

For more on POW/MIA Day events, see pages 10 and 11

Border Eagle

Vol. 52, No. 38

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

Sept. 24, 2004



Honoring the fallen...

(Right) Senior Airman Boniface Sapno, a member of the 47th Security Forces Squadron, presents arms with the POW flag as Airman 1st Class Yvette Myers of the 47th Comptroller Squadron stands vigil at the wing flag pole during POW/MIA day Sept. 17. (Above) Inscription with Lt. Jack Thomas Laughlin's portrait, the first member of Del Rio to lose his life during World War II, on the wing flag pole in Heritage Park.



Photos by Capt. Paula Kurtz

Newslines

Pass and ID closure

The 47th Security Forces Squadron Pass and ID office will be closed Oct. 1 for relocation into the administration section of Building 139.

The Pass and ID office will reopen 9:30 a.m. Oct. 4.

For details, call 298-5349.

Laughlin Drive closure

Laughlin Drive will be closed from Fourth Street to Liberty Drive for maintenance from Oct. 4 to 18.

Also, from Oct. 18 to 20 Laughlin Drive will be closed from Liberty Drive to Second Street for maintenance.

For details, call 298-4924.

FY04 tuition assistance ends

Education and Training Flight here will not issue Tuition Assistance for Fiscal Year 2004 after today. If your course starts before Sept. 30, contact the education office immediately. Members who have already received TA will not be affected.

For details, call 298-5520.

Re-enlistment/promotion

A re-enlisted and promotion ceremony is set for 3 p.m. Thursday at Club Amistad.

For details, call 298-5520.

Deployment stats

Deployed:	64
Returning in 30 days:	4
Deploying in 30 days:	5

Mission status

(As of Wednesday)

Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -7.30	T-1, 2.36
T-38, 5.62	T-6, -7.00

Mission capable rate:

T-37, 87.2%	T-1, 87.1%
T-38, 68.4%	T-6, 82.9%

Firefighters tackle truck blaze

By Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
public affairs

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – More than 30 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters responded to a fuel truck fire here Sept. 14 after a fuel pump triggered a blaze near the base's Dining Facility.

The fire started while base workers were transferring fuel from the truck into a fuel tank near the Dining Facility. The blaze destroyed the truck and a power generator near the fuel

tank, but base officials credit the rapid fire department response with keeping the blaze from spreading to other equipment and buildings in the area.

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Cavaliero, 506th ECES fire chief, said the fire presented some challenges for his team, which included firefighters from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., Laughlin AFB, Texas, and Little Rock AFB, Ark.

"This was pretty significant, because we don't have the assets that we have at a normal base (fire) station," he said. "The firefighters were

in the 'baked potato' suits as we call them – the proximity gear – and the sheer heat wears them down quicker. We also have a water problem, because we don't have hydrants like we do in the States. Fortunately we had (3,000-gallon trucks), and those trucks were indispensable in helping us put the fire out."

The sergeant, who is deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, credited training Air Force firefighters receive while attending

See 'Firefighters', page 6

Medical group prepares for inspection



Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. Susan Baker
47th Medical Support Squadron
commander

Compliance inspections. They have to be something almost everyone loves to hate. It seems we in the military have enough inspections that we should always be compliant with every rule, requirement, law, or interest item.

But, the truth is, inspections have their places in our lives.

In a few days, a 12-person inspection team will arrive at the Medical Group. Some of the visitors will be civilians from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. Some of the inspectors will be active duty members from the Air Force Inspection Agency.

According to the website, www.jcaho.org, the Joint Commission grew out of a desire on

the part of medical doctors to track the end result of patient interactions with hospitals.

Beginning in 1951, this organization began reviewing the care provided in hospitals against a set of standards and offered accreditation to hospitals meeting those standards in 1953. Today, the Joint Commission surveys and accredits over 15,000 healthcare organizations internationally. Accreditation by the Joint Commission demonstrates a commitment to excellence in the provision of healthcare through all the places patients, their safety, and medical decisions interact.

This year, the Joint Commission will examine patient appointments to learn how care was provided, what supplies were required, what personnel were on duty, how those personnel were trained, what services or medications were used by the patients and providers, and how patients and staff perceive the quality of their visits.

The visitors will also examine our record-keeping in various charts, databases, and computer systems as well as our reporting

mechanisms outside our organization.

The Health Services Inspection team will review all of the parts of our provision of care that don't fall into the Joint Commission. These inspectors will examine our disaster response, our readiness to deploy medics and our interaction with units and personnel from across the base and community to deploy others. They will also examine the support we provide to the base and community in the areas of public health, disease and vector management, prevention, and flying safety.

The men and women of the 47th Medical Group are understandably anxious to demonstrate to these folks that the medical group rocks!

We know there is a lot at stake, and we know the inspectors will leave Laughlin with the knowledge that we are committed to excellence, provide outstanding patient care, and are sincerely concerned about improving the care we provide in this community.

Bring it on – we're ready!

War on terror: testing, reinforcing our concepts

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The war on terrorism is teaching Air Force leaders important lessons and validating others, said Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche.

It is emphasizing the success of the air and space expeditionary force, the importance of joint operations and the critical contribution of the Guard and Reserve in the total force, he said.

Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan underscore the value of the air and space expeditionary force, a highly specialized force Secretary Roche said is "able to respond in an instant's notice to be able to go great distances.

"We used to think that the most important thing was our base back home in the United

States," the secretary said. "But increasingly, it is our performance in an expeditionary setting that is the most important thing that we do. And what we do back in the United States is prepare to go and deploy." Frequent operational deployments keep Airmen in AEFs trained for whatever missions come their way, Secretary Roche said. When the Air Force flew into Afghanistan during the first night of Operation Enduring Freedom, for example, he said, 70 to 75 percent of the Air Force pilots involved had already been combat tested. This was from 12 years of patrolling the northern and southern Iraqi sky during operations Northern Watch and Southern Watch using the AEF concept. "We were able to raise the pond of competence across our whole Air Force," Secretary Roche said. "So when

we were called on to go to war, we didn't have to train anybody."

Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom are also helping speed up what Secretary Roche called "a natural evolution" toward joint operations among the military services.

"Therefore, it is natural that we do things in a joint way."

The war on terrorism has caused the services to focus closely on who was doing what and who could do it most efficiently, a process Secretary Roche said helped eliminate duplication.

"You differentiate by the competence of a particular service," he said. "We're continuing to work that through. We're learning from each other and

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Border Eagle

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Deadlines

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

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

Advertising

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

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

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

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

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

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Chapel	298-5111
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Contracting	298-5439
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
Finance	298-5204
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars."

— 47th Flying
Training Wing
mission statement

Nov. 2: Your vote counts

By Lt. Col. Robert DeStasio
1st Fighter Wing voting officer

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va.— It has been said before, but it bears repeating: Exercising our right to vote is the most fundamental and important responsibility we have as citizens of the United States.

Many Americans will vote in the November elections. Unfortunately, many will not.

Since 1972, less than 56 percent of voting-age eligible people actually cast their votes in federal elections. In non-presidential elections between 1972 and 1996, average voter turn out fell to less than 38 percent. Needless to say, the outcome of the highly contested presidential election of 2000 might have been different had more than 52 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots.

This year's federal elections will decide the president and vice president of the United States, more than 30 seats in the U.S. Senate and the entire House of Representatives. The people who are elected into these positions will

create policies that govern our way of life. Those who choose not to vote give up their chance to influence those policies as they are formed.

As active members of the military community, we have sworn to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic." It is what we do every day, whether we are at our home station or a deployed location. The Constitution, specifically amendments XV and XIX, gives us the priceless right to vote.

I find it ironic that in Afghanistan, Afghans are being murdered simply because they registered to vote. Yet, in America, the home of Afghanistan's liberators, voting has seemingly become almost an afterthought.

Our military lifestyle may complicate the voting process, but help is available to those who want it. Air Force units with more than 25 people have a voting assistance officer. Each has been trained to lend assistance with voter registration to

vote, requesting absentee ballots and answering questions about the process. If a voting officer hasn't contacted you already, seek one out.

The local military personnel flight can provide contact information if necessary. Also, important voting information is listed on the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site at www.fvap.gov

If you are one of the 48 percent of eligible Americans who are happy to sit by and let the other 52 percent make policy that affects your life, by all means, stay at home — but don't be surprised or disappointed if the people elected and the resulting policies aren't to your liking. Most people wouldn't let someone else take away their input in choosing a car or picking out their clothes.

Why let someone else choose your leadership?

Personally, I can't fathom why so many people decide not to participate in choosing their own government. Many non-voters say, "My vote doesn't count."

In truth, the only vote that doesn't count is the one that isn't cast.

War, from page 2

working very well together."

Airmen are already playing key roles supporting land forces, Secretary Roche said, not only in terms of getting the troops to the battlefield, but also in supporting their combat missions.

Besides providing precise, close-air support for ground troops, Secretary Roche said the Air Force works through its air commandos to provide direct, on-the-ground support to Navy SEALs and Army special forces troops. Airmen are also providing combat support to the Army. "We even had special-operations aircraft that, when they were not engaged in special operations, were then free for the air-component commander to assign to other missions," Secretary Roche said. He said the Air Force has learned the value of working closely with ground troops. "Our relation-

ship to land forces is a key to our future," he said. "So we are not just space. ... We have to think and work closely with land forces, special operations forces, Marine Corps (and the) Army so that they recognize that we are there for them."

The war on terrorism is also proving the value of Air Force technology, including unmanned vehicles and remotely piloted aircraft, Secretary Roche said.

"These things bring something to the battle that manned aircraft cannot," he said.

They are able to operate at long ranges and demonstrate "digital acuity," which Secretary Roche said means they do not tire as a human would.

"They're as sharp in the last hour of the mission as they are in the first hour of the mission," he said. "You can send them (to) very, very long ranges and keep

them there." But one of the most valuable features of unmanned vehicles and remotely piloted aircraft, Secretary Roche said, is that they never come home draped in an American flag.

"You can send them into dicey areas where, if they are shot down, you don't have to write a letter to the mother of a computer chip," he said. Secretary Roche said close-air support delivered by precision weapons from very high altitudes is another critical asset the Air Force is delivering to the war on terrorism.

"The integration of space as well as air-breathing assets and the information that they all combine to give to the air-component commander was just remarkably better than it had been before," Secretary Roche said. "The air-component commander, land-forces commander and maritime commander all benefited from that."

Sailors, Airmen can 'go green'

By Samantha L. Quigley
*American Forces
Press Service*

WASHINGTON — "Go Green" is not just the slogan of environmentalists anymore.

The Army is increasing its end strength, and Operation Blue to Green is one method being used to assist in reaching the desired end strength, said Lt. Col. Roy Steed, recruiting policy branch chief at the Army's personnel headquarters.

The Army is hoping to turn reductions in the Navy and Air Force to its advantage with the Blue to Green program announced by the Defense Department on July 29.

The goal is to recruit re-enlistment eligible servicemembers in grades E-1 to E-5 who are leaving the Navy or the Air Force but wish to stay in uniform, Colonel Steed said.

While some are concerned this increase is only temporary, these new Soldiers are being recruited for the long term, to complete a career in the military, Colonel Steed said.

If the time comes for the Army to scale back the additional end strength and return to its normal size, Blue to Green Soldiers will not be targeted, he said.

"They're part of the Army," Colonel Steed said. "They'll be treated just like any other Soldier. There's no way you'll go back and identify these people, and they would be the first to leave. They're now Soldiers."

Normal attrition would bring the Army back down to

its normal strength, he said.

So far, the program is seeing some success.

The first "class" has begun its four-week Warrior Transition Course at Fort Knox, Ky.

Ten former Sailors, two former Airmen and three former Marines will complete the newly conceived course as an orientation to the Army combined with training in some basic combat skills.

"It is not a basic-training environment," Colonel Steed said, because the participants are treated like noncommissioned officers.

The transition course is for all prior-service people requiring basic training and was specifically tailored to them.

It will give these new and returning Soldiers the required basic combat skills

and also provide them indoctrination into the Army culture. Those whose current military skill does not convert to an Army specialty will attend advanced individual training afterward, Colonel Steed said.

Candidates must be eligible for an honorable discharge, be physically fit, meet Army height and weight standards, accept a minimum three-year term of service and have the approval from their current service, according to the Army's Blue to Green Web site. Also, an eight-year total active/inactive service obligation still applies.

Recruiters can help can-

didates navigate the ins and outs of making the leap between services.

They also can explain the benefits of switching services, Colonel Steed said.

Joining the "Army of One" is an opportunity for servicemembers to continue to serve and use their already acquired skills, or receive

through the program, Colonel Steed said.

Families are allowed to stay in their current military housing while the candidate goes through training and will move to their new duty station only after the candidate's training is complete.

There are also re-enlistment bonuses if the candidate meets certain criteria, though there is no specific bonus for participating in Blue to Green.

It was none of these benefits, however, that enticed Senior Airman Louis Umensetter, currently stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., to land in the Blue to Green program.

He already was looking into transitioning to the Army because his wife, Army Spc. Amanda Umensetter, is a Soldier stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas.

He never hesitated, he said, and the transition has been pretty painless.

"It's been pretty smooth. I've never seen ... paperwork go through so fast in the military. I thought it was going to take at least two, three [or] four months," Airman Umensetter said.

But from start to finish, it took three weeks.

"I got my reply back from the Air Force I think in 48 hours," he said.

Airman Umensetter and his wife met while both were stationed in Korea.

She said they have been

married seven months and have never lived in the same place.

Being in the different services made it nearly impossible to be stationed together, he said.

"It's exciting," the Army specialist said about being able to do "married things" like shop for apartments and furniture with her husband when he arrives (at) Fort Bliss in November. "I'm (a little) nervous."

While his wife was his main reason for making the switch between services, it was not the only reason, Airman Umensetter said.

In Korea, he was stationed with an Army unit.

"I loved every day of it," he said. "(The Army) is a little more my speed."

With four years under his belt, Airman Umensetter plans to finish his 20 years in the Army, just as he would have in the Air Force.

He is set to report to the Fort Knox course at the end of September.

The benefits do not all belong to the candidates.

The Army, in recruiting former Sailors and Airmen, gets to build its end strength with experience.

That is a good thing for many reasons, not the least of which is that being able to put new Soldiers through the four-week course as opposed to the regular nine-week boot camp saves the Army five weeks of training, Colonel Steed said.

For more information on the Blue to Green program, candidates should talk to their recruiter or visit the Army's Blue to Green Web site.

**For details on
Operation
'Blue to Green'
visit [http://
www.goarmy.com/
btg/index.jsp](http://www.goarmy.com/btg/index.jsp)
or contact Master
Sgt. David
Hirtreiter at the
Military
Personnel Flight at
298-5074.**

Chapel information



Catholic

Monday - Friday ● Mass, 12:05 p.m.

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

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

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

Protestant

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

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

Chaplain Staff

Wing chaplain: Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim,
Roman Catholic

Senior Protestant: Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast,
Presbyterian Church, USA

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

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

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

Firefighters, from page 1
technical school at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, and home-station training with helping the diverse team work together to extinguish the blaze.

“They got off the trucks, they knew what they had to do ... they deployed the hand lines and put on all their

safety gear. Everyone worked as quickly as possible,” he explained. “There’s always some minor confusion at a fire scene, especially with a fire of this magnitude. But the guys did a great job pulling together.”

Airman 1st Class John Goodwin, a firefighter from Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, agreed with his fire



Photo by Staff Sgt. Adrian Cadiz

(Left) Airman 1st Class Michael McInnis and Senior Airman William Garrett prepare to battle a fire that erupted near the dining facility at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq Sept. 14. (Above) Airman Dustin Steffen looks on as fellow firefighters Staff Sgt. Brian Barnes and Airman 1st Class Michael McInnis rush in to battle the blaze. A fuel truck filling a tank made a spark that triggered the fire. Airman 1st Class John Goodwin, a 47th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter is deployed with this unit.

chief.

“I don’t think we could have gotten better training for it. We knew exactly what to do – knew exactly where to attack the fire,” the Airman said. “When we pulled up, there were a lot of flames, a lot of smoke. We just got off

the trucks, pulled some lines and started putting water on it.”

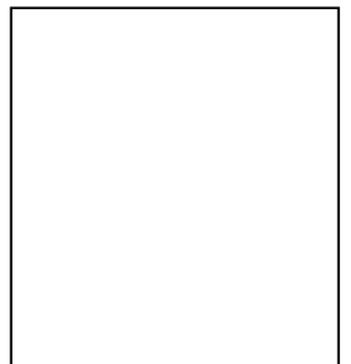
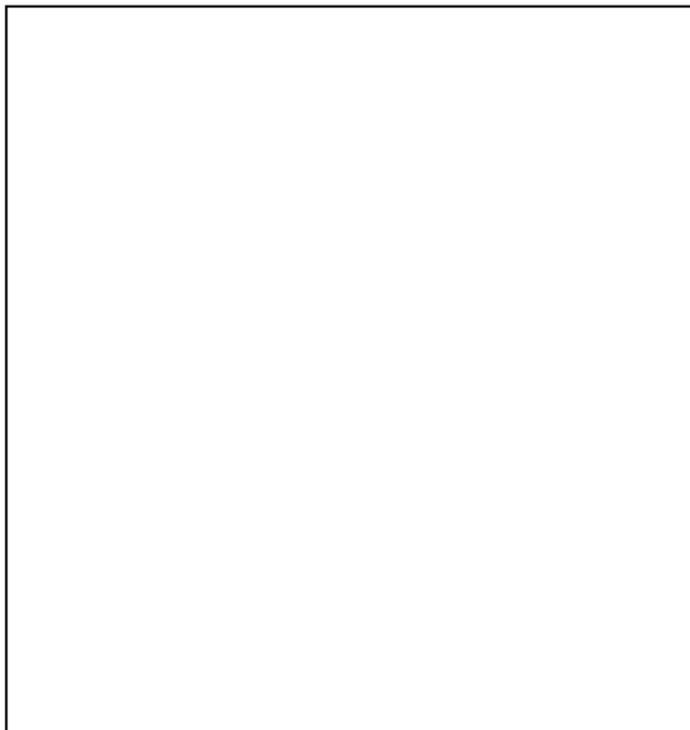
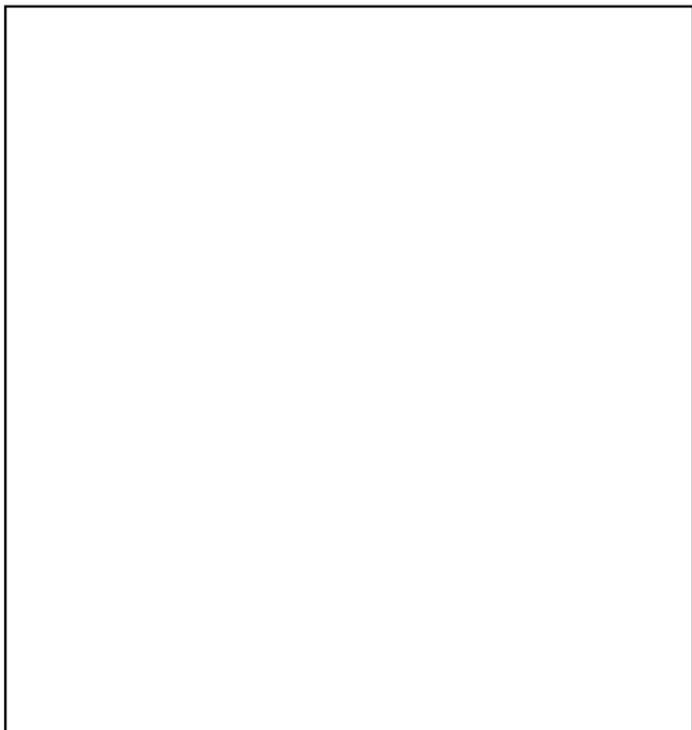
The Airman, a firefighter for nearly 18 months, said the blaze was the biggest he’s fought since completing his training. “I was a little nervous (driving up). We could

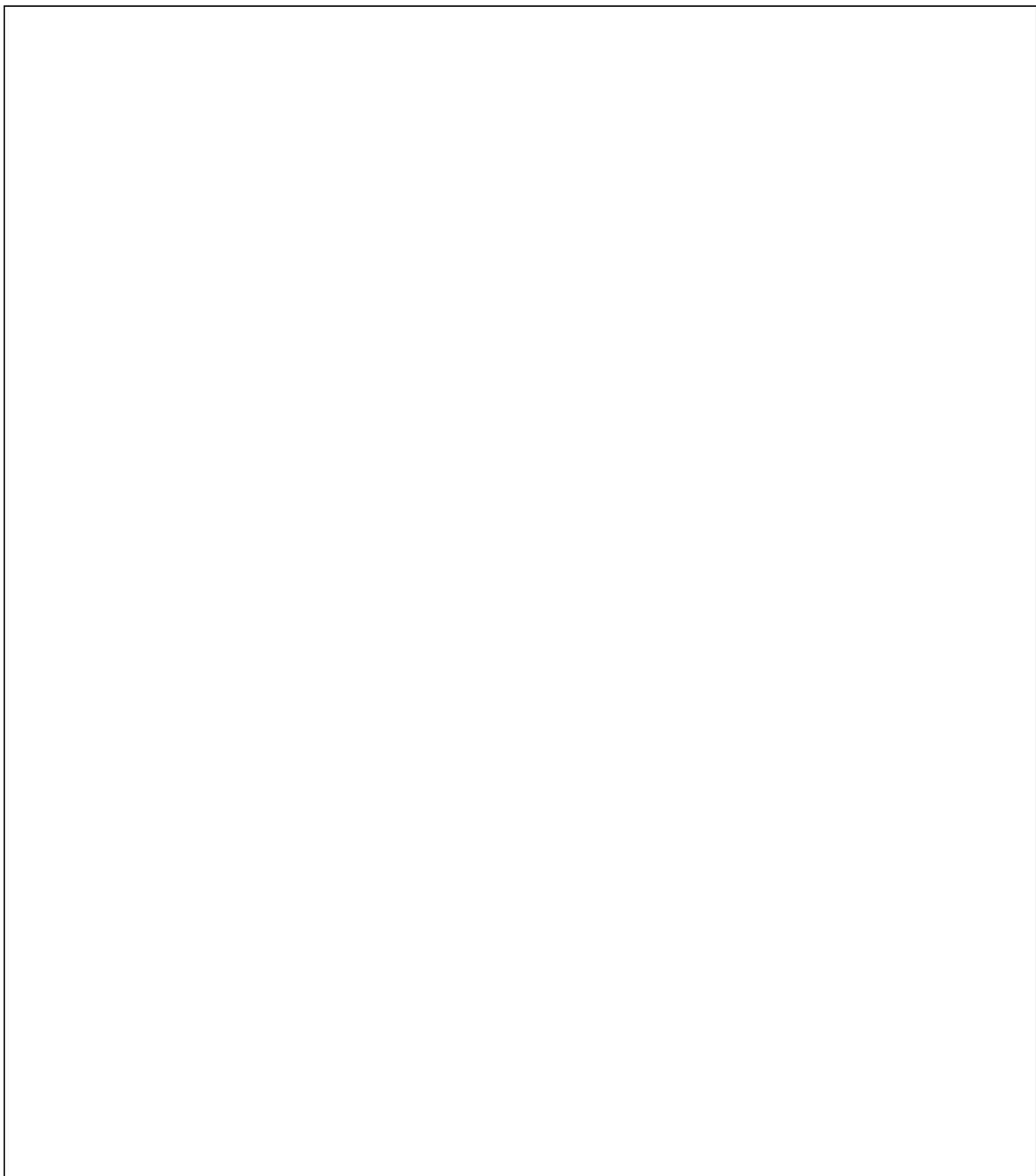
see the flames all the way from the (fire station on the other side of the base). But once you get in there, you forget all about it.”

Sergeant Cavaliero said the team did a great job responding quickly and removing the threat to other base facilities and personnel.

“The firefighters here at the 506th did a great job in putting this fire out,” he said.

“It easily could have caught the building behind us, which is the (Dining Facility). If it had spread to that, we would have had a lot bigger fire and we could have lost a lot of assets,” he added. “So they did a great job.”





Maxi-grinder saves Laughlin \$750K

Borrowed machinery makes mulch out of Laughlin trees

By Senior Airman
Timothy J. Stein
Public affairs

Laughlin saved at least \$750,000 recently by borrowing Lackland Air Force Base's Maxi-grinder to make woodchips for compost instead of buying its own.

The compost project, which ends today, began Sept. 13.

"The project makes Laughlin a good neighbor to the Del Rio community as well as a good steward of the environment," said Duane Wingate, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron pollution prevention manager.

The project takes fallen limbs and trees and turns them into wood chips. The Laughlin compost facility has been collecting debris for several years as a result of torrential storms, said Mr. Wingate.

"Laughlin has a wood chipper which can be used on small branches; currently however, it is inoperable and needs to be replaced," said Mr. Wingate. "The benefit of having Lackland's Maxi-grinder here at

Laughlin is that this piece of equipment has the capability of grinding very large pieces of wood where the smaller wood chipper did not have this capability."

In July, Mr. Wingate researched the surrounding area and found Lackland had a Maxi-grinder which Laughlin could borrow.

"The Maxi-grinder from Lackland is normally used to grind up demolished buildings," said Mr. Wingate. "But it works just as well with trees and limbs."

Instead of having to pay at least \$750,000 for a low-end machine to do the grinding, Laughlin was able to borrow Lackland's Maxi-grinder for the price of moving the machine here, fuel and the TDY expenses for the four-man team from 37th CES at Lackland.

The machine has a large grappling arm used to pick up the debris and place it in a large container where a piston forces the debris to be cut into small chips by going through several wheels that grind it up.

The cost-saving measure also has an profoundly positive environmental



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

A Maxi-grinder from Lackland Air Force Base picks up a downed tree and grinds it into woodchips at the Laughlin compost facility Sept. 14.

effect for the base, said Mr. Wingate. The recycling of the wood reduces landfill space and provides Laughlin with compost to use on base.

"We are utilizing the materials on base to help beautify Laughlin," he said.

Compost has many different uses. It increases soil moisture retention, infiltration and drainage; helps hold

and apply nutrients in the soil; reduces soil runoff and erosion, said Mr. Wingate.

People can use compost in their gardens to help plants grow better as well, he said.

Laughlin members wanting to use the compost, can call Del-Jen customer service at 298-5489 to set up an appointment.

Airmen remain in control of their futures

By Airman 1st Class
Sarah McDowell
325th Fighter Wing publicaffairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In spite of the Air Force's force-shaping measures, Airmen are learning they remain in control of their futures, even in over-manned career fields.

There are choices for those whose re-enlistments are coming up soon: retrain, join the Guard or Reserve, join the Army with "Operation Blue to Green" or separate, officials said.

"Any Airman in an over-manned career field needs to

start looking at his [or her] options now, retraining being first," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kahapea, 325th Fighter Wing career-assistance adviser here.

Airmen who think they are safe and will not be affected by force shaping will have it the hardest, because they have not planned for their future, he said.

There are 29 over-manned career fields, and out of those, 1,259 first-term Airmen have not received a career-job reservation, said Master Sgt. Dee Wolfe, Air Force Personnel Center non-commissioned officer in charge of personnel actions at

Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

Airmen will not be allowed to re-enlist without a CJR unless they have been selected for special duty or retraining, she said.

Therefore, Airmen in over-manned specialties applying for special duty are only safe for the time they serve that special duty since they still hold the same specialty code, said Staff Sgt. Clinton Minor, the center's NCO in charge of retraining.

These choices are part of the planning process for those who know they need to retrain, Sergeant Kahapea said. But for those who choose not to

plan, Air Force officials will give them two choices: Either retrain into what the Air Force needs or get out.

"We will try our best to get Airmen in jobs comparable to their current field," Sergeant Kahapea said.

When it comes to new opportunities, there are many choices for Airmen. Most can retrain into security forces and aircraft maintenance, but there are many more under-manned fields such as logistics planners, linguists and air-traffic controllers.

There are also many special-duty options, such as enlisted aircrew, from boom operator to flight engineer,

loadmaster and flight attendant. Also, there are spaces available in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, as well as a need for recruiters and military training instructors.

The Air Force has also changed the way it handles its business when it comes to recruiting and training.

"This initiative has changed our job as career-assistance advisers from retention specialists to force shapers," Sergeant Kahapea said. "The bottom line is Airmen have control over their career now, as long as they start planning as soon as they are notified."

AETC commander gives education update

By Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Right number, right skills, right training and right quality.

That is the bottom line, said Gen. Donald G. Cook, commander of Air Education and Training Command, when he gave his stakeholders' report at the Air Force Association's 2004 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition on Sept. 15.

AETC's three main missions are recruiting, training and education for the entire Air Force using more than 100,000 specialists at 13 bases.

General Cook said the Air Force had its best year in recruiting in 16 years, mainly because of the decision not to directly compete against the other services, an increase of 700 recruiters and a national advertising campaign. But he said 2005 will present challenges.

General Cook said, "2005 will

"We need to make sure we are taking the lessons from the global war on terror and applying them to (basic military training), or elsewhere, to ensure our Airmen are as best prepared as they possibly can be. To do that, we must define what those skills are."

--Gen. Donald G. Cook
Air Education and Training
Command commander

be a challenging year because we're going after 11,000 fewer recruits because of budget cuts."

"It will also be tougher because there are fewer areas for Airmen to be selected for," he said. "We're trying to get the best and brightest, but we have to wait to get the very best people for the high-tech Air Force."

The quality of recruits is outstanding, with 99 percent having high-school diplomas, General Cook said.

New recruits are also scoring in the top 80 percent on their entrance exams.

Some of the advancements General Cook discussed were developing interactive classrooms, Community College of the Air Force distance learning and incorporating lessons from the war on terrorism into the curriculum.

He also discussed consolidating initial flight training, developing the combat-systems officer concept, expanding professional military education and increasing international flight-training programs.

New AETC training programs will focus on expeditionary combat

skills for warfighters.

"We need to make sure we are taking the lessons from the global war on terror and applying them to (basic military training), or elsewhere, to ensure our Airmen are as best prepared as they possibly can be," the general said.

"To do that, we must define what those skills are," he said.

"The second thing is to determine where and how that training is conducted: in BMT, technical training, on the job, as unit training or just in time for regional training centers."

The most significant development was the accreditation of schools, General Cook said. "Finally, this past year we got accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award an accredited master's degree at the Air War College and Air Command and Staff College," the general said.

"In addition to that, we have another five year's accreditation for the Community College of the Air Force. This is a big, big deal."



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

(Above) Staff Sgt. Heinzl Jno-Baptiste (right), 47th Medical Support Squadron and honor guard member, lowers the American and POW flags during the retreat ceremony Sept. 17. Sergeant Jno-Baptiste is accompanied by (left) Staff Sgt. Mark Mercer, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron, and Senior Airman Valeria Perchina.

Base members **POW/MIA**

By Senior Airman
Timothy J. Stein
Public affairs

Prisoners of war and those missing in action were remembered here Sept. 17 with two air power calls and a formal POW/MIA retreat ceremony.

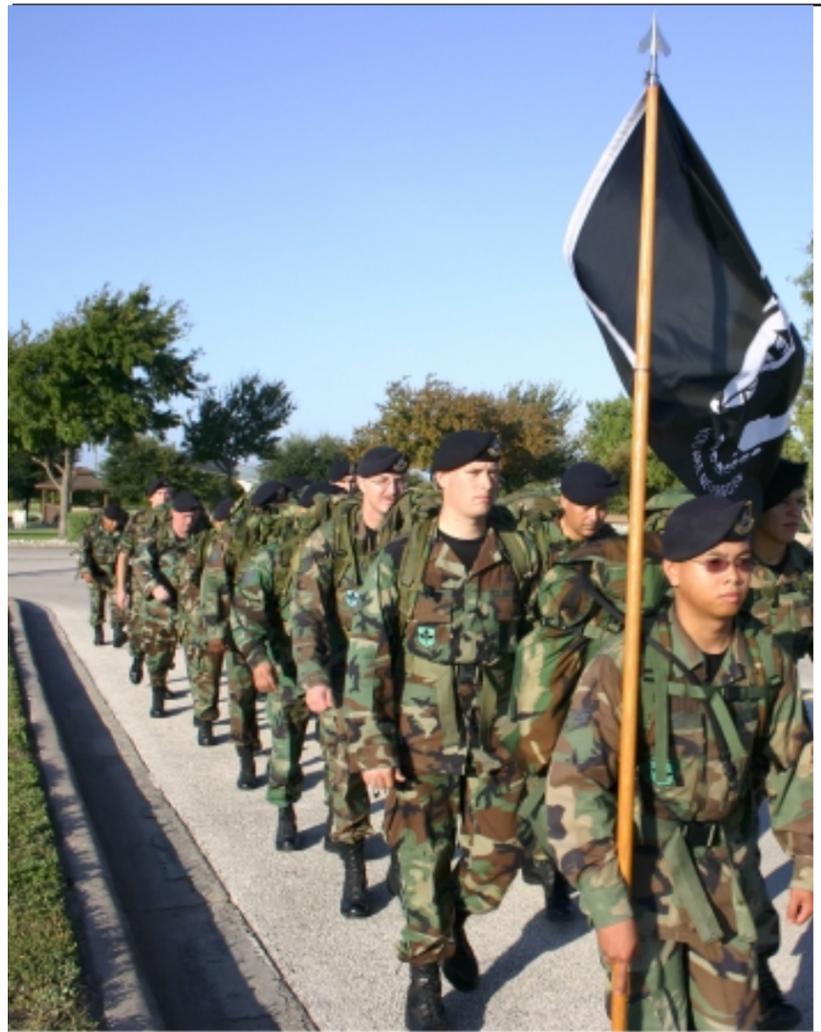
Retired Col. Frederick Kiley, co-author of the book *Honor Bound*, a history of American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia, was the guest speaker at the air power calls and retreat.

Dr. Kiley spoke of what life

was like for POWs during the air power call. He talked about how they communicated and explained the command structure.

"It is a compelling story," Dr. Kiley said while autographing copies of his book after one of the air power calls. "These people's stories are important and the suffering they went through for their country must be remembered."

Joining Dr. Kiley in the second air power call was Guadalupe Vargas, a local Del Rio artist and Vietnam veteran. He presented



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slide show of photos set to music and read one of his poems. His poems, along with displays of what life was like for POWs, were on display in Anderson Hall throughout the day.

The retreat, the first event to be held in the newly opened Laughlin Heritage Park, began with four Laughlin T-38s performing a missing man flyover. Col. Tod Wolters, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, spoke briefly about the importance of remembering POWs and MIAs before turning the

podium over to Mr. Vargas for a poem and Dr. Kiley as the guest speaker.

"I can't think of a better event to open Laughlin's new heritage park," said Colonel Wolters. "The people we honor today are true American heroes."

After Dr. Kiley's address, he and Colonel Wolters placed the ceremonial POW/MIA wreath in front of the flagpole before the Laughlin Honor Guard performed the formal retreat.

A short reception with cake and punch at the Wing Headquarters followed the ceremony.

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Photo by Capt. Paula Kurtz



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

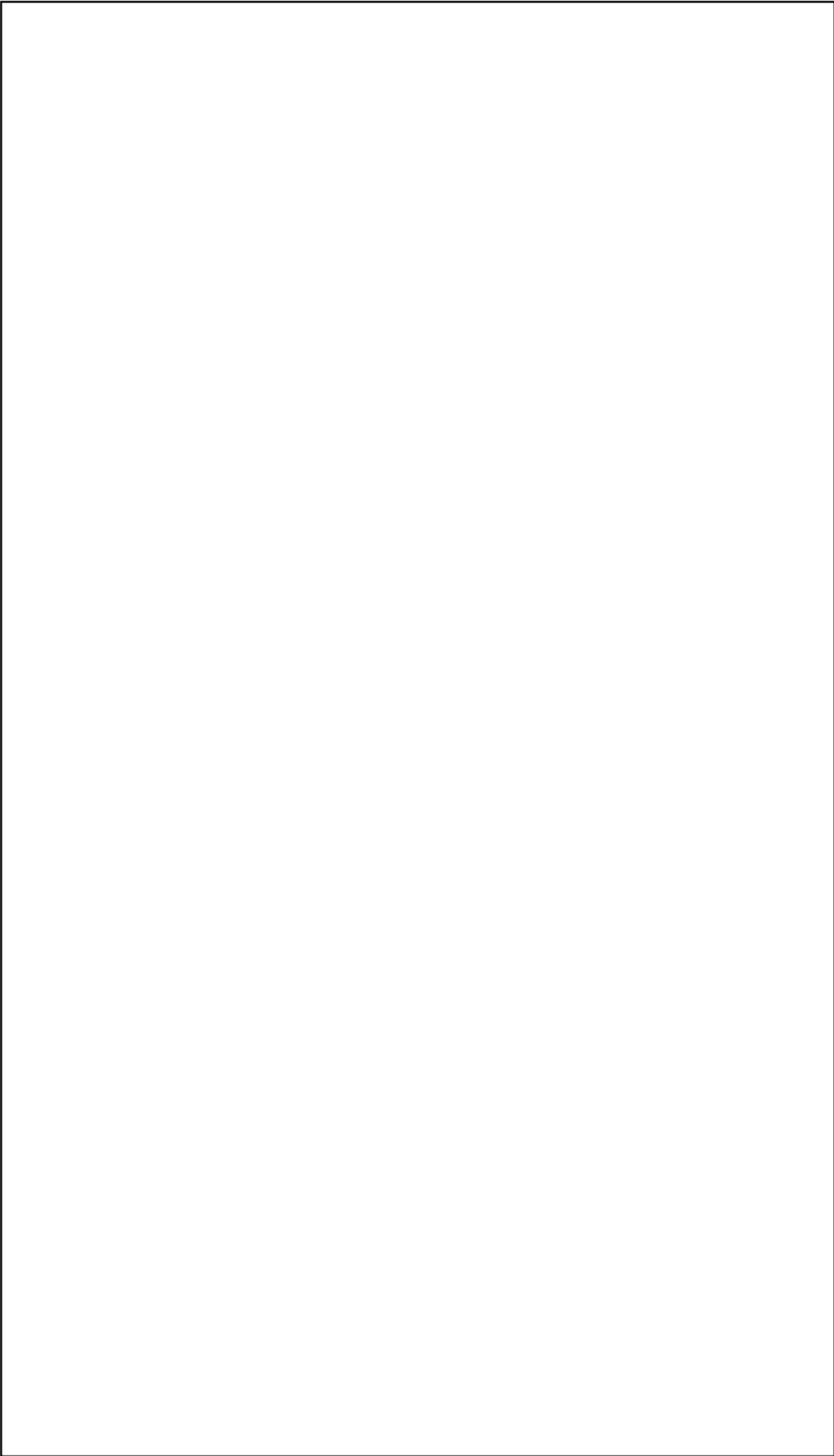
(Above) Four T-38s approach the POW/MIA ceremony where they performed a missing man formation. (Right) Col. Tod Wolters, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, and retired Col. Frederick Kiley, POW/MIA Day guest speaker, along with Senior Airman Michael Fronk, 47th Communications Squadron and Laughlin honor guard member, salute the POW/MIA Day wreath during the ceremony. (Left) Members of the 47th Security Forces Squadron held their 2nd Annual POW/MIA Memorial Ruck March to honor POWs and MIAs. Nineteen Airmen and two military working dogs participated in the almost five-and-a-half-mile march.



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

(Above) Lt. Col. Michael Ericksen, troop commander, presents a formation representing ranks E-1 through O-5 to Col. Tod Wolters (right), 47th Flying Training Wing commander, during the POW/MIA ceremony.





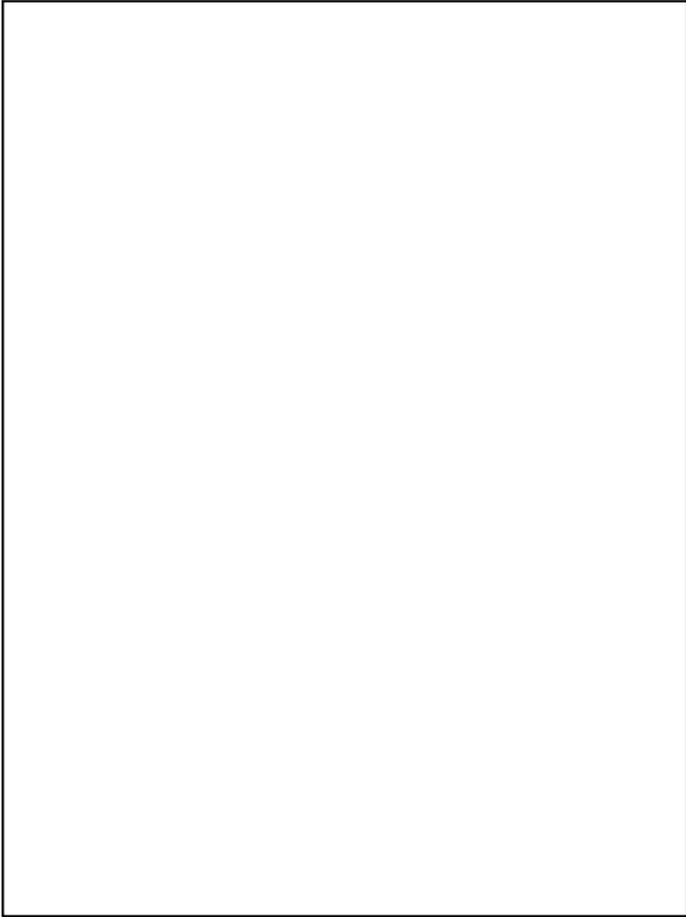
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Photo by Jeff Fisher

Flying dog parachute...

DAYTON, Ohio — Clarence Steber (left) fastens the parachute he donated to the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio on the back of a dog mannequin with the help of Jerry Miracle, an exhibits specialist at the museum.



The *XLer*

Capt. Andy Ladd
85th Flying Training Squadron

Hometown: Friendswood, Texas

Family: Wife, Jessica and daughter, Camille

Time at Laughlin: Four years

Time in service: Four years and 9 months

Hobbies: Training for and competing in Olympic distance triathlons

Greatest accomplishment: Maintaining a balance between being a T-6 instructor pilot at Laughlin and a husband and father in San Antonio where my wife and daughter live

Bad habit: Eating junk food while working late at the squadron

Favorite movies: The Crow, The Great Santini, Tombstone

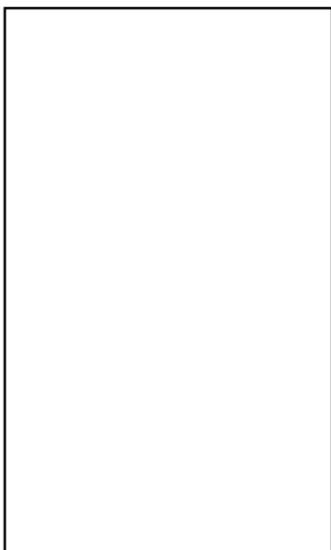
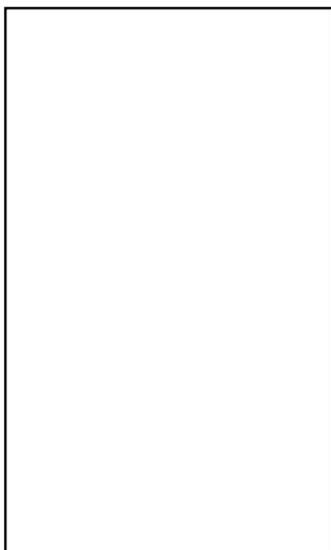
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?: My brother who is an Apache pilot in the army and is stationed in Iraq



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Dowell



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



OG wins week, MSG takes overall lead

Capt. Wes Stark, 47th Operations Group, took Week 2 of the football contest, picking 11 of 16 games correctly, placing the 47th OG in a tie for second place overall.

The 47th Mission Support Group is now in first place overall with 21 of 32 games picked cor-

rectly because of two second-place finishes by Staff Sgt. Sean Flansbaum. The 47th Medical Group and the 47th OG only trail by one with 20-32. The wing staff agencies and the 47th Maintenance Directorate have 18-31 and 15-32 respectively.

Catch all of the NFL games at

Club Amistad's Sunday Football Frenzy. Equipped with 7 televisions, plus one huge projection screen TV, Football Frenzy is open to all ranks. Doors will open at 11 a.m.

Club members are eligible to win weekly prizes and enter the drawing for the end-of-season grand prizes which include a plasma screen

TV, an X-Box system, NFL playoff tickets, and tickets to the Super Bowl and Pro Bowl.

For more football action, come out for the Club's Monday Night Football party, where you can play Football Bingo for a chance to win weekly prizes, and take advantage of food and beverage specials.



1st Lt. Matt Wolthoff, 47th Medical Group



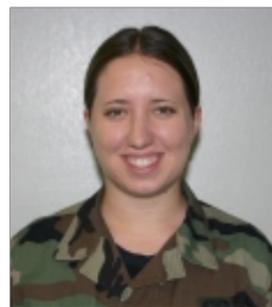
Staff Sgt. Sean Flansbaum, 47th Mission Support Group



James Sutton, 47th Maintenance Directorate



Capt. Wes Stark, 47th Operations Group



Airman 1st Class Sara Wacenske, Wing Staff Agencies

Games:

Ari. at Atl.
Bal. at Cin.
Phi. at Det.
Hou. at K.C.
Pitt. at Mia.
Chi. at Minn.
Cle. at N.Y.G.
N.O. at St.L.
Jax. at Tenn.
S.D. at Den.
G.B. at Ind.
S.F. at Sea.
T.B. at Oak.
Dal. at Wash.

Atlanta
Baltimore
Philadelphia
Kansas City
Pittsburgh
Minnesota
Cleveland
St. Louis
Tennessee
Denver
Indianapolis
Seattle
Oakland
Dallas

Atlanta
Baltimore
Philadelphia
Kansas City
Pittsburgh
Minnesota
New York Giants
St. Louis
Tennessee
Denver
Indianapolis
Seattle
Oakland
Washington

Atlanta
Baltimore
Philadelphia
Kansas City
Pittsburgh
Minnesota
Cleveland
New Orleans
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Minnesota
New York Giants
St. Louis
Tennessee
Denver
Indianapolis
Seattle
Oakland
Dallas

Atlanta
Baltimore
Detroit
Kansas City
Pittsburgh
Chicago
New York Giants
St. Louis
Jacksonville
San Diego
Green Bay
Seattle
Oakland
Washington

Standings:

Last week	8-16	10-16	6-16	11-16	8-16
Overall	20-32	21-32	15-32	20-32	18-32

Sportslines

Flag football sign up

Laughlin members wishing to play flag football but without a squadron team can contact the fitness center at 298-5251 to be placed in the "player pool" and assigned a team. The flag football season starts Oct. 4.

Equipment classes

The Fitness Center holds exercise equipment training classes every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m.

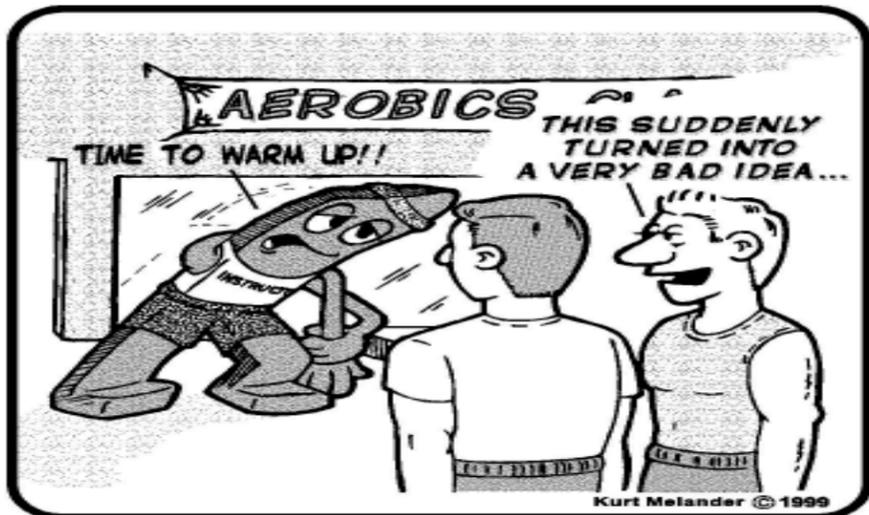
The training is offered on exercise and cardio equipment to individuals who would like to learn the basics of the equipment.

To sign up for a class or for more information, call 298-5251.

Incentive race

The fitness center is sponsoring a mock race from Cancun to Laughlin. Members will have six months from sign up to log 419 miles on the base track or treadmill to claim a prize.

For more information, call 298-5251.



New fitness management system provides tools for annual assessment

By Bill Goins
47th Flying Training Wing exercise physiologists

The Air Force Fitness Program Support Office has released a new Air Force Fitness Management System (AFFMS) which allows every member of the AF to access some useful tools to help them prepare for their annual fitness assessment.

Below is a list of steps you can follow to access your personal fitness page:

- Go to the Laughlin AFB secure homepage at <https://home.laughlin.af.mil/>
- Select the AF Portal Homepage link (left hand side)
- Log into the AF Portal Homepage
- Once in the Portal, scroll down to the box labeled "Top Ten"
- The first selection in the Top Ten box is AFFMS
- Select AFFMS and you will access your personal fitness page.

Your personal fitness page in the Portal has several useful features.

Depending on your access level, you have one or more of the following tabs.

The "My Fitness" tab shows you all of your fitness assessments (under the new testing procedures) that you have accomplished.

The fitness calculator allows you to compute different combinations of fitness results.

This should help you identify and set goals to work towards for improved scores.

This is a "floating" calculator. It is not at-

tached to any database and does not save the information that you enter into it.

The fitness test score charts provide printable sheets with your score values listed on it so you can measure yourself periodically as you work towards your goal.

The "Reports" tab shows real time stats for your squadron.

When your Unit Fitness Program Manager (UFPM) inputs new fitness test results, they update in these reports immediately.

You can also view how Laughlin ranks as compared to other bases in AETC and the AF.

Your commanders will have access, on this page, to lists of names for your squadron and everyone's current fitness status.

The "Metrics" tab displays the stats on bar and pie graphs.

The information on these charts updates on Thursday mornings only. So, keep in mind that the graphs are nice looking, but they may not be completely accurate when you look at them.

The graphs allow you to see your squadron's current fitness status.

It also allows you to see how Laughlin AFB ranks in AETC and the AF.

While these tools

should help you keep up with where you, your squadron, and Laughlin AFB are with regards to fitness assessment completion stats, they aren't going to do the work for you.

You still have to get out there and exercise.

If you have questions regarding what you see on your page, please see your UFPM.

Fitness Fact:

Did You Know? You burn about the same number of calories doing six sessions, five minutes each, of an activity as doing one session of 30 minutes. You don't have to do all 30 minutes at once to have the same effect on weight management. You can take a five-minute break, and instead of going outside to smoke that cigarette, take a five-minute walk or do five minutes of sit-ups. So, the next time you say you don't have time to exercise ... stop making excuses.

XL Fitness Center hours

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

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

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

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