

Community News

Heart Link

Spouses are invited to join Heart Link from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. today at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

Heart Link increases awareness of the Air Force mission, customs, traditions and protocols, and available resources and services. Lunch and child care are provided for free.

For more information, call 784-4228.

Homefront Quilts

Operation Homefront Quilts volunteers make quilts for family members who have suffered a loss in the war.

Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. No experience is necessary.

Patriotic style fabrics needed: 100 percent cotton, no celebratory patterns.

For more information, call 784-4228.

WorkKeys

Take a free WorkKeys skills assessment from 9 a.m. to noon Monday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The assessment certificate is recognized by 18 states and gives employers a quantitative look at an employee's skill level.

For more information, call 784-4228.

Employment seminar

A seminar focusing on federal application and hiring processes is from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

For more information, call 784-4228.

Upgrades at The Landing

The Landing will be closed for electrical upgrades Monday through Jan. 26.

These upgrades are part of a project to modernize audio and visual items such as new electronic screens, projectors, speakers and sound enhancements to the Escape Room and Hall of Heroes Ballroom. Upgrades are expected to continue through May.

PREP readies couples

Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program is from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. PREP teaches couples the skills and principles needed to maintain a healthy and lasting relationship.

For more information, call 784-4228.

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MACH METER

Vol. 52, No. 1

Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

Jan. 19, 2007



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS RANDI FLAUGH

AEF 3/4 returns

Approximately 300 Airmen returned to Cannon Thursday from their Air Expeditionary Force rotation at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The Airmen were greeted in Hangar 133 by family members, co-workers and base senior leaders. For more photos, see pages 12 and 13.

Letter to Airmen: Excellence

By Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

The new year is upon us and promises to be as challenging as the past year, because a nation at war knows no rest. Our Air Force has been at war for more than 16 years, and we must plan for more. The new year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on our achievements over the past year and set new goals for what we want to accomplish as individual Airmen and as an Air Force. One of the beacons to guide you in forming these goals is the Core Value of "Excellence in All We Do," and a mechanism to implement these goals is Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO21).

Having just returned from the Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility, I know very well the amazing things you are accomplishing every day for our Air Force as you face the rigors of serving in a combat zone. Every Airman's dedication and attention to detail in this demanding and unforgiving environment are what makes our Air Force second to none. And I was also proud to see Airmen everywhere using AFSO 21 to strive for excellence in their deployed workplaces. Seemingly simple suggestions, such as rearranging tool rooms and weapons storage facilities, saved time, money, and even lives, while giving us a more efficient and lethal organization.

But AFSO21 does not just call for excellence in process improvement or organizational structure. The changes in enabling functions are not ends themselves; rather they must lead to greater combat capability. On my recent trip,

I was impressed by the Airmen who added infrared sensors to their vehicles to search for improvised explosive devices.

Other innovations, such as the Remote Operations Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER) laptop, came from the warfighters in the field who sought better air/ground interoperability. From life-saving ideas to increased operational capability, Airmen continue to impress me with their passion for finding a better way.

"Excellence" does not stop with singular achievements, which is why our Core Value has the qualifier of "in All We Do." A culture of excellence must inform and permeate all of our actions. AFSO21 assists us in achieving this excellence by empowering our Airmen to ask how we can do things better. Excellence must be our prevailing attitude.

To those of you who are returning from deployment, I welcome you home and encourage you to share your experiences from the field with your commanders, your fellow Airmen and the public. Your invaluable combat experience will contribute mightily to our collective pursuit of excellence, as long as we capture your successes in combat and codify them into relevant and realistic training for others.

There is no doubt that we are the greatest Air, Space and Cyberspace force in the world — no one can do what we do on a daily basis. Yet we still have room for improvement. Remember, our enemies are continually looking for ways to defeat us, so it is critical we build upon the successes of 2006.

Make excellence your hallmark for 2007; it's what distinguishes us as Airmen and as an Air Force.



NEWS

Organization key to reaching financial success

By Janet Taylor-Birkey
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It's the time of year when people think about getting their finances in shape. According to Dave Ramsey, the average enlisted person will have \$750,000 go through their hands in a 20-year career. It's important to know what is going on with that money.

When was the last time you looked at your leave and earning statement (LES)? It's almost impossible to be financially knowledgeable and organized if you don't know what is coming in and going out, said Linda Sapp, Community Readiness Consultant with Cannon's Airmen and Family Readiness Center. "I have had people have allotments going out for years and they don't know what it was for. A lot of our financial decisions are made with inertia — a body at rest stays at rest."

While most people will never have the kind of money that gives them power, wage earners can gain power through having knowledge of their finances. "When you have information, you know what you need to do," Mrs. Sapp said.

She recommends increasing financial knowledge by writing down every expense — no matter how small — for two weeks.

Mrs. Sapp said that she occasionally goes back to this step when she wants to get a better picture of her finances.

Airmen must know their financial status in order to do the best job possible with their money and also "You can do awesome things with your money," she said. This is done by knowing what's coming in, what's going out and how to lay your hands on important documents.

Many financial consultants insist that every adult should have an allowance. While the question of how much allowance is a very fluid one, Mrs. Sapp said, it should be based on the household's overall financial picture and can be decided by answering four questions:

— Are you living what you think is an acceptable lifestyle?

— Are your financial obligations being met?

— Is your debt managed?

— Have you considered your financial future?

One way to gain knowledge in making decision is through the use of the Family Financial Toolkit, a simple process that can keep a family on track financially. Mrs. Sapp designed this notebook-based toolkit for her own family, but now uses it

to teach Airmen and their families how to simply and inexpensively keep track of their finances.

Beginning when you receive a bill in the mail, keep the return envelope and bill, but throw away the advertisements. Put the new bill in the cover pocket of the notebook. Anything that needs to be permanently filed should be placed in the back pocket and filed at a later time.

Notebook dividers keep track of paid bills and other critical papers. After paying bills, file them in a divider labeled with that creditor's name. Mrs. Sapp said that Airmen should keep LES statements behind a separate divider.

Look at all incoming paper with a critical eye. Ask, "What could I ever need this for in the future? What could be the critical impact if I don't have the paper?"

Personal credit histories are important and can be checked annually at no cost at www.annualcreditreport.com. Mrs. Sapp said that credit histories are not given enough importance. A poor credit rating can impact mission readiness if a security clearance is revoked. This may determine whether or not an Airman is deployable, can get on the flightline or even have computer access in some instances.

Family financial tool kit supplies:

- three-ring notebook
- Several dividers : Dividers should be labeled according to the family's needs. Military members should have an LES tab. Other tabs can include each place where you have a bank account, every creditor, anything that affects taxes, a miscellaneous tab, anything affecting medical issues, veterinary information, and each child should have their own tab.
- Zippered pockets for pens, pencils, calculator, stamps, return address labels, a small stapler, paper clips, ATM and credit card receipts. After reconciling accounts, throw away these receipts that contain anything you will not return, such as a tank of gas.

Cultural Observance Committee hosts Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast



Above: Cannon Airmen gathered at the base chapel for a remembrance breakfast Jan. 12 to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr's birthday. The breakfast is the 21st anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and to recognize his legacy to America.

Left: The Reverend Maurice Monson, from Faith Christian Baptist Church in Clovis, addressed the audience following the presentation of the colors by the Cannon Honor Guard, the singing of the National Anthem by Mrs. Jacqueline Pinkett-Smith and a hymnal by Oscar "O.C." Clear.

PHOTOS BY AIRMAN ERIK CARDENAS



NEWS

New tax laws, pointers

Courtesy of the Cannon Tax Center

The 27th Fighter Wing Legal Office will be providing free tax help, beginning Jan. 26. To help better prepare Airmen for filing their taxes this year, the Cannon Tax Office has scoured the law for changes since filing last year. Airmen might be interested to know ...

Expanded IRA Options for Military Members

Members of the military serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other combat zone localities can now put money into an individual retirement account, even if they received tax-free combat pay. Under the Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities (HERO) Act, signed into law on Memorial Day, taxpayers can now count tax-free combat pay when determining whether they qualify to contribute to either a Roth or traditional IRA. Additionally, the HERO Act allows military personnel who received tax-free combat pay in either 2004 or 2005 to go back and make IRA contributions for those years. Eligible members will have until May 28, 2009, to make these special back-year contributions.

Taxpayers choosing to put money into a Roth IRA don't need to report these contributions on their individual tax return. Roth contributions are not deductible, but distributions, usually after retirement, are normally tax-free. Income limits and other special rules apply. On the other hand, contributions to a traditional IRA are often, though not always, deductible, and distributions are generally taxable. Deductible or not, contributions to a traditional IRA must be reported on the return for the year made.

Telephone Tax Refunds

Anyone who paid long-distance telephone taxes this past year qualified for a standard refund on their 2006 federal income tax return without having to dig through old phone bills. The standard amounts are \$30 for a person filing a return with one exemption, \$40 for two

exemptions, \$50 for three exemptions and \$60 for four or more exemptions. For example, a married couple filing a joint tax return with two dependent children (for a total of four exemptions) will be eligible for the maximum standard amount of \$60. Using the standard amount is the easiest way for eligible taxpayers to get their money back by saving them from having to locate several months of old phone bills and analyzing these bills to determine the taxes paid.

New changes mean the IRS will be unable to process these deductions electronically (the only way the Cannon Tax Center processes tax returns) until Feb. 3. This date also applies to individuals claiming tuition and fee deductions for those who attended higher education classes in 2006. Anyone who anticipates claiming either of these deductions should not schedule an appointment for a date before to Feb. 3 at the Cannon Tax Center.

For anyone filing a paper tax return on their own or through another service, there are a few further important notes:

— State Tax Deduction: Must be claimed on Schedule A, line 5. Enter "ST" on the dotted line to the left of line 5 to indicate that you are claiming the general sales tax deduction instead of the deduction for state and local income tax.

— Educator Expenses: This must be claimed on line 23, Form 1040, NOT 1040A. Enter "E" on the line to the left of that line entry if claiming educator expenses, or "B" if claiming both an Archer MSA deduction and the deduction for educator expenses on Form 1040. If a taxpayer selects "B" however, they must attach a breakdown now showing the amounts claimed for each deduction.

— Tuition and Fees: This is claimed on Form 1040,



FILE PHOTO BY JANET TAYLOR-BIRKEY

The Cannon Tax Office opens Jan. 26 to assist Airmen, government employees and retirees with tax preparation. It is located in the Cannon Law Center, Bldg. 60. For more information, call 784-7304.

line 35, NOT 1040A. Enter "E" on the line to the left of that line entry if claiming educator expenses, or "B" if claiming both the domestic production activities and tuition and Fees deductions on Form 1040. Again, if the taxpayer enters "B," they must attach a breakdown showing the amounts claimed for each deduction.

Splitting Federal Income Tax Refunds

Taxpayers can now split their refunds among two or three checking or savings accounts with U.S. financial institutions, regardless of which form in the 1040 family they file. Split refunds may help some taxpayers reduce their reliance on refund anticipation loans and keep more of their refunds. If you plan on splitting your income tax refunds and are having your taxes done at the Cannon Tax Center, be sure to bring your account and routing numbers for all accounts in which you plan to deposit your refund.

If you have any further questions regarding the topics above or regarding a change in the law you heard about, contact the Cannon Tax Center at 784-7304.

For more information, visit the Cannon Tax Center's Web site online at www.cannon.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=4960 or at the Cannon secure Intranet Web site at <https://www2.cannon.af.mil/FW/SA/JA/tax.htm>.

AFSO 21 event targets transportation efficiency

By Roger Drinnon
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Air Force leaders continue to shape wartime work processes by applying Lean principles and techniques from Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century (AFSO 21).

Functional-area experts representing the majority of the combatant commanders as well as the Joint Staff met Jan. 8 to 12 to look at improving overall transportation into critical theaters.

"What we did was a Rapid Improvement Event -- the second we have done in the area of distribution and deployment," said Mike Aimone, Air Force assistant deputy chief of staff for logistics, installations and mission support. "Our focus under the Lean initiatives of AFSO 21 is to look at ways we can improve the

processes associated with the overall Air Force deployment and distribution system.

"The focus of today was to look at where there is waste in the process of moving material and people from their locations within the United States and around the world, where they are in garrison to meet the warfighting requirements," said Mr. Aimone.

Mr. Aimone said key staff members began to identify potential improvement areas last summer, which led to a detailed examination of how people and materials move for deployment through the Joint Operation Planning and Execution System. He said improvement opportunities exist in the areas of training, communication, flexibility and policy.

"What we hope to accomplish is a better understanding at the strategic level

of areas we can improve as the Air Force participates in the deployment and distribution process," said Brig. Gen. Robert H. McMahon, AMC director of logistics. "We brought together experts from the combatant commanders ... as well as from throughout the Air Force, who can help identify not only where the challenges are, but also where there is waste in the processes."

General McMahon said he foresees improved support for U.S. Transportation Command, and those improvements eventually lead to better support for the other combatant commanders.

"We'll see some improvements near-term due to the initial efforts," the general said.

"From what I saw in the room today, there were a good two dozen sub-initiatives we're going to take on to improve the

processes, to increase the velocity and accuracy of the flow of material and personnel to meet the warfighters' needs," said Mr. Aimone.

Mr. Aimone said an action plan is forthcoming soon from the RIE. He also said Air Force leadership will appreciate the effort and support provided by all the participating agencies.

"This must be viewed as a joint initiative in that the transportation system, the distribution system and the deployment system that we operate in the United States military is in fact a joint system," said Mr. Aimone. "I'm very pleased to see we had the strong support of both the [combatant commanders] as well as from the subject matter experts of the Air and Space Expeditionary Force Center to help us work our way through this."



COMMENTARY

Staying in the military 'for the love of it all'

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Air Mobility Warfare Center Public Affairs

FORT DIX, N.J. – Throughout my nearly 15-year military career, I've had many people ask me why I do what I do. I was asked recently by a civilian friend, "Why are you still in the military? Aren't you afraid of what could happen if they send you somewhere?"

My response to these questions was simple. I said, "Oh, for the love of it all."

This friend's response was, "For the love of all of what?"

To me, the statement was like opening Pandora's Box. This friend obviously has not experienced the same things I have these past 15 years, and in my response I took that into consideration.

As I started to respond, I figured it be best to paint the whole picture to effec-

tively answer the questions presented to me.

"Well, for the love of family is one part," I responded.

I explained that as an Airman, and as a husband, father and grandfather, I have the best family in the world. All of my family, including all of my personal extended and military family, are behind the life I chose to lead.

"If it wasn't for the love my family has provided me, I don't know that I could do this," I explained. "If you know that what you do takes you away from your family at times, making decisions on a career in the military can be tough. However, it's because of that family I remain strong and steadfast in voluntarily serving to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States year in and year out."

The conversation didn't stop there

though. I said, "It's also for the love of freedom."

I went on to elaborate that as a nation fighting the war on terrorism, and especially since Sept. 11, 2001, it's my job to do everything I can to help protect the freedoms we enjoy today as Americans.

"I'm also still serving for the love of those who served before me," I said. "Think about it! There have been millions of Americans who have fought our wars of the past and who have served and died for our country. It is my honor to even be mentioned among the veterans of our country."

"My biggest reason," I said, "is for the love of country."

As a patriot in a country that welcomes people of all races, creed, origin, religion and more, I emphatically told my friend that it's because I love my country so much that I continue to serve.

"I don't care if you have political differences with me or if you want to disagree with everything I've just told you," I said. "My point is you have that right and it's my honor to help preserve that right for you (and I do so) as a member of the Air Force and the military. In my opinion, we live in one of the greatest countries in the world and I am more than happy defending this country and the principles it stands for."

As that conversation ended, I hope my friend left with a newfound respect for his country and, maybe, for the people he has as friends.

I say all of this because I want you all to know that if you get asked the same question, take the time to explain about how you feel about why you serve. Whether it is for the love of family, freedom, veterans or country, we have our reasons and I am proud to be among you.

Patience is rewarded for Airman when opportunities knock

By Capt. Ashok Kapadia
36th Electronic Warfare Squadron

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – After waiting 10 years my dream came true when I received a visa letter from the U.S. Consulate. I still remember the moment, viewing the Statue of Liberty when my plane was about to touch down in the "land of opportunity."

With limited financial resources, I started working two jobs; seven days a week, I commuted by bicycle to earn my living.

My ambition was to be educated and have a challenging career. My bachelor's degree from India didn't equate to an equivalent bachelor's degree here, so I started taking courses at the local community college while working part time.

However, my brother who was helping with my tuition at the time, got laid-off and I had to quit school.

By now I realized that you don't always get what you wish for, but I kept my positive energy, believing when one door closes another opens. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1993.

As an NCO I went back to school part time. But, because of my duty hours and frequent course cancellations, I wasn't able to make much progress.

With a determination to earn my bachelor's degree and with the financial support of the Montgomery GI bill, I decided to attend school full-time in 1997 while serving with the Air National Guard.

In 2000, I graduated with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering and in 2001 I received my commission as an Air Force officer.

I worked to make the most of every opportunity and am now an engineer, a student pilot and a linguist for an international affairs program.

I believe it's never too late in your life to be

something, if you have true desire and determination.

I've been tremendously blessed in my personal and professional life and I owe a great deal to those Air Force leaders, mentors, and peers who helped me. The Air Force has given back 10 times what I've contributed, and I'm profoundly grateful.

I cannot fully express how honored I am to be part of this team and one big Air Force family. When I put on the uniform in 1993, I never imagined I would come this far.

The men and women of the armed forces represent the very best of American values: integrity, compassion, commitment and selflessness. It has been a constant privilege to serve beside them everyday. After meeting many at leadership and other military education schools, and at bases and deployed locations around the world, I am fully confident that America's future is in good hands.

MACH METER

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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.af.mil.

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 Thursday the week prior to publication. Deadline for free classified advertisements is noon the Tuesday prior to publication.

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NEWS

This week's Viper Volunteer is

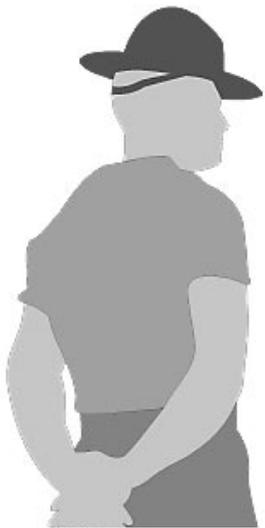


Staff Sgt. Lucas McGlone

Sergeant McGlone has helped Hebron Arabians by clearing an acre of lawn, cleaning and hauling off old building materials, and building fences and a pasture shelter for the horses. He has a master plan to clear five and a half acres of trees to keep the pastures clean and safe for the kids and horses.

PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. SCOTT MACKAY

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



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

New "U.S." insignia are available for enlisted personnel to wear on their service dress uniforms.

Officers are not authorized to wear the insignia with a circle around it.

Clothing Sales currently has the new insignia in stock. Call 784-6630 for more information.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. APRIL WICKES

2006 ACC Contracting Awards

Outstanding Contracting Enlisted Member (SNCO):
Master Sgt. Gina Walker, 27th Contracting Squadron (center)
Special Recognition Award (Individual): *Mr. David O'Leary, 27 CONS (right).*
Awards presented by Col. Scott West, 27th Fighter Wing commander.



NEWS FEATURES

Many vets may be missing out on special compensation

Courtesy of Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Just because an Air Force veteran was not injured storming the beaches at Normandy does not mean he or she may not be entitled to receive extra pay from combat-related special compensation, or CRSC.

Many Air Force veterans may be missing out on hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars every month because they have not applied for the compensation, said Ann Lacey of the CRSC office at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

“Don’t let the term ‘combat’ throw you; there are many circumstances which are combat-related that could justify approval of extra tax-free money for you!” she said.

CRSC is designed to restore military retirement pay that has been offset by Department of Veterans Affairs compensation when evidence exists to confirm the associated disabilities are combat related.

For example, if a veteran is currently rated for a disability of 10 percent with the VA, he or she receives a check from the VA for \$115 each month, but his or her

retired pay is reduced by that same amount. If that disability is found to be combat-related by the CRSC review board, he or she would continue to receive the monthly check from the VA for \$115 along with the remainder of the retired pay, but begin to receive an additional monthly check from CRSC for \$115.

Many disabilities that resulted from conditions during peacetime may meet the criteria for CRSC, said Ms. Lacey. As examples she cites an aircraft mechanic who worked on the flight line and began to lose his hearing while in the service; a personnel technician who dove for cover during a simulated air raid and injured her shoulder; and a pararescue journeyman who made a peacetime parachute jump and broke his ankle upon landing.

“If you’re not sure the circumstances surrounding your disability meet the combat-related criteria, it would be beneficial for you to apply for CRSC and let the board make a determination for you,” Ms. Lacey said.

There are a few prerequisites to consider before submitting a CRSC application. To meet basic eligibility criteria to be considered, veterans must:

— Be retired with 20 (or more) years of active-duty military service, or retired at age 60 from the Guard or Reserve.

— Be receiving military retired pay. Veterans who opted to waive military retirement pay for Civil Service credit are not eligible to apply for CRSC.

— Have a compensable VA disability rating of 10 percent or higher.

— Receive military retired pay that is reduced by VA disability payments.

Copies of the Application for Combat-Related Special Compensation, DD Form 2860, and more information on the program can be downloaded from the AFPC Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>. People can call the Air Force CRSC office toll free at (800) 616-3775 for assistance, or e-mail them at afpc.dppdc.afersc@randolph.af.mil.

Ms. Lacey believes applying is worth the effort.

“It will take a little time to complete the application and make copies of your documentation, but it could mean qualifying for monthly tax-free compensation for the rest of your life,” she said.

The nose knows: four-legged ‘troops’ sniff out explosives

By Staff Sgt. W. Wayne Marlow
2nd BCT, 2nd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq — Two of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team’s most valuable assets never talk about work, preferring to let the results speak for themselves. Even with their quiet demeanor, they have uncovered numerous weapons caches and explosives, and have become two of the most popular members of the unit. They are the unit’s two military working dogs, Blacky and Frisko.

Blacky, a 2-year-old German shepherd with a dark chocolate coat and handled by Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael Jones. Jones, from Kingswood, W. Va. Frisko, a 6-year-old black-and-brown German shepherd and handler Senior Airman Adam La Barr of Rome, N.Y. Both teams are attached to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment.

The dogs are trained to sniff out explosives and chase down insurgents. Getting them ready for those essential tasks is up to their handlers. The initial training takes about 90 days. The first step is getting the handler and dog comfortable with each other. Handlers bathe and groom the dogs and learn each other’s personalities. Next, the dogs are drilled in obedience, and they begin sniffing for explosives.

The time and training pays off on the battlefield, Sergeant Jones said.

Merely having a dog along pays divi-

dends against insurgents.

“Just seeing a dog deters them from running away or trying to pass weapons and explosives through,” he said.

But the intimidation and heightened senses would be useless without human input.

“The dog and handler are a team,” Sergeant Jones said. “One can’t work without the other.”

Part of the handler’s role is to point out areas for the dogs to search. Handlers base the dog’s training plan around areas the dog needs to improve.

“Blacky is not as good at finding things high up ... so in training, I make it where he would want to go up high. I put a couple of training aids up, to show him, sometimes, it’s up there,” Sergeant Jones said.

In the real world, though, the trainer wouldn’t know where the bomb is placed. This is where the dog’s nose comes in handy, and the handler has to understand the dog. When Blacky comes upon a suspected explosive, he reacts passively.

“He won’t be aggressive, he won’t paw at it,” Sergeant Jones said. “We don’t want that, if there’s a bomb in there.”

Instead, Blacky sits by the suspected explosive or lies down, if it is lower. Sometimes the response can be even more subtle.

“I look for changes in his behavior, to see when he’s curious about something,” Sergeant Jones said.

Frisko reacts in a similar way, but



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SAMUEL BENDET

Staff Sgt. Russell McLaughlin (right) and Army Pfc. Samuel Medrano load up materials for making improvised explosive devices found in the village of Tall Qabb, Kirkuk Province. Air Force military working dogs and handlers are attached to Army units supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sergeant McLaughlin is a K-9 dog handler attached to the 25th Infantry Division. Private Medrano is from Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

each dog has his own method, Airman La Barr said.

The dogs have found multiple weapons caches and explosives in recent months. When they find something, the dogs get a treat, of sorts. Their handlers break out a misshapen lump of rubber that vaguely resembles a beehive. Blacky and Frisko get to play with the object as the reward for making a find.

“They know if they find something, they’re going to get that one toy and they’re excited,” La Barr said.

While people naturally gravitate to the dogs, handlers stress it’s important to remember they are not pets.

“Everyone thinks they can play with them. That might soften them up, or it could be seen by the dog as an attack,” Airman La Barr said. “They are trained to be handler-protective. He’s still an animal.”

As such, the handlers never allow anyone to pet the dogs.

The dogs teams’ workload is intelligence-driven, but they usually go on about five missions each week. While the basic job is always the same, it’s an ever-changing game.

“We adapt our techniques to what the enemy would be using,” Sergeant Jones said.



Hearts Apart

Left behind doesn't mean left alone



Key Spouse Program

Morale Calls

Give Parents a Break

Car Care Because We Care

Deployed/Remote Quarterly Family Meal

Find out more about *Hearts Apart* by calling the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 784-4228.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



PHOTO BY GREG ALLEN

Pet of the Week

This neutered male shepherd-labrador retriever mix is available for adoption. He is gold, has a short smooth coat and a long tail. For more information, call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 784-4228.

■ Continued from page 1

2007 vehicle decals

All 2006 vehicle decals will become void Jan. 30. New decals may be picked up at the visitors center. Drivers must bring their license, proof of insurance, military ID and vehicle registration.

Capt. Kermit Evans' estate

Any person(s) having a claim for or against the estate of the late Capt. Kermit Evans should contact Capt. Alesandra Neiman at 693-2285.

DEERS down

The DEERS/RAPIDS system at the Military Personnel Flight will be down Feb. 5 and 6 for hardware and software upgrades. There will be no connectivity for the DEERS terminals at Cannon so no DEERS transactions or ID cards can be accomplished during this time. For more information, call 784-2094.

College registration

Registration for the spring semester at Clovis Community College is under way. Online and on-campus registration continues through Monday. To register online, go to www.clovis.edu/register.

For more information, call 769-4025.

Morale calls

Morale calls must go through the new automated "Morale Minder" system. Families making morale calls can call 784-4228 for a personal identification number.

Clinic upgrades

The plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems at the medical group are being upgraded. These upgrades are expected to last through June 2007. During this time, minor delays, detours around the most direct route to the clinic and construction noises may be experienced. Some restrooms may be temporarily out of service and temperatures indoors may be cooler or warmer than normal.



SERVICES



Report Card Recognition Wednesday 5-8 p.m.

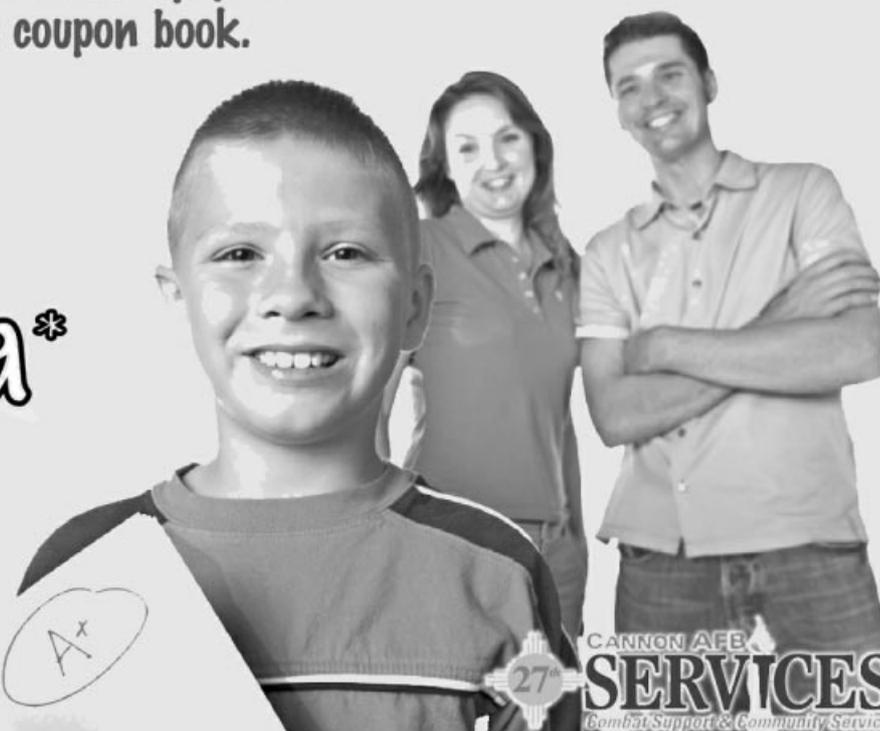
Cannon Federal Credit Union reps will be there for Looney Toons account holders. Pick up your AAFES Make the Grade coupon book.



shoes & soda*

*Limited to the first 50 children thereafter \$4.50 per child

B average or better
K-6th Grade



Cannon Federal Credit Union
Worldwide Access

No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.



COURTESY GRAPHIC



What's happening?



Today

Teen Chillin' – 7 p.m. at the Clovis Community Center
DJ – 7 p.m. at the End Zone
Project CHEER – Changing Lanes Cosmic Bowling Night at 9 p.m. at Cannon Lanes

Saturday

UFO Tour – 8 a.m. with Information Tickets and Travel
Red Pin Strike Day – 6 p.m. at Cannon Lanes
Cosmic Bowling – 9 p.m. at Cannon Lanes

Sunday

Buffet Breakfast – 10 a.m. at the End Zone
Dart League – 6:30 p.m. at the End Zone

Monday

Homestyle Buffet – 11 a.m. at The Landing

Volleyball Clinic – All afternoon at the Youth Center
Football Frenzy – 6 p.m. at the End Zone

Tuesday

Chef's Choice – 11 a.m. at The Landing
Bread Bowl Soup – Lunch at The Landing
Pool Tournament – 4 to 6 p.m. at the Portales Community Center

Wednesday

International Buffet – 11 a.m. at The Landing
School Daze Special – 1:30 p.m. at Cannon Lanes
Volleyball Clinic – Afternoon at the Youth Center
Pennant Craft – 4 p.m. at the Clovis Community Center

Gaming Galore – 4 p.m. at the Portales Community Center
Steak Night – 5 p.m. at The Landing
Wild Wednesdays – 9 p.m. at Cannon Lanes

Thursday

Roast Beef – 11 a.m. at The Landing
Old School Game Night – 5 p.m. at the Clovis Community Center
Country Fried Steak – 5 p.m. at The Landing
Chess Club Casual Play – 6 p.m. at the Central Community Center



COURTESY GRAPHIC



FEATURE

Heritage to Horizons features AFSOC

'Commando' Airmen continue heritage into future operations

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO — Keeping a promise is important to many people.

But, keeping the Air Commando's promise — to provide precise and reliable Air Force special operations air power, any time, any place — is the motto Airmen of the 1st Special Operations Wing live by.

The wing is the only active duty special operations wing in the Air Force and traces its lineage back to the 1st Air Commando Group.

"The 1st Air Commando Group legacy is something we still honor today," said Col. Norman Brozenick, 1 SOW commander.

Since 1944, the wing has kept the Air Commando's promise. It supported allied forces and operations in the China-Burma-India theater until the end of World War II. In the 1960s, the wing trained Air Force and South Vietnamese aircrews throughout the conflict in Southeast Asia.

In the 1980s, parts of the wing participated in the rescue attempt of U.S. hostages held in Tehran, Iran. During this time, the wing also helped developed a myriad of improved combat tactics, combat crew training and multi-service special operations capabilities.

The 1 SOW also supported disaster relief, search and rescue, counter-drug interdiction operations, medical evacuations, and other humanitarian support missions.

The wing's special operations experiences continued through the 1990s. They were a direct part of operations such as Provide Comfort, Deliberate Force/Joint Endeavor, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Desert Thunder and Desert Fox.

And today, the wing is fully supporting America's war on terrorism, and has been at the forefront of the war since Sept. 11. MH-53 Pave Low helicopters from the

wing flew missions in New York and Washington, D.C., following the terrorist attack. In October 2001, they flew the first missions downrange and in March 2003 they were there when Operation Iraqi Freedom began. And, their presence continues.

"We have been involved in combat operations since the beginning," said Colonel Brozenick, a 1983 U.S. Air Force Academy graduate. "Unlike others supporting the war, we have never left the battlefield."

To accomplish its multi-faceted mission, the 1 SOW uses a variety of aircraft, including the AC-130 Gunships, UH-1N Huey, MC-130 Combat Talons, MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicles, U-28A and MH-53 Pave Lows.

One of the wing's newest assets is the CV-22 Osprey.

"The CV-22 is truly a transformational aircraft," said Colonel Brozenick. "Frankly, it has an unmatched capability to help save lives."

But it is not the wing's versatile hardware that makes each mission a success.

"Humans are more important than hardware," the colonel said. "First and foremost, everything comes back to our Airmen. Right now we

have [Airmen] taking the fight to America's enemies around the world — some places known only to them."

While 1 SOW Airmen don't serve to earn medals, combined, these Airmen have been awarded five Purple Hearts, 229 Bronze Stars,



PHOTO BY AIRMAN FIRST CLASS STEPHANIE SINCLAIR

The CV-22 Osprey flies by during its unveiling ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Fla. on Nov 16. The arrival of the CV-22 to Air Force Special Operations Command is part of Hurlburt Field's Heritage to Horizon commemoration, reflecting on the heritage of air commandos, reaffirming the commitment to the war on terrorism and resolving to continually expand capabilities. The commemoration also includes marking the re-designation of the 16th Special Operations Wing to the 1st SOW and the Air Force's 60th birthday.

seven Silver Stars and 127 Distinguished Flying Crosses since the beginning of the war on terrorism.

The colonel said none of the wing's successes could have been accomplished without teamwork.

"It is important to note that we don't do this alone," Colonel Brozenick said. "We are one part of a joint team."

This team includes units such as combat controllers, Army Special Forces, Army Rangers and Navy SEALs. And the most important part of the 1 SOW's team is its people on the home front.

"The 1 SOW's team is not only the people in uniform," Colonel Brozenick said. "We are a team of comprised of civilians and contractors who help us on a daily basis."

The wing's most valuable asset is its families at home at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

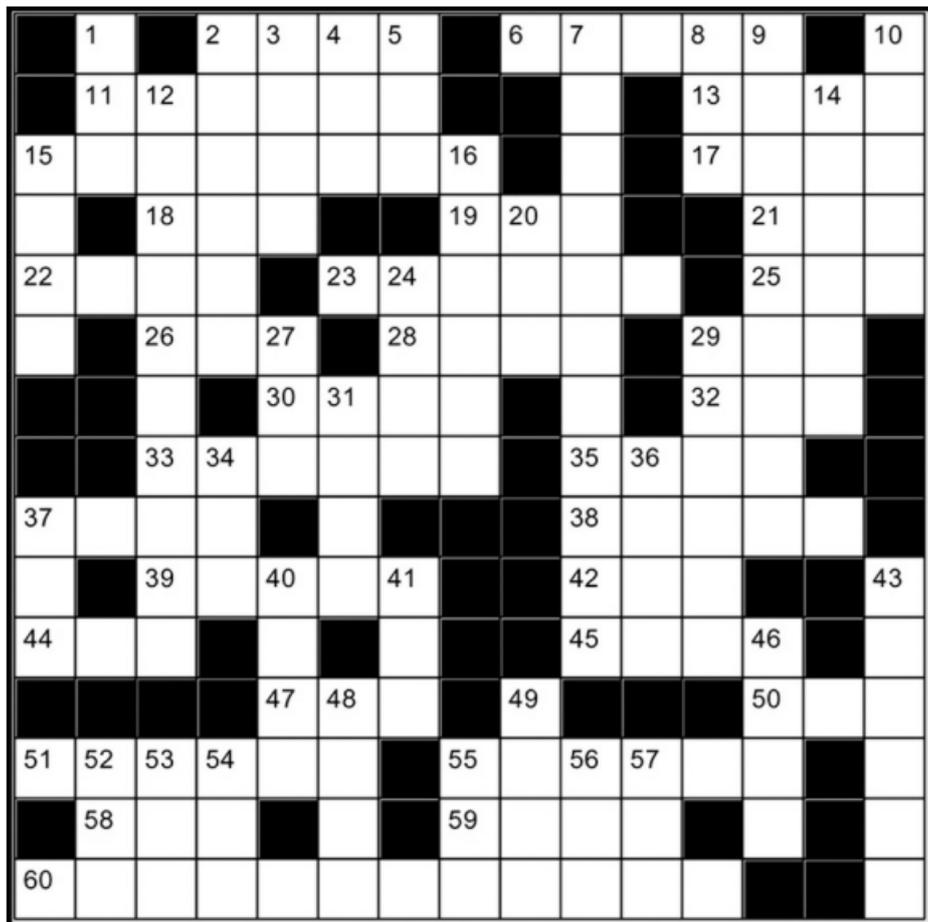
"We have the most wonderful families," he said. "Some of our Airmen have deployed six, seven, eight times and they always have the support of our families. We love our families. They are our backbone to fly, fight and win."



COURTESY GRAPHIC



THE LIGHTER SIDE



ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

Flying into the blue

By Capt. Tony Wickman
71st Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

Across

- 2. Actress Ward
6. Florida AFB home to 33rd Fighter Wing; aircraft tail marking of "EG"
11. _____ de corps; service pride and loyalty
13. U.S. currency coin
15. KC-10
17. Periods
18. Fighter pilot expert
19. Sphere
21. Owns
22. Actress Petty
23. B-1B
25. Temporary military duty
26. Headed
28. Type of cheese
29. Comedian Margaret
30. Champion
32. Rule

- 33. F-16
35. Ponderous
37. Abominable snowman
38. Duties
39. Mistake
42. See
44. Combat
45. abcd ... jklm ... ???
47. 2,000 lbs
50. Zero
51. F-15s
55. B-2
58. Formerly
59. Peers; as in court
60. KC-135

Down

- 1. Superman's arch nemesis
2. Money in coin
3. Sea eagle
4. Top
5. Dined
7. C-17
8. Actress Lupino
9. F-117
10. Sadlier novel, _____ Conway: or The Irish Girl
in America
12. C-141
14. Lea
15. Fashionable magazine
16. Brazilian who opened country interior; Candido _____
20. Record company
24. Prefix meaning "air"
27. FedEx rival
29. Clothing spot
31. Greek nymph
34. Breath
36. Installs
37. Shrub tree
40. By memory
41. Galloped
43. C-5
46. Do _____ others
48. Capital of Norway
49. Gyrate
52. Picnic pest
53. Country between Ned. and Pol.
54. Actress Thompson
55. AF lawyer
56. Bother
57. Bread type

At the Movies

The Cannon Theater is located on Torch and Ingram.
Movie prices are \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children.



COURTESY PHOTOS

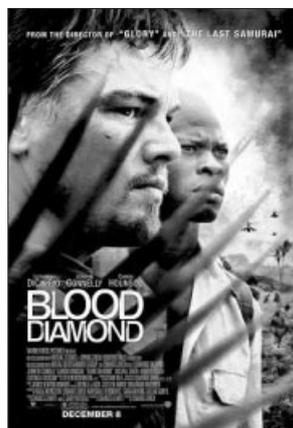
Eragon

Today at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m.

Description: A boy named Eragon finds a polished, blue stone in the forest. At first, he thinks it's a lucky discovery, something that will bring meat to his poor family for the winter. Instead, it brings a dragon hatchling, and Eragon is soon thrust into a world of magic and power through which he and the dragon must navigate.

PG - fantasy violence, battle sequences and frightening images

Running Time - 97 min.



Blood Diamond

Saturday and Sunday at 6 p.m.

Description: Set against the backdrop of the civil war and chaos in the 1990s Sierra Leone, Danny Archer, a South African mercenary, and Solomon Vandy, a Mende fisherman are joined in a common quest to recover a rare pink diamond that can transform their lives. While in prison for smuggling, Archer learned that Solomon - who was taken from his family and forced to work in the diamond fields - has found and hidden the extraordinary rough stone.

R - violence and language

Running Time - 138 min.

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE CHAPEL

Chapel services

CATHOLIC

- Religious Education 9:15 a.m.
Sunday (grades K-6)
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Reconciliation 9:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass (M,W,F) Noon
Edge/LifeTeen youth ministry 6 p.m.
Sunday (grades 7-12)

PROTESTANT

- Contemporary 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Gospel Noon

For more information about other programs or other faith groups, call the chapel office at 784-2507.



Unit Spotlights



Congratulations Diamond Sharp Award Winners



Staff Sgt. Vanessa Keck (center), 27th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, sponsored by Air Force Sergeants Association's Chief Master Sgt. Gary Ashmore. Award presented by Col. Robert West, 27th Maintenance Group commander (left).



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. APRIL WICKES

Airman 1st Class, Valerie Cantillas (center), 27th Services Squadron, sponsored by Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Sharon Dorman. Award presented by Col. Robert West, 27th Maintenance Group commander (left).

27th Medical Group promotees

To Col. (BTZ):
Col. (select) Jimmie Bailey II,
27th Aeromedical Dental Squadron commander

To Lt. Col.:
Lt. Col. (select) Willie Chi,
27 ADOS Dental Flight commander

Lt. Col. (select) Walter Matthews,
27 ADOS Aerospace Medicine chief

Congratulations 27th Civil Engineer Squadron for receiving the Brig. Gen. Archie Mayes Award for Best Air Force Civil Engineer Engineering Flight.

2006 Services Individual and Program/Flight Award Winners

Senior NCO of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Fry,
27th Services Squadron

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Jerry-Lee Calalang,
27th Services Squadron

Kirtland NCOA Graduates, Class 07-1

Tech. Sgt. Lara Burback,
27th Mission Support Squadron
Distinguished Graduate

Tech. Sgt. Keri McDonald,
27th Communications Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Mukimbah Bess,
27th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Deanna Parker,
27th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Victoria Collins,
27th Comptroller Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Parker,
27 CES

Tech. Sgt. Francisco Deguzman,
27th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Jayde Ragains,
27th Component Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Charles Derflinger,
27 CES

Tech. Sgt. Michael Reyes,
27th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Walter Lansford,
Detachment 9, 372nd Training Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Peter Santos,
27th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Marisol Lozada,
27th Medical Operations Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Calvin Wiseman,
27 CMS



SPORTS AND HEALTH

Air Force Afterburner thrills fans at Alamodome

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO – Afterburner, the Air Force-sponsored monster truck, thrilled 50,000 Monster Jam fans with car-crushing, high-jumping, raw engine power Saturday at San Antonio's Alamodome.

2007 marks the second season the Air Force sponsors Afterburner, a high-powered 2006 monster truck equipped with a 1,465 HP, 540 Merlin motor and 66-inch tires designed to take on the U.S. Hot Rod Association Monster Jam

racing circuit. The family-oriented competition draws more than one million fans of all ages to its event annually.

“Air Force sponsorship of Afterburner promotes Air Force awareness,” said Tech. Sgt. Larry Wright, Air Force Recruiting Service special events marketing NCO. “Many monster truck fans are ages 17 to 27, providing us a lot of direct leads to potential recruits. In addition, a lot younger kids attend Monster Jam races, and Afterburner plants the seed of military branch awareness, which can possibly lead to interest in serving in the Air Force

when they're older.”

Afterburner's 2007 season driver, Damon Bradshaw, welcomed fans of all ages at the pit party by signing autographs and posing for photos for three hours before the competition kicked off.

“It's an honor representing the men and women who fight for the safety of our nation,” Mr. Bradshaw said. “I enjoy spending time with the kids who come to see our truck.”

As fans waited to meet Mr. Bradshaw, 341st Recruiting Squadron recruiters answered fans' questions about Air Force career opportunities and benefits, and collected contact information from people who are interested in learning more.

The event caught the attention of Tyler Lawrence, 13, and Cody Debarge, 15, of San Antonio who took advantage of the opportunity to speak with recruiters while in line to meet Afterburner's driver. The two teens said they have always been interested in joining the military. Tyler is leaning more toward joining the Air Force after graduation and Cody is interested in joining the Marines. Recruiters onsite encouraged the grade-school students to study hard and graduate high school, and provided them career information to help them with their future decision.

“The Air Force is committed to recruiting the best America has to offer,” said Col. Brian Madtes, Air Force Recruiting Service strategic communications division chief. “High energy

events such as this provide us an excellent venue to share Air Force career opportunities with men and women who are interested in high-tech environments, are patriotic, seek adventure and want to do something amazing in their lives.”

Driven to stay ahead of the competition, Afterburner's maintenance crew works day and night to make the Monster truck stronger, faster and safer to drive, said Paul Cohen, maintenance crew chief and Afterburner's 2006 season driver who is taking a break from driving while he recovers from an injury. Wheel tethers, improved suspension, advanced seatbelts, stronger tubing and tougher shocks are just a few of the technological advancements that have improved driver and crowd safety.

“Every show we're flying higher and further and the drivers are taking more of a beating,” he said. “There's not many shocks out there that can take 10,000 pounds at a 40-foot jump. The driver takes on 28-30 Gs on the average landing. We're constantly researching and developing to improve safety, such as body, head and neck restraints.”

For more information about the Air Force, visit www.airforce.com or www.dosomethingamazing.com, or call (800)-423-USAF.

For more information about Afterburner, visit the Special Events link on www.airforce.com.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. SCOTT REED

The Air Force sponsored monster truck Afterburner, driven by Damon Bradshaw, soars over an obstacle during the qualifying round of the 2007 Monster Jam in San Antonio, Texas, Saturday.

DOD releases health-related behaviors survey results

Courtesy Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON – The Department of Defense announced results Jan. 12 of its “2005 Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Active Duty Military Personnel.” The findings show notable decreases in the use of cigarettes and illegal drugs since initiation of the surveys in 1980 and progress toward meeting selected Healthy People 2010 objectives.

The 2005 survey, however, revealed rates of heavy drinking remain elevated, especially among our young people,

use of smokeless tobacco has increased, and even though most servicemembers engage in moderate or vigorous exercise, more of them meet criteria for being overweight.

The 2005 survey indicates the majority of the U.S. armed forces, although under heavy work stress, use positive coping mechanisms to deal with stress.

“These survey findings provide very useful information for the department to target programs that continue to enhance the physical and mental well being of our troops,” said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary

of defense for health affairs. “I am pleased, and even a little surprised, that despite the stresses of war and ongoing deployments, nearly all indicators of servicemembers' health and well-being continue to be quite good compared with civilian populations.”

This is the ninth survey in the series of anonymous surveys asking active duty service members about various lifestyle and health-related behaviors.

The study is available online at http://www.ha.osd.mil/special_reports/2005_Health_Behaviors_Survey_1-07.pdf.



AF SERVICES
Fitness & Sports

Spin-A-Thon 784-2466
January 20
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Only the first 15 to sign up will be accepted.
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. will be taught by Julie Bizer,
12:30 to 1:30 p.m. will be taught by Master Sgt. Drake Davidson.
Snacks and prizes available to all who ride the entire two hours.



SPORTS SHORTS



Turn slip in to the Public Affairs office by 4:30 p.m. today. They are located in Bldg 600, suite 1099.

The participant who picks the most winners will win a free large one-topping pizza from the End Zone. The name will be announced next week.

Conference Championships

Sunday

New Orleans vs. Chicago
1 p.m. on Fox

New England vs. Indianapolis
4:30 p.m. on CBS

Total points (tie breaker) _____

Name/Unit/Phone



Football Genie

Circle winners and turn into Public Affairs by 4:30 p.m. today. Congratulations to last week's winner Master Sgt. Clifford Gonzalez, 27th Fighter Wing Safety.

Cannon Lanes 784-2280

Red Pin Strike Day — from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday bowl a strike when a red pin is in the head position and receive a free game certificate to use on a future visit. Not valid with use of bumpers.

Cosmic Bowling — from 9 p.m. to midnight Saturday bowl for \$2.50 per game.

Bowl with the lights over the lanes turned off and blacklights turned on. Lively music will play in the background.

Wednesday Specials — Students receive discounts from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays in January. Bowl four games and receive free shoes and a drink for \$5.

Adults can bowl as many games as possible from 6 to 9 p.m. for \$5 per person.

Youth Center 784-2747

Youth activities for 'Tweens (ages 9-12) and Teens (ages 13-18)

- Today — Billiards and Basketball
- Saturday — Ping Pong
- Tuesday — Basketball
- Wednesday — Volleyball Clinic
- Thursday — Relay Races

Whispering Winds

Golf Course 784-2800

Senior Days — Senior golfers, 50 years and older, receive \$2 off daily

green fees and 50 percent off electric cart rentals on Monday and Friday.

Member First discounts — 10 percent discount off annual, quarterly and monthly greens fees. Half-off club rentals. \$2 off cart rental for 18 holes.

Fitness Center 784-2466

Spin-A-Thon — The first 15 people to sign up will be accepted. Saturday a spin class will be taught by Julie Bizer from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. session and Master Sgt. Drake Davidson from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. session. Snacks and prizes will be available for participants who ride the entire two hours.

End Zone 784-4283

DJ — A DJ plays from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. every Friday night at the End Zone.

