who want to perform the mission to the best of their abilities."

The chief said the other big difference between then and now is the quality of the education airmen receive.

"Today's military education is far better than what it was in the past," the chief said. "Today's new airmen are far better trained than they were when I joined."

The chief also said training programs such as Airman Leadership School also make new NCOs much better prepared for the new challenges they will face.

"The technology used today is so advanced that we need highly trained people to run it," he said.

The chief reminisced about his time in the service. He said his favorite part of the experience was getting to travel.

The chief, who has been to places



Photo by Jose Mendoza

**Former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric Benken speaks at the wing's annual awards dinner Feb. 13 at the Fiesta Center. Chief Benken was at Laughlin for the dinner but he also made time to take part in an enlisted call at Club Amistad.**

like Vietnam, Korea, Belgium and Germany, said he couldn't name his favorite place.

"Each one was unique and fun in its own way," he said.

One of the places the chief said he hadn't seen much of during his service was Laughlin Air Force Base.

"We stopped here for a couple of minutes on the way to somewhere else once," the chief said. "It was pretty much a stop and go. I'm glad I'm getting the opportunity to see it now. I greatly appreciate the job the men and women do here in training the world's best pilots."

# Air Force ready for 2005 BRAC

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

WASHINGTON – The Department of Defense published in the Federal Register on Feb. 12 the criteria that will be used in selecting installations for the 2005 round of base realignment and closure.

Air Force Director of Installations, Environment and Logistics Nelson F. Gibbs spoke that same morning to the House Appropriations Committee subcommittee on military construction about the state of the Air Force's BRAC program.

"Air Force professionals at all levels have made great progress to prepare for BRAC 2005," Mr. Gibbs told the committee in his prepared testimony.

That preparation, Mr. Gibbs said, involved the creation of an Air Force office for basing and infrastructure analysis to act as the focal point for Air Force BRAC 2005 efforts. The

major commands followed suit, creating their own offices to support the process, he said.

"Today, there are (more than) 150 full and part-time Air Force professionals engaged in preparing for BRAC 2005," Mr. Gibbs said.

Lessons learned from previous rounds of BRAC will help the Air Force better deal with property that may be affected by the BRAC 2005 round, Mr. Gibbs said.

"The Air Force has made significant progress in transitioning the installations identified for closure or realignment in previous rounds of BRAC," he said. "Turning to BRAC's past, the Air Force continues to work with local reuse authorities and other property recipients at each realigned and closed base from the four previous rounds of BRAC to transfer property."

Most importantly, Mr. Gibbs said, the Air Force will be better prepared through the BRAC 2005 pro-

cess to deed property faster than in previous BRAC rounds.

The Air Force is currently in the process of disposing of more than 87,000 acres at 32 locations, Mr. Gibbs said.

He also told committee members that despite what may be said on the Internet, referring to a fake story that has been circulating for some weeks, no decisions have been made as to what bases will be closed or realigned.

"No one can know the department of the Air Force's basing structure requirements for the 21st century until the BRAC 2005 process is finished," Mr. Gibbs said. "(Air Force officials affirm) ... that regardless of what may have been published on the World Wide Web, there is no Air Force BRAC list."

Mr. Gibbs said the final list of base closure recommendations will not be available until after May 2005.

## Newslines

### Sick call hours set

Flight medicine now has a walk-in sick-call clinic for members on flying status, special operational duty and active-duty firefighters. For members to return to flying status, the times are 7 to 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. The sick call times for everyone else is 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Patients' medical conditions will be triaged upon arrival, and the provider will treat patients according to severity of illness.

For more information, call 298-6306.

### American Legion meeting set

The Del Rio/Laughlin American Legion Post 298 will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at The Elks Lodge behind San Felipe Springs Golf Course.

The 2004 membership cards have arrived and will be distributed. The agenda will address upcoming activities for the spring and summer.

All active-duty military personnel are eligible to join. The American Legion is a large voice for military and veterans on Capitol Hill.

For more information, call Murry Kachel at 298-2097.

### Promotion ceremony scheduled

An enlisted promotion ceremony is set for 4 p.m. February 27 at Club Amistad. All base members are invited to attend.

### Claims briefing canceled

Due to schedule conflicts, the legal office claims briefing scheduled for 10 a.m. March 4 has been canceled.

The regular schedule for the claims briefing is 10 a.m. every Thursday at the legal office, Building 338.

For questions, call Tech. Sgt. Lesa Dutra at 298-5172.

### Center helps with taxes

The Laughlin Tax Center encourages everyone to get a head start on tax preparation. People with an appointment with their squadron Volunteer Income Tax Assistance representative should bring all records with them, to include W-2s and 1099s.

For more information, call 298-4858.

## **Force**, from page 2

Chase to join the Guard or Reserve will be the least restrictive.

Some officers and enlisted members will also have an opportunity to retrain. For officers, details will be forthcoming after completion of a cost-analysis study. For enlisted members, Phase 1 of the fiscal year 2004 noncommissioned officer retraining program was announced Dec. 30 and will end Feb. 23.

It is the right program, so the Air Force provides taxpayers the best possible return on their investment in the military. Force shaping is also the right program because it is designed to treat the most valuable Air Force asset — you, our fellow airmen and me — as fairly as possible. The program rightfully aims to retain quality airmen who want to continue in the Air Force while providing a choice for those who may be considering separating or retiring.



*Photo by Jose Mendoza*

## **Nice cut...**

(left to right) Army Col. John Minahan, Ft. Worth District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commander; Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr., Air Education and Training Command vice commander; Texas Rep. Henry Bonilla; Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander; and Kathy Harting, 47th Services Division lodging manager, cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the new visitor quarters here Tuesday.



# Graduation



## SUPT Class 04-05 graduates



**Capt. Monyca Byrne**  
C-17  
Charleston AFB, S.C.



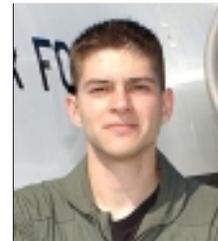
**2nd Lt. Matthew Belle**  
F-16  
Luke AFB, Ariz.



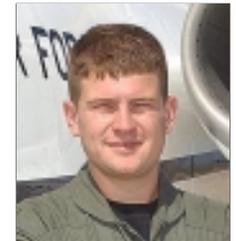
**2nd Lt. Scott Beusch**  
C-17  
Charleston AFB, S.C.



**2nd Lt. Jonathan Birnbaum**  
KC-135  
Fairchild AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. Dominic Cardella**  
C-21  
Andrews AFB, Md.



**2nd Lt. Andrew Cavallero**  
T-1  
Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. Mike Champagne**  
B-1  
Dyess AFB



**2nd Lt. Tim Christensen**  
KC-135 (ANG)  
Sioux City, Iowa



**2nd Lt. Darin Dial**  
KC-135  
RAF Mildenhall, England



**2nd Lt. David Elkins**  
C-5  
Travis AFB, Calif.



**2nd Lt. Robert Frantal**  
F-16 (ANG)  
Fort Wayne IAP, Ind.



**2nd Lt. Cornelius Godbee II**  
E-3  
Tinker AFB, Okla.



**2nd Lt. Michael Granberry**  
T-6  
Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. Chris Hubbard**  
F-16  
Luke AFB, Ariz.



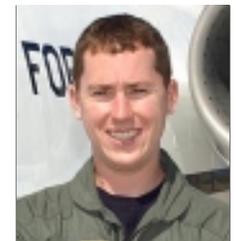
**2nd Lt. Ryan King**  
KC-135 (ANG)  
Eielson AFB, Alaska



**2nd Lt. Kristin Lee**  
F-16  
Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Mark Melin**  
KC-10  
McGuire AFB, N.J.



**2nd Lt. Zachary Richter**  
C-17  
McCord AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. Benjamin Shaub**  
KC-135  
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



**2nd Lt. Bryon Sherriff**  
KC-135 (ANG)  
Niagara Falls, N.Y.



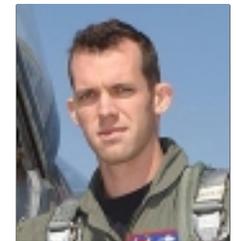
**2nd Lt. Jeremy Sorenson**  
F-16 (ANG)  
Fort Wayne IAP, Ind.



**2nd Lt. Joshua Springman**  
C-141 (AFRES)  
Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio



**2nd Lt. Adam Travis**  
KC-135  
MacDill AFB, Fla.



**2nd Lt. Graham Williford**  
A-10  
Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

# Laughlin sergeant wins 'Den Leader' award

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill  
Public affairs

Senior Master Sgt. Dan Kjolhede, the 47th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate test, measurement and diagnostic equipment flight chief, recently earned recognition for leadership he provided for local Cub Scouts this past year.

He earned Den Leader of the Year from the Boy Scouts of America Concho Valley Council. Sergeant Kjolhede, Wolf Den leader of Laughlin's Pack 204, received the award last month at the Boy Scouts Amistad District Awards Banquet in Uvalde. More than 200 adult Scout leaders were in competition.

Sergeant Kjolhede said it was very humbling to be chosen for the honor.

"None of us who volunteer for the Scouts look for recognition, but instead we're committed to promot-

ing leadership, values and discipline with the boys we teach," he said. "To be honored as Den Leader of the Year is really a reflection of the great work Pack 204 does for the Boy Scouts of America and the boys of Laughlin."

An active member of the pack for the past two years, Sergeant Kjolhede has consistently demonstrated his commitment to scouting and dedication to the advancement of Scouts, said Tech. Sgt. David Drotts, a manpower management consultant here and the Cubmaster in charge of the local pack.

His leadership was evident last year when the pack lost six of its Scout leaders and all but five Scouts due to mandatory moves.

"It would be understandable for a pack to close under those circumstances," Sergeant Drotts said. "But, with [Sergeant Kjolhede's] help we overcame."

The den leader spoke at military functions, promoting the scouting program and what it means to the boys who participate. The pack also conducted rallies in the local school system and at the base youth center to generate interest in participating in the scouting program.

"Those actions increased our enrollment by 80 percent and found the volunteers needed to fill our leadership vacancies," said Sergeant Drotts. "We now have 24 Scouts participating."

Pack 204's success can be measured not only by the length of the smiles on the Scouts' faces but in their achievements as well, he added. They hit the streets to conduct their annual popcorn sale and raised more than \$3,600, three times more than last year, Sergeant Drotts said.

"All of this success is possible when you have a dedicated leader like [Sergeant Kjolhede]," he said.

In addition to the senior NCO's leadership, his craftsman skills came in handy as well for the Scouts. He built a new Space Derby and Regatta Track, and made sure their Cub-O-Matic remained operational for crossover ceremonies. The Cub-O-Matic, a giant cardboard box with



Courtesy photo

**Senior Master Sgt. Dan Kjolhede, 47th Flying Training Wing test, measurement and diagnostic equipment flight chief, displays his Den Leader of the Year Award he received recently.**

flashing lights and noisemakers, is used when Scouts graduate to the next rank.

"This is just one of the many ways we have fun with Scouts, and they can take pride in knowing they did their best," Sergeant Kjolhede said.

That drive to do one's best stems from the den leader's belief in the importance of scouting, which is character, he said.

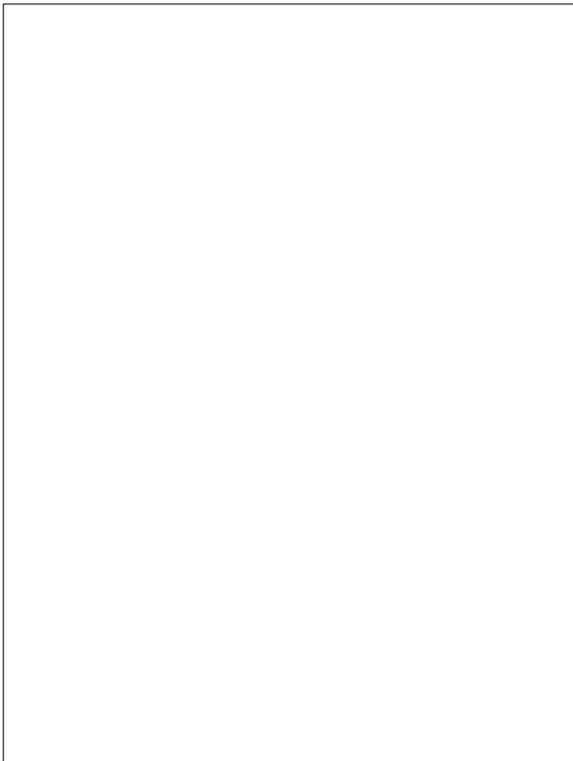
"The challenges and diversions everyone faces in today's fast-paced, technologically diverse society make it so easy to avoid building character," he added. "The scouting program focuses on honesty, integrity, helping others, and the skills needed to build character and self-confidence."

Those are the types of traits he wanted to instill in his son, who inspired him to become a Scout leader.

"I wanted [my son] to be involved because of what the scouting program offered," he said. "But, the pack also needed leaders. I knew that if I wanted my son to benefit from Scouts, I had to be willing to get involved with the program to whatever extent was needed. So, I became a leader to ensure my son, and others, had a program they could be a part of."

Sergeant Kjolhede said his greatest satisfaction as a Scout leader happens every Monday when he sees the boys in his den show up for their weekly meeting.

"I know they are there for the same reason I am," he said, "... because they want to be. It's work for both the boys and me, but I am proud of what the scouting program offers them and proud to be a part of it. As long as the [Scouts] keep coming back, so will I."



# 'Transformation Flight Plan' gives airmen roadmap to future

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott  
*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON — Air Staff officials have put the finishing touches on the "Transformation Flight Plan," which spells out the future direction of the Air Force.

The TFP, a 176-page document, can be accessed through a link on the Air Force's Internet home page at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) or on the office of force transformation Web site at [www.oft.osd.mil](http://www.oft.osd.mil).

"Transformation is using new things and old things in new ways, and achieving truly transformational effects for the joint warfighter," said Lt. Gen. Duncan McNabb, Air Force director of plans and programs.

In conjunction with joint partners, the Air Force is transforming by making capabilities-based changes in its operational concepts, organizational structures and/or technologies to expand the nation's military capabilities, the general said.

"The flight plan digs down into each of these areas in some detail, then links them all together to present a clear picture of where our

Air Force is going in support of combatant commanders," General McNabb said.

Since the flight plan is a "living document," officials plan to update it annually.

This version is the second, superseding the one published in May 2002.

"Transformation is a process, a journey, not a destination," said Col. Allison Hickey, of the Air Force plans and programs directorate's future concept development branch. "Transformation describes how we change and adapt our military to meet the new challenges of our changing world, as well as taking advantage of the dramatic advances in technologies."

The flight plan is a "snapshot in time," Colonel Hickey said, which reflects service leader's thoughts and efforts on transformation. Besides targeting technology, it also examines transformation in concepts and organization.

Officials hope the flight plan will help Air Force people gain a perspective on the kind of skill sets and abilities they need to develop to help the

service achieve its transformational goals.

"The flight plan can help airmen, as well as our civilian members, understand where we are going and where the Air Force leadership believes emphasis must be placed in the future," said Lt. Col. James McCaw, from the plans and programs directorate's transformation branch. "It is the one unclassified document that presents an overarching picture of Air Force transformation. It will help the reader understand where the Air Force is going, and why we chose this path."

Colonel McCaw said the flight plan also illustrates that the service is working hard to ensure airmen have the tools necessary to defeat a wide range of new threats and adversaries across the spectrum of conflict.

Because the plan is an update to the 2002 document, action officers within the future concept development branch were able to incorporate several "lessons learned" from operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom to the new edition.

"The Air Force is making great

progress in our transformation," Colonel McCaw said. "The Air Force has a great head start and will continue to work with (its) colleagues across the Department of Defense to ensure (it continues) to make the whole team better."

The genesis for the Air Force's Transformation Flight Plan is direction from DOD's Transformation Planning Guidance.

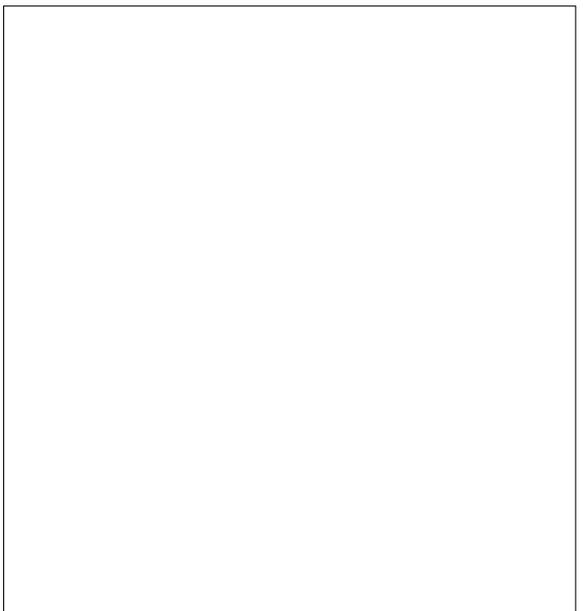
"The service transformational roadmaps are a key part of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's strategy of transforming the military," Colonel Hickey said. "The flight plan is a reporting document that enables the secretary to evaluate and interpret the Air Force's (progress) toward transformation."

Colonel McCaw believes the evaluation process will continue for quite some time.

"The U.S. military as a whole has been transforming and adapting throughout its history to ensure it maintains broad and sustained advantages over potential adversaries," he said. "This ongoing transformation continues today and will far into the future."



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*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill*

## Learning science...

**Maj. Morgan Curry, 47th Operations Support Squadron, quizzes a middle school student on her science project during the 8th Annual Regional Science Fair Feb. 13 in Del Rio. Twenty-four Laughlin members helped judge the science fair. There were 121 projects submitted by elementary schools in the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District and 62 projects submitted by secondary schools.**

# Wing recognizes annual award winners

## Compiled from staff reports

The 47th Flying Training Wing annual awards dinner was held Feb. 13 at the Fiesta Center.

Twenty awards were presented to

officer, enlisted and civilian members of Team XL.

"The winners of these awards have stood out among their peers," said Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander. "The winners and

the nominees represent the best that Team XL has to offer."

The award winners receive a plaque and gift certificates from the base exchange and several businesses in Del Rio. They also will be recognized at the

Del Rio Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet Tuesday.

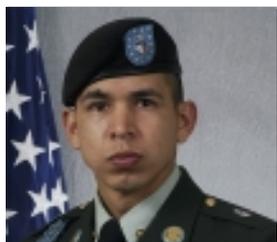
Not pictured is Airmen of the Year, Senior Airman Ronette McBean, 47th Contracting Squadron. She is currently deployed.



**NCO**  
**Tech. Sgt. Dora Caniglia**  
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron



**Senior NCO**  
**Senior Master Sgt. Richard Conerly**  
47th Mission Support Squadron



**Soldier**  
**Spc. Carlos Martinez Jr.**  
47th Security Forces Squadron



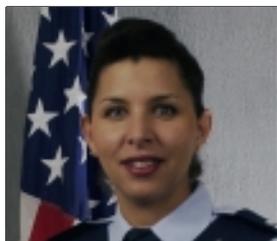
**First Sergeant**  
**Master Sgt. David Smith**  
47th Mission Support Group



**Company Grade Officer**  
**2nd Lt. Michael Akins**  
47th ADS



**Instructor Pilot**  
**1st Lt. Joseph White**  
87th Flying Training Squadron



**Nonrated Flight Commander**  
**Capt. Barbara Costa**  
47th Operations Support Squadron



**Rated Flight Commander**  
**Maj. Darrell Judy**  
84th Flying Training Squadron



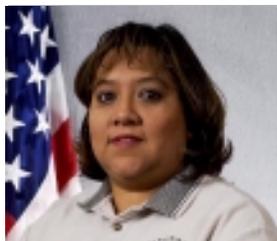
**Civilian Category I**  
**Alma Garcia**  
47th MSS



**Civilian Category II**  
**Timothy Selfridge**  
47th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate



**Civilian Category III**  
**David Hancock**  
47th Contracting Squadron



**NAF Category I**  
**Ramona Garcia**  
47th Services Division



**NAF Category II**  
**Rory Fleury**  
47th Services Division



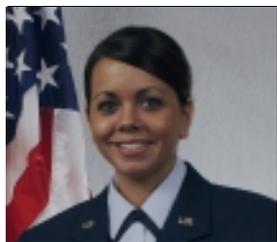
**Volunteer**  
**Master Sgt. Michael Sweet**  
47th Civil Engineer Squadron



**Health and Safety Contributor**  
**1st Lt. Bradley Opp**  
47th Operations Group



**Honor Guard Member**  
**Staff Sgt. Jerry Dunn**  
47th ADS



**Dorm Room**  
**Airman 1st Class Kristel Knowles**  
47th OSS



**Dorm Suite**  
**Senior Airman Melvin Isaia**  
47th Communications Squadron



(Left) 2nd Lt. Eric Johnston, 47th Communications Squadron, assists the Air Force NASCAR driver at Air Force Day. (Below) Airman 1st Class Michael Fronk, 47th CS, sports the 'Ricky the Recruiter' costume and entertains local teachers.



(Above) Airman 1st Class Shanaysha Walker and Debra Ramirez, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron, discuss a hazardous materials display from the clinic with local students touring Air Force Day booths. (Right) The Air Force Band of the West's Top Flight performs in front of local students. The band brought a 'stay in school' message to Del Rio students during Air Force Day festivities.

## Laughlin goes back to school

Story and photos by  
2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston  
*Public Affairs*

Many Laughlin organizations joined efforts Wednesday to take Air Force Day to students at Del Rio's new middle school.

Approximately 1,000 students participated in the day's activities, which included two

mini-concerts from the Air Force Band of the West's Top Flight from Lackland Air Force Base and numerous information booths. Students also had the opportunity to see the Air Force's NASCAR show car and "Ricky the Recruiter" up close. Staff Sgt. Pedro Lozano, Del Rio's recruiter, provided information about enlisting in the Air

Force, and 1st Lt. Paula Schoch, the Air Force Academy Liaison Officer, provided details on commissioning opportunities.

Students mingled with Laughlin volunteers, and information booths promoted different jobs in the Air Force including Services, Fire and Rescue, Security Forces, Medical and Life Support.



# Former XLer returns with Tops in Blue

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill  
Public affairs

When the Air Force's elite entertainment group Tops in Blue conducted its show Wednesday night at Del Rio's Paul Poag Theatre, one of its performers felt all the comforts of being home.

Formerly stationed here as a member of the 47th Security Forces Squadron, Staff Sgt. Charles Cook said he was excited about returning to Laughlin and performing.

"I was assigned here for the better part of three-and-a-half years," he said. "There are a lot of people I know and miss, and would like to see."

The group arrived at Laughlin after performing more than 130 shows so far during this year's production, which celebrates 50 years of entertainment history and pays tribute to the history of the Centennial of Flight.

Sergeant Cook said he was overjoyed when he learned he had been selected to become a member of Tops in Blue a year ago because it was something he looked forward to for a long time.

"I actually wanted to try out a few years ago, but every time I'd get ready I would end up getting deployed," he said.

His opportunity arrived, however, in October 2002 as Laughlin's annual talent show got under way. The security forces journeyman joined the competition. He did well, placed in the show and moved forward to the Air Force contest. But, before he could showcase his talents at the next level he received a new assignment to Lakenheath, England.

Thinking ahead, he created an audition videotape. Helen Sykes and her staff at the Fiesta Community Center here helped him get the videotape and everything needed submitted to the Air Force worldwide talent contest at Lackland Air Force Base. He was contacted at Lakenheath last February about making the team.

The performer said he appreciated Laughlin's support in helping him join the group and that being a Tops in Blue member is everything he thought it would be and more.

"I've learned a lot, not just performance-wise," he said. "It's also taught me about leadership skills I had before, but didn't really develop."

He's second in charge of his flight within the group and has stepped up to the task, said Capt. Dee Dee Vasquez, the team's tour director.

"He's awesome," she said of the Youngstown, Ohio, native. "He's an excellent vocalist and one of the stars

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**"People came up to us after the show talking about their families, how long they'd been in Afghanistan and what the [show] meant to them."**

**– Staff Sgt. Charles Cook, Tops in Blues performer and former 47th Security Forces Squadron member**

---

of the show. He does a great job on stage and in the leadership aspect of his flight."

During the high-energy show, Sergeant Cook uses his talent to perform in a variety of acts that range from rhythm and blues and country to jazz and swing.

He's featured in the production's Motown set as lead vocalist on songs that include The Temptations' "My Girl" and the Marvin Gaye, Tammi Terrell duet "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." He also sings "Thanks to a Hero for Today" during the show's patriotic set.

"The show is really exciting to me," he said. "All of us have different solos throughout the show and sing just about all of the songs."

Ten dates remain on the group's worldwide tour. Of all the shows he's

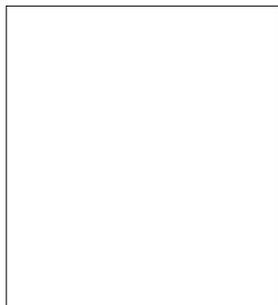
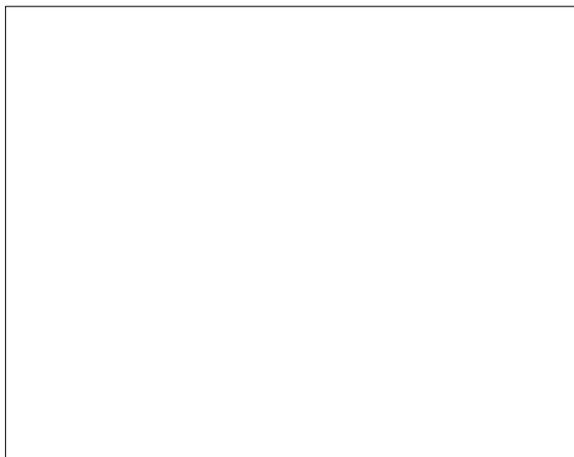
done and places traveled, Sergeant Cook said his favorite show was in Bagram, Afghanistan, which was early in their desert tour.

"That was probably one of the most emotional shows we've done and had interaction with the audience," he said. "We saw a lot of the Army members and local nationals [who] work on base. They were really into the show, especially during our patriotic set as you could see the emotions on their faces. People came up to us after the show talking about their families, how long they'd been in Afghanistan and what the [show] meant to them."

Sergeant Cook said it meant a lot to see how Tops in Blue affected other people.

Being part of the 33-member group is considered a permissive temporary duty. The job gets challenging with such a busy 11-month schedule traveling and performing around the world. But, it's not something Sergeant Cook wants to follow up with next year.

"You can try out [for the group] as many times your commander can let you go, and as many times Tops in Blue will take you back," he said. "But, I don't want to pursue it two years in a row. I would try it again [down the road] because it's definitely a rewarding experience."



## The *XLer*

**Staff Sgt. Scott Ramsey**  
47th Security Forces Squadron

**Hometown:** Washington, D.C.

**Family:** My beautiful wife, Staff Sgt. Carrie Ramsey

**Time at Laughlin:** Five months

**Time in service:** Nine years

**Greatest accomplishment:** Convincing my wife to marry me and spend the rest of her life with me.

**Hobbies:** Bodybuilding, working on car audio and car tuning

**Bad habit:** Speaking my mind

**Favorite movie:** "SWAT"

**Favorite band:** Kane

**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be?** Jeremy, a friend who is no longer here



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

## 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. (1st Lt.) 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.

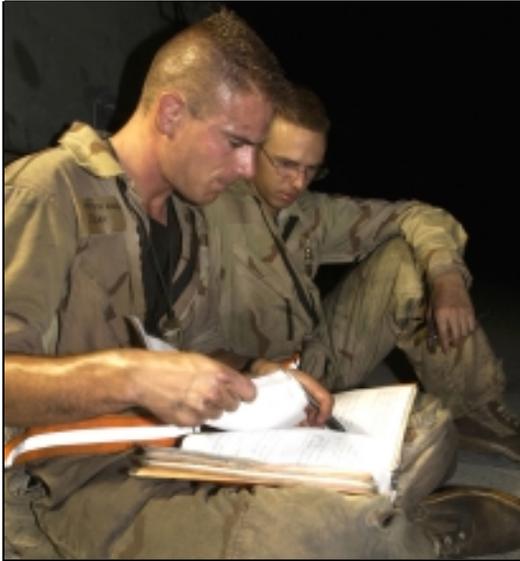


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information?



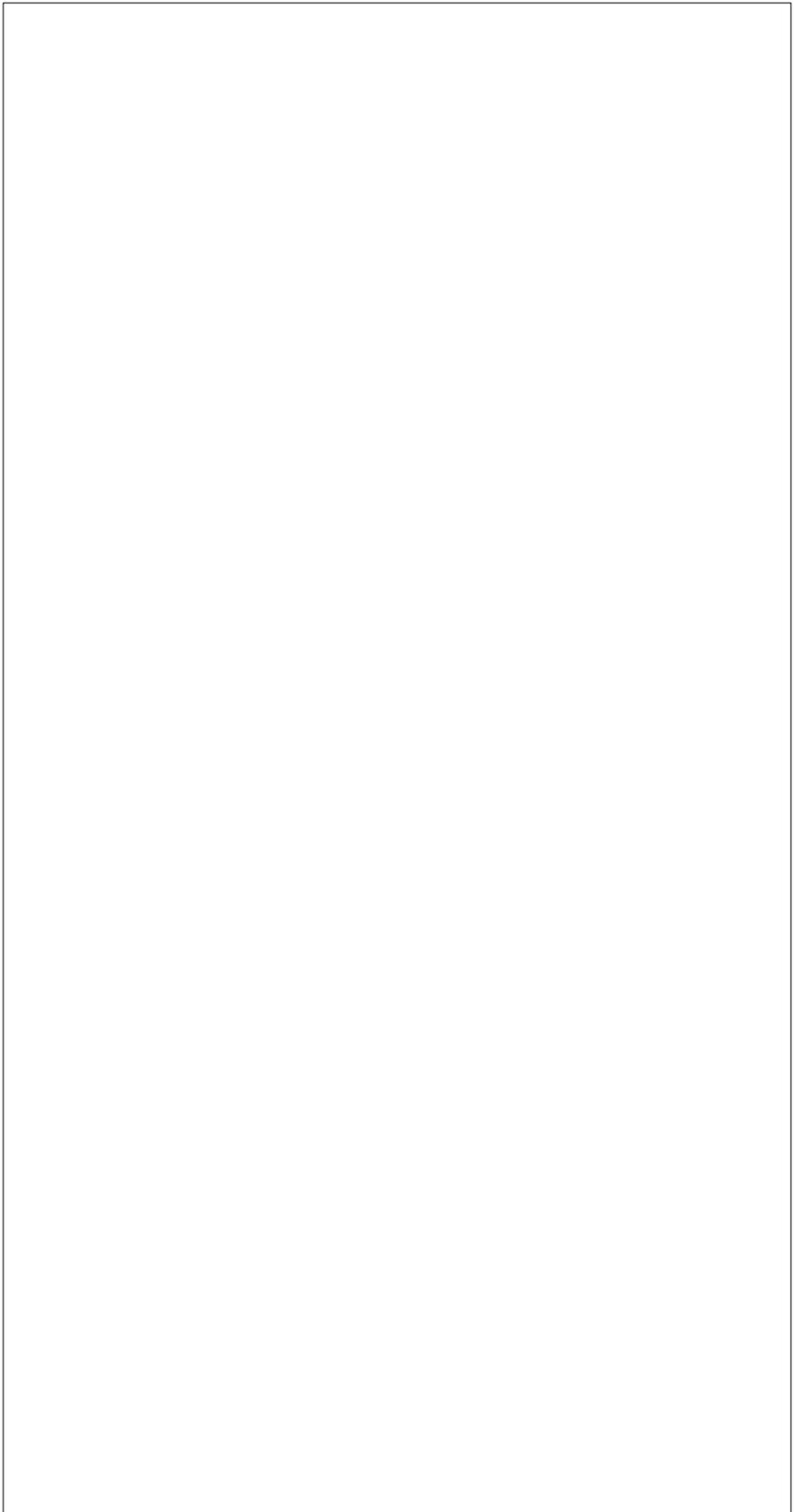
Call Laughlin's  
Information Line  
at 298-5201.



*Photo by Airman 1st Class Nichole Adamowicz*

## **Taking a breather...**

**Staff Sgt. Joseph Salisbury (left) and Airman 1st Class Jason Campbell annotate the actions they took to correct aircraft maintenance discrepancies found on an F-15E Strike Eagle. Both airmen are crew chiefs with the 391st Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit at a forward-deployed location.**



# 84/85th defeats SFS, 64-46

By Airman 1st Class  
Timothy J. Stein  
Editor

The team representing the 84th and 85th Flying Training squadrons defeated the 47th Security Forces Squadron, 64-46, in an intramural basketball game Wednesday at the fitness center.

The game was close until the middle of the second half when the 84/85th squad went on an 18-2 run to put the game out of reach.

Both teams started out the first half strong trading basket for basket. The lead changed six times during the first 10 minutes. Gary McCullough hit two three-pointers for the 84/85th during this stretch. He was answered by Cedric Lightener from SFS who

nailed three of his own in the half. At half time, 84th/85th had a narrow 27-25 lead.

The second half started with SFS tying the score at 27. The 84/85th squad then went on a 10-3 run to take a 37-30 lead.

SFS needed to answer the charge but couldn't make the same shots they were making in the first half. They hit a three-pointer to bring the score to within four but couldn't stop the 84/85th from going on the 18-2 run.

During the run, Matthew Waszak scored six straight points by posting up in the middle. SFS had no answer for Waszak who kept getting rebound after rebound.

SFS showed some life at the end of the game by hitting a couple of

three pointers, but it was a case of too little too late. The final score was 64-46 in favor of the 84/85th.

With this victory, the 84/85th improves their record to 8-3, half a game out of first place in the Eastern Conference.

The lose drops SFS to 7-6, half a game out of third place in the Western Conference.

After almost six weeks of action, the 47th Civil Engineer Squad A is still on top of the Western Conference with an unbeaten 12-0 record.

The 86th FTS holds a slight lead in the Eastern Conference with a 7-2 record. They are followed closely by the 84/85th with an 8-3 record and the 87th with a 6-2 record.

There will be no basketball games next week due to night flying.

## Basketball standings

(As of Thursday)

### Western Conference

Team	W-L
CES A	12-0
CCS	8-4
SFS	7-6
MSS/Wing	7-5
CES B	6-6
MED A	3-9
MED B	0-12

### Eastern Conference

Team	W-L
86th	7-2
87th	6-2
84/85th	8-3
LCSAM	5-4
OSS	2-8

# Air Force fitness test more than just pass/fail

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

"What is the best way for me to ensure that I will pass the Air Force Fitness Test?"

This is probably the question I get asked most right now. There are several issues to address with regards to this question.

First of all, you cannot "pass" your assessment. Think of it this way ... When you go to your dentist appointment, and the dentist does not find any cavities, he doesn't tell you that you can stop

brushing and flossing. He tells you, "Great job, keep brushing and flossing and see you next year to make sure you still don't have cavities."

Your Air Force fitness assessment is just that. It is a tool to measure your level at that time and identify if you are at a high risk for diseases like cardiovascular disease, heart disease, diabetes and myriad other health problems.

Second, the spirit of the Air Force Fitness Program is not the assessment. The AFFP is to ensure that individuals are exercising three times per week at a minimum and that the Air Force begins to adopt a culture that establishes fit-

ness as an essential part of every airman's day. It is about exercising regularly and encouraging others to do the same.

The last issue to keep in mind is that once you reach that goal of scoring in a green or blue category and establishing that you are at a low risk for disease, it doesn't end. The charts that are used for the AFFP point system are not meant to imply that everyone who "maxes" their points should go look for a job as a professional athlete. If you look at standardization charts from American College of Sports Medicine, the Air Force charts do not extend to the

elite levels of performance. In other words, regardless of a person's score on the AFFP, there is always room for improvement. We can all push ourselves a little bit harder, be a little more consistent, and watch our nutritional habits a little more closely.

The best way to improve your overall results on the AFFP assessment is to be consistent with your exercise program. By the way, basketball, softball, racquetball and other intramural sports do not qualify as cardiovascular/aerobic exercises. They are great activities, but they do not result in a training effect on the body's systems. Incorporate

strength training cardiovascular and flexibility exercises, be diligent with good nutritional habits, and most importantly, do something now.

Over the next several weeks I will address each component of the Air Force Fitness Assessment (abdominal circumference, push-ups, sit-ups, 1.5 mile run and cycle ergometry) and some good ways to improve your results in each category.

(Editor's note: If you have a question you would like addressed by the exercise physiologist, please send your written question to 47 ADS/SGGZ, Attn: Mr. Bill Goins.)



### Fitness Fact:

**Did You Know?** Muscle does not turn into fat. You are born with an average of 25 million fat cells in your body. You cannot lose these fat cells. However, due to poor eating habits and lack of exercise, you can add more fat cells. Fat cells are like little balloons that fill up with fat. When they get really full, unfortunately, they don't pop. They split and now you have two fat cells that you cannot lose instead of one. The good news is that through proper eating habits and regular exercise, you can let the air out of those little fat-filled balloons. They won't ever stick back together, but you can shrink them by burning the fat with cardiovascular exercise.

## XL Fitness Center hours

Monday - Thursday:  
5 a.m. to 10 p.m

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

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

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