



Space Observer

Friday, March 15, 2002

Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

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Pharmacy refill line

The 810th Medical Operations Squadron has a new refill telephone number. The number is 333-DRUG

By 2nd Lt. Mike Andrews

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Peterson Air Force Base is leading the Air Force and the state of Colorado in reducing consumption of petroleum and significantly reducing emissions. The base is implementing three alternative fuel options and purchasing or leasing GSA alternative fuel vehicles.

Peterson is also one of the 39 original stakeholders in the Colorado Clean Cities program, a U.S. Department of Energy program designed to promote cleaner air through the use of alternative fuel and vehicles.

"Air Force Space Command and the 21st Space Wing, in conjunction with the Colorado Clean Cities campaign, is leading the way on the use of alternative fuel vehicles, which is the way of the future," said Col. Kai Norwood, Air Force Space Command Logistics Group commander.

On April 21, 2000, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13149 into law which requires federal vehicle fleets to reduce petroleum consumption by 20 percent by the end of Fiscal Year 2005.

"Peterson is the first Air Force base, as well as the first location in Colorado, to have E-85, an ethanol-based alcohol mixed with traditional gasoline," said Master Sgt. Jim Huber, 21st Space Wing fuels. "E-85 is 85 percent ethanol blended with 15 percent gasoline. There are currently 24 vehicles using the E-85 fuel on Peterson today."

E-85 reduces greenhouse gas emissions like carbon-monoxide, the main contributor to global warming, by as much as 39 to 46 percent. In addition to gas emissions, it reduces petroleum use by 85 percent and burns cleaner than traditional gasoline. This reduces exhaust emissions and respiratory illnesses caused by poor air quality.

The change from using traditional gasoline to E-85 was relatively simple. The existing gasoline tanks were emptied, cleaned, and then refilled with E-85 fuel. The tanks had to be modified to accept E-85.

A source of cleaner fuel is ethanol. One source of ethanol is corn. One bushel of corn can produce 2.5 gallons of ethanol. Studies also indicate that it also generates 24-35 percent more energy than it takes to produce the corn. So the corn offers more energy than it takes to produce it. The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition states that "Ethanol, which is non-toxic, water soluble and biodegradable, is simply a better fuel for the world around us."

"In addition to being the first

Peterson tests alternative fuel



base using E-85, Peterson is also known for being the second Air Force base and the first Colorado location to have bio-diesel fuel, a blend of diesel fuels and vegetable oils," said Master Sgt. Mark Trolio, HQ AFSPC Fuel Operations.

"Peterson's bio-diesel is made with 80 percent low-sulfur diesel blended with 20 percent virgin, refined soybean or rapeseed oil. Commercial bio-diesel may also use recycled cooking grease," said Huber.

This bio-diesel blend is called B-20. B-20 reduces petroleum use by 20 percent and reduces carbon monoxide by 20 percent. Bio-diesel can be used in any conventional diesel engine and doesn't require special storage.

Congress announced in June 2000 that bio-diesel was the first alternative fuel to have completed the requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act.

"Bio-diesel was first received and used at Peterson in October 2001. To date, over 9,200 gallons in the 160 vehicles have been used and there have been no vehicle problems reported," said Huber.

The final alternative fuel option is Compressed Natural Gas. Natural gas is the cleanest burning alternative fuel and emissions are much lower than traditional gasoline powered vehicles. Carbon-monoxide emissions are reduced by 70 percent when using natural gas.

Natural gas powered vehicles produce little or no evaporative emissions, the vapors that escape from the pump nozzle during fueling. Currently 60 vehicles on base use compressed natural gas.

The CNG pump has both 3,000 and 3,600 pounds per square inch dispenser hoses, and is available to anyone who has access to the installation and has a Natural Fuels Corporation credit card.

There are several reasons why alternative fuel technology is so important. According to Huber, "It enhances

the United States' energy self-sufficiency and security by decreasing our dependency on foreign oil and petroleum. The United States imports about 60 percent of our oil every year."

Alternative fuels also make for healthier environment by reducing greenhouse gases and other pollutants in the atmosphere.

"These are a few of the reasons why the executive order is so important and the integrated item managers for all DoD petroleum products (Defense Energy Support Center) worked extended hours to acquire the vendor contracts to make all this happen," said Trolio.

For more information on alternative fuels, call Huber at 556-7728. For fleet management or vehicle related questions, or training on how to use the pumps, call Tim Kincannon with PMI Fleet Management at 556-4495.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Gino Mattorano

Elisa Jarrett, Phoenix Management Incorporated, fills up with compressed natural gas. The gas is one of the three types of alternative fuels Peterson Air Force Base is using.



Photo by Scott H. Spitzer

A sign of the times

A noncommissioned officer from the 305th Medical Group, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., uses a handmade sign to say goodbye to his fellow airmen before they deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on March 11.

21st Space Wing



GSU

At a Glance



Unit: 18th Space Surveillance Squadron

Location: Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Mission: The 18th Space Surveillance Squadron is responsible for command and control of three Ground-based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance, or GEODSS, located at Detachment 1, Socorro, N.M.; Detachment 2, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territories; and Detachment 3, Maui, Hawaii. The unit also provides command and control for the Moron Optical Space Surveillance System, or MOSS, a stand-alone system located at Detachment 4, Moron, Spain.

Besides providing staffing support and quality assurance management to a work force of more than 150 military and contractors at the worldwide detachments, the unit began operating the Optical Command, Control and Communications Facility, or OC3F, in February 2000.

The OC3F is the centralized node for the control of the 18th SPSS optical detachments around the world. The GEODSS and MOSS sites play a vital role in tracking some 2,000 objects in space, all of which are at least 3,000 miles from the Earth's surface.

Action Line

Taxing my mind

Q: Why was the VITA program changed to do Colorado State tax forms only and not support out of state tax returns?

The program was initially established to assist our young airmen. Where are young airmen suppose to go now to get help with their out of state tax returns? Thank you.

A: Thank you for your concern. We agree, the main focus of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is to help our airmen.

As in the past, the base tax program is

limited to electronically filing only the federal and Colorado state returns. However, the VITA volunteers are authorized to provide state tax forms for other states and can assist clients with questions they may have in preparing them.

If you have further questions, please contact Tech. Sgt. Debra Henry at 556-4403.

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line is your direct line to the commander. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please call or fax the Action Line.

To submit a question or comment call 556-7777 or fax your question to 556-7848.

News Briefs

ROAD CLOSURE - The north section of Kelly Street will be closed beginning March 22 at 6 p.m. and will re-open March 25 at 6 a.m.

For more information, call John Moreau at 556-4184.

GIANT VOICE TEST - The giant voice siren and voice system will be tested periodically Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Gordon Wilkins at 556-4140.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - The 18th National Space Symposium is slated

for April 8-11 at the Broadmoor hotel.

Volunteers are needed for various positions.

For more information or to volunteer, go to www.spacesymposium.org or call 554-5736.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE- The Peterson Asian Pacific American Heritage Committee is looking for members.

Meetings are Wednesdays, 11 a.m., Building 880.

For more information or to join the committee, call Bonnie Pavlik at 556-6530.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD OPENINGS - The 109th Airlift Wing, Scotia, New York, has traditional Guard vacancies in a number of Air Force Speciality Codes.

For details, contact Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson at DSN 344-2456 or wesley.ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil

HISPANIC HERITAGE COMMITTEE - The Peterson Hispanic Heritage Committee will have its monthly meet-

ing April 3, 11 a.m.-noon, at the Aragon Dining Hall.

For more information on the committee, call Master Sgt. Leo Perez at 554-4080 or Airman 1st Class Jessica Sanchez at 556-8044.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - The Peterson Women's History Month Committee is having a women's history conference at the Officers' Club Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon.

For more information on the conference, call Suzanne Lucero at 554-4328.

Space Observer

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News

WASP pilot chronicles women's aviation

By Airman 1st Class Susan McQueary
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Deanie Bishop Parrish first learned how to fly so she could "show all those good-looking male cadet instructors that girls could fly just as good as the boys."

Deanie is now trying to show the world the contributions that women pilots like her made more than 50 years ago.

Deanie and her daughter, Nancy Parrish, in conjunction with Baylor University in Waco, Texas, are documenting the history of Women Airforce Service Pilots and publishing it on the Internet to educate and inspire children.

"We want kids to know they can do anything they set their mind to," Deanie said. "I believe the WASP history is important to preserve."

Deanie and Nancy travel around the country to record the stories of the remaining 600 WASPs.

The WASPs' journey began more than 50 years ago when 1,830 women traveled from all over the country to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, to learn to fly airplanes "the Army way." Once the women completed training, 1,074 of them were given their wings and became the first women in history to fly American military aircraft. They were known as WASPs.

The WASPs were assigned to 120 air bases throughout the continental United States. The female pilots ferried aircraft and replaced male pilots so the men could fly in combat. The WASPs flew every type of mission and every aircraft flown by Air Force male pilots except combat aircraft. However, the WASPs were denied the same military benefits other servicewomen received during World War II, Deanie said.

Thirty-eight WASPs lost their lives while serving their country as military pilots; however, unlike male pilots, their remains were returned in pine boxes at the family members' expense, Deanie said. These women were denied any benefits or honors. It

was not until 1977, 33 years after the WASP disbanded, that the women earned the honor of being named veterans.

"No one knew about the WASP. After we disbanded in 1944, the records were sealed and were marked classified," Deanie said. "The records were filed away in a government archive, so historians didn't even know the WASPs existed. We were called the 'best-kept secret of WWII.'"

Deanie's story began in 1941.

At the time, WASP trainees had to have a private pilot's license before they could apply for training, Deanie said. To qualify, Deanie found an instructor in her hometown to give her lessons.

"I asked my instructor if he thought I'd make a good pilot. He told me that one day something would happen and I would know that I would," she said.

"On my first solo flight experience, as I pushed the stick forward, it came off in my hand. It wasn't connected. My first thought was that my instructor had done it on purpose," Deanie said.

She realized she was going to stall, so she unbuckled her seatbelt in the back seat, reached over the front seat and pushed forward on the front stick to level off the aircraft.

"I climbed over into the front seat and saw a big red sign that said, 'do not fly solo from front seat.' I landed and knew my instructor was going to be mad," Deanie said. "I taxied to him and he walked away. Finally, he came over and asked what I was doing."

Deanie pointed to the back seat and he saw the missing stick.

"He told me, 'now you know you have the right stuff to be a pilot,'" Deanie said. "The headlines read that I was lucky, but I knew better. From that day forward, I never had a doubt that I would be a good pilot."

After training at Avenger Field and becoming a WASP, Deanie was assigned to Greenville Army Air Base, Miss.

"My assignment was to fly B-26 (Marauders)



Courtesy photo

Deanie Parrish (top) and other Women Air Force Service Pilots served at Greenville Army Air Base, Miss., during World War II.

as a tow target pilot," she said. "The B-26 had the largest number crashed in training of any aircraft, but it had the best combat record."

The tow target pilots would pull a target behind them while the gunners in a B-24 (Liberator) fired live ammunition at the target.

"One day, a gunner shot my plane instead of the target. He put holes in the tail. I landed and was going to give him a piece of my mind," she said. "Instead, the gunner and I fell in love and were married for 47 years."

(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

Peterson starts helping hand deployment helpline

Volunteers are needed to help deployed members' families

By 2nd Lt. Mike Andrews
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Volunteers are needed by the Top 3 to assist with the Helping Hands program, a program designed to assist families of deployed members with everyday needs like transportation, yard work and car and home maintenance.

Those interested in volunteering should call the volunteer service coordinator at 556-6141. You will be asked to fill out a form stating your availability, and what you'd like to help out with.

Volunteers can help people who need basic help around the house, not with electric or plumbing problems, but with simple tasks like a door coming off a hinge.

Volunteers are also needed for transportation. In the past, some families have had a car break down or needed a jump-start or a flat tire fixed.

Others may need a ride to the commissary or pharmacy to pick up

food or medication.

Volunteering can help someone under enormous stress, and it relieves the deployed member by letting him or her know that if there are problems, there is help.

"We're taking care of our own and ensuring the morale, welfare, and safety of the family members left behind after a deployment are taken care of," said Tech. Sgt. William Stephenson, 21st Mission Support Squadron.

People who need help should call 556-Top3, and leave their name and phone number, and explain what type of problem they need help with. A designated representative will check the messages and then contact the appropriate volunteer.

Volunteers are prohibited from providing services that would require a license from any state, federal or local government, or are otherwise prohibited by law. Simply put, don't try to rewire the home theater system or retile the house. Leave it to the experts.

Summer is just around the corner, and with it, comes dreaded yard work. Mowing, edging, and raking can be tough on a person who's never even started a lawnmower or an edger.

Though volunteering for small



things like yard-work may not seem like much, those little things can make a difference for another military family.

"This is not a program to take away from the first sergeants in the squadrons or the sponsor program," said Chief Master Sgt. Fred Schoettler, 21st Space Wing command chief master sergeant. "This is just another

avenue to help take care those in need."

Those eligible for this program are dependents of deployed active duty members. Volunteers can be active-duty, DoD civilian, and retirees of any rank.

For more information or to volunteer for the program, call Stephenson at 556-6336.

AFSPC members speak out in CSAF survey

By Capt. Adriane Craig
Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

Members of Air Force Space Command earned kudos from command officials for racking up the highest response percentage rate of all major commands in the recent Chief of Staff of the Air Force Survey.

AFSPC finished with a participation rate of 73 percent, four points ahead of the Air Force Reserve Command and 23 points above the Air Force goal of 50 percent. The seven-week survey, which ended March 8, measures organizational climate.

Tina Carabajal, AFSPC command project officer for the CSAF survey, said this accomplishment is even more impressive when you consider AFSPC registered only 47 percent participation in 1999, when the last CSAF survey was done.

"We had a lot of enthusiastic unit project officers," said Carabajal, "and a lot of support from the top down."

The support paid off, even with the challenge of additional deployments due to Operation Noble Eagle

and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The survey was delayed from its original October time because of the events of Sept. 11. Carabajal said the command used the delay to target the problem of reaching departing members.

"Some organizations set up laptops with the survey or made diskettes available," said Carabajal. "They really handled that aspect very well."

Gen. Ed Eberhart, commander of AFSPC, was pleased with the high-level of feedback.

"I appreciate everyone's effort on this — surveys are only as good as the participation," he said.

That so many people from the command participated showed they are committed to making things better — in terms of mission accomplishment and quality of life, Eberhart added.

Results are expected to be distributed to units in May. Appropriate information will be aggregated in reports to ensure anonymity.

Commanders at all levels will be charged to review survey results and take appropriate actions to improve their organizational climate.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Epperson

Can I see your authority to enter?

Leroy Howard, a manpower management analyst, checks the identification card of Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips, 21st Space Wing Public Affairs, during Condor Crest 02-1. The two-day exercise the 21st Space Wing conducted was to hone our war-fighting and response skills. The wing can expect to conduct similar exercises throughout the spring, summer and early fall.

Tax tip of the week

For 2001, the lowest tax rate is 10 percent, down from 15 percent for 2000. Most individuals received benefits of the new 10 percent rate in an advance payment last summer and fall of income tax based on their 2000 tax returns.

Usually, the following schedule applies:

- For single or married filing separately - \$300
- For head of household - \$500
- For married filing jointly or qualifying widow or widower - \$600

This advance payment is not subject to federal income tax, but the amount received will reduce or eliminate the Rate Reduction Credit on your 2001 tax return.

The Rate Reduction Credit is for those people that did not receive the advance payment when they should have. Basically, if you received the amount listed above already, you should enter zero on the Rate Reduction Credit line of your 2001 tax return.

If you have any questions on this subject, call the Peterson Tax Center at 556-5213 or 556-5214.



News

Peterson Weather Flight to consolidate weather operations

By Staff Sgt.
Melanie Epperson
21st Space Wing public Affairs

Beginning April 1, the 21st Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight will no longer provide weather watches, warnings and advisories for resource protection at Peterson Air Force Base and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, or aviation weather support to tenant and transient aircraft.

According to weather flight officials, all weather units in the Air Force are part of a major reorganization. Using a centralized hub concept, primary weather support for several bases will be com-

bined and accomplished at one central location or hub.

A small weather unit, or combat weather team, will remain attached to most bases to directly support the flying mission.

The combat weather team will deploy with and provide tailored support to their wing.

"The concept for Air Force reengineering is to centralize weather support and have smaller combat teams that live and breathe with their customer," said Maj. Sylvia Taylor, 21st OSS Weather Flight commander.

"For example, a flying wing would have their combat weather team working directly

with the flying squadrons," she said.

Since the 21st SW mission is to detect and report missile and space launches to the National Command Authorities, NORAD, unified commands and U.S. combat forces worldwide, Peterson's combat weather team will provide meteorological watches to help protect ground based radars from terrestrial and solar weather, she added.

Currently the weather flight here provides resource protection for the Peterson complex, aviation support for permanent and transient aircraft, and staff briefing support for U.S. Space Command, NORAD, Air Force Space Command and the 21st Space Wing, according to 1st Lt. Melissa Kalla, 21st OSS Weather Flight command

Weather related phone numbers

For questions regarding weather watches, warnings and advisories issued for PAFB or CMAFS, contact the 25 OWS duty forecaster at DSN 228-6698 or commercial (520) 228-6698.

For current weather conditions, call the Automated Surface Observing System at 637-9696.

For the PAFB 5-day non-operational forecast, log onto Petecentral under "library", then "weather."

Additional weather support requirements should be coordinated through Maj. Sylvia Taylor, 556-4774.

weather briefer.

After April 1, the 25th Operational Weather Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB in Arizona will assume responsibility of resource protection and aviation briefings at the Peterson complex.

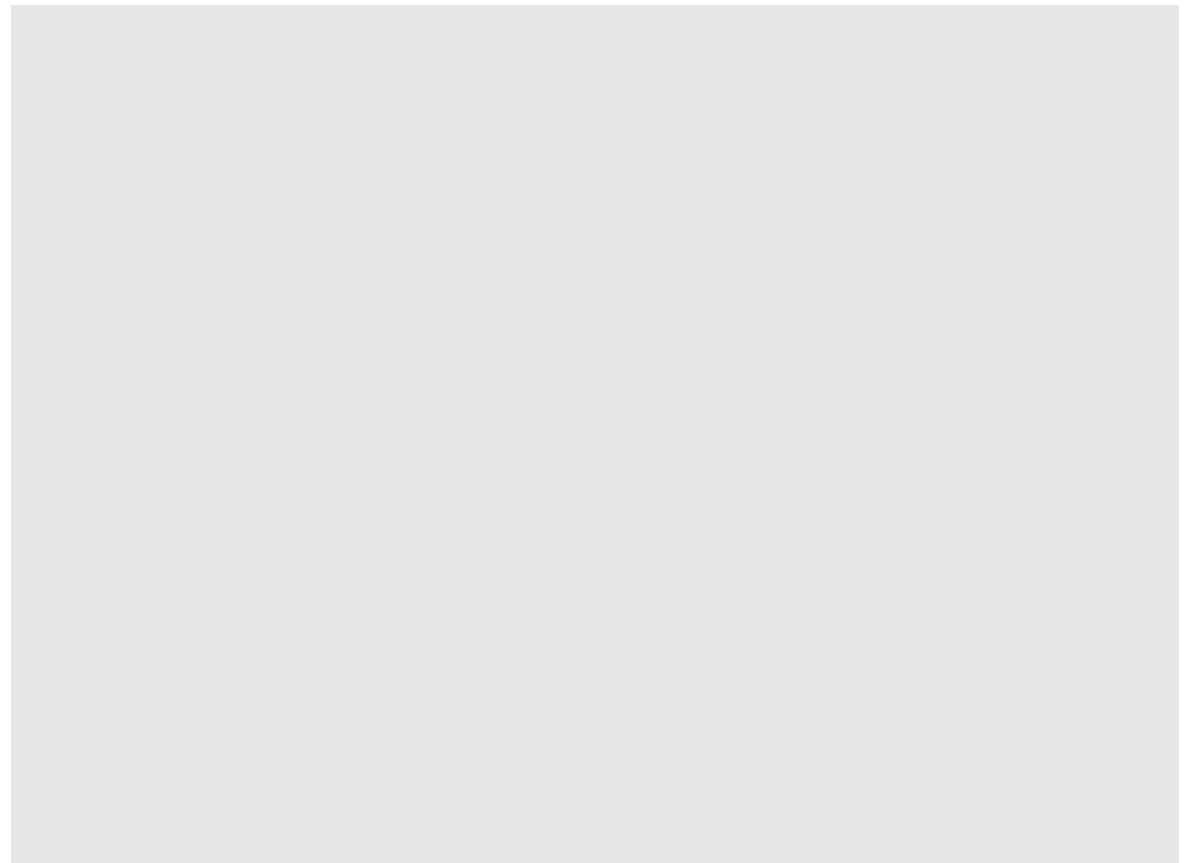
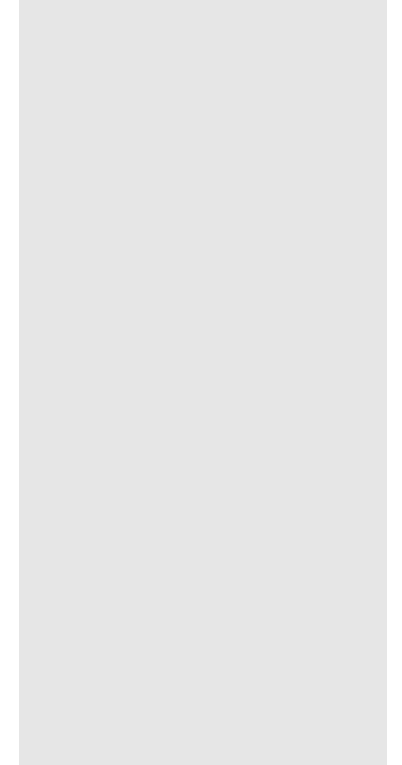
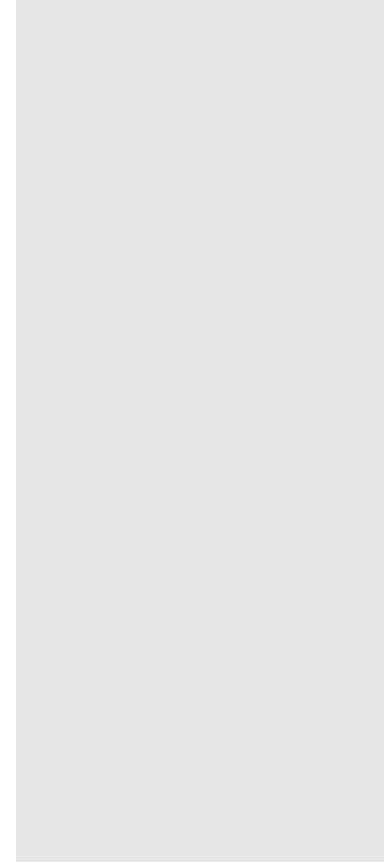
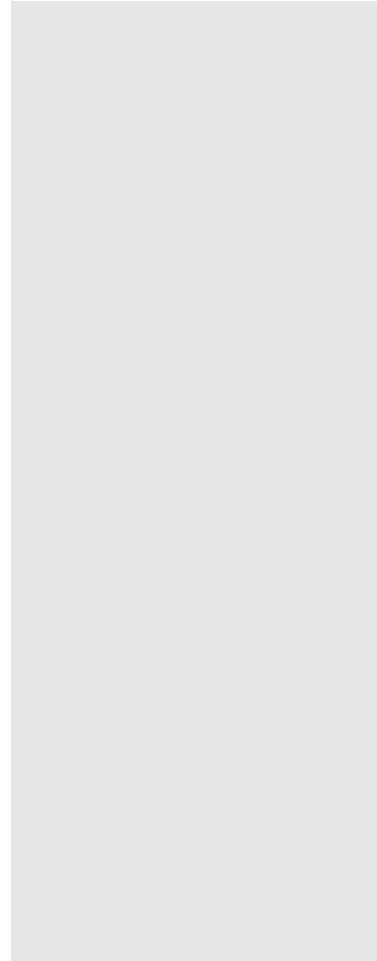
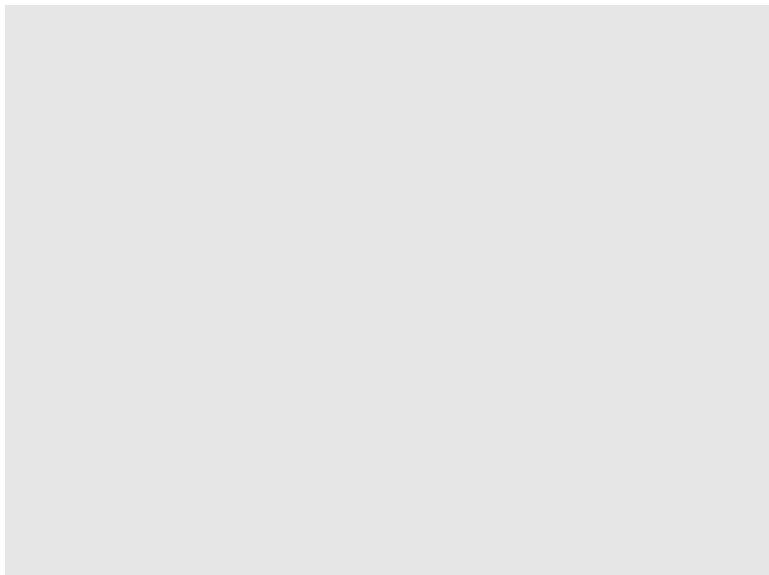
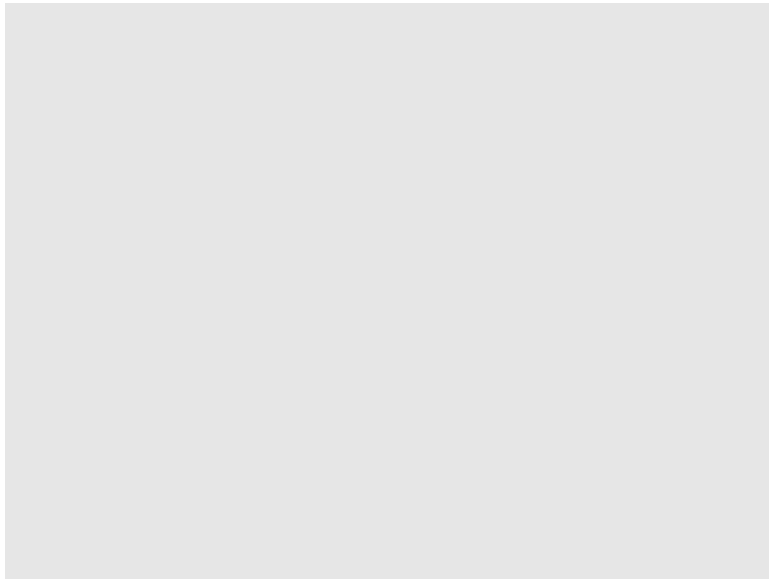
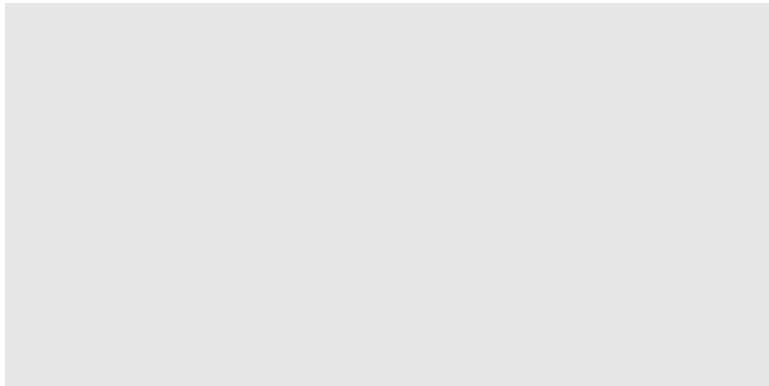
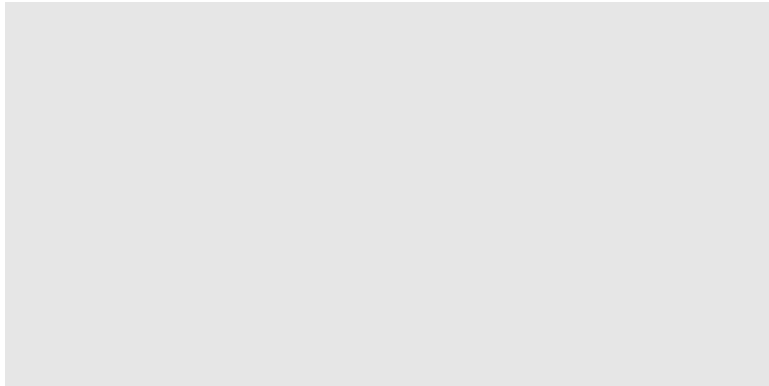
The 25th OWS will issue all watches and warnings. Flight briefings will be handled over the phone and Internet.

The weather flight here

will lose six manning positions, and according to Taylor, the remaining 10 people will comprise the NORAD support combat weather team.

According to weather flight officials, these changes are necessary to combat several growing problems in the weather field, including severe manpower shortages and dropping experience levels of personnel.

(Information courtesy of the 21st Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight)



Around the Air Force

Ramstein receives 10 wounded from Afghanistan

By Master Sgt.
Louis A. Arana-Barradas
[Air Force Print News](#)

Nine special forces people and a Canadian journalist arrived at Ramstein Air Base, Germany March 6 after a long journey that started in the battlefield where they were wounded near Gardez, Afghanistan.

A C-9 Nightingale aeromedical evacuation plane from Ramstein flew to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, to pick up the patients. The plane returned to a reception of German and international media.

Ambulances took the wounded to nearby Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. It is the largest U.S. military hospital in Europe.

The special forces troops are all suffering from gunshot and shrapnel wounds, and some have broken bones. All were hurt during the ongoing offensive, dubbed Operation Anaconda, on an al-Qaeda stronghold in the mountains near Gardez, some 95 miles

east of the Afghan capital of Kabul.

The offensive, the biggest U.S.-led assault of the war on terrorism, involved hundreds of U.S. and Afghan troops, as well as those from several allied nations.

The flight surgeon assigned to monitor the patients, Dr. (Maj.) Bryan Porter, from the 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, said all the special forces troops are recovering well.

"We monitored their progress during the flight and all are in stable condition, though some have more critical wounds than others," Porter said. "A lot of them also have bumps and bruises."

Toronto Star newspaper journalist Kathleen Kenna was in critical, but stable, condition, Dr. (Col.) Marshall Wong said. He led the three-member critical care air transportation team from Incirlik that accompanied Kenna on the four-hour flight.

Kenna was hurt when a man threw a grenade into the

car she was riding in near the village of Zermat, her husband, Hadi Dadashian, said. He was at her side on the flight.

Dadashian, Kenna, a photographer and driver were on their way back to Gardez when the attack took place. He said five men, who looked and dressed like farmers, would not let them pass.

"Then one threw something from about a foot away," he said. "It broke through the window."

At first, Dadashian thought it was a rock. It flew past him and landed under his wife's seat. Though he yelled for her get out of the car, the grenade exploded before anyone could escape.

Kenna was the only one hurt. Dadashian said a Washington Post reporter came on the site of the attack and told them to take Kenna to Gardez, where there were Americans.

"We took my wife there and the American doctors did not ask questions, they just treated her right away," he

said.

From there, an Army helicopter flew her to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, where she underwent emergency surgery.

Then an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III flew Kenna to Karshi Khanabad, Uzbekistan, and then to Incirlik. On the C-9 flight, Kenna had two flight doctors and a respiratory technician at her side.

"The military doctors have been wonderful," Dadashian said. "The attention my wife received at Incirlik and on this plane — it is incredible. I know she would be dead if not for them."

The special forces troops followed a similar route.

"I've never seen soldiers receive better medical care in my 18 years in the military," a medical representative said.

"But I don't worry on this plane," he said. "My boys are in better hands now."

There were three doctors, three flight nurses and five medical technicians on the flight.

The critical care air

transportation team, from Incirlik's 43rd Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, monitors patients in critical condition.

The 11 medics were more than those found in most hospital intensive care units, said Capt. Chuck Wheeler, a flight nurse.

Wheeler was the medical crew director on the flight, responsible for the care and safety of the patients.

"The patients were in good hands the entire trip," he said.

After the ambulances and media left, the airmen who lined the ramp rail went to work. One was Tech. Sgt. Mark Manning, an avionics technician deployed here from the 375th Maintenance Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

"I was choked up, and angry that we have to go through all of this, watch our soldiers come home like this," he said. "I wanted to shake the hands of each one of those soldiers. They are true heroes."

Today

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

■ Sponsorship training, 7:30-8:30 a.m., at the Family Support Center.
■ Easter season luncheon, noon, at the chapel.
■ Franklin-Covey's "What Matters Most" seminar, call 556-6104 or 556-8224 to sign up.

Wednesday

■ Story time for kids, 10 a.m., at the library.
■ "Stripes to Bars" Air Force ROTC Airmen Education Lunch, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the education office, Room 101. A free lunch will be provided.
■ Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.



Courtesy photo

Tower of power

This 300-foot tower at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla, will provide a stationary platform for testers to evaluate the performance of weapons seekers against real targets in an open-air environment. The tower will be operational in April.

Thursday

■ Career marketing, 8 a.m.-noon, at the Family Support Center.
■ Marketing yourself for a second career, 2:45-4:30 p.m., at the Family Support Center. Call to sign up.

March 22

■ Craft fair, 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m., in the officers' club ballroom.
■ 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

FEDERAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM - March is Women's History Month, and the FWP is having a conference at the Peterson Air Force Base Officers' Club Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon, followed with a buffet luncheon for \$8.50. The guest speaker will be Ruth Kay Peterson. Contact the following FWP members for tickets by March 18: at Building 1470 - Debra Agnew, 554-5265; Karen Fiorillo, 554-6983; Debbie Weaver, 554-2486; Jackie Hill, 554-6975; at the Hartinger Building - Ann Dallas, 554-3370; Sandy Sharketti, 554-6544; Suzanne Lucero, 554-4328; at the 21st Logistics Support Squadron - Beatrice Aquino, 556-6527; at Schriever - Yong Sharp, 557-4501.

PIKES PEAK TOP 3 - The next Pikes Peak Top 3 meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. March 28 at the enlisted club. The meeting is open to all E-7 and selects, E-8 and E-9s from all branches of service, active duty and retired.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS SERVICE DAY - Representatives from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Government Employees Health Association, PacifiCare of Colorado and Kaiser Permanente will be at the Civilian Personnel Flight training room Tuesday, noon-1:30 p.m., to speak with civilian employees about benefits.

For more information, call Beverly Sagapolutele at 556-7073.
SUMMER HIRE PROGRAM - The Student Summer Hire Program will be June 3 - Aug. 23.

For details on the program, call Nancy Nowacki at 556-6188.
CHILD CARE - Military spouses who are presently providing childcare or who want to care for children other than their own for a total of 10 hours or more per week must be licensed to do so in on-base quarters. The support group commander may revoke the

housing privileges of anyone who refuses to become licensed.

To learn more about Family Child Care as a career, call the FCC office at 556-4322.

PIKES PEAK MILITARY FAMILY COOKBOOK - The Peterson Air Force Base Officers' Wives' Club is creating a cookbook to include all military families in the Pikes Peak region. To submit a recipe, follow the guidelines below.

- All recipes must be neatly handwritten or typed.
- One recipe per page.
- Clearly state the title of your recipe.
- Include your name, military affiliation and phone number.
- List all ingredients, then the directions.

Submissions may be made by e-mailing Linh Narum at lnarum@msn.com or mailing Linh Narum, c/o Peterson Officers' Wives' Club, P.O. Box 14066, Peterson AFB, CO.

For more information, call Narum at 591-7010.
DOD MARROW DRIVE - The 721st Support Group is holding a DoD Marrow Donor Drive at Cheyenne Mountain 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 26 in the third floor breakroom near the dining facility.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Kristin Clark at 556-8474.
RED CROSS CLASSES - The American Red Cross will offer a number of classes throughout March.

The classes and fees are as follows:
■ Babysitter training for youth ages 11-15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday and March 23. There is a \$30 fee. For details, call 556-7590.

Education Center
SPORTS CORPORATION YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - There

are a limited number of scholarships available to Air Force Academy Falcon Sports Camps. These scholarships will be offered to kids ages 5-12 on a commuter only basis, and recipients must provide all necessary equipment for the camp. To receive an application, call the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation at 634-7333. Applications must be received by March 29.
AIR FORCE AID EDUCATION GRANT - The General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program awards \$1,500 grants to sons and daughters of active duty, retired or deceased Air Force members, retired reservists over age 60, and Title 10 reservists on extended active duty.

Spouses are also eligible for the grant.

Applications are available at the Family Support Center or for download at <http://www.afas.org>.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE FUND SCHOLARSHIP - Federal employees and family members who are interested in the Federal Employees Education and Assistance Fund Scholarships may apply through March 29.

For an application, send a self-addressed, stamped, number 10 business envelope to FEEA Scholarships, Suite 200, 8441 W. Bowles Avenue, Littleton, CO, 80123-9501.

OPERATION BOOTSTRAP - The Air Force Bootstrap program has been replaced by the Air Force Education Leave of Absence Policy.

The main changes are in the amount of obligated service incurred, which is now two months for every one month of leave, and in pay, which is cut to basic pay only for the duration of leave.

Those already enrolled or approved will not be affected by the changes.

For details on the changes, call the education center at 556-4064.

Peterson Air Force Base 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.

Career assistance advisor offers sound counsel

Master Sgt. Laura Velasquez is the 21st Space Wing career assistance advisor. During a recent interview for the *Space Observer*, she expressed her thoughts on her job and Air Force retention.

SPACE OBSERVER: Why did the Air Force create the CAA position?

VELASQUEZ: The program was actually implement-

ed as a result of a few things. First, there were constant retention shortfalls across all enlisted categories -- first term, second term and career airmen. Second, intense competition from a booming economy. Third, a perception of "erosion of benefits" as well as continual changes in type and complexity of existing benefits and entitlements.

And fourth, a lack of understanding and somewhat lack of knowledge among our non-commissioned officers and supervisors with regard to our benefits and career opportunities.

My position here was created to assist commanders in developing wing-level retention programs.

SPACE OBSERVER: As

the 21 Space Wing CAA, what is your goal?

VELASQUEZ: My goal and focus is to ensure supervisors are talking to their people about the benefits of an Air Force career. It is critical for me to make sure supervisors are equipped with the right tools to assist subordinates in making informed decisions.

I am a resource for the commander, first sergeant and most importantly, immediate supervisor. I want to work with these folks to identify, isolate, and (if possible) eliminate career irritants affecting Air Force personnel and their families.

SPACE OBSERVER: What benefit does this provide for our airmen?



Velasquez

VELASQUEZ:

Professional Military Education provides a foundation for supervisors in counseling, providing feedback and mentoring.

It is my job to help supervisors apply these skills as well as provide them with current credible information on benefits and career options that ultimately will fulfill the NCOs inherent responsibility of "taking care of his/her people."

SPACE OBSERVER: Does the CAA position replace first sergeant or supervisor responsibilities?

VELASQUEZ: Not at all. I am not a substitute for first sergeants or supervisors. I am a conduit for retention information through out the base. First sergeants and supervisors are force multipliers in addressing declining retention trends. I have very limited opportunities to talk to airmen. Supervisors interact with their people everyday and can show airmen the advantages of a military career.

My job is to provide the supervisors the information the need to talk smart about benefits and career options and help the Air Force retain the great airman they've trained and mentored for four or more years.

SPACE OBSERVER: How do you get the information out to supervisors?

VELASQUEZ: I brief at organizational functions, Enlisted Professional Development, the First Term Airman Center and Airman Leadership School on a regular basis. In addition my door is always open for supervisors and individuals with specific questions.

The CAA Web site contains a host of tools for everyone on retention issues and career news. It includes tips for performing feedback, points of contact for programs, and a variety of other tools to help people be better supervisors.

The CAA web site can be accessed at www.peterson.af.mil/caa.

Tip of the Sword

21st CONS named best of the best

By Master Sgt. D.K. Grant

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The 21st Contracting Squadron here was recently named the best specialized contracting unit in the Air Force according to a message released by the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Acquisitions. They shared the honor with the 39th CONS, Incirlik AB, Turkey (U.S. Air Forces in Europe). The actual awards will be presented at the Pentagon April 18.

According to Lt. Col. Reggie E. Selby, 21st CONS commander, the contracting team earned the recognition thanks to their stellar performance and "bold contracting solutions for the Air Force's largest, most diversified wing supporting the missile warning and space surveillance mission."

According to Selby, in fiscal year 2001, the 21st CONS contracts totaled about \$250 million, and the on-going contract value exceeds \$1.65 billion. The responsibility level of managing those contracts, he said, is phenomenal, just the like the work done by the contracting team.

Those contracts, were far from run-of-the mill. The eclectic nature of the unit's customers translates into a variety of unusual contracts. The 21st CONS led two A-76 outsourcing efforts for Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, called the "most successful in AFSPC" by the major command commander. In support of that process, contracting orchestrated the transfer of more than 500 military civil engineer and communications positions to civilian positions, saving more than \$46 million, he said.

Also, during FY 01, the unit responded swiftly to alleviate the problems caused by the worst flood

in the history of Thule Air Base, Greenland, acquiring \$2.4 million in supplies, as well as four ships, to provide life-saving support before frozen ports could prevent delivery.

The unit has also been involved in international support activities. Members were involved in deploying a team to train 100 Lithuanians in contracting principles, and led a state department outreach to former Soviet Union countries to support critical environmental cleanup.

After the Sept. 11 attack on America, the team worked to ensure anti-terrorism and force protection requirements were met in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

The award came as no surprise to the 21st Logistics Group commander, Col. Alvin Strait. "It's something we already knew to be true, but it's great to see the Air Force come to the same conclusion," said Brig. Gen. Bob Kehler, 21st Space Wing commander.

Some of the Air Force awards are:

- SAF Professionalism in Contracting (Supervisory) - Karen Matkin.
- SAF Professionalism in Contracting (Non-Supervisory), Maureen Atwood
- Outstanding Officer (Field Grade), Maj. William J. Lorey
- Outstanding Officer (Company Grade), Capt. Joseph Finotti
- Outstanding Contracting SNCO, Master Sgt. Douglas Guldan
- Outstanding Contingency Contracting, Staff Sgt. Ronald King Award, Staff Sgt. Robert L. Howard, Jr."

Air Force Association announces nominees

Each year the Air Force Association sponsors several trophies and awards of Air Force-wide interest relating to aerospace activity.

These awards are the Theodore Von Karman Award, David C. Schilling Award, Gill Robb Wilson Award, Hoyt S. Vandenberg Award and the Citation of Honor.

The AFSPC nominees for the 2002 Air Force Association Aerospace Awards:

■ The Theodore Von Karman Award nominee is the 76th Space Control Squadron, 21st Space Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

■ The David C. Schilling Award nominee is the 21st Space Operations Squadron, 50th Space Wing, Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif.

■ The Hoyt S. Vandenberg Award nominee is the 341st Operations Support Squadron, 341st Space Wing, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.

■ The Citation of Honor nominee is the 30th Operations Group, 30th Space Wing, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

■ The Gill Robb Wilson nominee is the 30th Communications Squadron, 30th Space Wing, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

These teams will represent Air Force Space Command at the Air Force-wide competition.

(Information courtesy of the Air Force Association)

Denver Nuggets invade Peterson

By 2nd Lt. Mike Andrews
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The Denver Nuggets ended the longest current winning streak in the National Basketball Association by defeating the Portland Trail Blazers at home Saturday night, and then visited the Peterson Air Force Base fitness center Sunday to sign autographs.

Thirty-eight players, coaches and members of the Denver Nuggets organization, signed autographs for a group of more than 100 people at the fitness center to help show their support for the armed forces and the important job they do everyday.

"It means a lot to our families and especially our young athletes to see how star athletes give back to the community – that it's not just about winning and playing basketball," said Brig. Gen. Bob Kehler, 21st Space Wing commander.

The autograph session at Peterson was in conjunction with a visit to Cheyenne Mountain Air Station. The players signed autographs, took pictures with fans, and posed for a picture with the Peterson AFB youth



Photo by Dennis Howk

Clyde Drexler, of the Denver Nuggets, poses for a picture with a few fans after their visit to Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station on Sunday.

basketball team the 10-12 year-old "Denver Nuggets."

"Team Peterson and the Air Force are excited the Nuggets took the time out of their schedules during basketball season to visit with us here in Colorado Springs," said Kehler.



Photo by Alex Worden

Top cops

The 21st Security Forces Squadron took top honors during the base basketball championship. Team members pictured are (left to right) Airman 1st Class Phillip Bradt, Staff Sgt. Wavelon Jackson, Airman 1st Class Joshua Bleem, Airman 1st Class Aaron Hunter, Master Sgt. Saul Jackson. Not pictured Tech. Sgt. Cedric Mitchell, Tech. Sgt. J.T. Jones.

Let us know about your sporting event and we'll try our best to cover it.

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