

# Border Eagle

## T-38 takes barrier; damage caused

Compiled from staff reports

The crew of a T-38A Talon aborted their sortie during take-off and engaged the end-of-runway web barrier, collapsing both of the aircraft's rear landing gears Tuesday.

The instructor pilot and student pilot were uninjured, but the estimated cost to repair the aircraft is approximately \$960,000.

The barrier system consists of two mechanical arms on either side of the runway in the overrun area. When the barrier is deployed, the two arms are raised, allowing nylon netting to "catch" the aircraft and prevent it from rolling off the end of the runway.

A safety investigation board has been convened to investigate the cause of the accident.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

## It's in the hole...

Lt. Col. Jennifer Graham, 47th Mission Support Squadron commander, attempts to sink a putt during the Wing Commander's Annual Golf Tournament while Lt. Cols. (left) Mark Mattison and Russell Mack, both of the 87th Flying Training Squadron, look on. The team comprising (retired) Col. Lawrence Humphrey, Dave Wick, Jack Hargis and Senior Airman Cedric Lightener won the tournament.

## Newslines

### 19th AF awards announced

Congratulations to Master Sgt. David Smith and Staff Sgt. Jerry Dunn.

Sergeant Smith, 47th Mission Support Group first sergeant, was selected as the 2003 19th Air Force Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year, and Sergeant Dunn, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron Optometry Clinic NCO in charge, was selected as the 2003 19th Air Force Outstanding Base Honor Guard Member of the Year.

Congratulations, and good luck at the Air Education and Training Command competition.

### Women's History Month luncheon scheduled

A Women's History Month luncheon is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at Club XL.

Brenda McCain, a civilian personnel officer from Randolph Air Force Base, is the guest speaker.

For more information, call Rosemary Capozziello at 298-5859.

### Promotion ceremony set

An enlisted promotion ceremony is set for 4 p.m. Wednesday at Club Amistad, not today as reported in the *Border Eagle* last week.

All base members are invited to attend.

## Deployment stats

Deployed:	28
Returning in 30 days:	3
Deploying in 30 days:	1

## Mission status

(As of Tuesday)

Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -6.26	T-1, 1.53
T-38, -2.63	T-6, -2.74

Mission capable rate:

T-37, 91.0%	T-1, 80.0%
T-38, 77.3%	T-6, 84.2%

## Wing, school leaders discuss education issues

By Capt. Dawnita Parkinson  
Public affairs

Approximately 15 people attended a town hall meeting at the base theater Wednesday night to hear from wing and school district leaders on recent education initiatives.

Wing leaders discussed the results of the Education Tiger Team's efforts, and Col. Keith Traster, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander, and Roberto Fernandez, superintendent of schools, formalized the base's and school district's cooperative relationship by signing a Memorandum

of Agreement.

The Education Tiger Team, a cross-functional team chaired by Colonel Traster, was established in August 2003 to work with local school officials to improve the quality of education in the local community.

Wednesday's town hall meeting was the culmination of the tiger team, and presentations were made on several outreach programs and initiatives that have been implemented as a result of the team's efforts.

■ Wing mentoring program: The "One Person Can" mentoring program has been implemented. Volunteer mentors

work with high-risk children in middle or high school for one hour a week. More mentors are desperately needed to meet the current demand. Applications are available on the Laughlin home page and can be submitted to Judy Rhinesmith in the 47th Medical Group. A background check is conducted on all volunteers.

■ Partners in Education: Laughlin's Top 3 organization spearheaded this program, which allows base volunteers to perform various maintenance and beautification projects for local

See Education, page 4

# Mission accomplished through teamwork



## Commander's Corner

By Robert Wood  
47th Flying Training Wing Maintenance  
Directorate director

A common closing remark on citations for presentation of decorations reads, "The singularly distinctive accomplishments of (name) reflect great credit upon him and the United States Air Force."

The closing statement reminds us that regardless of how good we think we are as individuals, we did not achieve personal stature without the entire Air Force team supporting us. That's an important point for us all to consider.

Whether a military member, civil service,

non-appropriated funds employee, or a contract employee, we share in common an Air Force affiliation that calls us to think and act as a team. In a team, we are all contributors to ensuring mission success. Now that our defense institutions are more streamlined and pluralistic in their composition, we cannot afford to identify solely with any one occupational series or become so self-focused that we cannibalize working relations with any other player on our team.

In schools of management theory, states of self-absorption are called tunnel vision. In schools of training for combat pilots, target fixation describes the same hazard. Both terms characterize the absence of situational awareness or attunement to what is happening around us. Without situational awareness, we can squander both human and material resources, and we may even stymie mission success.

By contrast, the motion picture classic, *Twelve O'Clock High*, offers us an illustration

of what it means for us to think and act with a sense of community – to work as a team. During the movie portrayal of life in a World War II bombing group, we experience the story of a unit that is coming apart at the seams; then we see it molded into a model for total mission success. When the group commander, who molds the unit's spirit of cooperation, becomes too ill to fly, his team carries forward all desired initiatives, bringing great credit to themselves and their leader.

In our contemporary Air Force, teamwork remains a force multiplier; it allows individual strengths and weaknesses to dovetail with one another in a way that builds up our capacity to surpass accomplishments based entirely on individual accomplishments.

We live, think, and work in a very special defense community. Consequently, our individual actions have an impact on everyone around us. We can fall apart through too much self-interest or we can pull together as a winning team. We should choose teamwork.

## Every Airman an ambassador to the world

By Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney  
32nd Training Wing commander

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE – In this month's *Worth* magazine, Michael Z. Wise wrote about the U.S. State Department's efforts to confront anti-Americanism around the globe by using authors, musi-

cians, actors and sports figures as "ambassadors."

Participants are part of a worldwide series of government-sponsored performances, classes, workshops and panels aimed at "turning leading exponents of American creativity into inspirational mentors for young foreigners," Wise wrote.

Our ambassadors are reinforcing the uniquely American values of personal freedom, upward mobility and democratic openness.

The benefits of this "cultural diplomacy" are many. Human interaction and person-to-person communication are powerful ways to cultivate positive images of the American people, democracy and freedom.

We are all aware of the distorted view foreign consumers of American pop-culture have of us. Contrary to our television programs, Americans don't all live

on the beach or have the zip code 90210, drive sports cars or own mansions.

By harnessing the power of the arts, our "ambassadors" help break down stereotypes and combat disinformation, while keeping the lines of communication between the United States and other nations open and clear. The strongest military in the world can win wars, but as Mr. Wise pointed out, the American spirit wins the hearts and minds of our foes:

See *Airman*, page 3

## Border Eagle

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The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News-Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

### Deadlines, Advertising

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

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

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

## Women's History Month: time to reflect on struggles, successes

By Jean Best-Richardson  
39th Services Squadron

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey – I asked a young Airman recently to participate in our Women's History Month program. His immediate response was, "Why isn't there a Men's History Month?"

The more I thought about it the more I realized this young man probably never lived through some of the circumstances I experienced.

Maybe he genuinely did not understand the condition of women in the military environment and society as a whole in the past. He encounters women of all ranks every day. He might see women who are commanders, doctors, lawyers, lieutenant colonels, majors, captains, chief master sergeants, senior master sergeants, master sergeants and civilian women who are flight chiefs, directors and managers.

Many young military men and

women might not realize what it was like to be a female military or federal employee in 1969. Many people might not know the long strides the military took to allow women to hold positions equal to men.

I was hired as a telephone operator at the Philadelphia Naval Base on Aug. 11, 1969. Then, upper-level managers were men, and women were teachers, secretaries, telephone operators or cashiers. The few women supervisors I encountered were supervisors only of female employees.

When I arrived at Hahn Air Base, Germany, in 1972, I was denied a job as a telephone operator because I was pregnant. After more than four years of federal work, I now couldn't get a job. After my pregnancy, I was allowed to continue my federal career.

Later that year I transferred to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where I was hired as a civilian

**"One day that glass ceiling might shatter and women can earn their proper place in the work force and we will no longer need a Women's History Month."**

personnel clerk. I worked on the Federal Women's Program. The FWP helped women apply for non-traditional jobs on the base. We provided female military spouses (most of the males were active duty) and civilian women with the information they needed to convert their volunteer experience into paid positions. We helped women acquire positions as telephone linesmen, construction workers and supply technicians, and aided them in seeking a formal education.

Immediately after the personnel job, I became a clerical assistant in the civil engineer

squadron where women were not only expected to type, take shorthand and make travel arrangements for the entire staff, but to make coffee as well. While the Air Force was making a serious effort to recruit female engineers, all the engineers here were men.

When I think about the young man's question, I know that men had an advantage all those years because women were not readily accepted into the traditional work force. Now, we have come to a time in the military when women receive the same salary as men for the same quality and quantity of work.

Hopefully, we will come to a time when women will receive the same salary as men for the same quality and quantity of work in all career paths. One day that glass ceiling might shatter and women can earn their proper place in the work force and we will no longer need a Women's History Month.

### Airman, from page 2

"When measured in military power, U.S. strength is unparalleled. But while this may evoke fear and respect, it does not necessarily engender affection. The vitality and ingenuity of American artistic creation and ideas are a wellspring of inspiration.

By helping present a realistic picture of democracy's benefits, they offer a way to export hope instead of fear."

In our Air Force, you, too, are an ambassador.

Every time you step off base, people know you represent the proud tradition of the military. Whether it is your haircut or simply your demeanor, some people just "look military." That is a real compliment.

It means our members conduct themselves with dignity and class. When you interact with people in the community, you are representing all of us.

One program that really focuses the power of personal interaction is mentoring. I encourage you to become a mentor to a young child, a co-worker or someone in need. Just like the U.S. State Department abroad, we can make a big difference in the lives of people around us.

Another way that you can export our values is by volunteering with the Company Grade Officers Council, Non Commissioned Officers Associa-

tion, Top 3, Junior Enlisted Council, Air Force Association or your squadron booster club.

All of these organizations, and more, are groups committed to helping our community through positive programs and events.

In your section, are you an ambassador? If so, you are exporting the values of integrity, service and excellence in all of your interactions. Whether it is helping a customer or completing

an important project, everything you say and do speaks volumes about the uniform you wear.

When you go about your day-to-day duties, remember you are an ambassador. Remember to present yourself, your section and the military as a positive force in the community.

We are all in the business of "brand-management," to use a marketing term, so let's ensure each of us is an ambassador every day.



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

**Col. Dan Woodward**  
47th Flying Training Wing commander

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By

including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

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

If your question relates to the gen-

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

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

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

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

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

## Education, from page 1

schools. The schools benefit from the free labor and supplies, which are donated by various area businesses.

■ **U.S. Air Force Academy and ROTC Liaison Officer:** A liaison has been appointed to assist high school-aged students in applying to the Air Force Academy or for an ROTC scholarship. First Lt. Paula Schoch, 47th Mission Support Group, has visited teachers and high school counselors to ensure they are aware of the requirements for each program. Lieutenant Schoch is available to meet one-on-one with students and parents to answer any questions they may have. For more information, call Lieutenant Schoch at 298-5304.

■ **Teacher recruitment and training:** The school district has agreed to host quarterly teacher recruitment/training workshops on base. The workshops allow interested applicants to fill out applications, undergo transcript reviews, convert out-of-state teaching certification, and review alternative certification programs. The next workshop is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon April 14 at the Family Support Center. Call the Family Support Center at 298-5620 for other workshop dates.

■ **High-school sponsorship program:** This program matches local high school students with incoming high school students of military members. First Lt. Kendra Lowe, 47th Mission Support Squadron, manages the program, which assists incoming students in the transition to a new high school and gives sponsors volunteer-hour credit. Sponsors are approved based on their grade-point average and clubs/sports participation. Applicants are then matched to a sponsor with a similar background and interests. For more information, call Lieutenant

Lowe at 298-5574.

■ **Homeschool support:** The base also has provided support to homeschooled children. At the request of parents, more books were bought for the base library, efforts have been made to find volunteer tutors, the base has provided logistical support for field trips, and the base is providing facility support for the upcoming graduation. For more information on homeschooling opportunities, visit [www.texashope.com](http://www.texashope.com).

Following the presentations from base personnel, school district officials took the floor to provide general information on ways for parents to stay informed and be involved in their children's education.

Silvia Gonzalez, the district's director of instruction, provided booklets with step-by-step instructions on how to access on the Internet preparation material for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, to include practice tests. The TAKS is a requirement for Texas students of all grades, and taking advantage of the preparation material is the best way to ensure a child is adequately prepared and also eases the anxiety associated with taking the test. To access the site, go to [www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment) <<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment>>.

Patty Brown, secondary curriculum coordinator, explained the district's comprehensive curriculum guides, which teachers use to ensure TAKS-required material is not only being taught, but is being satisfactorily learned by students. Parents may request copies of the curriculum guide from their child's teacher.

Another initiative that was introduced was Grade Speed, a new Web-based program that allows parents to log on to the Internet to check their children's grades, homework assign-

ments, and attendance information. Since the program is new, it has not been implemented at all area schools, although that is the eventual goal. In order to access the secure site, parents must first fill out the appropriate form at their child's campus.

One concern raised by a parent was not a new one: bus pickup and drop-off times. On some bus routes, children are on the bus for an hour and a half. On other routes, children are dropped off at school and then must wait long periods before class starts. Mr. Fernandez agreed this is an area of concern. He explained that the district buses approximately 5,000 students to and from school every day, but has a fleet of only 34 buses with no funding to purchase additional buses. An even bigger problem, however, is recruiting and maintaining qualified bus drivers. Although the district provides the training required to earn a Commercial Driver's License, there simply aren't enough interested applicants. It would be helpful, he said, to find drivers who are even willing to drive only the morning or afternoon shift.

Despite the challenges, Mr. Fernandez said he continues to look at the busing issue. He said his staff is examining all current routes in an effort to shave as much time as possible off the longer ones – even if it's just five or 10 minutes.

Another parent questioned the policy of requiring a student to have three years of the same foreign language to be awarded a Distinguished Graduate seal upon graduation. School officials explained this requirement is a state requirement, not a local one. Considering the frequent moves of military families, this requirement may put high school students of military members at an un-

fair advantage, the parent said. If a student has already taken German, for example, and then moves to Del Rio in his or her junior year of high school, the student is not able to continue taking German classes because it's not offered here.

Colonel Traster agreed that this issue needs to be addressed. Since it is a state requirement, however, it must be addressed with the Texas Education Agency. The colonel said he will take on the task of checking into the possibility of a waiver for military students.

The overriding theme of the meeting, from both Colonel Traster and Mr. Fernandez, was the importance of parental involvement. Statistics show that the children who perform at the higher level are the students who have support at home, Mr. Fernandez said.

Colonel Traster charged parents to get involved, to communicate with their child's teacher and counselor on a regular basis, and to participate in campus events. If there are concerns, parents first should address them with the teacher, and then the principal or school district leadership. If a parent is still unhappy with the response, he or she is then encouraged to take the issue to Colonel Traster, through the Public Affairs office.

The signing of the MOA represented a commitment by both parties to continue to work together to address education issues. A representative from Laughlin will attend school board and planning meetings and there will be quarterly meetings between Colonel Traster and Mr. Fernandez to discuss areas of mutual interest and concern.

"Together we can make [this district] one of the best school systems in the state," said Mr. Fernandez. "Work with us, and I can guarantee you success for your child."

## Newslines

### **Officer Spouses Club hosts casino night social**

The Officers' Spouses Club is holding a casino night social at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Club XL.

The cost is \$6.80 for members and \$9.80 for nonmembers. Please R.S.V.P. at 298-3529 for names A-M and 298-7950 for names N-Z.

On-site childcare is available from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Members must R.S.V.P. with child's name and age by Sunday to Trasi Mullin at 734-5076.

For more information, call 734-5076.

### **Job interview class planned**

A job interview seminar will be conducted from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Family Support Center conference room.

The seminar prepares people for

the most critical part of getting the job they want. Job seekers will learn tips on how to ace an interview. Mock interviews will also be offered.

People interested in attending must R.S.V.P. by Monday. For more information or to R.S.V.P., call 298-5620.

### **Education open house set**

The Laughlin education and training office is hosting an open house for the Laughlin community from

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 7 in building T447.

Base members are welcome to come see the new facility (located across from the BX and the student officers' quarters) and chat with the professional staff regarding education and training opportunities available at Laughlin. There will be free snacks, beverages and door prizes.

For more information, call 298-5520.



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Connie Bias*

## **Fueling the French...**

**A Tennessee Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker refuels a French Jaguar in the skies over France March 18. Both aircraft are assigned to the 401st Air Expeditionary Wing at Aviano Air Base, Italy, supporting NATO missions in the Balkans.**

# Laughlin tests mobility, deployment process

*Scenarios, realism challenge individuals to be prepared, sharpen wartime skills*

**By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill**  
*Public affairs*

Laughlin's exercise evaluation team conducted an exercise Tuesday to test the wing's ability to mobilize and deploy a group of people in support of a contingency operation.

The scenario involved one chalk of more than 20 people being deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The team started the process by attending a pre-deployment briefing given by staff members from public health, personnel, finance, the chapel and family support center.

Lt. Col. Jennifer Graham, 47th Mission Support Squadron commander, provided an informative talk on safety and reporting.

The group also gained insight on their deployed location from Lt. Col. Robert Seaberg, wing Site Activation Task Force, who recently returned from Afghanistan.

Following the briefing, deploying members filed through a processing line to meet with a variety of base agencies that ensured all records and personnel issues were taken care of before leaving the base.

Evaluation team members then inspected personal bags to make sure all items reflected in their mobility folders were accounted for.

The wing's mobility deployment machine hasn't been evaluated in

about five months, said Lt. Col. Eddy Stanfill, EET chief and director of wing plans and programs.

"While we're used to sending individual or small teams to remote places in the world, we rarely get a chance to send an entire chalk of 25 people at one time," he said. "It takes a whole team to ensure mobility bags, individual equipment items, immunizations, intelligence updates, and personal services, such as by the chaplain and legal staff, are taken care of."

"Exercising this team once a quarter ensures everyone is ready to perform their wartime tasks," he said.

Elements involved in the effort to deploy troops include the installation deployment officer and deployment control center, unit deployment managers, the cargo and personnel deployment facilities, deployment processing line and personnel readiness unit.

"In general, Laughlin is ready to perform the tasks required to deploy," Colonel Stanfill said.

He emphasized that the installation deployment officer and deployment control center did a good job ensuring the sequence of events flowed smoothly with little deviation from the plan. Also, the EET chief said unit deployment managers ensured their personnel and equipment were ready for processing and met individual training needs.

However, he said most personnel deploying were unaware of the requirement to deploy with the Airman's



Photo by Rob Poteat

**First Lt. Kendra Lowe, 47th Mission Support Squadron, gives a pre-deployment briefing to members during Tuesday's exercise.**

Manual. The colonel said, in addition, units were a little "rusty" on pallet buildup procedures.

The evaluation team will document the good and not-so-good areas of the exercise.

"We will provide a written report to the wing commander so everyone can benefit from lessons learned and improve the way we do deployments in the future," Colonel Stanfill said.

One important aspect of conducting the exercise was realism. From Colonel Seaberg's briefing about the deployed location to inputs that challenged staff agencies in the processing line, providing realistic scenarios tested the abilities of everyone.

"Realism is a key ingredient for any exercise we do," said Colonel Stanfill. "It's important people receive exercise inputs that reinforce the training they receive. We strived to ensure

current intelligence, public health, cultural climate and threat reflected a realistic area of responsibility.

"All anyone has to do is turn on the television and see that Kandahar is a 'hot spot' for U.S. forces, and it's very realistic that our personnel could deploy to that location," he said.

Whether deploying as a group or individual, Colonel Stanfill said it is important to ensure combatant commanders receive equipment and people who are ready to fight as soon as they enter the area of responsibility.

"The Air Force is becoming more and more expeditionary," he said. "It is vital that everyone is prepared."

"Therefore," he said, "Laughlin personnel should take advantage of every opportunity to hone their wartime skills. Participating in periodic exercises is an excellent way to sharpen those skills."

# Leaders discuss future of unmanned aerial vehicles

**By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter**  
*Air Force Print News*

Military leaders met recently with members of Congress to discuss the rapidly changing role of unmanned aerial vehicles in military operations.

Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan III testified before the House Armed Services Committee subcommittee on tactical air and land forces March 17 to explain how far UAVs have come and how much farther they can go. The general is the U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander and 9th Air Force commander.

"I have seen our UAV force evolve from one

that was principally an intelligence-collection platform in Bosnia to one that today has a very potent air-to-ground capability and represents a truly flexible, combat platform," the general said.

As capabilities of UAVs grow, some Congress members question the future of manned aircraft.

"I don't think ... it's an answer of either (unmanned) or (manned)," General Buchanan said. "It truly is an integration of the right place to put the mission capability."

This integration of manned and unmanned aircraft is working well in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, he said.

"What you and I are going to see in the future is

more of what we've seen over the last two years," the general said. "Two years ago (we) were only flying UAV within line of sight, and then within that first year by satellite link."

Eventually, General Buchanan said, CENTCOM commanders may be able to fly a UAV over Iraq one day, and with a launch and recovery base nearby, turn around and fly that same UAV over Afghanistan the next day.

"I think they're here to stay," he said. "I don't think they're going to replace manned (aircraft). There are some missions where you need a (pilot) in the aircraft. At the same time, I think we're going to see more and more integration."



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Randy Redman*

## **Only a test...**

Airman 1st Class Jason Baker takes a sample of white powder during an exercise at Macdill Air Force Base, Fla., March 11. The exercise was held to prepare the base for any possible contingency during an upcoming air show. Airman Baker is assigned to the 6th Aeromedical Squadron.

## Chapel information



### Catholic

Monday - Friday

- Mass, 12:05 p.m.

Saturday

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

Sunday

- Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.

Thursday

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

### Protestant

Wednesday

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

Sunday

- General worship, 11 a.m., Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater

### Chaplain Staff

Wing chaplain:

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

Senior Protestant:

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

Protestant:

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

Protestant:

Chap. (1st Lt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

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

## Savings program assists deployed servicemembers

ARLINGTON, Va. – Deployed servicemembers have the chance to earn a guaranteed 10-percent interest on their savings annually.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials implemented the Savings Deposit Program in August 1990 for servicemembers who were serving in the Persian Gulf conflict. The program progressively changed to include troops assigned to areas outside the United States, on ships, or mobile units. This program includes Operation Iraqi Freedom servicemembers assigned to a combat zone or in direct support of a combat zone.

“A servicemember can contribute up to \$10,000, but interest of 10 percent will not accrue after that amount,” said

Roger Castillo, program director.

A person can participate in the program if he or she is serving outside the United States or its possessions supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and has served at least 30 consecutive days in an area that has been designated as a combat zone or in direct support of a combat zone, he said.

Also, people serving on permanent duty assignments outside the United States or its possessions supporting contingency operations and serving on active duty in the designated area for more than 30 days can participate.

To make a deposit into the fund, people should contact their finance office. Withdrawing the money before

leaving the combat zone is not authorized, unless there is an emergency. The last day to make a deposit into the fund is the date of departure from the assignment; however, interest will accrue up to 90 days after their return from deployment.

“This is a great opportunity for servicemembers to accrue at a higher interest rate than at an average interest rate of 2 or 3 percent,” said Patrick T. Shine, acting director of DFAS.

DFAS officials will post the savings-deposit balance of active-component servicemembers to their leave and earnings statements.

*(Courtesy of Defense Finance and Accounting Service)*

## Space-A travel stateside test extended

**By Tech. Sgt. Mark Diamond**  
*Air Mobility Command Public Affairs*

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. – The one-year test to expand space-available travel privileges to family members of active-duty and retired servicemembers traveling within the continental United States was extended until further notice, according to Air Mobility Command's air transportation division officials.

The extension will allow the test to continue while office of the secretary of defense officials complete their evaluation of the test, wrote Lt. Col. Darcy Lilley, chief of the division's passenger policy branch, in a recent message.

Under the space-A test phase, the family members of active-duty and retired servicemembers are able to travel space-A aboard military flights when accompanied by their sponsors, said John Lundeby, of the passenger policy branch.

He said the test does not apply to “gray-area retirees” – Guard and Reserve Airmen who are retired but are not yet eligible for retired pay and benefits.

Mr. Lundeby explained that in December 2000, the commander of U.S. Transportation Command outlined the proposed test as a way to improve quality-of-life privileges for servicemembers and their families. After reviewing the proposal, defense officials approved the one-year test period.

“Prior to the test, regulations prohibited family members from flying space-available within the CONUS,” said Mr. Lundeby. “This privilege was available only to active-duty and retired military people. During the test period, dependents can accompany them.”

To register for space-A travel, active-duty sponsors must be on leave or a pass and remain in the status while awaiting travel and through the entire travel period, officials said.

Additional space-A travel and signup information is available through the passenger policy branch Web site at [www.public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm](http://www.public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm).

A list of passenger terminals and phone numbers can be found there.

## The Commander's Access Channel

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

# New service delivers civilian personnel news to inbox

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter  
*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON – Officials from the Air Force's National Security Personnel System implementation office recently unveiled a simple way to keep employees informed of coming changes to the Department of Defense civilian personnel system.

The 2004 National Defense Authorization Act established the NSPS, a new human resources management system for DOD civilians. A new chapter of Title 5, U.S. Code, allows the secretary of defense and the director of the office of personnel management to establish the new system. It will provide a new framework of rules, regulations, and processes – rooted in the principles of flexibility and fair-

ness – that govern the way civilians are hired, compensated, promoted, and disciplined in DoD.

"This is going to be such a widespread, high-impact change to our workforce," said Denise Walker, Air Force NSPS Implementation Team member. "We want our people to know what is going on as soon as the information is releasable."

To accomplish this mission, the office created a new e-mail list server that will send updates to registered users. To register for the service, users may go to the NSPS Web site, <https://www.dp.hq.af.mil/dpp/dppn/nsps/> and click on the registration link. That action opens a blank e-mail message from the user's e-mail service. Then all the user has to do is click on "send."

"The server registers the e-mail

address and sends a confirmation response," Ms. Walker said. "It's that simple."

Once registered, users will receive the latest information as it becomes available. Ms. Walker cautioned against expecting daily or even weekly updates.

"The intent is to have news go out as news comes down," Ms. Walker said. "It's not going to be on a specific schedule because by nature, with the implementation of a major program, things happen sporadically. It might be (that some action) this week is really newsworthy and one or two messages go out, and then it might be awhile before the next message."

Officials hope this authoritative source for NSPS news reduces the misinformation of second- or third-hand

rumors.

"This way, information doesn't get passed from person to person and distorted along the way," Ms. Walker said. "We want people to know (what is happening), because if we do have a speedy implementation of this program, we don't want people to be taken by surprise."

In addition to the Air Force NSPS Web site and news service, the DoD NSPS Web site is a good source of information, Ms. Walker said. The Air Force Web site provides a link to the DoD site, and it is a good idea to check both places to stay well informed.

"We think this is going to be a really effective way to reach out and touch people who are interested, be they military, civilian or contractor," Ms. Walker said.

## CMSAF talks fitness, force shaping

By Tech. Sgt.  
Andrew Leonhard  
*15th Airlift Wing public affairs*

HICKHAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii – During a visit here March 15, the top enlisted Airman talked about fitness and force shaping.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray explained there was no plan to use the new fitness assessment as a part of the Weighted Airmen Promotion System.

"(Leaders have) talked about a possible change to the enlisted-performance report that might include a new line about physical-fitness standards," said the chief. "But other than that, right now there is no talk of changing the WAPS."

Another topic the chief addressed was force shaping.

To clear up confusion,

Chief Murray said it should not be looked at as a means to reduce the force, but a way to reshape it to meet the expeditionary needs of today's Air Force.

He also said the reshaping will not increase the air and space expeditionary forces rotation.

Chief Murray said taskings "are based against our authorization, not against our manning."

After the first round for Airmen to submit applications to exit active duty under the force-shaping plan, the Air Force fell short of the anticipated goal.

"The good news to this is that people are not rushing to get out of our Air Force – it's a great time to serve our nation," he said. "It's a testament to the quality of life and the commitment to service."

"We don't want to lose a single quality Airman from our force who wants to stay in," he said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lanie McNeal

## Goodbye to a friend...

Staff Sgt. Jason Winge touches the case containing the remains of his friend and partner, Eiko. The 3-year-old military working dog died of complications following surgery. The pair deployed to Southwest Asia supporting operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom for 192 days. Eiko's ashes were buried behind the K-9 facility at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., and a tree was planted in his memory. Sergeant Winge is assigned to the 355th Security Forces 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/](http://www.af.mil/news/) keeps you informed about events.

# Del Rio youth becomes 'pilot' for a day

Story and photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill  
Public affairs

Salvador Morales Jr. sat playing with the model of a T-37 aircraft during a recent visit to Laughlin, zooming and whooshing as he pretended to fly the plane's replica.

Little did the 6-year-old know that a real T-37 was sitting on the flight line with his name on it.

Members of the 85th Flying Training Squadron set up a T-37 static display and put his name on the cockpit door, symbolizing his aircraft as he became the Air Force's newest "pilot."

The Del Rio youth visited Laughlin March 19, along with his parents, sister, grandmother, and a family friend, as part of the "Pilot for a Day" Program.

The program provides terminally ill or handicapped children a tour of the base and lets them experience Air Force flying operations firsthand.

"Pilot for a Day is a great program," said 1st Lt. Paul Stucki, the 85th FTS instructor pilot who coordinated the visit. "I am very grateful for the opportunity I had to host it. It was an awesome way for us to give back to the community and make a child's dream come true."

Salvador, born with Caudal

**"For people to overlook his condition and for him to become a 'pilot' in his condition is awesome. He believes he can overcome obstacles and dreams can come true ..."**

**--Salvador Morales**  
Salvador Morales Jr.'s father

Esquina (Regression) Syndrome, has a defect in his spine and rib cage. He travels around in a wheel chair, but that doesn't keep him from being swift and energetic, just the types of qualities pilots sometimes find handy.

"When he first got his wheel chair, he would spin it around and around so fast we'd have to tell him to stop," said his father, Salvador Morales. "That's why we call him 'Taz' because he's always moving fast and just keeps going. He's the type of person who doesn't quit, and he tries to get everything done to [the extent he can]."

When "Taz" first learned he was selected to be a pilot for a day, his father said his son wondered why, considering his condition.

"For people to overlook his condition and for him to become a 'pilot' in his condition is awesome," Mr.



**Salvador Morales Jr. sits in the control tower as he prepares to watch aircraft take off from the runway.**

Morales said. "He believes he can overcome obstacles and dreams can come true in one way or another."

The younger Salvador, affectionately referred to as Sal, began his day on base by having breakfast with squadron members. Lieutenant Stucki presented the new pilot with his flight suit, patches, nametag, flight cap and scarf, then headed off for a tour of the operations desk area and the flight line where the T-37 was located.

After posing near the aircraft for pictures with student and instructor pilots within the squadron, Sal visited the air traffic control tower and watched aircraft take off while being monitored on radar.

He and his family ate pizza for lunch and then toured the T-37 simulator. The final stop for the young warrior was the fire department, where security forces members performed a working dog demonstration for him.

"I think Sal's most enjoyable moment here was his time in the squadron's heritage room at the foosball table, the sport of a true pilot," Lieutenant Stucki said. "He also got a big kick out of watching his dad get attacked by the security force's working dog."

As Sal enjoyed his day as a pilot, his family also took in the sights and

sounds of Laughlin's flying operations.

The lieutenant stressed that not only does Pilot for a Day benefit a deserving child, but it also benefits a deserving family.

"I'm sure the Morales family has been through a great deal," he said. "The trials and hardships they have faced while dealing with their son's [condition] are incomprehensible. The Pilot for a Day Program hopefully allowed them to forget their worries for a day and allowed us to serve them. I know personally that they enjoyed their time here and are thankful for the work we do."

Lieutenant Stucki said the greatest satisfaction he received was to see all base organizations come together to make Sal's day special. The lieutenant appreciated everything from the welcome message on the front-gate marquee to those who provided financial support, the flight suit, aircraft name plate, and other items.

The squadron also gained something from hosting Pilot for a Day.

"The teamwork it took on everyone's part to make it happen was a motivation in itself," the lieutenant said. "It brought the squadron together for the benefit of someone in need, and helped us remember one of our core values ... Service before Self."



**First Lt. Paul Stucki, the 85th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot who organized the Pilot for a Day visit, shows Salvador Morales Jr. how to operate a flight helmet.**

## The *XLer*

**Senior Airman LaMarcus Molden**  
47th Mission Support Group

**Hometown:** Albany, Ga.

**Family:** Single

**Time at Laughlin:**

Two years, four months

**Time in service:**

Four years, 10 months

**Greatest accomplishment:** Making the decision to reenlist in the Air Force

**Hobbies:** Working out, reading and hanging out with friends

**Bad habit:** Procrastinating

**Favorite movie:**

“Scarface”

**Favorite musician:**

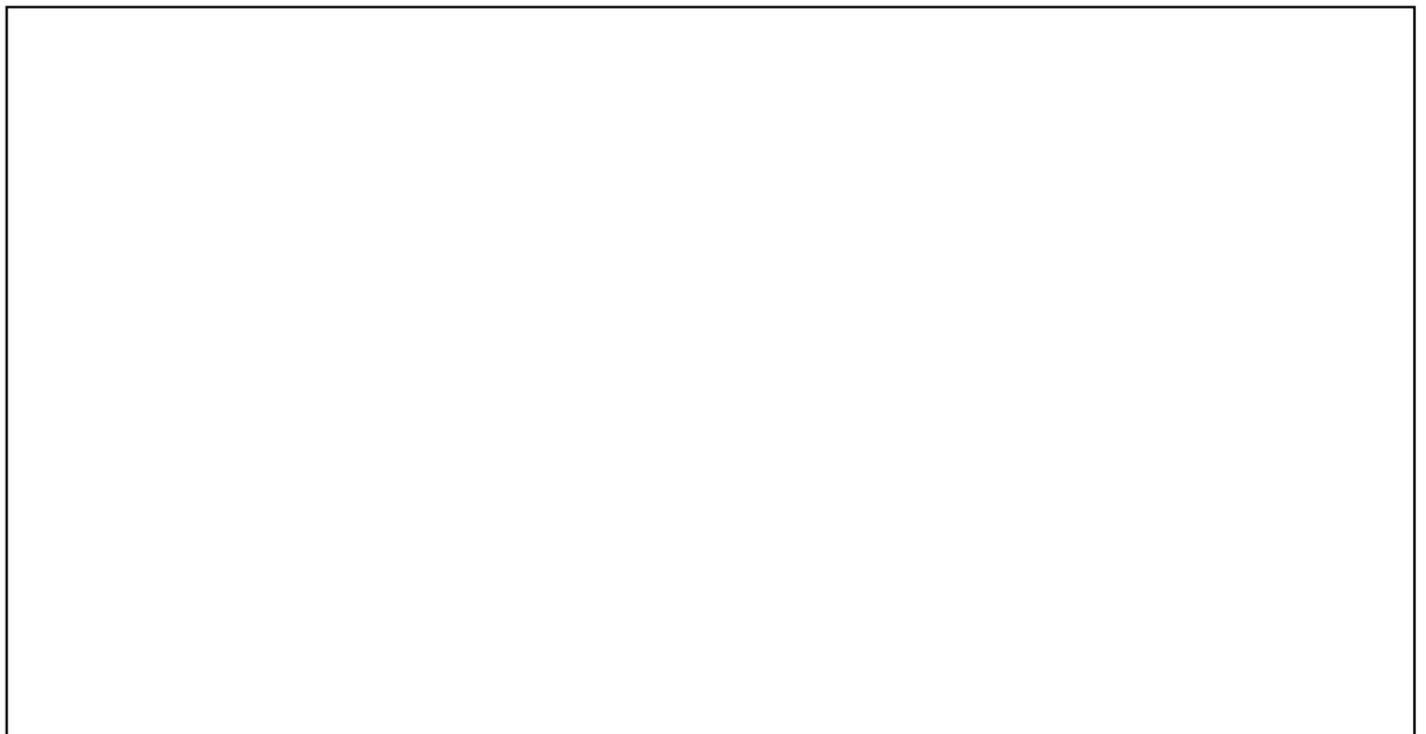
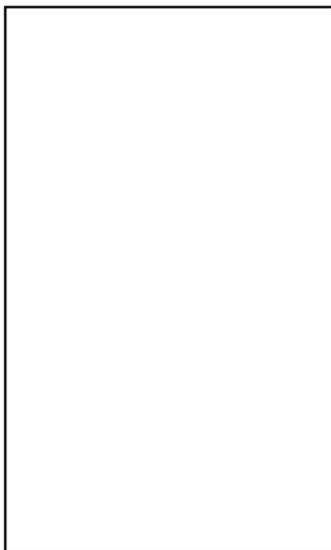
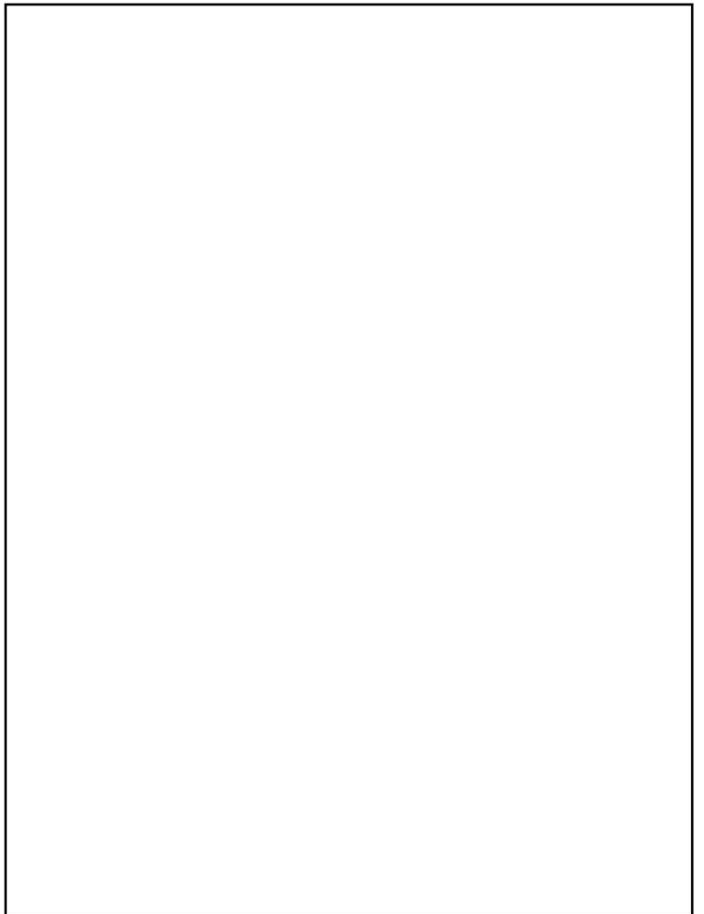
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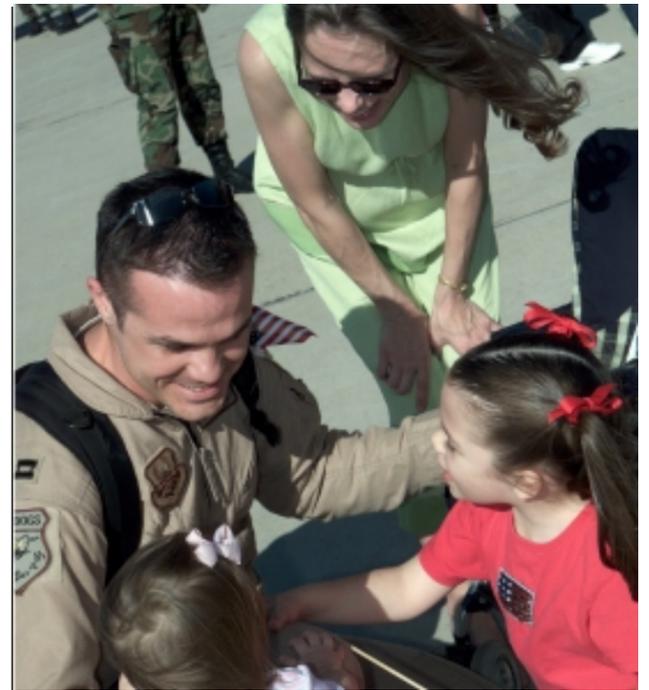
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be?**

My grandfather because he passed away before I was born. I never got the chance to find out what he was like.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

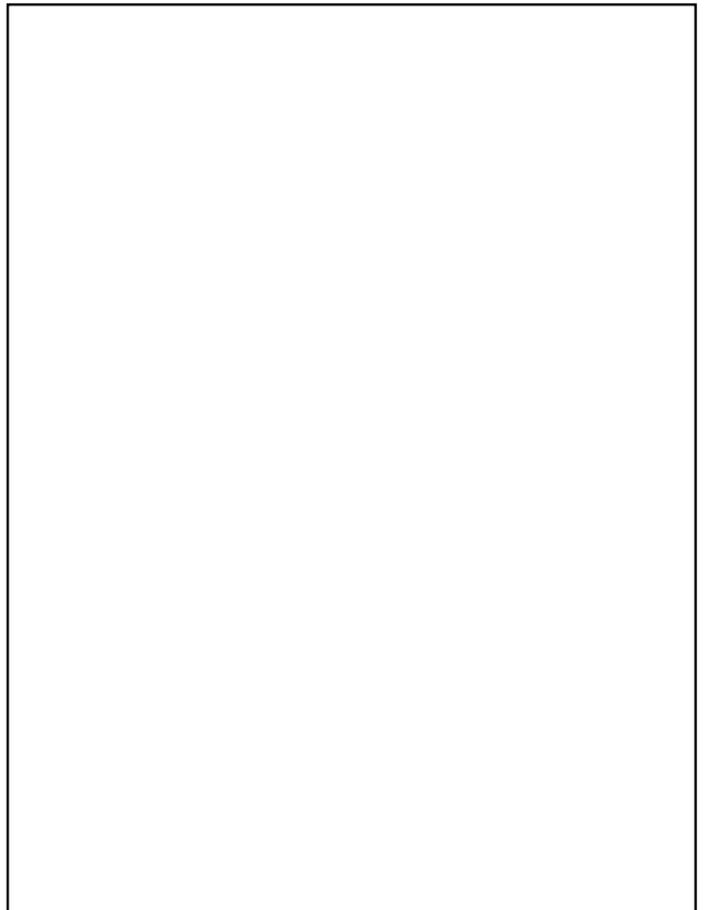




*Photo by Staff Sgt. Lanie McNeal*

## **Back home again...**

**Capt. Brian Gross** watches eagerly as his wife, Heather, tries to get their youngest daughter, Abby, to say "daddy" to him for the first time. Daughter Emma (right) tries to grab his attention at the same time. Captain Gross, assigned to the 354th Fighter Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., returned from a four-month deployment to Iraq on March 16.



## Fit to Fight Warrior of the Week

**Roberto Barrera**  
47th Mission Support Squadron



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

**Fitness philosophy:**

There is a high positive correlation between physical fitness and overall fitness. If your physical fitness is out of balance, your total well-being is out of balance. Fitness, to me, is more critical because of my disability.

**Favorite healthy treat:**

Oranges

**Fitness tip:** A regular jogging schedule is a fantastic stress reducer. Run!

**Fitness goals:** Physical fitness goal: maintain my weight under 170. Mental fitness goal: be involved in the community.

## XL Fitness Center hours

Monday - Thursday:  
5 a.m. to midnight

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

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

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

## Fitness Fact:

**Did You Know?** The carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke is absorbed by red blood cells, preventing them from picking up the oxygen they should be carrying to your body's muscles. That same carbon monoxide remains attached to the red blood cells for almost a day. So, next time you are huffing and puffing up those stairs, just remember that cigarette that you had ... yesterday!

