

MACH METER



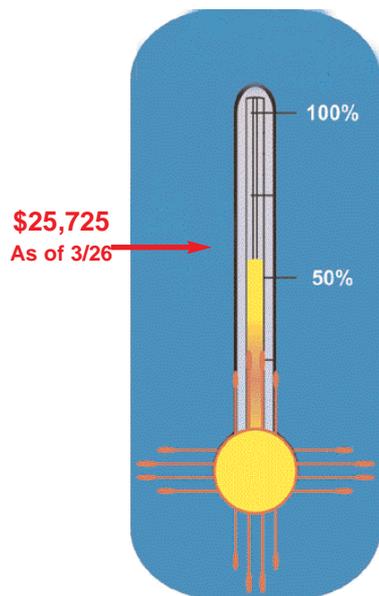
Vol. 51, No. 12

Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

March 31, 2006

AFAF Update

Goal - \$45,049



Congratulations

See Unit Spotlights on page 17

Community Events

Calling all green thumbs

Cannon's annual tree planting event is 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday and April 12 at the Doc Stewart Park pavilion. Volunteers are asked to bring their gloves and to dress appropriately.

For more information, call 784-6374 or 784-2739.

Loading competition

Events for the first quarter Proud Falcon loading competition will begin at 7 a.m. on April 7 at Hangar 133. Cannon personnel are invited.

For information, contact Master Sgt. Todd Kenny at 784-4198.

Volunteer for Kite Carnival

Volunteers are needed for Cannon's 3rd annual Kite Carnival April 8. Individuals interested in helping with set up or tear down or working with the games and rides should call 784-6381.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN THOMAS TROWER

Fire evacuation

Cannon firefighters perform their semi-annual fire exercise at the Munitions Storage Area March 24. The simulated fire tests the fire department and munitions Airmen on their knowledge of proper evacuation and containment procedures. For more on their training, see pages 14 and 15.

Cope Thunder now Red Flag — Alaska

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

The Air Force chief of staff has announced the Cope Thunder exercise held in Alaska will be renamed and enhanced so it provides complementary training on the same level as the current Red Flag exercise held at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Red Flag — Alaska coupled with Red Flag — Nellis will provide the Air Force a common set of exercises in multiple locations that have standardized and equal training capabilities.

“Red Flag — Alaska is an Air

Force-level exercise that will build on and reinforce air force to air force habitual relationships,” said Gen. T. Michael Moseley. “Making this exercise a Red Flag expands joint training operations and opportunities to improve interoperability with our allies.”

Red Flag exercises include more than just aircraft and aircrews. These exercises expand the role of aggressor training across the board, to include ground, space and cyberspace training, as well as focusing on air combat at the operational level, he said.

“We know how to train and capitalize on our lessons learned,”

General Moseley said. Expanding Red Flag is a generational leap in training capabilities.

“We have to continue to train at a high level against high-end threats and in all mission areas from fighters to combat search and rescue to ground controllers.”

Red Flag will use a three-tiered system to group and schedule the exercises and determine the capability level for both U.S. and foreign participants, which will establish the complexity of the exercise. The tiers will rotate annually between the two Red Flag locations.

■ See RED FLAG — ALASKA, Page 10



NEWS

Earth Day

Saving our planet, saving our lives



ILLUSTRATION BY JANET TAYLOR-BIRKEY

Earth Day 'Caught in the act' competition begins Monday

By Janet Taylor-Birkey
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Global warming trends and shortage of natural resources are debatable, but there is little debate that people worldwide need to take care of the Earth.

The goal of making people aware of their role and responsibility in taking care of planet Earth is something embraced on both sides of the political platform. According to the Earth Day Web site at www.earthday.net, "Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders."

This political alignment quickly spread as more people learned how to make a difference. According to www.trails.com, a Web site promoting recreational trails, "Earth Day has only increased and spread around the world, with activities, celebrations and events growing steadily over time and millions of concerned citizens taking part. It is now recognized as the largest non-religious holiday in the world."

Cannon is on the cutting edge in making a difference. A five-year winner in the annual Green Zia contest, Cannon has a user-friendly recycling program and goes by the three r's of reduce, reuse and recycle in running a "green" base, said Jake Madril, 27th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Part of Cannon's effort to involve base personnel is the 2006 Earth Day "Caught in the Act" Recycling Contest, beginning Monday and continuing to April 15. Sponsored by the 27th Civil Engineer Squadron's Environmental Flight, squadrons are evaluated on their recycling programs by volunteers visiting selected buildings and observing recycling efforts, according to the 27th CES.

"The purpose of the contest is to evaluate Cannon's knowledge and participation in the base recycling program, [which is] to promote recycling, not an inspection," said Gene Smith, 27th CES.

Winners in the large and small squadron categories will receive prizes based on the overall recycling efforts. Items considered in the judging are the availability of recycling containers, use of recycling containers vs. trash cans, knowledge of recyclables and recycling attitudes.

For more information on recycling or Cannon's Earth Day activities, contact Gene Smith at 784-1096 or e-mail gene.smith@cannon.af.mil.



MACH METER ARCHIVE PHOTO

Return to Mars

Students from 23 different area schools trekked to Mars last year via a Cannon Air Force Base hangar. More than 400 fifth graders will return to Hangar 208 April 7 to build Mars-like habitats. The students spent four months preparing for the experience. The project, which teaches children that math, science and engineering can be fun began in 1995 and is sponsored by the Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. The event is open to the Cannon public from 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

More personnel actions online

Goal is for an easier, more efficient system for Airmen

By Senior Airman
J.G. Buzanowski
Air Force Print News

Like MyPay and LeaveWeb before, the Air Force is bringing even more military personnel flight actions online.

The process, called Personnel Services Delivery (PSD) Transformation, takes effect today, and will encompass even more options than those of the Virtual MPF site already on the Internet.

"We're making it easier and more efficient for people to conduct personnel business without having to worry about scheduling appointments or waiting in lines at their local MPF," said Tim Beyland, the Air Force manpower and personnel director of plans and integration.

"People already do their banking online and pay their bills online, we're just taking the next step by conducting Air Force business online," he said.

The four-phase program, continues through 2011.

The first phase begins with

the active-duty force and is further broken up into seven segments called spirals.

Spiral 1, which is now in effect, moves several personnel transactions Airmen usually visit their MPF for to the Web and contact center at the Air Force Personnel Center.

Additional spirals will make processes available to the remaining total force, Mr. Beyland said.

Among the initial actions transferred online are forms for evaluation appeals, retirements, retraining, and duty history corrections. To access the new online MPF actions, Airmen should log into the Air Force Portal, and from there head to Virtual MPF, he said.

The goal is to move 85 percent of MPF actions online. Once the transformation begins, however, it doesn't mean Airmen can't get personal customer service.

"There's a contact center Airmen can call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to get help when they need it," Mr. Beyland said. "PSD also doesn't mean the Air Force is doing away

with MPFs — Airmen can still get help there too. But it saves the Air Force and its people time and money when MPF actions are accessible online."

The number for the contact center is (800) 616-3775, ext. 112.

To make the transition easier, personnelists and mission support squadron commanders have been sent training programs so they can better explain the transformation initiatives to their customers, which include guardsmen, reservists and civilians.

"This is a smarter way of doing business and will result in improved consistency and accuracy of information, said Mr. Beyland said.

"Web and contact center technologies have proven [themselves] and PSD will make life easier for the warfighter so they can concentrate more on their mission and less on paperwork," he said. "That's as simple as it gets."

For more information, call 784-2186.



NEWS

Heartlink program explains the ways of the Air Force

By Janet Taylor-Birkey
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Cannon's Heartlink program, sponsored by the Family Support Center, is a quarterly, all-day presentation offering spouses of Airmen, married five years or less, an opportunity to learn more about military life. Attendees receive free childcare for the event and lunch is provided.

Designed to help the Airman's spouse understand the ways of the Air Force, the seminar is divided into six, one-hour segments featuring speakers who share the mission of the Air Force and the 27th Fighter Wing. Highlights of the seminar include explanation of acronyms, directions for where to receive help and the opportunity to make new friends.

"I definitely think it will enhance their understanding of the Air Force and give them a better idea of what their [spouse] is doing," said Ray Spain, readiness consultant, 27th Mission Support

Squadron.

Program goals for Heartlink include fostering the spouses' sense of belonging, strengthening military families and enhancing mission readiness by increasing spousal awareness. Featured topics of the Heartlink program are military protocol, personal, finance, commissary, base exchange and personnel along with a panel discussion introducing staff from various base agencies.

While the program is designed for spouses married five years or less, anyone is welcome, said Mr. Spain, commenting on how often spouses who have been married longer, say they learn something new about military life and benefits.

Heartlink is designed to be attended one time, but many spouses return as volunteers to help with programs offered by the Family Support Center.

For more information on the Heartlink program, call 784-2033 or e-mail Mr. Spain at ray.spain@cannon.af.mil.

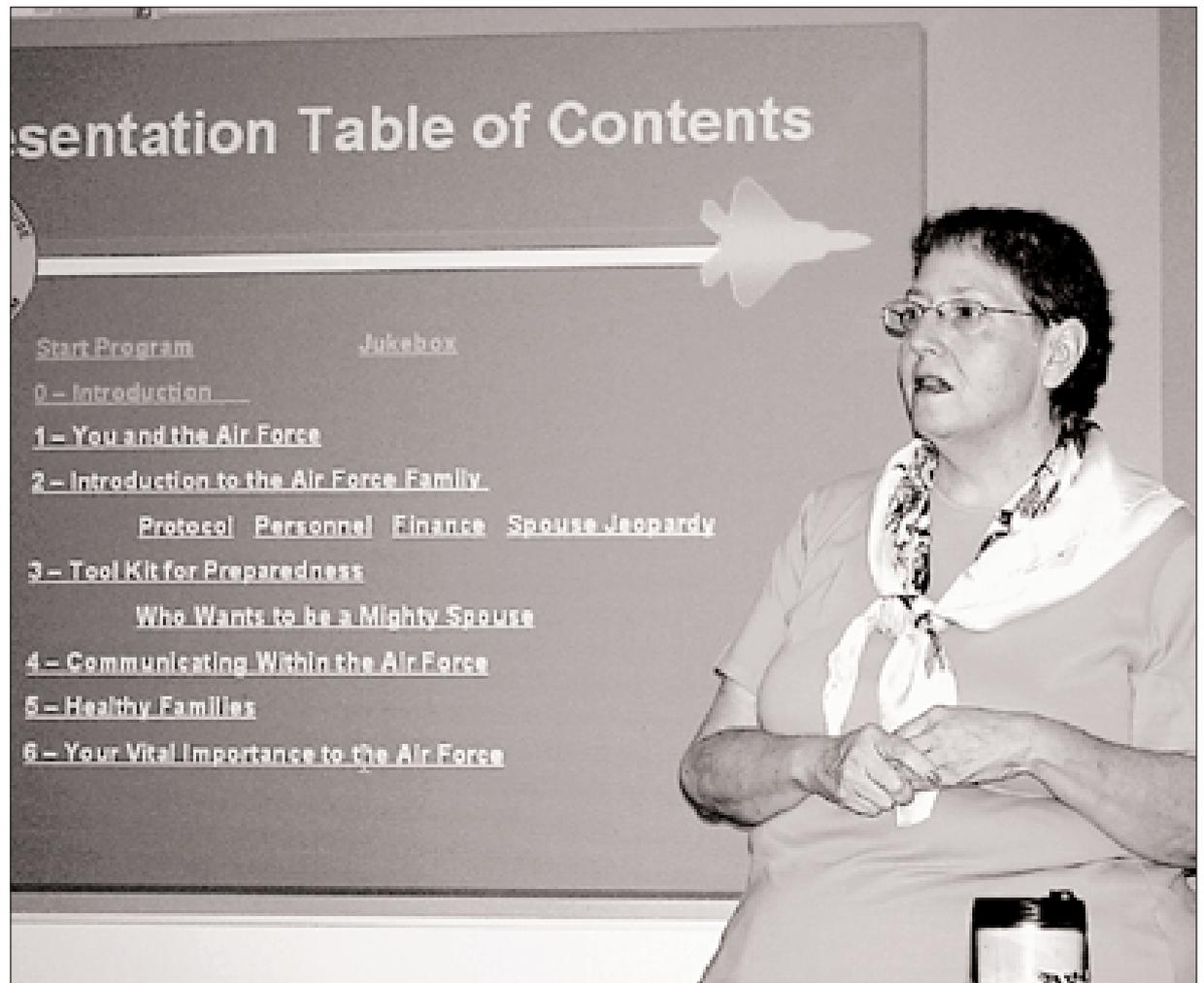


PHOTO BY JANET TAYLOR-BIRKEY

Jean Cole, Family Support Center, shares some of the intricacies of military life with spouses during a Heartlink seminar March 24. For more information on the program, call 784-2033.

Yard maintenance guidelines explained

Courtesy Base Housing office

It's that time of year again, the wind is blowing, the grass and weeds are growing and everything is starting to green up, requiring added attention for yards.

Extra attention and proper yard maintenance helps base residents keep Cannon housing looking neat and eliminates the concern of the "three strikes and you're out" scenario, said Tim Farmer, Cannon's housing manager, adding that repeated discrepancies can lead to housing termination action.

According to Cannon's housing policy, residents must maintain their yard areas — an area midway between adjoining units, to the center

of the street and 50 feet from their dwelling. However, Mr. Farmer emphasized, occupants are responsible for all fenced areas, regardless of size.

"Yard inspections are usually on Tuesdays, depending on manning requirements or holidays," said Mr. Farmer. "Discrepancy notices will be issued to residents whose yards do not meet base standards."

The housing policy further states yards must be mowed to maintain a neat appearance. Clippings are to be immediately removed after mowing; clippings are not to be thrown into the gutter, over the fence or into common areas. Grass along sidewalks, driveways, roadsides, curbs and patios must be edged. All grass and

weeds should be removed from the cracks in the cement or pavement of the occupant's area of responsibility.

Shrubbery and trees must be trimmed to maintain a neat appearance. Carports, garages, driveways, sidewalks, breezeways, flowerbeds and patios should be free of debris and neat in appearance.

Vehicle repairs are not authorized in carports, driveways, parking areas or on the street, but can be done at the Auto Hobby Shop, Bldg. 494.

Yard of the Month competition, begins in May or June, depending on the weather, said Donna Hester, facilities chief.

For questions or additional information, call Ms. Hester at 784-7532.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pet of the week

Charlize is a 6-month old retriever-mix looking for a good home. Anyone interested in adopting her or other needy animals should call the Family Support Center at 784-4228.



COMMENTARIES

Leaders focus on what can be done, not what can't

By Lt. Col. Tod Fingal

Commander, 522nd Fighter Squadron

During the last 19 and a half years in the Air Force I have encountered two types of people: those who say they can't; and those who seem to always say they can. Interestingly enough, both seem to meet their predictions.

Many times, the people who say they can't do something know the Air Force Instructions (AFIs) like the back of their hands. They spend a good bit of their energy explaining why they can't do something by diving into AFIs to prove their case and announce, "See, it says right here that we can't do that! Case closed!" These people are great program managers.

Now, let's take a look at people who seem to always say they can do something. They dive into the AFIs because, as you know, it is imperative that we follow the AFIs. In most cases, information in the AFIs and technical orders was written from past lessons learned, and in some cases these lessons were written in blood. Sometimes, however, the conditions on which these lessons were learned have changed.

This is where the "can do" people focus their attention. They look for ways they can do something within the purview of the AFIs. If needed, they will work to change the guidance if it is no longer relevant.

The most successful people I know in the Air Force are the ones with the "can

do" attitude. They are the ones who constantly look for better ways to do things. They are also the ones who seem to find themselves in leadership positions. I'm not necessarily talking about leadership positions like flight chief, flight commander or squadron commander. I'm talking about the young Airman on swing shift who seems to always have all other Airman on shift asking how to do something. I'm talking about the staff sergeant who is constantly asked to solve problems because nobody else can find a way to solve it. I'm talking about the Airman who is constantly given the biggest compliment anyone can bestow — "I'd follow that Airman into battle any day!"

Why does this all matter? Because the Air Force is undergoing the biggest

change I've seen in my career. We are making huge manning cuts, yet our workload is not decreasing. The country is at war and we cannot afford to let down our guard. We must look for better ways to do business so we can continue to meet anything the enemy throws at us. The only way we will continue to be the most powerful force on this planet is by looking for better ways we "can do" the mission. Trust me, if you do this we will succeed!

Retired general Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said, "Leaders have the ability to inspire others to achieve what managers say is not feasible."

Simply said — be a leader, not a manager!

Deployment readiness more than training, TDY paperwork

By Master Sgt. Robert Sobush

First sergeant, 27th Mission Support Squadron

We talk all the time about military readiness and the ability to deploy. We talk of how we need to be ready at a moment's notice. With Aerospace Expeditionary Force 3/4 ramp up beginning at Cannon I would like you to stop, think and ask yourself if you are ready.

Readiness should always be on your mind as a professional military member. It is your responsibility to ensure you have all your training, equipment and bags packed ready to deploy.

Are you ready for the unthinkable? If you are married, do both you and your spouse have wills? Perhaps someone will die in combat or perhaps at the hand of a drunk driver right here in New Mexico. Does the will state who you would like to care for your children should the unthinkable happen? If you are single, who will get any investments and savings or any pay due? Does your spouse or family member know you have a will and where it is? Does the person you chose to execute your will know they have been chosen and

have a copy of your will? Does someone know if you have extra life insurance in addition to what is provided by the military? I'm sure some of you reading this are thinking, "Does the shirt think we are idiots?" I don't but as a shirt who has seen this stuff, it's import to remind everyone.

Are you ready for a cash emergency? Most financial experts say you should have three to six months of full pay set aside for an emergency. You should start saving for your cash emergencies before they happen. A frustrating thing for Airmen to hear is family members left behind who have a house maintenance issue they can't resolve due to financial pressures. I know you didn't join the Air Force to get rich, so set aside a little each month for an emergency fund.

Are you ready for a fire or a flood in your home caused by a water pipe leak or break? You should have renter's insurance if you are renting or are living in government quarters. If a disaster happens and you do not have insurance you could have a tough time replacing your lost personal items. Renter's insurance does not cost a great deal and depends on how much you wish to

insure. Think about your DVDs, CDs, TVs, PCs, and MP3 players (okay enough initials my head hurts but you get the idea) and how much it would cost you to replace it all if the house burnt down, or you were robbed.

Are you ready to deploy? Who is going to pay your bills while you are gone? While electronic banking has made paying your bills anywhere in the world easier, it is only easier if you are somewhere with a computer. Does your spouse know what bills must be paid and when they are due? Does your friend left behind pay bills on time? I have had instances where both family members and friends have not shown the proper level of responsibility in bill paying while the Airman was deployed.

We must be ready to deploy, but being ready to deploy is more than simply having your training down and your TDY out processing sheet signed off. As we start to ramp up for the AEF 3/4 commitment, we have to make sure you are ramping up and looking at the other areas of our lives and asking, "Am I ready?"

MACH METER

The MACH METER is published by the Clovis News Journal, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 27th Fighter Wing at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the MACH METER are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 27th Fighter Wing.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. For paid advertisements, call the advertising department of the Clovis News Journal at 763-3431.

News articles, local notes and other items for the MACH METER should be brought to the 27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, 110 E Sextant Ave. Suite 1099, or e-mailed to the Mach Meter at

27fvmachmeter@cannon.afmil.

All submissions will be considered for publication based on news value and timeliness.

Every article and photograph will be edited for accuracy, clarity and brevity, conformance with the Associated Press Stylebook and Label Manual and with Air Force Instruction 35-101. Coverage of upcoming events should be arranged in advance by calling the Public Affairs office at 784-4131.

If you have a suggestion you would like to make, or a kudo you'd like to give, call the ACTION LINE at 784-2722 — If you have a problem you need resolved, call the responsible agency first so they can provide better service to everyone promptly.

Deadline for submitting articles is noon Friday the week prior to publication. Deadline for free classified advertisements is noon, the Tuesday prior to publication.

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This week's
Viper Wingman is



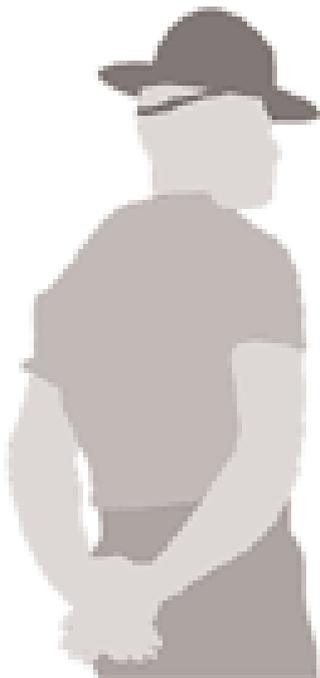
PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TIFFANY CURBEAM

Airman 1st
Class
Jerry Calalang

Airman Calalang, 27th Services Squadron, meets with Col. Scott West, 27th Fighter Wing commander, March 28. Airman Calalang lifts fellow Airmen to his level of performance said his first sergeant, Master Sgt. Lester Luker.

The Viper Wingman showcases outstanding work ethic and accomplishments of exemplary Airmen with the highest standards of personal performance. To nominate a Viper Wingman, notify your first sergeant.

Sgt. Afi's 36-2903
Tip of the Week



Men will wear their hair so that it presents a tapered appearance on both sides and back — with or without head-gear. Block cuts are permitted with a tapered appearance.

This week's
Viper Volunteer is



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TIFFANY CURBEAM

Airman 1st Class
Ian Gately

Airman Gately, 27th Logistics Readiness Squadron, is congratulated by Col. Scott West, 27th Fighter Wing commander, March 29. Airman Gately was recognized for his efforts as a mentor at Parkview Elementary School. Airman Gately assists students struggling with their studies and has become a positive role model and friend.

The Viper Volunteer highlights the spirit of volunteerism and extraordinary contributions to the Cannon community. To nominate a Viper Volunteer, call Ellen Saccoia-Smith at 784-4228.



NEWS

'Gunny' asks, Air Force delivers

Mail Call host receives AC-130 gunship demo

By Capt. Virgil Magee
16th Special Operations Wing
Public Affairs

"I wanna be on something that shoots," said retired U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. R. Lee Erme. y.

That's exactly what the host of the History Channel's "Mail Call" got when he and his crew spent two days at Hurlburt Field, Fla., filming for an upcoming show.

Best known for movie roles such as the hard-as-nails basic training drill instructor in "Full Metal Jacket," "Gunny" Erme. y attracted a crowd wherever he and the film crew went.

The Airmen of the 16th Special Operations Squadron got a kick out of having a bona fide movie star in their midst as he strapped in for a flight on an AC-130H gunship. During the visit he ate lunch with the troops, posed for photos and shook as many hands as were

extended to him without turning down a single person.

"This is great having him here and it's a great morale boost for the troops," said Maj. Mike Arnold, 16th Special Operations Squadron.

"I've always had a lot of respect for the Air Force, but I have a much better understanding of the Spectre now and what goes on while it's in flight," said Gunny Erme. y.

The gunny kicked off his visit here with an early morning jog to catch up with special tactics officer selection course candidates running the "Monster Mash," a grueling exercise that tests physical and mental toughness. The STO selection, which drives candidates to the extreme of exhaustion, impressed him.

"They don't call it 'Hell Week' for nothing," he said. "The Army Rangers and the Green Berets may get all the glory but the Air Force special tactics gets it done!"

Gunny Erme. y began his day Tuesday by sneaking into the Middle Eastern Orientation Class at the USAF Special Operations School.

After sitting in on the class, the cadre of the Dynamics in Terrorism course escorted him to the range where they demonstrated vehicle search techniques and gave a briefing on weapons used by terrorists around the world.

The gunny was offered the opportunity to add two new weapons to his list of weapons fired, the Israeli Galil and the Styer-aug. He also prepared what he called "50 caliber fruit salad" by disintegrating a watermelon with a Barrett rifle used by explosive ordnance disposal technicians to destroy unexploded ordnance on the battlefield.

"This is great stuff," he said. "Here at Hurlburt you can really see how the services are working together."



PHOTO BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. GARY EMERY

R. Lee Erme. y, host of the "Mail Call" military technology show, watches as Special Tactics Officer selection course candidates read their next challenge during the "Monster Mash," a grueling exercise that tests a candidate's physical and mental toughness at Hurlburt Field, Fla., March 20. "Gunny" Erme. y was at Hurlburt to film an upcoming episode of the show focusing on Air Force Special Operations Command.

During the visit Monday and Tuesday, he told stories from his days in the Marine Corps.

"Back in my days, if you were on the ground with a rifle you couldn't always talk to the gunship that was right overhead. Now you can do that," he said.

"The Airmen here make

such a sacrifice, being away from their families and friends and going into harms way to keep us safe," he said. "We should all be grateful for the dedication of the air comandos."

(Capt. Elizabeth Paul, Air Force Special Operations Command public affairs, contributed to this article.)



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. SCOTT STURKOL

Contingency skills training

Airmen practice combat tactics and squad patrolling maneuvers during training at Fort Dix, N.J., on Monday. More than 140 Airmen are participating in the Air Force Integrated Contingency Skills Training Course 06-3, which includes combat tactics and convoy operations.

Some AF Reserve bonuses now \$15,000

By Airman Thomas Trower
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

"One weekend a month, two weeks a year." We've all seen or heard the slogan for the Air Force Reserve on the television, radio and Internet.

What many may not know is that the Reserve has increased the maximum enlistment bonuses from \$8,000 to \$15,000 for selected Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs).

These bonuses vary from place to place and depend on how badly the local Reserve unit needs that job filled. The only AFSC guaranteed a bonus from any unit is security forces, said Tech. Sgt. James Ring, Cannon's in-service Reserve recruiter.

The Reserve offers a maximum of three bonuses for each member. Airman transfer-

ring from active duty to reserve status, while holding a military obligation, can receive an affiliate bonus, said Sergeant Ring. Upon finishing their obligation, they may enter the Reserve as a first enlistment and receive an enlistment bonus.

The final bonus is received when the Airman enlists for the second time and receives a re-enlistment bonus, he said.

With all branches of the military filling jobs overseas, many are not meeting their enlistment quotas, said Sergeant Ring. The Air Force Reserve is the only section to surpass their required enlistment numbers.

While many Air National Guard units have recently been sent overseas, the Reserve is a completely different entity. The current percentage of Reserve Airmen taking an initial deploy-

ment is 9.2 percent, said Sergeant Ring, while active duty Air Force has a 27.4 percent initial deployment rate.

Airmen in the Reserve can expect to be sent on 90- or 120-day deployments. Many of these Airmen volunteer for deployments, said Sergeant Ring. Very few deployments are involuntary.

Airmen who have an AFSC that the Reserve does not need or have, or that want a new AFSC, are offered retraining opportunities, said Sergeant Ring. The Reserve does not have retraining windows, so Airmen can retrain whenever they would like.

For more information on the Air Force Reserve, Airmen should call Sergeant Ring at 784-6057.



NEWS FEATURE

Teamwork at Bosnia air base keeps airfield safe

By Master Sgt. Chance Babin
401st Air Expeditionary Wing

Tuzla Air Base, Bosnia, has an airfield that has been maintained by the Air Force since the mid 90s.

But because it was a pre-existing location, many issues of safety, that would be disallowed at a stateside or NATO base, must be covered in a waiver package under United States



AIR FORCE COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Louis Lilley uses a measuring wheel to determine the distance between the taxiway center line and suspected obstructions at Tuzla Air Base, Bosnia.

Air Forces in Europe standards.

The waiver package is collected and maintained by civil engineers from the 401st Air Expeditionary Wing, Aviano AB, Italy.

"We are here to support the airfield commander and this downrange base," said Maj. Louis Lilley, 401st AEW, civil engineer officer. "We are his experts because of his limited manpower. Our goal is to not only keep the airfield open, but to keep it safe."

Tuzla AB currently has three Air Force personnel and relies heavily on support from CE, communications and safety personnel from their Aviano headquarters.

"Because we don't have any of these functions here, they are essential to getting the mission accomplished," said Lt. Col. David Lowe, commander of Det. 1, 401st AEW. "There's nothing we can do to get the waiver package done by ourselves. CE and safety have to make the tough calls on what needs to be in the package."

Some examples of waivers from Tuzla AB are towers near the airfield, which are warranted due to local threats, as well as tree lines that are close to the runway, but due to suspected landmines in the area, are left cordoned off, often times on private land.

"I've been very impressed with Major Lilley and Master Sgt. Smith," said Colonel Lowe. "They are dedicated to getting the package approved and doing it right and they have all the expertise to make sure it's done correctly."

For Major Lilley and Master Sgt. Michael Smith, 401st AEW civil engi-

neer craftsman, working the waiver package from Aviano to Tuzla is just part of their job, but it does pose a challenge at times.

"One of the challenges for us is not Air Force CE members on site," said Major Lilley. "The other is, this is a contingency base and there are issues such as land constraints, which pose a great challenge. Because of the limited land availability we have significantly more waivers than we would at a permanent base."

The role of preparing the waiver package and reducing obstructions is primarily conducted by CE and airfield management personnel, but safety and communication play a vital role in the process as well.

"Safety is a key player, because they prepare the operational risk management assessment, an integral part of the waiver package," said Major Lilley. "Comm is involved because many of the obstructions are their equipment, such as navigational aids."

"I helped identify different meteorological and navigational equipment on the airfield and explained the purpose of all the equipment, to help CE understand why it's there on the airfield and why it's at its particular location," said Staff Sgt. Mario Morris, 401st AEW, meteorological and navigational system certifier. "The things that CE may consider as an obstruction, by simply looking at the map, are things that are vital to the mission. That was my small part from the world of comm to help with the waiver package."

The general basis for a waiver is to identify all obstructions and structures that violate

safety standards.

"There's a criterion that defines where things can go on an airfield," said Major Lilley. "We must go out and identify obstructions. If it isn't sited properly, we must get an approval for the waiver, which basically says we are willing to assume the risk."

If the risk is not worth taking the airfield can be shut down until the violation is corrected.

For both Maj. Lilley and Tech. Sgt. Thomas Johnson, 401st AEW, safety NCOIC, getting to work on an airfield waiver is something that they normally don't work on at home station. In Major Lilley's case, most bases have civilian community planners that work this duty. For Sergeant Johnson, his primary duty is ground safety.

"It's been a learning experience for me, since I don't normally work as closely with airfield management," said Sergeant Johnson. "One of the challenges I'm facing as a ground safety troop is becoming educated on how to understand the airfield management and waiver program."

For Capt. Mark Arzate, Det. 1, 401st AEW, chief of airfield operations, the key to getting the work done is getting all the different parts together.

"It's been a great team effort," said Captain Arzate. "When at a deployed location you aren't as constrained as you are back home. It's nice to have a dedicated team, because things get done quicker and there's better cohesion. It's the way it should function at a forward location. Waiver packages are done everywhere, but it just seems to mesh so much better here at a deployed location."

Air Force plans new cargo airlift program with Army

Courtesy Army News Service

Air Force and Army officials announced March 17 that a new Joint Cargo Aircraft, designed to enhance the combat readiness of both services, will be developed by a combined team. Fielding of the new aircraft is expected within two years.

The Request for Proposals was released March 17 after the Acquisition Strategy

Report was signed that morning, according to Pentagon officials. A Joint Program Office, comprised of personnel from both branches of service, will open Oct. 1 in Huntsville, Ala., with the Army taking the lead.

"This is a big day for both of us in terms of joint cooperation and capability," said Army Brig. Gen. Stephen Mundt, Army Aviation direc-

tor. "This aviation program is going to bring tremendous capability to both of our services and, more importantly, to the Department of Defense."

Air Force Brig. Gen. Andrew Dichter, deputy director of Operational Capability Requirements, underscored Mundt's enthusiasm for the new program and added that the program is an important example of the value of the

joint capability and integration system (JCIDS).

"Joint doctrine has always provided the ability for each service to have organic lift capability. The Air Force and the Army are committed to taking the new Joint Cargo Aircraft program, develop this important capability and deliver it to the joint warfighter," said General Dichter.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. BRIAN BOISVERT

A different spring break

Maj. Gen. Mike Gould, 2nd Air Force commander, welcomes Air Force Academy cadets to Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., Saturday. Approximately 140 cadets volunteered to give up their spring break to help rebuild the disaster struck area in Biloxi, Miss., and surrounding cities in support of hurricane relief efforts.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Free tax service

With the tax deadline a little more than two weeks away, the Cannon Tax Center, located in the Legal Office building, offers free tax preparation.

For an appointment or more information, call 784-7304.

Do you homeschool?

The base library is planning a home schooling support group that will meet monthly. Entertainment for children will be provided by 27th services Squadron.

For more information, call 784-2786.

Get ready for an adventure

The Laughlin Air Force Base Adventure Race on May 13, is open to Airmen from other bases.

The event includes approximately 22 miles of mountain biking, six miles of running and two miles of paddling. Entry fee is \$80 per team and registration deadline is April 21.

For more information, e-mail Maj. Rex Calvert at rex.calvert@laughlin.af.mil.

RED FLAG — ALASKA

Continued from Page 1

A significant benefit of conducting Red Flag exercises in Alaska is the size and space available on the Pacific Alaska Range Complex. The range airspace covers 67,000 square miles compared to the 12,000 square miles of the Nellis test and training range.

“The use of these ranges is key to our fifth-generation fighters — the

F-22A and the Joint Strike Fighter,” General Moseley said. “The space available and the strides to enhance training operations will make this more world-class than ever before.”

“Attendees of either Red Flag exercise will leave better prepared to engage the enemy in any environment worldwide,” said General Moseley.



SERVICES

Go Fly a Kite

8th Annual Air Force Base 25th Annual

Kite Carnival

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 8

At Doc Stewart Park



Schedule of Events

10:00 a.m.	Registration & Kite Making Demonstration Kite Flying Demonstration Kite Making & Flying Demonstration Kite Flying Demonstration Kite Making & Flying Demonstration
11:00 a.m.	Kite Flying Demonstration Kite Making & Flying Demonstration
12:00 p.m.	Kite Flying Demonstration
1:00 p.m.	Kite Flying Demonstration
2:00 p.m.	Kite Flying Demonstration
3:00 p.m.	Kite Flying Demonstration
4:00 p.m.	Kite Flying Demonstration

Like to Win? Give us a call at 408.438.4388 or visit our website at www.afb25.com

For more information on our services, please contact us at 408.438.4388

COMMUNITY AFFAIR
SERVICES
Central Coast Air Force Base

CC
COMMUNITY CENTER
408.438.4388

Schedule of Services events

Today

Seafood Buffet — 11 a.m. at The Landing
Friday Movies — 3 p.m. at the Portales CC* ages 13 and up
Yu-Gi-Oh Challenge Plus — 4 p.m. at the Clovis CC
Steak Special — 5 p.m. at The Landing
Family Bowl-A-Rama — 6 p.m. at Cannon Lanes
Entertainment — 9 p.m. at The End Zone
Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — \$4 at The Landing

Saturday

Child/Parent Scotch Doubles — 5:30 p.m. at Cannon Lanes

Sunday

Free Billiards — 3:30 p.m. at The End Zone
Dart League — 6:30 p.m. at The End Zone

Monday

Jr. & Sr. Cheer — 4 p.m. at the Clovis CC
Chess Club — 5 p.m. at the Portales CC

Community Theater — 6 p.m. at the Central CC
Red Barn Quilters — 6:30 p.m. at the Portales CC
Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — \$4 at The Landing

Tuesday

Oriental Buffet — 11 a.m. at The Landing
Pool Tournament — 4 p.m. at the Portales CC
Country Fried Steak — 5 p.m. at The Landing
Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — \$4 at The Landing

Wednesday

Italian Buffet — 11 a.m. at The Landing
Country Fried Steak — 5 p.m. at The Landing
Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — \$4 at The Landing

Thursday

Story Time — 10:30 a.m. at the Cannon Library
Mexican Buffet — 11 a.m. at The Landing
Tween Torch Club — 4:30 p.m. at the youth center

Kite Making — 5 p.m. at the Portales and Clovis CCs
XBox Challenge — 5 p.m. at the Portales CC
Pasta Bar — 5 p.m. at The Landing
Book Club — 6 p.m. at the Cannon Library
Chess Club Casual Play — 6 p.m. at the Central CC
Teen Keystone Meeting — 6:30 p.m. at the youth center
Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — \$4 at The Landing



* CC — Community Center ITT — Information Tickets and Travel CDC — Child Development Center



FEATURE



PHOTO BY 1ST LT. JAMES NICHOLS

Recent dry weather conditions have led to wildfires across New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. Residents should be aware of how they can help prevent them.



By Janet Taylor-Birkey
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Known as the "Land of Enchantment," New Mexico is also known as the land of high winds and burn bans. This lethal combination

lends itself to the simple, but emphatic, advice of Bruce Ford, Assistant Chief for Fire Prevention, Cannon Fire and Emergency Services, when near wildfires; "Stay away from them!"

But it's not just the risk of being burned that makes fires dangerous, said Mr. Ford, the smoke can be deadly. While smoke and fog share the characteristic of limited visibility, smoke has the added danger of entering air vents that can lead to choking, coughing or even death.

Mr. Ford said people who see a wildfire need to call 911, even if they think someone else has already called.

After calling 911, obeying law enforcement is of utmost importance in emergency situations, which may include evacuating your home. "[Authorities] are not telling you to leave for no reason," said Mr. Ford.

While the fire may not look imminent, professionals involved may know of or suspect conditions such as wind direction to quickly change. "Wildfires are unpredictable. Variable conditions can alter the movement and intensity of a wild land fire with no warning," said Rick Chandler,

Cannon's Wildland Fire Program Manager.

Curry County and surrounding areas suffering dry conditions and high winds have been issued a burn ban, as the lack of moisture and wind velocity can spread fire at the rate of 30 to 60 miles per hour. "You can't outrun it," said Mr. Ford, reiterating that people should not take chances with fires.

While fire can quickly get out of hand, preparatory measures can prevent fire emergencies. Mr. Ford said for those living out of the city limits, a cleared zone of 30 feet around their house is recommended.

Clearing the yard zone means keeping grass green, mowed and clear. Junk or tumbleweeds should not accumulate in yards. Community members living within the city limits should check alleys and dumpster areas. Do not allow the grass to grow high and keep an attached water hose nearby, said Mr. Ford.

The second way to prepare is to put irreplaceable valuables where they can be quickly retrieved if home occupants need to leave. If you know a fire is near, this could be the family vehicle.

For everyday living situations, Mr. Ford suggests having a "to-go" bag stocked with copies of legal papers, medications, emergency supplies and smaller valuables. Many Web sites give in-depth ideas for packing a to-go bag.

When fire emergencies are near, parents should know where their children are in case quick escape is needed, said Mr. Ford.

Those who have livestock should also consider a plan to quickly gather livestock and pets and know where they will be housed in case of emergency.

Time permitting, home dwellers may take a few steps which might lessen damage. "Close heavy curtains and remove lightweight curtains. Unlock doors for escape or access for the firefighters and turn on sprinklers to wet surfaces," said Mr. Chandler.

And always, "Remember; material items are replaceable, lives are not," Mr. Chandler stressed.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN THOMAS TROWER

The Cannon Fire Department maintains constant readiness to fight fires ranging from household to rangeland wildfires. For more information on how the fire department operates, see pages 14 and 15.



Unit Spotlights



2005 ACC Public Affairs Achievement Awards for 27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

1st Place — Special Achievement Award for Excellence in a
Crisis Situation, 2005 BRAC response

2nd Place — Performance during a Planned Event,
remote radio broadcast from Misawa Air Base, Japan

3rd Place — Public Affairs Excellence in a Small Wing

*Congratulations Lt. Col. Roseanne Warner, 27th Medical Operations Squadron,
Winner of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners State Award
for Excellence for New Mexico*

Cancer Control Month

In 1938, the Congress of the United States passed a joint resolution, requesting the President to issue an annual proclamation to declare April as "Cancer Control Month."

According to the American Cancer Society, founded in 1913 by 15 prominent physicians and business leaders in New York City, in 2006 there will be 3,290 cancer-related deaths in New Mexico alone.

Also, more than 8,000 new cases of cancer are expected to be found in New Mexico.

Chapel Schedule

CATHOLIC

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is at 8:30 a.m. Sundays and 4 to 4:30 p.m. the third Sunday of the month.

Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Weekday Mass 12:05 p.m. M,W,F
Religious Education (grades K-6) 10:45 a.m. Sunday
LifeTeen youth ministry (grades 7-12) 6 p.m. Sunday

PROTESTANT

Little Blessings children's class (under four years old) is available during all services and Wednesday ministries.

Sunday Services:

Traditional Service 8 a.m.
Contemporary Service 11 a.m.
Fellowship Noon
Inspirational 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday Services

Prepared meal (small donation requested) 5:30 p.m.
AWANA (Three years old to 6th grade) 6:15 p.m.
CrossFaith (grades 7-12) 6:15 p.m.
Alpha Course (Cyber Café) 6:15 p.m.
Old Fashioned Bible Study 6:15 p.m.

At the Movies

The Cannon Movie Theater is located on the corner of Torch and D.L. Ingram.
Movie prices are \$3.50 for adults, \$1.75 for children and \$1 for all viewers on Thursdays.

Pink Panther

7 p.m. today and 4 p.m. Saturday

Description: A world-famous soccer coach has been murdered and his priceless, legendary ring has been stolen — a ring set with the stunning diamond known as the "Pink Panther." The French government needs a master detective to solve the crime and recover the gem — but he's not available, so they recruit none other than Inspector Jacques Clouseau.

Rated: PG (occasional crude and suggestive humor and language)

Running time: 83 minutes

Curious George

1 p.m. Saturday

Description: The adventures of Curious George, the inquisitive little guy with an insatiable taste for adventure. George's spunky and fun-loving nature endears him to new friends, but also lands him in a series of (mis-)adventures.

Rated: G

Running time: 82 minutes

Firewall

7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Description: Jack Stanfield is a bank security expert, whose specialty is designing infallible theft-proof financial computer systems. But there's a hidden vulnerability in the system he didn't account for — himself. When a ruthless criminal mastermind kidnaps his family, Jack is forced to find a flaw in his system and steal \$100 million.

Rated: PG-13 (some intense sequences of violence)

Running time: 99 minutes



Professional Enhancement (held over The End Zone)

April

Tuesday	9 a.m. - noon	Writing Military Decorations
Wednesday through Apr. 7		Noncommissioned Officer Professional Enhancement
Thursday	7:30 a.m.	Right Decision
Apr. 11	1 - 4 p.m.	EPR for Authors
Apr. 12	9 a.m. - noon	Basic Counseling
Apr. 14	8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Commissioning Opportunities
Apr. 14	9:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Commissioning Opportunities
Apr. 17	2 - 4 p.m.	Understanding the Enlisted Assignment Process

To sign up for classes or for more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Jill Helm at 784-7041 or e-mail jill.helm@cannon.af.mil.





SPORTS & HEALTH

2006 Intramural Golf League in full swing

By Dennis Christensen
27th Services Squadron

Cannon golfers teed off for the first major event of the 2006 golf season March 18 resulting in the lowest nine medalists representing the Cannon Varsity Golf Team.

The two-day competition's first round ended with Ed Armijo in the lead with a 72 and Scott Hanna applying pressure with a 75 in the championship flight. Jim Leiberick held a 77 and Dirk Tidwell was close behind with a 79 for the first day.

Lieberick's second-day score of 79 and Armijo's 84 points put them in a tie at the end of the day with a total of 156, forcing a playoff.

Armijo took first place after beating Leiberick on the second hole. Larry Looney, Larry Oehm and Josh Creeger all tied for third with a two-day total of 157. Scott Hanna totaled out with a close 158.

Creeger and Hanna broke their tied two-day total of 137 with a score card playoff with Hanna winning on the 15th hole.

Gift certificates were awarded to the

first and second low gross and net scorers in each flight and closest-to-the-pin contest winners. Results by flight for the field and golf team members are as follows:

Championship Flight: First low gross — Armijo, 156; First low net — Hanna, 137; Second low gross — Leiberick, 156; Second low net — Creeger, 137.

First Flight: First low gross — Chet Spear, 165; First low net — Bob Villines, 134; Second low gross — Jim Larsen, 168; Second low net — Thor Myers, 140.

Second Flight: First low gross — Russell Crownover, 178; First low net — Jason Jacobson, 129; Second low gross — Jamie Montoya, 191; Second low net — Carroll Mason, 142.

Closest-to-the-pin winners on March 18 were hole 3 — Elind Garcia, hole 7 — Curt Mitchell, hole 11 — Chet Spear, and hole 17 — Brent Murray. March 19 winners were hole 3 — Russell Cowover, hole 7 — Larry Oehm, hole 11 — Pete Wilt, and hole 17 — Wilt.

The players who qualified for the 2006 varsity intramural golf team are Leiberick, Creeger, Hanna, Tidwell, Myers, Jared Bembenowski, Charles Waddell, Ryan

Smith and Dan Merrill.

Ken Eveland, the current Club Champion, will round out the team. Although Eveland did not compete in the tournament, the current base and club champions automatically qualify for the base team.

Upcoming events at the Whispering Winds Golf Course will be the Earth Day Golf Scramble on April 7, the Texas Scramble on April 15 and the Clovis Christian School Tournament on April 22.

Monday night two-person scrambles will commence on April 3 and continue through the second week of September.

Tee times for the Monday night scrambles will be at 5 p.m. Players should sign up before 3 p.m. Monday.

The senior league meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday, beginning in April and continuing through September. Players should sign up for this league by 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and must be 50 years old or older to participate.

For more information or to sign up for any of the tournaments, call the golf course at 784-2800.

(Staff Sgt. Craig Seals, 27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)

Notice of privacy practices on TriCare Web site

Courtesy TriCare News Release

The Department of Defense Health Information Privacy Regulation requires that TriCare Management Activity make beneficiaries aware once every three years both of the availability of the military health system notice of privacy practices and how to obtain it. TriCare beneficiaries may review this notice at www.tricare.osd.mil/tmaprivacy. This notification process complies with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

The Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act creates standard safeguards to protect the privacy and confidentiality of personal health care information for all U.S. hospitals, providers and health care organizations.

The military health system and all other U.S. hospitals, providers and health care organizations first notified their patients about the new privacy standards three years ago in April 2003.

"We encourage all of our beneficiaries to review the military health system notice of privacy practices and to share the information with members of their household who are covered by a TriCare health plan (Prime, Extra or Standard) or receive medical care at a military treatment facility," said Sam Jenkins, privacy officer for the TriCare Management Activity.

As a result of the privacy legislation, medical and dental information may be used and disclosed for such treatment, payment and health care operations, as scheduling appoint-

ments, billing patients, quality assurance activities and provider-to-provider referrals. Health information may also be disclosed when required by law and in other permitted circumstances outlined in the privacy notice.

The privacy notice provides beneficiaries with clear guidance on how military treatment facilities will safeguard their personal health information from unauthorized access or disclosure. The notice also advises TriCare beneficiaries of their rights to:

— know when and to whom their medical information may have been disclosed;

— request access to or receive a copy of their health information on file at the military treatment facility;

— request an amendment to correct wrong information on file; and

— file a grievance with the military treatment facility, the TriCare Management Activity, or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act privacy officer regarding any privacy concern.



"The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act requires that we inform beneficiaries of their privacy rights and ensure they understand their rights and the military health system's responsibility to protect their privacy," Mr. Jenkins added.

For more information about the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act or to get a copy of the privacy notice, beneficiaries may visit the TriCare Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/tmaprivacy.

Fitness
Center
events
calendar

Today

Yoga

5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Saturday

Yoga

8 - 9 a.m.

Sunday

No Classes

Monday

Yoga

5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Cardio Cycling

11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Yoga

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Cardio Cycling

5:30 - 6:15 a.m.

9 - 10 a.m.

Aerobics

5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday

Yoga

5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Cardio Cycling

11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

4 - 5 p.m.

Aerobics

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Cardio Cycling

5:30 - 6:15 a.m.

6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Step Aerobics

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.



SPORTS & HEALTH



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Senior league

The Cannon Senior Golf League will play at 9 a.m. every Tuesday through September. Individuals interested in playing should contact the Whispering Winds Golf Course at 784-2800 before 8:30 a.m. on any Tuesday.

Cannon Lanes

Family Bowl-A-Rama — Six family members can bowl for two hours for \$12 today.

Lanes are assigned from 6 to 9 p.m.

Price includes shoe rental and a pitcher of soda.

Child/Parent Scotch Doubles — Join the tournament for \$8 per pair and play from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday.

The child bowls the first ball of the frame, followed by the parent, until they get a strike. The order then reverses.

The three age groups are six to nine, 10 to 12 and 13 to 16-years-old.

Month of the Military Child — In April, to celebrate Month of the Military Child, Cannon Lanes will offer 50 cents games with free shoe rental Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. to children 16-years-old and under, when accompanied by a paying adult.

Outdoor recreation

Hall of the White Giant — Take a “Wild Caving Tour” and experience Carlsbad Caverns away from the crowds April 15 for \$65 per adult and \$62 per child 12 to 15 years old.

Leave at 7 a.m. and return that day at 11 p.m.

Price includes general admission fee into the cave and a four-hour guided tour to the Hall of the White Giant. Soft work gloves, knee pads and four new AA batteries are required on the trip.

Sign-up deadline is April 10.

Boater Safety Course — Receive a U.S. Coast Guard boaters safety cer-

tificate and On-Water Familiarization certification April 22 at Fort Sumner Lake in Fort Sumner, N.M.

This daylong trip costs \$20 and is required to rent outdoor recreation powered water crafts.

Price includes transportation, sack lunch and courses. Sign up deadline is April 18.

For more information, call outdoor recreation at 784-2773.

Youth sports

3-on-3 Basketball Tourney — Join the competition from 4:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday in the youth center gym.

For more information, call the youth center at 784-2747.

Tee Ball and Baseball — The tee ball league is for players ages five to six and baseball league is for players ages seven to nine.

The cost is \$25 and player registration is Saturday through April 22. Leagues will begin games on April 29.

There must be enough players for four teams in each league.

For more information, call Mr. Lionel Alston at 784-2485.

Instructional programs — Sign up for cheerleading, dance, yoga and preschool tumble at the youth center.

Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays and cost \$30 per child.

Whispering Winds

Monday Night Scrambles — Nine hole scrambles will begin at 5 p.m. Mondays for two-person teams. Handicaps will be used and players may pick their own partners.

Players must sign up by 3 p.m.



NEWS

Family Matters introduces updated AF Crossroads Web site

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
Air Force News Service

The Air Force A1 office of family matters will soon unveil its updated Air Force Crossroads Web site for Airmen and families to gather facts about installations, military moves, education and more.

Though the current site contains a lot of information, its many layers made the site difficult to navigate, said Brenda Liston, chief of Airmen and family readiness policy at the Pentagon.

"With the new site, the information is a lot more accessible," she said. "It's more user-friendly so that customers can sign in and begin surfing for information immediately."

From employment resources to education and health to spouses' forums, customers will be connected to links and other resources geared to the military lifestyle.

As one of the 200,000 current account holders, Air Force spouse Holli Daniels said she's glad to see the site's improvements.

She became very familiar with the site when she was engaged to her now-husband, Capt. Michael Daniels, 355th Comptrollers Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. Having grown-up in a Midwest city with little military influence, she had no idea what to expect about life in the military until her fiancée showed her the Air Force Crossroads Web site.

"I was brand new to the military," she said. "I mainly used the site as a connection tool with other spouses. I

remember when Mike and I were putting a dream list together, I got on the [spouses'] forum to try and find out about the bases and where we should go."

She said at the time, access was a little difficult since she was not yet officially part of the military, but "I was able to find through the site other resources that were helpful."

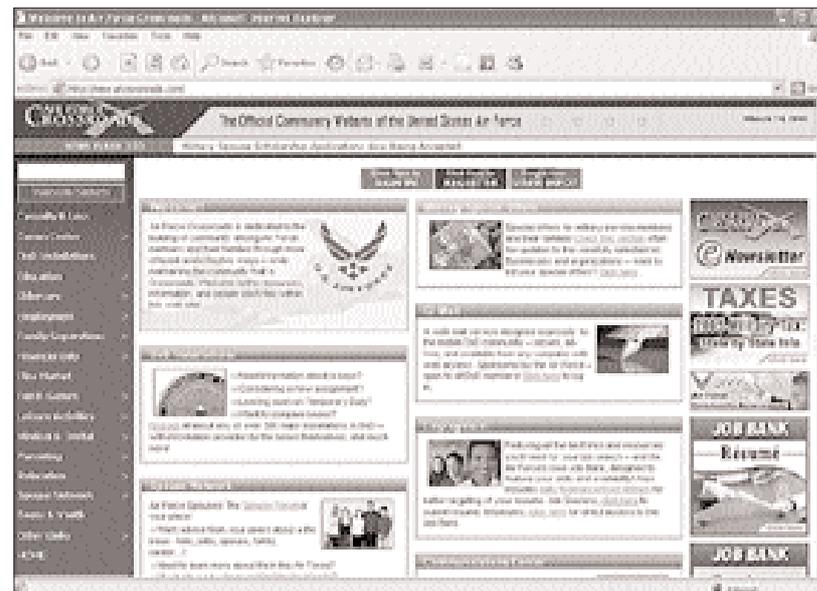
Ms. Liston said the dot-com address allows those not familiar with the military to gain insight into how things work for families.

"Anyone can access the site, such as grandparents and friends of the family, and learn more about life in the Air Force," Ms. Liston said. "While some of the specific sites, such as installations, will require an account name and password, it's now much easier for all users to get what they need."

Two new options on the site include the ability to compare installations with side-by-side pop-up windows and signing up for newsletters that will be sent directly to the individual. The site also remains committed to a "total force" concept.

"The site will continue to give information for the Guard and Reserve Airmen and families, too," Ms. Liston said.

Based on feedback and analysis, the new Web site was built to address the ever-changing needs of the military family, including helping former Airmen find employment outside the gates. Employers looking to specifically



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The new AF Crossroads Web site becomes active Saturday.

employ former Airmen have recently been contacting the Crossroads Web site. Those recruitment announcements are also included in the job banks on the new Web site.

"You could say that our changing times have dictated our need to change the site," she said. "But the need to get information out to the families remains the same, and that's our goal."

The new Web site becomes active Saturday and is accessed at www.afcrossroads.com.

Women Climbing Success Ladder in Military, DoD Civilian Work Force

Story and photo by Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

Women have come a long way in the military services and federal government, and many of them have left legacies for future generations to follow, a top Defense Department official said in Washington D.C. March 21.

This year's Women's History Month theme, "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams," focuses on women who helped pave the way for other women to climb the ladder of success in the military and civilian work force, said Ms. McGinn, deputy undersecretary of defense for plans, during DoD's Women's History Month observance at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial here.

Women's History Month presents an opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of women from the past, present and future, Ms. McGinn said. "Today, women make up 14.6 percent of the active-duty force and over one third of the DoD civilian force," she said. "Nearly half of the U.S. labor force is female. An increasing proportion of DoD senior-level active-duty and civilian positions are filled by women."

Ms. McGinn, the observance's presiding official, said the overall representation of women in DoD senior-level positions has improved significantly. "However, the Department of Defense, along with other federal agencies, is facing a shortage in key critical occupations and educational disciplines that must be addressed proactively," she said.

She pointed out that the Defense Department is the largest federal employer, with more than 750,000 civilians, 1.3 million guardsmen and reservist, and 1.4 million active-duty personnel. The observance highlighted 121 military and civilian female role models working in science, engineering, math or technology disciplines.

"We asked the defense components to spotlight some of their role models in these areas," Ms. McGinn said. "The work that these fine women do is critical to our national security. Today, we celebrate their contributions and unwavering commitment to DoD."

Some of the women traveled from throughout the country and as far away as Germany and Alaska to take part in the program. "These women are doing great things for the Department of Defense," Ms. McGinn said.



Gail H. McGinn, deputy undersecretary of defense for plans, tells attendees at DoD's Women's History Month observance March 21 at the Women in Military Service for America that women have come a long in the military and DoD's civilian work force.