



S P A C E OBSERVER

Serving Team 21 and its Global Mission
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Thy cup runneth over

Harvest reaps nearly half-a-million pounds

By Master Sgt. D.K. Grant
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

More than 65,000 people in Southern Colorado will be able to eat for at least the next three months thanks to help from the children of El Paso County, and 150-plus Peterson Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain and Schriever Air Force Base military and civilian volunteers and their family members.

The 11th Annual KRDO/Care and Share Harvest of Love food drive, conducted in early November, garnered 482,000 pounds; 38,000 pounds more than last year's total. That was a phenomenal accomplishment in light of the financial difficulties faced by so many people this year, said Care and Share Food Bank representative Scottie Bibb.

Peterson Complex has supported the drive for the past nine years, providing vehicles and volunteers to serve in various roles. The 21st Transportation Squadron provided half-a-dozen trucks every day for six days, and members of the unit also volunteered to work more than half of the drive.

That wasn't surprising considering Peterson support began nearly a decade ago with a handful of transportation folks and a couple of trucks. From a small, squadron effort, the drive has blossomed into a full-force community relations program supported by three installations and blessed by the installation commander.

The drive begins when the Care and Share staff sends invitations to participate to local schools. Participating schools then begin collecting food. By the time Peterson gets involved in mid-November, elementary, middle and junior high schools throughout the county have collected – literally – truckloads of food, which must be transported to the food bank warehouse near I-25 and Garden of the Gods.

That's where Peterson, Cheyenne Mountain and Schriever come in. Pickup teams, which include a mini-



Photo by Capt. Don Kerr

Peterson Complex volunteers sort donated food items and prepare it to be packed for distribution throughout southern Colorado. Volunteers participated during the Annual KRDO/Care and Share Harvest of Love food drive. For more photos, see page 9.

um of two people, take Air Force trucks to schools throughout El Paso County, load the food donations, haul it to the warehouse north of town, and help unload it in 5-foot-tall bins in the warehouse yard. After their trucks are unloaded, they repeat the process until the day's school pickup schedules are exhausted (and usually, so are the volunteers).

Once food has been unloaded at the warehouse, it's weighed and moved into the repack room. There, more Peterson Complex volunteers sort the food (to ensure variety) and

repack it for distribution to other support agencies throughout 31 southern Colorado counties. It is at those agencies that people in need have access to the food.

Peterson involvement, according to the Care and Share operations director Dave Skeel, saves the food bank countless dollars in transportation and labor costs – money that is desperately needed to help feed the needy, he said. Volunteers save the agency approximately \$16 per volunteer hour, according to food bank literature. So, Peterson's 150 volunteers, over the six-

day period, saved the food bank approximately \$10,900 in labor costs. When translated into number of pounds of food that much money can buy, that equals about 109,000 pounds of food. That doesn't even include what the agency would have to pay to rent large enough vehicles to transport the nearly half-a-million-pounds of food collected by county school children.

Care and Share needs volunteers year-round, so those who were unable to support the Harvest of Love can volunteer by calling 528-1247, or on line at www.careandshare.org.

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Straight Talk Line 556-9154

Call the 21st Space Wing Straight Talk Line for current information on real-world wing events.

SECAF discusses priorities during European trip

By Master Sgt. Joe Bela
U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Discussing his four priorities for fiscal 2002 during a visit here Nov. 23, Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche addressed issues concerning today's airmen and his take on the future of the Air Force.

This was the last stop for Roche, who toured several U.S. Air Forces in Europe installations during a five-day trip, which included visits to Aviano Air Base, Italy; Incirlik AB, Turkey; and Tuzla AB in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A proponent of positive change, Roche said his first priority is people, and that includes a continued commitment to tackling retention issues, especially among career airmen with 13 to 15 years of service.

"Why are we losing people at a point where, in a few more years, they could have a pension? Something is not right there," said Roche. "I'm trying to understand this, and it's one of the reasons why we're devoting much attention to quality-of-life and family housing issues.

"We certainly want to learn more about what drives a family to want to leave (the Air Force) at that point," he said. "Certainly, a booming economy during the last few years has drawn away some of our most talented people."

The economy has stabilized, said Roche, and now "we have to focus on what makes Air Force life 'not' what it ought to be. We're taking this very seriously in both enlisted and officer ranks."

One way to attract and retain people is to improve quality-of-life facilities and services, said Roche.

"When you invest in quality of life,

you retain highly qualified people," he said.

"Let's say we lose someone with 14 years of experience as a radar technician," Roche said. "It will take us another 14 years to adequately replace that person. So from an economic standpoint, improving quality of life is a sensible investment."

Roche said another priority on his list focuses on strategy and the force structure. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and Roche are trying to formulate a suitable plan.

"Of course, this process has been accelerated drastically since the events (terrorist attacks) in September," he said. "Now we have to deal with something we never anticipated — homeland defense.

"This ties up aircrews and airplanes in the states every single day," Roche said. "The Guard and Reserves do most of this work. That means these folks are not available to help us with our overseas rotations."

Ultimately, the air expeditionary force is being strained, he said.

Roche said the Air Force is trying to understand how events like the terrorist attacks in New York and at the Pentagon will affect the AEF concept over the long haul.

"How do we keep this up for one year, for two years, without destroying the AEF concept? That's something General Jumper and I will have to solve as soon as we can," he said.

Efficiency is one priority the secretary believes is right on track.

"In the case of USAFE operations, it's one of the biggest 'pickup basketball games' I've ever seen," said Roche.

"We've got airmen from here; we've got airmen from there. We've got some Guard, some Reserve and a lot of active-duty people coming from differ-



Courtesy photo

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche visits with Senior Airman Barbara Tayama (center) and Staff Sgt. Carolyn Scarbrough, shortly after his arrival at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, on Nov. 21 for a three-day visit to spend Thanksgiving with the Incirlik community. Tayama and Scarbrough are residents of the base's "Tent City."

ent units at different periods of time to serve a function.

"Managing people as well as assets and aircraft is a huge operation, and I'm far from suggesting how we can make it more efficient. It's really rather awesome that it works," he said.

"My worry is that we can't answer the basic questions from some of our people," he said. "Questions like 'I'm already on rotation, will I have some time before I deploy again?' and 'When will stop-loss end?'"

"We've mobilized 42,000 Reserve and Guard, when will they be released? These questions are unanswerable at the moment, he said. "This is not a matter of typical efficiency, but a matter of making sure we employ the right talent and not mobilize people to fill the 'box.'"

Addressing his final priority —

innovation and reform — Roche said maintaining a high degree of competence and pride is the key.

He said the only way this can exist in an organization is if the leadership team, all the way down to the first-line supervisor, the noncommissioned officer, has that same philosophy.

"I'm struck by the fact that our airmen understand they're doing something that needs to be done. They feel they're doing something that's worthwhile and it shows," he said.

"It's a sensible caring for each other. Leaders need to worry about the folks who work for them," said the secretary. "The classic way of military thinking — 'My mission, my people, my self' — that has to continue. It's clear it's there; it's not broken. Don't fix it; just encourage it." (Courtesy of USAFE News Service)

Action line

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line (556-7777 or fax 556-7848) is your direct link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice concerns over problems, share good ideas or provide some constructive criticism. The Action Line is not a replacement for the chain of command. They can help make the Peterson and the wing a better place to live and work.



Brig. Gen. Bob Kehler

Q: Why aren't the children allowed to use the Child Development Center playground? An individual at the front desk said the children aren't allowed to use the playground due to force protection. What is the reasoning or logic behind that and where did that direction come from? If it's true, where are the children supposed to play? Thank you.

A: We definitely share your concern for the welfare of the children and staff at the Child Development Center.

When we went back into Force Protection Condition Charlie, the CDC staff implemented this established checklist item in order to ensure the safety and security of the children under their care. We relaxed this requirement once we determined it was passable, and the children are back on their normal playground schedule. If you have any further questions regarding the CDC, contact Steve Canales, Family Member Program Flight Chief, at 556-4883.

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21st Space Wing Commander

Brig. Gen. Bob Kehler
Chief of Public Affairs

Capt. Donald B. Kerr
Superintendent

Master Sgt. D.K. Grant
Newspaper Staff

Staff Sgt. Melanie Epperson

Senior Airman

Josh Clendenen

2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

Senior Airman Shane Sharp



Courtesy photos



Hearts Apart

Top: Volunteers from the 21st Space Wing and the Armed Services YMCA serve chili, nachos, desserts and refreshments at the recent "Hearts Apart Family Fun Night," held at the Garden Ranch YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region on Montebello Drive. Hosted by the Peterson Air Force Base Family Support Center and the Armed Services YMCA, the night of food and activities was put on for family members of deployed or remotely assigned personnel from Peterson, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station and Schriever AFB. The "night out" was an opportunity for over 100 people in similar situations to sit and talk, enjoy a free meal and participate in activities provided by the YMCA. Volunteers spent time preparing the facility, serving food and watching over the children. Activities included various games, swimming, basketball and jumping and sliding down a giant inflatable pirate ship. At left, children and adults alike, (anxiously await) second helpings of nachos and chili.

Having pay problems? Call personnel center

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- Air Force personnel officials are asking all airmen with pay or bonus payment problems to call the Air Force Personnel Center's contact center by Dec. 7.

As the Air Force's internal tax reporting deadline approaches, personnel officials want to ensure airmen have received all their pay and entitlements so they are not faced with problems when tax season rolls around.

Officials want to make sure they have enough time to work with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to resolve all cases in time for this tax year.

Common problems may include initial enlistment or re-enlistment bonuses, special or incentive pay, or problems with regular pay.

"We've been working airmen's issues hard with DFAS, and we want to make sure we've heard from everyone with a problem," said Lt. Col. David Zeh,

chief of the contact center.

"It's important that we identify any remaining members and try to resolve their cases by early December so DFAS has time to update their pay records," said Lt. Col. Thomas Major, chief of the finance division at the Air Force's accounting and finance office.

"This will ensure everyone's end-of-year leave and earnings statement and W-2 form are accurate since bonus pay is taxable in the calendar year it is paid, not in the year the entitlement is earned," Major said.

People who do not receive their bonus payment this calendar year may receive double payments next year, which can result in a higher tax bracket, officials said.

People can reach the contact center at DSN 665-2949 or (800) 558-1404, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. (*Air Force Print News*)

Operation Home Front provides discounts for military families

The Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce recently unveiled a program designed to increase community support for area military people and their families.

The program, dubbed "Operation Home Front," involves more than 150 local businesses offering discounted goods and services to active duty members and their families, including reservists called to active duty. The exact nature of the discount is at the discretion of each participating business, but according to the Chamber, it will be meaningful.

All businesses participating in the program receive an Operation Home Front decal for prominent display, to make people aware they are offering discounts. The complete list will be posted soon on the Chamber's web site, www.coloradospringschamber.org.

Turkey for troops

Members of the Colorado Springs Area Chief's Group serve a Thanksgiving meal to an airman Nov. 22 at the Aragon Dining Facility. Gen. Ed Eberhart, Air Force Space Command commander, and Col. Don Alston, 21st Space Wing vice commander, joined the chiefs to serve the Thanksgiving meal to airmen on base who weren't able to go home for the holiday.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alex R. Lloyd

Statue honors Vietnam veteran

By Master Sgt. Ken Carter
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

A war hero, flying ace and seven-year survivor of a Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp has a permanent place in Air Force Academy history, despite the fact that he never attended the institution.

A statue erected Nov. 16 in the Academy Air Garden, honoring all military POWs, depicts Retired Brig. Gen. Robins Risner, a World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War combat veteran. The special attention, he said, leaves him awestruck.

"I'm a bit embarrassed to have been chosen for the statue here that represents all POWs," he said. "It still leaves me in awe."

H. Ross Perot donated the 9-foot statue, which is on display in the Air Garden here.

"All men who served with him in Vietnam in the prison camps, when they came home and

talked to me, would point to him (Risner) and say, 'He's the only reason I survived,'" Perot said.

As the former POWs told stories about Risner, one story kept coming up, Perot explained.

In violation of Vietnamese POW rules, Risner, who was the senior officer within the camp, set up church services complete with hymns prisoners wrote on toilet tissue. In the middle of a hymn, the Vietnamese came in and grabbed Risner to take him back to solitary confinement. As he was led away, fellow POWs stood and sang a "strictly forbidden song," Perot said. "That song was the 'Star Spangled Banner.'"

Risner told Perot years later that, at that moment, pride in his men made him "feel nine feet tall and as though he could have gone bear hunting with a switch."

Placement of the statue here will remind cadets what an Air Force officer is supposed to be, Perot said.

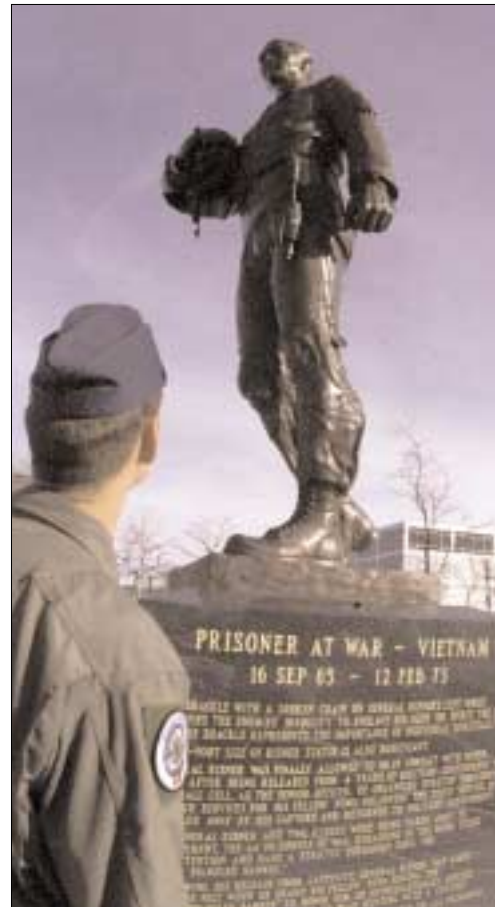


Photo by Staff Sgt. James Rush

Cadet 2nd Class Matthew McNulty admires the 9-foot statue of retired Brig. Gen. Robinson Risner at the Air Force Academy Air Garden, Colorado Springs, Colo. The statue was built to honor Risner, who spent more than seven years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

21st Space Wing



GSU
Corner

4th Space Surveillance Squadron improves working conditions, facilities for squadron members

By Staff Sgt. Gino Mattorano
21st SW Public Affairs

The 4th Space Surveillance Squadron is taking steps to improve the working environment for its members.

Many squadron facilities were in need of repair so the unit started with a plan to paint and recarpet the operations and administration building.

"The current furnishings were more than 10 years old," said Capt. Eric Hoversten, 4th SPSS support officer. "We were definitely due for a remodel."

After securing funding for the project from Air Force Space Command, the 4th SPSS worked closely with the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron site support team to plan and execute their renovation plans.

"The site support team came out and helped us with the design and planning for the project," said Hoversten.



"Their assistance is critical to the execution of these types of projects."

Once the plans and funding were in place, the 4th SPSS asked the 49th Fighter Wing Corps of Engineers at Holloman AFB, N.M. to perform the installation work.

"This project speaks to the outstanding support we receive from the 21st Space Wing and our host base," said Hoversten. "Although we're located away from the main base, the 49th Fighter Wing treats us as one of its own."

In addition, the 4th SPSS secured funding and support for an uninterruptible power supply to support critical network, communication and security systems in case of a power interruption.

The squadron was also the recipient of the AFSPC Gen. Maurice Padden Facilities Excellence Award for 2000. The award included \$50,000 to be used for morale, recreation and welfare or facility improvement projects.

"We're using the money to build a picnic pavilion here at the site," said Hoversten. "Currently, we don't have an outdoor facility to use for barbecues and other team-building events, so this will be a great addition to the squadron."

The 4th Space Surveillance Squadron provides space surveillance capabilities for the National Command Authorities and unified commanders worldwide. The squadron is a geographically separated unit assigned to



the 21st Space Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

The 4th SPSS operates and maintains mobile space surveillance, communications, and data relay system that supports U.S. Space Command and theater commanders during contingency operations.

The unit conducts a number of

mobile and transportable operations that provide critical connections between the National Command Authorities, USSPACECOM, 14th Air Force and squadron-level elements.

The 4th SPSS supports warfighters by establishing dedicated inter- and intra-theater links for critical space surveillance data and communications.

Who's doing what, and how they get caught: A look at drug use and testing within the military

By Sgt. 1st Class
Kathleen T. Rhem, USA
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - If you had visited a typical military unit in 1983, about one out of every four service members would have used illegal drugs.

If you had visited the same unit in 1998, about three out of 100 service members admitted to using drugs.

Between 1983 and 1998, the fraction of service members admitting to frequent drug use dropped from 23 percent to 2.7 percent. Officials say there are many reasons for the drop.

The DoD is attacking the problem on the two fronts of supply and demand. Education and deterrence are the key aspects of reducing demand for illegal drugs, Andre Hollis, deputy assistant secretary of defense for counter-narcotics, said.

Generally, Hollis explained, the services don't take every one to court for illegal drug use, but most members are not allowed to remain on active duty. "That creates, I think, a strong deterrent to violating the rules," he told American Forces Radio and Television Service.

Hollis described educating troops on the dangers and consequences of illegal drug use as the duty of military leaders. "We as leaders must be responsible for the health and welfare of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines," he said.

The DoD also works closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration to halt the flow of illegal drugs into the country. Hollis explained that DEA is responsible for identifying sources of drug production; while DoD is responsible for monitoring and detecting drug shipments.

The war on terrorism has direct bearing on the illegal drug trade as well, in ways that are of particular concern to DoD. Afghanistan is one of the world's leading suppliers of opium - a drug further refined into morphine and heroin.

Drugs that come out of Afghanistan are shipped primarily to Europe, where American service members and American allies can fall victim to drug abuse and associated violent crimes, Hollis said.

"Perhaps more insidious, the pipeline that these narco-traffickers use to ship their drugs and to sell their drugs is also the pipeline that they use for financing terrorism and arms sales, for



Photo courtesy of U.S. Customs

The Department of Defense is winning a war on drugs, like Ecstasy (shown above), which started during the Vietnam War. Instances of military members' use of illegal drugs are at a 20-year low.

smuggling illegal aliens, money and for potentially weapons of mass destruction, and for abusing women," Hollis said. "It's a vile pipeline that's used for a variety of evil purposes."

Increased use of the popular club drug commonly called Ecstasy is a disturbing trend in the military community as well as among civilians. "Many people fail to realize ... that Ecstasy is a dangerous drug," Hollis said. He cited studies that show even infrequent use can cause serious impairment of cognitive functions.

"That's particularly of concern within the armed forces, where our young people are in charge of and responsible for sophisticated pieces of equipment," he said.

Army Col. Mick Smith agreed. Smith is an expert on drug testing in Hollis's office. "Military people have a dangerous job," he said. "They operate heavy equipment and use complex integrated computer systems."

Smith described a recent Johns Hopkins University study on monkeys given typical doses of Ecstasy for a three-day period. "It would be comparable to someone binging over a weekend," he said. Tests showed the animals had a significant depletion of nerve cells that produce serotonin - the chemical in the brain that makes us feel good - a year and a half later.

"There's very good evidence that even small amounts of Ecstasy can cause permanent brain damage," Smith said during an American Forces Press Service interview.

To combat this rising health concern, DoD is planning to use more sensitive tests to detect Ecstasy during routine urine testing.

The new test for Ecstasy will expand the "window of detection," the amount of time after a drug is used that it can still be detected in urine, Smith said. He said all six DoD urine-testing laboratories should be using the new Ecstasy test within six months.

During 2000, roughly 1,000 service members tested positive for Ecstasy use and were removed from the military, Smith said.

Despite recent concerns over Ecstasy use, marijuana remains the most heavily used illegal drug within the military. And marijuana isn't a "safe" drug either, Smith stressed. He cited a Harvard University study that shows chronic users have memory and learning deficits even after they stop using. "It does have some long-term effects on the brain," Smith said.

DoD labs test 60,000 urine samples each month, but it would be next to impossible for a mistaken positive result to affect a service member's career. Smith described the steps taken after troops "fill the bottle."

First, individuals initial the label on their own bottles. The bottles are boxed into batches, and the test administrator begins a chain-of-custody document for each batch, Smith explained.



Photo by Senior Airman Oshawn J. Jefferson

Al Lanham, Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory lab technician compares the identifiers on a urine bottle with the chain-of-custody in the specimen accessioning laboratory.

"This is a legal document," Smith said of the chain-of-custody form. "Everybody who has had something to do with that sample signs it - whether it be the observer who watched the person collect the sample, the person who puts it into the box or the person who takes it out of the box. We have a written record of who those individuals are."

The chain-of-custody requirement continues in the lab as well. People who come in contact with each sample and what exactly they do to the sample are written on the document, Smith said.

Samples then undergo an initial immunoassay screening. Those that test positive for the presence of drugs at this point undergo the same screen once again. Finally, those that come up positive during two screening tests are put through a much more specific gas chromatography/mass spectrometry test. This test can identify specific substances within the urine samples, he said.

Even if a particular drug is detected, if the level is below a certain threshold, the test result is reported back to the commander as negative. "The system is really built to protect the service member whose sample is coming through the laboratory," Smith said.

DoD labs are equipped to test for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, LSD, opiates (including morphine and heroin), barbiturates and PCP. But not all samples are tested for all of these drugs.

"Every sample gets tested for marijuana, cocaine and amphetamines, including Ecstasy," Smith said. Tests for other drugs are done at random on different schedules for each lab. "Some laboratories do test every sample for every drug," he added.

Commanders can request samples be tested for steroids. In this case, the samples are sent to the Olympic testing laboratory at the University of California at Los Angeles, Smith explained.

Inevitably, someone will try to "beat the test." But, Smith said, common rumors that make the rounds on military bases won't help you a bit.

He said commonly available substances such as golden seal and lasix are often touted as magical substances that can mask drugs in urine. In fact, they can make it easier to get caught. Smith explained these substances are diuretics, so if they're taken before giving a urine sample they flush chemicals out of the body - right into the collection cup.

Drugs are often more concentrated in the urine after a service member takes one of these substances, Smith said.

And other "sure-fire" solutions are even worse for you. "Some people drink vinegar. I've even heard a few stories of people drinking bleach," Smith said. "I think they were probably worse off after drinking bleach than if they had used drugs."

The military services test for drug use and have adopted a zero-tolerance policy on drug use among military members because the stakes are so high. Drug use in a unit "interferes with their ability to complete their mission," Smith said. "We don't have time for that, particularly when we're fighting a war."

Hollis agreed. Readiness is critical right now, he said. "Everybody must recognize that drug use does not help this country or its cause," he said. "It's stupid; it affects your health; it affects your career; and it affects the readiness of your unit."

For service members using drugs or thinking about it Hollis says: "Think about what this country has gone through (since Sept. 11). Think about what we're undertaking in terms of this armed conflict (in Afghanistan)," he said. "We need you all to be alert, to be ready to go at a moment's notice."

We're calling on you to do a very important job, and we need to know that you're responsible and alert so you can take care of each other."

Bone marrow drive

Airman First Class Maria Medina, 21st Security Forces Squadron, cringes as Staff Sgt. Hope Parker, 810th Medical Support Squadron, draws a blood sample Nov. 19 during a bone marrow drive. This month, marrow drives by the 544th Information Operations Squadron and the 21st SFS recruited 55 potential bone marrow donors. For more information on the marrow program visit www.dod-marrow.org or call 1-800-MARROW-3. To set up a unit drive, contact Tech. Sgt. Kristin Clark at 556-8474 or kristin.clark@peterson.af.mil.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kristin Clark

Air Force members receiving new 'smart' ID cards

WASHINGTON — Active-duty Air Force people, Selected Reserve, civilians and eligible defense contractors began receiving new and "smart" official Department of Defense identification cards Nov. 6, officials said.

These common access cards, based on smart card technology, replace the standard military identification card and will be issued to more than 4 million DoD employees, said Essye Miller, chief of the Air Force Communications and Information's infrastructure branch at the Pentagon.

The new smart card, about the size of a credit card, contains an integrated circuit chip, linear bar code, two-dimensional bar code, magnetic stripe, color digital photograph and printed information.

"The CAC will be the principal access card used to enter buildings and controlled spaces," Miller said. "It will also be the primary DoD public key infrastructure authentication token for unclassified networks."

Simply put, the card enables cardholders to digitally sign e-mail, encrypt information, and establish secure Web sessions to access and update information via the Internet, she said.

"These provisions are intended to enhance individual privacy and information assurance in (DoD) as computerized systems replace paper-based systems," Miller said.

"The CAC will be issued using the existing infrastructure of the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and the Real-time Automated Personnel Identification System in our military personnel flights," she said.

There are a total of 17 Air Force installations — active duty, Guard and Reserve, with the capability to produce the CAC.

To date, the Air Force has issued more than 11,000 of the 70,000 new cards given to DoD employees. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Marines In Afghanistan to set up forward operating base

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Monday that Marine forces are in southern Afghanistan to set up a forward operating base.

"They are not an occupying force," Rumsfeld told Pentagon reporters. "Their purpose is to establish a forward base of operations to help pressure the Taliban forces in Afghanistan (and) to prevent Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists from moving freely about the country."

Roughly 500 Marines

moved into an airstrip southwest of Kandahar over the weekend, DoD spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said earlier in the day. That number should rise to over 1,000 within the next couple days, she said. The Marines are from the USS Peleliu and USS Bataan. Other Marines will arrive at the airfield by C-130.

The secretary wouldn't say specifically what the operating base would be used for. "We don't discuss future plans or developments," Rumsfeld said. He said the area has strategic importance because it is near major crossroads and east-west routes into Iran and Pakistan.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard Myers said the operation to position the Marines "has gone well so far." He noted

that U.S. efforts in the country "remain focused on providing support to opposition groups in Afghanistan and on establishing airfield hubs for humanitarian assistance efforts."

Myers said Northern Alliance troops entered the city of Kunduz as Taliban groups surrendered. He said isolated pockets of foreign fighters continue to be active in the area. Rumsfeld added he's not surprised the foreign fighters are holding out. "The Al Qaeda and the non-Afghan troops ... have been among the toughest of the fighters and the most determined and the least likely to surrender," he said. "(They) would have the least ability to melt into the countryside."

The chairman said 110 U.S. aircraft struck in nine

planned target areas concentrated on Al Qaeda and Taliban cave and tunnel complexes, as well as Taliban military forces primarily in and around Jalalabad and Kandahar.

U.S. forces also dropped leaflets in the areas surrounding Mazar-e Sharif, Kabul, Kandahar and Herat and continued Commando Solo broadcasts in these areas, Myers said.

Two C-17 Globemaster III cargo planes dropped 40 containers holding more than 19,000 humanitarian ration packs and 40 containers of wheat and blankets. Myers said these containers were dropped near Kunduz and Herat using "parachute delivery systems."

For your information

Today

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

Saturday

- Flu shots, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Enlisted Club.

Monday

- Peterson promotion recognition and induction ceremony, 3:30 p.m., at the Officer's Club.
- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Family Advocacy Center.

Tuesday

- Sponsorship training, 7:30-8:30 a.m., at the Family Support Center.
- TCSB/REDUX briefing, 1-4 p.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Toastmasters meeting, 11:35 a.m., at the Enlisted Club.

Wednesday

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



Photo courtesy of 21st SW Safety

Guarding the gate

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, 21st Security Forces personnel and augmentees have devoted long hours to make sure the base is secure. While performing duties at the installation entry points, they are constantly in the path of vehicles, and harm's way. Drivers must be aware of them while driving in and out of the installation. Take the time to notice where they are and remember to slow down to maneuver through the barriers. If possible, let the security forces know they're doing a great job by keeping us safe.

Thursday

- Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program meeting, 4 p.m., at the Officers Club.
- Career marketing, 8 a.m.- noon, at the Family Support Center.
- Job orientation, 1-2:30 p.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Play Group, 10:30 a.m.-noon, at the Chapel.

Dec. 7

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., 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

21st SPACE WING HOLIDAY PARTY: This year's wing holiday party will be Dec. 21, 7-10 p.m., at the Officers Club. There will be door prizes, songs by the Mitchell High School Choir, and music and dancing. Tickets are on sale through Dec. 15, at \$5 for E-5 and below and \$8 for all others (there is a \$3 surcharge for non-members). Contact your unit POC to purchase your ticket(s). Designated drivers will also be available for those who need help. For more information contact 1st Lt. Lance Willoughby at 556-4911 or 2nd Lt. Richard VanSchoor at 556-4913.

NORAD/USSPACECOM/AFSPC HOLIDAY PARTY: The annual tri-command holiday party will be Dec. 15 at the Officers Club. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner is served at 7 p.m. For more information, call Capt. Lorinda Frederick at 554-5575.

HELP NORAD TRACK SANTA: NORAD Public Affairs needs volunteers to help track Santa Clause on his Christmas journey. Volunteers will work in two-hour blocks, between 5 a.m. Dec. 24 and 3:30 a.m. Dec. 25, answering telephones and e-mail messages. Volunteers will work across from the Cheyenne Mountain visitors gate, or from their homes. Those who volunteer at the Cheyenne Mountain facility may bring their children.

NORAD PA will provide refreshment and will play family videos during the event. There were more than 70 million "hits" on the Santa tracker website last year, which generated more than 4,000 e-mail messages. In addition, more than 40 phones were busy the entire tracking period last Christmas. To volunteer, e-mail Maj. Doug Martin at douglas.martin@peterson.af.mil. In your message, include the time(s) you

want to work, whether you will work from home or from CMAS, and if you will have family members with you at the mountain.

GIVE THANKS AMERICA:

Colorado Springs has been chosen as one of 12 cities to take part in the "Give Thanks America" campaign scheduled to start in December. Several civilian companies, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense, are helping the public and families of military, police, and firefighters record personal streaming video messages that can be retrieved at a Website. The initiative provides people an opportunity to thank and show support for the men and women of the military, police and firefighters who are fighting terrorism at home and abroad.

HOLIDAY SUPPORT LECTURE:

The Peterson Complex Federal Women's Program invites all to attend the December meeting to hear Dr. Lee Blackwood, the guest speaker, discuss "nutrition and keeping a positive attitude during the holidays." The meeting will be Dec. 13, 9-11 a.m., at the Chapel. To sign up, or for more information, contact Sandy Sharketti at 554-6544, or Suzanne Lucero at 554-4328.

KRIS KRINGLE MARKET: The Kris Kringle Market is a craft fair scheduled for Dec. 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in Building 210 on the flightline. Tables are for rent to display crafts. Call 556-1733 for details.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD:

The 168 Air Refueling Wing is hiring part-time positions for Clear Air Force Station, Alaska, in the following career fields: 1C6X1 - Space Operators, 13S3E - Space Operator Crew Commander. There are also other part-time career fields available at Eielson Air Force Base. For more information,

call 1-800-770-JETS (5387) or (907) 456-1016. You can e-mail us at jordan.niemuth@akeiel.af.mil or tracy.gudgel@akeiel.af.mil or try our website at www.akeiel.af.mil

Base construction

DETOUR: Traffic on Mitchell Street, 500 feet west of the housing entrance, will be re-routed around construction Saturday and Sunday. Traffic will detour to the north side of the road and will be directed back onto Mitchell St., just beyond the construction area. Traffic flow on Mitchell will return to normal by Monday. Alternate dates of Dec. 8 and 9 will be used if construction is delayed due to weather. The detour will allow the contractor to install a new 42-inch storm-drainage pipe under Mitchell and into the housing area. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Master Sgt. Michael Funicelli at 556-1634.

WESTGATE OUTBOUND LANE CLOSURE: The outbound lane at the west gate will be closed Monday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Outbound traffic will be re-routed to one lane on the inbound side of the gate. This will result in one lane of traffic inbound and one lane outbound. The project to widen the outbound lane at the West gate is in its final stages. This four-hour closure will allow the contractor to make adjustments to the automatic security gate. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael Funicelli, 556-1634.

Chapel

ADVENT LUNCH BUNCH: Everyone is invited to an hour of inspiration, fellowship and food Tuesday and Dec. 11 and 18, noon, at the Chapel. For more information, call 556-4442.

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.

Harvest of Love



Photos by Capt. Don Kerr

Above: Col. Don Alston, 21st Space Wing vice commander, accepts a box of canned goods from a Peterson pickup team member during the annual Harvest of Love food drive. Right: Towers of packed and palletized food await distribution throughout southern Colorado.



Above: Volunteers put together boxes which will be used by other volunteers to sort and pack food for redistribution. Above right: Chief Master Sgt. Fred Schoettler, 21st Space Wing command chief, helps unload an Air Force truck used to pick up food at local schools. Right: The command chief and wing vice commander are instructed on the warehouse process before they roll up their sleeves and pitch in. Below: Hundreds of thousands of pounds of food were collected, including a fair amount of sweets and treats.



DOD announces new alternative to holiday mail programs

WASHINGTON -- Department of Defense officials announced an alternative to the "Any Servicemember" and "Operation Dear Abby" programs, which were suspended indefinitely in the wake of anthrax mail attacks.

The Navy has developed a Web-based alternative to benefit members of all services. The program can be reached at the Navy LIFELines Services Network at <http://www.LIFELines2000.org> or <http://AnyServiceMember.Navy.mil>.

Those who want to send a message of support or holiday greeting to military servicemembers will find a simple process for delivering messages at these Web sites. The "Any Servicemember" program allows participants to select from one or all branches of the military.

To receive a message of support, servicemembers log onto one of the Web sites and choose messages for their branch of service and home state. Those sending a message who wish to receive a response may include a return e-mail address. Since all messages are viewed on the Web, the military's regular e-mail service is not affected.

"Operation Dear Abby" was founded by the newspaper advice columnist and has delivered mail to servicemembers overseas during the holiday season for more than 17 years. The "Any Servicemember" mail program began during Operation Desert Storm in 1990, and continued to grow during operations in Bosnia, starting in 1995. (AFPJ)



Air Force awards multi-billion dollar communications contract

LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. -- On Nov. 16, the U.S. Air Force awarded a \$2.69 billion system development and demonstration contract for the Advanced Extremely High Frequency Satellite Program. The contract went to a team comprised of Lockheed Martin Corp. and TRW Inc.

The contract will develop and deliver the Department of Defense's next-generation highly secure, high-capacity communications satellites and ground command-and-control system as a follow-on capability to the current Milstar communications satellite program. Milstar is a joint service satellite communications system that provides secure, jam-resistant, worldwide communications.

Lockheed Martin leads the contractor team as the prime integrator and provider of the spacecraft bus and ground command-and-control segments with TRW providing the satellite payload. The contract will culminate in the delivery of two AEHF satellites and the ground command-and-control system.

"This is a great opportunity for us as we move forward to developing this next generation of secure communication satellites," said Lt. Col. Steve Lauder, of the MILSATCOM Joint Program Office.

AEHF will provide 10-times greater total capacity over Milstar communications satellites allowing tactical military communications such as real-time video, battlefield maps and targeting data.



Photo by Senior Airman D. Myles Cullen

Holiday notes

Amy Grant takes a breather while recording "Sleigh Ride" for the Band of the Air Force Reserve's annual radio show, "Holiday Notes from Home." The Grand Ole Opry here was the backdrop for Grant and her husband, Vince Gill, to record holiday music. American Forces Network radio and more than 3,000 commercial radio stations near military installations should receive the radio program on compact disc by early December.

Ground Zero visit brings mixed feelings

by 2nd Lt. Tana R. Hamilton
[Aeronautical Systems Center](#)

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — I've been to New York City before, but at the end of September I saw a different place. The events of Sept. 11 changed my previously scheduled visit. I spent two days there. I had to see Ground Zero.

My feelings were very mixed about why I had to go there, and what my purpose was, but I knew that I would go. Since I already was in Manhattan, I set out on foot for this pilgrimage. I decided that as a military member, I wanted to see the reason we'd engage

in another long conflict, this time called "war."

I walked south on Broadway and shopped a bit along the way to distract my mind from my final destination. The streets still had traffic, though there was a ban on cars with only one passenger entering the city during peak hours. Things didn't look terribly different, yet.

As I got closer to where the towers once stood, I asked a store clerk where the closest place was to view the scene. I felt weird, like I was asking directions to a cemetery that still had ongoing processions. After all, this site still contained the bodies of thousands.

I would not need directions. As I walked closer to the

towers, a putrid odor, similar to the charred smell of a house razed by fire, permeated the air. Its strength was surprising, since I was still blocks away, and this was two weeks after the attack.

Barriers, on either side of the streets, formed pathways so pedestrians could only cross at controlled points. I spoke to a policeman standing in front of cleanup efforts — cranes, ladders and loud dump trucks — who proudly told me that he was also a New Jersey Air National Guardsman.

I continued down the tunneled path until I stared directly at the remains the World Trade Center North Tower. I didn't expect it to look so sterile. Police buses, rented fences

and uniformed military members stood between the building and the closest accessible point. In contrast to its blackened, hollow exterior, a tall white and glass high-rise stood behind it with a large American flag proudly hanging near the top.

My nostrils burned from the smell, and my stomach turned. What I tasted was why people I'd seen there on television wore surgical masks. I had enough for one day.

The next evening, I went back to where I had left the day before, and circled the scene. At every intersection with a clear view, there were tourists and locals: never enough to block the whole road, never lingering too long, never talking too loudly.

Some took videos or snapshots with their cameras. There was a somber feeling as couples put arms around their partners' backs for some sort of comfort.

In the chilly night-air, I saw what was left of the South Tower. I was glad I didn't see it the first time. It wasn't black, like the first one. It burned white and ashen, and the steel beams were more mangled. Smoke still rose from the floors underneath it, still burning like the remains of a campfire.

I passed a parking garage blocks away from the towers that had a lone car remaining. It must have been a white car, but I couldn't tell through the inch or so of dust that had settled on it. Some had written poetry, or names and dates on

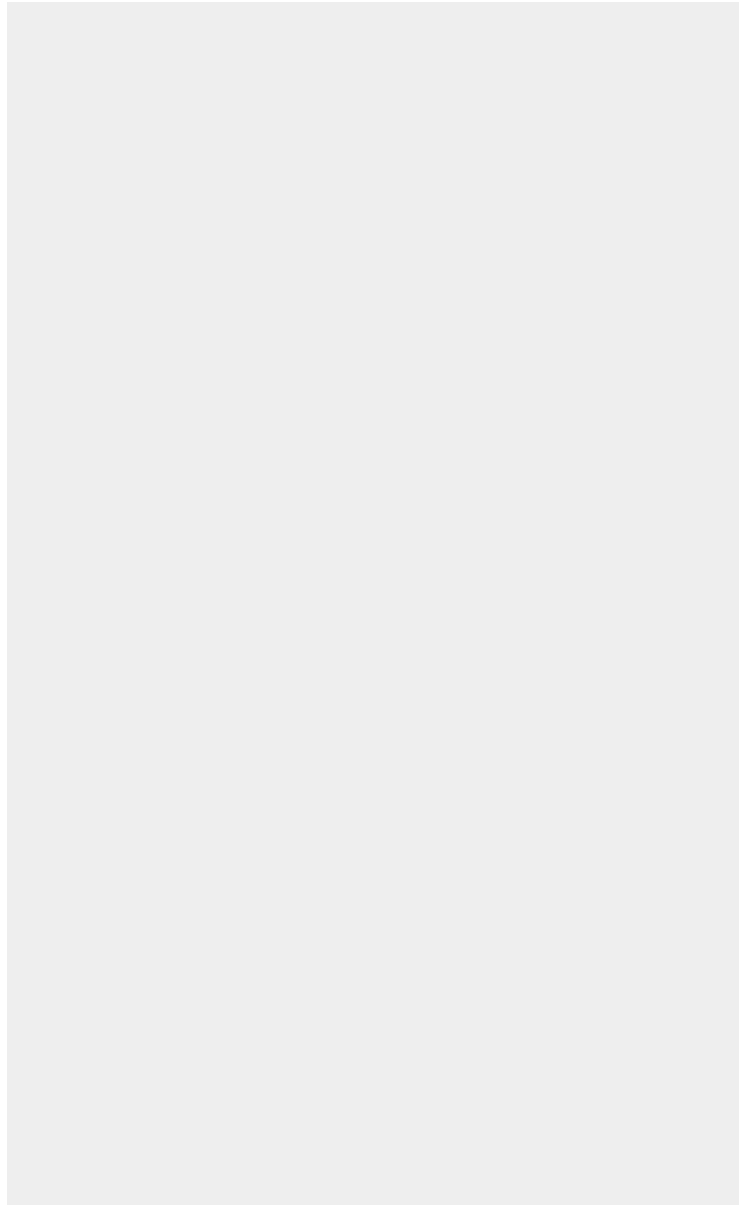
the dusty windows of empty stores. Most of the memorial balloons, candles and signs had been moved to Union Square or washed away by the rain of the preceding days.

I spoke to every military member I saw along the way. Most of them were guardsmen or reservists. I asked them about their shifts, which most said lasted 12 hours. I asked them about their rotations, and many were willing to work the continuous days.

One military member talked of the priest who died when someone who jumped from the tower landed on him. He showed me the priest's business card, and told me of his devotion to victims of fires in the city. A soldier showed me a picture he carried in his pocket that an elementary school child colored and sent to thank the workers.

As a former combat camera photographer, I've documented humanitarian efforts, military operations and the effects on the victims in other countries. I've never seen destruction like this in my own country. This time, those affected were my friends, fellow military members and other Americans.

I had no desire to go any closer to get more images. I only wanted to offer my encouragement to those there, the heroes that witness our war zone daily and to understand what happened in New York City. I still don't understand. But the hollow, solemn place that I saw, I will never forget. (Courtesy of Aeronautical Systems Center News Service)



Did you know that all of this year's Space Observer's were archived online?

Check it out at www.spaceobserver.com and then click on "archives"

5K fun runs: stay in shape and win a turkey



Brian Ruhm rounds a corner during the 5K fun run Nov. 16. Ruhm finished with the fastest time at 17:24.

By Senior Airman
Shane Sharp
21st SW Public Affairs

Peterson Complex members ran for fun Nov. 16.

The monthly 5K fun run, sponsored by the Fitness Center gave runners a chance to improve their race times, and possibly win a turkey in the process.

"The run gives people a chance to get out, have a good time, and participate in something to help them stay fit," said Cheryl Jardin, special programs director.

Brian Ruhm was the fastest finisher with a time of 17:24.

Vicki Gricius finished in 26:35, the fastest time for women runners.

Judy Russo came away as the lucky winner of the turkey drawing.

"Around Christmas and Thanksgiving we hold a drawing to give away free turkeys to fun run participants," said Jardin. "We're looking at the possibility of expanding the drawings in the future to include other holidays."

Other race participants and their times included Milton Diaz (20:32), Michael Taylor (23:18), Mark Siemen (25:49), Joseph Monforton, Anthony Triola (28:11), Ron Nelson (28:49), Judy Russo (30:07),



Photos by Cheryl Jardin

Vicki Gricius (left) maintains the lead with Judy Russo not far behind. Gricius finished with the best time for women at 26:35. Russo was the winner of the turkey drawing.

Amy Todd (30:21), Barbara Carpenter (32:35).

The next 5K fun run and turkey giveaway will be Dec. 21, 11:30 a.m., starting in front of the Fitness Center. Entry fees are \$1 for the run

only or \$3 to also enter the turkey drawing. For more information on the 5K fun runs or other events, call the special programs staff at 556-1515.

NASCAR hood goes to USAF museum

NASCAR Winston Cup Series racing team No. 21 donated a special edition car hood depicting the Air Force logo and the F-22 Raptor to the U.S. Air Force Museum Nov. 13. The Air Force has advertised on Wood brothers' NASCAR Motorcraft No. 21 Ford Taurus since the start of the 2001 racing season.



Photo by Capt. Jeffrey H. Sandrock

Volleyball Tournament



Dec. 11 and 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Deadline for sign up is Wednesday.

Cost per team is \$10.

For more information, 556-1515.

International Terry Fox Run

Dec. 15, 9 a.m.- noon. Come help raise money for cancer research. For more information, call Maj. Chuck Mathé at 554-6320



Sports

5 on 5 Indoor Soccer

Tournament - An indoor soccer tournament is scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday at the Fitness Center. Cost is \$10 per team. Game will be played 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

5K fun run - A 5K fun run is slated for Dec. 7. Cost is \$1 for run only or \$3 to enter a drawing for a chance to win a turkey. The drawing will be

held before the run.

Registration and the race start time is 11:30 a.m. in front of the Fitness Center. Call 556-1515 for more information.

Volleyball tournament - There will be a volleyball tournament Dec. 11 and 13. at the Fitness Center. The cost is \$10 per team. Game times will be 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The registration deadline for is

Wednesday. Call 556-1515 for details.

CMAFS 5K fun run - A 5K fun run is scheduled for Dec. 14. The entry fee is \$1. The deadline for registration and race start time is 11:30 a.m. the day of the race.

Participants should meet in front of the Technical Support Facility at Cheyenne Mountain.

Dodgeball tournament - A dodgeball tournament is slated for Dec. 21, 11 a.m., at the Fitness Center. The cost is \$1 per person. Deadline for registration is Dec. 14. Call 556-1515 for more information.

Taekwondo - Taekwondo classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Fitness Center. Children ages 7-13, 6-7 p.m., and children ages

14 and older, 7-8 p.m. All military and DoD I.D. cardholders are eligible. Call 556-1515 for details.

Personal trainers - Personal trainers are available at the Fitness Center to help Peterson complex members reach their fitness goals. For more information call 556-4462.

Military sliders



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffery S. Mulcahy

SALT LAKE CITY -- Maj. Brady Canfield, a skeleton slider from the World Class Athlete Program, recently qualified for the 2001-2002 U.S. National Skeleton Team. Canfield was one of three military athletes from the World Class Athlete Program who earned positions on the 2001-2002 U.S. National Skeleton Team following Verizon National Team Trial races in Utah and New York. Skeleton, which is a head-first version of luge, has been selected as an Olympic sport for the upcoming 2002 Winter Olympic Games. It has been in the Olympic Games twice before, in 1928 and 1948. Canfield, from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, finished third overall following a series of six selection races. Senior Airman Trevor Christie from the Utah Air National Guard, finished sixth overall and will represent the United States in the Europa Cup races, set for Winterberg, Germany later this year. Navy Ensign Harry Jackson, finished 15th on the final day of racing which was good enough for him to qualify for the national team.