



## BASE BRIEFS

### Volunteers needed to help with Schriever base picnic

Volunteers are needed to help with the annual base picnic. Set-up crews are required on both days from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. to man the events, such as cooking, serving, monitoring the inflatables, etc. Tear-down crews are needed from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on July 18 only.

To volunteer, contact the Military Personnel Element at 567-5900. You will be able to sign up for specific events and times, but slots are limited.

For more information, please contact A1C Brendan Kiser of 50 MSS at 567-5900

### Car, truck and motorcycle show held at base picnic

Open to all. Enter your car, truck, or motorcycle in the show to be held in conjunction with the base picnic on July 18 (set-up by 9 a.m.).

All participants need to arrive between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m., to park vehicle(s). After registering your vehicle(s), you will be provided a map and guidelines to getting onto Schriever AFB.

Pre-registration is required. Call Bill Clearwater at 567-3850 or Sharon Merrill at 567-3889. All drivers are required to have: Driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration documents.

For information, contact Bill Clearwater of CONS/LGCZ at 567-3850

### Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo to kick off events

The Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo is asking for 40 volunteers to assist with Schriever Air Force Base night July 10.

Volunteer duties include security, ushering, ticket taking and barn and stall management.

The rodeo will take place at the Penrose Event Center July 9-12. July 10 is Schriever Air Force Base volunteer night and is also pink shirt night: for everyone who wears a pink shirt, the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo will donate money to the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. July 12 is Air Force Space Command Night.

In addition, four-person teams may sign up for the Wild Cow Milking Competition, which will be held throughout the rodeo.

For information on the Wild Cow Milking Competition and volunteer opportunities at this year's Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, contact Master Sgt. Jason Mitchell of the 50th Space Communications Squadron at 567-5542.

### Leave carryover extended to 75 days

Servicemembers may now carry forward up to 75 days of leave for Fiscal Year 2008, according to the Secretary of Defense General Counsel office.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. David Allen of the 50th Comptroller Squadron at 567-5101.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Amber Whittington

Thea Wasche accepts the guidon from Col. Ottis Hutchinson during a re-designation ceremony in front of the Dekok building June 20. Ms. Wasche, former director of the 50th Services Division, will be director of the newly formed 50th Force Support Squadron. The squadron is the result of a merger between the 50th Mission Support Squadron and the 50th Services Division. Colonel Hutchinson is the commander of the 50th Mission Support Group.

## Merger results in 50th Force Support Squadron

By Staff Sgt. Stacy D. Foster

50th Space Wing Public Affairs

Two organizations became one on a picturesque summer day in front of the 50th Space Wing Headquarters building in a re-designation ceremony June 20.

Thea Wasche assumed responsibility for the newly formed 50th Force Support Squadron, a result of the merger of the 50th Mission Support Squadron, and the 50th Services Division.

Ms. Wasche, former director of the 50th Services Division, will become one of 16 civilians Air Force wide to lead a Force Support Squadron.

Her previous assignments include director

of arts and crafts at Homestead, Tyndall and Eielson Air Force bases, deputy commander of the Services Flight and commander of services for base closure at Soesterberg Air Base. She was the youth services director at Ramstein AB, Germany. She was also program manager for the Army Director of Community Activities at Kaiserslautern AB, Germany, and chief of the Family Member Support Flight at Holloman AFB, N.M. She was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina for Operation Joint guard and Operation Joint Endeavor as the camp morale welfare and recreation director at McGovern Army Base.

Ms. Wasche graduated from Radford College, Va., in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts

and Science degree in art education. Graduate work included the masters program in education and guidance at Radford College and University of Virginia. She has completed numerous classes, conferences and seminars including the Services Leadership School at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, the Air Force Institute of Technology Flight Chiefs Course and Mortuary Officer Course at Wright-Patterson AFB and the Air Force School Age Program in San Francisco. She is also a recent graduate of the Department of Defense Equal Opportunity Military Institute (DEOMI) at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida.

See Merger page 9

## Space, missile operator takes helm of 595th OSS

By Staff Sgt. Don Branum

50th Space Wing Public Affairs

A command space and missile operator whose qualifications include satellite and missile operations is scheduled to assume command of the 595th Operations Support Squadron in a ceremony at the Club on Peterson Air Force Base June 25 at 11 a.m.

Lt. Col. Anthony Mastalir will succeed Lt. Col. George Farfour, who will become chief of the Nuclear Operations Division at the Air Force Directorate of Operations, Washington, D.C.

Colonel Mastalir received his commission in 1994 through Northwestern University's Air Force ROTC program. He is a credentialed space professional, with numerous assignments in space control, satellite command and control and ICBM launch operations. His operational assignments include flight commander of the 4th Space Control Squadron at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., Minuteman III missile combat crew commander, instructor and flight commander for the 564th Missile Squadron at Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

His staff assignments include speechwriter and aide-de-camp to the commander of Air Force Space Command and internships with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

Colonel Mastalir's education includes Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Ala., a master's degree with highest distinction in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., a master's degree in organizational management from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. He is a distinguished graduate of the College of Naval Command and Staff and of Squadron Officer School at Maxwell AFB.

Colonel Mastalir's awards include a Meritorious Service Medal, four Air Force Commendation Medals, an Air Force Achievement Medal and a Humanitarian Service Medal. He was named the 5th Space Operations Squadron's company grade officer



U.S. Air Force photo

Lt. Col. Anthony Mastalir is scheduled to succeed Lt. Col. George Farfour as commander of the 595th Operations Support Squadron June 25. The ceremony will take place at The Club on Peterson Air Force Base.

of the year for 1996 and the 4th Space Control Squadron's flight commander of the year.



# MAJOR EVENT OF THE SUMMER

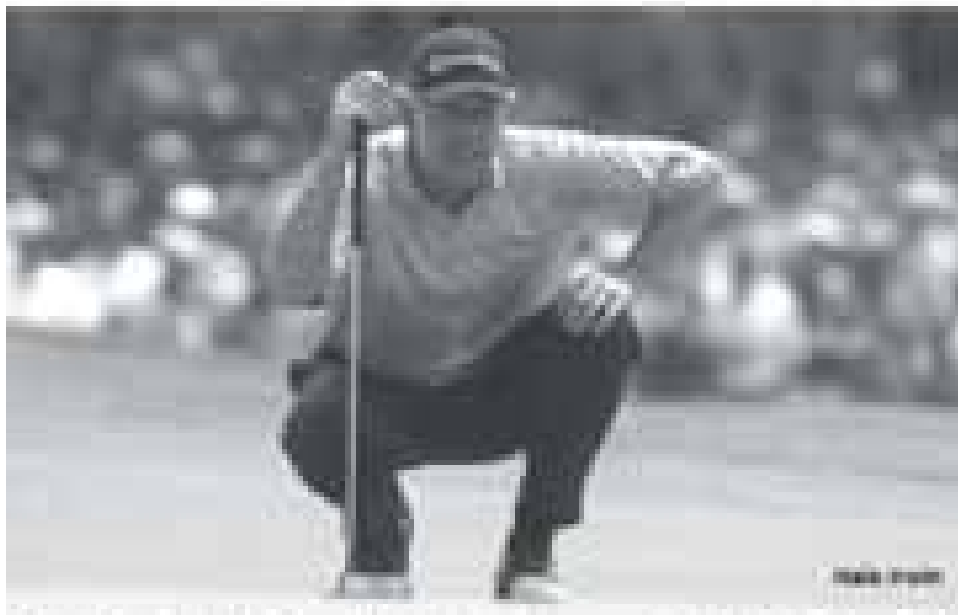


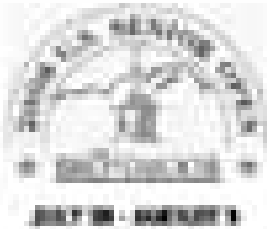
Photo: USGA

2008 U.S. Senior Open ★ The Broadmoor ★ July 28 - August 3

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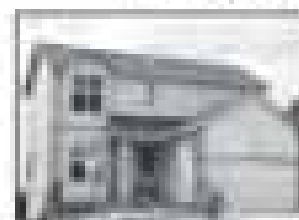
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## COMMENTARY

# Berlin Airlift a triumph for early Air Force

Commentary by Army Lt. Col. (ret)  
Ralf Zimmerman

In comparison to other wartime commemorations, you don't often hear about an air campaign that resulted in one of America's finest victories without a single shot fired: the 1948 Berlin Airlift.

It began when the Western allies approved the deutschmark as the postwar German currency June 20, 1948. The Soviet Union responded by cutting all land and waterways between the West German occupation zones and West Berlin three days later.

As predicted by U.S. commanders and Berlin Mayor Ernst Reuter, the German city of 2 million had suddenly become an island in a sea of communism. To survive the Soviet blockade, Berlin needed 3,440 tons of provisions per day — but merely 36 days of food and 45 days of coal supplies were on hand in the city.

America and the Western allies considered a short-fused shooting war unacceptable and unwinnable at the time. Instead, they responded with a strategic and logistical masterpiece. With roads and waterways severed, Berlin's inhabitants would receive their lifeblood from the air.

On June 30, the first C-54 Skymaster transport aircraft landed at Berlin-Tempelhof Airport with 10 tons of supplies. Despite technical difficulties and unpredictable weather, the supply rate reached 2,000 tons per day in mid-July. In September 1948, it was up to 7,000 tons per day.

By April 1949, the determined airlift warriors flew in 13,000 tons of supplies with one aircraft touching down every 63 seconds. The Russians were stunned — and decided to back down!

The frontline heroes of the airlift were ordinary Americans supported by courageous British and French flight crews. They flew nonstop, under the most challenging weather conditions, often with shifting cargo in the bellies of their grossly overloaded transports. The unsung heroes — mechanics, refueling and loading teams — worked 24/7 to keep the air armada flying.



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo/Air Force Historical Research Agency

C-54 Skymasters such as the one shown here were workhorses of the Berlin Airlift, which delivered 2.3 million tons of food and supplies to West Berlin on more than 275,000 flights. At the airlift's busiest point, one supply-laden aircraft was landing every 63 seconds.

For Berliners, the constant roar of aircraft engines was initially a reminder of the bombing raids of '44 and '45. Only this time, the bombers didn't come to kill but flew to keep them alive! For many others, the airlift became a team effort that fostered unthinkable friendships. My father, a former German tank commander, then age 22, still remembers his part in the "Berlin Air Bridge." For him, it was as significant as any of the many combat operations in which he had participated, for it gave new purpose to many of his generation's war veterans. With many other undernourished former Wehrmacht soldiers, he had joined the American effort as a company commander of a newly created uniformed Labor Service Company with the task

to load the Berlinbound air transports around the clock.

As my father and his German military veterans loaded and helped maintain the planes, the American crews would initially walk around the aircraft and suspiciously glance at their former enemies. After a while, short conversations ensued and cigarettes were passed out. Then one day, one of the crewmen remarked: "You Kraut soldiers are some tough SOB's — together the commies can't beat us!"

The ice was broken. On one official occasion, even Gens. Lucius Clay and James Doolittle came

See **Commentary** page 8

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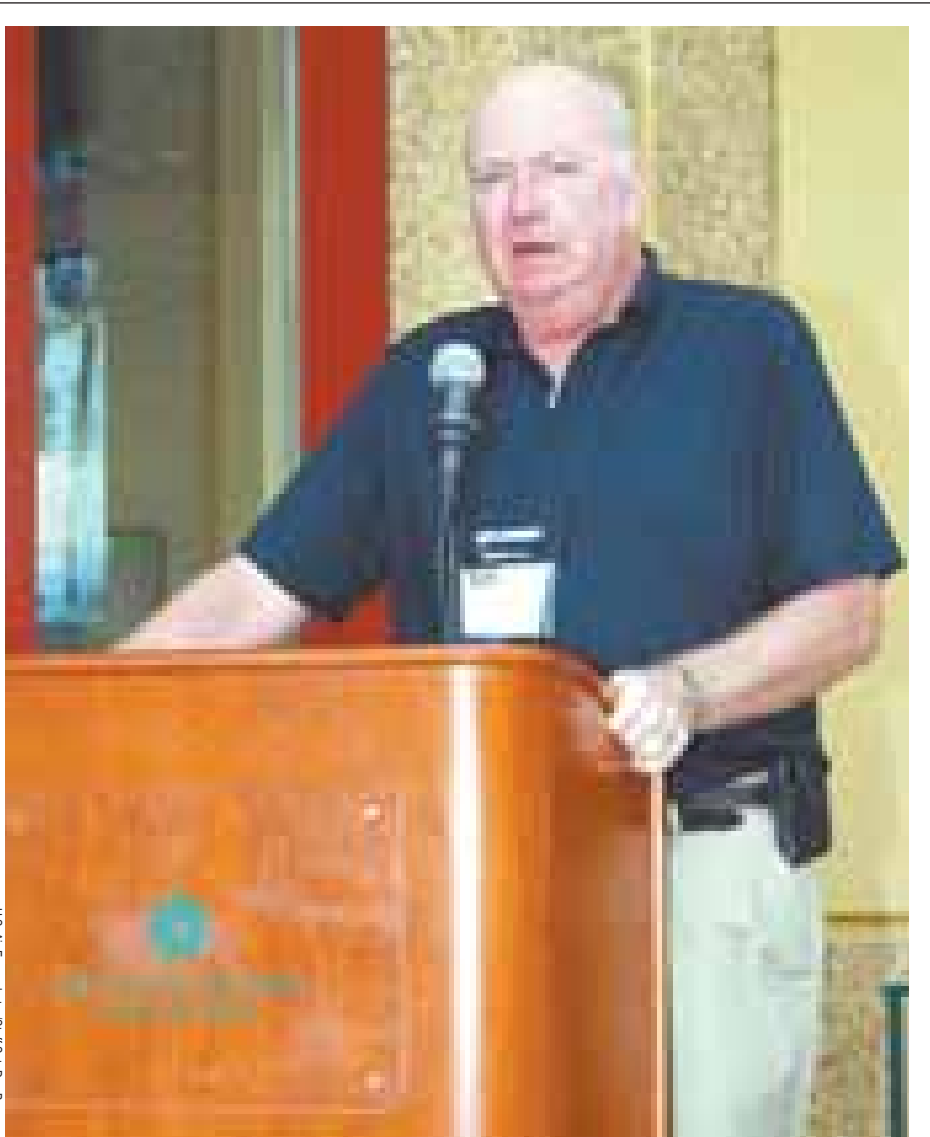
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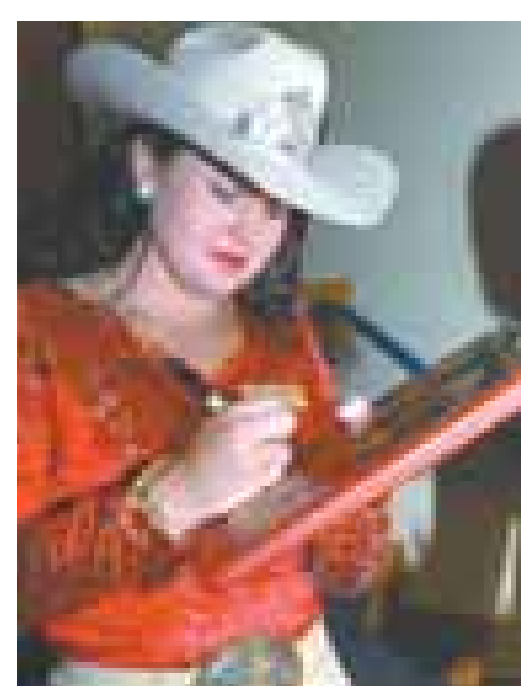
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**Space Warfare Symposium kicks off**  
 Maj. Gen. Thomas Deppe addresses attendees at the Space Warfare Symposium's opening reception June 23. Approximately 250 people signed up for the Air Force Association-sponsored event, held at the Keystone Resort and Conference Center to discuss integration of the air, space and cyberspace domains. General Deppe is the vice commander of Air Force Space Command.



**Leaders discuss integration of air, space, cyberspace at symposium**  
 Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Narofsky (right) provides a senior Air Force enlisted perspective on air, space and cyberspace integration during the second day of the Space Warfare Symposium here June 24. Also pictured are Navy Fleet Command Master Chief William Nissen (center), senior enlisted adviser at U.S. Strategic Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Todd Small (left), command chief for Air Force Space Command. Also on the panel but not pictured was Army Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Borja, senior enlisted adviser to Space and Missile Defense Command and Army Forces Strategic Command. Chief Narofsky is command chief for 14th Air Force and the Joint Functional Component Command for Space.



**Girls of the West visit Schriever**  
 Holly Humiston autographs a photo for an Airman in the Satellite Dish dining facility here June 23. Ms. Humiston is the 2008 Girl of the West and was accompanied by the 2008 Aide to the Girl of the West, April Biernat. The two spent the day touring Schriever AFB as part of promotion for the 68th annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Days. The rodeo begins July 9 and runs through July 12.

U.S. Air Force photo/Amber Whittington

# Schriever JA professionals win prestigious awards

By Joan Johnson

Schriever Sentinel

A member of the Air Reserve Component and a legal service civilian at Schriever were awarded Judge Advocate General awards May 9.

Ruben Martinez, a paralegal specialist with the 50th Space Wing Judge Advocate Office here received the 2007 Harold R. Vague Award. This award recognizes Mr. Martinez as the outstanding legal service civilian of the year based upon demonstrated excellence, initiative and devotion to duty.

"I was speechless when the Judge Advocate General, Maj. Gen. Jack Rives, personally called to inform me that I had been selected as this year's Harold Vague winner," Mr. Martinez said.

After receiving the award, Mr. Martinez said he was honored that his boss, Lt. Col. Michael Hoversten, sub-

mitted him for the award and that the selection committee considered his performance worthy of Air Force-level recognition.

Mr. Martinez's selection was based on his contributions to the wing's environmental and labor law programs. Special consideration for the Vague award is given to individuals who develop or improve systems, programs or procedures that enhance management efficiency or cost-effectiveness for Air Force legal programs.

"My selection would not have been possible without the help of the talented legal professionals I work with on a daily basis ... it's all about teamwork," Mr. Martinez said.

Tech. Sgt. Michelle Molina, an individual mobilization augmentee with the 50th Space Wing JA office here, received the 2007 David Westbrook Award. Sergeant Molina is a civilian court reporter at Peterson's JA office.

"It's a great honor for me. It's one of the highest awards that a paralegal can win," she said.

The award recognizes Sergeant Molina as the outstanding reserve paralegal of the year based upon demonstrated superior initiative, technical skill and training accomplishments or contribution to mission support. Exhibition of leadership qualities in contributing to civic, cultural or professional activities in the military or civilian community and enrollment in off-duty programs of professional self-improvement were also considered for the award.

Sergeant Molina attributes her selection to good mentors who have guided her as well as to experiences such as a deployment she recently completed.

Award recipients will be recognized at the JAG Corps' leadership summit awards banquet the week of Nov. 3-7 in Washington, D.C.

# Second SBIRS payload completes early on-orbit checkout

By SMC Staff

Space and Missile Systems Center

**Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif.** — The Air Force has successfully completed the early on-orbit checkout of the second Space Based Infrared Systems sensor operating in a highly elliptical orbit over the northern hemisphere. The second sensor is known as SBIRS HEO-2.

"The successful launch and checkout of HEO-2 is a further demonstration of the strong, positive momentum of the SBIRS team," said SMC Commander, Lt. Gen. Tom Sheridan. "This is a critical step in delivering a revolutionary new capability that will address some of the most serious threats to our nation."

The SBIRS HEO-2 payload provides performance that is exceeding specifications across the missile warning, missile defense, technical intelligence and battlespace awareness mission areas. Compared to the legacy Defense Support Program (DSP) infrared sensor, SBIRS delivers about 10 times better sensitivity and up to five times faster revisit capability. SBIRS is revolutionizing space based infrared monitoring of the earth with its wide field of view, increased sensitivity, fast revisit rate, and persistent presence.

The SBIRS sensor effectively detects heat or hot gasses from missiles and other man-made objects, terrestrial events like volcanic eruptions and wildfires, and weather data from

clouds and storms. The sensor is also providing information on static sources of infrared energy such as the flaring of methane gas from oil wells and pipelines.

SBIRS HEO is designed to use advanced space sensors and ground systems to provide infrared (heat signature) information from space. The highly elliptical orbiting sensors cover the northern hemisphere for approximately 12 hours a day from egg-shaped elliptical orbits reaching 35,000 kilometers above the North Pole.

"All of our SBIRS team members can be congratulated and justifiably proud of their contributions to the success of this critical program and the significant impact it will have on our national security," said SMC's Space Based Infrared Systems Wing Commander, Col. Roger Teague. "These payloads are delivering remarkable on-orbit capability and give us confidence as we prepare for the first geosynchronous satellite launch."

The Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center's Space Based Infrared Systems Wing manages the SBIRS program to develop both the elliptical orbiting payloads and geosynchronous orbiting satellites and sensors as well as the ground systems to support mission operations. SMC is a unit of Air Force Space Command.

In November 2006, the Air Force announced the successful checkout of the HEO-1 sensor. The efforts of the

Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Aerospace and government team enabled the SBIRS Wing to successfully transition operations of the first HEO payload to the 11th Space Warning Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., in November 2007.

By September 2008, alerts from the HEO-1 sensor will be incorporated into the system providing Defense Support Program messaging to warfighters. The HEO-2 sensor will continue engineering testing over several months leading to full operational use of the payload by Air Force Space Command.

### Space Based Infrared Systems

The Space Based Infrared Systems program provides the nation with critical missile defense and warning capability well into the 21st century. SBIRS is one of Air Force Space Command's highest priority space systems. SBIRS consists of two space constellations, the Defense Support Program (DSP) and SBIRS High, as well as an evolving ground element. SBIRS supports four mission areas: missile warning, missile defense, technical intelligence and battle-space awareness.

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## BASE BRIEFS

### Join new selectees for promotion release party

Come congratulate the Schriever community's newest technical and master sergeant selectees at a promotion release party at the Main Fitness Center here June 27 at 3 p.m.

Free food and drinks will be available at the event.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Heidi Rogers of the 4th Space Operations Squadron at 719-567-3917.

### Base Finance closed June 27

The finance office here will be closed June 27 for a squadron picnic.

For more information, contact finance customer service at 719-567-2010.

### Education office opens at Schriever

The Peterson Air Force Base Education Office now has representatives here each Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m. in the DeKok Building, Room 363.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact the education office at 719-556-4064.

### Construction areas off-limits

Areas north of the Main Fitness Center and Child Development Center here are now off-limits.

The exception is the paved running path, which is still open except for the southeast loop.

The closures are due to heavy equipment traffic and base housing construction.

For more information, contact the Main Fitness Center at 719-567-6628.

### Legal office closed June 27

The Schriever Law Center will close June 27 at 11 a.m. for an official function and physical training.

The Law Center will resume normal operating hours June 30.

For more information and short-notice deployment assistance, contact the Law Center at 719-567-5050.

### Veteran's Home Run benefit set for June 28

The 2008 Veteran's Home Run 3rd Tour 5K Run/1K Walk will be held at 7 a.m. June 28 at Air Academy High School on the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The run will benefit the Crawford House located in downtown Colorado Springs. The Crawford House is a non-profit organization that serves homeless military veterans.

The registration fee for non-military is \$20 and \$15 for active-duty servicemembers and veterans. All proceeds will go to the Crawford House. Race day registration will be from 6 to 7 a.m. For information about registering for the event, go to [www.pprun.org](http://www.pprun.org).

For more information, contact Jack Anthony at 719-205-1741.

### The Outdoor Recreation Office closed for inventory

The Outdoor Recreation Office will be closed for inventory at 1 p.m. June 30.

For more information, contact Brian Mitchell of 50 SVS/ODR at 567-6050

### Next single parents meeting is July 1

The Schriever Single Parent Network meets

the first and third Tuesday of each month from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Airman and Family Readiness Center here.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 1.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Martie Moore of the Public Affairs office at 719-567-5042.

### NSPS training available July 7-11

National Security Personnel System employees and supervisors are invited to attend training at the First Term Airmen's Center in the DeKok Building the week of July 7-11.

Training will consist of performance management and human resources elements for employees and supervisors. Supervisors must attend both the human resources and performance management training to be certified as a rater.

Trainees should complete NSPS 101 training, available on the Schriever intranet site, before attending this training.

For more information, contact Martha Larson of the 50th Force Support Squadron at 719-567-5778.

### Operation Homefront offers scholarships

Military spouses may receive scholarships up to \$5,000 through Operation Homefront if they apply before July 15.

Spouses can use the scholarship money to attend a post-secondary university, college, accredited trade school, certificate program, vocational school or community college. Funds from the scholarship can assist with tuition, fees or books and will be paid directly to the educational institution.

The grand prize scholarship winner will receive \$5,000. Two first-place winners will

receive \$2,500; 10 second-place award winners will receive \$2,000, and 20 runners-up will receive \$1,000.

For more information, visit the Operation Homefront Web site, [www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net).

### U.S. Senior Open to sponsor military family day

Active-duty and retired servicemembers and their families will receive free admission to the 2008 U.S. Senior Open July 30.

The admission includes a voucher for a free meal and a discount in the merchandise tent.

More than 150 golfers are expected to attend the 2008 U.S. Senior Open, including Hale Irwin, Mark O'Meara, Tom Watson and Craig Stadler.

For more information, contact the Senior Open Championship Office at 719-471-6488.

### Speakers wanted

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# Servicemembers begin medical mission in Peru

By Tech. Sgt. Kerry Jackson  
Task Force New Horizons Public Affairs

AYACUCHO, Peru (AFP) — American servicemembers kicked-off medical mission New Horizons-Peru 2008, a U.S. and Peruvian humanitarian initiative scheduled through Aug. 31 to provide relief to underprivileged Peruvians.

The humanitarian medical mission, currently staffed by 35 Air Force medics, will provide free medical care to people living in the poorest regions of Ayacucho, Peru.

In addition, the Task Force New Horizons team is currently constructing much needed medical clinics, schools and water wells during the three-month mission.

“Our construction projects are progressing quite well, and all of the Task Force members are doing an outstanding job providing the Peruvians with their best work,” said Maj. Matt Joganich, the Task Force New Horizons commander. “But it’s the medical missions that we’ve been looking forward to because they allow us to meet more of the people this mission directly impacts.”

The New Horizons-Peru medical team will provide medical care in dentistry, general medicine, internal medicine

See **Mission** page 9

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III

Peruvian children line up for free medical, dental and eye care June 23 at a schoolhouse in Ayacucho, Peru. American servicemembers are providing medical care during New Horizons-Peru 2008, a U.S. and Peruvian partnered humanitarian mission set on providing relief to underprivileged Peruvians.



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COMMENTARY

# 101 Critical Days: Don't get burned during grilling season

Commentary by Lt. Col. Thomas Meyer

50th Space Wing Chief of Safety

People enjoy cooking out more during the summer than any other time of the year, but thousands of injuries occur each year because people don't properly use their grills. This year, don't be one of those people.

If you have a propane grill, start the season by giving it a thorough inspection. Remember to also do this anytime you change a tank.

■ Spray soapy water on the connections and supply lines. If bubbles form, you have a leak; turn off the tank and try re-connecting. If it still bubbles, shut off the tank and get the leaky part replaced.

■ Remove the grates and lava rocks and check out the burner. If it looks good, fire it up and make sure you have an even flame throughout. If you don't have an even flame, replace the burner. Most burners only last one or two seasons, depending on how much you've used it. While you have the lava rock out, clean out the ash and grease that has accumulated on the bottom of the barbecue and check out the bottom for any signs of rust or corrosion.

■ Check and clean out the venturi tubes that deliver gas to the burner. If they get plugged, the gas will get diverted elsewhere and could pose a hazard.

■ Only open the propane tank a quarter to one-half turn. That's all the gas the barbecue needs to operate, and if you do encounter a problem, then it is much quicker to shut it off.

■ Always open the barbecue lid before you light it. If your barbecue doesn't fire up the first time you try it, shut it off and try it again in about 5 minutes.

■ When you're finished, shut off the propane tank as well as the barbecue.

If you have a charcoal grill, never use gasoline to kick-

start the coals. Instead, use a modest amount of charcoal lighting fluid.

■ Let the lighter fluid soak into the coals for a minute or so before lighting. This will give the explosive vapors a chance to dissipate.

■ Stand back from the coals when you ignite them, and make sure you didn't accidentally spill any fluid on yourself or any area surrounding the grill.

■ Before you light the coals, make sure you move the lighter fluid container a safe distance away from the fire.

■ If the coals start to die out, don't spray lighter fluid on them. You could end up with explosive results.

■ Always extinguish the coals when you are finished barbecuing. One safe way to do it is to don oven mitts, take the coals out of the barbecue with tongs, and submerge them in a pail of water.

Regardless of the type of grill you use, remember these general rules:

■ Make sure that the barbecue is at least 5 feet, or better yet 10 feet from the house or any other material that could catch fire. Every year we read reports of house fires started by someone barbecuing with the grill next to the house.

■ Stay with your fire from the time you first light the barbecue until you're finished cooking. Accidents can happen when you leave a barbecue unattended.

■ Always ensure the barbecue is in a safe place where children and pets won't touch or bump into it. The barbecue will still be hot even after you finish cooking, and anyone contacting the barbecue could be burned.

■ If you use a barbecue lighter, don't leave it where children can reach it.

## Commentary:

From page 3

to thank the former German Wehrmacht soldiers for their 24-hour-a-day team effort.

For almost 11 months, Americans and Germans loaded aircraft and flew food and dairy products by day and air-lifted coal, wood and other supplies by night. As in any operation, there were casualties. When a plane didn't return, the Germans of the Labor Service unit mourned as if they had lost their own in battle. Former enemies had begun to accept an odd alliance for the preservation of a common ideal — victory over oppression.

The men who flew the "Raisin Bombers" and those who supported the lifeline to Berlin will soon no longer be

with us, but their accomplishments live on in the hearts and minds of those who experienced their courage and determination. Many gray-haired Berliners still remember the planes, the candy parachutes and the confident Americans who inspired a new German generation under the umbrella of democracy.

World War II and the Berlin Airlift united the Western world under U.S. leadership. In 1948, old and emerging friends conquered the moral high ground, defeated communism and began rebuilding Europe from the ashes of a devastating war. As modern Westerners, we have an obligation to those who built friendship from the rubble of war by working for a better and more peaceful world for our children. The Berlin Airlift reminds us that sometimes winning peace requires not bombs and rockets, but moral strength and goodwill.

*Editor's Note: Colonel Zimmermann is a former U.S. Army tank battalion commander and decorated Desert Storm veteran.*

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Page 13

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U.S. Air Force photo/1st Lt. Nicole Langley

### 821st Support Squadron change of command

Maj. Dayton Nooner receives the 821st Support Squadron guidon from Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander, as he assumes command during the squadron's change-of-command ceremony June 19 at the Top of the World Club at Thule Air Base, Greenland. As support squadron commander for remote air base, Major Nooner leads more than 40 military and civilian personnel providing all civil engineering, services, communications, information management and medical support to Ballistic Missile Early Warning System radar; Detachment 3, 22nd Space Operations Squadron and international military and scientific arctic operations.

## Mission:

From page 7

and optometry. The team will also provide more than \$40,000 in pharmaceutical drugs for their Peruvian patients. To defuse the two-way language barrier, the medical team deployed 17 medics fluent in Spanish to aid doctors in diagnosing health issues and providing the quality medical care.

"We came prepared to provide the best care possible for the people of Peru," said Chief Master Sgt. Tim Healy, the Task Force New Horizons medical planner. "It took a great deal of planning, coordinating and working with Peruvian health professional to get here, but we're more than ready and look forward to treating and educating our Peruvian friends."

During the humanitarian mission, Air Force, Army and Navy medics, operating on a rotational schedule, will lead nine, three-day medical operations. They are scheduled to treat up to 750 patients per day and up to 20,000 patients over the duration of the mission.

While there are Airmen from various Air Force units participating in this rotation of the medical missions, the majority of the medical staff come from the 152nd Medical Group and the 163rd Medical Group from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., along with the 79th Medical Wing from Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

U.S. Southern Command officials sponsor approximately 70 medical missions per year, and 12th Air Force officials plan and execute about 30 of these exercises in locations through Central and South America plus additional sites throughout the Caribbean.

## Merger:

From page 1

Her awards include an Arthur S. Flemming Award in 1990, the USAF Meritorious Award for Arts and Crafts Director of the Year, 1990, the NATO Medal for Service in the Former Yugoslavia, 1997, Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, 1997, DoD Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal, 1998, Decoration for Exemplary Civilian Service, 2000, and Air Force Space Command Services Senior Civilian of the Year, 2003 and 2004.

During the re-designation ceremony, Ms. Wasche also received the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal for accomplishments

as director of the 50th Services Division from January 2003 to June 2008.

As director of the 50th Force Support Squadron, Ms. Wasche will be responsible for four flights within the squadron: Force Development, Manpower and Personnel, Airmen and Family Services and Sustainment Services. While these flights may have new names, their job remains very much the same.

"Today is a day of new beginnings," Ms. Wasche said. "Our new mission is no different than before: To provide first-class service to the Schriever population."

Ms. Wasche also called upon the personnel of the squadron to meet the challenges of the future.

"Excellence in service must and will be the hallmark for our squadron," she said.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Eric Schloeffel

An Iraqi airman performs an inspection on a Cessna June 7 at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. While Iraqi air force pilots continue flying sorties to aid stability in their nation, Iraqi maintainers on the ground have recently achieved important benchmarks to keep their fleet in the air. Airmen with the Iraqi air forces' 3rd Squadron took over a wide variety of maintenance duties on the unit's Cessna intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance fleet, a task formerly performed by U.S. contractors.

# Iraqi airmen keep fleet soaring

By Senior Airman Eric Schloeffel  
 506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

**KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq (AFP)** — While Iraqi air force pilots continue flying sorties to aid stability in their nation, Iraqi maintainers on the ground here have recently achieved important benchmarks to keep their fleet in the air.

Airmen with the Iraqi air forces' 3rd Squadron took over a wide variety of maintenance duties on the unit's Cessna intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance fleet, a task formerly performed by U.S. contractors.

"The 3rd Squadron was recently asked to transition from contracted maintenance to full Iraqi support," said Capt. Gordon Beran, the 870th Expeditionary Air Advisory Squadron combat aviation adviser. "Having the ability to take over maintenance for their new fleet is very important. It brings them one step closer to a fully autonomous Air Force."

The all-Iraqi crews currently perform level-one maintenance tasks on the Cessna 208, which includes aircraft launch and recovery, pre-flight maintenance, ground handling and aircraft servicing.

This was no simple undertaking for the Iraqi maintainers who had no prior experience with western style aircraft and limited English-speaking abilities.

"While the Cessna 208 is fairly basic, these aircraft are equipped with state-of-the-art surveillance technology found on most U.S. Air Force advanced weapon platforms," Captain Beran said. "The aircraft takes a lot of training for a pilot to operate and takes just as much for the maintainer."

"All of the maintainers here only have training that deals with Russian equipment that the old Iraqi air force used during the Saddam-era," the captain said.

To meet the challenges of maintaining an unfamiliar aircraft, the Iraqis relied heavily on their prior experience, but also worked hard to understand the endless pages of technical orders that deal with the Cessna 208. Airmen from the Coalition Air Forces Training Team — a collection of U.S. servicemembers who advise and train Iraqi Airmen — are also always on-hand to provide guidance to the maintenance crews.

Since the 3rd Squadron moved from Basra to Kirkuk a few years ago, the program has made leaps and bounds to help aid stability efforts in Iraq, Captain Beran said.

"The Cessna 208 provides overwatch for oil pipelines that run from Kirkuk to Basra, where the oil is then exported to provide revenue for Iraq," the captain said. "Aircrews have witnessed numbers of insurgents planting bombs on various pipelines and power grids, and alerted the U.S. and Iraqi army to handle the situation. These efforts show the Iraqi air force is making extremely important contributions to help stabilize their country."

The 3rd Squadron's maintainers seem to agree and believe that the maintenance transition is another piece of the pie for the Iraqi air force to achieve its goals.

"Just a few years ago, the Iraqi air force was a very small organization," said an Iraqi air force colonel who works as the 3rd Squadron chief engineer. "We now have maintainers and technicians taking control of the maintenance of our aircraft, and we're working with the Americans to learn

their maintenance rules so our Air Force can have a good future.

"The American aircraft here are very different than what the Iraqi maintainers are used to," the colonel added. "The systems, such as the global position system, are very advanced, and our aircraft in the old Iraqi air force never had such technology. But we are learning as much we can and are very happy to have this opportunity."

The 3rd Squadron Airmen have exceeded expectations and the transition has so far been deemed a success, said CAFTT maintenance experts.

"Just a few weeks ago, the squadron had an aircraft that was grounded because a part broke," Captain Beran said. "We wanted to see what solution they would come up with on their own."

The Iraqi chief engineer weighed his options and decided to transfer parts from another aircraft that had accumulated high-flight hours, and was closer to its next scheduled maintenance inspection; this process is commonly known as cross-canning. The Airmen also simultaneously placed an order for the new part.

The Iraqis then broke out their technical orders — which are all in English — and expertly repaired the Cessna 208 with virtually no help from their CAFTT counterparts, Captain Beran said.

"They got the Cessna back up in the air by their own hands so it could fly combat missions again, which is very significant," he said. "Their decision to transfer aircraft parts from one aircraft to another is a fundamental fleet management technique known as cross-canning."

The cross-canning method properly balances fleet health through flight hour management and results in more aircraft availability for counter insurgency operations, Captain Beran explained.

"This is a great example of the western influence we've been advising," the captain said. "The western influence isn't right or wrong — it's just different and new to the Iraqi air force. But their ability to grasp those concepts on their own shows the progress they've made. These guys know what they are doing."

While U.S. contractors still currently perform higher-level maintenance tasks associated with 3rd Squadron aircraft, Iraqi crews are preparing themselves for a complete transition in the near future.

To augment these efforts, the 3rd Squadron recently received 28 new airmen from Iraqi air force basic training at Camp Taji, Iraq. These airmen will begin their maintenance careers' working on the 3rd Squadron's CH-2000 and receive certifications each step of the way by their Iraqi supervisors.

These developments show a bright future for the 3rd Squadron, and the Iraqi air forces' capability to operate without the helping hand of coalition forces in the not-so-distant future, said the Iraqi colonel.

"We have come a long way in a very short time, and it keeps getting better here," he said. "We are moving step-by-step with the older guys teaching the new guys the right way to get the job done. The Iraqi air force is moving into the future very quickly."

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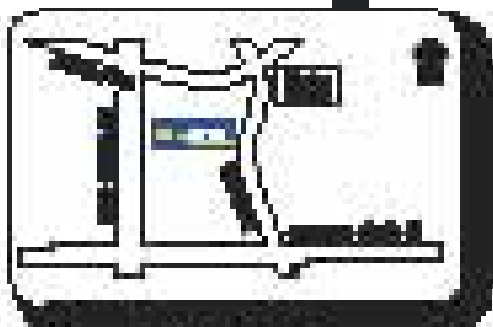




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