

# Space Observer

“Best in Air Force Space Command – 2002”

Thursday, Feb. 12, 2004

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

Vol. 48 No. 6



Photo by Staff Sgt. A.C. Eggman

**Guardian Challenge  
on the horizon  
Page 2**



**Go Knights!**



*Vandals  
among us  
Page 3*

Courtesy photo



**Tar Fly  
takes to the 'sky'  
Page 7**

Peterson Air Force Base is scheduled for an electrical upgrade project Friday - Sunday, and Feb. 20-22, requiring four distinct power outages to significant portions of the base. The first phase power outages will occur from 8-9 a.m. Saturday, and 4-5 p.m. Sunday. The second phase power outages will occur the same hours Feb. 21 and Feb. 22. Make appropriate plans, given the outage schedule. If you have special medical needs that will be compromised by the power outages, call the 21st Civil Engineer Service Call Desk at 556-4030.

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Snow Call 556-SNOW





# Reflecting our wing, command, military

By Brig. Gen. Duane Deal  
21st Space Wing Commander

Where can you find the diversity and dispersal of our Air Force's Total Force and Allied Forces combined? Certainly in our service, definitely in Air Force Space Command, and unquestionably in our 21st Space Wing. No greater reflection of that exists than in the way the points fell out for our Guardian Challenge '04 space operations competitors.

With intense competition from units around the globe operating our 15 weapon systems, three units rose to the top. Our space control competitor will be the 20th Space Control Squadron based at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., an active duty unit with a proud heritage of service. Our missile warning competitor will be the 137th Space Warning Squadron from Greeley Air National Guard Station, a

unit comprised of the Colorado Air National Guard – the "Mile High Militia" – that has an active duty advisor from our wing on board. Our final competitor will be an Allied unit – RAF Fylingdales, a Ballistic Missile Early Warning System unit located in the United Kingdom, which also has an active duty advisor from our wing on board.

Just as we support and watch these teams in their 24/7/366 mission, we will also support and watch as they go forward to Guardian Challenge victory and recognition in May!

Our service, MAJCOM, and wing portray the most effective aspects in teaming diverse organizations for success; our Guardian Challenge competitors project that essence, even as they mirror their larger wing team of other similar units. A great service, command, and wing – all reflected in our extraordinary GC '04 teams. Go Knights!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Barrington "B.J." Jennings

## 'Praise is what we do'

Chief Master Sgt. Vance Clarke, third from right, performs with the chapel musical ensemble here during the "Praise is What We Do" concert at a base in Southwest Asia.

## 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.

### Blinded by the light

**Question:** Can something be done about the temporary lights at Building 2025? The way the temporary lights are facing, they blind the drivers coming into the parking lot, and you can see the lights from the East Gate. It is a hazard because you can't see the people walking from their cars to Building 2025. Thank you.

**Answer:** Thanks for your concern. During the project to improve the force protection around the facilities, the electrical lines to the parking lot lights were damaged by the contractor, and the parts to fix them were put on order. The materials to repair the lights took longer than expected, but came in last week and the repairs have been made. The temporary lights were put in for vehicle and pedestrian safety during the non-daylight hours. The facility manager will return the temporary lights now that the parking lot lights have been repaired. If you have further questions, call Maj. Craig Cole at 556-1430.

### Star spangled respect

**Question:** I'm disappointed with those I see who ignore the National Anthem played over the loudspeakers at 5:30 p.m. Those around them hear it and render a salute, have their hand over their heart, or stop their cars. I continue to see a few who hear it, but ignore it. Each and every one of them reflect a lack of integrity.

**Answer:** We couldn't agree more, and encourage you to continue to diplomatically set the example for those who might appear 'above' rendering honors to the anthem and flag. We play Reveille at 7:00 a.m., the U.S. National Anthem at 5:30 p.m., and Taps at 10 p.m. Since Reveille and Taps are not part of official ceremonies, you may proceed about your business. However, when the anthem is played, it is appropriate to face in the direction of the flag and salute (in uniform) or place your hand over your heart if in civilian attire; when driving, it is appropriate to stop until the music ends – we'll even temporarily halt traffic flow through our gates during the anthem. Spread the word and educate those who – perhaps from simple ignorance – don't follow these traditions.

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# Space Observer

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## A Moment in Time



■ **Feb. 12, 1959** – Strategic Air Command retires its last B-36 Peacemaker, becoming an all-jet bomber force.

■ **Feb. 12, 1973** – A U.S. Air Force C-141 lands in Hanoi to pick up the first returning Vietnam Prisoners of War.

■ **Feb. 14, 1939** – The XB-15 flies a mercy mission from Virginia to Chile in 29 hours and 53 minutes.

■ **Feb. 14, 1996** – The joint surveillance and target attack radar system E-8A flies its 50th mission in support of Operation Joint Endeavor, surpassing the JSTARS record of 49 missions during Operation Desert Storm.

■ **Feb. 17, 1912** – The first pilot physical examination requirements are published by the Army.



# Dorm delinquents

By Brig. Gen. Duane Deal  
21st Space Wing Commander

During the wee hours of the morning a week ago, our great Security Forces were conducting a routine walk-through of a dormitory. What they came across on this patrol should make all of us angry and determined to find the culprits.

The third floor dayroom of that dorm had been trashed – drywall fixtures were ripped, the ceiling had scuff-marks on it, light bulbs were cracked, and tables were broken.

Such a discovery disappoints for multiple reasons.

First, while you might expect such childish antics off base, you'd expect the caliber of people in our military to be a

bit higher, with respect for the "common property" all should be able to enjoy.

Second, the money for repair and replacement if certainly not a deep well – we'll have to forego other improvements to fix what these vandals have wrecked.

We urge anyone with information to come forward, lest these delinquents proceed to inflict similar damage elsewhere. And, should you ever even suspect some sort of foul play on base, please immediately call the Security Forces so they can respond and investigate before any damage is done.

Investigation into these senseless acts is ongoing; if you have information, please call Security Forces at 556-7060 or 556-4000.



Courtesy photos

Security Forces noted holes in the drywall of the study room, above. Below, the vandals had also made quite a mess of a janitor's closet. Investigation into these acts is ongoing. If you have any information, please call Security Forces at 556-7060 or 556-4000.



Over the weekend, Security Forces discovered vandalism in Dormitory 1154. Security Forces found several broken tables in the third floor study room, left, and a smoke detector pulled loose from the ceiling, above.



# Cheyenne Mountain Engineers 'close the doors' on an era

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

What happens when Civil Engineer support at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station undergoes one of the most major transformations in its history? Probably – nothing. The 721st Civil Engineer Squadron at the Mountain recently inactivated, becoming the 721st Mission Support Group Civil Engineer Division, but to most, the change will more than likely go unnoticed.

"About six months into my command, I realized this is the perfect place to have a civilian-run organization, made up of dedicated contractor and government civilians, supporting a critical U.S. mission," said Lt. Col. Todd Wynn, 721st MSG Deputy Commander, and the former 721st CES Commander.

"I am excited about the opportunity we're creating for our hard working, yet sometimes unappreciated civilians," Colonel Wynn said. "One of the things I'm most proud of is the great relationships we've built with every other organization in the mountain."

"The 721st Civil Engineer Squadron has a proud history," said Col. David Adams, 721st Mission Support Group Commander. "It has provided superb facility support to the mission – while undergoing some interesting transformations."

The 721st CES was activated in 1992 with approximately 300 members, the majority of which were military.

Primary power for Cheyenne Mountain was provided by six diesel generators. In 1996, more reliable commercial power from the Drake Power Plant enabled Cheyenne Mountain to convert from generators to commercial for prime power. This provided the opportunity to reduce manning by nearly one-third.

The new millennium brought an even more drastic change – an A-76 study that would ultimately contract out the majority of the squadron.

"Many thought that would be the demise of the squadron," Colonel Adams said. "But the 721st CES – now only 130 strong, with only 42 members remaining in-house – showed just how strong it was. It continued its outstanding record of performance."

"This was never more clearly evident than on Sept. 11, 2001 – only five months into the new A-76 structure – and in the middle of an Operational Readiness Inspection – the 721st CES buttoned up Cheyenne Mountain, closing the blast doors under threat for the first time since it was completed in 1966," Colonel Adams said.

"Since April 2001, when we handed operational control of our critical utilities to the contractor, we have yet to experience a mission outage," Colonel Adams said.

"They proved that a critical, national-level mission can be supported by a mix of dedicated military, government civilians, and contractor civilians.

"This is only a change in name,"



Photo by G. Dennis Plummer

Col. David Adams, 721st Mission Support Group Commander, and Lt. Col. Todd Wynn, former 721st Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, case the 721st CES guidon. The squadron was inactivated Jan. 29, transitioning to the 721st MSG Civil Engineer Division. 721st Communications Squadron First Sergeant, Master Sgt. Allen Schrieber holds the staff.

Colonel Adams said. "That same standard of excellence will continue as the 721st Mission Support Group Civil Engineer Division."

As he closed his remarks, Colonel Wynn spoke directly to the members of his former squadron.

"When we received approval from Air Force Space Command to inactivate the 721st CES and transition to a Civil Engineer Division, I thought to myself 'Oh my gosh, what have I done?' Colonel Wynn said.

"All I'm doing," Colonel Wynn said, "is eliminating the very privileged lieutenant colonel who gets to take credit for all the incredible things you – the men and women of the 721st CES – do each and every day.

"I'm excited about what lies ahead for the Civil Engineers of Cheyenne Mountain," Colonel Wynn said. "Whether you are the 721st CES or the 721st MSG Civil Engineer Division, you'll always 'Move the Mountain.'"





## PHONE BOOK RECYCLING

Peterson AFB personnel can continue to drop off phone books for recycling until Feb. 29. Drop-off containers are located in the parking lot next to McDonald's and the Recycling Yard south of Building 1324, until Saturday. For more information, call the Environmental Flight at 556-0963 or 556-8059.

## BLACK HERITAGE MONTH LUNCHEON

This year's Black Heritage Month Luncheon will be 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Peterson Officers' Club. Guest Speaker for the luncheon is the Honorable Ruby Butler DeMesme, former Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations, and Environment. Cost is \$15. Friday is the last day to buy tickets. Call Capt. Benjamin Nelson at 554-3853; Robert Howard at 554-2135; Andrea Atkins at 556-5296; Master Sgt. Sonya Williams at 556-7180; Master Sgt. Jeffery Smith at 554-3591; Airman 1st Class T.J. Elzie at 439-2140; Master Sgt. Gloria Iwzurie at 556-6309; Joyce Harrison at 556-2001; Angie Fields at 556-6141; or LaToya Hawkins at 554-9052.

## GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA 2004 SCHEDULED

Gospel Extravaganza 2004 will be held at 5 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Peterson AFB Auditorium. All Team Pete members are invited. A reception will follow immediately afterward. The Gospel Extravaganza Committee meets at 3 p.m. Thursdays at the Base Chapel. Volunteers are needed to make this year's programs a success. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Jeffery Smith at 554-3591, or e-mail [jeffery.smith@peterson.af.mil](mailto:jeffery.smith@peterson.af.mil).

## PETERSON BLACK HERITAGE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

The Peterson Air Force Base Black Heritage Committee meets every Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Family Support Center.

## MOMS IN MOTION

There is a Moms In Motion exercise class for pregnant and postpartum moms every Tuesday and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. at the Garcia Gym on Fort Carson. Call 526-394 for information.

## PERSONNEL BRIEF: CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS

Customer Service hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m., except Wednesdays. Wednesday hours are 9:45 a.m.-5 p.m. due to in-house training.

## PERSONNEL BRIEF: USAF SELECTION BOARD SCHEDULE

Air Force officials have approved the following changes to the schedule for selection boards convening in Calendar Year 2004. The Senior NCO Supplemental Boards originally scheduled to convene Aug. 23 have been moved to Aug. 30, to allow for conduct of the Command Screening Board, which has been moved from Sept. 20 to Aug. 16.

## PERSONNEL BRIEF: OFFICER PROMOTION PROCESS

A member of the Air Force Personnel Center Board Secretariat office will give a detailed briefing on the officer promotion process to all interested parties from 2-4 p.m. March 3 in the base auditorium. If you have questions, contact 1st Lt. Kelly Calle at 556-4819.

## PERSONNEL BRIEF: LOST COMMON ACCESS CARD REPLACEMENT

Effective March 1, all active duty lost or stolen Common Access Cards will only be replaced with a letter from the member's Commander or First Sergeant. If you have questions, call 1st Lt. Kelly Calle at 556-4819.

## MILITARY MEMBERS SAVE ON VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Active duty military members are exempt from paying "resident" personal property or ownership tax when registering a vehicle. An Affidavit of Non-Residency form must be completed. For more information, visit the El Paso County Web site at <http://car.elpasoco.com>, and click on "Press Releases," or call the Motor Vehicle Department at 520-6240.

## COMMISSARY ASKS FOR PATIENCE

Frustration by low stock levels at all Front Range commissaries is at an all-time-high due to a major change in distributors. Manufacturers have given the Commissary a six-week window before all products are expected to be available on Commissary shelves. For more information, contact Randi Robinson by phone at 556-7765 or via e-mail at [randi.robinson@deca.mil](mailto:randi.robinson@deca.mil).

## 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. For more information, call the chairman at 556-1339.

## HELP DESK RESETS CAC PINS

The capability to reset the Personal Identification Number on the Common Access Card is now available at the Peterson Communications Help Desk in Building 1038, Monday-Friday from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Only CAC owners can reset their own cards. Customers whose cards cannot be reset due to card problems will be referred to the Military Personnel Flight. The system equipment in Building 1038 cannot issue or post certifications to CAC cards. That capability is only provided at the MPF.

## DISTANCE LEARNING TESTING

The Education Office acts as a proctor for examinations from colleges and universities for students enrolled in Distance Learning courses. People needing test proctoring may call the Education Office at 556-4034 to schedule a test. Testing is currently done at noon on Mondays and Tuesdays. Call Carolyn Farrell at 556-5034 or e-mail [carolynn.farrell@peterson.af.mil](mailto:carolynn.farrell@peterson.af.mil) for more information.

## FAMILY CHILDCARE PROVIDERS MUST BE LICENSED

Military spouses who provide 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 quarters on base. The Mission Support Group Commander may revoke the housing privileges of individuals who provide childcare, but fail to become licensed. To learn more about Family Child Care, call 556-4322.

## NEW YORK AIR GUARD OPENINGS

The 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, N.Y., has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 1A1X1, 1A2X1, 1N0X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X5, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 3C1X1, 3C3X1, 3E0X1, 3E2X1, 3E3X1, 3E4X3, 3E7X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 3S0X1, 4A0X1, 4A1X1, 4A2X1, 4D0X1, 4N0X1, 4T0X1, and 6C0X1. For information, call Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson at DSN 344-2456, or 1-800-524-5070, or e-mail [Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil](mailto:Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil).

## ASIAN-PACIFIC HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The Asian-Pacific Heritage Committee will meet every Wednesday through May, from 11 a.m.-noon at the Military Equal Opportunity office. The committee is looking for volunteers and everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Aaron Konia at 554-2475, Yong Sharp at 556-7691, or Dolly Daniels at 556-7039.

## 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.







# FSC changes how it does business

By Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Flexibility is a key component to the Air Force's doctrine of air power, and the Family Support Center demonstrates this as it adapts to a new model of customer service.

Last week, the FSC implemented the Unit Service Strategy, a new model designat-

ing one FSC staff member as a liaison for each unit.

"All Family Support Centers in the Air Force are restructuring per the Air Staff," said Kathy Latzke, the FSC Director. "FSC is evolving, focusing on what we need to do to have a greater impact."

"We're one of the first Family Support Centers to do this," said Jim Reynolds, the

Work Life Consultant at FSC.

Prior to this initiative, a customer would meet individually with a subject-matter expert specializing in one of eight core programs offered by FSC.

Staff members are now providing a more holistic approach to service delivery, becoming experts in a variety of areas, like finance and relocation assistance.

"The FSC staff has been training for months to become proficient in all areas of service," Ms. Latzke said. "Change is difficult, but FSC personnel have risen to the occasion, working as a team to make this

happen."

"This new program allows us to tailor our services to the needs of each unit," she said.

To emphasize the mutual benefits of the USS, the director said, "The FSC staff gains additional skills and becomes familiar with the people in their units. Also, unit leadership gains an ally and a resource within the organization to help identify emerging trends and deal with rising concerns before they become major problems. The community as a whole is better coordinated.

"We're practicing strategic partnership, where people work

together for common benefit," she said. "The units and FSC work together for everyone's best interests."

Last week, senior leadership from each unit participating in the program was invited to a kick-off reception ceremony acknowledging this working partnership.

"The FSC plays a vital role in assisting with the overall health of the military family," Ms. Latzke said. "We want our community to have a sense of satisfaction with the military lifestyle, thus increasing mission readiness and service retention."



Photos by Larry Hulst

Kathy Latzke, Family Support Center Director, explains the FSC's new Unit Service Strategy program.



Cynthia Dewey, the FSC Team Lead, discusses the Unit Service Strategy with Master Sgt. Craig Dockum, the 21st Services Squadron First Sergeant, and Maj. John Linn, the 21st SVS Commander.



# 'Tar Fly' flies again at Peterson Museum

By Ernie Newman

Peterson Air and Space Museum Foundation

On Sept. 9, 1943, 7-year-old Rene Psarolis and his 13-year-old brother living in the northern end of Paris, watched as German fighters attacked an American B-17, and observed two of the fighters hitting the ground.

"During the following days," he said, "there was a rumor about a bomber having crashed in the Hispano-Suiza factory at La Garenne-Colombes (a very close suburb, northwest of Paris) killing all of its crew."

During the next 56 years, Mr. Psarolis did an amazing amount of research into the crash, searching archives throughout Germany and France. He eventually found pictures the German Luftwaffe had taken of a plane that was shot down near Beaumont le Roger. He also discovered a movie news clip that had been shown in German and French movie theaters. The scenes in the film clearly showed Group and Squadron markings, as well as the tail number.

He continued his search at the 8th Air Force Historical Association and found that a B-17 from the 337th Bomb Squadron with those markings and tail number – and the call sign "Tar Fly" – had indeed been shot down on Sept. 9, 1943. His research then turned to the 96th Bomb Group Historical Association where he obtained the names of all the members of the crew. He was advised to write to the Veterans' Administration in St. Louis, Mo., asking that a letter be forwarded to specific members of the crew. The VA would do so if they had a current address for any of the crew members.

In the spring of 1999, retired Army Lt. Col. William B. Sheaves Jr. received a letter from the VA containing a sealed envelope addressed to him by name only. Enclosed in the envelope was a letter from Rene Psarolis and a copy of a picture of the B-17, Tar Fly, tail number 23353, on the ground in France.

"I have been trying for many years



Courtesy photo

**ABOVE: 'Tar Fly,' a B-17 bomber shot down Sept. 9, 1943, sits surrounded by German soldiers in a field near Beaumont le Roger, France.**

**RIGHT: Retired Army Lt. Col. William B. Sheaves Jr. stands near a 1/10 scale model of 'Tar Fly.' Sheaves, then a technical sergeant, had been Tar Fly's Flight Engineer. After retirement, he constructed the model by hand using original plans from Boeing.**



Photo by Ernie Newman

to find out what happened Sept. 9, 1943," the letter read. "We (my brother who was 13 at the time and I) saw the bombing, saw your planes high in the sky. And now, many, many years later, I have found a photo of your aircraft which safely crash landed in a field somewhere in France.

"I couldn't believe it," Mr. Psarolis said. "I was jumping with joy."

Another Luftwaffe photo included in the package showed Tar Fly being disassembled.

The Germans were no dummies. They took downed aircraft that were not totally destroyed, dismantled them, moved them to a repair facility and make them serviceable aircraft again. They manned the repaired aircraft with their own crewmembers, joining flights of American bombers enroute to a target as "stragglers." Once they determined where the Americans were headed and

noted their altitude and air speed, the German crew called their anti-aircraft units and relayed all the necessary information. Before the anti-aircraft fire commenced, the "straggler" would conveniently disappear. This tactic resulted in many downed American aircraft with little effort.

The Tar Fly and her crew had arrived in England in June 1943 and were assigned to the 337th Bomb Squadron, 96th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, stationed at Snetterton Heath in East Anglia, England. Colonel Sheaves, then a technical sergeant, was Tar Fly's Flight Engineer.

The Sept. 9, 1943 mission was against industrial targets in the Paris area and the Beaumont Sur Oise Airfield. Tar Fly was hit by 88-mm anti-aircraft fire and left the formation, attempting to return to England at low level. They were jumped by German fighter aircraft, FW-

190s, four of which were shot down before Tar Fly crash landed in an open field near Beaumont le Roger, France. Two Tar Fly crewmembers were killed, while the rest were taken as Prisoners of War.

Mr. Psarolis later sent a videotape showing the actual Luftwaffe camera scenes of Tar Fly under attack and the crew being marched through town on their way to a POW camp.

As it turned out, Tar Fly had been a continuing part of Colonel Sheaves life as well. After the end of World War II, and retirement from the U.S. Army, Colonel Sheaves had decided to construct an exact replica of the B-17F in which he and his crew had crash landed. This radio-controlled model was 1/10th scale, with a 125-inch wingspan. He obtained a copy of Boeing's original plans for the B-17F and reduced them to 1/10th scale. Over the next seven years, Colonel Sheaves designed

and built this true-to-life project. He even created and poured his own molds for various parts of the landing gears. The only parts purchased for the model were the engines and wheels. Everything else was made by hand.

The completed Tar Fly model was displayed at Solo's Restaurant for a period of time, but Colonel Sheaves decided the Peterson Air and Space Museum would be the more appropriate final resting place.

The B-17F Tar Fly model is now displayed in the Peterson Air and Space Museum, where a formal dedication ceremony will be conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday. The Team Pete community is invited to attend.

(Information for this story was gathered from letters and articles provided by Rene Psarolis and Lt. Col. William B. Sheaves Jr.)



# Election year Do's and Don'ts

**By Capt. Andrew Dunnville**  
21st Space Wing Legal Office

The presidential primary season is already underway. In a few months, red, white, and blue signs will begin to sprout up along the road, there will be an endless barrage of commercials showing candidates who care about you and your needs, and you can expect to receive the usual phone calls at home during dinnertime.

With this in mind, no doubt many of you are eager to exercise your fundamental freedom to vote, participate in a political campaign, or make a campaign contribution. The following guidelines will help you engage in the democratic process:

## Voting

All active duty military and civilian personnel, and all eligible citizens in general, should register and vote. The registration deadlines for most states are weeks before the general election, and it may take a few weeks to process an application for an absentee ballot; so don't push it off until November. If you haven't registered, or if you're not a Colorado resident and need to obtain an absentee ballot, contact your unit's voting assistance officer or call

the Federal Voting Assistance Program at (800) 438-8683.

## Campaign Contributions

Department of Defense rules permit military members to make campaign contributions to a political action committee or a political organization. However, if you are active duty Air Force, you cannot make campaign contributions to a particular candidate, solicit a campaign contribution from another military member, or solicit funds for a political cause on base.

## Campaigning

The Air Force has strict guidelines concerning direct participation in political elections. The first thing you need to remember is: active duty members cannot directly participate in a campaign. You cannot drive voters to the polls, make campaign speeches, hold fundraisers for an office, or be a candidate yourself.

Furthermore, you cannot distribute election literature on base, base newspapers cannot publish advertisements for candidates, and candidates cannot use the base to campaign. If you receive an inquiry from a candidate about appearing on base, tell them to contact Public Affairs.

While the list of things you

can't do seems extensive, remember that active duty members can express their personal opinions about issues and candidates, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces; they can attend rallies in civilian clothes and as a spectator; and they can even have a bumper sticker. You can do any of these as long as you remember the second rule concerning campaign participation: don't associate the DoD with partisan political activities.

Partisan political activities are those activities that cause people to think that the DoD supports a particular political position. For example, you can't wear your uniform if you are going to a political rally and you are prohibited from stating that the Air Force or the military endorses a particular candidate. Just remember to register and vote, and that you can participate in the political process as long as you don't involve the military in any way, and you'll survive the election year.

Guidance on political activities is found in DoD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty, and AFI 51-902, Political Activities by Members of the U. S. Air Force.

## Permissible Activities

- Voting or expressing a personal opinion on candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces.
- Contributing money to political organizations
- Attending political meetings or rallies, as a spectator while not in uniform
- Writing a letter to the editor expressing your personal opinion on an issue, though not to promote partisan political activity
- Signing a petition
- Displaying a political bumper sticker on a POV, wearing a political button while not in uniform

## Impermissible Activities

- Engaging in partisan political activities (speeches, fundraising, attending national political nominating conventions)
- Running for or holding office
- Making campaign contributions to individuals or soliciting campaign contributions
- Saying contemptuous things about elected officials
- Displaying a large sign, banner, or poster on one's car
- Selling tickets for or promoting political fund-raisers





# 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.*

## AREA CODE 911? – Jan. 29

Security Forces responded to a disconnected emergency call from Base Housing, where a resident admitted to mistakenly dialing 9-1-1 while trying to make a long-distance phone call. Security Forces checked out the residence just to be sure all was in order.

## CDC = CONFIRM DOORS CLOSED – Jan. 29

While conducting Random Antiterrorism Measures, Security Forces patrollers discovered the rear door at the Child Development Center was unsecured. A search of the building yielded negative findings.

## A FRIEND IN KNEED – MEDICAL RESPONSE #1 – Jan. 30

Security Forces, the Fire Department and American Medical Response services responded to the Fitness Center, where a military member complained of knee pain. The victim was transported to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

## CRASH COURSE – Jan. 30

Security Forces responded to the intersection of Stewart Avenue and Otis Street, where one motorist had rear-ended another vehicle. Seems the lady in the lead vehicle had stopped, then rolled forward a few feet; the trail vehicle, thinking she had proceeded ahead, drove forward – and shortly realized he had been faked out by her roll-ahead as their bumpers were introduced to each other. The bonkee complained of back pains, though no further treatment was rendered. A citation was issued to the bonker for following too closely.

## CREDIT CARD FRAUD – Jan. 30

A woman called Security Forces to report an individual stole her pertinent credit card information. The identity thief apparently used the personal information to make online purchases. The case was turned over to Security Forces Investigations.

## I'D LIKE TO GET THIS OFF MY CHEST – MEDICAL RESPONSE #2 – Jan. 30

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR responded to Dormitory 1270, where a military member was complaining of chest pains. He was transported to the U.S. Air Force Academy Hospital for treatment.

## VEHICLE OR BEAN BURRITO EMISSIONS? – Jan. 31

The Fire Department responded to the North Gate, where a Security Forces member reported smelling gas. Could be all the gas-guzzling vehicles out there, but better safe than sorry. The Fire Chief determined the area safe, and duty resumed as usual.

## COMPUTER AND CAMERA CAVORT – Jan. 31

Security Forces responded to Dorm 1102, where a dorm-dweller reported \$1,800 worth of personal property stolen. It seems while he was TDY, some of his belongings also shipped out – to an undisclosed location. The hapless victim stated he was unpacking when he noticed his computer equipment missing from the storage locker. He then checked the second locker, which no longer held his camera. The lockers and access doors had all been locked.

## ID CHECK ID'S CHUMP – Jan. 31

SF ran a driver's license check on a daring damsel who was attempting to access the base without identification. She said she was trying to visit her boyfriend who lives on base. A quick background check revealed her license would have been valid – that is, if she had it with her. The check also revealed she had no insurance. The Colorado Springs Police Department was contacted, and rewarded her with a summons for driving under suspension and expired vehicle insurance information.

## GAS ATTACK – Jan. 31

Security Forces and the Fire Department responded to Base Housing, where a resident reported a strong smell of gas coming from the kitchen. The Fire Chief declared the area safe and notified Housing Maintenance to repair the problem.

## DORMITORY DELINQUENTS – Jan. 31

Security Forces received a report of vandalism in Dorm 1154. A military member reported damage to the third-floor dayroom. Responders at the demolished dayroom noted ripped dry wall fixtures, broken tables, cracked light bulbs and scuffs on the ceiling. It appears childish vandals caused the damage, unless the dayroom was the epicenter of a small earthquake. (See article on Page 3)

## SOBERING EXPERIENCE – Feb. 1

Security Forces transported a military member suspected of driving under the influence to the Security Force Squadron. Inclement weather required Security Forces to perform sobriety tests indoors. Having failed to meet sobriety requirements, the moonshinerized motorizing moron was charged with Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence or Impaired, and released into the open arms of his first sergeant.

## VIDEO VARMINT VANQUISHED – Feb. 2

Security Forces responded to the Base Exchange, where detectives were detaining an illicit bargain hunter for shoplifting. An Army Air Force Exchange Service store detective spotted the not-so-subtle pilferer helping himself to sever-

al video games, collectively worth \$259.74. A background check revealed the thief was also wanted for a probation violation on the West Coast. CSPD took custody and issued a summons for shoplifting.

## 'OOPS X 3' – WEST GATE WALLOP – Feb. 3

Security Forces responded to the West Gate, where a minor traffic collision occurred. While waiting in line to enter the base, a military member – oops – dropped his identification card on the car floor. As he struggled to retrieve the card, he – oops – inadvertently rolled into the vehicle in front of him. The dizzy driver's car sustained a dented hood and some paint transfer. He was given a citation for inattentive driving and – oops – failure to have insurance at the time of the accident.

## HOPE CHEST – MEDICAL RESPONSE #3 – Feb. 3

Security Forces and AMR responded to the Base Clinic where a military member was experiencing chest pains. The victim was transported to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

## KNOW BUTTS ABOUT IT – Feb. 3

Security Forces and the Fire Department responded to the Non-Appropriated Funds and Military Equal Opportunity Building, where a parked car had managed to catch on fire. The vehicle had presumably ignited when a bag of cigarette butts inside the car caught a spark. The Fire Department doused the flames before the vehicle sustained any damage.

## THERMOS HEATS UP BUILDING – Feb. 4

Security Forces responded to the Military Personnel Flight inside the Mission Support Center where a mysterious package was reported. A thermos was left unattended on the customer Service Desk for about 15 minutes. The thermos, which apparently did not use the sign-in log, was soon claimed by another MPF employee who had absentmindedly left it behind. The response was terminated.

## PUP PATROL – Feb. 4

A Security Forces patroller spotted a brown husky meandering around the Base Housing. Having shaken off its owner, the wandering wagger was picked up and taken back to the Security Forces Squadron to be picked up by the Humane Society.

## ICE CAPADES – Feb. 4

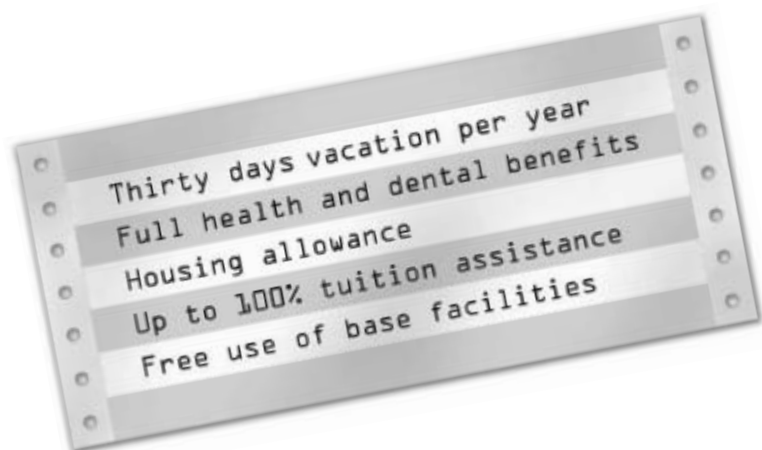
Security Forces responded to Paine Street, where a government vehicle had a minor accident. While plowing around the loading docks near Base Supply, the truck slid on the slick pavement, and plowed into a concrete ramp. The truck suffered a busted headlight, some paint transfer, and broken bumper mounts.

## 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 activations due to human error.

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

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# Ops Center



## Flying Old Glory for a grateful nation

By Tech. Sgt. William J. Seabrook Jr.  
376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan – The spirit of Sept. 11, 2001, is still evident in the sky above Afghanistan as airmen here do their part to support a long-standing tradition of carrying U.S. flags onboard aircraft flying combat missions.

Crewmembers from the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Support Squadron and the 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron have flown more than 600 flags since December during combat missions over Afghanistan.

“The way the program works is base members contact their units’ administrative sections with the request and a flag,” said Tech. Sgt. Theresa Cruger of the 777th EAS. “The units then contact us and we arrange to fly them and then make a certificate with the flight information, crew names, etc.”

“We can also vary the certificate format per the wishes of the flag owner,” she said. Her unit flies the C-130 Hercules.

The flag owners, in-turn, present the flag to

deserving military members, family members, home-base units, towns and other organizations.

“These flags are often presented to individuals on special occasions or as gifts of appreciation for support given especially during contingency operations,” said Col. Steven Kelley, 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander. “This special memento is a unique reminder to the recipient of the sacrifices made to ensure freedom, liberty and democracy for all civilized nations.”

The aircrews also take a lot of pride in this tradition and are proud to be part of this program, Sergeant Cruger said.

While the U.S. flags are flown primarily, the squadrons also honor special requests, Sergeant Cruger said.

“We once flew 300 miniature U.S. flags on one flight that were sent here by a group of Boy Scouts,” she said. “We have also flown teddy bears and, most recently, a Vietnam prisoner-of-war bracelet for (a) sergeant here who wanted to present it to the family of the individual whose name was on the bracelet, because

his remains had just been found.”

The crews who fly the KC-135 Stratotankers also have an active flag-flying program, said Senior Airman Angela Owens of the 22nd EARS.

“We take requests from units just like the airlift squadron and sometimes people want to fly their flag on both airframes,” she said. “I think it’s a



Courtesy photo

## Silently surveying surroundings

By Staff Sgt. A.C. Eggman  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – At first glance, it appears to be an airplane model a child might pull off a local toy-store shelf. But unlike the recreational remote aircraft, this force-protection asset is no toy. The 7-pound aircraft allows security forces to see beyond what the human eye can see and silently survey the surroundings without anyone knowing it. It cannot be heard and sometimes is mistaken for a bird.

The 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron here is equipped with the latest in unmanned aerial vehicle technology – the Force Protection Airborne Surveillance System. The system allows security forces to see beyond Balad’s perimeters and provides accurate, real-time visual assessments of detected threats.

“It flies real time – no delays – on scene surveillance we have traditionally not had, especially in a deployed environment,” said Tech. Sgt. Lloyd Joyner, 332nd ESFS noncommissioned officer in charge of the FPASS.

Named Desert Hawk, the miniature unmanned aerial vehicle is made mainly of a Styrofoam-like material and is very simple to operate. “It’s relatively easy to fly,” said Sergeant Joyner, deployed from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. “Real simple to launch too ... you just touch the screen on the laptop to fly it.”

Desert Hawk is able to take off from a clearing without using a runway. It also allows security forces to monitor potentially dangerous areas without putting any airmen or soldiers into harms way.

“It gives you the ability to see what the enemy is doing



Photo by Staff Sgt. A.C. Eggman

Senior Airman David Tillery aligns the Desert Hawk control surfaces before a launch. The 7-pound unmanned aerial vehicle allows security forces to see beyond a base’s perimeters and provide accurate, real-time visual assessments of detected threats. Airman Tillery is assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and is deployed from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

before you engage them,” said Senior Airman Joe Barrientos of the 332nd ESFS, also deployed from Shaw.

The Desert Hawk field support kit comes with six airframes, a ground control station and remote video terminal. Its cameras record every flight on a mini digital tape recorder, while the operator watches the images on a laptop computer.

To launch the UAV, the operators use a bungee cord catapult. The system is powered by rechargeable batteries that have about a 60-minute lifespan. The 52-inch wide, 32-inch long UAV can fly up to an altitude of 500 feet, but here the UAV is restricted to 200 feet above ground level. Flying it any higher is not practical because it could fly into the path of a manned aircraft, Sergeant Joyner said.

“One of the biggest advantages of

the Desert Hawk is being able to fly under the (weather) ceiling,” Sergeant Joyner said. “They (other UAV platforms) can’t.”

Like manned aircraft crews, the FPASS team must file a flight plan, coordinate with the control tower and get weather updates before launching. Once the flight plan and other pertinent information are loaded into the Desert Hawk system, it is time to launch.

Launching is as low-tech as the airframe’s payload is high-tech. The operator holds a bungee cord that is attached to the airframe. One person “walks the bungee cord out” until it reaches maximum extension. The aircraft uses the force of the bungee cord to catapult into the air, and the engine starts running when the aircraft reaches 50 feet per second.

While the aircraft travels on its preloaded flight plan, the oper-

ators watch the flight path and details on the laptop and video monitor, which receives the video feed from a camera mounted on the underside of the aircraft. All information is recorded and saved on the ground-control station.

Sergeant Joyner and Airman Barrientos carry out multiple Desert Hawk missions every day. Missions are limited to the amount of time it takes to reprogram the system and load a new flight plan. Desert Hawk can operate day or night.

“It’s a nice asset,” Sergeant Joyner said. “I like its mobility; its rapid ability to launch in a minimal amount of time.”

It may look like a model toy and appear to be bird in flight, but to the people who operate the system, Desert Hawk is a valuable asset that can keep the enemy at bay and airmen and soldiers out of harms way.

### Need a raise?

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Gabriel Ruff uses a hoist to raise a “patient” to safety during infiltration training here Jan. 28. Sergeant Ruff is a pararescuer deployed from the 38th Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall







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

## This Week

### Today

- Play Group, 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Youth Center.
- Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m. at the Mission Support Center, Room 1016.
- Stepping Together, 2-4 p.m. at the Peterson Library.

### Friday

- Small Business Seminar, 8 a.m.-noon, at the MSC, Room 1016. There is a \$15 fee per person for materials.
- Seafood Buffet, 6-8:30 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. Reservations are required, call 556-4194.

### Saturday

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

### Sunday

- Save \$5 per hour on any Cessna rental at the Aero Club.

### Tuesday

- Registration deadline for "Learn to Swim Level VII," March 1-24.
- Buying and Financing the car you want, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at MSC, Room 1016.
- 2-for-1 Evening dinner special at the Officers' Club.

### Wednesday

- Heart Link, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Enlisted Club.
- Family Chicken Buffet, 5-7 p.m. at the Enlisted Club.
- Free Parent/Teen Driving Seminar, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the R.P. Lee Youth Center. Class size is limited. Advance registration is required. Call 556-4481.

### Feb. 19

- Career Marketing, 8 a.m.-noon at the MSC, Room 1016.
- Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m. at the MSC, Room 1016.

### 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

## Auto Skills Center drives base used car sales

By Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The used car lot is located across from the Automotive Skills Center, where prospective buyers can view vehicles at any time.

"We've processed more than 1,600 vehicles (since opening)," said Calvin Gammon, the ASC Manager.

Cars, trucks, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, and motorboats have all made trips through the lot.

Strictly enforced standards for these vehicles help ensure quality service.

"They have to be able to run," the Manager said. "We can't put something out there if it leaks. If it leaks, it becomes an environmental issue."

The person selling the vehicle is responsible for its maintenance, Mr. Gammon said.

A state emissions test is required to sell a vehicle.

"We can do emissions testing in the shop," Mr. Gammon said.

Any military member, dependent, Department of Defense employee, or contractor can sell a vehicle on base.

"People who want to sell a vehicle on the lot can register it at our front counter," Mr. Gammon said. "They need to bring proof of insurance, valid registration,

license plate number, and base decal number."

They're required to read our rules and regulations and fill out a few forms before reserving a slot, said Robin Aken, a mechanic at the ASC. There's also a \$5 processing fee every two weeks.

Once the owner's information is validated, the vehicle can be parked in the used car lot.

Our lot will hold 43 vehicles and six RVs, Mr. Gammon said. We register an average of 20 to 30 vehicles.

"If something's priced reasonably, it will likely sell quick.

"The shortest time we've had a car on the lot is 10 minutes," he said. "We even had a case where someone sold their car while they were registering it."

Mr. Gammon said at least 10 people visit the lot per day, even in bad weather.

The used car lot is the only authorized place on the base to sell a car, with the exception of driving a vehicle displaying a "For Sale" sign to and from work on the installation, Mr. Gammon said.

For more information, call the ASC at 556-4481.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec  
The used car lot has been at its current location for about a year and a half. People can view used vehicles 24/7.

## 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 Beans

### 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:

- Fried Catfish
- Barbecued Spareribs
- Cajun Meatloaf
- Red Beans with Rice
- Cottage Fried Potatoes
- Collard Greens
- Black-Eyed Peas
- Corn on the Cob

#### Dinner:

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

# Misunderstanding the point

By Lt. Col. Mark Burns

332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron

BALAD AIR BASE, IRAQ – Is flexibility the “key” to airpower? Does thinking “out-of-the-box” really solve problems?

I have heard these two phrases quite often since my entry into the Air Force.

Being an Army brat, I appreciate and take great pride in the adaptability of the Air Force and the creative solutions we find to problems.

As much as I have tried to practice these clever ideals of flexibility and out-of-the-box thinking in my Air Force career, I have become increasingly concerned with the misunderstanding that often surrounds them.

Too often “flexibility” means compensating for poor planning and even worse initial execution. At times “out-of-the-box” thinking is demanded when the solution is not readily apparent at the inception of a problem.

At Balad, we are undertaking an immense task: starting a new base of operations. If we misunderstand the meaning of these two phrases, which we hear so often, we just might make the job a little bit harder.


Flexibility comes from knowing the basics of your job well and from the confidence gleaned from having practiced the basics again and again until they become second nature. It does not come from trying to accomplish new and different things every time you train. You will never see every possible permutation of a problem.

If you take the time during the planning phase to prepare a solid base for execution, any left turns thrown your way can be overcome. You gain flexibility by nailing down as many vari-

ables as possible with good planning. Good execution allows you to stay ahead of the new wrinkles you will be forced to adapt to. Frequently, practicing the basics can give you the confidence to plow ahead and fix unforeseen problems.

The same is true for thinking out-of-the-box. There are not many solutions to problems that we can think up that have not been thought of and tried before. We just weren't aware of the history of the “new” solution, when we thought it up.

If our basis of good experience and practice is supplemented by a thorough quest for more knowledge of our job, then we have a ready encyclopedia of possible solutions to any problem. I will bet that often the out-of-the-box solution you come up with is catalogued in the continuity book that is catching dust in your bookcase. The problem may be slightly different, but that old solution still works with a few minor changes.

For more than a decade, the Air Force has been doing rotations to the Middle East. Many of you have had the pleasure of doing them more than once. There are many lessons to be learned from the problems faced by these previous rotations, which will help today in what we are doing. Share your experiences. What was true then is probably still valid right now. Wherever you are, be flexible for rapid changes, but use the time to prepare well a solid foundation for those that will follow you. You will never solve all of the problems, but you can keep those who come behind you on the right track to finish what you have started. Be open to out-of-the-box solutions to these problems that we face, but remember “out-of-the-box” may mean “dust one off” from previous experiences. 



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## 22 complete FTAC

Congratulations to the following Jan. 29 graduates from the First Term Airman's Center Class 2004-06:

### Airmen Basic

Lizette Casarin, 21st Medical Support Squadron

Jasmina Gamez, 21st MDSS

Amanda C. Hanlon-Wertz, 21st MDSS

Patricia M. Huntley, 21st Medical Operations Squadron

Elizabeth M. Rowell, 21st MDOS

### Airmen

Shavena L. Anderson-Wright, 21st Aeromedical-Dental Operations Squadron

Christin D. Carter, 21st MDSS

Dennis A. Gabbert Jr., 21st Civil Engineer Squadron

Joseph M. Kozak, 21st Space Communications Squadron

Michael P. Manfredonia, 21st SCS

### Airmen 1st Class

Matthew S. Cameron, 21st Security Forces Squadron

Christopher A. Cuthbert, 21st SCS

Darrin D. Henderson, 721st Security Forces Squadron

Travis M. Jordan, 21st SFS

Nicholas W. Kaufman, 721st SFS

Allen D. Miller, 21st CES

Douglas J. Ragone, 21st CES

Michael A. Scherping, 21st CES

Timothy J. Sheahan, 721st SFS

Stephen J. Supinski, 21st SCS

Michael D. Vickers, 13th Air Support Operations Squadron

Anthony D. Williams, 721st SFS



## 'Force Shaping' lets some can leave early

By Maj. John J. Thomas

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – There is good news for thousands of airmen considering leaving active duty who thought they could not because of existing service obligations.

An effort dubbed "force shaping" is opening the exit doors to officers and enlisted servicemembers in select career fields and year groups by waiving some active-duty service commitments previously incurred for events like government-funded education, permanent changes of station and promotion.

Rules for leaving active duty early will be the least restrictive for anyone wanting to transfer to the Guard or Reserve through the Palace Chase program.

Some bonus payback requirements may also be waived, officials said.

Applications for any of the force-shaping early release programs must be made through local military personnel flights by March 12.

More than 16,000 additional people – 12,700 enlisted and 3,900 officers – currently projected to leave will be allowed out to help the service return to its authorized active-duty force size by Sept. 30, 2005.

Active-duty airmen wanting to transfer to the Reserve or Guard will

be able to apply for a waiver of an active-duty service commitment regardless of their career field.

"We're a total force, and for our active-duty airmen who would like to separate early and still retain a connection to their Air Force, the Palace Chase program provides the perfect vehicle to preserve operational capability while reducing active-duty end strength," said Maj. Gen. John Speigel, the Air Force's Director of Personnel Policy at the Pentagon.

"We're focusing a big part of our efforts there because it keeps (servicemembers) and their expertise in the total force, while allowing them increased stability and a chance to continue working toward a military retirement," the general said.

Some applications may not be approved. Because of manning shortages, 29 officer and 33 enlisted specialties will not qualify for many of the waivers. The complete list of "stressed" career fields that are excluded from many of the waivers is posted at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm).

"Approval authority for miscellaneous enlisted separations will rest at the personnel center, to centrally review applications and ensure compliance with manning needs," said Maj. Dawn Keasley, Chief of Retirement and Separation Policy at the Air Staff.

Examples of efforts to "shape" the force go beyond waivers.

Program highlights include:

- The chance to transfer to the Guard and Reserve for those with at least 24 months time in service, incurring a 2-for-1 service commitment (not less than 1 year or greater than 6 years).

- Enlisted waivers of active-duty service commitments associated with technical training and boot-strap programs.

- Potential service commitment waivers of up to 18 months for permanent-change-of-station moves.

- Up to 12-month waiver of intermediate and senior developmental education commitments for officers.

- Aviator Continuation Pay, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences scholarships, and AFIT fellowship, scholarship, and grant commitments will not be waived.

Force shaping is designed to return the Air Force to its authorized uniformed population, or "end strength," while shifting some airmen to fill positions in specialties that need more people of their rank.

Details and career counseling are available from unit career assistance advisors at each base. People can also call the Air Force Contact Center at DSN 665-5000 or toll-free (800) 616-3775 for more information.



## Action Lines

– From Page 2

### Play ball?

**Question:** Is there any way that we can get funding to support a couple of varsity sports programs? The Fitness Center personnel told me that the base doesn't have funding for Varsity Sports. Thank you.

**Answer:** Tracing back to 1997, the installation leadership made the tough decision to stop the Peterson AFB Varsity Sports Program due to lack of sufficient funding, the high costs to operate varsity sports, and there were not enough varsity level active duty military to support the varsity program. Uniforms for each sport cost at least \$10,000; league entry fees run \$2,500; and sports officials approximately \$30,000. Additionally, the lack of varsity level active duty military to support the program as well as the Expeditionary Aerospace Force have further challenged the ability of our military members to participate in an intense varsity season. As we survey across the Air Force, most stateside bases have stopped offering varsity sports because they also need their limited funding to operate their facilities, and have experienced an overall lack of participation, as has Peterson. If you have any further questions, please contact the Sports and Fitness Center Manager at 556-8069.

### Lemon lot lament

**Question:** Why doesn't the Automotive Skills Center have rules on placing vehicles in the Auto Sales Lot? When I tried to get permission to put my vehicle in the Auto Sales Lot, I was informed that ID, registration, and proof of insurance are required. I told the clerk my registration's date of expiration was December 2003, but lawfully, it is valid until the last day of January. The manager stated that it did not matter what the Base or Local Authorities accept, he makes the rules and determination if the permit is to be given. When I asked for written guidelines, he stated there is nothing in writing. Isn't Automotive Skills Center an organization on base, which is required to have regulations?

**Answer:** We apologize for the manner in which your request was handled. There is indeed guidance – the Auto Skills Center Operating Instruction for the Used Car Corner states that all users must provide vehicle registration and proof of insurance to register a vehicle with 21st Services Squadron. This OI ensures that the vehicle is ready to operate on the installation and public roadways. Auto Skills Center does adhere to the state 30-day grace period. In your specific case, you requested a 14-day sales period with only 10 days of eligibility. We apologize for any misunderstanding and we'd certainly encourage you to register your vehicle at Auto Skills Center. If you have further questions, call Vicky Peterson at 556-8969. (See article on Page 12.)

### Front of the line

**Question:** At the Commissary, I witnessed a manager tell a colonel in the express lane to go to the front of the line. He responded, "I am in no hurry" and she still persisted. Are military required to go to the front of the line, if they aren't in a rush?

**Answer:** It is the policy of all Defense Commissary Agency Commissaries that military personnel in uniform, purchasing 20 items or less, may go to the front of the express register lines from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. – but certainly aren't required to. This is done not only as a courtesy to our military members, but also to minimize their time away from their duty locations. The Customer Service manager or the Assistant Customer Service Manager or an assigned employee does ensure military in line are encouraged to go the head of the line. The military member does have a choice in deciding whether or not to utilize this option. Customer Service employees monitoring the line are to remind military members of that privilege and afford them an opportunity to move to the front of the line if they choose. We encourage all to take advantage of this, for if a colonel in front of a sergeant doesn't take advantage of it, the sergeant – even if in a hurry – may feel obligated to wait as well. Commissary management will ensure that Customer Service employees understand how to communicate this benefit to our military patrons. If you have further concerns, call Randi Robinson, Store Administrator, 556-7765.

