

Club Amistad reopens today, page 9

# Border Eagle

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Jan. 30, 2004

## Bird strikes managed by Laughlin's bird expert

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill  
Public Affairs

Three months after being hired to manage birds and animals on the airfield here, Laughlin's wildlife expert said the job is going well and progress has been made.

"We've been doing a lot of habitat modification for birds that hang around the end of the runways, mainly water fowls, song birds and Western Meadowlarks," said Dedrick Pesek, a U.S. Department of Agriculture wildlife biologist who will be assigned here for approximately one year.

Mr. Pesek said by using nonlethal, pyrotechnic harassment methods, or loud noises, he drives birds away from the airfield, reducing the potential danger they could cause to aircraft here.

See **Birds**, page 4



Courtesy photo

### Practice makes perfect...

**Kelsey Frank, daughter of Albert Frank, demonstrates a Kajukenbo sword form during the Del Rio health fair. Kelsey is a member of the Laughlin Kajukenbo class taught by Cedric Pickett, 47th Comptroller Flight contractor. See story page 9.**

## Team provides updates on education issues

Compiled from staff reports

Laughlin's Tiger Team on education issues convened Jan. 22 to discuss ongoing issues of concern to base parents. The cross-functional team, chaired by Col. Keith Traster, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander, has been working with local school officials to improve the quality of education in the local community.

Parents are encouraged to become actively involved at their child's school so issues may be addressed at the grass-roots level.

The following is a status report

of initiatives and ongoing issues.

### Initiatives

**Air Force Day:** The base and new middle school have teamed up to produce "Air Force Day." Middle school students are their parents are invited to attend from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 18 at the new school. Top Flight, part of the Air Force Band of the West, will perform two concerts, the Air Force's NASCAR show car will be set up, and there will be a drill-team demonstration, various information booths, and refreshments. Students' parents should be notified of the event through the school.

**Partners in Education:** The first Partners in Education project took place at Marion Russell Middle School Jan. 17 and was a tremendous success. More than 60 Laughlin volunteers painted benches, handrails and doors, and performed a complete audit of the library. The Top 3 will organize similar projects at various local schools bimonthly or quarterly.

### Ongoing issues

**Issue:** Can the schools honor federal holidays instead of taking off different days?

See **School**, page 4

## Newslines

### Change of command set

The 84th Flying Training Squadron will hold a change of command at 4 p.m. today in Hangar One. For information on the new commander, see page 7.

### Promotion ceremony set

An enlisted promotion ceremony is set for 5 p.m. today at Club Amistad. All base members are invited to attend.

### Gospel Fest scheduled

The chapel is hosting Gospel Fest starting at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The guest speaker will be Chap. (Lt. Col.) Lawrence Keith from the Air Force Personnel Center. Entertainment is scheduled to include the Korean Church Choir, Bibleway Choir, Mt. Olive Choir, Protestant Choir and spiritual dancers. A free barbecue meal will follow. Dress is casual or church dress.

For more information, call 298-5111.

### Base firing range restricted

Anyone needing access to the firing range area during duty hours should call combat arms at 298-5151. For access during nonduty hours, call the law enforcement desk at 298-5100.

## Deployment stats

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

## Mission status

(As of Tuesday)

Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -8.72      T-1, 0.37  
T-38, -2.15      T-6, -3.24

Mission capable rate:

T-37, 89.7%      T-1, 82.0%  
T-38, 79.6%      T-6, 83.1%

## Services members contribute to the fight



### Commander's Corner

By Chip Faver  
47th Services Division director

Good Friday morning. As I pondered my topic for this column, it occurred to me that I still feel the pain of waiting for nine deployed members to return to the 47th Services Division.

I became acutely aware of this feeling as we welcomed home 13 security forces deployees whose safe return and mission success were paramount.

My last words to the Services team were of courage, fortitude and hope for a safe return. I also addressed what Services brings to the fight in a deployed environment.

Those who have deployed know the content of this contribution. However, I soon discovered that in a training environment many do not have the benefit of this experi-

ence to draw on.

I think it is appropriate that I take a little time to speak to this essential mission contribution and further acknowledge feelings we confront during the long absence of a friend or loved one in harm's way.

The Services teams arrive first to the fight in most cases, standing abreast with the civil engineers and security forces troops, to help build the base or site. They often arrive to an empty field awaiting the many pallets of supplies and equipment that will follow. They join with civil engineers to construct a tent city and establish facilities.

You will find them pitching in while they also put together the first on-site lodging locations, set up the first field kitchens and take care of their comrades in arms.

Their contribution over the long haul is to bring sanity to a stressful and chaotic environment where the daily routine includes harsh and dangerous conditions. They provide the solace of retreat in the form of a community area, fitness center or library where troops can take a few minutes to unwind and regroup for the next day's mission requirements. In the field, Services is the critical link

between life's basic needs and mission accomplishment.

I recently received a base paper from one of our deployees depicting very harsh weather conditions and a huge challenge to daily operations. But most evident in those pictures were the smiling faces of people working together to overcome each challenge as it presented itself. A smile is a morale indicator, and I took those smiles to mean our team is doing their job and doing it well.

Each piece of the mission puzzle is important, and without every piece it remains a confusing and incomplete proposition at best.

I am proud to say I am affiliated in some small way with the performance of our deployed Services members. I know they are working hard to hold up their end of the deal and keep things running smoothly. Their concern is for the people working the mission. Their work is the replenishment and rejuvenation of the people resource.

So, the pain of separation remains; but, pride and the consolation of knowing our contribution to the fight is helping the mission and the people who most need our support remain.

## Veteran's final choices show love for blue suit

By Maj. John Thomas  
Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – Reid S. Wyant is dying. His daughter called me the other day looking for help putting together the items so that he could be buried in his Air Force service dress uniform. He served 30 years as an airman. And it

seems he's still one of us.

I got to thinking. What makes a person who has lived life as a civilian since 1980 want to be buried in his uniform?

I like to think maybe "service before self" gets into your blood. After all, retired Senior Master Sgt. Wyant switched his cancer treatment from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., not too long ago because the war was forcing them to cut back

care, and he wanted the active-duty people to get taken care of first. "Always thinking of others," his daughter says.

His daughter – her name is Andrae Harris – is helping care for him even as he edges closer to the end. She helps him plan it all out. Arlington National Cemetery was overruled by his wife, who wants him for eternity closer to family. Details like that.

Andrae says she always knew her dad was a hero. He was awarded the Airman's Medal for saving three swimmers' lives "in front of my very eyes, without a care to his own safety." He almost lost his own life doing it, she says. And that pales in comparison to his courage facing his cancer.

See **Veteran**, page 3

### Border Eagle

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#### 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).

# National Prayer Breakfast has colorful tradition

By Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim  
47th Flying Training Wing  
chaplain

America is the greatest nation on earth. Much of that greatness has to do with recognizing our inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

These rights are celebrated in many and various ways. One of the most colorful of these expressions is our National Prayer Breakfast, when we seek God's blessings upon our nation and enjoy a good meal together.

The origin of the National Prayer Breakfast dates back to the days of World War II, when members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives gathered to share breakfast and pray for our nation. Since then, members of Congress have

continued this tradition.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the first "Presidential Prayer Breakfast" in 1953. Each year, the president, members of the Cabinet, Supreme Court, Congress, diplomatic officials and leaders in business, labor, education and science came together to eat and pray, seeking Divine guidance for their nation and reaffirming their dependence on God.

President Richard M. Nixon changed the name of this breakfast to the "National Prayer Breakfast" in 1970. He wished to de-emphasize the individuals involved and highlight the purpose of the meal.

For the past 34 years, military members and civic leaders have continued this tradition with their own local prayer breakfasts.

This year Laughlin's speaker will be Chap (Col.) John W. Stefero, command chaplain of

Air Education and Training Command.

As the command chaplain he advises on all matters that pertain to religious and moral welfare of the command. He is sure to inspire us to new heights of excellence and assist us to depend more fully upon our Creator for help and strength in these days.

Laughlin will host a multifaith prayer luncheon Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at Club XL. Tickets are on sale now for \$6 and can be purchased from the chapel, unit chaplains or the first sergeants. Children ages 8 and younger are free, but will need tickets.

For more information please contact Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack at 298-5667 or the chapel at 298-5111.

## Veteran, from page 1

Sergeant Wyant might say it is the friends you find that make the Air Force something you want to be buried with. "I've never known anyone that did not like my dad," his daughter says.

A former commander, Col. Roger Andersen, still visits him at home. "They would both re-enlist today," if they could, Andrae tells me.

Reid Wyant's life with the Air Force began when the young Air Force had been around for just seven years. "His uncle was a rear admiral and told him to join the Air Force," Andrae says. Seems his uncle was a smart man.

She says, "He caught a bus to Pittsburgh and never looked back."

I think he's looking back now.

Looking back on the people he met as a munitions maintenance specialist and first sergeant. Born and raised in Kitanning, Pa., he served in North Africa in the 1950s; Cambodia, Viet Nam, Laos and Korea in the 1960s. In 1971 he was in Thailand. And he was in plenty of stateside places in between. But no assignment was more important than the move from Denver to Bentwaters, England.

That's where a boy, dirt-poor and often mistreated by his grandfather, a guy who dropped out of school and put his kid brother through college ... well, England is where he met his wife,

**"Instead I think I'll hold my head high, out of respect for people like Sergeant Wyant and all those he represents – like my own dad and my father-in-law."**

Doreen. To hear Andrae tell it, her mom's whole family fell in love with him. As much, it seems, as he loved the Air Force.

Upon retirement from his second career he moved from Dallas to near Eglin where he fried

fish and chicken for squadron picnics. And where a couple of years ago they first treated him for cancer. And it was to Eglin that he went recently with his family to get all of his affairs together and prepare a final will.

I have never met Sergeant Wyant. But I have worked with people just like him every day of my 12 years in the Air Force. I have served with loyal members of every service. And I am off to

Iraq soon to work again with the State Department and other agencies.

People tell me to keep my head down when I go to Iraq.

Instead I think I'll hold my head high, out of respect for people like Sergeant Wyant and all those he represents – like my own dad and my father-in-law.

When Andrae asked him the other day, "Why the service dress uniform for the burial?" he said that is what he has always worn for important events, and he wanted his family to recognize him. His sense of humor is still healthy.

Maybe one day, I will ask to be buried in my service dress uniform, like Senior Master Sgt. Reid S. Wyant wants to be, "with full military honors."

In his case, the honor will be ours.



**Actionline**  
**298-5351**

Col. Dan Woodward  
47th Flying Training Wing commander

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been

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

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

Before you call the Actionline,

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

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

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

<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

## Birds, from page 1

Bird strikes have caused high monetary damage to the base's training aircraft, according to Capt. Derek Martin, Laughlin's bird-aircraft strike hazard manager. Bringing a wildlife expert on board was an initiative to decrease those bird strikes and the dangers they pose to aircrews, he said.

"Other Air Force bases that have used (experts) to control birds have had nothing but outstanding results," Capt. Martin said. "Having Mr. Pesek here to control and reduce the wildlife hazard on our airfield is worth the effort. He's a great asset in reducing the cost of bird-damaged aircraft and potentially averting a fatal accident."

In the past, an average of more than \$200,000 per year has been spent on those types of aircraft repairs, said the captain.

Over the last three months, there have been six bird strikes, a time period when bird strikes are typically low, Capt. Martin said. The long-term plan, however, is to collect more data.

"In the near future we will start trapping raptures, predator birds such as hawks, owls and American Kestrels that are found around the airfield," Mr. Pesek said. "We are going to catch

**"By reducing the number of birds in the air and being able to control that, we minimize exposure to life-threatening situations and damage to aircraft,"**

**– Capt. Derek Martin, Laughlin's bird-aircraft strike hazard manager**

them and relocate the birds about 200 to 300 miles from here."

These larger birds, which can be a greater threat to aircraft, come through here one or two at time and hang around the airfield, Mr. Pesek said. "We just want to relocate them to reduce the risk of an incident."

Clearing some of the brush around the departure and arrival points on the airfield is one accomplishment that has been made in order to reduce bird-strike incidents, according to Capt. Martin.

"We also have a reaction time, something we didn't used to have," he said. "We can get real-time information from the supervisor of flying and aircrew about a flock of birds on the airfield, identify them and have Mr. Pesek respond and disperse them."

## School, from page 1

**Status:** The school district will honor all federal holidays. This will alleviate problems associated with children being off school when Laughlin members must work, and Laughlin members being off on a federal holiday, but their children being in school.

**Issue:** More music teachers

**Status:** The base is continuing its search for music teachers who would be willing to conduct lessons for base children. Interested teachers should register with the base library or Family Support Center. A database will be maintained at the library for those families looking for a teacher.

**Issue:** Bus schedule for new middle school

**Status:** The bus schedule did not change from the previous one. Since school opened this month, there have been traffic problems. The school district has hired a consultant to assess the situation and recommend options

to improve traffic flow.

**Issue:** Quality of substitute teachers

**Status:** The school district plans to conduct four substitute-teacher training sessions over the next year with the Family Support Center. These sessions will be publicized by the Family Support Center and in the base paper.

**Issue:** Implementation of a wing mentoring program between Laughlin members and individual children in junior high and high school.

**Status:** The "One Person Can" mentoring program has been implemented, and volunteer mentors are being sought for Del Rio children. Mentors will work with at-risk children in middle or high school for one hour a week. Applications are available via the Laughlin home page and should be completed and submitted to Judy Rhinesmith in the 47<sup>th</sup> Medical Group.

**Issue:** Grade scale policy for advanced placement classes

Earlier this month, that reaction time came into play when the base operations staff reported an animal was running around the interior of the airfield and between the runways.

"Wild animals running around the airfield create a hazard to aircraft taking off and landing," Capt. Martin said.

Mr. Pesek responded to remove the animal, which turned out to be a raccoon stumbling around and looking very sickly. "I could tell it had rabies by just looking at it," he said. "There was no doubt the animal was sick and disoriented."

The wildlife expert cautioned if people on base notice an animal not acting normally, staggering, foaming at the mouth or looking unhealthy, do not go near it. Instead, call pest management at 298-5488 to take care of it.

Wildlife comes with the territory as student pilots conduct daily flight training here, but reducing the risk of bird and animal strikes is key to maintaining the wing's mission, Capt. Martin said.

"The overall mission here is to train the world's greatest pilots, but safety is the first and foremost concern," he said. "By reducing the number of birds in the air and being able to control that, we minimize exposure to life-threatening situations and damage to aircraft."

**Status:** The grade-scale policy has changed to give students more credit for pre-Advanced Placement (5 points) and Advanced Placement courses (6 points). This will not affect those already in high school, but will be implemented beginning with next year's 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Issue:** Compiling a list of tutors to work with home-schooled children on specialized subjects such as languages, advance math and science

**Status:** Volunteer tutors should register with the base library or Family Support Center. A database of volunteers is maintained at the library for those families requesting a tutor.

The next Education Town Hall meeting will take place in early to mid-March to inform parents of the Tiger Team's progress over the last year and to solicit additional feedback. Details will be published in an upcoming edition of the *Border Eagle*.

Parents wanting to know more about the local school district or schools can go to [www.sfdr-cisd.org/](http://www.sfdr-cisd.org/).

## Newslines

### Prayer luncheon tickets on sale

Tickets for the National Prayer Luncheon, a multifaith event, are on sale now. The luncheon is set for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Club XL. Cost is \$6 for adults. Children 8 years old and younger are free but require a ticket due to limited seating.

To purchase tickets or for details, call 298-5111.

### Scholarship application due

The application for Park University's Military Family Scholarship, good for 15 credit hours, is due by April 1. All active-duty dependents are eligible.

For more information, call Park University at 298-5593.

### OSC offers scholarships

Laughlin's Officers Spouses Club is offering academic and vocational scholarships to military spouses, dependent children and E-4s and below.

For eligibility, guidelines and application forms, contact the base education office at 298-5520, local area high school counselors' offices, local colleges or go to [www.captain.park.edu/laughlin/ocs\\_scholarship.htm](http://www.captain.park.edu/laughlin/ocs_scholarship.htm).

For more information, call Marlene Katz at 298-3752 or Allyson Ludington at 298-3184.

The deadline for applications is April 10.

### FEEA scholarship available

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance scholarship is available for civilian federal employees and their dependent family members.

For a list of rules and an application, go to the FEEA Web site at [www.feea.org](http://www.feea.org).

### New MEO Web site available

The Military Equal Opportunity office has a new Web site that provides information on all of Laughlin's military equal opportunities and equal employment opportunities.

The Web site can be found on the Laughlin home page. Go to "Organizations" then "Wing Staff Agencies" or go to <https://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/sa/MEO%20website/Home.htm>.

# National Guard soldiers leaving Air Force gates

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

WASHINGTON – A mix of airmen, civilians, contractors and new technology will replace Army National Guard military policemen now posted at Air Force bases.

The original agreement struck between the Air Force and the Army called for using the Guardsmen at base entry points for two years, enough time to find a solution to the Air Force security forces manpower shortfall, said Brig. Gen. James M. Shames, Air Force director of security forces. But just one year into the plan the Army faced increased requirements in 2003 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their operations tempo did not decline following the end of hostilities.

“We started with about 8,000 (Army National Guard) soldiers but in the second year they will only be able to provide about 6,500 on a continuing basis,” General Shames said. “We’re going to fill that gap with volunteers from our Air Reserve Component,

civilians and contractors.”

Other options being considered for longer-term solutions include converting manpower positions in overage career fields to security forces, and making other manpower changes within the security forces career field, General Shames said. Technological solutions will also be applied to situations where they are more efficient than posting a patrolman. Finally, as a stop-gap measure, augmentees will continue to fill temporary shortages.

The most important security measure, said General Shames, is making sure the entire Air Force team works together to keep Air Force installations and people safe.

“Security forces can’t do it alone, everybody has to be involved,” General Shames said. “As the Air Force chief of staff and others have said, ‘every airman is a sensor.’ That’s what we need to do. I see information every day where airmen, civil servants or contractors have called us to say, ‘something looks wrong here, can you check it out?’ In some cases individuals have

been uncovered who we did need to check out.”

One example of this enthusiasm for team effort, General Shames said, is a former augmentee who now serves as a security forces specialist.

Senior Airman Tyrone Brunskill began his Air Force career as an information manager working in an underground facility at Goodfellow Air Force Base. He discovered a higher sense of purpose as a security forces augmentee.

“It was very satisfying working with people,” Airman Brunskill said. “When you’re outside at your post, people always stop to tell you how much they appreciate you being on guard, protecting them. I didn’t have that same feeling in my regular job. I like being around people, talking to people, not sitting behind a desk.”

Airman Brunskill decided to be a permanent security forces team member when it came time to make a career job reservation.

“People still tell me they appreciate us and tell us how important this job is,” he said.

“I have no regrets. It’s been a very good experience so far.”

Those kinds of comments are typical of what General Shames calls a “phenomenal team.”

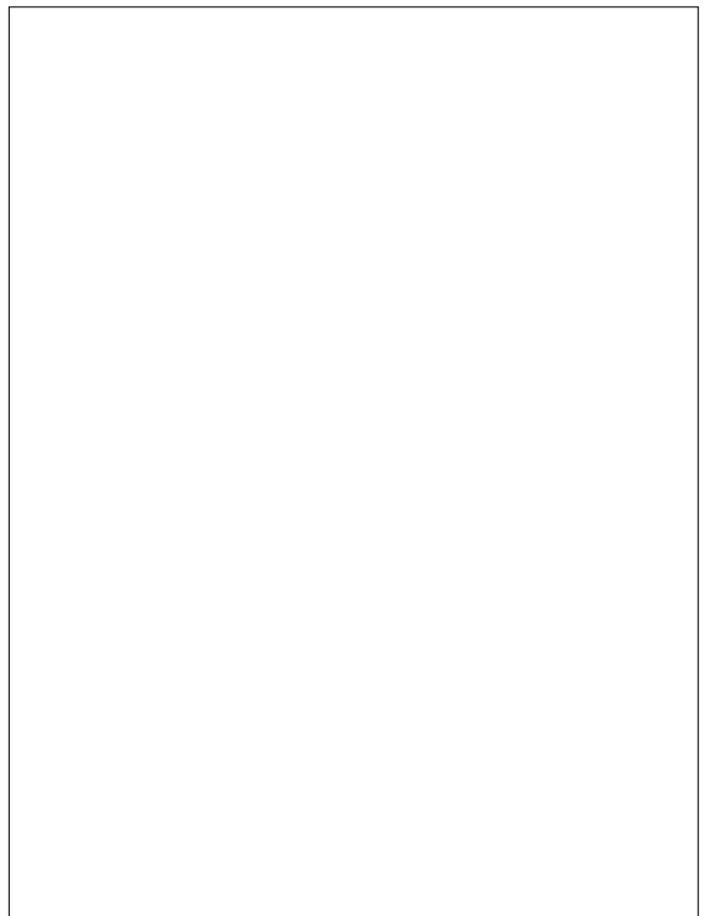
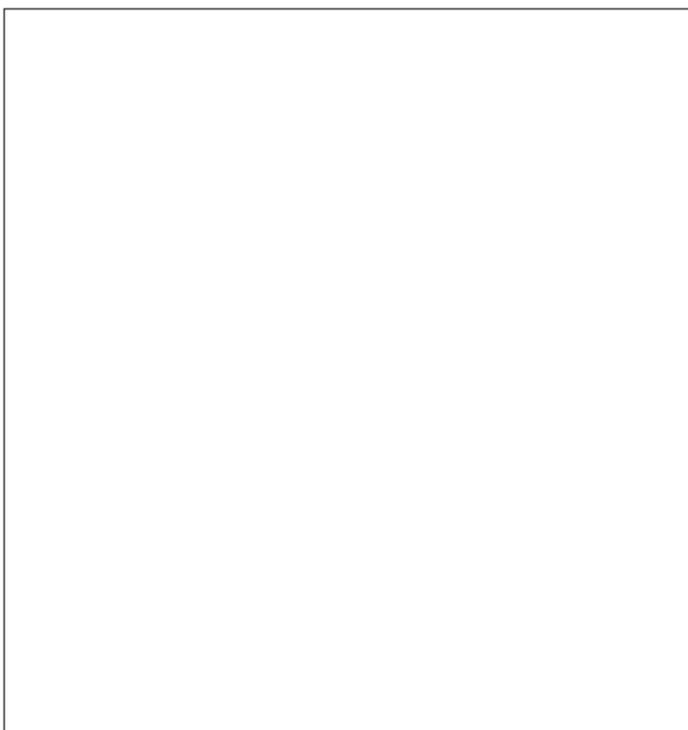
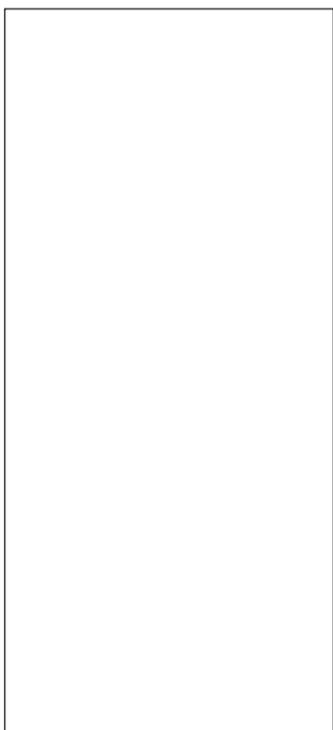
“What a great team we have ... different kinds of people working together: our contractors, Reserve component, active-duty, Army National Guard and augmentees,” the general said.

Besides bolstering manpower, security forces planners will incorporate technology to reduce the burden on people and increase efficiency, General Shames said. Some examples are explosive-detection equipment, long-range detection and assessment systems, and automated identification checks at base gates.

“Instead of having a human assigned to a patrol, we’ll use systems where we can see areas farther out than a person can, run the information back

to a central location and respond as needed,” General Shames said. “We’ll also use automated identification credentialing systems that will check people coming on base faster than an individual stopping a car and looking at an (identification card). It will compare the ID to an electronic database ... in a matter of a second or two and let the person or car proceed. If the credential doesn’t check out, a barrier drops. If that person goes through the barrier, there will be another one. It’s a layered approach to boost our defenses.”

Whatever form these measures ultimately take, people should expect a credible check that allows the right people into the appropriate areas, General Shames said. “We want to complicate things for our adversary so that he abandons his target, or we catch him in the act, or interrupt the act in progress,” he said.



## 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, 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.**

# Base welcomes new 84th FTS commander

Team XL welcomes a new squadron commander today. Lt. Col. Kelly Fletcher takes over command of 84th Flying Training Squadron from Lt. Col. Francis Brown. Colonel Brown moves on to be the deputy commander of the 47th Operations Group here.

Colonel Fletcher come to the the 84th after being the 47th Flying Training Wing chief of wing safety.

**Lt. Col. Kelly Fletcher**

**Hometown:** Grand Island, Neb.

**Time in service:** 25 years, seven months

**Education:** Bachelor's in business administration from National College, Rapid City,



**Lt. Col. Fletcher**

S.D.; Master's in community services, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.; Air War College by correspondence

**Previous assignments:** Randolph Air Force Base; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Randolph AFB; Kadena Air

Base, Japan; Laughlin AFB; Holloman AFB, N.M.; Tyndall AFB, Fla.; Columbus AFB, Miss.

**Greatest accomplishment:** Raising two great young adults

**Leadership philosophy:** (Based on a quote from Theodore Roosevelt) Have enough sense to pick good people to do what you want done and the self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it.

**Personal hero:** My grandmother, Ruby Ellis

**Favorite quote:** "Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results." - Gen. George S. Patton

**Hobbies:** Flying my Mooney airplane

## Are you supporting your commissary?

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

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

- By giving the commissary your e-mail address you can receive the Commissary News Letter every month to learn what is on sale.
- Without support, commissaries could become a thing of the past.



## Laughlin Salutes

### 47th Flying Training Wing enlisted promotions:

**To master sergeant:**

- Randall Tyree, 47th Security Forces Squadron

**To staff sergeant:**

- Stacy Kelley, 47th SFS

**To senior airman:**

- Edwin Daroca, 47th Communications Squadron
- America Frisby, 47th Operations Support Squadron
- Lydell Hudson, 47th OSS
- Frederick Keese IV, 47th FTW/Maintenance Directorate
- Jason Tomlin Jr., 47th OSS

**To airman 1st class:**

- Derek Hartman, 47th OSS
- Heather Kerr, 47th CS
- Anthony Michels, 47th OSS
- Sara Wacenske, 47th Flying Training Wing command post

- Jacob Pegg, 47th OSS

### 47th Flying Training Wing special program selectees:

**Torch Look Program:**

- Capt. Scott Johnson, 47th CS

**Torch Light:**

- Capt. Derek Stuart, 84th Flying Training Squadron

### Air Education and Training Command awards:

**Mission Support**

**Category,**

**Personnel Technician:**

- Tech. Sgt. Karen Lewis, 47th Mission Support Group

**Civillian Personnel**

**Category,**

**Personnel Officer:**

- Ms. Esther Gomez, 47th Mission Support Squadron

Need the latest Laughlin information?

Call Laughlin's Information Line at 298-5201.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Lasky

### American 'feuerfighter'

Tech. Sgt. Mark Smurda (right) spends his off-duty time with local German firefighters Tina Heintz (left) and her brother, Ingo, at the volunteer fire department in Bruchmuhlbach-Miesau, Germany. Sergeant Smurda is a firefighter assigned to the 86th Civil Engineer Squadron at Ramstein Air Base. He said volunteering allows him to test his Air Force skills and learn new approaches to firefighting.

Check us out online...

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

## Laughlin martial arts team performs in San Antonio

By 1st Lt. Lindsay Logsdon  
Public affairs

Laughlin's very own Kajukenbo demonstration team, upon special invitation, traveled to the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio Saturday to participate in the Asian New Year Festival.

The 7-person team performed choreographed fight scenes, Kajukenbo forms, and weapons demonstrations at the festival.

Kajukenbo is a combination of Karate, Judo, Jujitsu, Kenpo, and Chinese and American boxing. "It's actually a street-fighting system that combines all of the different arts, but the kids first learn basic techniques and self-defense moves," said Cedric Pickett, 47th Comptroller Flight contractor and Laughlin's Kajukenbo instructor.

The special invitation to the festival came by way of Mr. Pickett's instructor in San Antonio who had seen the group perform a demo earlier in the year. "I was very excited that my students were going to have the opportunity not only to demonstrate their skills but also experience the Asian festival," he said.

The Laughlin team arrived at the festival earlier than their demo time. "I like to take them early so they can see everything and watch the other [martial arts] schools perform," said Mr. Pickett. "It helps to give them a perspective or comparison for where

they are at in their training."

The festival hosted eight different martial arts schools and also had many cultural exhibits and food booths. Throughout the day more than 15,000 people visited the cultural center. As part of a demo team, each member had practiced a particular form to demonstrate at the festival.

"I really enjoyed participating in the demo," said Adam Kent, son of Major Kevin and Elizabeth Kent. "I used a 'deer horn' weapon and performed the first form I had learned."

Another member of the team, Senior Airman Ryan Faircloth, 47th Communications Squadron vulnerability assessment specialist, performed a weapons demonstration with the Chinese broadsword.

"I was a little nervous to start off, but once I started performing my form it went away," he said. In another portion of the demo, Airman Faircloth played an attacking villain as other members demonstrated self-defense techniques against him.

One of the highlighted demo teams at the festival was the National Korean team. "It was a really positive experience for the kids," said Maj. Tom Kublie, 85th Flying Training Squadron assistant director of operations and father of Josh Kublie, a Kajukenbo student. "It was nice that they were also able to experience some of the Asian culture."

Having studied Kajukenbo for 30



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

**Austin Mack, son of Lynne and Lt. Col. Russell Mack, 87th Flying Training Squadron operations officer, practices a form Wednesday at the base fitness center.**

years, Mr. Pickett said he has learned to compete and "adapt as you go". He also knows the importance of training. "I want my students to share in all the lessons I have learned over the years, and through the art of Kajukenbo, help them to improve."

Mr. Pickett teaches class at the fitness center every Tuesday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. for youth and 7 p.m. for adults. For those interested in learning more about Kajukenbo or joining the team, contact the Youth center at 298-5343.

## Club Amistad celebrates its grand reopening

By Airman 1st Class  
Timothy J. Stein  
Editor

Club Amistad is celebrating its recent renovation with a grand reopening ceremony at 3:30 p.m.

Visitors coming to the club will see many new things, said Mike Easterly, Club Amistad manager.

"We wanted to bring it back online for the enlisted side of the house," he said. "We needed to make this a place where people wanted to go."

Chief Master Sgt. Ted Pilihos, 47th Flying Training Wing command chief, also believed the club could be-

come something better than what it was, said Mr. Easterly.

"He went to the base commander and was able to get \$50,000 to improve the club," he said.

The money went to buy new carpet, paint, pictures and an expanded dance floor. The 47th Services Division also contributed money for new tables, chairs, TVs and pool tables.

Also new to Club Amistad is Pepperonis!, the base pizza parlor, which moved from Club XL.

"Moving Pepperonis! was a large operation, a lot larger than we thought," said Mr. Easterly. "It was a great effort between Services and civil engineering. It has been a total base

effort. The fire marshal got involved. Public health was involved. You want to make sure you do everything correct the first time so you don't have to do it again."

In addition to renovations, the club is having many special events in the future to get people in the doors.

"Now that the club looks like a place where people would want to go, we have to give them a reason," said Mr. Easterly.

Every Friday the club is holding a membership drive, and club members and those who sign up to be members are eligible to win a weekly pot of money. If no one wins, the to-

tal keeps increasing. Today's pot is worth \$175.

There is also a karaoke contest at the club tonight starting at 9 p.m.

For Sunday's Super Bowl, the club is giving away \$1,250 in football merchandise. During the game several drawings will be held where the winner gets money to spend online at the NFL's merchandise. The club will also be giving out many small prizes, such as T-shirts. The club opens at 4 p.m. Sunday.

These are just a few of the incentives the club management is offering to bring in more people.

For more information on club events and activities, call 298-5346.

# Red Bulls help out local Boys and Girls Club

Compiled from staff reports

Recently, 24 members of the 87th Flying Training Squadron gathered at the Boys and Girls Club in Del Rio to help prepare a new gym for the club's basketball season this year.

"Our goal was to give back to the community the support that has been given to us," said Capt. Robert Goddard, 87th FTS instructor pilot.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America trace its roots back to 1860 when the first Boys Club was organized in Hartford, Conn. The club's mission is to "inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens." The club serves over 3.6 million kids at 3,300 locations worldwide.

Locally, the Boys and

Girls Club sponsors a youth basketball league. Last year, more than 60 teams across various age groups played games in one gym, which generated a schedule that lasted until 10 p.m.

The plan was to open a second location this year to alleviate the overcrowding and allow a more accommodating schedule. The 87th's project was to prepare the gym for this season, said Captain Goddard.

"Joe Garza (Chief Professional Officer of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Del Rio) was very receptive to the help we were bringing his way and gathered all the necessary materials," said Captain Goddard. "With all the logistics squared away, the 87th was ready to put the plans into action."

And it took alot for action to get the gym ready.

"It took several hours of tough, but fun, manual labor for the gym's interior to start

taking form," said Captain Goddard.

First, the floor had to be cleaned with an acid-etching solution before it could be painted. Then, the stage was shortened and both basketball goals were assembled. Finally, the dimensions for the court (about 2/3 normal size) were calculated, precisely laid out with masking tape and painted onto the prepared concrete floor. All this was done while another group of Red Bulls constructed from scratch three sets of cubbyholes for keeping shoes, backpacks and coats off the floor.

"All in all it was a very rewarding experience," said Captain Goddard.

Lt. Col. Mark Mattison, 87th FTS commander, said he was proud to be part of the experience and even more proud that so many Red Bulls gave up part of their weekend for the cause.

"Just seeing the look on

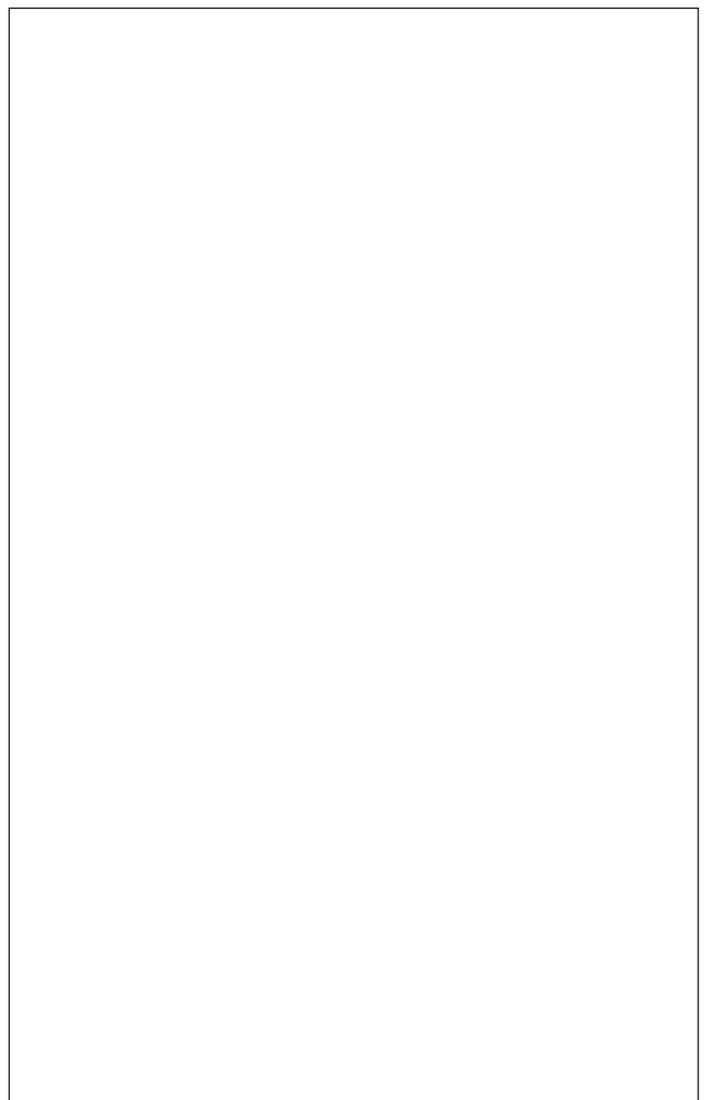
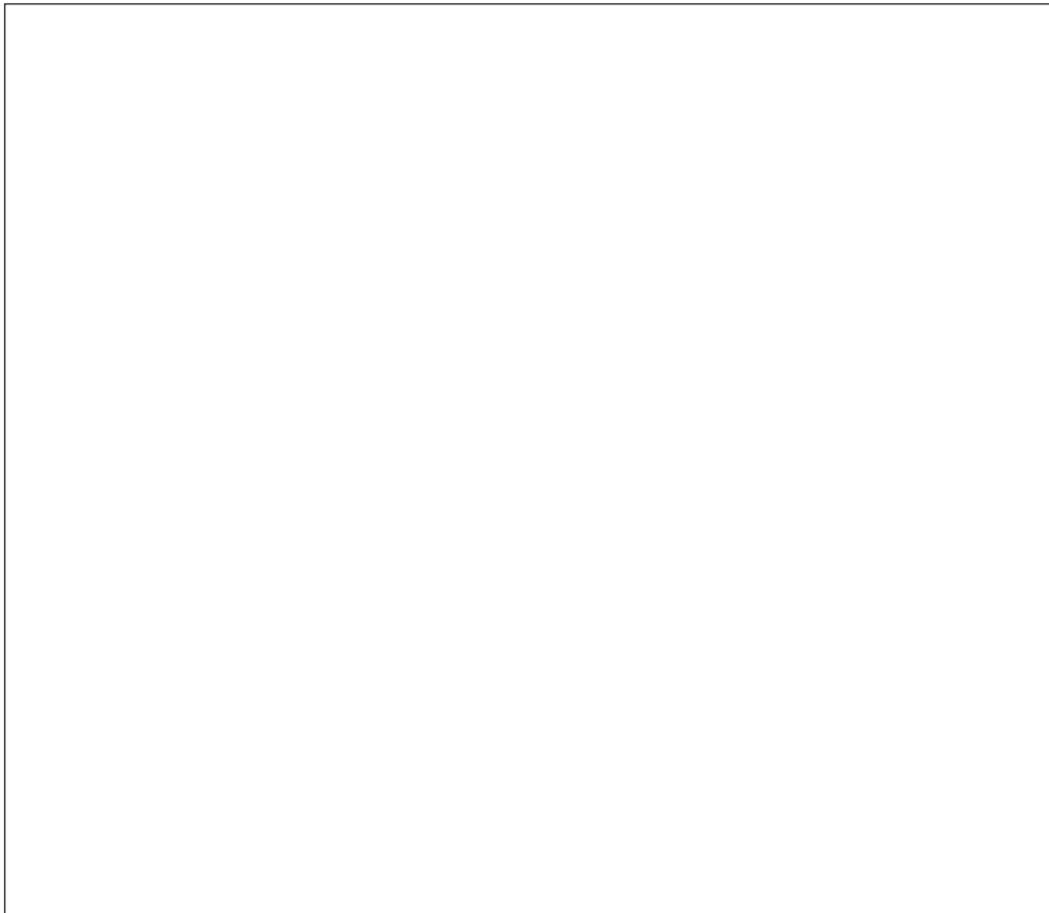


Courtesy photo

**Members of the 87th Flying Training Squadron pose with members of the local Boys and Girls Club at the gym the 87th FTS helped finish.**

Mr. Garza's face when we finished was thanks enough and a great reminder to all of us

that it is truly better to give than to receive," said Captain Goddard.





*Staff Sgt. Verlin Levi Collins*

## **When sparks fly...**

**Tech. Sgt. Mark Sauerwald grinds a steel plate for armor protection on a 5-ton truck Jan. 16 at Baghdad International Airport.. Sergeant Sauerwald is a vehicle mechanic with the 447th Expeditionary Logistical Readiness Squadron.**

# Wife helps identify drug problem

By Senior Airman  
Nicholasa Reed  
Air Armament Center  
Public Affairs

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – “No matter what kind of person you are, drugs will ruin you,” said an obviously uneasy, 21-year-old Airman Basic Michael Dancer as he nervously turned the wedding band on his finger.

Wearing a blue correctional custody jump suit, Airman Michael spoke from experience. Though he was not caught driving under the influence, buying or distributing, he was turned in by Airman 1st Class Dacia Dancer, his wife.

“I love him, I just didn’t like what he was doing. I did what I had to, to get him help,” Airman Dacia said.

Airman Michael entered the Air Force in March 2001 and seemed to be off to a good start. He won airman of the quarter for his squadron and was a member of the base honor guard for eight months.

Having performed 45 details, Airman Michael was even eligible for an achievement medal. That is why many of his friends, family and colleagues were shocked when they found out about his addiction to cocaine.

“Airman (Michael) was highly involved in school and sports, and he had good grades. He was not a troubled youth,” said Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Lopez, 96th Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant and a former substance abuse counselor. “He was one of the top troops, extremely proper with his cus-

tom and courtesies and impeccable uniforms.”

After serving in the Air Force for one year and nine months, Airman Michael began socializing with a civilian friend who had a history of drug use. In December 2002, Airman Michael and his friend began to use cocaine.

“The night he first tried cocaine, he had been drinking, which brought his inhibitions down,” Sergeant Lopez said. “He went straight from alcohol to intravenous drug use.”

That is not typical of a first-time user. Most first-time drug users do not go straight to the needle, but start with a gateway drug, Sergeant Lopez said.

A month later Airman Dacia began to have suspicions about her husband’s activities. One day she came home in the middle of her shift and found Airman Michael with dilated eyes and acting oddly. Then she found drugs in his pants’ pocket. Airman Dacia said she entered the military to get away from a past run-in with drugs and was infuriated with her husband’s decision to bring drugs into their lives.

“I told her I would stop,” Airman Michael said. But he said he found the addiction made it hard for him to keep that promise.

In March, Airman Dacia caught her husband using drugs again. Fed up, she called the police. Airman Michael left the house, but minutes later returned home.

“I wanted to get help,” he said. “I saw what I was putting her through and knew I

## The *XLer*

**Staff Sgt. Debbie Chavas**  
47th Operations Support Squadron

**Hometown:** Colorado Springs, Colo.  
**Family:** Daughter, Angelica  
**Time at Laughlin:** Two and a half years  
**Time in civil service:** Five and a half years  
**Greatest accomplishment:** Having my daughter  
**Hobbies:** Anything I can do with Angel  
**Bad habit:** I tend to be very nit picky  
**Favorite movie:** “Pirates of the Caribbean”  
**Favorite musician:** I don’t really have a specific group, it just depends on my mood.  
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be?** My older sister. She died when she was 22. I like to think she is up there leading me in a more positive direction.

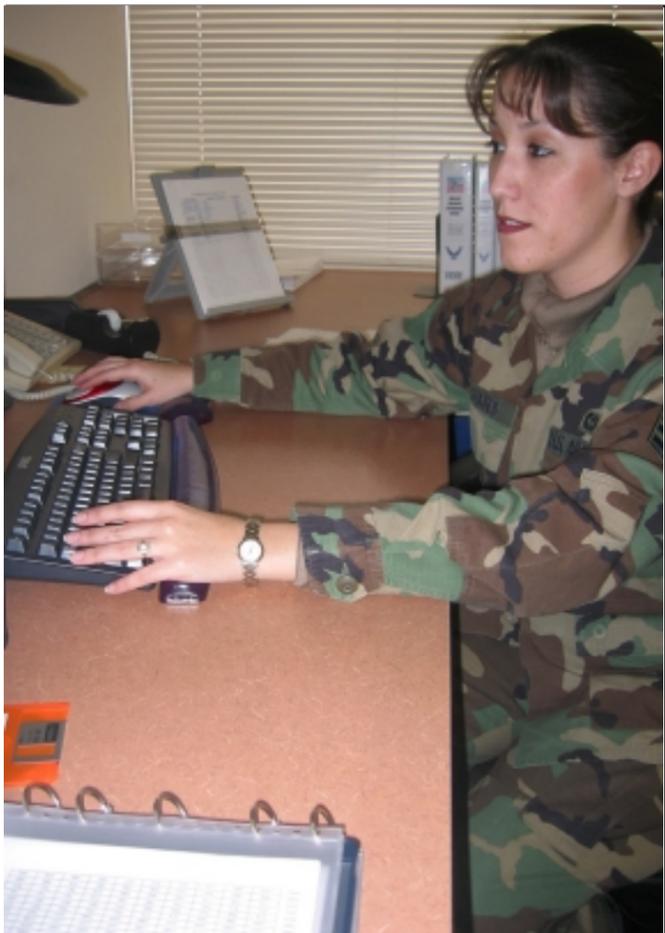


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

needed to get help.”

When the police arrived at the Dancer home, they believed they were responding to a domestic dispute and separated the couple. Airman Dacia told the police that her husband had been using drugs and Airman Michael confessed to the crime.

Airman Michael took immediate responsibility for his actions, Sergeant Lopez said.

“My supervisor picked me up and we met my first sergeant at the hospital for a urinalysis, then went to the security forces squadron to make a statement,” Airman Michael said.

“My first sergeant was really supportive and still is,” he said. “Really, everyone has been supportive (including) my wife, her parents and my

parents.”

“I give a lot of credit to Dacia,” Sergeant Lopez said. “She decided early on that if he was willing to get help they would stay together, but they would need counseling.”

Through the help of the alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment program in life skills, the Dancers have received family counseling to get through this time with Airman Michael remaining in correctional custody.

During a special court-martial by a judge alone, Airman Michael was sentenced to six months confinement, forfeiture of pay and a bad conduct discharge. Because of financial restraints on Airman Dacia’s behalf, the air base

wing commander waived the forfeiture of pay.

Of all of his regrets, Airman Michael said he hated that this habit had affected his wife.

“She could have walked off whenever she wanted to, but she decided to stay and work through the pain,” Airman Michael said. “I respect her even more for that.”

The message Airman Michael’s situation highlights for Sergeant Lopez is the effect his behavior will have on his future.

“A bad conduct discharge results in a felony conviction. That means he is not allowed to carry a firearm or vote,” she said. “Those are rights, as American citizens, we take for granted.”

# CES crushes Med Group A, 67-32

By Airman 1st Class  
Timothy J. Stein  
Editor

The 47th Civil Engineer Squadron Team A beat up a depleted 47th Medical Group Team B Monday in an intramural basketball game at the base fitness center.

The Med Group started the game with only six players to CES's 14. CES made use of the extra players by constantly substituting in fresh bodies while the Med Group was only allowed to rest one player at a time.

CES started the game strong, scoring the first 12 points. Chad Workman contributed four points during this stretch.

The Med Group finally stopped the bleeding when Mark Mercer was able to put the ball through the hoop for two.

CES didn't let the Med Group gain any ground, however, as they quickly

responded with four more points. Paxton Hicks hit a three-pointer for the Med Group to bring the score to 19-5 in favor of CES.

Ray Dunklin of CES quickly answered those points with a three-pointer of his own. The teams kept trading buckets for the rest of the half. At the break the score was 35-14, with CES on top.

Dunklin led all scorers in the first half with 11. Hicks was the high scorer for the Med Group with five.

The second half went much the same way for both teams.

Workman started the half for CES by scoring two points on a fast-break layup. The Med Group quickly answered with five points of their own including a long three-point shot from Neo Greene.

Down by 20 points with time running out, the Med Group needed to do something quickly if they were to remain in the game. Unfortunately for

them, CES went on an 11-point run led by Dunklin who scored seven.

Up by 31 points with 10 minutes left, CES kept substituting bench players in and out to give everyone a chance to play and rest. The Med Group, who received one more player at half time, still didn't have that option. They played the final 10 minutes as hard as the first 10 minutes. At the end of the game, the overmatched and undermanned Med Group lost 67-32.

Dunklin led CES with 18 points, and Hicks led the Med Group with seven.

The win brings CES to a perfect 5-0 record and a one-game lead over the combined 47th Communications and Contracting Squadron team. The loss drops Med Group to 1-5.

In the Eastern Conference, the 86th Flying Training Squadron is tied with the Laughlin Consolidated Services Aircraft Maintenance team with a record of 3-1.

## Basketball standings

(As of Thursday)

### Eastern Conference

Team	W-L
86th	3-1
LCSAM	3-1
87th	2-1
84th/85th	3-1
OSS	1-3

### Western Conference

Team	W-L
CES A	5-0
CCS	4-1
CES B	4-3
SFS	3-3
MSS/WING	2-4
MED A	1-5
MED B	0-4

## 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!