

Base partners with district to give school facelift, page 5

Border Eagle

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Jan. 23, 2004

Clinic gets telephone upgrade

By Lt. Col. Arthur Price
47th Communications
Squadron commander

The Laughlin Clinic is undergoing a \$475,000 telephone upgrade, which will improve customer service and standardize clinic telecommunications with the rest of the base.

The project, funded by the Air Force Office of the Surgeon General, is expected to be complete by Jan. 30 and will provide more reliable access to the appointment lines and mechanisms for clinic leadership to better track and resolve telephone-access issues.

There also will be a voice-mail system upgrade, which will affect not only clinic personnel, but all

See **Phones**, page 9



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

A step up...

Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, slaps master sergeant stripes on to then Tech. Sgt. Randle Tyree, 47th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of combat arms, during a step-promotion ceremony in Colonel Woodward's office Tuesday.

13 security forces members return to Laughlin after half-year deployment

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public Affairs

Thirteen members of the 47th Security Forces Squadron returned home Jan. 16 after a six-month deployment to Kuwait.

Squadron and family members gathered Saturday at Club Amistad to celebrate and welcome back the group following the team's effort in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We're excited to have our folks back home," said Lt. Col. David Abercrombie, 47th SFS commander, during the event. "I was in close communication with the commander of this group while they were deployed. He

had a lot of positive things to say about them. They did an outstanding job, and we appreciate everything they did for us."

This deployment was the first for all except two of the returning members, Master Sgt. Jorge Caro and Senior Airman Robert Perez.

As the airmen's team leader, Sergeant Caro provided a few words of wisdom to them prior to the deployment.

"I told them not be afraid to ask any questions, depend on and take care of each other and prepare for the worst, meaning where we were going they were not going to have (all the conveniences of home)."

By taking a young team without a lot of experience on this deployment, Sergeant Caro said it provided them good insight into the security forces career field.

"They learned core tasks and skills away from Laughlin," he said. "They learned and used air base ground defense skills while deployed, things they don't get to apply here."

Once on the ground at their deployed location, the group quickly prepared to perform their jobs.

"I was picked for a security escort team," said Airman 1st Class Shannon Stoeger. "There was no time to really

See **Return**, page 4

Newslines

Graduation set

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

All base members are invited to attend.

BX changes hours

The base exchange will have new hours starting Feb. 1. It will be open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. The Burger King within the BX will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

Road closure announced

The Fifth Street entrance in front of Building 448 will be closed due to the ongoing bollard installation. It will be closed until Tuesday. For more information, call 298-5061.

Education grants available

The Air Force Aid Society gives millions of dollars in college grants every year to Air Force dependents through the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program.

For more information, go to the AFAS Web site at www.afas.org or call Tech. Sgt. Mary Davis at 298-5109.

Deployment stats

Deployed: 32
Returning in 30 days: 0
Deploying in 30 days: 2

Mission status

(As of Tuesday)

Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -4.89 T-1, 1.68
T-38, -1.21 T-6, -2.75

Mission capable rate:

T-37, 89.2% T-1, 83.2%
T-38, 78.9% T-6, 82.6%

Every airman critical to Air Force mission



Commander's Corner

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

I am a civil engineer at a Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training base. Why does this matter? For the same reason you and the work you do for America's Air Force matter: "bombs on target."

You might ask how this is so. Well, no pilot, weapons system officer or combat crew missile officer delivers a payload alone. To be sure, they are the final actors who ensure a target is hit, but it also takes a host of others working ahead of, beside and behind them to ensure the right payload reaches the right place at the right time.

In my particular case, as a civil engineer for a flying training wing, my organization plays a key role in guaranteeing our pilots receive the world-class training that will ultimately ensure they deliver their payload where and when it's needed. My organization's role is to help provide our student pilots the first-rate facilities and infrastructure they need for learning.

Before they ever set foot onboard an aircraft, our student pilots need quality housing to live in, classrooms to learn in, training facilities to hone their skills in, and many more facilities, like a medical clinic and fitness center to ensure their best health and wellness.

Once in the aircraft, the students require quality ramps, taxiways, runways and near-



File photo

A B-52H Stratofortress drops a load of M-117 750-pound bombs.

perfect supporting systems, like lighting systems, instrument systems and fully operational aircraft arresting barriers to ensure safe departures and returns. Civil engineers are responsible for providing these facilities and infrastructure.

However, like the pilots placing bombs on target, civil engineers cannot "deliver their payload" without help. They are all part of a very important team. They need people to support what they do, too. There are others who help ensure the civil engineers are well trained, well equipped, well fed and in the best of health and fitness so they can do what they do.

Those same people who support the civil engineers support most everyone else in the Air Force as well. In turn, all of those supported people invariably help other Air Force people in some fashion in order to accomplish

our overall mission of supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States. I could go on and on with this chain, but I think the point is clear. We are all critical to each other and to the Air Force mission.

Although we may not all directly align crosshairs over a target and release a bomb, each of us who works for the United States Air Force is, in some way, a reason why an Air Force payload can and will reach its intended target when needed. I am certain that if you take just a moment to think about this, you can see linkage of your actions to the ultimate delivery of an Air Force payload.

Every member of this Air Force, whether operating or maintaining weapons systems directly, or supporting those who do, is critical to the Air Force mission. We are all here to ensure "bombs on target," and we do this very well. We should all be proud.

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.**

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

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

Are you your unit's 'Weakest Link'?

By Lt. Col. Cephas Franklin
14th Communications Squadron commander

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. – The host of the popular television game show "The Weakest Link" puts contestants on the spot by firing questions after question at them in a timed round.

The player who best handles the pressure and answers the most questions correctly usually winds up the winner.

To play this game in a less stressful situation, I'm going to ask you to answer some simple yes or no questions geared toward information technology.

- Do you have your network or e-mail account password written under your keyboard or in an area anyone can easily access?
- Have you shared your network or e-mail account password with anyone?
- Did you click "yes" when the virus-warning screen popped up on your computer, instead of notifying your computer security manager?

■ Have you shared your new Common Access Card personal identification number with anyone?

■ Have you walked away from your desk while logged into the network without locking your computer?

■ Have you forgotten the name of your system administrator or computer security manager?

■ Have you loaded software on your computer without permission or approval?

■ Have you connected any items to your computer or the network without approval of the designated approval authority?

■ Have you visited unauthorized Web sites?

Now that you've taken the quiz, here's the secret: If you answered "yes" to any of the questions, you could be the weakest link in your unit's ability

to secure its part of the Air Force network enterprise.

The days of base networks being stand-alone and independent of the rest of the Air Force infrastructure are no more. What you do at your base has an immediate impact on the Air

Education and Training Command infrastructure and subsequently the rest of the Air Force.

The bottom line is we've become a network-centric entity, and every member shares

the responsibility of protecting the network.

It's not just the communication squadron's responsibility, but every member of the team plays an important role in protecting this valuable resource.

A breach of network security could influence whether we strike the right target, cause innocent civilians to lose their lives or cause an international incident.

That's where every person comes in. We are the keepers of the gate when it comes to network security. It's our responsibility to understand the policies, know the procedures and where to go for help when network security issues arise.

If we blow it, we have a negative impact on national security, we affect the Air Force's ability to perform its mission, and we impact our people.

The next time you change your password, store it in a secure place. The next time your computer becomes infected with a virus, know the procedures and whom to contact. When you have software that's required for operational use, ensure the designated approval authority okays it.

Remember, as gatekeepers we are the enforcers. Don't be your unit's weakest link. What we do doesn't just stop at our front gate. Its tentacles stretch far and wide across the Air Force. Make network security a part of the way you conduct business on a daily basis.

"It's not just the communication squadron's responsibility, but every member of the team plays an important role in protecting this valuable resource."



Actionline
298-5351

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 leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline,

please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

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

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

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299

Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Thank you

On the evening of Jan. 6, my wife and I experienced the unimaginable. Our son, Everest, who was only 10 days old, passed away suddenly from an overwhelming infection. We were totally unprepared for this tragedy. As we faced the huge tasks in front of us, combined with the grief that

consumed us, it looked like almost too much to bear.

Fortunately, if there was one bright spot to this entire ordeal, it was the response from all the people on base and downtown Del Rio. From the time we left the hospital, we were surrounded by caring, loving people who only wanted to help. It was incredible to us to see the outpouring of love that we experienced. It

seemed that we only had to express a need out loud, and we immediately had more help than we could use.

Everyone was so helpful. Whether from the people at mortuary affairs, the staff at the hospital, or the wonderful people from base and church, it seemed that everyone knew of our loss and was anxious to do something for us. To everyone who has

sent something or helped or remembered us in your prayers, we want to say thank you, and we hope you know how much your help has meant to us. This experience has really confirmed that we are a part of the Air Force and Del Rio family.

*Capt. Dixon and Karen Croft,
87th Flying Training Squadron*

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adjust. We did two days of training and went straight (to work)."

Airman Stoeger said she was excited about the deployment and went with a good attitude and thought it would be fun.

For Airman 1st Class Charles Harris, adjusting to the cultural difference was an experience, such as interacting with local nationals there compared to people on base here.

"(Laughlin) is more of a law-enforcement environment," he said. "So, I learned a lot about security and how it goes (at a deployed location)."

Senior Airman Marina Ramos was also excited about deploying for her first time.

"I had never been to the desert before," she said. "It's one of those things I wanted to do as a cop. It's like anything you have to get adjusted to, you have to be open-minded. If you go there with a good attitude, it affects the people you work with and time flies by."

Airman Ramos said she expected a lot less, such as living in tents. "We lived in trailers and the base was well built up," she added. "So, a lot of accommodations were available."

A 19-year Air Force veteran, Sergeant Caro emphasized improvements at his deployed location compared to previous deployments he's been on.

"They take care of you, as far as services, organized events and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, to keep morale up," he said. "Everyone had an e-mail account and was able to use DSN to call home, which was a big plus. (In previous deployments) we never had individual e-mail accounts. The only thing we had was a phone call once a week or so. Now, everyone has access to a computer so they can stay in continuous contact with their families."

His wife, Evelyn, agreed. "I received e-mail and phone calls from him all the time, at least three or four times a week," she said. "Being constantly in touch helped a lot."

Mrs. Caro said their children kept her occupied and she did a lot of volunteering at the library while her husband was deployed, and time passed quickly. "It's great having him back home," she added.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Master Sgt. Jorge Caro, 47th Security Forces Squadron deployment team leader, cuts a piece cake for his daughter during a welcome home party Saturday at Club Amistad. Sergeant Caro was one of 13 Laughlin cops deployed to Kuwait for six months

Spouses and other people who are significant in the lives of deployed airmen must learn to deal with the long periods of separation. One way of coping is by having a support structure, said Mrs. Caro.

"Staying busy with my mother and having family around helped me out," she said. "People can also interact with other wives on base who have experience with family members being deployed. They can help you through (a deployment) and be there for you if you need anything."

The deployment was a learning experience for Tory Carson, girlfriend of Airman Tim Cooper. As a civilian, she got a firsthand view of how to deal with the separation from a loved one who was deployed.

"I was scared for him, but also proud of him," she said.

Airman Cooper was at Laughlin only two months before leaving on his first deployment.

"When I (deployed), I didn't know what the real Air Force was like," he said. "After coming back, I realize what it really meant to other people to fight for my country. You really understand what past veterans have gone through."

Deploying and being separated from families and loved ones can be difficult, but the cause is worth the effort because "what we do now will enable them to have a better life in the future," said Sergeant Caro. "They won't have to deal with a lot of things that we're dealing with now."

The returning team members will have two weeks off to relax and spend quality time with their families before returning to their normal duties here.



Laughlin Salutes

47th Flying Training Wing fourth-quarter winners:

Airman:

■ Senior Airman Anna Mayo, 47th Flying Training Wing

NCO:

■ Tech. Sgt. Dora Caniglia, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

Senior NCO:

■ Master Sgt. Gail Henderson, 47th Mission Support Squadron

Soldier:

■ Spc. Michael Allen, 47th Security Forces Squadron

Company grade officer:

■ 2nd Lt. Michael Akins, 47th ADS

Instructor pilot:

■ Capt. Thad Swant, 86th Flying Training Squadron

Civilian category I:

■ Jimmie Montgomery, 47th FTW Maintenance Directorate

Civilian category II:

■ William Goins, 47th ADS

Civilian category III:

■ Oscar Bocanegra, 47th MSS

Nonappropriated funds category I:

■ Ramona Garcia, 47th Services Division

Nonappropriated funds category II:

■ Amy Haynes, 47th SVS

Volunteer:

■ Master Sgt. Michael Sweet, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron

Honor guard member:

■ Senior Airman Shannon Custer, 47th MSS

Health and safety contributor:

■ Senior Airman Erik Bell, 47th ADS

Outstanding dormitory suite:

■ Senior Airman Melvin Isaia, 47th Communications Squadron

Outstanding dormitory:

■ Airman 1st Class Shannon George, 47th Operations Support Squadron

Base volunteers help beautify local school

By 1st Lt. Lindsay Logsdon
Public Affairs

Saturday marked the first Partners in Education project as more than 60 Laughlin volunteers turned out at Del Rio's Marion Russell Middle School to help beautify the school and its grounds.

Partners in Education, a Laughlin Top Three initiative,

is intended to broaden interaction between the base and school district, while also improving the aesthetics of local school grounds.

Volunteers worked approximately seven hours painting benches, doors, garbage cans and performing a complete audit of all library books, to include creating labels and better organizing the shelves.

Program organizers estab-

lish direct contact with school administration officials to identify specific needs, said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Conerly, military personnel flight superintendent and PIE chairperson. Once the school's needs have been identified, base volunteers provide the elbow grease while local businesses, such as Sherwin Williams, provide supplies at no cost.

"Laughlin's work here at Marion Russell saved the school district over \$2,000 in labor costs alone," said Dennis Dunlap, the maintenance director for the San Felipe-Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District.

Marion Russell is one of over 13 local schools that will benefit from the PIE program.

"We look at the school's building assessment and select a school based on its needs," said Sergeant Conerly. All schools in the public school district are included in addition to any others that may need assistance.

The success of this first event is directly attributed to the participation of Laughlin members, said Sergeant Conerly.

"I originally asked for 35 volunteers and we ended up getting over 60," he said. Instead of turning people away he extended the labor to include painting garbage cans and exterior classroom and cafeteria doors.

"I think it was a big success because there was a lot

accomplished," said Tech. Sgt. Richard Crivens who sanded and painted a variety of surfaces at the middle school. "It made me feel good that we could help out the local community."

Volunteers also painted benches and poles and cleared out rain gutters.

"It was a good time," said 2nd Lt. Julie Heiman, 47th Comptroller Flight budget analyst. "Just helping out made me feel great."

Laughlin members also undertook the reorganization of the school library. Volunteers reorganized the out-of-place books and documented book information to create new labels.

"I never thought [organizing] the library was going to be that hard," said Master Sgt. Patricia Jimerson, 47th Logistics Readiness Division superintendent of supply operations. "We worked nonstop except for a working lunch.

We did it because we wanted to, and we refused to stop."

Although only expected to finish half the project, they completed it.

"I would have liked to see the faces of the library crew Tuesday when they came in and realized we completed it all instead of half," she said.

Mr. Jesse Guzman, Marion Russell principal, said he was extremely pleased with the work done by the volunteers.

"I'm extremely thankful for their help, and the campus looks better," he said. "I think this is historic to get us working together for our children's future."

With the next PIE program planned for mid-March, Laughlin members will have another opportunity to excel.

"We look forward to continuing to build on the strong relationship between the base and city," said Sergeant Conerly. "It's definitely worth the effort."



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Patricia McHugh, 47th Communications Squadron base telephone systems manager, paints a hand rail during the Partners in Education event Saturday at Marion Russell Middle School. Sergeant McHugh is one of more than 60 people from Laughlin who volunteered their time for the middle school beautification project.

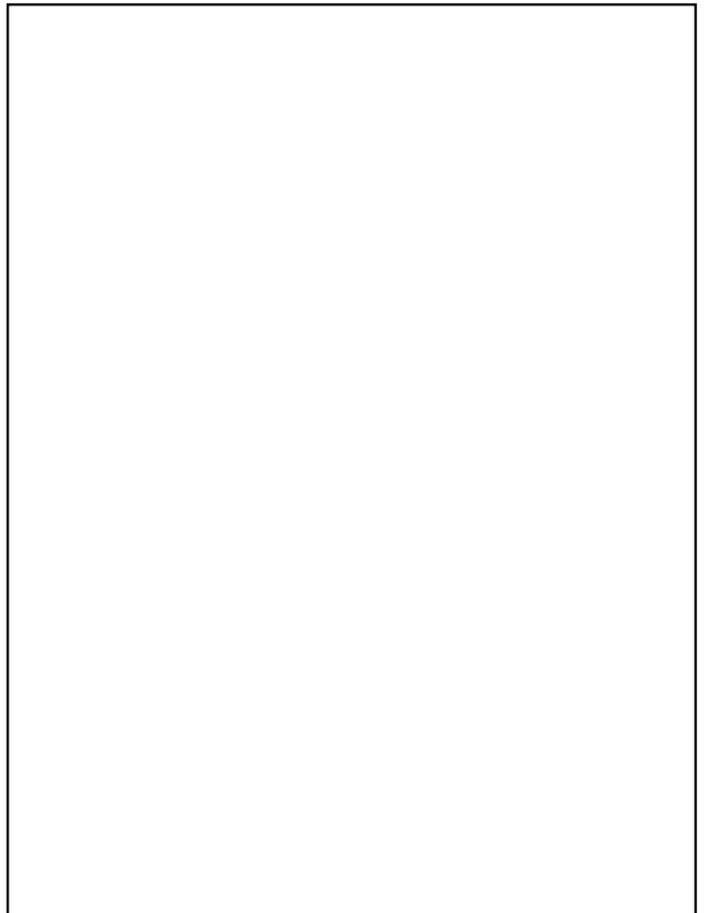
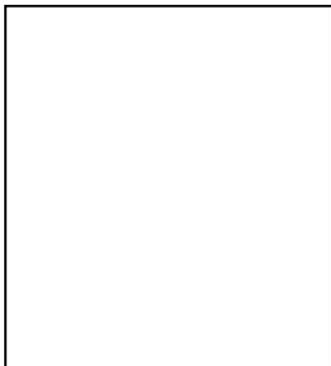
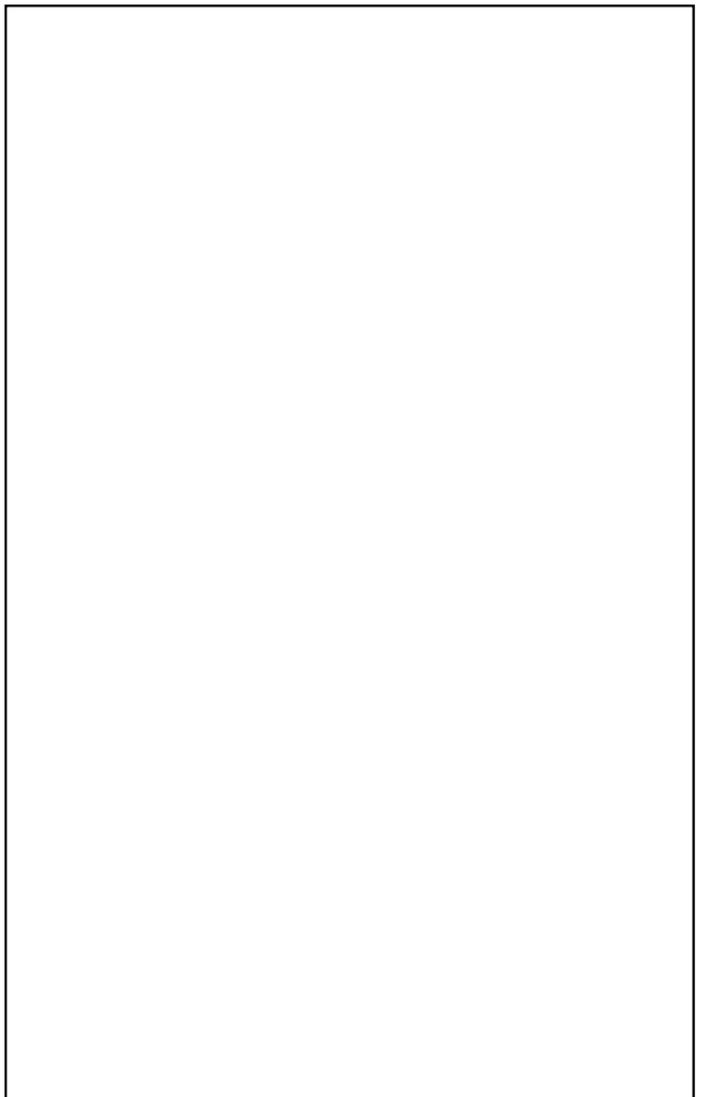
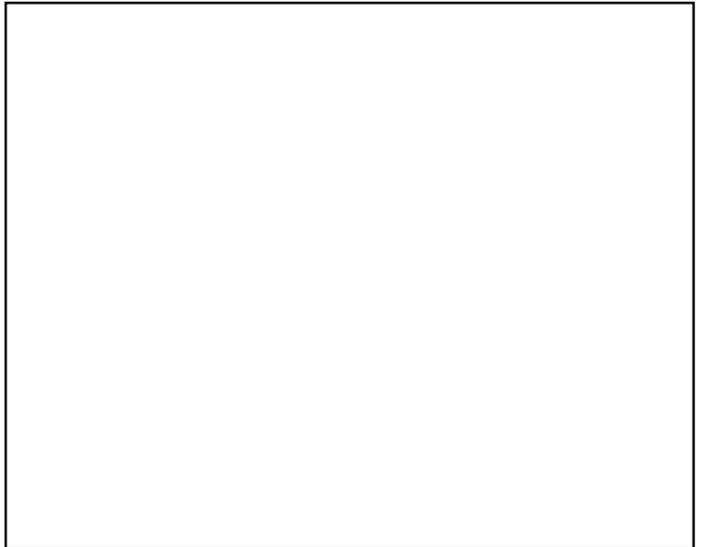
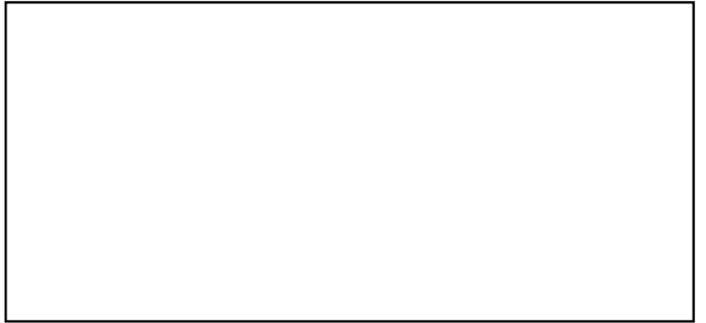




Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

A somber moment...

Airman 1st Class Sean Neal, 47th Mission Support Squadron, reads a poem he wrote during the Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon Jan. 16 at Club XL. The luncheon, organized by the Laughlin Black Heritage Committee, was held to remember the civil rights hero.





Graduation



SUPT Class 04-04 graduates



Capt. Casey Ratliff
F-16
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Brian Bennett
KC-135 (ANG)
Pease ANGB, N.H.



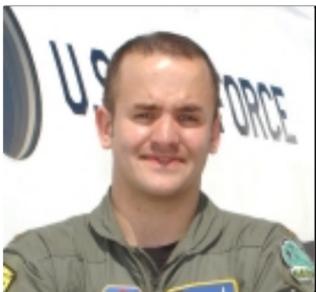
2nd Lt. Timothy Chapman
T-6
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. James Ferris
T-6
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Glenn Garcia
C-17
McCord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Donald Hicks
KC-135
Robins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Benjamin Horton V
E-3
Tinker AFB, Okla.



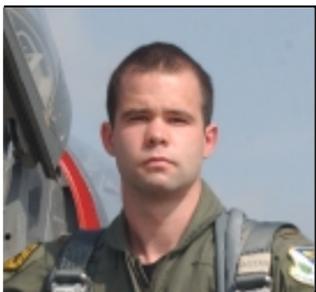
2nd Lt. Rebb Jones
C-17
McCord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Chris Lazidis
F-15C
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Reuben Litton
C-5
Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Nathan Loucks
T-6
Laughlin AFB



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



2nd Lt. Michael Montier
KC-135
RAF Mildenhall, England



2nd Erik Rathke
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Jason Shemchuk
A-10
Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Shad Stromberg
F-16 (AFRES)
Hill AFB, Utah



2nd Lt. Mark Suthard
E-8
Robins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Robert West
KC-10
Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Robert Williams
C-21
Andrews AFB, Md.

Legal Spotlight

New law requires cars to slow down

By Capt. Preston Young
Legal office

It once was common courtesy to slow down or pull over for stationary emergency vehicles, but now, the Texas State Legislature has made it a state law.

Senate Bill 193 requires motorists to vacate the lane closest to an emergency vehicle when driving on a highway with two or more lanes traveling in the emergency vehicle's direction or slow down to at least 20 mph below the posted speed limit if the posted speed limit is 25 mph or more. If the posted speed limit is less than 25 mph, motorists cannot exceed 5 mph.

A violation of SB 193 is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$200. If the violation results in property dam-

age then the misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of \$500. If the violation causes bodily injury then it's classified as a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000 and up to 180 days in jail.

This law amends the Texas Transportation Code and is likely to be vigorously enforced by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Slowing down is particularly important for the stretch of road between Del Rio and Uvalde, where much of the highway is one lane. Therefore, anyone approaching a DPS trooper who has pulled over a motorist for a traffic infraction on Highway 90 should either move over or slow down, or face being ticketed for violating SB 193.

The grace period for issuing warnings is over. Tickets have already been issued for

violations in San Antonio as reported by a servicemember last week who had the misfortune of not knowing about the law and getting a ticket. Ignorance is not a defense; consider yourself warned – slow down!

SB 193, which became law on Sept. 1, 2003, is targeted to protect the safety of police officers, firefighters and paramedics after a series of accidents (some fatal) and "near misses" involving stationary emergency vehicles and impatient or aloof drivers. There also had been a rise of stranded motorist injuries and deaths caused by speeding cars.

Law enforcement and emergency personnel applaud the law and view it as a life-saving measure for themselves, accident victims and bystanders.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Take that, Winnie...

Skyler Werley, daughter of Angie and Robert Werley, a T-1 avionics technician here, takes a swing at a piñata during Wednesday's Winnie the Pooh Family Night Out at the Fiesta Center. The center offers family night regularly for children of all ages, featuring a themed evening with food, games and prizes.

**ONLINE
news**

Access breaking news at United States Air Force Online News, the official newspaper of the United States Air Force. Simply go to www.af.mil/news/ and stay informed about events.

Are you supporting your commissary?

Did you know the commissary offers many advantages over shopping elsewhere?

- It offers savings upward of 30 percent over other stores.
- Periodic case lot sales can save the consumer 45 to 50 percent.

- By giving the commissary your e-mail address you can receive the Commissary News Letter every month to learn what is on sale.

- Without support, commissaries could become a thing of the past.

Phones, from page 1

voice-mail users on base.

In a cooperative effort, 47th Medical Group and 47th Communications Squadron professionals are performing the project's most critical work after duty hours to minimize impact to patients.

The first three phases of the five-phase project involve upgrading the hardware and software of the base telephone system, which is necessary to handle the new features supporting the clinic.

The last two phases involve changing the configuration of the clinic telephone system and installing new clinic telephone instruments.

Central to this upgrade plan is the Automatic Call Distribution System, a powerful call-routing and reporting feature for the appointment desk. This system provides the capability to effectively route calls to available attendants, queue or stack calls, let callers know the estimated time until their call is answered, and call detail data reports.

The reports feature will identify to managers the quantity of calls received, waiting

times for calls to be answered, average duration of calls and peak calling periods. Armed with this information, management will know how many attendants are needed and at what times to best meet patient needs.

The new voice-mail system is the next-generation version of the existing one with a faster, more powerful processor and revised software. Once activated, the new system will require current voice-mail users to create a new, compliant password.

Instructions for accessing the new voice-mail system, changing passwords and creating personal announcements will be publicized via a Notice to Airman (NOTAM) and in the weekly Laughlin Bulletin.

"Easy access to medical care and appointments is one of the primary elements of satisfactory medical care," said Col. Chuck Hardin, 47th MDG commander. "Between online appointment access (www.tricareonline.com) and the new phone system, we hope to achieve new levels of customer satisfaction in accessing medical care at the Laughlin clinic."

Check us out online...

Click on the Laughlin home page link for an electronic version of the Border Eagle or log on to: <http://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/ftworg/pabasepaper/index.html>



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.

Building 256 edges out competition

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public Affairs

It's party time for enlisted dormitory residents who live in Building 256.

Participants representing the dorm defeated Building 255 in the recent Dorm World competition, winning the top prize of a party with a DJ. The 47th Services Division announced the winning dorm Tuesday.

The competition was an Air Education and Training Command initiative during the holiday season to provide permanent-party dorm residents an opportunity to compete in a series of contests against other dorms for prizes, said Dave Leighton of the services division.

With support from 47th Services and Top Three members, dorm participants confronted each other in events such as bowling and dorm decorating contests, jigsaw puzzle assembly and a Wacky Olympics which included a tricycle rally, balance beam and water bucket race. After the final scores were tallied for each event, Building 256 edged Building 255 by a score of 28 to 27.

The winning dorm received a trophy along with free T-shirts. Plaques will be presented to winners in each category. Building 256 won the puzzle assembly and bowling event as Building 255 prevailed in the Wacky Olympics and dorm decorating contest.

Laughlin has only two dormitories, and with Building 255 coming in second, the competition rules state that its

residents also win a party, but without a DJ. Dorm residents will be notified of the time and date of their parties.

Although overall event participation was less than what organizers hoped for, residents who did turn out to participate had a great time, said Mr. Leighton.

"The competition gave dorm residents here something to do and provided an opportunity for them to interact with each other and promote teamwork," he said.

Airman Kristel Knowles thought the competition was a great idea. "It's not every day you are offered a night of free bowling for you and all of your friends, or an excuse to ride around on tricycles followed by a pizza party," she said. "Many dorm residents participated in the competition to support their building, (but also) had a fun time doing it."

Airman Knowles said the fact the competition was something completely new motivated some of the dorm residents to get involved. "I'm sure the party that will be thrown for the winning building had something to do with it also," she added.

The dorm council had begun sponsoring events such as pool parties and barbecues on a monthly basis, according to Airman 1st Class Christina Yatsko, council president.

"When the Dorm World challenge was first introduced, these monthly events were put on hold," she said. "But, I see similar events taking place in the future again."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Airman 1st Class Juan Gallo, 47th Medical Operations Squadron medical technician, competes in a tricycle relay during Dorm World's Wacky Olympics Jan. 10. Airman Gallo's dorm, Building 256, won the overall Dorm World contest, 28-27.

Airman Yatsko said that although there was a slight hint of competitiveness between the buildings, the competition was mostly done in a fun, joking way.

"In the end, the Dorm World competition boosted morale and increased camaraderie, not only within each building, but between both buildings," she said.

The dorm council president em-

phasized there could have been more participation from residents, although the people who did participate made the overall competition a success.

"(What) dorm residents need to remember is that if the participation isn't there, these types of activities most likely will not be offered as much as they currently are," she added. "In order to keep it going, we need to keep people involved."

Air Force Television News spotlights contributions

SAN ANTONIO – The last of four special editions of Air Force Television News focuses on Air Force people and some of the outstanding contributions they have made to the service's mission and to their communities during 2003.

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

In the first segment, Staff Sgt. Joe Wallace discovers what life is like for an airman who cares for her family while her husband is deployed to Southwest Asia. Staff Sgt. Bronwyn Tardo is given exclusive access to a

couple who faced domestic violence while stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, to show how an Air Force program helped. Tech. Sgt. Pachari Lutke profiles an airman from Iraq who had to flee his country and is now a translator at the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In Part 2, Tech. Sgt. Rusty Barfield shows how the Hawaiian school system evolved from one of the worst in the nation to one of the best, thanks to servicemembers. Staff Sgt. Leigh Bellinger tells the story of an Air Force reservist who finds aluminum cans along his postal routes and uses the money from recycling the cans to help

a local, inner-city school. Sergeant Tardo visits Malmstrom AFB, Mont., for the story about dozens of dogs and cats who can thank a caring airman for getting a second chance at life.

In the final segment, Tech. Sgt. Bill Scherer and Sergeant Wallace showcase an Air National Guard senior airman who, with no regard to her own safety, single-handedly prevented a neighbor from possibly being killed by a mugger; then helped police find and capture the man. Sergeant Lutke talks with the widow of a parascueman about her decision to make the Air Force a career as a legacy to her late husband.

This edition of AFTVN was produced and anchored by Staff Sgt. April Lawrence.

Air Force Television News is a bi-weekly production of Air Force News Service. It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide, and is seen on more than 700 cable 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.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

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, 11:30 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.

Cold war relic plays large role in war on terror

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Davidson
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

KARSHI-KHANABAD AIRFIELD, Uzbekistan – At first glance, the little-known airfield in Karshi-Khanabad, often called K-2, appears to be nothing more than a sleepy, little whistle-stop for aircraft supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

For airmen assigned to the 416th Air Expeditionary Group here, and the aircrews they support, the base and its mission represent an important role in winning the war on terrorism.

Situated on a wind-swept plateau in the southwest corner of the former Soviet state of Uzbekistan, K-2 is a relic of the Cold War, but a place hundreds of deployed airmen and soldiers now call “home.”

Although seldom mentioned in the news, K-2 is becoming well known by military aircrews. The base supports countless heavy-airlift and transport aircraft, and before an aircrew even touches down on the base’s short, crumbling runway, an orchestra of people is already on-hand to welcome them.

Teams representing transient alert, the command post and combat weather anticipate the needs of all visitors and aircraft. When an aircraft taxis to a stop, forklifts are standing by to off-load cargo and fuel trucks are close behind, waiting for their cue.

Passengers are greeted by a base representative before they even step off the plane and then are ushered to a bus, parked just a few feet from the aircraft.

If the airfield crews are the orchestra, then the conductor is Col. Tim Vining, 416th AEG commander.

Colonel Vining often can be found around the flightline mingling with his people. He has become known for his love of photography, and many supervisors here and back home receive regular e-mail from Colonel Vining with words of praise and photos of their airmen hard at work.

Deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., the colonel is fiercely proud of his people’s accomplishments. He challenges those under his command to do their part in contributing to the base’s reputation for excellence.

“We work together, Army and



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Davidson

Staff Sgt. Shannon Barry (left) and Tech. Sgt. Bill Curtis prepare a visiting C-17 Globemaster III for refueling. Both sergeants are transient alert specialists with the 416th Expeditionary Operations Group.

Air Force, to accomplish a vital mission,” he said. “It doesn’t matter what service tag is on your uniform, we are all here for a common purpose.”

For the crew of a C-17 Globemaster III from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., K-2 is an oasis in the barren, rocky landscape that is common to this part of the world.

“Landing here is always a relief when flying missions that often last 26 hours and longer,” said Maj. Bob Rowe, a C-17 pilot with McChord’s 97th Airlift Squadron. “These people are always right on it. This is my sixth time here, and we are always provided everything we need, without even having to ask. They even help clean the aircraft.”

The 416th AEG airmen have set records within the region for quick-turning aircraft, and have even had a C-17 fueled, serviced, cleaned and back on the runway in about 40 minutes.

Like finely tuned instruments, each duty section must play in harmony with the others to get the job done. While crews are working aircraft, a three-man weather team is providing eyes-forward information for the aircrews.

“We take the overall weather forecast for the region and tailor it to

each specific crew and mission,” said Staff Sgt. John Rogers, a 416th AEG weather craftsman deployed from Vance AFB, Okla.

Working 24-hour operations, the weather crew provides two-day forecasts to the base’s rescue units, and on-the-spot forecasts to transient crews.

The aircrews never have to walk more than a few steps to find the support they need. After receiving their weather briefing, the command post staff is on-hand with a quick-reaction checklist.

“We update command staff on all events, and help coordinate all maintenance activities,” said Senior Airman Orlando Brown, a 416th AEG Command Post technician deployed from Kadena Air Base, Japan. Airman Brown juggles the needs of aircraft on the ground while working three steps ahead and projecting the needs of inbound aircraft.

Many airmen here are due to return home soon, but continue to focus on the tasks at hand. This is true for Staff Sgt. Lance Harris, deployed from Holloman AFB, N.M.

“It’s not just a matter of getting the job done,” he said. “It’s a matter of doing the job in the best way possible and leaving things better than we found them.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Davidson

Staff Sgt. Shannon Barry waits among C-130 Hercules aircraft on the ramp here to guide an arriving aircraft in for servicing. Sergeant Barry is a transient alert specialist with the 416th Expeditionary Operations Group.

AAFES helping deployed troops

By K.L. Vantran
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Since setting up a mobile store at Tallil Air Base, Iraq, in April, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service continues providing “a little bit of home” to deployed troops.

There are 30 exchanges in Iraq and 52 throughout operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, said Judd Anstey, AAFES public affairs specialist. Besides these stores, AAFES supports troops in isolated and hostile areas, with 80 unit-run stores and mobile operations called PX Rodeos.

AAFES recently broke ground for new stores in Mosul and at Kirkuk AB. The stores carry assortments of snacks, beverages and personal hygiene products, as well as the latest in electronics, DVDs, CDs and souvenirs, Mr. Anstey said.

AAFES also has answered the troops’ craving for fast food. Three Burger Kings and two Pizza Huts operate in Iraq, and as soon as AAFES gets a “green light” it will provide more Whoppers and personal pan pizzas, he said.

The Burger King at Baghdad International Airport, which operates out of a trailer, has become one of the top 10 Burger King restaurants in the world, he said.

“Providing support to our troops deployed in (Southwest Asia) is the most important job we’ll ever do,” said Army Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, AAFES commander. “We’re determined to do whatever is

necessary to bring a little bit of home to those troops willing to fight for us. Whether it’s beverages and snacks or the latest music and videos, we’ll move heaven and earth to get U.S. merchandise to our troops wherever they are.”

The general said it had been a real challenge in the last several years as U.S. forces have been sent to remote and hostile regions, but AAFES is proud it can continue its pledge to them: “We go where you go.”

“The connection to home that a PX or BX can provide at what seems like the end of the earth is the quality of life troops deserve and that AAFES will deliver,” said General Frost.

More than 240 AAFES employees – all volunteers – work in Iraq, and 163 more are in Kuwait.

“The associates who deploy to these contingency operations put their lives on hold, leave family, comfort and safety behind just to take care of troops,” said General Frost. “That’s a level of commitment that is hard to find, and they do it because they truly believe they are serving the best customers in the world.”

Craig Sewell, vice president for services at AAFES’ Dallas headquarters, spent nearly a year in the war-torn countries of Afghanistan and Iraq, helping to set up exchanges and food concessions. In April, while fighting was still going on in Baghdad, he flew into Tallil AB on a C-130 Hercules to determine the best place for the PX.

Those who went on the reconnaissance mission brought whatever AAFES

The *XLer*

Tracy Moreno
47th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate

Hometown: San Antonio
Family: Husband, Mark; daughters, Alyssa and Taylor
Time at Laughlin: Eight years
Time in civil service: Six years
Greatest accomplishment: My beautiful daughters
Hobbies: Home improvement
Bad habit: Indecisiveness
Favorite movie: “When Harry Met Sally”
Favorite musician: Red Hot Chili Peppers
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be? My grandmother.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

merchandise they could carry in backpacks, he said. The group also brought footlockers full of sundry items.

“Whatever we could drag in, we did,” Mr. Sewell said. “The troops were elated. They hadn’t seen any of the items we brought, such as sports drinks, in a long time.”

Mr. Sewell described the conditions in Iraq as “austere and hostile.” There was limited infrastructure, buildings were run down with broken windows and there was no running water, he said. Establishing exchange facilities presented many challenges. The infrastructure has improved since those first days, but

running water still is a big challenge, said the 26-year AAFES veteran.

AAFES employees follow security guidelines and adhere to safety precautions such as traveling in convoys, said Mr. Sewell. They travel by military air and have helicopter support.

“We’re embedded with the military,” he said. “We’re in the same camps that have incoming mortars. We sleep, eat and bathe in the same facilities.”

Melanie White, a sales area manager from the Tinker Air Force Base Exchange in Oklahoma, spent May through November at Bagram AB, Afghanistan.

“Living conditions were

pretty basic,” she said. “We lived in tents, used portapotties and most of the time had no air conditioning. We lived just like the soldiers.”

Even when the troops did not say anything, Ms. White said she knows they appreciated the presence of AAFES. “You could see it in their eyes, especially the soldiers who only got to come in once a month from the mountains where they were hunting the Taliban.”

There were others who voiced their thanks.

“They just couldn’t believe we’d have their favorite brand of chip, tobacco or CD,” she said. And there were those who were “just glad to see a smiling face.”



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nichole Adamowicz

Squeaky clean...

Airman 1st Class Abram Groves cleans the intake of an F-15 Eagle at a forward-deployed location. Intakes usually get cleaned every other week. Airman Groves is a crew chief with the 391st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron.

ONLINE news

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

Fitness pros go to Lackland to get specialized

Three Laughlin members taught healthy living habits by experts

By Wayne Amann
37th Services Marketing
and Publicity

The Air Force "fit to fight" commitment was reinforced command-wide at Lackland's Health and Wellness Center during a weeklong course on healthy living habits taught by hired experts.

Three Laughlin and 30 other fitness professionals representing all Air Education and Training Command bases graduated Jan. 9 from the Physical Fitness Specialist Course. The course was given by instructors from the Cooper Institute, a nationally recognized organization specializing in preventive medicine research and education.

Staff Sgt. Steven Taylor, Senior Airman Crystal Morris and Airman 1st Class Israel Revuelta, all of the 47th Services Division, were chosen to attend the fitness clinic. They each received certification letters Tuesday and are now official fitness leaders for Team XL.

Cooper's certification program enables military fitness instructors to train service members in physical activity and administer the annual physical fitness test, now a 1.5 mile run, push-ups and sit-ups.

But, it doesn't stop there.

"It's not about the test. That's just a barometer to measure how people stack up to the Air Force

standard," said Roger Reynolds, Cooper director of contract relations for education and certification. "Our goal is to help promote a healthy and physically active lifestyle in today's military."

Mr. Reynolds, a former wide receiver with the National Football League's New York Giants in the mid-'60s, has been with Cooper for more than 20 years delivering fitness certification programs to all branches of the federal government, including all service branches.

The AETC group was schooled in coronary risk factors, medical assessments, exercise physiology, anatomy, strength training, nutrition, goal setting and leadership. This is the first course customized to meet the specific needs of Air Force fitness trainers.

"We're not looking for them to just earn our certifications," said Mr. Reynolds, who conducted the five-day curriculum with co-instructor John Poteet. "We're here to help the Air Force provide excellent fitness leadership."

The Cooper Institute interprets fit to fight as protecting yourself and others. That's the approach it uses when working with law enforcement agencies to help them understand fitness as it relates to their job.

In the post-9/11 world, the job of military readiness is viewed as a necessary

byproduct of physical training. Global deployments where GIs fight with little sleep and eat whatever's available while battling oppressive weather conditions, make fit to fight much more than a catch phrase. It means mission accomplishment.

"You've got 60-thousand miles of blood vessels, 650 muscles, 206 bones and seven miles of nerves all connected by a powerful spirit," Mr. Reynolds explained. "There's one moment when you have to have the whole body and mind connect. We help people understand how critically important it is to perform when you have to."

The current AETC class joins nearly 15,000 military fitness instructors Cooper professionals have taught during the last 10 years.

LCSAM takes down OSS, 49-36

By Airman 1st Class
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

The Laughlin Consolidated Services Aircraft Maintenance basketball team defeated the 47th Operations Support Squadron, 49-36, in an intramural basketball game Wednesday at the fitness center.

While LCSAM held a comfortable lead for most of the game and ended up winning by 13, the game appeared to be closer than the score indicated with OSS looking as if they were going to break out and score big at any minute.

LCSAM took control of the game early. Led by the play of Ryan Dobbins and Pete Cervantez, LCSAM quickly went up 14-2. OSS countered with a three-point shot of their own, but LCSAM quickly went down court to score again with a layup.

It was like this for much of the game. Every time it looked like OSS was ready to make a comeback, LCSAM would quickly turn the tables on them and extend their lead.

The key to this fact was that LCSAM was hitting many of their open shots. OSS had many chances during the first half to put up points but failed to hit many open jump shots. That, combined with too many unforced turnovers, led to a halftime score of 30-13 in favor of LCSAM.

Cervantez led all scorers at the half with nine points. Dobbins had eight.

OSS continued their struggles in the beginning of the second half. They turned the ball over several times and missed more jump shots. LCSAM capitalized on those mistakes and soon led, 36-15.

Halfway through the second half OSS started scoring more points.

Led by Glenn Griggs, OSS scored eight quick points to bring the game to within 13 points. But, like the first half, LCSAM clamped down and stopped any rally the OSS started.

OSS had another push late in the half where they brought the score to within 11, but that would be as close as they got.

The final score was LCSAM, 49, OSS, 36.

Cervantez and Dobbins each had 13 points to lead LCSAM in scoring. Griggs led OSS with 11, all of them in the second half.

The win brings LCSAM's record to 1-1. The loss also brings OSS's record to 1-1.

After almost two weeks of intramural basketball, the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron Team A is in first place of the Western Conference with a record of 4-0, and LCSAM is in first place of the Eastern Conference with a record of 1-0.

Basketball standings

(As of Thursday)

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L
86th	1-0
84/85th	2-1
LCSAM	1-1
OSS	1-1
87th	1-1

Western Conference

Team	W-L
CES A	4-0
CCS	3-1
SFS	3-1
CES B	2-3
MSS/WING	1-3
MED A	1-4
MED B	0-2