

AFSO21
Air Force Smart Ops For The 21st Century



PHOTO BY 2ND LT. GEORGE TOBIAS

AFSO 21 Initiative

The jet engine intermediate maintenance shop has implemented 24-hour engine production with crew concept. Seven identical work stations allow for smoother workflow, transition, efficient production and enhanced continuity. This resulted in a 45 percent reduction in engine cycle time at the propulsion shop.

Community Events

Case lot sale

Cannon Commissary will hold its worldwide case lot sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 19 and 20. For more information, see www.commissaries.com.

Community Assessment

All active-duty spouses can participate in the 2006 Community Assessment.

The survey itself is designed to evaluate the current state of the Air Force community, such as community satisfaction, personnel preparedness, family adaptation, health and well-being, spiritual well-being, economic well-being, and safety.

The information gathered will be used to improve quality of life, readiness, and retention of Air Force personnel.

Since the survey is completely online this year, people who don't have computers are more than welcome to use the computers at the Family Support Center or the library.

Letter Carriers' Food Drive

The Postal Service will be picking

More Community Events on page 10

MACH METER

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May 5, 2006

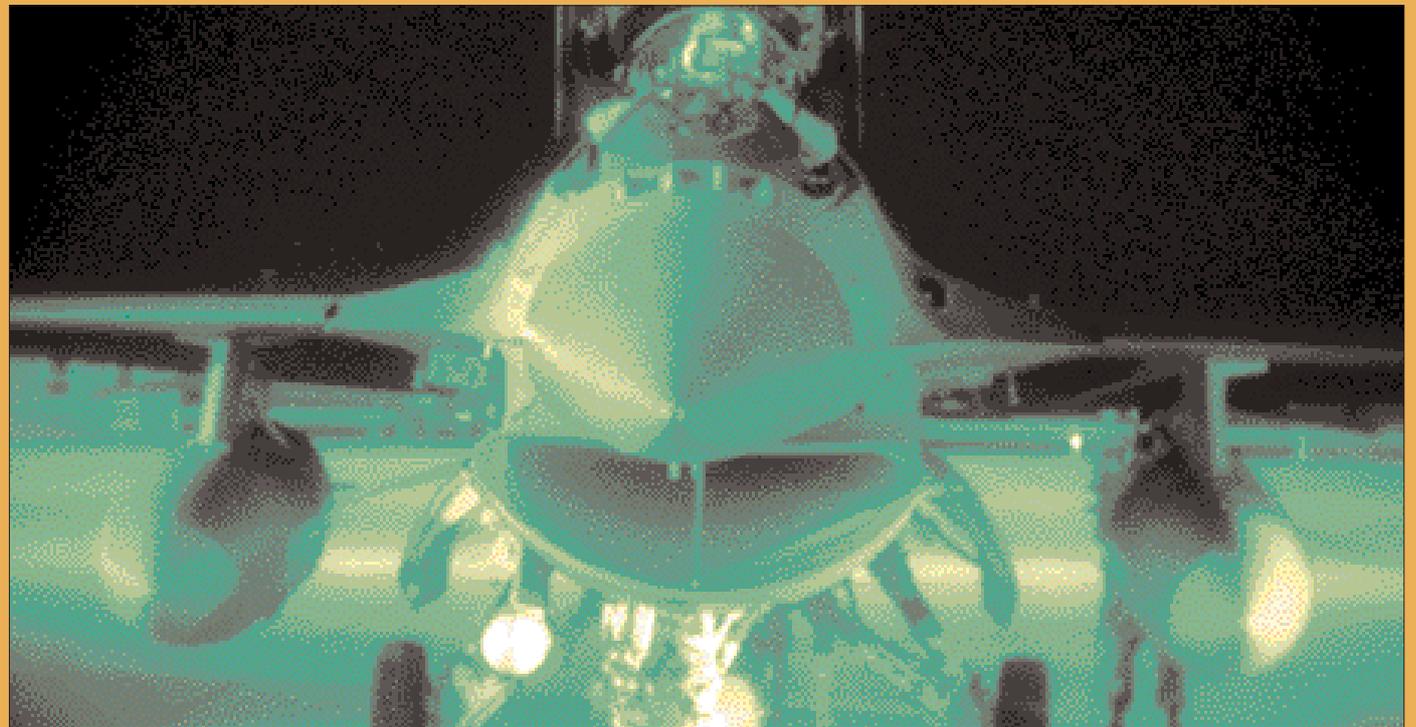


PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRIAN ELLIS

Ready to go

A 522nd Fighter Squadron pilot is ready to leave Monday for deployment to an undisclosed location. For more photos on Coronet/Fireball and Phase I training, see pages 12 and 13.

DoD working to improve total workforce

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department is seeking ways to foster sweeping changes in its civilian, Reserve and active forces, DoD's top personnel official said in Washington, D. C. April 25.

Any changes would be aimed at making the department more agile and effective, said David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Dr. Chu said DoD plans to convert thousands of military jobs to civilian positions. Other initiatives include transforming the armed forces, prolonging careers before retirement, and basing military promotions on preparedness rather than

time in service.

DoD needs to better integrate its people because people are the core of the organization and the reason it has been successful, Dr. Chu said.

"It was their performance in the first Persian Gulf war almost 15 years ago that restored the American military to its place as the most respected institution in our society," he said.

Pointing out that integration of the National Guard, Reserve and active forces into a "total force" isn't a new issue, Dr. Chu noted that former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird coined the phrase "total force" a generation ago. Secretary Laird used the term in describing how the active duty and reserve communities were brought

together to thwart the Soviet Union's efforts to dominate Western Europe and the oil fields of the Persian Gulf, Dr. Chu said.

He said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's single, most important charge from the president is transforming the armed forces to meet challenges of the early 21st century.

Emphasizing that transformation is about much more than hardware, Dr. Chu said, "Yes, new weapons systems are important. But ultimately it's the people who are operating those systems that make the difference."

Therefore, he said, it's important to effectively manage how DoD manages its people, how it treats them and how they're recruited, motivated and retained so the nation can

retain the finest fighting force in the world.

Dr. Chu discussed the three broad strands that are the focus of DoD's personnel agenda — civilians, active military forces, and reserve components.

He added that the National Guard has generally been used for home tasks but not current operations. But that began to change in the last decade.

"We made the decision in the department that the reserves would really be part of the operational force, an integral part of the total force," Dr. Chu said. "We recognized that reservists are not able to serve continuously, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Therefore, we have to be judicious and prudent in their use."



FEATURE

Chief McKinley selected as 15th CMSAF

Courtesy Air Force News Services

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley has named Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley to serve as the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

Chief McKinley will assume his new position July 1, following the June 30 retirement of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray. Chief Murray's retirement culminates 29 years of service to the Air Force.

"I'm excited to have Chief McKinley take the helm of our enlisted force," General Moseley said. "Chief McKinley is a tremendous leader with an impressive array of expeditionary and combat experiences to help him steer our Airmen

and serve as my partner. We were blessed to have a number of exceptionally well-qualified candidates for the position. While the decision was not an easy one, I feel we have the right person to lead our enlisted force during this time of a long war on terrorism, recapitalization and transformation. I look forward to working with him."

Chief McKinley is currently the command chief master sergeant for Pacific Air Forces. He originally joined the Air Force in 1974, took a break in service in 1977, attended college and reentered the Air Force in 1982.

Chief McKinley's career includes assignments in the medical, aircraft maintenance and first sergeant fields. He has also served as the command chief master sergeant of the

86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein Air Base, Germany; 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base, Va.; 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia; and 11th Air Force at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

The office of the chief master sergeant of the Air Force represents the highest enlisted level of leadership, provides direction for the enlisted corps and represents their interests to the American public and all levels of government. The chief master sergeant of the Air Force serves as a personal adviser to the Air Force chief of staff and secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization and progress of the enlisted force and their families.



AIR FORCE PHOTO

Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley, shown shaking hands with an Airman, has been selected as the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force. He will replace Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray June 30. Chief McKinley is currently the command chief masters sergeant of the Pacific Air Forces.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. WILL ACKERMAN

Meeting Mr. Secretary

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld greets Tech. Sgt. David Colon, 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, at Sather Air Base, Iraq, April 27. The sergeant is deployed from Cannon where he is assigned to 27th Security Forces Squadron.

New civilian personnel system now in effect

By Steven Donald Smith
American Forces Press Service

Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England signed a directive to implement the new National Security Personnel System during a roll-out ceremony in Washington, D.C., April 28.

"Today is a milestone event," Secretary England said during the Pentagon ceremony. "After two and a half years of very hard work, the Department of Defense is initiating the human resources phase of the National Security Personnel System."

About 11,000 Defense Department civilian employees from 12 DoD organizations will be part of the initial Spiral 1.1 phase-in process of the new system.

Employees will be converted to pay bands that replace the general schedule and will be given new results-focused performance plans that are clearly linked to their organization's mission and strategic goals, defense officials said.

Secretary England said he understood if some civilian employees had a little anxiety about the conversion, but he stressed that supervisors have been given a lot of training to help make sure people are comfortable with the new system.

"This is not a fire-and-forget effort," he said.

Classroom and Web-based training covering the basics of NSPS, with special emphasis on performance management, has been in high gear for employees over the last several months, according to a DoD press release.

This is a critical time for the United States Secretary England said, and to meet today's challenges the DoD needs the right people in the right places, working in the right ways.

"People are our most valuable resource, and today we are improving the ability of the department's people to be successful," he said.



NEWS

Know what to do during severe weather season

27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

7416/6401/6892/1404.

Tornado season is almost upon us and since Cannon is approximately 18 miles from "Tornado Alley," it is important for local residents and Cannon Airmen to know what to do when tornado sirens sound.

When a tornado is indicated by radar, a Tornado Warning will be issued on Cannon by a three to five minute steady tone on the base siren. Don't get this confused with the weekly test the Command Post performs every Friday at noon.

Clovis Emergency Management officials test their sirens every Wednesday at 4 p.m. This test usually lasts 1-3 minutes and the sirens are heard throughout Clovis.

If you have any questions about severe weather preparedness you can contact your squadron Emergency Management representatives or the 27th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness flight at 784-

The following are safety procedures to follow when the sirens sound.

Cannon Air Force Base will conduct a natural disaster exercise next week. People should review appropriate plans in preparation for the exercise.

— If the sirens sound, get inside. Do not become a spectator and leave the storm chasing to trained experts.

"If you're close enough to hear thunder, you're close enough to be struck by lightning," said Rick Smith, national Weather Service. "You need to go inside a building and wait till the storm passes."

— Once inside a building, go

to the most interior room, away from the windows. In a room, or hangar with a high ceiling, find a small centralized office or closet.

"Tornadoes are unpredictable," said Jay Crawford, 27th Civil Engineer Squadron. "Two by four boards can be driven through a telephone pole. A tornado can rip away a house, but leave fine china untouched on a dining room shelf."

"If you're standing on one side of the base watching a tornado go across the other side, you might get hit in the back of the head by flying debris," he said.

— If caught in a car, get out. Lie in a ditch and cover your head. Be aware of flash flooding and, contrary to a popular myth, stay away from bridges and overpasses. Tornado winds can reach hundreds of miles per hour and are multiplied as they pass under overpasses.

— Stay away from damaged areas. Let emergency crews do their job. There may be ruptured gas lines or downed live power

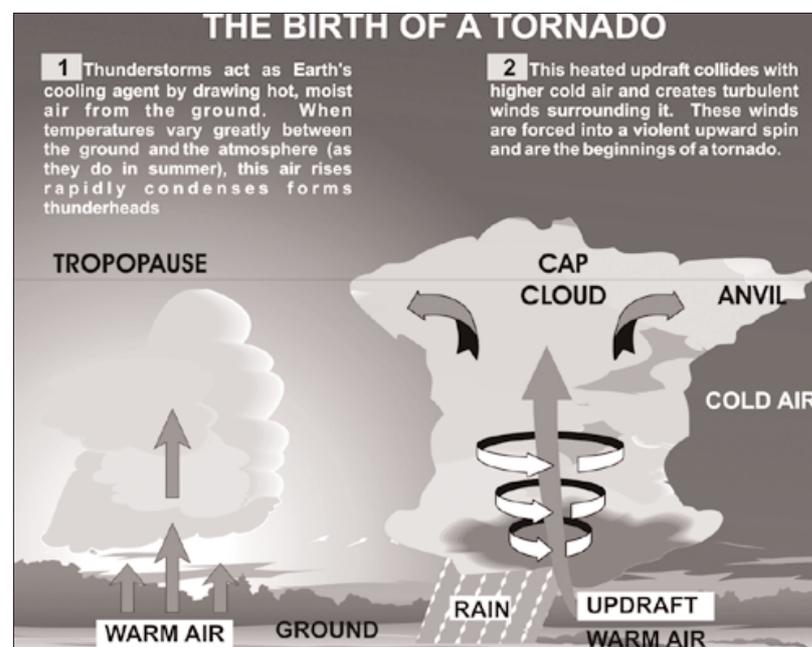


ILLUSTRATION BY TECH. SGT. DAVID CZERWINSKI

Clovis Emergency Management officials test their sirens every Wednesday at 4 p.m. This test usually lasts 1-3 minutes and the sirens are heard throughout Clovis.

lines.

"When the tornado siren sounds, it's sounding for a reason," said Mr. Crawford. "That's not the time to sightsee. Get to some kind of shelter and wait for the 'all-

clear."

Cannon has four personnel response areas on base. Building 600, The Landing, the Fitness Center and the Medical Clinic are available as rally points.



PHOTOS BY JANET TAYLOR-BIRKEY

More than just a haircut

(Right) Sam Irons, 27th Comptroller Squadron, checks his new look after a haircut Monday. After retiring from the Air Force two years ago, Mr. Irons grew his hair (top) for a special cause — Locks of Love. Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss. Mr. Irons has lost close rela-

tives to cancer, which led him to participate in the program. He said that while his hair conditioner bill will go down for a while, he plans to let it grow long again. "I'll probably start again this fall when it starts growing out," he said, ready to start again — all in the name of love. More information about Locks of Love can be found at www.locksoflove.org.



COMMENTARY

Take responsibility for your own readiness

Never lose sight of our individual responsibility to be ready to go when asked.

By Lt. Col. David Walker
524th Fighter Squadron commander

Lately, my war stories have become pretty stale. I can't tell a good "there I was" story these days without being trumped by a much cooler story from any number of our Airmen.

In fact, the best war story I've heard lately came from a doctor in our own 27th Medical Group. The bottom-line: Fighter pilot war stories don't play as well as they used to because our entire force is becoming a combat-hardened group.

A more diverse group of Airmen is contributing to the fight down range today than ever before.

Although we have become a combat hardened force, we must continually strive to hold our sharp edge.

As Airmen, we can never lose sight of our individual responsibility to be ready to go when asked. If we leave our expeditionary readiness up to our unit deployment managers or our supervisors, important requirements might be missed. As individuals, we can take an active role in our own readiness.

Our day-to-day in-garrison operations must be solely focused on preparing ourselves to deploy and execute at a high

level. As a fighter pilot, it has always been easy to make the correlation between my day-to-day flight training and the term airpower. Ten years ago I thought airpower was used exclusively to describe pilots and maintainers putting up sorties to destroy or support the destruction of targets valuable to an enemy.

In my narrow-minded thinking, the proximity of one's job to the flight line defined the value of his or her contribution to the fight.

Events of the last decade illustrate how my thinking was wrong and uninformed.

All Airmen, regardless of their Air Force Specialty Code, are of extreme value to the fight downrange. In fact, many of our career fields not regularly visible on the flightline are the most heavily tasked in current and future fights.

Given the facts today, I must now conclude pilots and maintainers are still pretty cool. However, I must concede we are often not the most valuable players to combat operations.

All Airmen regardless of their proximity to the flightline have the responsibility to be ready in two categories — ready to deploy and ready to execute.

The term ready to deploy

seems pretty simple — get one's mobility folder squared away with the proper certificates and pack a bag right? Wrong!

Ready to deploy means much more. It means taking personal responsibility for one's own training and preparations.

How many of us have waited until we showed up on overdue rosters for training, physical health assessment or immunizations before we did something about it? Or worse, how many of us allowed ourselves to show up on a second or third month's overdue roster? How many of us have waited until the last minute to get the proper individual equipment issued or get our gas mask fit test done? Remember, you can be called to go early if needed.

If my questions strike a nerve, you need to rethink your personal responsibility in your own readiness. Don't wait for the overdue roster to find out what training you need.

When tasked to go downrange, whether real-world or exercise, you should be proud when you breeze through the processing line with zero discrepancies and are fully ready. You should feel adequately prepared because you were not rushed through needed training at the last minute. You should also feel

secure in the knowledge you have made proper arrangements for your family and the life you will be leaving behind for a few months.

I challenge you to think about these things now and not wait until the last month before your assigned Aerospace Expeditionary Force cycle. You must also realize that readiness is more than just getting out the door quickly. Airmen also must be ready to execute at a high level once they get to the fight.

Once downrange, you will find out very quickly there is no on-the-job training program. Read the duty title and duty description on your performance reports. Folks down range expect you to be able to execute those duties as soon as you show up. It will be painful for you and your deployed unit to learn you don't have the skills needed.

Other Airmen, plus members of our Joint and Coalition armed forces, count on you to be good at your job. Do not let your brothers and sisters in arms down.

Use the time here at Cannon to improve your skills in whatever career field you work in.

The Airmen who shows up and starts executing at a high level on day one is the key to expeditionary air-

Lt. Col. David Walker

"The lessons learned may be as simple as what kind of shower shoes to bring, or might be larger and have Air Force wide impact on how we organize and train."

— 524th Fighter Squadron commander

power. You must take responsibility for your own training. We all know the areas we are weak in. Spend the time getting the training you need to become a "full-up-round."

Finally, when you return from your deployments you owe it to other Airmen to pass on your lessons learned.

Tell those hard earned war stories. The lessons learned may be as simple as what kind of shower shoes to bring, or might be larger and have Air Force wide impact on how we organize and train.

Never forget you are a member of the world's most capable Air Force. When tasked to deploy, you must be ready to go and ready to execute.

Take responsibility for your own readiness.

MACH METER

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27fwmachmeter@cannon.af.mil.

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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.

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White House report outlines roles for military in flu pandemic response

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

If a flu pandemic hit the United States, the Defense Department's top priority would be to protect the military's operational readiness so it can play a supporting role to the Homeland Security and State departments, as outlined in a national response plan released Wednesday by the White House.

The plan provides a road map for marshaling the response, detailing roles and responsibilities for federal departments and agencies. It also sets expectations for state and local governments and nonfederal entities.

The plan includes more than 300 critical actions, many already initiated, to address the avian and pandemic flu threat, said Frances Townsend, the president's homeland security adviser.

"I should make it clear that we do not know whether the bird virus we are seeing overseas will ever become a human virus, and we cannot predict whether a human virus will lead to a pandemic," said Mrs. Townsend.

"However, it is possible that if the virus undergoes genetic changes, it could signal the start of a human epidemic."

Planning for such a scenario helps ensure a coordinated response to prevent or slow the infection's spread and helps "take the fear out of it so there's not chaos," she said.

Should a pandemic such as the H5N1 bird flu hit the United States, DoD would support the Department of

Homeland Security in domestic preparedness and response, consistent with its U.S. national security mission, defense officials said. At the same time, the department would support the State Department in addressing the crisis internationally.

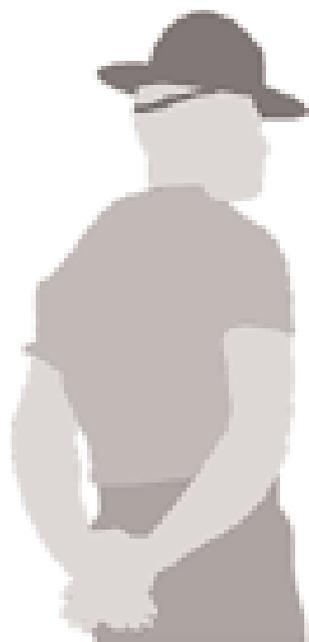
But the department's top priority would be to protect the military's operational readiness by taking care of military forces, civilian personnel, dependents and beneficiaries, according to Air Force Col. Richard Chavez, senior military adviser for civil support.

To ensure it's able to do that, DoD has established stockpiles of vaccines to keep servicemembers healthy and able to protect the country. This stockpile includes about 2.7 million doses of H5N1 avian influence vaccine and 2.4 million treatment courses of antivirals.

The department is also developing systems for inpatient and outpatient disease surveillance at its institutions worldwide, according to Ellen Embrey, deputy assistant secretary for health protection and readiness.

Protecting the force and maintaining essential functions and services would ensure the military is able to use its people and resources to support the overall response, said Colonel Chavez.

"Our nation will face this global threat united in purpose and united in action in order to best protect our families, our communities, our nation and our world from the threat of pandemic influenza," wrote President Bush in the preface to the plan.



Sgt. Afi's 36-2903

Tip of the Week

Eyeglasses worn in uniform should be free of ornamentation on the frames and lenses. They should be conservative, clear, slightly tinted or photo-sensitive when worn indoors or in formation. Faddish styles and mirrored lenses are prohibited. Sunglasses are not to be worn in formation.



FEATURE

Wildlife monitors help protect endangered species in desert

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine
Air Force Print News

As night turns into dawn, a man's shadow rises on a rugged desert butte. His gaze slices through the morning light looking for his target. It is hard to hunt down the fastest land animal in North America, but he is good at stalking this elusive ghost of the Arizona desert.

But, Erik Stenehjem is not looking for a hunter's trophy from his perch among the cactus. In fact, he is not a hunter at all. He is a guardian, only one of a few select protectors of the Sonoran pronghorn antelope, an endangered animal that lives on the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

"I really like my job," said Mr. Stenehjem, the lead wildlife biologist here for pronghorn monitors. "It is fun. It's one of those jobs that people can say 'I can't believe they are paying me to do this.'"

"I really like hiking out into the desert every morning," said the former high school teacher.

"I guess my favorite part of the job is being out in an area where not everyone gets to go."

Many people might assume that the five Pronghorn monitors who work the range have easy jobs. But, there is a lot more to it than carrying a pair of binoculars.

"Primarily, we spot for pronghorn," Mr. Stenehjem said. "But, secondarily we look for anybody who shouldn't be here."

Just as the pronghorn antelope are in danger from the live-fire combat training that takes place on the range, so are the undocumented aliens, or UDAs, who illegally cross the border through range territory.

If pronghorn spotters see either the antelope or UDAs in the vicinity of live-fire ranges, they call it in and flying is restricted for the day. These instances result in approximately seven percent of all missions flown annually on the range being called off.

The spotters also call range security and the U.S. Border Patrol to pick up any UDAs on

the range. Monitors must also be careful because many of these people have been walking through the desert for days without food or water and are suffering from severe dehydration, sun exposure sickness and often shock.

The pronghorn monitors also support other range programs. They conduct insect surveys to help track effects on the desert ecosystem. They perform raptor surveys which evaluate and observe the birds of prey on the range.

The range has its own specific rules and regulations — not only about driving (on-road only) and safety concerns, but in a historical sense, too. Eighteen Native American tribes have ancestral roots there.

There are more than 1,200 archeological sites on the range. If monitors happen across any of these sites or a new site, they can not disturb it in any way or touch any of the pieces.

"It really comes down to enjoying your job," said J.T. Hesse, the senior wildlife biolo-



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. CECILIO RICARDO JR.

Erik Stenehjem conducts routine pronghorn clearance at the Barry M. Goldwater Range in Phoenix, Ariz., at 4:30 a.m. April 24. Once no sign of the pronghorn antelope is found, mission bombings and strafing can continue on the range. Mr. Stenehjem is the lead biologist for pronghorn monitoring.

gist with the 56th Range Management Office. Mr. Hesse is one of range maintenance officer who provide quality assurance for the monitors on the range.

"They do a very good job. At a minimum they will have to stare out at a blank desert. Ninety percent of the time they don't see pronghorn out there, but they are always vigilant and well prepared," Mr. Hesse said.

Monitors must be in place to watch for the antelope 30 minutes before sunrise. Since the range is 1.05 million acres in size, it can take several

hours to get in place. Mr. Stenehjem said during the summer months he must wake up at 2:15 a.m. to be in place on time. His days usually end about 6:30 p.m.

But for everyone involved with the pronghorn monitoring program, the reward seems to be well worth the time and effort.

"The thing that most people don't realize is that the Sonoran Desert isn't just a big dusty hole," Mr. Hesse said. "It is teeming with a unique wildlife complexity that is well worth the effort to conserve."



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN MARK ORDERS-WOEMPNER

Staff Sgt. Anthony Krisher uses the mirrors in the boom pod of a KC-135R Stratotanker to check the air refueling boom before he refuels F-15E Strike Eagles over Iraq on April 18.

Refuelers take flight to fuel the fight

By Senior Airman
Mark Orders-Woempner
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Fighters are in the air 24 hours a day, providing constant support to ground forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Without midair refueling, that coverage would be lost.

The 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron provides fuel to those thirsty fighters as they keep troops on the ground safe, said Lt. Col. Brou Gautier, 340 EARS commander.

"Our mission is simply to refuel the various aircraft supporting coalition ground forces," Colonel Gautier said. "The fuel we provide to the close-air-support team increases loiter times, which in turn, allows a smaller force to be more effective

over a longer period of time."

Refueling the fighters is crucial to the war on terrorism because of what they bring to the fight, the colonel said.

"The air refueling concept is a powerful enabler behind the speed, precision lethality, and flexibility characteristics inherent to airpower. The A-10 (Thunderbolt IIs), F-16 (Fighting Falcons), F-15 (Eagles) and other fighters provide the teeth. The fact that we can keep them in the air for longer periods of time facilitates concentration of mass with an unprecedented economy of force," he said.

"The way the war is being fought now would stop if we weren't around," said Capt. Joe Maxon, 340 EARS pilot. "We're able to allow the fighters to hang out in an area to

provide the ground guys with the support they need."

Recently, the 340 EARS, which includes people and aircraft from nine active, Guard and Reserve units, was called to support Operation Mountain Lion over Afghanistan, Colonel Gautier said.

Operations reached their peak during the 10-day operation on April 15 when the unit off-loaded almost 50 percent of the millions of pounds of fuel transferred midair in the entire U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, said James Malachowski, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing historian. It was the largest one-day offload of fuel in the region since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003, Mr.

■ See REFUELERS, Page 11



FEATURES

Clubs announce annual scholarship recipients

By Christine Caldwell
OSC Scholarship Co-Chair

John F. Kennedy once said, "our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource."

On April 27, the Cannon Enlisted Spouses' Club (ESC) and Cannon Officers' Spouses' Club (OSC) honored 15 students and spouses in their pursuit of progress in education at the annual ESC/OSC Scholarship Awards Banquet.

Through various fundraisers including Kids' Bingos, the Wild Wild West Night, and the Thrift Shop, the ESC and OSC raised a combined total of \$16,000 in scholarship awards for 2006. The ESC Scholarship Committee was led by Co-Chairs M.J. Anderson and Heather Funderburg. The OSC Scholarship Committee was led by Co-Chairs Christy

Casper and Christine Caldwell.

More than 30 applications were received for these awards and an independent judging panel consisting of five men and women from the military and educational community scored each applicant on his/her academic achievement, community involvement, work ethic, a sample essay, and a letter of recommendation. The following graduating seniors and military spouses received awards:

2006 OSC Scholarship Recipients

Heather Albright
Jacob Eilenstine
Amanda Flanigen
Isaac Godwin
Michael Kubacz
Cynthia Lindeman
Tiffani Medeiros
Jasmyne Reid

Melani Rochford
Rebecca Warner
Okema Winters
2006 ESC Scholarship Recipients
Betsy Matthies
Muge Tian
John Tranchida
Erika Watson

Colonel Scott West, 27th Fighter Wing Commander, and Chief Master Sergeant Justus Anderson, acting 27 Fighter Wing Command Chief, presented recipients with a certificate and a coin. As a special highlight, Chief Master Sergeant John Woods presented a scholarship sponsored by the Cannon AFB Chiefs' Group to recipient Muge Tian. Colonel West then closed the evening with words of congratulations and encouragement for the scholarship recipients.

Air Force flight brings smiles to Iraqi children

By Maj. Robert Palmer
U. S. Central Command Air Forces-
Forward Public Affairs

As they stepped into the large, gray military cargo plane, their eyes widened and their expressions were equal parts wonder and bewilderment. This was the first time many of the Iraqi children and their parents had ever flown in an airplane, and none had ever been in an

aircraft as large as the Air Force's C-17 Globemaster III.

On Saturday, the aircraft, based in Southwest Asia, flew 110 Iraqi children and 97 of their parents, guardians and escorts from Amman, Jordan, to Baghdad in support of "Operation Smile."

Operation Smile, an international non-governmental organization, provides corrective surgery for cleft palates and

cleft lips, congenital birth defects that affect approximately one out of every 600 children, according to the Cleft Palate Foundation. Operation Smile had evaluated the Iraqi children and transported them to Amman for corrective surgery.

According to Chris Anderson, an Operation Smile staff member based in the Middle East, Operation Smile leaders had a concern for the safety and

security of the children on the 22-hour return bus trip from Amman to Baghdad through Iraq's western provinces.

"We basically determined that (returning by bus) at this time wasn't the safest option for the kids," said Mr. Anderson. "For us, safety of the patients has always been the number one priority."

Dr. William P. Magee Jr.,

Operation Smile co-founder and chief executive officer, and chief medical officer Dr. Robert Rubin wrote to Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and requested assistance from the Air Force to provide safe airlift for the Iraqi children and their parents.

The Air Force received approval for the mission late Friday evening and by early Saturday morning, the C-17 was airborne and enroute to Amman.

After the young patients and their parents had settled into their seats, they listened intently as Dr. Talib, a plastic surgery resident traveling with the group, read the preflight safety briefing in Arabic. Members of the crew reassured nervous passengers that the oxygen masks were only necessary in case of emergency.

The passengers recited a brief prayer as the plane began to taxi.

"We're asking God for safe passage to Iraq," said one of the parents.

The prayer was repeated several times with increasing urgency and volume as the plane accelerated down the runway and lifted off. One Iraqi woman quietly fingered her prayer beads and hugged her

daughter tightly as the plane began its rapid ascent.

"This is turning out to be a rewarding mission," said Lt. Col. Chris Carlsen, the aircraft commander. "You see all the children with the smiles on their faces. I'm glad to be a part of this. It's a historic and beneficial event for the Iraqi people."

Airman 1st Class Alexis Elliott, a loadmaster for the C-17, agreed.

"It makes me feel like I'm really helping to do something important," said Airman Elliott, who is on her first deployment with the Air Force.

As the plane landed, taxied and came to a halt at Baghdad International Airport's passenger terminal, the faces of the Iraqi children and their parents explained very clearly what Operation Smile is all about. One jubilant father exited the plane, dropped to his knees and kissed the ground, although it was not clear whether he was celebrating his return to Iraq or just happy to be back on solid ground.

"The bottom line is that the military is really trying to do what it can to help," Mr. Anderson said. "The support was a great match for us."



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. WILL ACKERMAN

Iraqi children and their escorts leave an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, on Saturday, April 29, 2006, as Chris Anderson watches. Operation Smile provides corrective surgery for cleft palates and cleft lips. The program provided surgery in Amman, Jordan, to more than 100 Iraqi children. They were flown back to Iraq on the C-17. Mr. Anderson is an Operation Smile staff member based in the Middle East.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pet of the Week

Charlie is a German Shepherd mix who knows basic commands. For adoption information on Charlie or other dogs or cats, call the Family Support Center at 784-4228.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

up non-perishable food items on May 13. Donations can be left in the mailbox or neighborhood delivery box. The Family Support Center will also accept items for the drive from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Airman's Attic

The Airman's Attic, located in the same building as the Post Office and community center, is open 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 20. Staff sergeants and below and their dependents are eligible to shop in the store. All items are free of charge.

Transition Assistance

Pre-Separation counseling is mandatory for all personnel separating or retiring and is required prior to signing up for the Transition Assistance Program Seminar (TAPS) scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. Spouses are welcome to attend, and can call the Family Support Center to register at 784-4228.

The Veterans Affairs representative will conduct a VA Benefits Seminar and is available for one-on-one appointments May 16 at the FSC.

Tricare for Retirees is 1 to 2 p.m. May 16.

Personal and Family Readiness

Pre-Remote briefings will be from 1 to 2 p.m. May 17, 24 and 31. This is mandatory for anyone going on a remote tour. Pre-Deployment briefings will be held 3 to 4 p.m. Monday, May 15 and 22. Information on preparation for a deployment and programs for family members are discussed. A \$20 phone card is given to all members deploying over 30 days with the compliments of the Air Force Aid Society. Spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend any of these briefings.

Enjoy the zoo with Hearts Apart

Spouses and family members of deployed or remote personnel are invited to the zoo and picnic from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 13. To spend an afternoon at the Clovis Zoo and enjoy a picnic in the park, call 784-4228 to sign-up.



Trackers watch for dangerous 'space junk'

By Master Sgt. Scott King
40th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

Roughly 15,000 miles above the Earth's surface a communications satellite provides vital information to all branches of the U.S. military.

It joins more than 9,000 other items in space that are tracked by the Ground-Based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance System, known as GEODSS.

There are three operational GEODSS sites that report to the 21st Space Wing

at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. They are Detachment 1 in Socorro, N.M.; Detachment 2 in Southwest Asia; and Detachment 3 in Maui, Hawaii.

Each site is responsible for tracking thousands of known man-made deep-space objects in orbit around the Earth at an altitude of 10,000 to 45,000 kilometers. These objects range from active payloads such as satellites to "space junk" such as debris from launch vehicles and satellite breakups.

"As various on-orbit satel-

lites perform their military, civilian or scientific functions, we monitor the relative presence of every man-made deep-space object in earth orbit," said Bruce Bookout, GEODSS site manager with Northrop Grumman Technical Services.

"Those [who] utilize space to fight the [war on terrorism] need to ensure those assets are available and are under no threat," Mr. Bookout said.

"We act as a passive police force, watching for natural or artificial interference," continued Mr. Bookout.

Each GEODSS site transmits its orbital data to U.S.

Strategic Command's Joint Space Operations Center located at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station in Colorado Springs, Colo. The center maintains a satellite catalog of every man-made object in Earth's orbit.

GEODSS performs its mission using a one-meter telescope equipped with highly sensitive digital camera technology, known as Deep STARE. Each detachment has three of these telescopes that can be used in conjunction with each other or separately. These telescopes are able to "see" objects 10,000 times dimmer than the human eye can detect.

The Deep STARE system is able to track multiple satellites in the field of view. As the satellites cross the sky, the telescopes take rapid electronic snapshots, showing up on the operator's console as tiny streaks. Computers then measure these streaks and use the data to figure the current position of a satellite in its orbit. Star images, which remain fixed, are used as references or calibration points for each of the three telescopes.

"Space is the ultimate high ground, giving us the ability to communicate over long

distances and determine exact locations through the Global Positioning System," said Maj. Jay Fulmer, Det. 2 commander.

"Many of our [service-members] serving on the front lines use technology that is greatly enhanced through the use of space," Major Fulmer said. "[Our detachments, which are] part of a global space surveillance network, ensure the U.S. and our allies have the ability to operate unencumbered in the medium of space, allowing our troops direct access to space-derived force enhancements."

Thinking "big" is what these guys do. "As mankind continues to explore and exploit the realm of space there needs to be some accounting and understanding of the medium," Mr. Bookout said.

"Space is a new realm to the human experience. We've learned much during the last 50 years, but we still have much more to learn," Mr. Bookout said. "Space surveillance provides critical information on the location of every man-made object in space. [It ensures] our space-based assets are protected from potential on-orbit collisions or from adversaries who might try to take away our abilities to operate in space. This guarantees the warfighter access to space-derived tools they need to execute their mission."



PHOTO BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. JOHN ROHER

Maj. Jay Fulmer uses space and missile analysis software to track known man-made deep space objects in orbit around Earth. Major Fulmer is commander of Detachment 2 of the Ground-Based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance System in Southwest Asia.

REFUELERS

Continued from Page 6

Malachowski said.

Highlighting the accomplishments of his unit during Operation Mountain Lion, Colonel Gautier said the 340th EARS offloaded three times the combined amount of fuel offloaded by the nine tanker units the people in the squadron are deployed from. The unit offloaded 10 million pounds of fuel while consuming 10 million pounds flying the missions during those 10 days.

Having the success the 340 EARS and other refueling units have had does come with a price, said the colonel. The

typical rotation for a crew is 70-30, that is, for every 70 days the crews are deployed, they get to spend around 30 days at home.

"That takes a tremendous toll on our crew force," the colonel said, who added the Reserve and Guard forces have helped take pressure off the active-duty crews.

"The volunteer Guard and Reserve partners, who seamlessly plug into active-duty lines, allow for better training opportunities for active-duty aircrews at home and relief from a heavy deployment schedule," Colonel Gautier said.

The KC-135 crews and their main-

tainers don't just deploy to combat zones, said 1st Lt. Jesse Stubbs, a 340 EARS pilot.

"If we're not supporting the fighters directly, then we're helping move the airlift and bomber assets overseas," Lieutenant Stubbs said. "We do this by forming an air bridge across the ocean that fuels those aircraft as they cross over."

Aerial refueling is not the only mission of the tanker crews, said Staff Sgt. Anthony Krisher, 340 EARS boom operator.

"We often haul cargo and passengers while performing the main mission of refueling," said Sergeant Krisher. "Boom

operators often act like loadmasters, which isn't what I expected when I was a crew chief."

Despite the stresses inherent with the mission, Colonel Gautier said this is an exciting time to be in the tanker world.

"Taking part in these missions is incredibly exciting because when people review the history, they'll be looking at the success of an operation from the lessons learned perspective," he said. "The possibility that any of our daily operations here could be a decisive point in the global war on terrorism drives a tremendous amount of energy into what we do."



FEATURE

Chef finds joy in serving others

Story and photo by
Janet Taylor-Birkey
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Karl Smith knows that for Airmen to put their money where their mouth is, it's got to be good. Really good.

As The Landing's new executive chef, Mr. Smith wants to win the palates of Airmen and their families by doing things that are special and out of the ordinary. "People will choose to come [to The Landing]. And to do that, we have to do something they are not doing downtown," he said.

As a high ranking graduate of the Scottsdale Culinary Institute (SCI), Cordon Bleu, of Scottsdale, Ariz., Mr. Smith discovered a love for teaching culinary arts and went to work as the protégé of Chef Carlos Manriquez.

Working as a sous (under) chef of Chef Manriquez allowed Mr. Smith the oppor-

tunity to assist in opening the Atlas Bistro, a five-star restaurant in Scottsdale. The Atlas brought in celebrities such as Peter Jennings and Hugh Downs. Later career experiences allowed him to cook for other celebrities including Michael J. Fox, the Chicago Bulls, Hall and Oates band, Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and the Secret Service.

Cooking for others is a great love, but Mr. Smith would someday like to open his own restaurant. "With [my wife and I] both being chefs, that has always been our goal. My goal is to open one without having to make a profit," he said. "I've opened restaurants, and if you're trying to make a profit, you're married to it. This business — like so many others — can steal your life if you let it. You've got to love it or you might as well go do something else."

Mr. Smith's life as a chef is full and rewarding, but it

has not been all hype and glamour.

"Probably outside of the military, of anything I've ever done, you pay your dues the most in this business," said Mr. Smith. "You must master the mundane," which might mean cutting carrots for two hours.

Mr. Smith was indeed willing to pay his dues and master the mundane. "I volunteered for everything under the sun. I worked for free."

Giving up past jobs ranging from floral design to mortgage lending, Mr. Smith attended culinary school at 39 years old. As if being an older student was not enough to contend with, there were other issues that go with this season of life.

"By the time I graduated, [my wife] was going to school 35 hours a week, and working a few hours. I was going to school 35 hours a week, working 35 hours a week and had another job for 12 hours a



As the new chef at The Landing, Karl Smith plans to win over the palates of Airmen and their family with food that is special and out of the ordinary.

week. We had one vehicle and three kids," said Mr. Smith. "We just paid a huge price."

But the hard work paid off for him, as the future is replete with possibilities. Mr. Smith is hoping to eventually teach and do what he calls "wine dinners" for 50 or fewer people.

While he has fed as many as 750 at a time, Mr. Smith

prefers cooking for smaller crowds.

"As you increase the number, you lose aspects of the food. It's difficult to feed massive amounts of people and pay particular attention to each item," he said. "My goal [at Cannon] is to implement little things that will take it a little bit farther, make it a little nicer."



What's happening?



Friday

Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — Cup of Soup and half a Roast Beef Sub \$3 Members First
Seafood Buffet — 11 a.m. at The Landing
Yu-Gi-Oh Challenge Plus — 4 p.m. at the Clovis CC*
Steak Special — 5 to 9 p.m. at The Landing
Cinco De Mayo Celebration — 9 p.m. at The End Zone

Saturday

Mother-Daughter Tea — 10 a.m. at The Landing
8 Pin Bowling — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Cannon lanes
Cosmic Bowling — 9 p.m. to midnight 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

Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — Cup of Soup

and half a Roast Beef Sub \$3 Members First
Racquetball — 11 a.m. at the fitness center
Jr. & Sr. Cheer — 4 to 6 p.m. at the Clovis CC
Chess Club — 5 to 6 p.m. at the Portales CC
Community Theater — 6:30 p.m. at the Central CC

Tuesday

Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — Cup of Soup and half a Roast Beef Sub \$3 Members First
Free Throw Contest — 11 a.m. at the fitness center
Oriental Buffet — 11 a.m. at The Landing
Pool Tournament — 4 to 6 p.m. at the Portales CC
Country Fried Steak — 5 p.m. at The Landing

Wednesday

Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — Cup of Soup and half a Roast Beef Sub \$3 Members First
Run/Push-up/sit-up Contest — 11 a.m. at the fitness center
Italian Buffet — 11 a.m. at The Landing

Country Fried Steak — 5 to 8 p.m. at The Landing

Thursday

Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — Cup of Soup and half a Roast Beef Sub \$3 Members First
Mexican Buffet — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Landing
Tween Torch Club — 4:30 p.m. at the youth center
Meat Lasagna — 5 to 8 p.m. at The Landing
XBox Challenge — 5 to 7 p.m.



* CC — Community Center WWGC — Whispering Winds Golf Course CDC — Child Development Center



Unit Spotlights

Congratulations Cannon Quarterly Award Winners

Airman of the Quarter
Airman 1st Class Jerry-Lee Calalang,
27th Services Squadron

Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter
Staff Sgt. Melissa O'Hara,
27th Operation Support Squadron

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter
Master Sgt. Victor Correa,
27th Civil Engineer Squadron

Company Grade Officer of the Quarter
1st Lt. Kira Cooper,
27th Operations Group

Squadron of the Quarter
27th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Civilian of the Quarter (Category 1)
Jennifer Fontaine,
27th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Civilian of the Quarter (Category 2)
David Adkins,
27th Civil Engineer Squadron

Most Lethal Airman of the Quarter
Airman 1st Class Raynard Betancourt,
27th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Volunteer of the Quarter
Tech. Sgt. Davis Watkins,
27th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Staff Agency of the Quarter
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

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.

Inside Man

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

Description: Tough cop, Detective Frazier (Denzel Washington) matches wits with clever bank robber Dalton as a dangerous cat-and-mouse game unfolds. Unexpectedly, Madaline (Jodie Foster) emerges to inject even more instability.

R — language and some violent images

Running time: 129 min

Stay Alive

4 p.m. Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday

Description: After the mysterious death of a friend, teenagers find themselves in possession of "Stay Alive," a next generation horror survival videogame based on the true story of a 17th-century noblewoman known as "The Blood Countess."

PG-13 — horror violence, language, brief sexual and drug content

Running time: 85 min

Larry the Cable Guy

7 p.m. May 8

Description: Larry is a big city health inspector who is happy with his usual beat of greasy spoon diners and low-rent ethnic restaurants. His easygoing life is turned upside-down when he's saddled with a straight-arrow rookie partner and assigned the biggest case of his career — investigating an outbreak of mysterious food poisonings at the city's swankiest restaurants.

PG-13 — crude and sexual content, and for language

Running time: 89 minutes

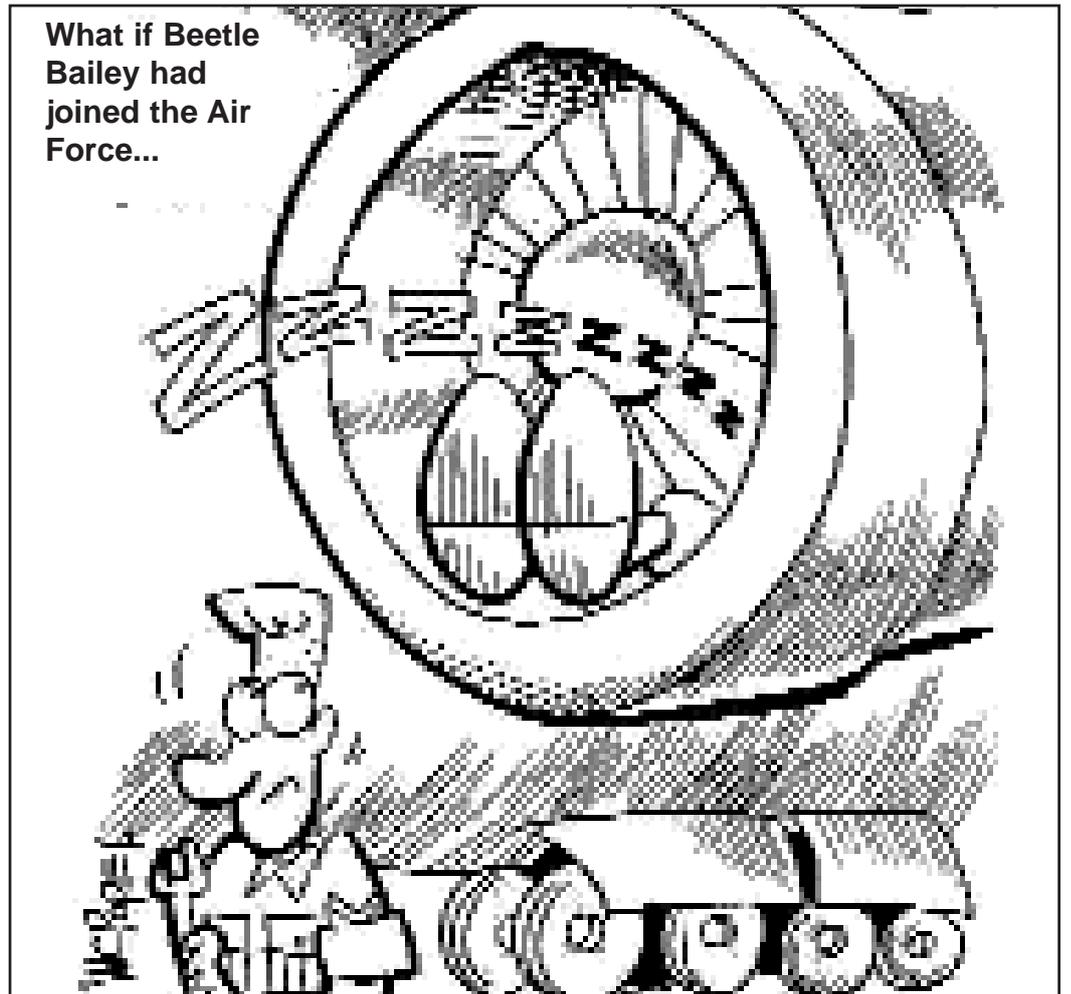


LIGHTER SIDE

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Answers to April 28 puzzle

What if Beetle Bailey had joined the Air Force...





SPORTS & HEALTH

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 - 6:30 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.

Aerobics

4 - 5 p.m.

Thursday

Cardio Cycling

5:30 - 6:15 a.m.
Step Aerobics

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Yoga

6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Mentor kick-starts at-risk youth program

By Staff Sgt. Don Branum
50th Space Wing Public Affairs

Once a gang member himself, an information manager with Detachment 2 of the 17th Test Squadron now uses kicks and punches to keep teenagers out of trouble.

To his co-workers at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo., he is Staff Sgt. Dave Armstrong. To his students at the Hillside Community Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., he is Sensei Dave.

At a martial-arts mentoring session April 11, Sergeant Armstrong led a class of nine students between 15 and 19 years old through the basics of Okinawan Kempo Karate and Judo.

"Where are your hands?" he asked one student. "Stay there, stay there, stay there."

As he adjusted a student's hand positions, he said, "They're still pointed at your opponent."

As a teen, Sergeant Armstrong grew up around gangs in Los Angeles. His misadventures landed him in a boys' camp when he was 12. The camp first exposed him to martial arts.

"They had different cottages — you had to work up to the honors cottage, which had the martial-arts program," Sergeant Armstrong said. "I wanted to do it, so I worked my way up to the honors cottage and got started."

The honors cottage instructor, Otto Johnson, told Sergeant Armstrong he had a knack for martial arts. Sergeant Armstrong so enjoyed learning martial arts that he gave up his former gang activity.

"It got me off the streets," he said. "I spent a lot of time training; it became an everyday thing."

When he turned 18, he began teaching martial arts

for Sensei Otto. He now holds a third-degree black belt in Wado-Ryu Karate and second-degree black belts in Judo and Okinawan Kempo. He also has trained in Aikido and mixed martial-arts fighting.

He includes his family in his martial arts activities as well. His wife, Belinda, helps him with a youth karate program offered through local childcare centers. His 12-year-old son, David, holds a blue belt in Okinawan Kempo; his daughter, 10-year-old Susan, holds an orange belt.

But just teaching martial arts was not enough. Sergeant Armstrong began his mentoring program for at-risk youth about three months ago to give something back to teens who are in the same position he was in as a teen.

"I've always wanted to have a program like I have now for kids who are locked up or in group homes or foster homes," he said. "God's given me so much just for me to be alive, I can't do anything with my time other than give back."

"I'm committed to these guys, to show them how their lives can be and will be. That's what I set out to do," he said.

Eight to 10 teens participate in the program each week.

"It started with four to five interested [individuals]," Sergeant Armstrong said. "It's a challenge to get people interested because they're teenagers; they have their own agenda. But these [students] are a great bunch of guys."

The program took off once other teens had a chance to see how much fun the students were having.

"I'm getting a new student every week or so," he said.

Because the mentoring



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DON BRANUM

Staff Sgt. Dave Armstrong, right, spars with Santiago, 18, at a community center in Colorado Springs, Colo., April 11. Sergeant Armstrong, known to his students as Sensei Dave, teaches martial-arts classes for at-risk teens. Sergeant Armstrong is an information manager with Detachment 2 of the 17th Test Squadron at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo.

takes place in an informal environment, the teens often do not realize they're learning life lessons.

"They don't know they're being mentored," he said. "What I'm doing is effective — I know it is, because it helped me. You're around positive influences, and you don't realize you're improving until it's done."

Justus, 18, found out about the martial-arts mentoring through a local faith-based organization that provides mentoring, employment and fellowship for at-risk teens.

"[The class] teaches you self-defense, and it's fun," Justus said. "You get your energy out; it's a good workout. And Sensei Dave helps you out if you don't understand something."

Sensei Dave is also a good role-model, Justus said. "He's a big teddy bear. He's 'gi-

normous' on the outside, and on the inside, he's a really nice guy."

Sergeant Armstrong said he wants to expand his youth martial-arts mentoring program after he retires. He also is looking for others to volunteer their time as mentors.

"Right now I'm trying to find an instructor to come and train with me and eventually take over the program when I move," Sergeant Armstrong said. "This is something I want to keep going forever."

Although he has no plans to leave Colorado Springs in the near future, moving is part of living in the military.

"Anyplace I go, I'll start the same program up there," he said. "One of my goals is to have a network of programs like this for at-risk youth to help them, because it got me off the streets."



SPORTS SHORTS

**Memorial run**

Airmen and their families are invited to the 5.5 mile Gate to Gate Memorial Run 7:15 a.m. May 25 at Unity Park. Participants will receive a flower to be placed at Memorial Park. Buses will take runners to the Portales Gate for the start of the run. There will also be a 1.5-mile walk from the base theater. Both events will end at Unity Park.

Cannon Lanes

Family Bowl-a-Rama — Bowl two hours with up to six family members on the lane for \$12 from 6 to 9 p.m. today. Price includes shoes and one pitcher of soda.

8 Pin Bowling Night — Bowl from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$5.25 for three games.

An automatic strike will be awarded to anyone who knocks down eight pins or more on their first ball. Everyone in the family can participate.

Mother's Day special — Noon to 5 p.m., May 14. Moms bowl free and receive a free shoe rental.

Armed Forces Day special — Bowl from 6 p.m. to midnight. May 20. Cost is \$1.50 per game for active duty and retired military. For family members, the cost is \$2.

Fitness center

Body fat/blood pressure check — The Health and Wellness Center will provide free check-ups from 8 to 9:30 a.m. today.

Racquetball Competition — The fitness center is searching for the base's best racquetball team during competition at 11 a.m. Monday.

Free-throw Contest — The fitness center is searching for the base's best free-throw shooter during competition at 11 a.m. Tuesday.

For more information, contact the fitness center at 784-2466.

Youth sports

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 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.

Tee Time Policy — Tee times will only be given to groups of three, four or five people on weekends or holidays.

Groups of five must have at least one electric cart per group. Singles or groups of two are encouraged to come out and try joining another group to make a three, four or five-some.

If the course is not crowded, the counter attendant or course marshal may allow smaller groups to play.

Member First Discounts — Members receive 10 percent discount off annual, quarterly and monthly greens fees.

Also, they receive discounts on club and cart rentals if they play 18 holes.

The End Zone

Dart League — The Cannon dart league is looking for new players and teams. Register for league play at 6 p.m. Wednesdays in the End Zone game room. Three person games played, five team Cricket and three single 501 Match Duration.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Wendell Pugh at 784-2332.