

SPACE OBSERVER

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Air Force's newest base readies for wing status

By Tech. Sgt. Jim Randall
821st Space Group Public Affairs

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. - For people working at Buckley, change has been the only constant during the past two years.

Oct. 1 of last year, after 40 years as an Air National Guard base, Buckley was transformed into the Air Force's newest active-duty base in 16 years, under the 821st Space Group. Now, on the one-year anniversary of that change, Buckley will become a wing of its own, the 460th Air Base Wing.

For two years Buckley has seen a flurry of activity — new offices are opening, construction abounds, and almost 300 new members have been assigned to the 821st SG — as the Air Force scrambles to provide the infrastructure needed for an air base wing. Even before the transition, the Colorado Air National Guard launched major infrastructure improvement projects at Buckley to help give the Air Force a much-needed headstart. Military construction projects totaling \$91.8 million are planned through 2007.

As a wing, Air Force officials say the 460th will be better equipped to carry out the mission of supporting local active-duty, Guardsmen, Reservists, retirees and families. Currently, the 821st is tasked with the responsibility of providing host support to more than 20 tenant organizations on and off base, such as the Air Reserve Personnel Center and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Denver.

"We're looking forward to providing improved support to the front range military community," said Col. James A. Sands, 821st Space Group commander



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Randall

Construction crews work on the \$23 million commissary and base exchange complex at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. The complex is scheduled for completion early next year.

who will command the wing following the activation. "Having an air base wing will allow us to provide better service to military families from all branches of service."

With more than 80,000 potential people to support in the surrounding area, the activation of the 460th ABW brings needed benefits for the local military community. As base host, the wing will also have overall responsibility for operating and maintaining the installation, a chore now handled by the 21st Space Wing.

Improving quality-of-life facilities and services is a top priority at Buckley, according to Sands.

Major construction projects planned for the base include:

\$23 million commissary and base exchange complex slated for completion around January 2002

\$12 million medium-sized fitness center in Fiscal Year '02

\$11.2 million second dormitory in FY '02

\$10.2 million new air base wing headquarters building in FY '03

\$12.6 million visitor quarters in FY '03

\$4.6 million civil engineering complex for the Air National Guard in FY '04

\$7.1 million upgrade in base infrastructure in FY '04

\$6.8 million new communications center in FY '05

\$9.7 million base community facilities in FY '05

\$6.2 million medical clinic expansion project in FY '05

\$7.9 million third dormitory in FY '06.

According to George Peck, vice president of the neighboring Aurora Chamber of Commerce, along with providing improved services and facilities to military people, having an air base wing should benefit the local civilian community.

"Buckley Air Force Base already contributes an estimated \$381 million annually to the local economy," said Peck. "When the wing stands up, improved services and facilities on the base will probably attract and encourage more people to shop and dine in Aurora."

Another example of how the base is impacting the local community can be found in the Buckley Housing Office. Due to the high cost of living in the surrounding area, and since there is no on-base housing for military people with dependents, Buckley recently began offering government-leased housing at two nearby apartment complexes for about 70 qualifying military families.

"This arrangement benefits everyone," said Jeff Reiboldt, housing referral office manager. "Government leasing helps eliminate many out-of-pocket expenses for families. The apartment complexes get good military renters, plus the Air Force is able to fulfill its promise to take care of people."

Labor Day safety

Brig. Gen. Bob Kehler (left), 21st Space Wing commander, hands a safety card to Tech. Sgt. Kristin Clark, 21st SW Manpower, while Tech. Sgt. Richard Hughes looks on. "This weekend is very unique since it's the last weekend of the 101 Critical Days of summer and it's a three day weekend during an ORI. Having a good time these next three days with an eye on safety, will ensure we all come back on Tuesday," said Kehler.



Photo by Airman Jessica Sanchez

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Straight Talk Line 556-9154

Call the 21st Space Wing Straight Talk Line for current information on wing events and exercises.

Message from the 21st SW commander

Twelve days into the 21st Space Wing Operational Readiness Inspection and twenty one more to go! Overall, the wing is doing very well. More than ever, we need to remain focused and vigilant, as we continue to demonstrate how well we accomplish our mission and take care of our people.

When we return from the holiday weekend, we will enter the operational readiness phase here at the Peterson Complex. I am confident you will continue to perform well as we continue to demonstrate why we are the best Space Wing in the command.

This weekend is a chance for us to relax a little and spend time with family and friends. Each one of you is very important to our success; we could not accomplish our mission without you. Enjoy the weekend, watch out for each other and please be safe. Come back to work on Tuesday rested and focused.

Brig. Gen. Bob Kehler
21st Space Wing commander

Action line

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line (556-7777 or by fax: 556-7848) is your direct link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice concerns over unsolved problems, share good ideas or provide some constructive criticism.



Brig. Gen. Bob Kehler

As a reminder, the Action Line is not a replacement for using your chain of command. Action Lines can help make the Peterson Complex and the wing a better place to live and work.

Q. On page two of the June 15 Space Observer, the article "Minor error can mean major consequences" by William Stark, chief of safety, 14th Air Force, was well written article on the use of seatbelts. Does the Service Group Life Insurance pay the beneficiary if the member was killed in an auto accident and was not using a seatbelt? Thank you.

A. Thank you for your inquiry. We asked the Office of Serviceman's Group Life Insurance to answer your question. Basically the SGLI policies are written so there are no limitations. The only caveat to SGLI payment is if the service member dies while in deserter status. In that case, no payment will be made to the beneficiary since the member was in a "no-pay" status, as a deserter. However, while SGLI will pay whether or not a seatbelt is worn, I strongly encourage the use of seatbelts. Seatbelts save lives, and while SGLI is a great benefit, no amount of money can replace a loved one. If you have any further questions concerning SGLI, please feel free to contact Senior Master Sgt. Jay Shelton at 556-6299 or the SGLI office at 1-800-419-1473.

Promising skies ahead says Chief of Staff



By Gen. Michael E. Ryan
Chief of Staff of the Air Force

From my perch, as I wrap up my final tour, I see promising skies ahead for our Air Force...and it's because of you and your efforts.

Despite tight budgets, you've arrested a stubborn four-year readiness decline. You've made our transition to an expeditionary aerospace force work, enhancing stability in the lives of Air Force members everywhere. Your direct feedback helped win Congressional support for many of our retention initiatives and the reestablishment of a full-benefit retirement system. Your voices have been heard and answered with across-the-board pay raises and targeted bonuses. You have made the personal choices to continue serving our nation, ensuring we're ready to protect America's interests around the world. Your choices, your efforts, your dedication, your sacrifices continue to build the premier aerospace power this world has ever known. My family and I have been proud to serve with you.

As General (John) Jumper assumes the office, he brings the deepest commitment to continued improvements in capability and quality of life for all our people. Together, he and Secretary (James G.) Roche, will provide superb leadership for America's Air Force in the years ahead. Thank you for your selfless service...it's the reason no one comes close!



Air Force photo

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, will soon step down after four years as Air Force Chief of Staff.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Bucher

Last Minuteman III silo destroyed

With 800 pounds of explosive force, contractors imploded Minuteman III missile silo H-22 at 11:13 a.m., Aug. 24, near Petersburg, N.D. It was the last silo of the 450 intercontinental ballistic missile force requiring destruction under the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I. The first silo implosion at the Grand Forks missile complex took place Oct. 6, 1999. Contractors imploded 13 more that year, then 86 silos in 2000, and 49 this year. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

AFSPC commander to receive enlisted corps' highest honor

By Senior Airman Shane Sharp
21st SW Public Affairs

The commander of Air Force Space Command will receive the Order of the Sword during a ceremony Sept. 28 at the Sheraton main ballroom in Colorado Springs.

"General Eberhart was nominated by the enlisted men and women of Air Force Space Command for his outstanding support of enlisted people," said Chief Master Sgt. Richard Cargill, Headquarters AFSPC first sergeant. "The command chiefs of Air Force Space Command voted on the nomination and unanimously selected General Eberhart to become the sixth Air Force Space Command member to be inducted into the Order of the Sword."

According to Chief Master Sgt. Fred Schoettler, 21st Space Wing command chief master sergeant, the honor is greatly deserved.

"General Eberhart is a strong supporter of enlisted pay increases, educa-

tional benefits, assignment progress, health and welfare, and promotion opportunities for enlisted people," said Schoettler. "He initiated the Congressional Visit Program for command chiefs to ensure our congressional representatives heard our enlisted voice.

"He directed all wings to establish monthly promotion and induction ceremonies to help recognize our people. He has also gone to bat for enlisted folks on BAH and pay reform and has presented these issues to Air Force and congressional leaders," added Schoettler.

These are just a few of the many examples of what the general has accomplished for the AFSPC enlisted force, said Schoettler.

According to Air Force Pamphlet 36-2241 (Promotion Fitness Examination Study Guide), the Order of the Sword is patterned after an order of chivalry founded during the middle

ages -- the Swedish Royal Order of the Sword. The rank of NCO was established in the early 12th century. In 1522, Swedish King Gustavus I enjoined the noblemen commissioned by him to appoint officers to serve him. The system worked so well it was incorporated into the Swedish army as a way to establish and maintain a cohesive, disciplined and well trained force. This force ensured the protection of lives and property in the kingdom.

Ancient NCOs would honor their leader and pledge their loyalty by ceremoniously presenting him with a sword. The sword -- a symbol of truth justice and power rightfully used -- served as a token for all to see and know that here was a "leader among leaders." The ceremony became known as the Royal Order of the Sword. The first recorded use of it in America was in the 1860s when Gen. Robert E. Lee was presented a

sword by his command.

The Royal Order of the Sword was revised, updated and adopted by U.S. Air Force NCOs in 1967 and is the highest honor and tribute enlisted members can bestow upon an individual.

Order of the Sword tickets

Tickets to the Order of the Sword ceremony are \$30 and can be purchased from the following points of contact:

HQ AFSPC - Staff Sgt. John Fukushima 554-5160

HQ NORAD/USSPACECOM - Staff Sgt. Elvin Sanders 554-2519
Cheyenne Mountain - Staff Sgt. Bryan Daniel 474-355

Space Warfare Center - Master Sgt. Gary Oldham 567-9018

Buckley AFB - Master Sgt. Lennie Axelson DSN 877-6843

21st Space Wing - Any 21st SW chief master sergeant

50th Space Wing - Master Sgt. Christopher Barilli 567-5714

President nominates Air Force general for top military post

WASHINGTON — Calling Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers a man of "steady resolve and determined leadership," President George W. Bush tapped the former Air Force Space Command commander to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during a news conference in Texas Aug. 24.

If confirmed by the Senate, Myers would succeed Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton as the top uniformed officer in the U.S. military, and become the first Air Force officer to hold that post since Gen. David Jones (1978-1982). Bush also nominated Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, currently commander of U.S. Southern Command, to become vice chairman, replacing Myers, who has held that position since March 2000.

Bush, speaking before reporters at his ranch near Crawford, Texas, called Myers "the right man to preserve the best traditions of our armed forces, while challenging them to innovate to meet the threats of the future. His is a skilled and steady hand."

Those sentiments were echoed by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Secretary of the Air Force James Roche.

"I've had the great fortune to work closely with Dick Myers and with General Hugh Shelton over these past few months," Rumsfeld said. "What I have come to know and expect of General Myers is candor, deliberation, judgment, keen insights, fiber and good humor. His career is the embodiment of the transformation with which he will be charged as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is a leader."

Roche spoke confidently of the general's qualifications for the job at hand.

"I am extremely proud that President Bush has decided to nominate General Richard Myers to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Roche

said. "His long service to our country and extensive knowledge and broad range of experience of command in important geographic and regional assignments will ably serve the president and Secretary Rumsfeld as we proceed into a new era.

"The entire Air Force is proud to have one of our own nominated to this high position of trust and responsibility representing all our men and women in uniform," Roche said. "Should he be confirmed, I look forward to serving with him as we ensure our armed forces remain the best in the world."

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, said that Myers possesses all the right qualities to help the U.S. armed forces remain the very best in the world.

"I've known and worked with General Dick Myers for over two decades ... I'm both personally and professionally pleased to see his nomination as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Ryan said. "He is a man of great integrity, combat proven, with an extremely sharp mind. His operational command expertise circles the globe and spans into space. His experience reaches into the political realm as the assistant to the chairman working closely with the secretary of state.

"With all these credentials, he is still as down to earth as the Harley he drives, the sheep dogs he owns, or the TR6 (car) he has rebuilt," Ryan said. "He and Mary Jo are a couple who have given their lives to the service of our country. As the vice chairman he has earned the trust, respect and confidence of the administration, Congress and each of the services. If confirmed, I am confident he will make a superb chairman."

Myers is a 1965 graduate of Kansas State University and a veteran of the Vietnam War with more than 600 combat flying hours. He said he is



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael D. Noel II

Gen. Richard B. Myers (left) and President George W. Bush talk to reporters Aug. 24 after the president nominated Myers to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. If confirmed by the Senate, Myers would succeed Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, who retires in September.

ready to roll up his sleeves and get to work, building the kind of military envisioned by Bush — one that will meet "current obligations and emerging threats."

"If confirmed," Myers said, "I very much look forward to remaining part of this terrific defense team, captained by a dedicated and principled secretary of defense."

Myers joined the Air Force in June 1965 and has seen a variety of assignments, ranging from squadron and wing commander to inspector general. Before taking the position of vice chairman of the JCS, he served as commander in chief of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, and commander of U.S. Space Command.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

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Worldwide case lot sale set for Sept. 8-9 at commissary

By Beth Settle
DeCA Public Affairs Officer

Mark your calendars. From Minot, N.D., to Del Rio, Texas, commissaries worldwide will participate in a massive case lot sale Sept. 8-9. Commissaries that are normally closed Sundays will have their case lot sales Sept. 7-8.

"When we hold commissary focus groups, 'When's the next case lot sale?' is a question young, active duty members invariably ask," said Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter, Jr., director, Defense Commissary Agency.

"It's one of the things they associate with commissaries, and it's really a big deal to them. When they tell us what they want, we listen."

Already one of the top two military benefits, DeCA is taking its mission of sales and savings to the next level. The worldwide case lot sale will feature everything from canned goods to paper goods, and a few items in between.

"We'll have diapers, cereal, juices, soups, and health and beauty items as well," said Robert Vitikacs, chief of DeCA's grocery buying division.

"We're just beginning to firm up the shopping list."

According to the latest market basket survey, utilizing the commissary benefit saves

shoppers 29.2 percent on their overall grocery basket. Case lot pricing can increase the savings significantly.

Participating manufacturers know they will sell a high volume of product in a short time, so they can offer lower-than-normal prices for case lot sales.

"Commissaries have been holding local case lot sales on a store-by-store basis for years, and customers tell us they love them, so we're excited about the possibilities for this worldwide event," said Vitikacs.

"We're trying to attract new customers as well, particularly single service members and guard and reserve members who might not be using their commissary benefit regularly."

"While shoppers are saving additional money during the case lot sale, we also want them to look around inside their commissary for all the improvements and conveniences we've added," said Courter.

"We always offer a wide range of groceries on sale. When people shop more often they

get some great deals. We want our customers to know that the commissary isn't just their 'pay day' store. It's their 'every day' store."

Customers can read more about the case lot sale on the new www.commissaries.com Web site.

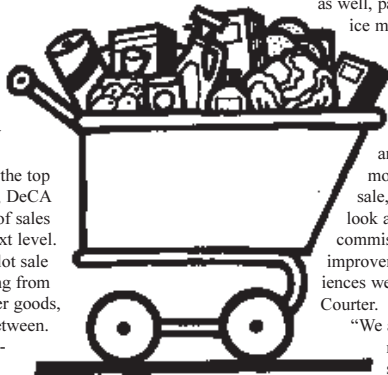


Photo courtesy of Air Force Print News

The F-22 is an air-superiority fighter with improved capability over current USAF aircraft. The successful completion of a live-fire test recently demonstrated the effectiveness of changes made during the design phase.

Raptor passes live-fire test

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The successful F-22 Raptor live-fire test Aug. 22

completes one more objective toward operational deployment of the Air Force's newest fighter airplane.

Testing, conducted as if the aircraft was in flight and had been hit by an anti-aircraft artillery round, was used to evaluate the structural design of the F-22, program officials here said.

Computer-controlled hydraulic jacks pushed against the wings to simulate flight loads of a maneuvering airplane. A battery of jet engines blew high-velocity air across the wing and the fuel tanks were filled with fuel.

Glenn Miller, deputy director of the F-22 System Program Office, said he was very pleased with the test.

"The F-22 performed as we expected," Miller said.

"We use these tests to confirm the ability of the F-22 to withstand combat-induced damage. Survivable designs mean reduced loss of aircraft and more importantly our pilots in combat."

The test facility looked like a combination of a science laboratory and Hollywood movie set with cameras and banks of lights. High-speed photography captured the results of the high-explosive incendiary round hitting the aircraft. It will be viewed in slow motion to see the detailed effects of the exploding round. Testers also collected numerous other measurements to aid in understanding test results

The explosive bullet generated a shock wave that traveled through the fuel and imparted loads on the wing's skin and internal structure. A portion of the wing skin deformed into the air stream and then ripped off, test officials said. The damaged wing remained largely intact because of unique features of the F-22 wing design. This limited structural damage would enable a pilot to fly the airplane home.

Additional tests will be conducted in the next several weeks to determine the remaining flight capability of the damaged wing, officials said. These tests will apply even higher flight loads.

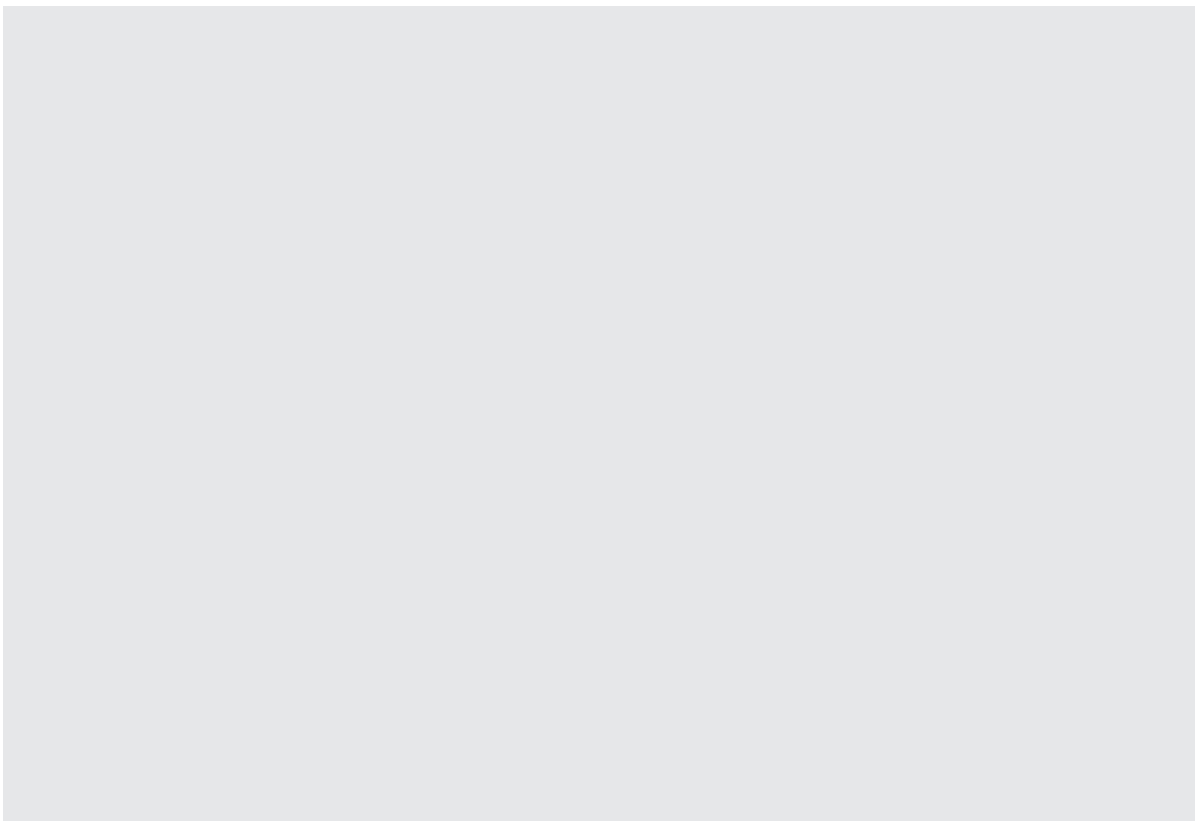
A joint team led by the F-22 system program office at the Aircraft Survivability Research Facility here conducted the test. The test team consisted of members of the 46th Test Wing Detachment, assisted by the F-22 prime contractor, Lockheed Martin, and the designer and builder of the aircraft's wings, Boeing.

The F-22 has completed several live-fire tests since the beginning of the F-22 design phase. Prototypes of portions of the airplane were shot with explosive bullets. These tests provided Lockheed and Boeing designers with data needed to refine usage of new materials and construction techniques. These earlier tests led to several design changes. This test demonstrated the effectiveness of some of these changes.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



21st SW GSU's around the world



CPTS develops new Web site

The 21st Comptroller Squadron has developed a new customer service Web site to better serve customers at Peterson Air Force Base and GSUs worldwide. Customers now have immediate access to a wide variety of financial services and information online.

Military and civilian pay customers will be able to obtain information about pay and travel pay policies and procedures. Improved access to inprocessing and outprocessing entitlements is available. Customers will also be able to download many finance forms and the directions to properly fill out those forms.

In addition, the site has links to military and civilian pay tables, per diem rates, and retirement/separations entitlements. There is even a hot topics area that finance uses to address high-priority issues.

For 21st Space Wing financial managers, the base budget office section contains training modules and other information to assist resource advisors. They will post training updates and information about pressing issues on the site. The accounting liaison office also has training sites and information about closeout procedures.

According to the 21st CPTS, their goal is to provide customers the most timely, accurate and responsive financial support possible. This new web site will allow customers to access information and assistance without leaving work or making phone calls.

To view the site, click on the 21 CPTS button on Petecentral under units or go to <https://halfway.peterson.af.mil/21sw/21cpts/index.htm>.

(Courtesy of the 21st Comptroller Squadron)

DoD still monitoring Code Red 'worm' virus

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — DoD continues to monitor its fortified computer systems for the Code Red "worm" virus and its variants, the Pentagon's chief information officer said Aug. 24.

John P. Stenbit, assistant secretary of defense for command, control, communications and intelligence said Code Red denial-of-service attacks against DoD computer systems appear to have been mitigated for now.

DoD's efforts against information warfare threats presented by viruses such as Code Red are centered in Washington and at U.S. Space Command, which has computer system defense as one of its missions.

"The general (Gen. Ed Eberhart) who is in charge of Space Command has a second duty of information manager, (and) there is an operations center here in town," said Stenbit, who was sworn into office Aug. 7. He noted that DoD has bolstered its anti-information warfare efforts in recent years.

"The comparison with how the Pentagon deals with that kind of problem today compared with three or four years ago is enormously positive," he added, citing the increased danger.

In dealing with Code Red, Stenbit said, DoD computer system guardians "discovered all the normal things that happen when you start to do defensive issues and you shut down certain gateways to protect yourself."

The virus first attacked July 19 and infected more than 250,000 systems in just nine hours. Known as a "worm," Code Red scans the Internet for vulnerable systems and attempts to infect them. The spread of the virus can shut down entire computer systems.

DoD officials identified the July 19 attack and directed publicly accessible military Web sites to cut their connections to the public. Defense computer network administrators also began installing special programs, or "patches," that prevent the virus from spreading. The network went back on line July 24.

The virus, which began mutating, attacked again July 31, but DoD technicians had already patched systems in anticipation of another Code Red foray.

JACS needs volunteers for community mentors

By Chris Setti
JACS Regional Director

Do you remember when you were between the ages of 16 and 24? It was a time of transition: you graduated from high school, began college, joined the military, got your first "real" job. Hopefully, you had caring, responsible adults to whom you could turn for advice and guidance.

At Joint Action Community Service, we are looking for just such a group of

adults to help young people get through their own transition. All of the youth at JCS have graduated from Job Corps, an intensive residential job-training program. These young people often come from difficult backgrounds, but all attend Job Corps in order to become successful. Returning home is not without its difficulties. The transition from a rigorous program to independence is made easier when young people can rely on the community for support.

JACS is looking for dedicated volunteers from the Peterson Air Force Base community to serve as community mentors for Job Corps graduates returning or relocating to the Colorado Springs area. Community mentors serve as caring advisors, concerned friends and positive influences for a young person trying to

succeed in the community. Through brief monthly contacts, mentors ensure that Job Corps graduates know the community supports them.

Community support is a key ingredient in these young people's recipe for success. Whatever obstacles these students faced before attending the program, they make the

choice to go to Job Corps and truly accomplish something by graduating.

For a commitment of about an hour a month, you can make a difference in the life of a young adult. If you would like to learn more about being a JACS community mentor, call (800) 852-8988 or e-mail csetti@doleta.gov.

Coalition forces strike Iraqi command, control sites

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — In response to recent Iraqi hostile threats against coalition aircraft monitoring the southern no-fly zone, Operation Southern Watch coalition aircraft used precision-guided weapons Aug. 28 to strike command and control sites in southern Iraq.

Target battle damage assessment is ongoing.

Coalition strikes in the no-fly zones are executed as a self-defense measure in response to Iraqi hostile threats and acts against coalition forces and their aircraft. If Iraq were to cease its threatening actions, coalition strikes would cease as well, U.S. Central Command officials said.

The last coalition strike in the southern no-fly zone was against an Iraqi mobile early warning radar system Aug. 25.

To date, there have been

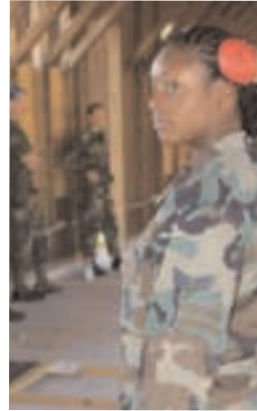
more than 1,010 separate incidents of Iraqi surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft artillery fire directed against coalition aircraft since December 1998, including more than 375 in 2001. Iraqi aircraft violated the southern no-fly zone more than 160 times during the same period.

Coalition aircraft never target civilian populations or infrastructure and go to painstaking lengths to avoid injury to civilians and damage to civilian facilities, officials said.

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Above: Shooters carry their own targets down range in preparation for the qualification round. **Below:** Combat Arms instructor Staff Sgt. Angela Saucier shows students how to shoot from the kneeling position.



Left: Block captain Airman 1st Class Andrea Lindsey keeps an eye on the line before giving the ok to move forward. **Below:** Combat arms instructor Staff Sgt. Jeremy Kunze discusses a 9mm handgun issue with a security forces member.



Peterson combat arms instructor Staff Sgt. Robert Smith checks the line to make sure all is safe.



FIRE!! 10 SFS Combat arms instructors, section hosts military-wide 9mm handgun competition

Story and Photos
By Master Sgt D.K. Grant
21st SW Public Affairs

“Two shots, from the holster. Six seconds. Is the line ready...the line IS ready. Fire.”

Military combat arms isn't like things you see on television. Instructors and evaluators don't say “ready, aim, fire” and in the Air Force, nobody runs round with their sidearm drawn. In fact, it's loud but calm at the 10th Security Forces Squadron's combat arms firing range, U.S. Air Force Academy. Even seasoned shooters, like security forces and OSI, wait for the commands and respond by-the-numbers.

According to assistant noncommissioned officer in charge Staff Sgt. Angela Saucier, creating an enjoyable classroom environment and a valuable shooting experience is important, but weapons are

not toys and people put themselves in danger when they “play around” with the weapons.

Safety is top priority for the team, she explained. It has to be. The unit trains more than 300 people per month from USAFA, Peterson Air Force Base, Schriever Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain, and Fort Carson. Thanks in part to strictly adhering to safety and proper procedure, they have a 93 percent qualification rate.

“If you listen and apply the information – think about what we say and turn it around so that you can use it – you're going to do well,” Saucier tells her classes.

In addition to providing combat arms training for the Colorado Springs military community, the unit is involved in various duty-related activities.

Sept. 19-20, the 10th SFS Combat Arms Flight Section will sponsor “Excellence in Competition,” a 9mm handgun competition. The

shooting event is open to all active duty military members, Reservists and Guardsmen, regardless of career field, nationwide.

Medals – and a badge which may be worn on the uniform – will be presented to those who meet the minimum score of 270 points, and who are in the top 10 percent of scorers.

“It's a great morale-builder,” Saucier explained, adding that other bases – if they have shooting ranges and combat arms representatives – can sponsor such events. All such events help competitors earn points toward higher-level awards, like the Distinguished Pistol Badge.

Shooters can sign up for the competition (for which there is no entry fee) by contacting the project officer, Staff Sgt. John Neeley, at 333-4449. If he's unavailable, ask for Combat Arms NCOIC Tech. Sgt. David Nuessle or another instructor.

Today

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Family Advocacy Center.
- Win cash at the clubs in the membership big money drawing.
- Yoga, 12:05 p.m. at the Fitness Center.

Saturday

- Bowling Center open, 3-11 p.m.

Sunday

- Bowling Center closed.

Monday

- Family Advocacy Center closed.
- Bowling Center closed.
- Aero Club Center closed.
- Fitness Center open, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Youth Center closed.

Tuesday

- The NAF Resale Store is open, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 556-4876 for details.
- Sponsorship training, 7:30-8:45 a.m. at the Family Support Center. The training is required for all military and civilian sponsors.
- A Keystone Club meeting, 6 p.m. at the Youth Center.
- Karate, 5-7:30 p.m. at the Youth Center.
- Wallyball tournament runs through

Thursday at the Fitness Center.

Wednesday



Photo by Amn. Jessica Sanchez

Air Force 2

Air Force 2 was on the Peterson Air Force Base flightline Aug. 23 recruiting for all crew positions, including flight attendants, communications systems operators and pilots. Air Force 2 is responsible for the transportation of the nations leadership, such as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Vice President, the First Lady as well as many other dignitaries.

- Promotion party, Enlisted Club, 3:30 p.m.

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.

- Story time, 10 a.m. at the Library.
- Girl Scout recruiting, 6-8 p.m. at the Chapel.

Thursday

- Karate, 5-7:30 p.m. at the Youth Center.
- Job orientation class, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center.
- Career marketing class, 8 a.m.-noon at the Family Support Center.

Sept. 7

- Win cash at the clubs in the membership big money drawing.
- Yoga, 12:05 p.m. at the Fitness Center.
- Fun run, 11:30 a.m. at the Technical Support Facility, Cheyenne Mountain.
- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Family Advocacy Center.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy Center 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers' Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support Center 556-6141
- Chapel 556-4442

Community Notes

Community News

TAILGATE PARTY: The 21st Space Wing tailgate parking spot is open to anyone who wishes to use it for all home games including the season opener against Oklahoma.

For details, call 556-7917. The pass is a first-come, first-served basis.
KRISPY KREME SALE: The Pikes Peak Chapter of the Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program will have a Krispy Kreme Donut sale at the base exchange Sept. 15, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For details, call 554-6029.

ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER EMPLOYMENT: The next meeting for the Asian American/Pacific Islander Employment Program will be Sept. 12, 3 p.m., in the Military Personnel Flight building's atrium.

For details, call Yong Sharp at 567-4501.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION: The El Paso County Household Chemical Waste Collection Program will collect items such as cleaning products and automotive products.

Items will be collected Sept. 7, 1-4 p.m., and Sept. 8, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Only senior citizens are allowed to drop off items on Sept. 7.

Volunteers are needed both days. Lunch will be provided. For details on volunteering, call 575-8450.

FINANCE WEBSITE: The 21st Comptroller Squadron has a new finance website. The address is <https://halfway.peterson.af.mil/21SW/21CPTS/Index.htm>

OFFICERS' WIVES CLUB: The

Peterson Officers' Wives Club will have an ice cream social Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m. at the Officers' Club.

For details, call Ginny Reeves at 338-7936.

Youth Center

INDOOR SOCCER: The Youth Center is accepting registrations for indoor soccer through Sept. 14.

To register, contact Les Stewart at 556-7220.

FLAG FOOTBALL: Flag football registrations will be accepted through Nov. 5.

To register, contact Les Stewart at 556-7220.

COACHES CLINIC: There will be a coaches clinic for the indoor soccer season Sept. 24, 6 p.m., at the Youth Center.

PUNT, PASS, KICK: The Punt, Pass and Kick will be Sept. 22, 9:30 a.m., at the youth baseball fields.

Volunteer Opportunity

RED CROSS: The Red Cross needs a volunteer to serve as a records chairman in the Peterson Air Force Base office.

Volunteers must have computer knowledge and be available one day a week.

For details, call 556-7590.

YOUNG MARINES: The Colorado Springs Chapter of the Young Marines is looking for volunteers from any service to instruct and support young adults in the program.

For details or to volunteer, call

Jo Ann or Vern Bowen at 596-7817.

PLAYGROUND: The Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Division, along with local charities, needs volunteers to help build a playground.

The "Fantasy Playground", located in Cottonwood Creek Park, will be built Sept. 14-17.

For details, call Nikki Laughlin at 556-9268.

Scholarships

TOP-3 SCHOLARSHIPS: The Space Top-3 is offering \$500 scholarships to qualified junior enlisted members.

For details, call Master Sgt. Samuel McLean at 554-3707.

Vote

ON BASE VOTING: The base voting officer reminds everyone that state elections are coming up.

To find out what elections are happening in different states, log on to the Federal Voting Assistance website at www.fvap.ncr.gov.

Recreational Classes

FRAMING CLASS: The Community Activities Center will have a framing class Sept. 12 and 19, 5-9 p.m.

There is a \$25 fee and you must be at least 13 years old.

For details, call 556-1732.

FLY TYING CLASS: Outdoor Recreation will have a fly tying class Sept. 12, 1 p.m.

There is a \$10 fee and you must be registered by Sept. 10.

For details, call 556-4876.

Chapel Schedule

Protestant Services

Liturgical Worship
8:15 a.m.

Traditional Sunday
Worship

11 a.m.

Gospel Services

12:30 p.m.

Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

Catholic Services

Mass

Weekdays

11:35 a.m.

Saturdays

5 p.m.

Sundays

9:30 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturdays

4 p.m.

Religious Education

Adult and

pre K-12th grade

Sundays

8:30 a.m.

EEO complaint process often misunderstood

By Hazel Lowe
EEO manager

The Equal Employment Opportunity complaint process

is fraught with misunderstanding and, as a result, many myths have arisen that have further fueled confusion

regarding what EEO is all about.

The most egregious myth is that the EEO system only

applies to women and minorities. In reality, the EEO complaint program covers all appropriated and non-appropriated fund employees: supervisory and non-supervisory, male and female, minority and non-minority.

Another pernicious myth is that the EEO counselor determines whether a contested action constitutes discrimination. The truth is, the EEO counselor's role is to attempt to resolve complaints on a "win-win" basis at the lowest possible level. In fact, EEO case law specifically prohibits the counselor from determining the merits of complaints.

There are too many other misconceptions to discuss here. Instead, let's succinctly discuss what EEO is all about.

The EEO complaint process is statutorily based. Statutes that govern EEO include Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. These laws prohibit employers from making employment decisions based on (usually stereotypical ideas) race, color, religion, age (over 40), sex, national origin or disability. In fact, these laws require that employees' sincerely held religious beliefs, as well as disabling conditions, be reasonably accommodated. The laws also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against employees who have

participated in the EEO process, or those who may oppose any unlawful employment practices. EEO is the law. Therefore, discrimination on any or a combination of these named bases is illegal.

Employees who feel they have been discriminated against based on any of the previously mentioned bases have a statutory right to file a complaint without fear of reprisal, coercion or harassment. Such employees must make contact with an EEO counselor within 45 days of the discriminatory action.

At the pre-complaint informal level, every attempt is made to resolve the issue. Alternate Dispute Resolution is highly recommended by the Air Force because it has been a very successful method of resolving conflicts of all sorts. However, if complaints are not resolved, complainants have the right to file a formal complaint, which involves an investigation by the Office of Complaint Investigations, a DoD agency.

It is important to note that complainants have several appellate steps about which they are informed as the process progresses. The process can be time-consuming, frustrating and quite costly to everyone involved. Therefore, it bears mentioning that resolving complaints as early as possible is in everyone's best interest.

For further information, please contact the Peterson Complex EEO Manager at 556-7564.

Submit your articles to the Space Observer

Articles must be received at least 10 days prior to the date you want them to appear in the Space Observer.

Articles can be e-mailed to
shane.sharp@peterson.af.mil or melanie.epperson@peterson.af.mil.

Call 556-7846 for more information.

Intramural softball crowns champions

By Senior Airman
Josh Clendenen
21st SW Public Affairs

Air Force Space Command took the hopes of championship gold away from the Air Force Materiel Command in the intramural softball championships Aug. 16.

AFSPC won the game with a score of 15-14. The victory didn't come easy to the team however.

"We defeated AFMC in the playoffs 20-10 and lost to them in the first game 16-6," said Vincent Childress, AFSPC team member.

Space command scored the winning run in the seventh securing them the victory.

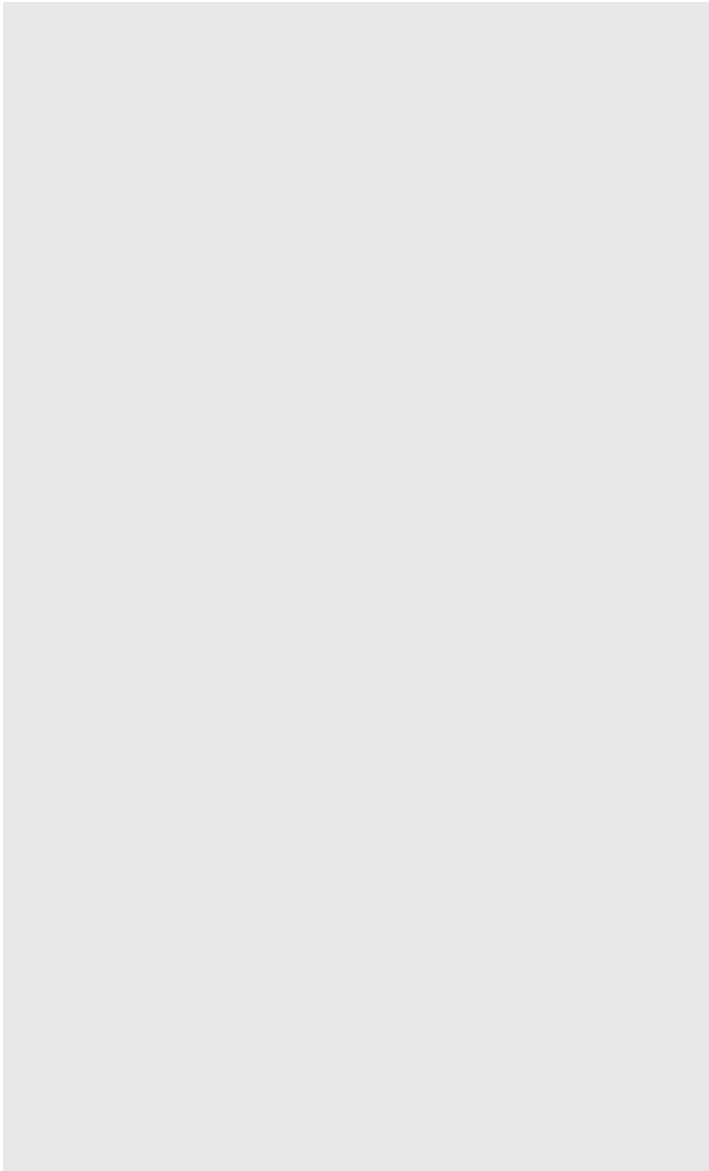


Photos By Chris Hicks

A team member from the Air Force Materiel Command team sends one toward the fence in the championship game.



An Air Force Space Command short-stop fields a ball and attempts to make a double-play.



An Air Force Space Command member runs up to field a pop-fly.



An Air Force Space Command batter sends a drive toward center field.

Sports

Shorts

Fun Run - Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station is holding a 5K fun run Sept. 7. Cost is \$1 per person, and race time is 11:30 a.m. Meet in front of the technical support facility.

Flag football - Game times are between 5 and 8 p.m. Deadline for registration is Sept. 3., and cost is \$25 per team.

POW/MIA Fun Run - The run is scheduled for Sept. 14. Cost is \$10 per person for those who want a shirt or \$1 just to run. Shirts are limited. For more information, call 556-1515.

Volleyball Tournament - Game times are between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sept. 17-20. Cost is \$10 per 8-man roster team, and deadline for registration is Sept. 10.

Bike Ride - Meet in front of the fitness center Sept. 21 for a 10K bike ride. Cost is \$1 per person, and helmets are required.

Wallyball Tournament - Game times for the 4-on-4 wallyball tournament Sept. 24-27 are between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Cost is \$10 per team, and deadline for registration is Sept. 17.

Coaches meeting - A flag football coaches meeting will be held Sept. 10 at noon in gym 2.

Challenge patches - Earn 14er Challenge patches, one for each of the 56 Colorado peaks on the climbing wall.

Yoga - Class meets every Friday at 12:05 p.m. Wear comfortable clothing so you can stretch freely and build strength and flexibility.



Photo courtesy of Air Force Sports

Brandon Jones controls the ball during the men's soccer exhibition.

Air Force Academy defeats Brigham Young, 1-0, in men's soccer

The Air Force men's soccer team won its third consecutive exhibition game Saturday with a 1-0 victory over Brigham Young University at the Cadet Soccer Stadium.

Freshman Marcus Sagastume scored the only goal of the game, his second of the preseason, to give the Falcons the win. He took a cross off a corner kick by junior Tom Clark and beat BYU goalie John Morris in the 15th minute. It was one of only three shots taken by Air Force

in the first half. BYU had seven shots, including five on goal, in the first half.

The Falcons came out strong in the second half, producing 11 total shots and six on goal, all saved by Morris. Air Force goalie senior Mike Brophy only faced one shot on goal in the second stanza, and made six saves in the game.

Air Force opens its regular season today at the Fila Cup in Los Angeles against Loyola Marymount.

(Courtesy of Air Force Sports)

Tops In Blue performs in Colorado Springs

The 2001 Tops In Blue team presented "The Magic of Music," Aug. 17 at Sky Sox Stadium, entertaining a crowd of about 1,400 people.

The team took center stage for an hour and a half, guiding onlookers on a tour of yesterday and today's Broadway, pop and dance music. The show culminated in a patriotic rendition of "God Bless The U.S.A."

"Tops In Blue is the Air Force's premier entertainment showcase," said Tom Edwards, show producer and chief of Air Force Entertainment. "The new 2001 team is a reflection of the 'best of the best' performers throughout the Air Force."

The 2001 team will visit more than 120 locations and perform 125 shows in the United States and 20 foreign countries. The night was sponsored by AT&T and First Command.



Photos by Margie Arnold

Tops In Blue performers lit up the stage in their rhinestone suits during a song-and-dance routine.



Audience members were invited on stage to participate in a little hula hoop nostalgia.



The High Frontier Honor Guard presented the colors while Tops in Blue opened the evening with "The Star Spangled Banner."