



Space Observer

“Best in Air Force Space Command – 2002”

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2004

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

Vol. 48 No. 1



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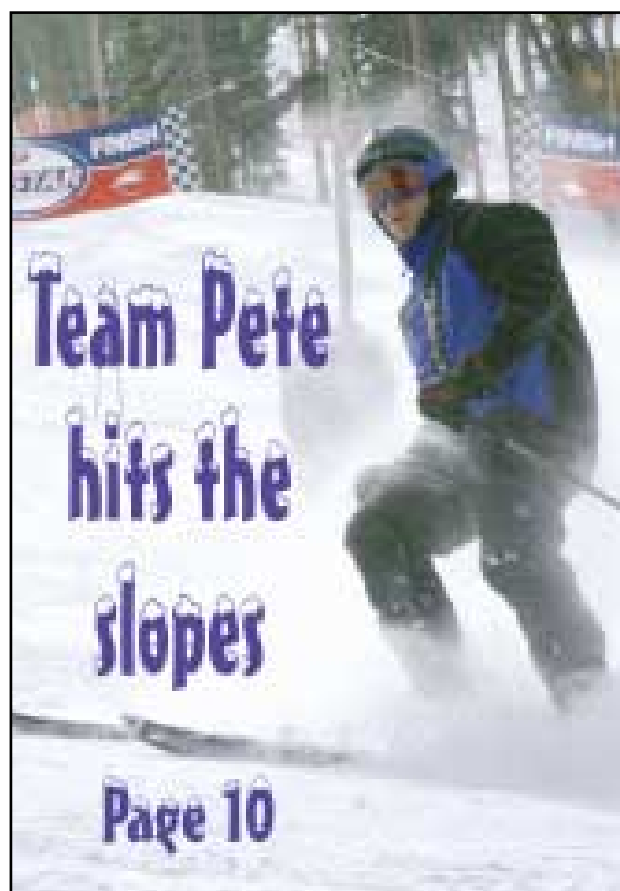
Year in Review

Pages 8-9

Courtesy graphic

Blotter

**Peterson's
shoplifter bustin',
speed demon slowin',
drunk soberin',
law breaker noticin'
weekly crime scene
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**Team Pete
hits the
slopes**

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Photo by Joe Fischer

Testing the limits

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Snow Call 556-SNOW



Photo by Joe Fischer



STEP into Christmas

Staff Sgt. Marcus R. Webb, a Specialized Contract Specialist with the 21st Contracting Squadron, receives a congratulatory handshake from Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander, on Christmas Eve. Gen. Deal and acting Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Coleman presented technical sergeant stripes to Staff Sgt. Webb under the Stripes For Exceptional Performers Program.

Action Lines

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line is your direct link to the 21st Space Wing Commander. We suggest you first try to resolve problems at the lowest level possible – with the person or activity, and then follow the chain of command.

Though it's not required, we ask that you leave your name and phone number so we can get back to you for clarifications, or if your response isn't printed. If you can't get satisfactory results, call 556-7777. Or you can fax your question to 556-7848.

Capping it off

Question: What is the policy on the wear of the black cap or the stocking cap? The Instruction states, "it's worn when authorized by the installation commander", and no one has been able to tell me if it is authorized to be worn by everyone as long as they have on the appropriate outer gear wear.

Answer: Great question! Because AFPC is in the process of rewriting AFI 36-2903, the Air Force's Dress and Appearance AFI, all MAJCOM and Wing supplemental uniform guidance has been rescinded, to include guidance on the wear of the black stocking cap. In the interim, our policy is: "Effective 1 Oct through 30 Apr, the black stocking cap may be worn with the parka, BDU coat, or flight jacket accompanying the appropriate utility uniform. When worn, the cap will be placed squarely on the head, slightly forward. Rank insignia is not worn on the stocking cap. The stocking cap will not be worn with any blue combination uniform." The plan is to have our wing uniform supplemental guidance written/posted as soon as possible upon publication of the newly revised AFI and

AFSPC supplemental. In this supplemental guidance, we will affirm the wear policy of the black stocking cap as well as other uniform items.

Delay discussion

Question: When one of the bases in the area is on delayed reporting, why aren't all the bases? Both my husband and I live at the Academy, and work here at Peterson. When the Academy has a two-hour delayed reporting and Peterson does not, I feel that puts my life in danger to try and drive all the way down here to be to work on time. Thank you.

Answer: While we consult with other installations, we do not base our decision upon theirs--nor do they base their decision upon ours. With Team Pete members who reside from Denver to Pueblo, and from Peyton to Woodland Park, our focus cannot be on where everyone chose to live and the distinctive weather patterns affecting those locales, but is instead on the local road conditions as determined from the police and sheriff departments, and on Peterson's conditions. For example, the Academy may delay due to its conditions in its northwest location snuggled against the mountains near Monument; Schriever may delay due to Highway 94's icy conditions; we may delay due to conditions on streets in town and on the highway, or to clear base streets and parking lots following a heavy snowfall; thus, it wouldn't be prudent to mandate that one installation's delay necessitates all others delay. If you believe you cannot safely travel, contact your supervisor and explain the conditions and reason for the delay.

The Peterson Inclement Weather Plan has proce-

dures in place to coordinate with local authorities in the area when determining weather conditions. These procedures are implemented in the event of significant snowfall and/or freezing rain that may necessitate delayed reporting or closures, and are publicized in the Space Observer, the Commander's Access Channel, and via broadcast media in the local area. The goal of wing leadership is to make a decision regarding delayed reporting or closures no later than 0400 hrs so that members can be notified before departing for duty. Safety remains a priority for this installation, and hopefully for every individual stationed here.

Trash talk

Question: I live on base, and I'm confused about some aspects of the recycling program at Peterson. We can take glass to an off-base contractor in the northwest section of town, but cannot recycle it on base. Also, I've heard the recycling doesn't take all cardboard. What is the real story?

Answer: We applaud your commitment and asking this question. While your Base Housing Brochure will further clarify the program, let's hit the high points. Peterson recycles all types of cardboard, but cannot recycle glass due to the high cost and low environmental benefit. Corrugated cardboard can be recycled by placing in recycling dumpsters located throughout Peterson. Non-corrugated cardboard, also known as chipboard, can be recycled by placing it in the newspaper/magazine bins in the recycling dumpsters located at the Recycling Yard (at Goodfellow Street and Ent Avenue on the base's west side, south of the Civil Engineering complex).

– See Action Lines, Pg. 5



Space Observer

Published by Gowdy Printcraft, 22 N. Sierra Madre, Colorado Springs, 80903, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 21st Space Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 21st Space Wing Public Affairs Office, 775 Loring Ave., Suite 218, Peterson AFB, Colo., 80914-1294. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The Space Observer is published every Thursday. For advertising inquiries, call Gowdy Printcraft, (719) 634-1593. Employees of Peterson Air Force Base who want to place a free classified advertisement should call 556-5241.

Articles for the Space Observer should be submitted to the 21st SW/PAI, Attn: Space Observer, 775 Loring Ave., Ste. 218, Peterson AFB, Colo., 80914-1294 or e-mail space.observer@peterson.af.mil. Deadline for submission is 4:30 p.m. the Tuesday one week before publication. All articles, copy and announcements submitted will be edited to conform to AFI Series 35 and the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual. For details, call the editor at (719) 556-4351 or DSN 834-4351.

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A Moment in Time



■ **Jan. 9, 1976** – The U.S. Air Force's first operational F-15 Eagle, arrives at 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, Va.

■ **Jan. 12, 1939** – President Franklin D. Roosevelt asks Congress for a revision of the authorization for Army aircraft.

■ **Jan. 13, 1942** – The XR-4, the Army Air Force's first helicopter, makes its initial flight.

■ **Jan. 13, 1993** – U.S. Air Force Maj. (now a Col. at AFSPC HQ) Susan Helms, a member of the space shuttle Endeavor crew, becomes the first U.S. military woman in space.

Commissaries sensitive to beef concerns

By **Bonnie Powell**

Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. – Officials at the Defense Commissary Agency are closely monitoring the ever-changing situation involving a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also known as “mad cow” disease, identified Dec. 23 in a single cow in Washington state.

Since Dec. 23, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has conducted a limited recall of 10,000 pounds of beef that may originate from the infected cow and from cows slaughtered at the same time and location.

“No beef in any of our 275 commissaries worldwide has been involved in a USDA recall,” said Col. Mark Wolken, chief of public health, safety and security for DeCA. “The USDA has stated that the U.S. beef supply is safe and that the beef recall resulted from an abundance of caution, not fear that the meat is infected. Should the USDA make a deter-

mination that there is a danger, DeCA would be first to react to protect the health of our customers.”

Since the first U.S. case of BSE was identified Dec. 23, commissary customers have raised questions about the safety of beef purchased at their local commissary. Questions range from “should I return the ground beef I bought last week?” to “has my commissary received meat from the infected cow?”

The answer to both questions is “no,” said Col. Wolken, an Army veterinarian.

“As is always the case, customers who wish to return commissary products for a full refund may do so without question. The brain, spinal cord, and lower intestine – where the protein or ‘prion’ that is believed to cause BSE is found – is not generally used in food consumed by Americans. Those parts were removed from the infected cow before any of it could enter the meat supply,” he said.

USDA investigators have determined that the recalled meat went to a few commercial markets in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, and Guam as well

as Washington state, Oregon, California and Nevada.

“No commissaries received any of those shipments,” Col. Wolken said. “But I can certainly understand customers having concerns and questions. We’re all affected by this – we’re all concerned.”

Mad cow is a fatal disease that destroys the brain of the infected animal. It is caused in cattle by misshapen proteins called prions and is thought to be spread from animal to animal through feed contaminated with the prions from the tissue of an infected animal. A rare form of the disease in humans known as variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease has been linked to the consumption of contaminated beef products. The approximately 140 human deaths linked to “mad cow” since the mid-90s have mainly been in Britain.

For the latest developments on the current situation as well as for links to the USDA and other information on recalls and food safety, commissary customers should check the food safety link at <http://www.commissaries.com>.

Operation Julemand raises \$21K for Greenlanders

By **1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers**

Thule Air Base Public Affairs

THULE AIR BASE, Greenland – Reaching a 20-year high, residents of Thule Air Base raised nearly \$21,000 during 2003 for Operation Julemand, an annual base initiative that benefits the Qaanaaq municipality’s 260 children.

Operation Julemand (Julemand is the Danish word for Santa Claus) supports a Youth Center in Qaanaaq, a city of about 900 people located 75 miles northwest of the base, and provides Christmas gifts to the district’s children.

The last time Thule raised a comparable amount was 1983, when the base raised \$22,015.71.

“There were many more people here back then,” said Chief Petty Officer Lars Iversen, Danish Liaison Office. Base residents numbered in the thousands in the early ‘80s, compared to approximately 800 today.

“It says a lot that we reached a near record amount this year with so few people,” Chief Iversen said.

“Operation Julemand epitomizes the spirit of the North and the true spirit of Christmas,” said Master Sgt. Rick Shaffer, Thule Air Base first sergeant and Operation Julemand Committee president.

The fundraiser began in 1959, a time when families here and at Dundas

Radio Station sent their children to school on the main base, Chief Iversen said. The money raised was used to buy Christmas presents for those children. Providing Christmas presents to children has been a tradition ever since.

The Operation Julemand Committee, which oversees the program, uses the money raised to both purchase gifts for local children and to provide a cash donation to various international charities on behalf of the base. Past charities have been the Ronald McDonald House, which supports families of children with life-threatening illnesses, and Fulton Stiftelsen, a Danish sail boat that doubles as a school for troubled youth.

In recent years the cash donation has gone to Denmark’s Save The Children initiative benefiting Greenland.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark is protectorate of the Save The Children organization. After his dogsled expedition from Qaanaaq in 2000, Prince Frederik saw a need to reach out to the children in the district, Chief Iversen said. Since then, Save the Children has used the Julemand donations to support Qaanaaq’s Youth Center, a place where children can learn how to use computers, play musical instruments, and interact with others.

“The Youth Center provides a home away from home for the local



Courtesy photo

Col. Thomas Walker, 821st Air Base Group Commander, poses for a photograph with children at Qaanaaq’s Youth Center. The Youth Center in Qaanaaq is supported, in part, by “Team Thule” contributions made during Operation Julemand.

children,” said Col. Thomas Walker, Thule Air Base Commander, who visited the center in October. “In the past, furniture, computers, and televisions have been purchased for the Youth Center through Save The Children. It’s a great facility and we’re proud to support it.”

The Julemand gifts were delivered to all the villages in the Qaanaaq municipality on a space available basis free of charge by Air Greenland, which has routine flights in the district. Base

personnel have traveled to Qaanaaq to hand out gifts in times past, but they were unable to make the trip this year due to inclement weather. However, the weather did not hamper the spirits of children in Qaanaaq, who opened up their Operation Julemand gifts Dec. 29.

“Our best wishes go out to all our neighbors in the Qaanaaq municipality this Christmas — we’re honored to celebrate Christmas here in Santa’s backyard,” Col. Walker said.

Airman's Manual Online

<https://commweb.hill.af.mil/ATM/>



The complete
Airman's Manual is
now available online!
Browse sections for
review or test your
knowledge of today's
Air Force with online
quizzes.



Training offered for Family Liaison Officers

By Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

An annual awareness training class for the Survivor Assistance Program is scheduled for Tuesday at 8 a.m. in the Enlisted Club.

The training for unit commanders, first sergeants, or other persons in positions of authority on the Air Force's Survivor Assistance Program is an AF requirement. The AFSAP assigns a Family Liaison Officer to each family after the death of a military member.

"They are trained by the Services squadron to provide families with a central point to go through, so

they're not trying to guess which experts to go to," said Mr. Tom Flaherty, the Air Force Survivor Assistance Program Director.

"It's part of taking care of the entire Air Force team, making sure family members who lose somebody are provided for and know they are still a part of the Air Force family," he said.

To ensure this need is met, training is offered for officers and enlisted members in the rank of master sergeant or above. Each unit is required to have a FLO. They learn what their responsibilities are as liaison officers, and how to interact with grieving family members.

"We want people who have been around for a

while. We teach them what to do and not to do," said 2nd Lt. William Parker, 21st Space Wing Family Liaison Officer Program Training Manager.

"After being trained as a FLO, they become an additional support resource for families during the coming weeks, months, and year. They are not counselors or subject matter experts, but have the knowledge of who to contact to gain information for the family on counseling, legal or other matters," he said.

"It's important for everyone to know the program is here and what it does in case someone in their unit ever needs some help," Mr. Flaherty said.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Parker at 556-7096.



Concurrent receipt pay becomes reality

ARLINGTON, Va. – Military retirees will begin receiving both retired pay and Veterans Affairs disability compensation as the disability offset is phased out.

Previously, the offset reduced the amount of the military retiree's pay by an amount equal to any disability payment received from the VA.

President George W. Bush signed legislation authorizing concurrent receipt of both forms of compensation on Nov. 24. The legislation will deliver billions of dollars to more than 200,000 disabled military retirees effective Jan. 1.

Public Law 108-136 authorizes a 10-year, phased elimination of the VA disability offset to retired pay. This will affect servicemembers with non-disability retirements, without regard to years of service. Those who retired as a result of a service-related disability are also eligible. They must have at least 20 years of qualifying service. In all cases, the retiree must be rated at least 50-percent disabled by VA. Today, more than 200,000 military retirees meet the

criteria required to receive an increase in their retired pay, VA officials said.

This legislation expands the field of eligibility for combat-related special compensation to include retirees with 20 years of qualifying service, who have a combined disability rating of less than 60 percent. It expands eligibility for a tax-exempt payment to replace retired pay lost to the concurrent receipt ban and is open to retirees with 20 or more years of service and disabilities tied to combat or combat-related training. Reserve retirees are included; however, people who retired under Temporary Early Retirement Authority are not.

While this change expands the number of veterans currently receiving CRSC from about 4,800 today, eligible retirees may not receive both concurrent receipt payments and combat-related special compensation at the same time. The act requires an annual open season to be conducted to allow veterans eligible for both concurrent payment and CRSC to choose

between the two options. Details on how the annual open season will be conducted will be published separately.

Because the act also repeals the authorization for special compensation for the severely disabled which provides veterans benefits for those with disabilities greater than 60 percent, about 37,000 SCSD recipients will be the first to see increases to their retired pay effective Jan. 1 for the payment dated Feb. 2. System changes are required to fully implement the legislation and will take several months to complete, VA officials said.

When full implementation is completed, payments will include monies that are due retroactively to Jan. 1.

Interested military retirees should watch for updated information on the myPay and DFAS Web sites. Information on veterans benefits is available at www.va.gov.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

– Action Lines, from Pg. 2

Glass recycling is not feasible due to its high recycling cost and environmental impacts. If we were to modify our refuse contract to take glass, it would have to be shipped to the nearest recycling facility (Phoenix, Ariz.) at a cost of \$1,260 per ton; transporting each month would increase air emissions by approximately one ton per year.

The 21st Civil Engineers have developed a handout explaining our recycling program, and will distribute this base-wide. Like you, we are committed to reduce solid waste disposal and increase recycling opportunities. Our Zero Waste Team, comprised of local

military installations, the EPA, and the City of Colorado Springs, has set goals to increase recycling opportunities. The team goal is zero waste generation from all military installations; with support from those like you, we'll get there!

Trash talk, too

Question: Why isn't the recycle center opened during posted hours? The sign on the gate has posted hours of Monday - Friday 6 a.m. – 6 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month. We tried to take our recycling on Saturday for disposal, however the gate was locked. Can we get the gate opened on a regular basis so that patrons can utilize the facility?

Answer: Thank you for your inquiry and dedication to recycling. 21st CES apologizes for any inconveniences caused by the recycling/bulk waste yard not being opened when you expected it. The recycling/bulk waste center has been going through operational changes since September 2003 as a result of increased unauthorized use of the center. Although the recycling portion is open to all personnel, the bulk waste portion is limited to waste generated as part of the mission of Peterson AFB, and waste generated in family housing. The unauthorized usage we've found includes military and civilian employees disposing of trash from off-base residences, contrac-

tors disposing of improper waste materials, waste not being placed in dumpsters, dumpsters being over-filled, materials that cannot be disposed of in landfills, and recyclable materials placed in trash dumpsters. On a few occasions, the recycle/bulk waste center had to be closed for extra clean up caused by the unauthorized use. As a result, CE has spent thousands of dollars unnecessarily for extra disposal and clean-up costs. CE has instituted new procedures for operation of the recycling/bulk waste center. For information on recycling and usage of the recycling/bulk waste center, please contact 1st Lt. Michael Siebert at 556-0963.



CLOTHING SALES ITEM BACKLOG

Due to increased demand for military clothing items to support ongoing operations, Military Clothing Sales Stores are experiencing a backlog of some clothing items. Medium temperate (winter weight) Battle Dress Uniform trousers, in medium regular size, are currently out of stock. The Military Service Store Manager recommends customers immediately needing these items consider purchasing summer weight trousers instead.

ENLISTED MEMBERS ON PROFILE RESTRICTED FROM IN-RESIDENCE PME

Effective Jan. 1, Air Force enlisted members with temporary medical conditions restricting active and full participation in physical performance requirements are ineligible to attend resident Enlisted Professional Military Education schools. Resident EPME school activities include: physical fitness, drill and ceremonies, uniform inspection formations, and other student performance duties as specified in the course requirements.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Team Pete can now drop off Christmas trees for recycling into mulch for base landscaping projects. The drop-off location is across the street from the base cable office, one block north of the corner of Mitchell and Stewart streets. Remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights and garland from the trees before recycling. Off-base residents are encouraged to recycle their Christmas trees at Rocky Top Resources, located at 2150 Reliable Drive. For more information, call the Environmental Flight at 556-9328 or 556-7305.

PHONE BOOK RECYCLING

Beginning on Wednesday, Peterson AFB personnel can drop off their phone books for recycling. Drop-off containers will be located in the parking lot next to

McDonald's and the Recycling Yard south of Building 1324, until Jan. 31. For more information, call the Environmental Flight at 556-0963 or 556-8059.

BUILDING ROMANCE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

A marriage-enrichment seminar, "Building Romance in your Marriage," is 9 a.m.-5p.m. Saturday at the Peterson AFB Chapel. Registration is \$10 per couple, and breakfast and lunch are included. Childcare and teenage activities are provided. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) David Mansberger at 556-4442.

BASE BLOOD DRIVE AND BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRATION DRIVE

A Blood and Bone Marrow Donor Registration drive is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 15 at the Peterson AFB Chapel. Participants may donate blood, register for the bone marrow donor program, or do both. Only one blood donation is needed to participate. Restrictions are different for each program. For information about the blood drive, call Capt. Bill Harris at 556-2808. Marrow donor registration questions should be directed to Master Sgt. Kristin Clark at 556-9158.

SPACE SYMPOSIUM

The Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association Rocky Mountain Chapter has its sixth annual Communications/Space Symposium Jan. 27-29 at the Broadmoor Hotel International Center. Admission to the exhibit hall is free for military ID card holders. There is a fee to attend the symposium. To register, visit www.rockymtn-afcea.org. For more information, call Maj. Steve Schlonski at 554-9632 or Maj. Kristina Roth at 554-7344.

PIKES PEAK COMBINED SPOUSES CLUB HOLDS JANUARY FUNCTION

The Pikes Peak Combined Spouses Club's

January function will be a Pajama Party Bunko, at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 20 at the Mission Support Center. No Bunko experience is necessary. Show off your new (or old) pajamas or loungewear. Cost is \$5 for Bunko players, and \$1 for those who just want to socialize. Pizza and drinks will be served, but bring your favorite party munchies to share. RSVPs are a must and are due no later than Jan. 19. Contact Linh Narum at 591-7010, or by e-mail at LNarum@msn.com.

NORTH GATE CONSTRUCTION

Installation of new security gates at the North entrance to Peterson Air Force Base runs through Jan. 17. All work will be accomplished from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. On a few occasions, one traffic lane will be closed for the day. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Gordon Wilkins at 556-4140, or 2nd Lt. Scott Sinclair at 556-6190.

AQUATICS CENTER CLOSURE

The Aquatics Center pool is scheduled to open Jan. 26, after ceiling repairs are made. For more information, call the Aquatics Center at 556-4608.

CHILD CARE ORIENTATION

For people interested in running a family child care business from their home on base, the Family Child Care office offers an orientation class Jan. 21-23. For more information or to register, call the FCC office at 556-4322.

COMMITTEE SCHEDULES ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The 2003 21st Space Wing Annual Awards Banquet is slated for Feb. 19. Retired Chief Master Sgt. Bob Gaylor, the fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, is the guest speaker. Though planning for the event has begun, several committee and subcommittee positions remain open. The planning committee meets weekly in the 21st Operations Support Squadron conference room, Building 845. For more information or to volunteer, call the chairman at 556-1339.

Chapel Schedule



Protestant

Worship Services:

Liturgical Service, 6:30 p.m. Sat.
Traditional Worship Service, 8 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School 9:35 a.m. Sun.
Contemporary/Inspirational Service, 11 a.m. Sun.

Catholic

Weekday Mass, 11:35 a.m. (except Monday)
Saturdays, 5 p.m.
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Reconciliation
Saturdays, 4 p.m.

**For more information -
Call the chapel at 556-4442 for
available chapel programs.

Blotter

The following real-life events with real individuals from around Peterson are to inform you of crimes, accidents, and events occurring on base. These entries are from hundreds recorded in the Peterson Police Blotter:

*** Editor's note: Although the Space Observer staff may make light of some blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.*

A SPIN WITH A BOTTLE – Dec. 12

During a routine vehicle check, a Security Forces member at the West gate detained a military dependent and three civilian guests for possession and consumption of alcohol by minors. Seems the thirsty quartet had a 40-ounce opened bottle o' Bud, a 20-pack of the same in cans, and another unopened of Mr. Sam Adams. Colorado Springs Police Department responded, and awarded the gulping group with summons for their awful unlawful possession and consumption. The vehicle was released to the dependent's mother.

MEDICAL RESPONSE #1 – Dec. 13

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and American Medical Response responded to military housing, where a military member was complaining of difficulty breathing and chest pains. AMR transported the individual to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

MAILBOX RECEIVES SPECIAL DELIVERY – Dec. 15

Security Forces responded to military housing where an honest hitter registered a run-in with a feisty mailbox. Seems he was pulling out of the parking lot when he slid into the mailbox. There was no damage to his vehicle, but the mailbox was stamped with a 24-inch dent. The driver received a certified citation for hitting a fixed object.

CHICKEN SCRATCHES - Dec. 15

Security Forces responded to the Selfridge Child Development Center, where a military member reported her 2000 Mazda Protegé's front passenger door had been damaged — some chicken had put some scratches on it, and flew the coop. Investigation is ongoing.

DUMMY DELIGHT – Dec. 16

Security Forces responded at 2:20 a.m. to Patriot Hall, where some erstwhile patriots were having a small revolution. Upon arrival, the patrols found broken beer bottles on the floor, and two "combatants" were found hiding in the bathroom — both reeking of booze. The dumalums became irate and exhibited their moonshine manliness by physically but fruitlessly resisting apprehension. The beer buddies were released to their first sergeants to explain their early morning shenanigans.

NO WAY TO TREAT A DEPLOYED MEMBER – Dec. 16

A military member reported to the Security Forces that some thief had stolen the center caps for the rims of her Honda's wheels while she was deployed for nearly five months. Investigation is ongoing.

BONK & BOOK – Dec. 16

A military member reported that his silver 2001 Toyota had been struck while at the Commissary, and the striker skedaddled. A witness stated he saw a purple Volvo hit the car, and leave the scene.

BARGAIN HUNTING BONEHEAD – Dec. 16

Security Forces responded to the Base Exchange where a young thief had been apprehended for attempting to steal not one, but two compact disks worth \$26. CSPD responded and issued the tune taker a summons for shoplifting.

he was later released to his sponsor.

MILITARY STRIKE – Dec. 19

Security Forces responded to a fender-bender at the intersection of Peterson Boulevard and Otis Street, where a military motorist struck an oncoming vehicle. This red light rebel barreled through the intersection, colliding with the unsuspecting driver. Both vehicles received dings and scrapes. The crunch-causer was issued a citation for disobeying a traffic signal.

KNUCKLE DOWN AND BUCKLE UP – Dec. 19

A member of the CSPD was dispatched at the request of Security Forces to deal with a driver who neglected to properly restrain the tiny travelers riding in her vehicle. The woman was issued a summons for failure to use child restraint systems.

A MINOR'S INFRACTION – Dec. 20

Security Forces responded to the Base Exchange, where a shoplifting suspect was being detained. The looting lad snagged a \$29 bottle of cologne right before being snagged himself by an Army & Air Force Exchange Service store detective. In addition to reclaiming the pilfered cologne, Security Forces also relieved the stymied suspect of both military ID cards in his possession. The cost of petty thievery: one summons. The value of a clean record: priceless.

DEFENSOR OOPS – Dec. 22

Additional Security Forces members were called to the scene of a minor traffic accident involving a Security Forces patrol car and a privately owned vehicle. The enforcer was preparing to intercept a speeding truck at the time of the accident. While parked at a stop sign, she turned on the overhead lights, but they didn't help her see the car directly behind the patrol vehicle. The Security Forces member backed out, bonking the vehicle behind hers, and causing minor damage to both cars. The dutiful defender accepted a citation for unsafe backing.

SCRAPED AND SCRATCHED SPORT UTILITY – Dec. 23

A military member reported to Security Forces that, while parked at his on-base residence, his dark blue 1998 Ford Explorer had received four large scratches and dents along the passenger side, along with a reddish paint transfer. Investigation is ongoing.

BOLLARD BONK – Dec. 24

A Security Forces member reported his patrol car had bashed a bollard at the North Gate. After dropping off traffic control cones at the North Gate, the driver struck one of the bollards with the vehicle's passenger side front grill guard, causing grill guard and bumper scrapes, and detaching the fog light from the grill. The bollard didn't even blink.

MEDICAL RESPONSE #2 – Dec. 24

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR responded to Dormitory 590, where a military member had cut himself with a knife and couldn't stop the bleeding. AMR transported the individual to the U.S. Air Force Academy Hospital for further treatment.

BREAKING & ENTERING IN BASE HOUSING – Dec. 25

Shortly after midnight, multiple base housing residents reported that overnight someone had entered their homes. Nothing was taken, except from those who had left out milk and cookies for the anticipated visitor. The visitor, in turn, had left gifts for most residents on his nice list, and switches and coal for a few unnamed on his naughty list (mostly headquarters types). Security Forces reports this appears to be an annual occurrence, and will not pursue the perpetrator.

DOG BITE – Dec. 26

A military member reported to Security Forces that, while running on the path at Pete East, he had been bitten by a small black dog, breaking the skin on his right calf. The biting beastie was one of four dogs running around leash-less near the path. The runner approached

two people near the menacing mutts, who claimed ownership of the dogs. One owner told the runner he didn't have the dog's registration tags with him, but that the dog was current on all vaccinations.

BACK AND BONK – Dec. 26

Security Forces responded to base housing, where a minor vehicle accident had taken place. Seems the backing bonker managed to Ram her red Dodge pick-up into a black Ford Explorer, shattering her own taillight, and denting the Explorer's tailgate. The befuddled backer received a citation for inattentive backing.

BRAINGLESS BOOZER BUSTED – Dec. 26

Security Forces detained a military member at the West Gate for possible DUI. Field sobriety tests detected slurred speech and weaving from side to side. An Intoxilizer test resulted in a reading of .173. The alcohol-affected airman was advised of his Article 31 rights. He declined legal counsel and agreed to answer questions. The inebriated imbecile was issued a summons for driving under the influence, and operating a motor vehicle without a license.

COMMISSARY COUNTERFEIT CASH – Dec. 28

Security Forces responded to the Commissary, where a manager had found a counterfeit \$5 bill while performing an unannounced cash count. The origin of the bogus bill is unknown.

INFANT DEMANDS ATTENTION RIGHT FROM THE START – Dec. 29

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR responded to a report of a military family member who was in labor. AMR transported the individual to Evans Army Hospital at Fort Carson.

NO CARD, NO ENTRY – Dec. 30

Security Forces responded to the Fitness Center where an employee reported an unruly person trying to gain entry to the center without showing his identification card, using profane language, and emitting a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage. The suspected sot got his exercise by running away toward the dormitories before Security Forces arrived.

LI-SENSELESS LAD – Dec. 30

Security Forces at the West Gate detained a civilian driver for driving without a license. A check revealed his license had been revoked for driving without insurance. CSPD responded and issued the moronic motorist a summons for driving under restraint, and arrested him for outstanding felony warrants for impersonation.

POTHEAD BUSTED – Dec. 30

Security Forces detained a civilian driver with glassy eyes who was emitting the odor of marijuana. CSPD responded, searched the doped-up driver, and found a contraband pipe on his person. A search of the vehicle revealed a small amount of a green leafy substance in the center console. Security Forces also confiscated the senseless stoner's ID card because it was expired.

TOGA PARTY RENEGADES? – Dec. 31

Multiple reports were received regarding an old, bearded man wandering through the base wearing what appeared to be a toga, accompanied by a baby in not much more than a diaper. According to reports, the man had a sash from his shoulder to his waist with the number "2003" on it, while the baby had a similar sash with "2004" on it. The old man vanished at midnight, but the baby remains with us today.

ALARMING TRENDS CONTINUE:

In addition to these entries, there continue to be too many illegitimate alarm activations on base. Among those noted by Security Forces this week were three from individuals who activated alarms accidentally (two while cleaning) and five caused by improper procedures or PIN codes.

*** If you have any information on a crime or any of these blotter entries, please report it to Security Forces at 556-4000.*

Year in Review

January

- The Air Force chief of staff directs the immediate implementation of the small-pox vaccination program.
- Team Pete enjoys Snowfest at Keystone.



- Peterson's newest one-plus-one style dormitory opens.

February

- The space shuttle Columbia disintegrates upon re-entry into Earth's atmosphere. Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander, is appointed to the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.
- The Air Force Ball takes a "Walk into the Future" at the Broodmoor.
- Peterson's Spouses Club packs and ships hundreds of CARE Packages to deployed members of Team Pete.
- About 300 people from Air Force Space Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command pay tribute at a ceremony in the Peterson auditorium to the seven who were lost on the Space Shuttle Columbia.
- The 21st Space Wing honored its outstanding performers of 2002 with an annual awards banquet at the Enlisted Club.
- Army National Guard soldiers assume a force protection role along side Security Forces members. More than 20 soldiers from the 2nd/157th Field Artillery have been activated to work with the 21st SFS.
- The 405th Air Expeditionary Wing has its President's Day Fireman's Challenge in the Sultanate of Oman.
- North American Aerospace Defense Command named its outstanding military and civilian workers for 2002 during a Feb. 24 luncheon at the Officers' Club.
- Deputy Chief of the Air Force Chaplain Service, Brig. General Charles C. Baldwin, comes to speak at the Peterson National Prayer Luncheon, Feb. 27th at the Peterson Officers' Club, addressing the subject of "Extreme Prayer."

March

- The Team 21 Association hosts the second-annual Guardian Challenge auction, offering members of Team Pete an opportunity to have a great time, raise money for the Wing's Guardian Challenge team, and bid against one another for dinners, and merchandise.
- Team Pete emergency responders join forces with Colorado Springs emergency response personnel for a major accident response exercise on the flight line in support of Condor Crest.

April

- Construction begins on a \$320,000 renovation project of the Band of the Rockies rehearsal studios.
- One week into Operation Iraqi Freedom, 40,000 airmen spread across 30 locations stand poised for the long and difficult road ahead.
- The Non-Appropriated Fund Store opens to active duty military, Department of Defense civilians, retirees, and family members with DoD identification cards.
- Nearly 2,000 people from Team Pete purchase tickets to spend the day enjoying plenty of food, games, and rides during an Armed Forces Appreciation Day offered at Six Flags Elitch Gardens in Denver.



- When faced with the challenge of finding a fitting way to dispose of unserviceable flags, the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Protection Flight initiates a ceremony to give flags the proper disposal they deserve, conducting the first flag disposal ceremony April 1.

May

- A new \$6.3 million, 34,000 square-foot addition to Peterson's R.P. Lee Youth Center is completed. The new facility includes a full-size gymnasium, teen and pre-teen areas, and 60 spaces for school-age programs.
- Stop Loss restrictions are eased for 31 officer and 20 enlisted career fields.
- Troop 199, Peterson's new Boy Scout Troop, officially stands up at a ceremony during Cub Scout Pack 99 graduation ceremony.
- The 21st and 50th Space Wings conduct a joint nuclear weapons accident scenario, testing their ability to respond to contingencies. The scenario is included as part of a 21st Space Wing exercise.



- GIANT VOICE tests begin on Peterson. The tests are now conducted every Friday at noon.
- Members of the 13th Space Warning Squadron Fire Department, Security Forces, and Clinic, at Clear Air Force Station, Alaska, respond to a wildfire, a vehicle fire, and two vehicle rollovers. Clear emergency services personnel respond to emergencies in the areas surrounding base as part of an agreement.
- Peterson family members Jonathan Clyde, Brianna Schneider, and Joseph Veres are each presented with \$1,500 "Scholarships for Military Children Program" scholarships. The awards are sponsored by the Defense Commissary Agency, and Fisher House.



- Col. Al Strait, 21st Maintenance Group Commander, celebrates his 50th birthday by competing in – and completing – the annual Rocky Mountain Double Marathon at Laramie Wyo.

June

- The 21st Space Communication Squadron's Network Control Center officially opens its doors at a ribbon-cutting ceremony, combining two offices into one large operations center.
- The latest addition to Peterson's Air and Space Museum inventory, a BOMARC missile, is officially dedicated in a ceremony near the Museum's Medal of Honor Grove.
- The annual Retiree Appreciation Day and Information Fair is held at the Air Force Academy's Arnold Hall.
- Col. Tom Walker takes the reins of the 821st Air Base Group at Thule Air Base, Greenland.
- Ms. Beverly Crockett, executive secretary to NORAD's director of plans, retires from civil service June, ending a 46-year career that began in Continental Air Defense Command, the forerunner to NORAD. Ms. Crockett said her original plan was to work only long enough to earn money for college. She held her current position for 17 years.
- Col. Teresa Djuric becomes commander of the 21st Operations Group.
- The last of the airmen whose retirement or separation was delayed by Stop-Loss for Operation Iraqi Freedom are released, and will be eligible to leave the service July 31.
- Construction of a new Main Gate complex to provide increased force protection for Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station officially gets under way with a formal groundbreaking ceremony.

July

- Cindy R. Litteral, the base deputy fire chief, is the first woman to be named Air Force Civilian Fire Officer of the Year.
- Maj. John T. Linn, 21st Services Squadron Commander, receives the Air Force Services Award for Field Grade Officer of the Year.
- Peterson's Enlisted Against Drunk Driving program is initiated on Peterson Air Force Base in hopes of reducing the number of DUI cases.
- Col. David A. Adams assumes command of the 721st Mission Support Group at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station.
- Tech. Sgt. Shawn J. Minyon, from the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Carson, is among forward air controllers honored as part of the Air Force Association's Air Force Outstanding Team of the Year, in Arlington, Va.
- Staff Sgt. David Anderson, from the Area Dental Laboratory, wins the Masters State Championship for velodrome cycling.

August

- The Commander of Air Force Space Command, Gen. Lance Lord, proclaims August 2003 as Motorcycle Safety Month in an ongoing effort to maintain the command's trend of no recent motorcycle fatalities due to mishap.
- Air Force Space Command Vice Commander, Lt. Gen. Robert C. Hinson, retires after more than 33 years, in a ceremony at the base Parade Field.
- The 21st Space Wing and the Peterson Air and Space Museum Foundation host "Sunset in the Park," a community gathering Aug. 2, at the Museum Air Park.
- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper directs that, beginning in January, airmen will test their fitness levels by performing sit-ups, push-ups and running 1.5 miles.
- Team Pete's parade float honoring fallen Fort Carson soldiers wins the Grand Marshal's Trophy for best entry in the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade Aug. 6 downtown.

- Col. Gary W. Pond takes command of the 21st Maintenance Group from Col. Alvin B. Strait, who will retire from the Air Force after 27 years of service.
- John C. "Jack" Herther, retired Brig. Gen. Martin Menter, retired Navy Capt. Robert C. Truax, and retired Col. Albert J. "Red" Wetzel receive the 2003 Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Award.
- The 21st Space Wing hosts a Motorcycle Safety Day, featuring comments by Air Force Space Command Commander, Gen. Lance Lord, and a series of briefings, video presentations, and motorcycle inspections.
- Col. Cynthia Snyder takes command of the 21st Mission Support Group from Col. Marvin Fisher.
- Members of the 21st Services Squadron return from Operation Iraqi Freedom, safe and sound. Earlier this year, members of the 21st SVS deployed to Iraq to support an expeditionary services unit.

September

- Building 590, Peterson's newest dormitory, is officially named Patriot Hall as a tribute the heroes Sept. 11.
- A POW/MIA Day commemoration ceremony is held at the base flagpole in front of the 21st Space Wing Headquarters, Building 845. M.G. "Gil" Turley, a WWII POW, describes his experience and his perspective on POW/MIA Day.
- U.S. Northern Command announces full operational capability.
- Members of Team 21 showed the Air Force Space Command Inspector General Team that they could survive and operate in a wartime environment during a mock deployment to Pete East.
- Rudy, an 11-year-old German shepherd military working dog, finds an adop-



- tive family, and a new home in Austin, Texas.

October

- The 21st Medical Group based at Peterson Air Force Base is reactivated.
- The U.S. Air Force Band of the Rockies is renamed The U.S. Air Force Academy Band.

November

- The Tuskegee legacy is honored in a halftime ceremony at the Air Force vs. Utah football game, with several members of the original Tuskegee Airmen in attendance.
- Master Sgt. Chuck Cypher, 21st Space Wing Safety Office, earned the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement as Ground Safety Manager for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, at a forward deployed base.
- President George W. Bush arrives aboard Air Force One at Peterson Air Force Base to visit Fort Carson and meet with the families of soldiers killed in action.

December

- Saddam Hussein, the Ace of Spades in the "55 Most Wanted" deck of cards, is captured.
- U.S. NORTHCOM Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Estrem retires after 31 years.





A T Y O U R S E R V I C E

This Week

Today

■ Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m. in the Mission Support Center, Room 1016.

■ Interviewing class, 1-4 p.m. at the MSC, Room 1016. Designed to help people develop and refine their interviewing skills.

Friday

■ Pre-Separation Briefing, 8-9 a.m. at the MSC, Room 1016. This is a mandatory briefing for those that are retiring or separating from the military.

Saturday

■ Annual membership party and safety meeting, 5 p.m. at the Flight Training Center.

■ Thunder Alley, 8:30 p.m. at the Bowling Center.

Tuesday

■ Sponsorship Training, 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the MSC, Room 1016. Required for all sponsors of military and civilian employees.

Wednesday

■ Applying for Federal Service, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the MSC, Room 1016.

■ Pre-Separation Briefing, 3-4 p.m. at the MSC, Room 1016.

■ Mongolian Barbecue, 6-8 p.m. at the Officers' Club.

■ Family Chicken Dinner Buffet, 5-7 p.m. at the Enlisted Club.

Jan. 15

■ Career Marketing, 8 a.m.-noon in the Mission Support Center, Room 1016.

■ Basic Investing, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Mission Support Center, Room 1016.

■ Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m. in the Mission Support Center, Room 1016.

■ Mongolian Barbecue, 5-7 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. Reservations are suggested for this popular dinner. Call 556-4194.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 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 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

Team Pete hits slopes with powder power

By Staff Sgt.
Sue Mrowiec

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Souvenir shops throughout Colorado are laden with images of the snow-capped Rocky Mountains.

As the snow season peaks, Outdoor Recreation invites Team Pete to take a closer look at what these wintry wonders have to offer.

Day-trippers can venture to ski resorts at Copper Mountain, Vail, Breckenridge, Keystone, Monarch, and Arapaho Basin.

"We try to go every weekend, depending on how many people sign up," said Ms. Mary Gregor, a ski and snowboard technician at Outdoor Recreation.

Ms. Gregor described some of the benefits of these organized outings.

"People don't have to worry about winter driving conditions. Plus, you could wind up saving gas money and mileage on your own car," she said.

"It's cost effective. Each trip is \$10," said Ms. Susan Morrison, a ski and snowboard technician at Outdoor Recreation.

But patrons can appreciate more than the dollar value of these outings.

"Outdoor Recreation keeps morale high among the troops and their families," Ms. Morrison said.

"The trips we offer provide a chance to meet new people and maybe share skiing and snowboarding tips," said Ms. Gregor.

Though Outdoor Recreation doesn't offer any "tips" of their own by way of instruction, they do sponsor day trips specifically for beginners in need of lessons.

"We have 'learn to ski' trips where resort instructors teach you how to ski and we provide the transportation," Ms. Gregor said.

Should any skier's gear take a beating on the bunny slope, Outdoor Recreation is there to lend a helping hand.

"We fix and tune-up all skis," Ms. Gregor said. The ski shop also provides maintenance services like waxing, edge sharpening, and mount binding.

Maintenance fees and ski and snowboard equipment rental costs vary.

For a complete list of services available, visit or call Outdoor Recreation at 556-4867.



Ben Eng, the Ski Shop Manager, performs maintenance on a set of skis.



Rob Miller, a recreation assistant at Outdoor Recreation, helps a customer find a suitable snowboard.

ARAGON DINING FACILITY MENU

Today

Lunch:

Herbed Baked Chicken
Southern Catfish
Stuffed Cabbage Rolls
Mixed Vegetables
Peas
Mashed Potatoes
Sweet Potatoes

Dinner:

Cornish Hens
Jaegerschnitzel with Mushroom Sauce
Roast Loin of Pork
Carrots
Corn Combo
Potato Halves
Orange Rice

Friday

Lunch:

Mexican Baked Chicken
Stuffed Green Peppers
Swiss Steak with Tomato Sauce
Peas and Carrots
Spanish-Style Beans
Steamed Rice
Macaroni and Cheese

Dinner:

Sweet Italian Sausage
Lasagna
Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Broccoli Polonaise
Cauliflower
Mashed Potatoes
Italian-Style Baked Bean

Saturday

Brunch:

Cajun Meatloaf
Crispy Baked Chicken
Ribeye Steak
Broccoli
French-Style Peas
Glazed Carrots
Mashed Potatoes
Baked Potatoes

Sunday

Brunch:

Parmesan Chicken Breast
Sauerbraten
Tuna and Noodles
Cauliflower Combo
Fried Cabbage
Peas
Steamed Rice
Au Gratin Potatoes

Monday

Lunch:

Baked Chicken
Simmered
Knockwurst
Swiss Steak with Tomato Sauce
Broccoli Polonaise
Carrots
Sauerkraut
Mashed Potatoes
Steamed Rice

Dinner:

Roast Turkey
Baked Canned Ham
Fish and Fries
Succotash
Herbed Green Beans
Tempura
Vegetables
Cornbread
Dressing
Mashed Potatoes

Tuesday

Lunch:

Salisbury Steak
Onion Lemon Fish
Yakisoba
Spinach
Stewed Tomatoes
Simmered Pinto Beans
Mashed Potatoes

Dinner:

Barbecued Beef
Cubes
Paprika Beef
Pork Chop Suey
Cauliflower
Corn on the Cob
Lima Beans
O'Brien Potatoes
Steamed Rice

Wednesday

Lunch:

Caribbean Jerk Chicken
Beef Porcupines
Chicken
Enchiladas
Mexican Corn
Peas with Onions
Scalloped Potatoes
Steamed Rice

Dinner:

Country-Style Steak
Pita Pizza
Fried Chicken
Cabbage
Fried Cauliflower
Mashed Potatoes
Oven-Browned Potatoes

The Installation Inspector General explained

By Col. Gary Shugart
21st Space Wing Inspector General

Those of you on active duty in the early 1990s may remember the Installation Inspector General was usually the Wing Vice Commander. Because the Vice Commander also had a role in the chain of command, some people were apprehensive about going to the IG because they perceived a conflict of interest and a lack of independence and thoroughness.

To ensure the credibility and responsiveness of the installation IG, the Air Force established an independent installation IG in 1997, as a staff function reporting directly to the installation commander. Independent IGs exist today on all active duty installations, Air Force Reserve Component installations, and in the 88 Air National Guard Wings.

Not to be confused with the Headquarters Air Force IG or Major Command IGs who are responsible for inspections such as Operational Readiness Inspections and complaints programs, the focus of the Installation IG is the Air Force Complaints and Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Programs. Active duty, retired, dependents, and civilians all have the right to file an IG complaint.

If you come to the Installation IG with a complaint, the first question you will be asked is, "have you addressed the issue with your chain of command?" While you are not required to use the chain of command before going to the IG, experience shows that it is normally the fastest way to resolve an issue.

You may have a valid reason to skip your immediate supervisor and go directly to your flight commander or squadron commander.

If you are not able to resolve the issue once you have talked to your chain of command, you always have the option to file a complaint with the installation

IG. You also have the option to file your complaint at a higher level such as MAJCOM or HQ Air Force. Give the Installation IG the opportunity to address your issues first.

The preferred method for filing a complaint with the 21st Space Wing Inspector General is an in-person visit to our offices in Building 845, Room 249 or 250 to complete AF Form 102, Personal and Fraud, Waste & Abuse Complaint Registration. While we will accept a complaint by telephone, e-mail, fax, or letter, we prefer individuals file the Form 102 in person so we have an opportunity to ask questions if the complaint needs clarification.

Filling out a Form 102 before visiting the IG allows you to specify your complaint, what remedy you are seeking, and provide key information needed to analyze the complaint – the who, what, where, when, and how.

The installation IG may dismiss a complaint if it has been more than 60 days since you learned of the alleged wrong.

The installation IG will also work anonymous complaints, but we cannot provide a response if you desire to remain anonymous. We make a great effort to maintain the confidentiality of individuals that file a complaint. In the long run, we can do a better job working your complaint if we can contact you with questions that may arise.

After receiving a complaint, the installation IG conducts a complaint analysis to determine the potential validity and relevance of the allegations to the Air Force and to determine what action, if any, is necessary within IG, command, or other channels.

Department of Defense and Air Force policy mandate the use of specialized investigative agencies or procedures for certain types of complaints. For example, complaints concerning a Letter of

Counseling, Letter of Reprimand, or Article 15 would be referred to the chain of command or the Area Defense Council. Medical treatment complaints are referred to the Surgeon General or Tri-Care Benefits Office. Unprofessional relationship/adultery complaints are referred to the commander.

A complaint is transferred when the complaint analysis discloses the matter is appropriate for IG action, but an IG other than the one receiving the complaint should handle the matter. For example, if a member of a Reserve unit with a Reserve related complaint contacted an active duty installation IG, their complaint would be transferred to the appropriate Reserve IG.

If the complaint analysis discloses no recognizable wrong, or violation of law, regulation, or policy, the complaint will be dismissed.

An investigation is conducted if the complaint analysis indicates there was a wrongdoing. There are two possible categories of findings from an IG investigation. When most of the evidence supports the conclusion the alleged wrongdoing did occur the finding will be "Substantiated." If most of the evidence does not support the allegation the finding will be "Unsubstantiated." The investigation finding is then provided to the appropriate commander. It is the commander, not the IG, who then determines what actions will be taken.

The ultimate goal of the installation IG is to sustain a credible Air Force IG system by ensuring the existence of responsive complaint investigations and FWA programs characterized by objectivity, integrity, and impartiality. The IG system in turn assists commanders in identifying and correcting problems affecting the productivity and morale of their units by resolving the underlying cause of complaint or FWA issues.





Detachment tests Space systems

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

When Department of Defense studies indicated that 21 of 22 major systems deployed to Southeast Asia in the late 1960s suffered major deficiencies, the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., was established as a direct reporting unit to the Air Force Chief of Staff.

Established Jan. 1, 1974, AFOTEC's mission is testing new systems being developed for Air Force and multi-service use under operationally realistic conditions, and their capacity to meet mission needs. Detachment 4 was originally established at Kirtland



Courtesy photo

The Global Broadcast Service Test Team gets an early look at the Theater Injection Point Antenna system. This antenna, coupled with associated equipment, provides the ability for combatant commanders to rapidly send data files, and live or recorded video feeds to deployed forces.

AFB in 1980 to support mobile missile development. In 1984, Det. 4 moved to Peterson AFB.

"Peterson is the hub for all six current operating locations and currently employs 130 military, civilians, and contractors to conduct its mission," said Chief Master Sgt. John Slack, Det. 4 Chief Enlisted Manager.

"We have (an OL at) Hill Air Force Base, Utah," he said. "Their job is ICBM testing, but they're specifically stood up right now for Safety-Enhanced Re-entry Vehicle testing."

Chief Slack said the Los Angeles, Calif., detachment was created to test the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle tests. While the operational tests are complete, some program tests activities are still being conducted.

"We have – up at Buckley – the Space-Based Infrared System. That's (also) an Operating Location," Chief Slack said.

The remaining three operating locations at Schriever AFB, Colo., Huntsville, Ala., and Washington D.C. are in place to support the Ballistic Missile Defense System program. These locations were placed under Det. 4 beginning Nov. 1.

"We've had as many as eight operating locations," said Senior Master Sgt. Dean Boling, Det. 4's Superintendent of Operations and First Sergeant.

Det. 4 continues to be the primary operational test facility for space and missile systems.

"That's basically AFOTEC's mission, and we happen to do the Space programs," Chief Slack said. "We are the Space side of AFOTEC's mission."

"The big difference in the testing that AFOTEC does is in the operational environment," Chief Slack said. "I was the Clear (Air Force Station) radar upgrade tester. The contractor put the system in and they got it operating, and then the program office ensured it met the mission needs. They worked the

bugs out, and then we put the operators in there, doing the real mission.

"We'd generate the scenarios that we need to stress the system, to see how it would operate under real world conditions.

"It's worldwide deployment in terms of testing – going wherever the systems are going to be deployed," Chief Slack added. "When we did Cheyenne Mountain testing, we actually sent people out to every sensor site. We would generate the scenarios, and people would collect data from the sensor site and from Cheyenne Mountain."

The Global Broadcast Service test is another big one that's going on right now, and (testers) go all over PACOM, EUCOM, and CENTCOM. Global Broadcast is a multi-Service test. We do a lot of multi-Service testing with Milstar being another good example.

"One program I think is neat is two radars on a ship that collect ballistic missile data for treaty verification," the Chief said. "It's a Navy program, but Det. 4 is actually the operational tester."

Another test organization is the 17th Test Squadron at Schriever AFB, and they also do operational tests. The 17th performs force development evaluations' which are done if systems are upgraded.

"What differentiates them is that we do it before the system is fielded," he said. "We support the Command's decision to go ahead and field a system."

AFOTEC's success in meeting its goal of ensuring systems reliability was recognized during Operation DESERT STORM.

In the DoD's final report to Congress on the Gulf War, 21 of 22 systems studied during the Gulf War performed their primary mission without any critical shortcomings.

Of 17 systems tested by AFOTEC, all were included on the list of successful systems. 