Vol. 48, No. 1 – **Jan. 14, 2000**

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'

Newsline

A glance at news affecting Laughlin

Pilot graduation

The graduation ceremony for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 00-04 is 10 a.m. today in the Operations Training Complex auditorium.

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Gerald Prather will be the guest speaker.

Annual awards

The 1999 47th Flying Training Wing annual awards banquet is 6 p.m. Saturday at Club XL. Dress will be mess dress/semi-formal uniform or equivalent attire for civilians.

Office closure

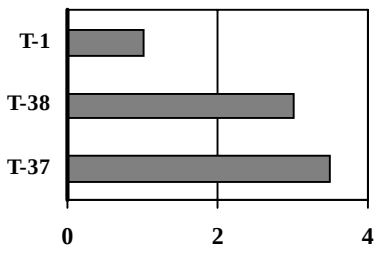
Medical Logistics will be closed for routine business from Feb. 1-4 due to mandatory annual inventory.

For more information, call 6402.

Mission status

(As of Jan. 11)

Student Timeline



Days (+ahead/-behind)

Sorties flown in FY 00:
17,563
Hours flown in FY 00:
33,212
Pilot wings earned in FY 00:
75
Pilot wings earned since 1963:
11,460

Three base members win AETC-level award

By Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit
Staff writer

Air Education and Training Command headquarters notified three base members Jan. 11 that they were selected to receive the prestigious AETC Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award for 1999.

This award is an annual command-level recognition given to those whose contributions result in positive base production, improvement and changes.

Maj. Steve Donatucci, 47th Communications Squadron commander, won the award in the field grade manager category. Richard Davis, a quality assurance supervisor for Laughlin Civil Service Aircraft Maintenance, was selected in the civilian manager category, while Russell Schamus, a nondestructive inspections tester for the LCSAM quality assurance section, won in the civilian technician category.

Donatucci

Recognized for overseeing a $5 million installation of fiber optic computers and safeguarding pilots by leading a VHF omnidirectional range tactical air navigation overhaul, Donatucci insists that he would not have been able to win the award without those under his command. "Although this is an individual award, it was earned by every member in my squadron," the major said. "Due to our

See 'Marquez,' page 12

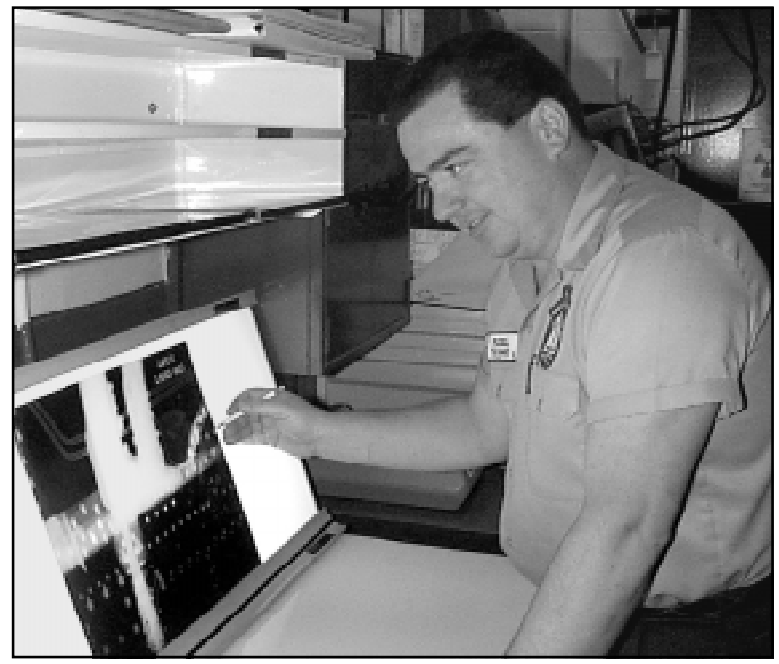


Photo by Pat Watson

Schamus inspects a nondestructive inspection film for possible aircraft defects.

47th Flying Training Wing opens this year's Tax Assistance Program

By Staff Sgt. Samuel C. Ezernack
47 FTW law office

Tax season is here, and the Laughlin Air Force Base Tax Assistance Program can help you prepare and file your tax return now!

The program is designed to help active duty members and their eligible dependents, as well as retired military members and their eligible dependents with filing basic tax returns. Twenty-seven Volunteer Income Tax Assistance representatives from Laughlin have completed training conducted by the Internal Revenue Service, and are prepared to assist you.

In addition to assisting you in determining how much tax you owe or what refund you might receive, the VITA representatives can electronically file your tax return. By filing electronically, you may receive any refund you are due more quickly than if you file by mail. You may also arrange to have any tax you owe paid by electronic withholding from your bank account. To take advantage of this program, contact the VITA representative from your unit to make an appointment. We couldn't have a successful tax program without them!

This year's VITA representatives for each organization are listed below, along with their office and phone extensions.

Unit	Office	VITA representative	Ext.
47 FTW	PA	Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff	5262
	SEG	Chance Roden	4823
	MO	Master Sgt. James Ketchel	4355
47 CES	CEF	Tech. Sgt. Terence Scott	5633
	CEV	2nd Lt. Nathan Fonnesbeck	4389
47 CONS	LGCC	Staff Sgt. Chuck Ferro	5608

Unit	Office	VITA representative	Ext.
47 CPTF	FMA	Angie Maley	5261
	FMFS	Senior Airman Irena Baker	5712
47 MSS	DPMD	Senior Airman Chad Jones	5605
	CSS	Staff Sgt. Anthony Williams	5670
47 SFS	SFOL	Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis	5245

See 'Taxes,' page 9

the inside scoop

Air Force tradition ...
Capt. Todd Rock, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron, highlights the importance of Air Force tradition.
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Hair retires ...
AETC Command Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Hair reflects on current issues as he retires today.
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New image ...
The Air Force focuses its identity to help with recruiting and retention issues in the new millennium.
Page 5

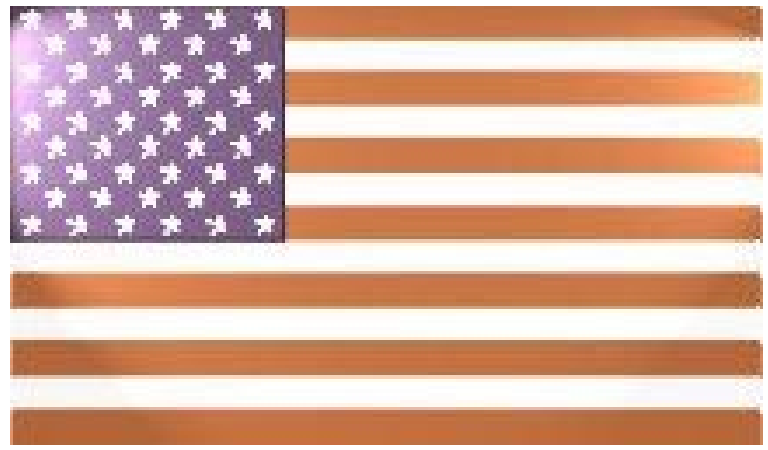
Air Force tradition recognized during constant change

By Capt. Todd Rock
47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

Moving to a new duty station between Thanksgiving and Christmas leaves little time to sit around and watch television, but while watching a football game over the Christmas weekend, I saw several Armed Forces recruiting commercials.

There were spots from all of our sister services, and truth be told, seeing the advertisements from the Marines, Navy and Army made me a bit envious. The visions of Marines in their "dress-blues," the sailor working aboard a mammoth aircraft carrier and the soldier coordinating ground maneuvers invoked in my mind the tremendous tradition of the United States Armed Forces. It made me wonder if we in the Air Force appreciate our roots, our tradition.

I have often heard, "How can we have tradition when everything is constantly changing?" How many uniform changes have we gone through in past years? In my 16 years of service, the dress uniform has changed three times. Why don't we stick with one type of dress uniform for the sake of identity? You know, so we can say, 'This is the same uniform that my father and grandfather wore during their Air Force service!' Why doesn't the Air Force have time-honored ceremonies like the Marine Corps Birthday Celebration, or the prestigious duty of standing guard over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier? We do not wear "hash marks" on our sleeves to show how long we have proudly served, nor do we carry guidons that hold ribbons of past battles.



Our sister services live gloriously in their past achievements, and they honor their heroes. People with cool nicknames like "Chesty Puller" and "Blood and Guts Patton" dot the annuals of their proud history. Places like Iwo Jima, Midway, Bataan, and Normandy, easily conjure up images of the sacrifices made for freedom. Where does my branch of service, the Air Force, fit into this equation?

As I mentioned earlier, I just transferred here. While doing the usual cumbersome unpacking, I came across my old Promotion Fitness Examination manual. Leafing through the dog-eared pages brought me back to the days when I was studying to be promoted to se-

See 'Tradition' page 12

Taking time to do the little things in life can have positive effects

By Senior Airman Mike Hammond
Editor

It was, like any Thursday in the Public Affairs office, a very busy day. Struggling against the deadline to put those last pages together, to edit one last story, to check and double-check facts for accuracy.

These actions, while often frenzied, are quite a regular occurrence for the members of our office. Each week, we know we have a paper to put out. Each week, we try to put it out a little better, a little faster.

When trying to streamline any process, it seems there will always be "little things" that can stand in the way of, or at least delay, any real progress. In construction work, it may be an unexpected thunderstorm. In aviation, it may be an excessive bird concentration in the area of operation. In public affairs newspaper work, I sometimes look at the phone as one such obstacle.

Those "little things" you do, that may make you break your routine, might not be so little to the person on the other end of the line.

So when our director of community relations, Jim Teet, received a phone call that Thursday from a gentleman at the front gate who wanted to tour the base, he very correctly replied that we were far too busy to accommodate such a short-notice request. But I was a little puzzled, and maybe even a little annoyed, as I picked up the phone (which had been transferred to my line). After all, (I reasoned to myself) as the editor, I have overall responsibility for getting the paper done each week – I don't have time to deal with this!

My attitude was about to change.

The gentleman, a Richard Wiseman, told me he had been stationed at Laughlin back in 1953 – and this was his first time back in the area since he left the base several years later. He lived in Connecticut, was here only through the following day, and thought this might be his only chance to see the base he once served at.

Well, mission comes first. I had to get the paper done, so a Thursday tour was out. But I scheduled an hour into the

'Little things,' page 12

Actionline

Call 298-5351

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.

Col. Winfield W. Scott III
47th Flying Training Wing commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Equal Opportunity	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170

Call: I have seen many organizations using Yahoo Internet to chat online. This is not what the Internet is intended for. I have addressed this issue with the 47th Communications Squadron, and would like to suggest that due to the abusive use of the Internet, we should cut this line.

Answer: Thanks for your input. You are right – chatting online is not what government computers are supposed to be used for.

Government computers are for official use, and accessing chat lines on government computers is **prohibited by AFI 33-129, Transmission of information via the Internet, paragraph 6.1.6.** It is the responsibility of every government computer user to comply with the rules outlined in AFI 33-129. When violations are observed, personnel should report the incident to their organizational commander. However, the Internet is a valuable resource some personnel need access to for official purposes, so "cutting this line" could negatively affect the ability to support the mission.

If you need further information, contact the 47th Communications Squadron. Either Capt. Susan Bullett (at 5542) or Maj. Steve Donatucci (at 5647) will gladly provide you information on the authorized and unauthorized use of government computers.

Border Eagle

Col. Winfield W. Scott III
Commander
1st Lt. Angela O'Connell
Public affairs officer
Senior Airman Mike Hammond
Editor
Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit
Staff writer
(Flag design: Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes, 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB, Texas.)

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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, Ext. 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: michael.hammond@laughlin.af.mil or reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

Visit Laughlin's website at **http://www.laughlin.af.mil/**

"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."
– 47 FTW motto

Safety Stats

As of Dec. 20, 1999
(Fiscal Year)

	'00	Total '99
On-duty mishaps	1	5
Off-duty mishaps	1	12
Traffic mishaps	0	2
Sports & Rec mishaps	1	6
Fatalities	0	0

AETC command chief master sergeant retires, still concerned about welfare of today's enlisted force

By Staff Sgt. Chuck Widener
AETC public affairs

Air Education and Training Command's command chief master sergeant is still concerned about today's enlisted force.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth E. Hair, who retires during a ceremony today at 9 a.m. on the Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, parade ground, said he is still worried about the decisions some enlisted members are making.

"I was down in one of the sections the other day talking with a staff sergeant with 10 years in the service. He was considering getting out," explained the chief.

The decision to stay in or get out of the military is one many people make each year. It's a decision all enlisted members face at the end of each enlistment - a decision Hair made during his 28-year career.

"I did, at about the eight-year point, think about getting out," said the chief. "In the mid to late 70s, it was very tough because we (aircraft maintainers) were expected to support an enormous mission without all the resources we needed. This was the one time in my career when I felt we weren't being taken care of like we should."

But according to the chief, the Air Force quickly realized its people needed more equipment and it began working to provide them with the resources needed to support the mission.

"That was the only time I ever considered a career other than the Air Force," said Hair. "But, I knew what I really wanted to do. It only took a few minutes to decide."

According to the AETC command chief, opportunity was the reason he decided to stay and make the Air Force a career. It was also the main reason he decided to join altogether.

Before joining the Air Force Nov. 2, 1971, Hair worked as an auto-mechanic and worked some odd jobs to pay for classes at a community college. After his first semester, he decided there had to be something better for him.

"I was working hard for not a lot of pay," he explained. "I was working jobs that weren't going anywhere. I thought, 'There has to be a better opportunity for me out there.'"

That's when 18-year-old Hair decided to talk with a recruiter.

"I could see that there was a system for progressing in the Air Force," said Hair.

"Even though I didn't get a lot of pay when I first came in, I knew that if I stayed for a few years I would make a little more money and things would get a little easier. I was looking for something and the Air Force provided me that."

The Air Force provided the chief not only with lots of opportunities, but a certain amount of stability as well - two characteristics he feels young people are still looking for today.

"There aren't a lot of differences between airmen when I came in and airmen who come in today," said the chief. "We are all looking for opportunity, and that has not changed."

Airmen today are looking for the same things people who joined several years ago were looking for. They're looking for a little structure in their lives, opportunities to advance and opportunities to get educated, explained Hair.

"An important factor I considered was continuing my civilian education, and I took advantage of that just like most of our Air Force people do today," he added.

Another opportunity the chief took advantage of was promotion testing. But there was also a point in his career when he said he felt he would never get promoted again.

"It took me longer to make technical sergeant than any other rank," said the chief, who was a staff sergeant for six years. "I was stalled. I thought I was going to be a staff sergeant forever."

AETC Command Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Hair retires today in a 9 a.m. ceremony.

At that point, Hair said he needed a kick-start. "I needed somebody to push me along."

He said this is a point where many staff sergeants struggle in today's Air Force, and that the time between Airman Leadership School and the NCO Academy can be pretty long. "That's why I'm really happy with what we are doing with our professional development and mentorship seminars at our bases. Fortunately for me, I had a lot of people mentoring me."

The chief said while the seminars are a great tool to help young NCOs, he feels mentorship cannot be stressed enough. "I think there is a call for senior NCOs to pay more attention to mentoring and communicating with our young people.

I challenge all senior NCOs to talk with our young people and give them all the facts so they can make an informative decision where to go in their careers."

"We also need to show people how much we appreciate what they do for our country," said Hair. "We need to do what we can to let people know they are being taken care of."

Probably the most significant change the Air Force has implemented to show it cares about its people is change in the retirement plan, explained the command chief. "That is the number one most

"The friends and acquaintances you meet along the way are incomparable. It really is like a big family, and I'll miss that after I retire."
– Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Hair
AETC command chief master sergeant

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

-**Daily Mass** 12:05 p.m.
-**Saturday Mass** 5 p.m.
-**Sunday Mass** 9:30 a.m.
-**Confession** 4:15 - 4:45 p.m. Saturday, or by appointment.
-**Choir** 6 p.m. Thursdays.
-**Sunday school** 11 a.m., religious education building.

Protestant

-General worship 11 a.m.
-Bible study video luncheon 11 a.m. Thursday, chapel fellowship hall.
-Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., religious education building.

Jewish

– Max Stool
219 West Strickland St.
Del Rio, Texas
Phone: 775-4519

For more information on chapel events and services, call 5111.

The *XL*er

Hometown: Jacksonville, Fla.
Family: Husband; Maj. Daniel Wolfer; daughter, Alexandra, 3; son, Trey, 8 weeks.
Time at Laughlin: 3 years, 19 days.
Time in service: 10 years.
Why did you join the Air Force family? Because I believe in the ideals upon which this country was founded and I wanted to do everything within my power to defend them and ensure they are there for my children.
Name one way to improve life at Laughlin: Put in a small laundromat for the personnel who live on base.
Greatest accomplishment: Finding the man of my dreams and being smart enough to marry him.
Long-term goals: Complete my masters degree and to be selected as laboratory director.
Hobbies: Collecting antiquarian children's books, gardening, sketching, choir and tea.
Favorite food, beverage: Steamed blue crab dipped in melted butter with ice tea.
Bad habit: Biting my nails.
Motto: Smile. God loves you.
If you could spend one hour with an historical figure, who would it be and why? My father. He died of a heart attack when I was 2 years old. I would love to have an hour's worth of memories to call my own.

Photo by Zenaphir Bond

Capt. Carolyn Wolfer
47th Medical Support Squadron

Air Force begins transition of new Air Force identity, symbol

By Senior Airman A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

As the Air Force continues its transition to the expeditionary aerospace force, it is focusing its identity to help with recruiting and retention in the new millennium.

As part of this effort, officials said they are working to establish a single, compelling theme and symbol to represent the Air Force to its members and the public.

"We want to ensure our core identity is part of our culture and is understood by our own people and the citizens we serve," said Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff. "As we enter the 21st century, our identity – who we are, what we do and what we believe – will represent both our heritage and our future."

"We know who we are and what we do," he said. "We want others to know, and we want them to support our Air Force."

Secretary of the Air Force Whit Peters said, "We know Air Force men and women take great pride in what they do. Our identity effort crystallizes what they're thinking. It will foster unity in the Air Force and help the American public understand the worthy work we do – from fighting the nation's wars to peacekeeping to humanitarian relief."

How is the Air Force determining how to express its identity? "By doing a lot of research," Col. Ron Rand, Air Force director of public affairs, explained.

With the help of a private corporate identity firm, Siegel & Gale, the Air Force spent the past year conducting research among the service and the public to capture the common elements of its identity that have great meaning to bind its people together.

The Air Force committed approximately $150,000 to research internal and external audiences to determine current understanding and beliefs held about the Air Force, and approximately $655,000 to hire Siegel & Gale to help interpret the research and ensure its identity is effectively communicated to Air Force members and potential recruits.

"Since last February, we've conducted seven surveys, held 68 focus groups and interviewed 13 retired four-star generals and 110 other people," Rand said. "We've taken input from about 10,000 people. Of this number, 7,500 were enlisted members, officers and civilians in the active force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. The other 2,500 were members of the general public."

This extensive research was used to find strengths and weaknesses in Air Force identity, Rand said. "We found that our people generally feel allegiance to the unit they belong to and to their job, more than they feel part of one big organization."

Research also showed that instead of one unifying theme, the Air Force has many different ways of expressing its identity, he said. In addition, there was little consistency in the visual representation of the Air Force.

"If you look at our base welcome signs, you don't get as much a sense of the Air Force as you do of the units behind the gates," Rand said. "The same applies to our aircraft, our newspapers and home pages, and even our uniforms."

"Unless you have really good eyes and can read the U.S. Air Force tape on someone's battle dress uniform, you may not know what service he or she represents," he said. "As for our aircraft, which are seen by millions of people, the tail markings tend to represent the wing and the command. You have to look pretty hard to see U.S. Air Force on our aircraft."

To overcome these inconsistencies, Siegel & Gale identified the four prevailing themes that emerged from the research: individual achievement, intelligence and technology, core values, and mission. They recommended the focus of the identity be the vital mission the Air Force performs around the world, because it was the theme that surfaced with the most passion throughout the research. The other three themes will support the mission focus, Rand said.

In characterizing the mission, Siegel & Gale concluded the Air Force is a world-class, mission-ready organization. From this, they recommended the theme "World Ready." They also devised a symbol that captured both the heritage and future of the Air Force. These were presented to Air Force leaders in November. After much discussion, the secretary and chief of staff asked that more development work be done on both the theme and the symbol.

While theme alternatives are still in development, the proposed symbol updates the Hap Arnold wings and star with a more modern, angular design.

"Many people believe the Hap Arnold emblem is the official Air Force symbol, but it isn't," Rand said. "We don't have an official symbol, and never have had one. With the transition to the EAF and a new millennium, our leadership decided the timing is right to modernize our identity and give us an official symbol which will preserve the heritage of the Arnold wings."

During research, Air Force and public audiences saw various meanings in the new design.

"Most saw an eagle in flight and a medal of valor," he said. "Enlisted members saw their stripes and officers related to the star. Air Force people and civilians alike identified the new symbol with the Air Force's leading edge, aerospace mission.

Don't expect to see changes throughout the Air Force immediately, according to Rand. "There are no final decisions on any of this yet," he said. "We're still working through all the options on the development of the theme, the use of the symbol, and the implementation of both.

"There is no intent to repaint the fleet or change all our base signs overnight," Ryan said. "When we reach a final decision on our identity, we're going to try it on for awhile as we develop a plan to roll it out with minimal disruption and little cost."

"We're trying to accumulate the essence of what it means to be in the Air

See "Symbol" page 9

From the Blotter

(47th Security Forces Squadron)

Jan. 8 – A security forces sedan received minor damage when a deer ran into the side of it near the Civil Engineering compound.

Jan. 12 – An 18-wheel truck was backing up and ran into the DRMO building, causing damage to the roof.

Jan. 14 – A civilian employee reported that money had been stolen in the Fiesta Center. An investigation is still in progress.

Jan. 15 – The U.S. Border Patrol requested assistance when they stopped a train carrying more than 40 illegal aliens on the base perimeter. Security forces responded to ensure none of the aliens entered the base while attempting to escape.

Jan. 15 – A dependent was reported missing from his residence. The law enforcement desk contacted local law enforcement agencies to locate the dependent. The individual was later found returning to Laughlin by the entry controller and was returned to his parents.

Jan. 16 – A security forces patrolman was conducting a walking patrol in the housing area when he overheard a verbal altercation. Other patrols responded and made contact with an active duty member, who was having a disagreement with his dependent.

Jan. 16 – An active duty member reported being assaulted in Acuna, Mexico.

EMERGENCY CALL 911, NON-EMERGENCY CALL 5100

Question of the week

What improvements would you like to see at Laughlin in the new year?

"To include Department of Defense employees in more military programs such as the wellness center and other functions."

Alfred Garcia
47th Communications Squadron

"A commisary expansion would be beneficial for the servicing community and some other on-base eating facilities."

2nd Lt. Sharon Evans
47th Operations Support Squadron

"I would like to see more vegetarian items at the commissary, a bigger fitness center and some green grass."

1st Lt. Lucy Carrillo
47th Flying Training Wing

"Come up with more after-duty activities, including club functions and base picnics."

Senior Airman
Ron Coleman, Jr.
47th Flying Training Wing

Small card – big IMPAC!

DoD-mandated program the method for buying goods and services less than $2,500

By James Harper
47th Contracting Squadron

Did you know that the fastest growing procurement program in the Department of Defense is the International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card, also known as IMPAC?

DoD has mandated IMPAC as the method for purchasing all goods and services valued at or below $2,500. Base supply no longer stocks, nor will they order items that are coded local purchase and are valued at or below $2,500. The 47th Contracting Squadron may not purchase goods and services valued at or below $2,500 without a written determination (waiver) from a general officer; at Laughlin, this waiver authority has been delegated to the wing commander. If base supply doesn't stock it, and 47 CONS can't purchase it, then how do you get what you need? You can do this by becoming an IMPAC cardholder!

Any Air Force officer, NCO, airman or civilian employee may, after eight hours of training become an IMPAC cardholder and be delegated the responsibility of being a purchasing agent for the Air Force.

There are 180 cardholders currently at Laughlin who collectively hold 373 IMPAC cards. These 373 cards are part of 117 IMPAC accounts that are managed by 56 IMPAC billing officials. In fiscal year 1999, Laughlin cardholders purchased more than 3.5 million in goods and services for the base. This is a 250 percent increase from the previous year. For the first quarter of FY00, IMPAC purchases have already exceeded $1 million! In FY99, 97 percent of all Laughlin purchases at or below $2,500 were made using IMPAC, and for the current fiscal year, IMPAC utilization is better than 99 percent.

Being an IMPAC cardholder is not difficult, but carries with it an awesome responsibility. Cardholders are entrusted to ensure that tax dollars are spent in accordance with existing federal, DoD and Air Force regulations and guidelines. Cardholders and billing officials who fail to adhere to these governing guidelines may be held liable for the propriety of the purchases and accuracy of payments. They may face other possible disciplinary actions. Purchase card abuse/fraud detection is monitored by various methods – such as surveillance by the installation IMPAC program coordinator, and "Operation Mongoose," a joint fraud detection and prevention operation.

Using the IMPAC card saves the Air Force approximately $500 per transaction – the typical cost of processing a purchase request.

For those rare occasions when the IMPAC cardholder cannot find a vendor or merchant who accepts the credit card, IMPAC convenience checks may be used to purchase the required goods or services. Convenience checks are new to Laughlin and currently only one account exists. Not every cardholder can have a convenience checking account, as they are restricted to only one per organization. Organizations are currently evaluating the need for and/or placement of the checking accounts.

To assist the billing officials and cardholders in doing their jobs more efficiently and more rapidly, the contracting squadron has developed a one-stop shopping website for IMPAC users. The site can be accessed through the 47 CONS homepage. On the website, IMPAC users can find forms, links, regulations, HAZMAT exemption list, logs and more.

The IMPAC card is here to stay, and the future will bring even more expansion in the use of the card. As mentioned previously, IMPAC is the fastest growing procurement program in DoD, and cardholders are the cornerstone of this highly visible and essential program.

Not only does the cardholder purchase goods and services required to meet the mission in the most efficient and expeditious manner, but he or she plays a critical role in saving DoD funds. Using the IMPAC card saves the Air Force approximately $500 per transaction – the typical cost of processing a purchase request. By being a part of this fast-paced procurement team, you can be proud of the impact you have had on Laughlin.

Personnel exempted from .38 percent budget cut

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Service members will barely notice congressionally-mandated federal budget cuts, Pentagon officials have announced.

Congress exempted military pay and benefits from the .38 percent fiscal 2000 budget cut it passed in December.

"We don't have to cut back ... the 4.8 percent pay increase, nor do we have to cut back the number of people in the military in order to reduce what we spend in personnel," Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said. "We have to take the cut in other areas, and we have done that in a very surgical way."

Since Congress exempted personnel, the bulk of DoD's cuts were in procurement and operations and maintenance accounts. "Basically, we took the smallest cuts in our top-priority programs," Bacon said. To hit the mandated bottom line, some DoD programs were cut more than 0.38 percent, though none lost more than five percent.

According to the legislation, no program could take more than a 15 percent cut, and no department was allowed to impose an across-the-board cut.

"The cuts had to reflect the priorities of the department," said a defense official. Bacon noted some high-priority programs, such as the Air Force F-22 air superiority fighter, escaped cuts.

DoD officials were careful in cutting operations and maintenance accounts. Money in these accounts directly affects readiness. Bacon said one measurement of readiness is the amount of O&M money per person in uniform. In constant 1999 dollars, he said, the figure was $53,000 per service member in 1990 and $67,800 in 1999.

DoD officials will release a list of the affected programs soon.

(AFPN)

'Taxes,' from page 1

Unit	*Office*	*VITA representative*	*Ext.*
	SFOI	Staff Sgt. Lavelle Jenkin	5902
47 CS	SCBB	Airman 1st Class Kenny King	5200
	SCBB	Senior Airman Natasha Jackson	5200
47 ADS	SGGB	Staff Sgt. Dennis Bensel	6859
47 MDOS	SGOMH	Senior Airman Patricia Fulce	6391
47 MDSS	SGSAL	Staff Sgt. Ernie Bice	6418
47 OG/MA	MAAB	Marlene Schuler	5497
47 OSS	OSOF	Airman 1st Class Jon Rousseaux	5300
	OSOS	Capt. Rob Roe	5300
84 FTS	K Flight	1st Lt. Jason Ginn	4774
	H Flight	1st Lt. Brian Bailey	4756
85 FTS	A Flight	1st Lt. Jason Repak	5521
86 FTS	K Flight	1st Lt. Mike Lenhart	4243
	K Flight	1st Lt. Ryan McCreight	4243
87 FTS	M Flight	1st Lt. Brian Haines	5809
	N Flight	1st Lt. Lester Gregory	5383

'Symbol,' from page 5

Force," Peters said. "The Air Force is a wonderful organization. It offers extraordinary opportunities beyond the monetary and the educational benefits that we have been using in recruiting.

"The Air Force is a fast-paced, fun, tough, and rewarding environment. It's about teamwork, patriotic service, and belonging to a world-class organization ready to respond anywhere in the world in a matter of hours.

"That's what we're trying to communicate," said the secretary. "My hope is that this identity effort will do that."

Class 00-04 survives 52 weeks

Student Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 00-04 graduates at 10 a.m. today in a ceremony at the Operations Training Complex auditorium. The guest speaker is Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Gerald Prather.

The 52-week SUPT program prepares student pilots for the entire spectrum of Air Force aircraft and flying missions.

Training begins with three weeks of physiological and academic training to prepare students for flight.

The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine subsonic T-37 Tweet. In the T-37, students learn flight characteristics, emergency procedures, take-off and landing, aerobatics and formation flying.

The SUPT program prepares student pilots for the entire spectrum of Air Force aircraft and flying missions.

Primary training consists of 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 flying hours.

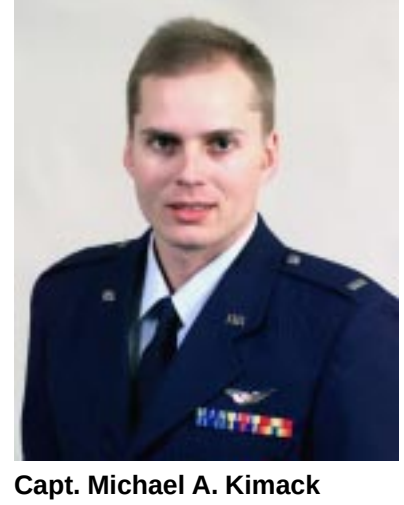
After primary training, the future pilots are selected for advanced in-flight training in a specialized area or track. The tracks include tanker, bomber and cargo pilot training in the T-1 aircraft, fighter pilot training in the T-38, turbo propeller aircraft training in the Navy's T-44, and helicopter training in the Army's UH-1.

Advanced training takes about 26 weeks and involves 381 hours of ground events, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 flying hours. Graduates of Class 00-04 have been assigned to aircraft at duty stations throughout the world.

Class Leader
Capt. Andrew P. Hansen
F-16 - Luke AFB, Ariz.

Assistant Class Leader
Capt. Matthew T. Fritz
KC-135 - McConnell AFB, Kan.

Capt. David M. Castaneda
F-16 - Hill AFB, Utah (AFRC)



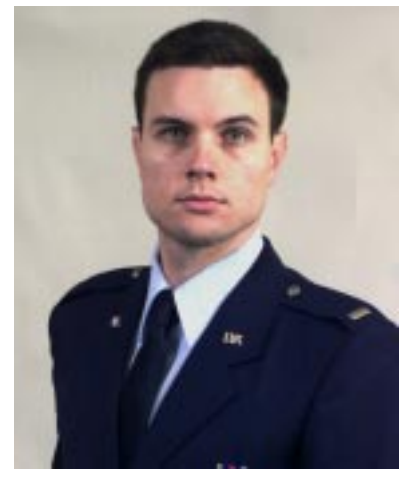
Capt. Michael A. Kimack
F-16 - Burlington, Vt. (ANG)

2nd Lt. James M. Bucks
C-17 - McChord AFB, Wash.

2nd Lt. Chad A. Del Rossa
T-37 - Laughlin AFB, Texas

2nd Lt. Richard D. Erkkila
A-10 - Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

2nd Lt. William K. Freeman
C-9 - Scott AFB, Ill.

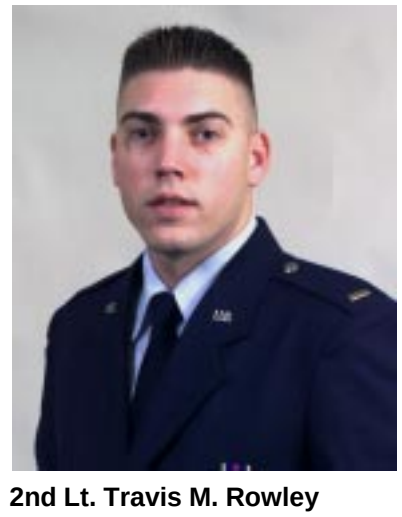


2nd Lt. Myers S. Gray
C-21 - Randolph AFB, Texas

2nd Lt. Michael W. Meyer
F-16 - Luke AFB, Ariz.

2nd Lt. Eric A. Nyman
T-38 - Laughlin AFB, Texas

2nd Lt. Humberto Pabon, Jr.
C-130 - Puerto Rico (ANG)



2nd Lt. Travis M. Rowley
C-5 - Travis AFB, Calif.

2nd Lt. William H. Smith
F-15E - Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.

# of training, earns silver wings

1st Lt. Tatsuya A. Hattori
T-2 - Japan

1st Lt. Satoshi Hiratsuka
T-2 - Japan

1st Lt. Akihiro Ishihara
T-2 - Japan

1st Lt. Tetsuji Kamiguchi
T-2 - Japan

1st Lt. Kale Mosely
KC-135 - Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

2nd Lt. Jason W. Green
F-16 - Great Falls, Mont. (ANG)

2nd Lt. Michael W. Jacobson
F-15 - Tyndall AFB, Fla.

1st Lt. Jeffrey S. Jeskie
KC-135 - McConnell AFB, Kan. (AFRC)

2nd Lt. John Sven Kleven
C-21 - Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2nd Lt. Joshua A. Larsen
C-17 - Charleston AFB, S.C.

2nd Lt. Laszlo Szatmari
MiG-29 - Hungary

2nd Lt. Lisa D. Waldrep
C-5 - Dover AFB, Del.

2nd Lt. Eric L. Westby
C-130 – Pope AFB, N.C.

2nd Lt. Matthew A. Wetter
KC-135 – Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

2nd Lt. Daniel P. Yurasek
KC-141 – McChord AFB, Wash.

‘Marquez,’ from page 1

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Davis distinguished himself as an excellent civilian manager by supervising the LCSAM section and ensuring that maintenance performed on assigned aircraft met or exceeded command quality maintenance standards, according to Pat Watson, 47th Operations Group aircraft maintenance programs specialist. “He is an absolute top-notch technical advisor.”

Schamus, who evaluated approximately 300 oil samples weekly throughout the year, was a shoe-in for the civilian technician category, said Watson. “He was responsible for detecting several dangerous internal problems in aircraft and jet engines before they caused loss or damage of aircraft and aircrews,” she explained. “He definitely sets a high standard.”

“We at Laughlin are very fortunate to serve alongside some of the Air Force’s finest professionals,” said Col. Skip Scott, 47th Flying Training Wing commander. “The winners of the Marquez award are being recognized at higher levels for the outstanding work we know they do every day to keep our lines of communication open and our aircraft flying safely.”

Photo by Pat Watson

Davis reviews a set of aircraft forms prior to a functional check flight.

The three winners will go on to represent AETC in the Air Force-level competition later in the year.

‘Retire’ from page 3

significant change we’ve done to try and get things back on track. In addition to that, a pay raise above inflation rate for the next few years sends a clear message to our people that leadership does care about what they do.”

For those who are still struggling with the decision to stay in, the chief offered more advice.

“I’ve compared notes with people who work with civilian firms and I’ve learned just how big a difference there is between the way people are treated and how they feel they are a part of something other than just the job,” Hair said.

“The other thing intertwined with that is the great people we have in the Air Force. You won’t find better people anywhere in the world. The friends and acquaintances you meet along the way are incomparable. It really is like a big family, and I’ll miss that after I retire.”

Without the opportunities, without the mentorship, without the friends and acquaintances, Hair said he couldn’t have achieved all he has in his 28-year career.

I’m proud to have had so many opportunities presented to me. I’m proud to have been able to be a part of this great Air Force.

“Individually, it is really tough to do anything without support and people backing you up and helping you,” the chief said. “I have to say along my career, I didn’t do a whole lot by myself. I had good people working with me, for me and around me. That is what made it all possible.

“When you combine that with senior leadership that is the best anywhere, what more can you ask for,” Hair asked. “What a great opportunity for a person to have. To be able to join the Air Force and have all the opportunities I’ve had is something all people hope for.

“What a great career. I’m proud to have had so many opportunities presented to me. I’m proud to have been able to be a part of this great Air Force.”

And what about that staff sergeant with 10 years in the service who is considering getting out?

“I asked him to think about how quickly those first 10 years went by and all his accomplishments during that time,” said the chief.

“Then, I asked him to consider the next 10 years and all that he can achieve. They are going to go by even quicker and he’ll be eligible for 50 percent retirement. You blink your eyes and before you know it you’re over 20 and eligible for retirement. I know because I speak from experience.”

‘Little things,’ from page 2

following morning to show this man and his guests around the base. To me, it meant an hour of time. It takes little preparation to give a “windshield tour” (driving the visitor around the base and identifying points of interest). As I have come to find out since then, it meant a great deal more to this man. And thinking back on it, it came to mean something more to me, too.

All through the tour, Richard was just amazed at all the facilities. He briefly explained how there were almost no buildings at all here (just a flightline, basically) and those few buildings were nothing like the ones here today. He commented several times how nice the landscaping was and how beautiful the base was in general. What a change from the comments I usually hear (and sometimes make) about Laughlin!

It’s easy to be blinded by the everyday hustle and bustle of your work. It’s easy to think poorly of this base, especially if you have been (like many of us) at larger bases in bigger cities. And it’s easy to get frustrated by the “little things” in our lives, like phone calls and customers – especially when they come at inconvenient times for us.

That Thursday was certainly an inconvenient time for me to receive Richard’s call and request. Thankfully, I suppressed my first reaction to say “Sorry, I’m just too busy to help you.” Taking Richard and his guests on that tour allowed me to see things from a different perspective – that of someone who personally saw this base at its beginning and fully appreciated the base it is today.

Since that day in October, Richard sent a nice ‘Thank You’ letter to me at the office, which I appreciated. But today I got another piece of mail from Richard. This man actually took the time to type up a brief history of his experiences at Laughlin, from the beginning in 1953 and concluding with his trip here that day. As I finished reading his story, I truly came to realize that you can’t possibly always know what something means to another person. Those “little things” you do, that may make you break your routine, might not be so little to the person on the other end of the line. It may make a big difference in someone’s life if you take the time to see it from his or her perspective.

‘Tradition’ from page 2

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We have aircraft that can fly at the outer reaches of the atmosphere and aircraft that can fly at treetop level to support ground troops. We flew the Linebacker runs during Vietnam and, more recently, showed overwhelming air power during Desert Storm. What a storied tradition we have!

While inprocessing the base, I had another dose of enlightenment at the base education center. One of the key traditions of the Air Force is technology and education. Our tradition is to be at the forefront of the technological scene. We have gone from the P-51, F-105 and F-4 aircraft to the ultimate in high-performance weaponry. The F-15, F-16, (and soon the F-22) rule the sky. Our stealth fighters and bombers are the envy of other nations. Our research centers are finding better ways to complete our missions. The Combat Edge system helps our fighter pilots sustain the stress of flying under G-forces. Our bombs and missiles have never been more accurate. Our satellites, under U.S. Space Command, can watch all corners of the globe. The Expeditionary Air Force is ready to deploy at a moment’s notice. The Air Force has taken the lessons of the past and made sure we are ready for the future.

So now when I think about Air Force tradition, I tell others to hold their heads high. We have achieved in the past, and looked fearlessly into the future. We have carved ourselves quite an impressive niche in the Department of Defense. Air Power trailblazers like Gen. Billy Mitchell and Gen. “Hap” Arnold saw that our tradition would be one of history melted together with new ideas and cutting technology. To me, that sounds like a tradition that will never go out of style.

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Wildcard playoff pick results

Tony Holmes – 6

Mike Hammond – 6

R.B. Robinson – 6

Johnny Rincon – 6

Mike McNeil – 5

Charlie Rodriguez – 4

(Holmes finished first in the second week of playoffs with four correct picks.)

Players' NFL playoff picks

Each correct pick of weekly matchups earns a player one point, accumulating weekly. The top three players from the second half of the season will compete against the top three from the first half to determine the overall champion at the end of the playoffs. This weeks playoff matchups are (home teams in bold): TEN – **JAX**, T.B.– **STL**.

Mike Hammond	*Tony Holmes*	*Mike McNeil*	*Charlie Rodriquez*
STL	STL	T.B.	STL
TEN	JAX	TEN	JAX
	R.B. Robinson	*Johnny Rincon*	
	STL	STL	
	JAX	JAX	

Bowling standings

(as of Jan. 12)

Teams	W	L
OSS	86	26
Services	65	47
47 MED	51	61
47 SFS	68	44
CES	68	44
Boeing	52	60
47 FTW	48	64
CDC	47	65
47 MSS	48	64
47 COMM	29	83

Flag football playoff schedule

Monday
First round winners bracket
NFC
85th vs. LSI
AFC
7 p.m. CES 1 vs. MDG

Jan. 26
2nd round bracket
NFC
6 p.m. OSS vs. TBA

AFC
7 p.m. 87th vs. TBA

Jan. 27
First round losers bracket
NFC
6 p.m. TBA vs. TBA

Jan. 31
3rd round winners bracket
6 p.m. TBA vs. TBA
championship game

Feb. 2
3rd. round losers bracket
6 p.m. TBA vs. TBA 6 p.m.

Feb. 7
Championship game 2
(Only if loser has first loss in championship game 1.)
7 p.m. TBA vs. TBA
All base members are encouraged to attend.

Laughlin's varsity basketball team will play Randolph at 3 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday in the XL Fitness Center.

PA notes

■ Publication deadline for items submitted to the Border Eagle is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, one week prior to the issue you want the item to appear in.
■ The public affairs office will be closed for training Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call 5262.

Blood drive

The American Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fiesta Center ballroom. A traveling trophy will be awarded to the organization which donates the most units of blood.

For more information, call Jane Pratt at 775-8626.

Volunteers needed

The Air Force is looking for enthusiastic applicants to fill a position at Misawa Air Base, Japan, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Robins AFB, Ga., and Ramstein AB, Germany. Individuals with culinary experience are highly desirable. However, if you possess a "can-do" attitude and have the ability to interact with senior officers, enlisted aide duty may be for you. If interested, please review eligibility criteria and application procedures listed in AFI 36-2123, management of enlisted aides.

As a minimum, the package should contain legible copies of your last five EPRs, a resume, two full-length 8x10-inch photographs in service dress, and recommendation letters from your commander and command chief master sergeant. Desired locations for reassignment should be listed on the enlisted aide resume cover brief located at attachment 1 of the AFI and submitted with your application.

Volunteers must be second term, career airmen, in the grade of senior airman and above. First term airmen and selective reenlistment bonus recipients are not eligible to apply.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact 2nd Lt. Jennifer Fehl at 5487.

MPF closure

The Laughlin Military Personnel Flight will be closed for all customer service Jan. 28 from 2:30 p.m. until close of business, due to the 47th Mission Support Squadron commanders call.

In case of an emergency only, please contact Staff Sgt. David Hirtreiter by pager at 298-5444, extension 157.

Toastmasters

The Laughlin Toastmasters International Club meets in the base chapel fellowship hall every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Guests are welcome, and brown bag lunches are acceptable. Membership is open to the entire community.

For more information on the Toastmasters, visit **www.toastmasters.org**, contact Kirk Johnson at **J3997@email.msn.com,** or call 298-7824.

Free wood

Free wooden pallets, in need of minor repairs or of an odd size, are now available. See them at the recycling center, building 2018 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information on this free wood, call Gerald Herrera at 298-4230.

Photo by 1st Lt. Angela O'Connell

Thunderbirds!

Maj. Ken Edwards, U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Team narrator and Thunderbird 8 pilot, pauses by the aircraft during a site survey of the base Wednesday morning. The Thunderbirds are scheduled to perform at Air Amistad 2000, on Oct. 8.

Patient interpreters needed

The 47th Medical Group needs interpreters for patients. Anyone proficient in a second language and interested in interpreting for patients who do not speak English, please call Master Sgt. Mark Bowersox at 6302.

PMEGA officers election

The Professional Military Education Graduate Association is looking for new officers: president, vice president and treasurer. Anyone interested should attend the next Noncommissioned Officer Association/ PMEGA meeting 11 a.m. today in the civil engineer readiness classroom, building 60. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Gerald McIntosh at 4111.

No trespass area

The base combat arms firing range – building 1100 – located at the extreme south end of Fourth street, adjacent to the water collection ponds, is a no trespass area. Weapons being fired makes this area dangerous.

Anyone with a valid reason to enter the firing range area should contact Staff Sgt. Keith Hellwig at 5151 or the law enforcement desk at 5100.

Water purchases

Drinking water cannot be purchased with the IMPAC card. Anyone authorizing or purchasing water on IMPAC may be required to reimburse the government. Air Force organizations may purchase drinking water with appropriated funds only when it is deemed a necessary expense, such as when:
■ Public water supply is unsafe.
■ There is an emergency failure of the water source on the installation.
■ A temporary facility has no drinking water available within a reasonable distance.
■ No drinking water is available without cost or at a lower cost to the government.

This is in accordance with AFI 65-601, Vol 1, 4.45. Special Drinking Water.

Questions can be directed to Barbara Voss at 5590.

Lawn maintenance

The lack of rainfall in South Texas makes it necessary to continue a lawn watering routine all year long. Even though it is winter, members in base housing are encouraged to water their yards at least once every three days. Yard inspections continue throughout the year, so everyone should maintain the yards, especially by raking leaves at this time of year.

For more information, call Denise Pace at 4198.

Pool tournament

An 8-ball pool tournament will be held at 10 a.m. Jan. 29 at the Fiesta Center game room. The tournament is singles 8-ball, double elimination, best two out of three games. The entry fee is $5, which covers prize money, plus refreshments for all participants. Sign-up deadline is Jan. 26. Call 5474 for more details.

Command shirts

Effective immediately, all Air Education and Training Command permanent-party personnel are authorized to wear the black "aerospace power" undershirt with their battle dress uniform as an optional uniform item. Only the black undershirt with the 5-inch logo on the left breast is authorized with the BDU.

Currently, the undershirt is not available; however, 2nd Air Force is working with the vendor to make the shirt available command-wide through AAFES.

Consumer rights quiz

True or False?

1. Each year, one in 10 Americans is a victim of fraud.
2. A seller must intentionally deceive the victim to commit fraud.
3. The most common type of fraud is credit fraud.
4. Telemarketers can only call between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.
5. When buying from a door-to-door salesperson, you have three days to change your mind.
6. You must pay for unordered merchandise you receive in the mail and decide to keep.
7. Your confidential records include medical and divorce information.
8. It is in a company's best interest to respond to a consumer complaint.

Answers: 1. F (one in six); 2. F (it could be unintentional); 3. F (it's number two – health care fraud is number one); 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. F (precautions are taken, but can't be guaranteed); 8. T.

(Quiz from Consumer Issues, Lesson 13-1/Handout 1)

For more information on budgeting, credit management, car buying and investing, call Tech. Sgt. Amy Urban at 5109 for an appointment.