

## Community News



COURTESY PHOTO

### Medal Play tourney

Base golf team qualifications will be held in conjunction with a tournament at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The \$25 entry fee includes lunch on Sunday and closest-to-pin contests.

### Homefront Quilts

Operation Homefront Quilts is a group of local quilters who make quilts for families who have lost a loved one during the war. Join them at 10 a.m. today at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. No experience is necessary and all supplies are provided.

### Airman's Attic

The Airman's Attic is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday for Airmen who cannot make it to the shop on weekdays. Staff sergeants and below and their dependents, are eligible to shop for 20 free items per week for immediate family use. Donations are welcome, but should not be left outside the door.

### Caprock Inn updates

The Caprock Inn lodging offices and customer service desk moves back to its original location in Bldg. 1801 today. Also, check-out time will now be 11 a.m. and check-in time will be at 2 p.m.

### TRICARE for retirees

Vital information on TRICARE benefits people can receive after retiring from the military will be discussed at this class at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

For more information, call 784-4228.

### Deployed, Remote family meal

Families of Airmen deployed or stationed at remote facilities are invited to a family meal at 5 p.m. Tuesday at the Pecos Trail Dining Facility.

To register, call 784-4228.

*More Community News on page 9*

# MACH METER

Many of these stories and more available at [www.cannon.af.mil](http://www.cannon.af.mil).

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Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

March 16, 2007



PHOTO BY AIRMAN ERIK CARDENAS

### Best of the best

Airmen from the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team perform a 16-man performance before retreat Tuesday in front of the 27th Fighter Wing headquarters building. For a story and more photos, see pages 12-13.

## Community InfoFair Thursday

### 27th Fighter Wing staff report

Cannon leadership will host an Information Fair for military housing residents from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at The Landing to answer questions and address concerns in response to a letter provided to First Sergeants Wednesday for distribution to their Airmen.

The letter, signed by Col. Scott West, 27th Fighter Wing commander, is being distributed to Cannon military housing residents and advises that some building materials used in military housing contains asbestos.

According to the 27th Civil Engineering Squadron, nothing in the tests conducted so far indicates excessive exposure levels to asbestos and although the health risk is thought to be low, more testing is currently under way.

"The well being of our Cannon families is always a primary concern," said Colonel West. "We should know the results of those tests in June and will let everyone know the outcome at that time."

According to base officials, samplings done in 1994 and 1995 showed



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS THOMAS TROWER

**Packets containing material about asbestos as well as other common household hazards will be presented to all military family housing residents.**

the presence of asbestos and the findings guided renovation and abatement projects. Between 2002 and 2005 there were plans to privatize military housing; however, the Base Realignment and Closure recommendation to place Cannon in enclave status put the plan on hold.

In January, water damage caused two ceilings to collapse in unoccupied housing units according to base officials. Tests showed the presence of asbestos in those ceiling material.

### Qs & As on page 6

The letter was part of a packet that contained material about asbestos as well as other common household hazards and a letter for residents to sign and return, acknowledging receipt of the information. This communication outreach effort is based on recent test findings as well as an update to Air Force Instruction 32-6001 which requires military family housing occupants receive information regarding potential environmental hazards, to include: asbestos, mold, lead, lead-based paint and radon. The Information Fair will have experts, as well as wing leadership, ready to address occupants concerns regarding these potential hazards.

More information about asbestos can be found in the "Asbestos: Qs and As" article on page 6 and at:

Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR) [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/Asbestos](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/Asbestos); and

Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) [www.osha.gov/SLTC/Asbestos](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/Asbestos).



## NEWS

# TRICARE highlights ways to save money during tax season

By Jenna Holtz  
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Uncle Sam is giving us until April 17 to mail in our federal tax forms this year.

It's the result of a quirky collision between April 15 being on a Sunday, and Emancipation Day, a new legal holiday — only in the District of Columbia — on April 16.

Regardless of what deadline military members set for themselves, they might get a healthier return when they go by tracking their medical expenses through TRICARE's explanation of benefits (EOBs).

In order to maximize medical expense deductions for the 2006 tax season, members should collect the EOBs for each TRICARE beneficiary in their family.

Registered beneficiaries on [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com) can access their EOBs by logging in to their secure TriWest account. From the Personal Profile, click on "Claims" and select the appropriate "EOB" button.

If beneficiaries are not currently registered users on [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com), they can register at any time by visiting the registration page at [www.triwest.com/triwest/unauth/content/registration.asp](http://www.triwest.com/triwest/unauth/content/registration.asp).



COURTESY PHOTO

**TRICARE beneficiaries may be entitled to extra tax deductions on medical expenses. Beneficiaries may obtain their explanation of benefits (EOBs) for every member of their family online at [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com).**

## What qualifies as a medical expense?

The Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service defines medical expenses as the "costs of diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease, and the costs for treatments affecting any part or function of the body."

They include costs of equipment, supplies, and diagnostic devices. Dental expenses are also considered medical expenses.

Fees for eye exams, eyeglass frames and lenses, and contact lenses are also eligible for tax deductions.

Medical care expenses must be used primarily to alleviate or prevent a physical or mental defect or illness. They do not include expenses that are merely beneficial to general health, such as vitamins or a vaccination.

Medical expenses include the premiums paid for insurance that cover medical care expenses and the amounts paid for transportation mileage to get medical care.

Medical expenses also include amounts paid for qualified long-term care services and limited amounts paid for any qualified long-term care insurance contract.

For more information, visit the beneficiary portal at [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com), or call (888) TRIWEST (874-9378).

## Phase II players tie up week



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. APRIL WICKES



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. SCOTT MACKAY

**Above: Firefighters from the 27th Civil Engineer Squadron extinguish a fire at a mock fire, aircraft crash site over the night of March 8 as part of a Phase II readiness exercise. Propane is piped into a sheet metal shell of an aircraft to allow firefighters to train.**

**Left: Maj. Willie Chi (left), Capt. Benjamin Clark (center) and Tech. Sgt. Marisol Lozada from the 27th Medical Group treat an "amputee" victim during the Phase II March 8.**



## NEWS

**Become more involved in healthcare**

Courtesy of the 27th Medical Group

The 27th Medical Group observed National Patient Safety Awareness Week Monday through today. Healthcare organizations across the country are participating in events to promote patient safety.

According to the National Patient Safety Foundation Web site at [www.npsf.org](http://www.npsf.org) the theme for National Patient Safety Awareness Week is "Patient Safety - A Road Taken Together."

Tips on how patients can be more involved in their healthcare include:

- Emptying medicine cabinets of old or expired medications;
- Carrying the names of prescription and over the counter medications - including dosage - as well as any allergies and the names and numbers of healthcare providers and pharmacies.
- Identifying an advocate who can accompany you and ask questions on your behalf;
- Talking with family about what your preferences are for healthcare, in case you are unable to speak for yourself; and
- Asking healthcare professional about patient safety and how communication and partnership can improve.

While supply lasts, the 27th Medical Group will provide patients with: Pocket-sized medication journals, plastic seven-day pill reminder containers, pediatric dosing spoons and Poison control center information.

**Wildfire season at hand**

Courtesy of the Cannon Fire Department

Spring is almost here, and along with it comes a season of dry and windy conditions. These conditions pose a serious fire threat to all who live in the area. Alone, wildfires are very dangerous. Mixed with dry and windy conditions they can become deadly.

The best advice about dealing with wildfires is to stay away from them. Wildfires can look small, but can grow in size and intensity in a matter of minutes.

With windy conditions, fires can spread at a rate of 30-60 miles per hour. If Airmen see a wildfire, they should call 9-1-1 immediately.

One of the most haz-

ardous parts about a wildfire is the smoke that it can generate.

Smoke can cause limited visibility, so people should avoid driving through smoke. Smoke can enter houses through vents and lead to choking, coughing or even death. Close windows and vents in the house to prevent the smoke from entering.

Airmen can help prevent fire emergencies at home by taking prevention measures such as having a 30 foot clear zone around their house if they live outside the city limits. Within the city, keep vegetation cut low and moist. Airmen should also keep a clear zone in their alley way and yard, and not let tumbleweeds accumulate.

Inside the home, Airmen

should keep irreplaceable valuables where they can be retrieved quickly in the event they need to evacuate.

Also, have a bag ready to go filled with legal papers, medications, emergency supplies and smaller valuables. If families must evacuate, before they leave they should close heavy curtains, turn off utilities and leave doors unlocked for escape for firefighter access. Turning on sprinklers will help wet surfaces around the house.

As with all fires, the most important thing to remember is that safety is the number one concern.

For more information about wildfires, call the Cannon Fire Prevention office at 784-4077 or 784-4490.

**Cannon begins DoD Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program**

Courtesy of the 27th Medical Group

The Department of Defense has resumed its mandatory anthrax vaccination policy. On Oct. 12, 2006, the Secretary of Defense approved resumption of a policy requiring mandatory anthrax vaccination for individuals deploying or PCSing to designated high threat areas. On Feb. 16, Air Force officials directed the implementation of this policy for all Air Force personnel.

Anthrax currently poses the greatest biological threat to DoD personnel and is the most likely biological weapon to be used by a terrorist, said Lt. Col. Jimmie Bailey, 27th Medical Group deputy commander. The anthrax vaccination is intended to protect Airmen from this threat and has been proven safe and effective, he said.

Important to remember are the following:

- The health and safety of Airmen is the Air Force's number one concern;
- The anthrax vaccine is safe and effective;
- The threat from anthrax is real and deadly;
- Vaccination offers a layer of

protection. In addition to antibiotics and other measures, that is critical for members of the armed forces.

Throughout this week, squadron commanders from the 27th Fighter Wing have been educating their unit personnel on the provisions of the revised plan, said Colonel Bailey.

Beginning Monday, the 27th MDG will begin administering anthrax immunizations in accordance with the new policy. The new policy highlights mandatory vaccination for specific personnel, voluntary vaccination for others and designates personnel who are not authorized to be vaccinated.

In broad strokes, here is the breakdown of the new vaccination policy:

**Mandatory vaccination:**

- Active duty members, Emergency Essential (EE) civilians and Mission-Essential (ME) contractors moving or deploying to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) or the Korean Peninsula for more than 15 consecutive days.

**Voluntary vaccination:**

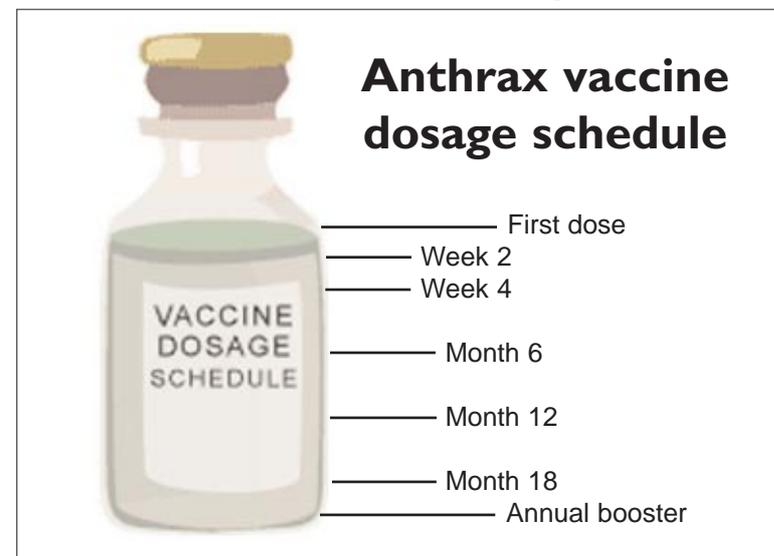
- Any active-duty member or DoD civilian employee who received at least one dose of the anthrax

vaccine between 1998 and now may voluntarily continue the vaccine series. These individuals may stop the series at any time, unless required to receive vaccination due to the previously stated circumstances;

- Adult family members 18-65 accompanying DoD military and civilian personnel for 15 or more consecutive days to the CENTCOM AOR or Korea;

- U.S. citizen, adult family members 18-65 accompanying U.S. contractor personnel for 15 or more consecutive days to the CENTCOM AOR or Korea;

- U.S. government civilian employees and citizen contractor personnel, other than those classified as EE or ME, assigned for 15 or more consecutive days to the CENTCOM AOR or Korea.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

**Vaccination not authorized:**

- Active duty and civilian personnel not assigned to the CENTCOM AOR or Korea for 15 or more consecutive days and who have never received a dose of anthrax vaccine.

Further information on anthrax and other vaccines can be found at [www.vaccines.army.mil](http://www.vaccines.army.mil).

For further information regarding the 27th FW anthrax vaccination policy and procedures, contact the Immunizations Clinic at 784-1104 or the 27th MDG at 784-7801.



## COMMENTARY

# Personnel records readiness: Are you ready?

By Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski  
Air Force Personnel Center commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Because change is the one thing you can count on, take time now to review your personnel records to ensure they are ready for whatever is around the next corner.

Air Force Personnel Center officials are establishing an annual campaign to encourage Airmen to review their records at the beginning of each year to make sure they remain complete, current and accurate. The center staff will continue to provide tremendous service and take care of all Airmen. However, that service requires each Airman to do his or her part.

Consider what could happen if you fail to update your virtual Record of Emergency Data, or vRED, and become a casualty. Rather than receiving notification through Air Force channels, your next of kin may learn of the situation through the news media or another unofficial source.

Even worse, what if your parent is ill and is not able to deal with the stress of your injury? Document-

ing these types of details on your vRED enables Air Force responders to correctly follow your instructions in the event you become a casualty.

Equally distressing would be if you failed to update your Servicemembers Group Life Insurance beneficiary information. An oversight like this could lead to your family members not receiving insurance benefits from the Air Force.

Keeping your records current is not only applicable for a deployment – accidents on- and off-duty occur all too frequently. Vehicle, motorcycle and recreational sporting accidents occur almost daily.

Personnel records also need to be reviewed as they directly impact your promotion potential. Look at your records and understand what is documented and what should be documented. Individual performance counts! It's critical that your records accurately reflect your performance. When your records meet a promotion board, the AFPC needs your help to ensure the board views your complete and accurate record of performance.

Airmen should review their records and physically

account for their decorations and performance reports. Just because this information appears in your electronic personnel record or SURF doesn't mean the information is also in your hard copy record. It never hurts to check.

Also, consider the impact on career development for an officer who fails to keep a Transitional Officer Development Plan current. Development teams can only conclude that the last entry in the record is what matters. If we don't know what your career goals are, they won't be a factor as we'll match you to the needs of the Air Force.

Many portions of your personnel record can be reviewed or updated at a time and place of your choosing through AFPC's virtual Military Personnel Flight or by contacting the Air Force Contact Center.

When we are all ready as Airmen, we become an Air Force ready to complete the mission our country calls upon us to accomplish, while ensuring our families have the best care possible. I encourage you to take charge of your career, review your personnel information and keep it accurate.

# Don't count on 'luck of the Irish' if you drive drunk

Courtesy of [StopImpairedDriving.org](http://StopImpairedDriving.org)

In 2005, 59 percent of all traffic fatalities that occurred during the evening of St. Patrick's Day to the early hours of the following morning involved drivers with blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of .01 and higher. Of those, 89 percent involved a driver with a BAC of .08 or higher.

This year, the risk may be even greater since St. Patrick's Day festivities will take place on a Saturday night.

For a safer St. Patrick's Day, take these simple steps:

- Plan ahead: Whenever you plan on consuming alcohol, designate your sober driver before going out and give that person your keys;

- If you're impaired, call a taxi, a

sober friend or Airman Against Drunk Driving at 784-AADD (2233) to get you home safely;

- Promptly report drunk drivers you see on the roadways to law enforcement;

- And remember, Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk. If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Impaired driving is no accident – nor is it a victimless crime. In 2005, nearly 13,000 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or a motorcycle operator with a BAC of .08 or higher, according to the National Highway Traffic Highway Safety Administration.

Driving any vehicle – including a motorcycle – when buzzed is simply

wrong and not worth the risk. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for drunk driving are significant.

Whether you are meeting a few friends at the local pub or attending the a local party, if you plan on using alcohol, never drive while impaired – and never let your friends drive if you think they are impaired. It's easy to tell if you've had way too many, but even if you've had one too many, don't drive.

Make smart decisions. Designate your sober driver in advance. And remember, Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving. Don't push your luck this St. Patrick's Day.

For more information, visit [www.StopImpairedDriving.org](http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org).



Courtesy of [StopImpairedDriving.org](http://StopImpairedDriving.org)

Have a plan if you're going to imbibe on St. Patrick's Day. Call a sober friend or Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 784-AADD (2233).

## MACH METER

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[27fvmachmeter@cannon.af.mil](mailto: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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## ROLL CALL

# Force Shaping is future



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Courtesy of Air Force News

Shaping our Air Force and ensuring we have the right mix of skills sets will result in approximately 40,000 active-duty Airmen separating from the service in order to meet our lower authorized end-strength.

The process for separating these Airmen is very methodical and detailed, and it's being handled this way because Air Force leaders want to make sure the Air Force maintains its combat capability as numbers of people in some Air Force Specialty Codes are reduced. The

**Roll Call is posted online every other Friday, so supervisors can read it to their Airmen at morning roll calls or formations. It is available at [www.af.mil/viewpoints](http://www.af.mil/viewpoints).**

most recent step in this process involves an officer Reduction in Force (RIF) Board.

This RIF is limited by law that states the number of people separated cannot be more than 30 percent of the number of eligible officers. Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, Director of Force Management Policy for the Air Force at the Pentagon, said, "For the RIF, because we are trying to do force shaping very, very carefully, we are allowed to do that by Air Force Specialty Code and by year group, limited to 30 percent. If the sustainment line is lower than 30 percent, we will take that lower number."

The officer RIF affects officers in the 1995, 1996, 2000 and 2001 year groups.

The Air Force prefers force shaping through voluntary separation rather than by involuntary means. That's why Air Force leaders extended the voluntary separation pay application period for officers and are making it as easy as possible for officers to volunteer to separate.

Force shaping and involuntary separations are never easy decisions for Air Force leaders. But as Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and Personnel, once said, "It's important to keep in mind what force shaping is all about: the present and future state of the Air Force. We have to balance our [force] for now and in the coming years to have the kind of force we need to win the long war we are in now, and be prepared for whatever comes next."



### Energy-Saving Tip of the Week

- Eliminate air leaks around the home.**
- Use the flame of a candle to check for gusts around doors, windows and where any external lines enter the home.**
- Use caulking or weather stripping and save 10 percent on energy bills.**
- Military Family Housing residents can pick up caulking at Bldg. 1404. For replacement of weather stripping, call 784-8363.**

COURTESY OF ALLEN MUISE



## NEWS

# Q & A:

Cannon leadership will meet with military housing residents from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday at The Landing for an InfoFair. The following questions and answers are provided about asbestos.

Compiled by the 27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

**Q: What is asbestos?**  
**Answer:** Asbestos is a naturally occurring, fibrous silicate minerals used for thermal insulation, chemical and thermal stability. Asbestos Containing Building Materials (ACBMs) describes a construction product or material that contains asbestos. Some building materials used today contain asbestos.

Asbestos is either "non-friable" or "friable." Non-friable asbestos is encased and does not become airborne. Non-friable asbestos in asbestos-cement shingles, roofing and board is considered safe. If non-friable ACBMs remain undisturbed, there is no known hazard. Friable asbestos ACBM can be easily crumbled or crushed into powder. Hazardous asbestos fibers can be released, sent airborne and potentially cause lung disease.

**Q: What are the risks to pets from asbestos?**  
**Answer:** Pets, most notably dogs, are susceptible to the harmful effects of asbestos in ways similar to humans. Pets can bring asbestos into the home on their fur or feet if they spend time in places that have high levels of asbestos in the soil. Concerned pet owners should consult their veterinarian for additional information.

**Q: How was asbestos used in Military Family Housing (MFH)?**  
**Answer:** In some units, ACBM was used during construction and may be found in joint compound, drywall, mastic, floor tile, roof shingles, and some blown-on ceiling textures.

**Q: What are the potential health risks associated with exposure to asbestos?**  
**Answer:** Exposure to airborne friable asbestos presents a potential health risk due to breathing air containing asbestos fibers. Continued exposure can increase the amount of fibers that remain in the lungs. Fibers embedded in lung tissue over time may cause serious lung diseases including asbestosis, lung cancer or mesothelioma. Occu-

pational exposures account for the overwhelming majority of these asbestos-related conditions due to the relative amount and duration of exposure.

**Q: What is the risk to people who live or work in MFH?**  
**Answer:** The risk appears to be low. Health risks are negligible to non-existent if ACBMs are undamaged and undisturbed. To minimize potential exposure and health risks from asbestos MFH residents should not:

- Drill into the walls or ceilings;
- Sand, cut or scrape walls, ceilings, floor tiles/adhesive;
- Install light fixtures, ceiling fans, cabinets, etc., into walls or ceilings without prior 27th Civil Engineer Squadron Housing Office approval;
- Perform any maintenance or self-help work that could disturb identified areas that could possibly contain asbestos.

Engineering-Environmental Management, Inc, an independent contractor, is conducting extensive air, dust and bulk sampling/analysis for asbestos in Cannon Military Family Housing. The 27th Medical Group is simultaneously conducting a comprehensive health risk assessment (HRA). Complete sampling and the HRA results and report are expected to be available in June.

**Q: How do I find out if my house has asbestos-containing material?**  
**Answer:** The base is doing a comprehensive sampling of MFH to determine the extent that ACBM is found in MFH. In the meantime, people should avoid performing any handiwork such as drilling in walls or ceilings to avoid potentially breaking down the material prematurely and causing it to become airborne.

**Q: Are the levels of asbestos exposure in MFH unsafe?**  
**Answer:** At this time, we are not aware of any housing units that have unsafe asbestos exposure levels. The base is doing a comprehensive sampling of MFH to determine the extent that ACBM is found in MFH. The results of the sampling analysis

and the Health Risk Assessment will not be finalized until summer of 2007 and will be made public at that time.

Until the results are in, people are asked to avoid performing any handiwork, such as drilling in walls or ceilings to avoid potentially breaking down the material prematurely and causing it to become airborne.

**Q: If my house test shows excessive asbestos exposure level, will the government move me and my family to a new house?**  
**Answer:** It is too early in the process to answer this question at this time. Once we receive the test results from the comprehensive sampling, we will be able to determine what risks (if any) are involved, mitigation measures, and make a determination if moves will be recommended. If moves from MFH are recommended, they would be at government expense.

**Q: Will we have to move into another base house or can we move downtown?**  
**Answer:** If moves are recommended, affected occupants will have the option to move into the local community or into another MFH unit.

**Q: I was a contractor/government employee who worked in the homes that had asbestos contamination without being informed about the possibility of contamination. Will the government cover any future medical expenses that result from my exposure to asbestos?**  
**Answer:** For information on filing a claim against the government, call the base legal office at 784-2211.

**Q: Will the government pay for a current health screening to determine my exposure level?**  
**Answer:** For active duty members and dependents, if you believe you are experiencing medical problems, see your PCM. Government employees and contractors should call the base legal office at 784-2211 for information on filing a claim against the government.

**Q: We are no longer in the military, but did live in base housing. How can we find out which houses were contaminated?**  
**Answer:** At this time, we are not aware of any housing units that have unsafe asbestos exposure levels. The base is doing a comprehensive sampling of MFH to determine the extent that ACBM is found.

**Q: Will the government cover any future medical expenses that result from my exposure to asbestos?**  
**Answer:** For information on filing a claim against the government, call the base legal office at 784-2211.

**Q: If the plan is to renovate, how long will it take before the homes are safe to live in again?**  
**Answer:** The houses that contain ACBM are located in areas scheduled for whole house renovations or demolition under the current draft privatization plan. Asbestos abatement in older construction is common in the housing manufacturing process.

**Q: Why has it taken this long to officially notify the public?**  
**Answer:** We are notifying the public now because of the requirement to do so as a result of an update to AFI 32-6001 dated August 2006 that requires we notify any member, employee, or contractor who may be potentially exposed to asbestos containing materials, radon, mold, or lead based paint. While positive test results have been made from asbestos containing materials in MFH units, we have no data that indicates current or past residents were exposed to ACM at unsafe levels.

Cannon leadership will meet with military housing residents from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday at The Landing to answer questions and address concerns.

For more information, see the following:

- the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web site [www.epa.gov/Asbestos/pubs/help.htm](http://www.epa.gov/Asbestos/pubs/help.htm);
- the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR) Web site [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/Asbestos](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/Asbestos);
- the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Web site [www.osha.gov/SLTC/Asbestos](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/Asbestos).



# Heart Link

Spouses learn about Air Force missions, customs, and resources and services available to them at Heart Link from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 23 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Childcare arrangements are available.



*For more information on Heart Link  
or to sign up, call 784-4228.*



You'll need it if you drive buzzed.

buzzed  
driving is  
drunk  
driving



Designate a sober driver this St. Patrick's Day.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS THOMAS TROWER

## ***Pet of the Week***

Timone is an adult male Chihuahua mix. He is in need of a home that can provide him comfort and make him feel safe. For information on how to save an animal's life, call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 784-4228.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

■ Continued from page 1

### **Bank Account Management**

Learn or relearn the basics of managing bank accounts and checkbooks during Bank Account Management at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

For more information, call 784-4228.

### **Healthcare council meeting**

A Community Healthcare Council meeting is at 4 p.m. Wednesday at The Landing for all 27th Medical Group beneficiaries. The 27th MDG will be providing information and accepting feedback on services, events and benefits.

### **Bundles for Babies**

This class offers information on how to care for a child and the financial aspects of parenthood. The class is 8:30 a.m. Thursday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center and is for people 20 or more weeks pregnant or have a newborn under three months old.

For more information, call 784-4228.

### **Suicide prevention training**

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training is Thursday and March 23 at the base chapel. Airmen learn to evaluate suicide risks and intervene on dangerous situations.

Sign up by Monday by calling the chapel at 784-2507.

### **Munitions storage closure**

The 27th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Munitions Storage Area will be performing a 100 percent munitions stockpile inventory March 23-30. Issue and turn-in requests need to be submitted today. During the closure, only emergency issue requests, in writing, will be honored with maintenance group commander approval.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. David Pugh at 784-7546 or 784-4201.

### **27 FW weapon loading competition**

The 27th Maintenance Group will hold the 27th Fighter Wing's 2007 First Quarter Weapon Loading/Proud Falcon competition at 8:30 a.m. March 23 in Hangar 133 (load barn). Everyone with base access is invited to attend.



## SERVICES

# AFIT offers distance learning degree program

Courtesy of Air Force News

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Institute of Technology recently achieved two milestones that will help the school move forward into the 21st century and serve the Air Force with greater responsiveness.

This month, AFIT began offering its first distance learning graduate degree program. AFIT has been using DL technologies to offer graduate certificate programs, as well as professional continuing education, for some time.

But with this pilot program in Systems Engineering, it is now possible for military members, DoD civilians, and government contractors across the country to earn a master's degree from AFIT without moving to Ohio or leaving their current assignments.

"Students interested in getting a master's degree in Systems Engineering can do so in any number of ways," according to Dr. David Jacques, the curriculum chair for AFIT's Systems Engineering Program. "What makes our program so unique is that it is geared toward the DoD employee. Our faculty uses its extensive military background to create a defense-

centered educational experience."

"During their research, our students are encouraged to tackle real-world systems problems found in their workplace," added George Mooney, Director of AFIT's Center for Systems Engineering. "That way, students can make strides toward obtaining their master's degree while helping the Air Force — more specifically, while helping the student's own organization or company."

"Students who enroll in our Master's program may get transferred to another assignment, but they can still keep working on their degree," said Lt. Col. Brian Hermann, an AFIT DL instructor. "I think that's a huge benefit for the military student."

The second AFIT milestone was the recent opening of the graduate school's brand-new DL studio suite. After an interior construction and renovation project, the school installed new equipment in the studio suite to facilitate an expanding distance learning outreach.

"Our goal was to create a flexible toolbox that faculty members could use to create streamable content, as well as interact in real-time with the distance learning student," said John Reisner, Director of AFIT's Office of

Extension Services. Previously, the school relied on video-conferences to deliver educational content to the remote student.

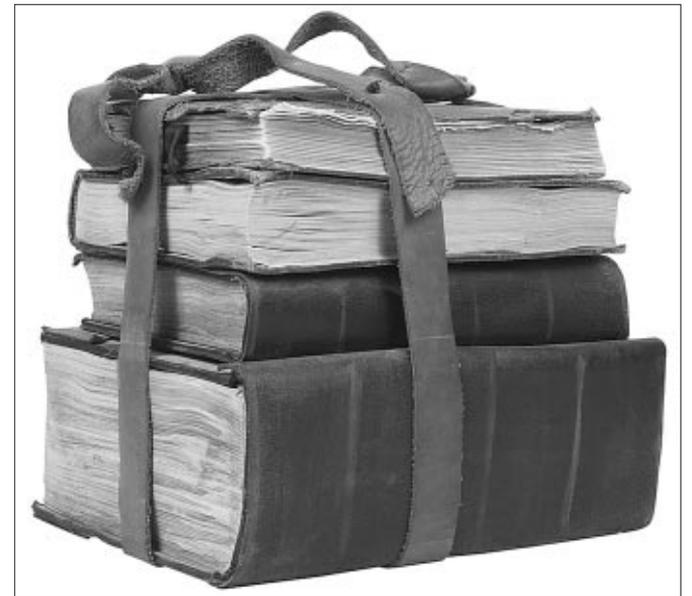
"We wanted to use technologies that were more versatile, and more scalable, without sacrificing quality," added Dr. Marlin Thomas, Dean of AFIT's Graduate School of Engineering and Management. "Our new studios have empowered the faculty to do that."

With a newly-hired staff, the Graduate School's Extension Services office is poised to help the school realize its goal of becoming an increasingly important educational resource for agencies and organizations across the Air Force and DoD.

In January, AFIT's Center for Space Studies and Research began offering the Graduate School's second certificate program fully available on-line: the Graduate Space Systems Certificate. This recent growth of DL educational opportunities has meant

a spike in the numbers of students taking advantage of these programs, and the school is optimistic that this is only the beginning.

Prospective students interested in learning more about DL programs offered by AFIT's Graduate School of Engineering and Management can visit AFIT's Office of Extension Services' Web site at [www.afit.edu/en/dl](http://www.afit.edu/en/dl).



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The Air Force Institute of Technology recently began offering its first distance learning graduate degree program.



## Today

Seafood Buffet – 11 a.m. at The Landing  
Conversational Language Skills Japanese – 11 a.m. at the Cannon Library  
St. Patrick's Dinner – 5 p.m. at The Landing



COURTESY PHOTO

## What's happening?

Texas Hold 'em – 7 p.m. at The Landing

### Saturday

Medal Play Tournament – 9 a.m. at the Whispering Winds Golf Course  
Fitness-A-Thon – 11:30 a.m. at the Fitness Center  
St. Patrick's Bowling – 6 p.m. at Cannon Lanes  
Teen Lock-in – 8 p.m. at the Youth Center

### Sunday

Spring Brunch – 10:30 a.m. at The Landing  
NASCAR Kobalt Tools 500 – noon at the End Zone  
Dart League – 6:30 p.m. at the End Zone

### Monday

Homestyle Buffet – 11 a.m. at The Landing  
Conversational Language Skills Arabic – 11 a.m. at the Cannon Library  
Softball Clinic – 4:30 p.m. Monday through

March 23 at Campbell Field

### Tuesday

Chef's Choice – 11 a.m. at The Landing  
Bread Bowl Soup – Lunch at the End Zone  
Mommy and Me Crafts – 6 p.m. at the Clovis Community Center

### Wednesday

Conversational Language Skills Chinese – 11 a.m. at the Cannon Library  
Wild Wednesdays – 1:30 and 9 p.m. at Cannon Lanes  
Steak Night Dining – 5 p.m. at The Landing

### Thursday

Roast Beef – 11 a.m. at The Landing  
Conversational Language Skills French – 11 a.m. at the Cannon Library





## FEATURE



Senior Airman Christopher Keen, 306th Rescue Squadron pararescueman, practices his shooting skills out on the range during a training day at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Feb. 28.

## Pararescuemen train 'so others may live'

Story and photos by Senior Airman Andrea Wright  
*Air Force News Agency*

**S**OUTHWEST ASIA — Ask any pararescueman, or PJ, and they'll tell you, if they're working a mission, then something has gone very wrong.

Chances are, an aircraft is down and there are injured personnel in need of rescue. So, it's a good day when they aren't hard at work.

Fortunately, aircraft mishaps are few and far between in Afghanistan and training is number one on the minds of these Airmen.

"We try to fill up our days with as much training as we can, keeping proficient in all our skill sets," said Staff Sgt. John Henry Lane, a pararescueman with the 306th Rescue Squadron.

An average day for a PJ starts

the same as many other jobs, with a cup of coffee. Then they ready their gear and head to the climbing wall or to the junkyard to train on one of the many skills they need to keep sharp.

"As pararescuemen we're tasked with a number of different things we need to stay proficient such as a confined space rescue, shooting and high angle rescues. We also have to keep our hours current on the helicopter," Sergeant Lane said.

Other skills they hone in their downtime are extrications from up-armored HUMVEEs and focusing on the medical side of their jobs.

**"W**e'll go through medical exercises for treating patients or just sit and talk about medicines and medical procedures," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Piccoli, another pararescueman with the 306th RQS.



Air Force pararescueman Staff Sgt. Joseph Piccoli, 306th Rescue Squadron, rappels off the rock wall at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, during a training exercise.

**S**ometimes, there are certain aspects of the job that cannot be practiced in Afghanistan, such as the combat dive mission.

"We are not able to work on it because there's not any water around here," said Senior Airman Brian Kimber, a 306th RQS pararescueman. "But, we do bring all of our gear with us just in case something happens and we're the closest people to help out."

In general, a pararescueman's job while deployed is, "to provide combat search and rescue for theater assets," Sergeant Lane said.

It's a simple definition, but these PJ's also provide much more, he said. "We're the main asset for search

and rescue in the area and that doesn't just involve downed U.S. aircrafts, it involves any isolated personnel whether it's U.S., Coalition Forces or Afghan nationals," Sergeant Lane said.

**T**he pararescue motto is, "So others may live," and it's the reason they train nonstop and volunteer to put their lives on the line.

"The reason I became a PJ is because, as Americans, we don't leave anyone behind. That's what we're here for, personnel recovery. Making sure everybody that comes over here goes home," Sergeant Lane said.



# Unit Spotlights



## Cannon lieutenant colonel selects

*Maj. Robert Battema,  
522nd Fighter Squadron*

*Maj. David Nicholson,  
27th Maintenance Operations Squadron*

*Maj. Neil Oakden,  
27th Fighter Wing*

*Maj. Brian Delamater,  
27th Operations Support Squadron*

*Maj. Jeremy Novak,  
27th Security Forces Squadron*

*Maj. Lisa Pike  
27th Mission Support Squadron*

## Cannon senior master sergeant selects

*Master Sgt. Jeffrey Davis,  
27th Maintenance Group*

*Master Sgt. Jeremiah Lee,  
27th Services Squadron*

*Master Sgt. Suzanne Dubois,  
27th Communications Squadron*

*Master Sgt. David Pantojas,  
27th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron*

*Master Sgt. Robert Gibbons,  
27th Component Maintenance Squadron*

*Master Sgt. Kenneth Slater,  
27th Logistics Readiness Squadron*

*Master Sgt. Harold Hailer,  
27th Civil Engineer Squadron*

*Master Sgt. Stewart Williams,  
27th Operations Support Squadron*

### CANNON AIR FORCE BASE CHAPEL

## Come worship with us

### CATHOLIC

Religious Education	9:15 a.m.
Sunday (Kindergarten thru Teens)	
Sunday Mass	10:30 a.m.
Reconciliation	9:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass (M,W,F)	12:05 p.m.

### 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.*

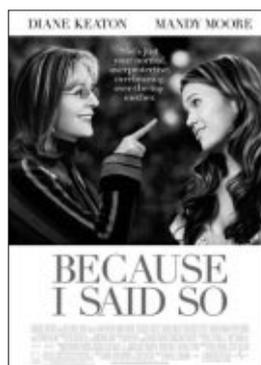
**104 W. Trident Ave., Cannon AFB, N.M.**

## At the Movies

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

### Because I Said So

**Today at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m.**



**Description:** Daphne Wilder is a mother whose love knows no bounds or boundaries. As a single parent, she has raised three fantastic girls — klutzy, adorable Milly, stable psychologist Maggie, and sexy and irreverent Mae — to become the kind of women any mom would die to have. Only, they're about to strangle her. In order to prevent Milly, from making the same romantic mistakes she did, Daphne decides to set her up with the perfect man. The one thing Daphne decides not to tell Milly is that she placed an ad in the online personals to find him.

**PG-13** – sexual content, mature material and nudity

**Running time:** 101 min.

### The Messengers

**Saturday and Sunday at 6 p.m.**



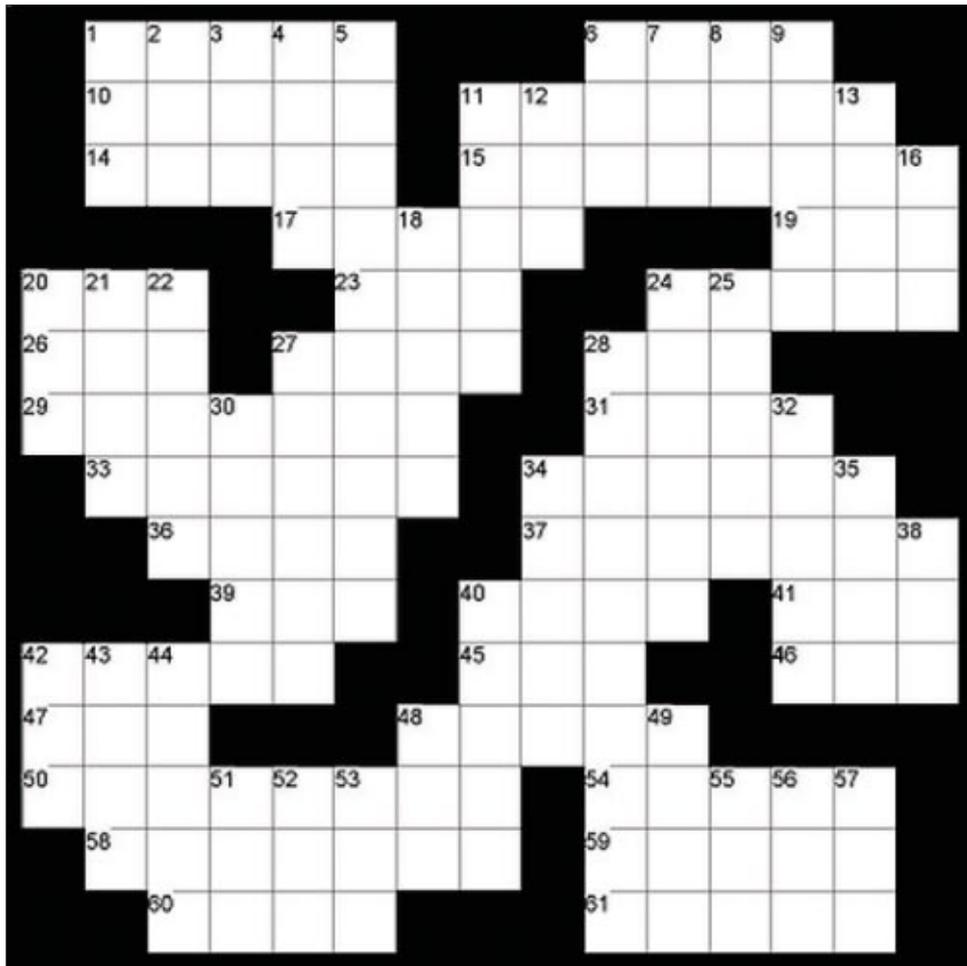
**Description:** A family moves into a run-down sunflower farm. As the farm begins to revive after years of disrepair, the family begins to notice uncomfortable and alarming changes in their father's behavior.

**PG-13** – mature thematic material, disturbing violence and terror

**Running time:** 87 min.



THE LIGHTER SIDE



ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

Find the Base ...  
AETC, Vol. 2

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

ACROSS

1. Large, long-armed anthropoid ape, informally
6. Host unit at Arnold AFB
10. FDR affliction
11. Breakfast food
14. Acid type
15. AETC base home to 14th FTW
17. Viper
19. Love \_\_ \_ Many-Splendored Thing
20. Op or deco
23. Federal org. enforcing the rules of air safety
24. Baseball plays
26. Afternoon drink
27. Hitler's manifesto, \_\_ \_ Kampf
28. Computer laugh, in brief
29. AETC base home to Air University
31. Ancient Peruvian
33. Lethal
34. ...only thing we have to fear is fear \_\_\_\_...
36. ICBM home

37. Engine item
  39. Embroider
  40. Anklebones
  41. Member of an American Indian people of Utah and Colorado
  42. Vacuous
  45. Norma \_\_ \_
  46. Fall mon.
  47. Female deer
  48. Five fused vertebrae of the pelvis
  50. AETC base home to 82 TRW
  54. ALC at Hill AFB
  58. Lie over or upon, as a covering or stratum
  59. Heap of stones set up as a landmark
  60. Self-esteem or self-image; feelings
  61. Cupronickel coin and monetary unit of Denmark
- DOWN**
1. German grandpa
  2. Memory hardware allowing access to stored data, in brief
  3. The Greatest
  4. Columbus' ship
  5. AETC base home to 17 TRW
  6. 2006 movie starring rapper T.I.
  7. Flightless bird
  8. Rep. opponent
  9. Small house or cottage

11. Pacific or Atlantic
12. CC's region of concern
13. Desire
16. UK equivalent to SEALs
18. Wage or quota
20. Cash machine
21. Browse
22. Levies
24. Dwarf tree or shrub
25. Stomach ailment
27. Montage
28. AETC base home to 314th AW
30. Area between the rib cage and hips
32. AETC base home to 97th AMW
34. Son of Abraham and Sarah
35. Day of celebration; holiday
38. Congressional member
40. Barter
42. Harris and O'Neil
43. Discontinuity between the Earth's crust and mantle
44. Source of annoyance
48. \_\_ \_ Lanka
49. Gelatinous material
51. Pin of wood
52. Expert
53. USAF enlisted PME
55. Black Sabbath artist Ronnie James \_\_ \_
56. Sea bird
57. Compass dir.



## NEWS FEATURE

# Life-saving turret prototype stems from Airman's death

By Maj. Cristin L'Esperance  
U.S. Central Command Air Forces Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Less than 80 days after Airman 1st Class Leebernard Chavis was felled by a sniper's bullet near Baghdad, Airmen in Iraq were testing an improved turret that designers hope will offer service members better protection.

Airman Chavis, of Hampton, Va., was killed by enemy gunfire Oct. 14 while performing duties as a turret gunner with his security forces team, out on joint patrol with Iraqi police in the vicinity of Baghdad. Airman Chavis, a member of the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, was part of the U.S. military police training effort supporting Iraqi police.

"We have an emerging threat that has developed: the sniper," explained Col. Gerard Jolivet, U.S. Central Command Air Forces' director of force protection. "We've lost an Airman due to sniper fire... and this is a mental and physical threat that we must mitigate immediately."

And Airmen from Detachment 7 of the 732nd ESFS and the 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's vehicle maintenance shop did just that, putting forth the first efforts at designing and building a new, more protective turret last fall.

The original, custom-made turret was dubbed the "Chavis Turret" to honor Airman Chavis and was made from scrounged materials using pieces cannibalized from junked vehicles and old parts.

Building on these efforts, Colonel Jolivet took it to the next level, calling for a solution from the Air Force Security Forces Force Protection Battlelab, charged with identifying, evaluating and recommending innovative concepts for protecting personnel, facilities and weapon systems. The battlelab rapidly measures these concepts' potential value through modeling, simulation, assessment and operational employment.

Just two weeks after Airman Chavis' death, Don Lowe, technical director with the Force Protection Battlelab since its inception in 1997, sat down with members of the USCENTAF force protection staff and sketched a concept to provide service members better protection from sniper fire.

"We looked at concepts available out in industry, but nothing quite fit the bill," said Mr. Lowe, a former security forces career Airman. He stressed that the design had to provide increased visibility and protection for turret gunners, while still allowing them the ability to sustain engagement.

"It's vital that the turret gunner on patrol be the eyes and ears of the crew onboard," he said.

John Schneider, lead engineer with NAVSEA Crane Division, which specializes in rapid prototyping, took it from there. The fact that Mr. Schneider, a Defense Department civilian engineer, was a former Marine rifleman catapulted the project forward in record time, according to Mr. Lowe. Mr. Schneider teamed up with fellow engineers Ron Glasscock and Mark Collins, a former Soldier himself, to make it a reality.

"This is the product of passion for Airmen," said Mr. Schneider. "This is the Air Force putting its best foot forward to help Airmen."

In 41 days, Mr. Schneider's team had all the parts assembled into a protective, igloo-shaped structure that is designed to wrap around and over the turret gunner. The assembly included 10-by-10-inch panels of ballistic glass, already widely used by the U.S. military, and 3/8-inch rolled ballistic steel, the same kind used to armor HUMVEE door panels. The structure is built to accommodate a heavy weapon and still rotate



COURTESY PHOTOS

**An Airman tests an improved protective turret prototype during field assessments in Southwest Asia. The turret was developed by the U.S. Central Command and Air Force's force protection staff in concert with the Air Force Security Forces Force Protection Battlelab.**

smoothly and safely.

Rather than conduct field evaluations stateside, as might ordinarily happen, the USCENTAF force protection staff insisted that the prototype be brought to the Middle East to be tested and evaluated by battlefield Airmen who operate daily on the streets of Baghdad to help train Iraqi forces.

In less than 80 days, the prototype arrived at a base near Baghdad.

While the prototype didn't leave the base, Airmen who do leave the relative safety of the base daily to help train the Iraqi police force in and around Baghdad put the turret through its paces.

The men and women of the 732nd ESFS' Detachment 7 are battlefield Airmen who perform the same duties Airman Chavis did.

Once the new turret was assembled and mounted on top of a Humvee at Sather Air Base, Iraq, defenders from Detachment 7, assigned to Camp Victory, had the opportunity to assess the vehicle's maneuverability — acceleration, deceleration, turning characteristics — given the modified vehicle's slightly raised center of gravity.

"We asked them, 'Can you operate and do what you need to do?'" said Mr. Lowe. "We were looking at form, fit and function and took their recommendations and feedback."

"When Airmen get into this new turret system, they say 'I feel safe,'" said Mr. Schneider. "Feeling safe on the battlefield is a rarity."

With a few additional modifications underway, the prototype has the green light from U.S. Central Command Air Forces' leaders. Soon, 60 operational turrets will be deployed. Mr. Lowe anticipates Airmen in the fight will receive the first five by late March.

"This project will help save lives," Colonel Jolivet said. "It is one of several USCENTAF initiatives being developed to improve the protection and defense posture of our personnel and the command's warfighting assets."



**In less than 80 days, the improved protective turret prototype on this Humvee was taken from sketched concept to assembly. The igloo-shaped structure wraps around and over the turret gunner and minimizes the sniper threat. The protective prototype's development and testing stemmed from the death of Airman 1st Class Leebernard Chavis, who was killed by sniper fire in October 2006.**



**SPORTS SHORTS**

**Texas Hold'em**  
**Today @ THE LANDING**  
 SIGN-UPS START AT 6 pm. TOURNAMENT STARTS AT 7 pm.  
 \$7 For meal only or \$15 Members • \$20 Non-Members Entry Fee includes Buffet  
**1st Place** • \$300 Gift Card  
**2nd Place** • \$200 **3rd Place** • \$100  
**4th Place** • \$50 gift card

**Cannon Lanes 784-2280**

**St. Patrick's Day Special** — When the green pin appears as the head pin and the bowler rolls a strike, they receive a free game certificate to use on their next visit.

Games are \$2 each from 6 p.m. to midnight.

**Triple Strike Tourney** — Bowl three games and use the best score from each frame to build a fourth game. This tourney is at 6 p.m. March 24. There is a \$10 entry fee.

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

Everyone 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 — FitFactor Activities, 3-on-3 Basketball

Saturday — FitFactor Activities

Tuesday — Chess and FitFactor Activities

Wednesday — Board Games, Skating and Scooters

Thursday — FitFactor Activities and Dart Challenge

**Softball/Baseball Clinic** — A clinic for ages 5-18 is Monday through March 24 at Campbell Field in Chavez West. Call 784-2747 for more information.

**Whispering Winds**

**Golf Course 784-2800**

**Medal Play Tournament** — Base golf team qualifications will be held in conjunction with this tournament at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The \$25 entry fee includes lunch on

Sunday and closest-to-pin contests.

**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.

**Retiree Wednesdays** — Golfers with retired military identification cards receive \$2 off daily green fees and 50 percent off electric cart rentals.

**Fitness Center 784-2466**

**Fitness-A-Thon** — Work out with yoga, kickboxing, aerobics and pilates from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, St. Patrick's Day.

**End Zone 784-4283**

**DJ** — A DJ plays from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays at the End Zone.

**Outdoor Rec. 784-2773**

**Valley of Fire tour** — Tour the Trinity Site on White Sands Missile Range open only twice yearly. See Ground Zero where the first atomic bomb was assembled. Also, visit New Mexico's premier astronomical radio observatories. This trip is April 6-8. Sign up by March 30.

Prices are \$130 for single occupancy, \$100 for double occupancy and \$50 for children under 12.



ANSWERS TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 16