



# Space Observer

"2003 AFSPC Best Large Wing PA Office"

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

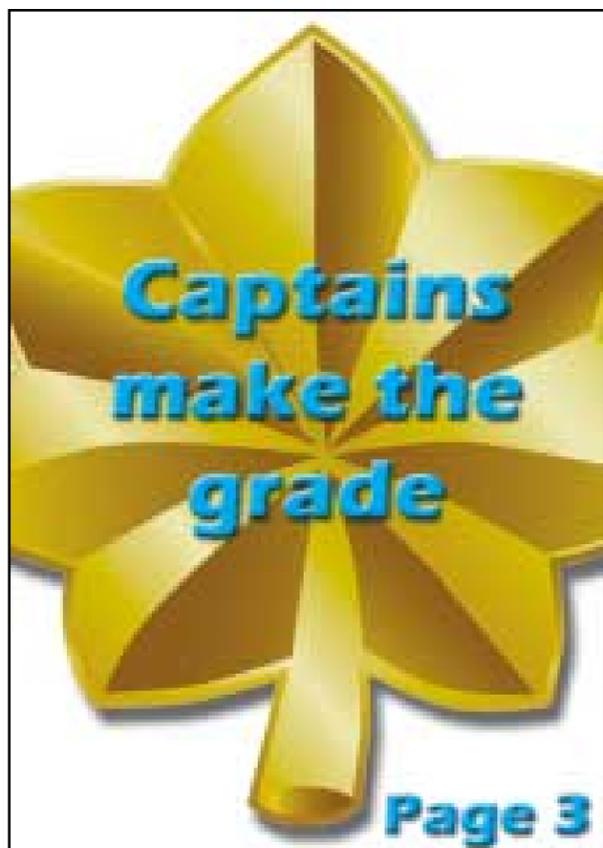
Vol. 48 No. 10



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec



21st Space Wing Change of Command Ceremony scheduled for 11 a.m. today. See page 4 for details.





# Gracias – and adios

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

During our three assignments in the 21st Space Wing, I've had the pleasure to visit all six groups and all 30 squadrons across our great command. That perspective – and the ideas that came from you – helped chart the course of where we've come in that time, plus where we're headed in the long term. Most notably, the level of professionalism and enthusiasm I observed from you is unmatched in any of my previous commands – and one I'll always appreciate, and use as a benchmark.

With mixed emotions, today the Deal family will yield the "reins" of the world's greatest and most unique wing to the eighth commander our Peterson-based wing has had since 1992 – Brig. Gen. Dick Webber.

In our latest assignment with the wing, the accomplishments of our members and programs are nothing short of phenomenal as our 6,000-plus members served in 20 locations in six nations around our globe. A listing of your efforts, improvements, and triumphs would fill this entire paper – and more. Rather than attempting such a list (which could seem self-serving to its author), the remainder of this last column will revolve around a few basic quotations and values that reflect why the people of this wing do so well.

First, you follow our Air Force Core Values: "Integrity First ... Service Before Self ... Excellence In All We Do." We know we can't go wrong – personally or professionally – by following those basic guidelines. You don't sit around, for, as American humorist and aviation lover Will Rogers said, "Even if you are on the right track, you can get

run over if you just sit there." You let your work speak for itself, following Ben Franklin's sage advice that, "Well done is better than well said." Though composed of as diverse units and peoples as any command in the world, you act as a team, heeding Gen. Colin Powell's vision that, "We train together ... we fight together ... we win together." You know it does not matter if you're a commander, a communicator, a personnelist, a services warrior, a loggie, a medic, a secretary, or an operator – it simply doesn't matter who you are – all are a part of the team, and all are vital to its effectiveness. But, even knowing your importance, most usually typify the old saying, "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."

And when the times get tough – as they often have in this intense and demanding environment – you illustrate the words of Dr. Martin Luther King that, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." And heeding that leads you right back to our Air Force Core Values.

Finally, on top of many other measures, you know that "The only difference between 'ordinary' and 'extraordinary' ... is that little 'extra.'" You are giving the best you can, and even that little "extra" to make your work stand out as you follow the words of Grandma Moses, "Life is what you make it ... always has been, always will be." And the 21st Space Wing has indeed made it great – for our Air Force and its allies, for our customers, for our fellow Team Pete members, and for this soon-to-be former wing commander and his family. Many thanks, and farewell – happy trails to you!

# 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.

## Slip slidin' potential #1

**Question: Why isn't any one clearing the Commissary parking lot? I went to the Commissary recently and that parking lot was a solid sheet of ice, and it is potentially dangerous to old people and the baggers. Thank you.**

**Answer:** Thanks for your concern, and for the opportunity to explain our snow removal operations. Our snow removal team works in accordance with a priority plan that is briefed to and approved by the installation leadership annually. While we do indeed clear such lots, first priority is given to the flightline, followed by major arterial streets, secondary roads, and parking lots for safety and mission reasons. At that point, we call upon volunteer augmentees to clear the base streets and parking lots. We do use de-icing chemicals and sand the driving aisles as soon as we can, but often we have to wait until the lots clear at night to complete the snow removal operations. If you have further questions, please call Mr. Jim Adkins, 556-1431.

## Slip slidin' potential #2

**Question: I have a concern regarding the condition of the parking lots and the sidewalks that feed into Building 1. Can a shuttle be provided on days when there is inclement weather, and they cannot clear the parking lots and sidewalks? Recently, I had to walk down Vandenberg because the sidewalks were icy. Thank you.**

**Answer:** We appreciate your concern in this matter. The personnel responsible for clearing the sidewalks at Building 1 do their best to clear the sidewalks after storms, but there are limitations to what they can do. Ice was prevalent during the storm you mentioned due to the snow melting in the afternoon and then freezing at night. The blades on our snow equipment rest above the pavement, preventing the complete removal of all snow in parking lots and sidewalks. Regarding a shuttle bus service, our vehicle fleet management is part of a multi-wing contract and bus shuttle service is not included in the contract. However, the base contracting office has asked Phoenix Management Inc. to perform a 30-day trial ridership test starting on April 2 from all parking lots near Buildings 1, 2, and 3 with a drop-off at Building 1 from 6-8 a.m. and 4-6 p.m., Monday-Friday. After the test, we will assess a recommendation based on usage whether to proceed with an unfunded requirement to add this service to the contract in 2005-2006. Please allow extra time and walk carefully. If you have further questions, contact Capt. Gary Gaulke, 556-1440.

**'Commitment to Caring'**

**4 days**

**to the kickoff of Team Pete's 2004 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign**



**Attention spouses:**  
Interested in the new Pikes Peak Combined Spouses Club? Check us out at [www.geocities.com/pikespeakcsc](http://www.geocities.com/pikespeakcsc)



# Space Observer

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

**Chief of Public Affairs**  
1st Lt. Michael Andrews

**Editorial Staff**

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**Layout and Design**  
Kara Magana

## A Moment in Time



- n **March 13, 1917** – The Army Air Intelligence Subdivision Office is approved.
- n **March 14, 1918** – The first aerial patrol by the 1st Pursuit Group is flown in France.
- n **March 15, 1916** – The First Aero Squadron, commanded by Capt. B.D. Foulois, begins operations into Mexico. The following day, the first military aerial reconnaissance flight is made over Mexican territory.
- n **March 15, 1950** – The U.S. Air Force takes responsibility for all strategic guided missiles.
- n **March 17, 1911** – The first Curtiss airplane is purchased by the Army Signal Corps.

# Joining the famous?

By Brig. Gen. Duane Deal

21st Space Wing Commander

Walt Disney ... Yul Brenner ... Nat King Cole ... Sarah Vaughn ... Humphrey Bogart ... just a few of the famous names having a common link. Unfortunately, this is one link to which you don't want to be associated – all these and many, many more died of tobacco-caused cancer.

The considerable health-related risks individuals bear when they use tobacco, and the dangerous second-hand effects smokers give to those around them, form just two of the reasons that the base is about to become as tobacco-free as it can be. Effective April 1st, tobacco use will only be allowed in personal vehicles and in Tobacco Use Areas, or TUAs. These TUAs – every major building will have one designated – also include personal residences and designated dorm rooms.

A few fundamental “paradigms” shift here:

n Tobacco use is confined to those areas mentioned – smoking and “dipping” are not to occur between vehicles and buildings.

n Smokeless tobacco use is not allowed in workcenters.

n Tobacco users are not granted any more time for breaks than non-tobacco users.

Why go “so far” in this quest? Many reasons:

n Tobacco (nicotine) use is the number one

health problem in the United States.

n Tobacco users are more prone to illness, resulting in a loss of productivity – and thus readiness.

n The increasing, quantifiable costs of health care for tobacco users.

n The financial loss to tobacco users; for example, a smoker who puffs one pack per day spends \$135 per month on the habit, and more than \$16,000 over ten years of such use.

n The effect on children – from second hand smoke to the examples they witness which could encourage them to use tobacco.

n The availability of tobacco cessation classes and measures to active duty, retiree, dependent, and civilian government members.

n Minimum air flow requirements for indoor smoking areas.

n Requirements to provide separate but equal facilities for non-tobacco users when one is provided for tobacco users.

n We simply can't promote an addiction which will claim more than 400,000 American lives this year, including 10,000 from smokeless tobacco-induced oral cancer ... and the startling realization that 50 percent more women die from lung cancer than from breast cancer.

n And, finally, Air Force and Department of Defense Instructions are now providing clear direction

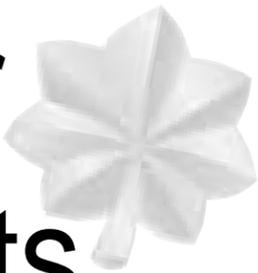
on such measures.

If you quit smoking now, within 20 minutes your blood pressure and pulse will return to normal; in eight hours, your blood oxygen level rises to normal; tomorrow at this time your risk of a heart attack begins to drop; in two days, your senses of smell and taste start to improve; in two weeks to three months, your circulation gets better; within one to nine months, coughing, sinus problems, and shortness of breath decrease, and you have more energy. Immediate benefits of quitting mean your hair, clothes, and breath won't smell; you'll have money for other things; your complexion will improve; and you won't have to excuse yourself at restaurants, parties, and other locations just to smoke.

According to a Gallup poll, 94 percent of Americans favor restricting tobacco use to designated areas; thus, we believe most people will embrace this change. However, we also well appreciate there are strong feelings on this issue, and hope all will react by “staying with us” – making the small sacrifice to walk a few extra steps to designated outdoor tobacco use areas.

We believe they'll find that walk is well worth what we offer at Peterson. We hope everyone understands and supports this change, and maybe even considers changing their lifestyle – and we promise to continue providing a top-notch environment for all, befitting of “Team Pete.”

## Major selects



William S. Angerman  
Tatiana L. Beauchamp  
Brian L. Bracy  
Jose O. Caliboso  
David H. Conley Jr.  
Joseph A. Conti  
John C. Crane  
Wade R. DeMordaunt  
Deborah Dickensheets  
Marcus A. Dominguez  
James B. Dooley  
David B. Farmer  
Nestor M. Feliz  
Glen A. Fields  
Nicholas E. Folz  
Joseph D. Gallagher  
Celiann M. Gonzalez  
Jason H. Gross  
Mark L. Haddorff  
Michael C. Harvey  
Rhonda S. Herdt  
Curtis L. Hernandez  
Colby D. Hoefar  
Tanya A. Hurwitz

Rico M. Jones  
Timothy L. Kuger  
Paul C. Lips  
Robert D. Lorton  
Bryce A. Morgan  
Heather Morgenstern  
Sherry B. Murphy  
Benjamin B. Nelson  
Alan W. Omo  
Dora E. Orenchick  
Amy Osterhout  
Jeffrey C. Owens  
Heidi A. Paulson  
Patrick L. Reagan  
Tracy A. Rouse  
Karen L. Sanders  
Torrence W. Saxe  
Jason D. Schreuder  
James A. Sutphen  
Kyle M. Tate  
Christopher Thompson  
Dale D. Van Dyke  
Keith P. Williams  
Kevin P. Wilson

## Team Pete award winners communicate excellence

By Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Several members of Team Pete were recognized as 2003 Air Force Space Command Communications and Information Award-winners.

The awards acknowledge communications and information personnel and units who distinguished themselves through superior performance in their fields.

The 21st Space Communications Squadron garnered unit recognition, winning the Communications and Information Lt. Gen. Harold W. Grant Award.

Individuals recognized for 2003 were: 1st Lt. Samuel Snoddy, 21st SCS, winner of the Communications and Information Outstanding Company Grade Officer; Senior Airman Michael Daingerfield, 21st SCS, recognized as the Communications-Electronics Systems Outstanding Airman; Tech. Sgt. Rusty Ring, 21st SCS, recognized as the Communications-Electronics Systems Outstanding NCO; Master Sgt. Danny Ogas, 21st SCS, winner of the Information Management Outstanding Senior NCO; Master Sgt. Colin Celaya, AFSPC Communications Support Squadron, the Visual Information Outstanding Senior NCO award winner; Arva Adams, AFSPC CSS, recognized as the Communications and Information Outstanding

Civilian Assistant Specialist; Lori Lazar-Linthicum, AFSPC CSS, recognized as Outstanding Civilian Technician; and Capt. Amy Townley, AFSPC CSS, winner of the Outstanding Information Assurance Professional award.

“I'm honored to win the award, but it wouldn't have been possible without the excellent support from my fellow communications warriors,” Lieutenant Snoddy said.

The lieutenant was recognized for his contributions in reengineering the base Network Control Center, and serving as the Communications Director for the 2003 North Atlantic Treaty Organization Defense Ministerial.

Other award winners also readily acknowledged the efforts of their co-workers.

“I couldn't have done it without my outstanding flight behind me,” Sergeant Ogas said. “Their support, and that of my mentors, were key elements to my success.”

“This award was a direct reflection of work center performance,” Airman Daingerfield said.

Work center conditions and attitudes are key to mission excellence.

“AFSPC creates an environment of people who think toward tomorrow,” Ms. Adams said. “The management staff of AFSPC Multimedia enabled me to win this award by giving me cutting-edge software and hardware,” she said.

## Team Pete members graduate from Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy

Congratulations to the nine Team Pete members who graduated from the Senior NCO Academy Class 04-B on March 3.

**Distinguished Graduates were:**

Senior Master Sgt. Samuel C. Hazzard, Air Force Space Command Headquarters  
Master Sgt. Edward D. Colston, AFSPC HQ

Other graduates of Class 04-B were:

**Master Sergeants:**

Robert T. Frohnappfel, AFSPC HQ  
Wayne C. Stanton, 21st Space Wing

**Senior Master Sergeants:**

Mark J. Reed, 21st SW  
Russel D. Rexroat, AFSPC HQ  
Linwood E. Murphy, 21st SW  
David A. Makowski, AFSPC HQ  
Michael A. Dziolek, 21st SW

**Have a story idea?  
Let us know –  
call us at 556-7846  
or by e-mail at  
space.observer@peterson.af.mil**



## 21SW CHANGE OF COMMAND

Brig. Gen. Richard Webber takes command of the 21st Space Wing in a change of command ceremony at 11 a.m. today in Hangar 140. For information on the change of command ceremony, contact Col. Terry Djuric, 21st Operations Group Commander at 556-4257. Transportation will be provided from the Officer and Enlisted Clubs, Building 350, and Buildings 1, 2, and 3 beginning at 8:45 a.m. The bus service to the ceremony will stop at 10:45 a.m. and resume at noon or upon completion of the ceremony. Customer service functions across base will be affected from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

## FAMILY ADVOCACY OFFERS NEW WORKSHOP

Starting today, the Family Advocacy Center offers Women Helping Women from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Life Skills Center. The workshop features a women's support and educational forum for women who have experienced domestic violence in the past or present.

## OFFICIAL TRAVEL SERVICE FEE CHANGE

Effective immediately, the agency service fee charged by Rogers Travel has changed from \$24 to \$18 per ticket. The service fee on leisure tickets issued in conjunction with official travel remains at \$20 per ticket. For more information, call Rogers Travel at 550-1817.

## OLD UNIFORMS NEEDED FOR MOULAGE PATIENTS

The 21st Medical Group needs old uniforms and clothes for moulage patients to wear in exercise scenarios. Medical protocols require cutting the clothing and exposing the area experiencing simulated trauma. Though medical personnel may not do this every time for every patient, they need a stockpile of uniforms for occasions when this is necessary. For more information, call Master Sgt. O.K. Stoll at 556-1153, or Staff Sgt. Bella Smith at 556-1053.

## DORM MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers from the 21st SW are needed for duty positions in the 21st Civil Engineer Housing Flight. Master sergeants may apply for Unaccompanied Housing Manager and staff sergeants may apply as Dorm Managers. Volunteers are assigned to 21st CES/CEH for a minimum of two years under the designator 9D000. Volunteers must submit an application package containing a letter expressing their interest in the position, endorsement from their Squadron Commander or First Sergeant, and last three Enlisted Performance Reports. Packages must be received by Monday. For more information, call Colleen Miller at 556-4332, or Willie Carter at 556-7174.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPACE SYMPOSIUM

Volunteers are needed for the 20th National

Space Symposium, hosted by the Space Foundation, March 29-April 1 at the Broadmoor Hotel. Volunteers are needed to help with media relations, escorting, presentations, information booth staffing, coordinating transportation and security services. Volunteer applications must be completed by Monday. For more information, visit [www.spacesymposium.org/national04/volunteer/index.cfm](http://www.spacesymposium.org/national04/volunteer/index.cfm), or contact Capt. Dave Kelley at 554-3836, or via e-mail at [david.kelley@peterson.af.mil](mailto:david.kelley@peterson.af.mil).

## LADIES ANNUAL GOLF MEETING SCHEDULED

The Peterson Ladies Golf Association hosts its Annual Golf Meeting and Coffee at 8 a.m. April 1 in the Silver Spruce Golf Course Club House. New members are welcome. For more information, call Betty Evans, Association President, at 591-6516, or Sarah Martino at 598-6486.

## TEAM PETE EPD OFFERS "SILVER BULLETS" SEMINAR

The Team Pete Enlisted Professional Development team offers the next "Silver Bullets" writing seminar from 8-10 a.m. March 26 in Bldg. 350, Room 1016. This seminar focuses on developing bullet-writing skills for preparing EPRs and award nominations. To register, e-mail Staff Sgt. Nicole Basnight at [nicole.basnight@peterson.af.mil](mailto:nicole.basnight@peterson.af.mil). For more information about Team Pete EPD, visit the website at <http://www.peterson.af.mil/epd/>.



## Chapel

### 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.

# SOLD! Guardian Challenge Auction nears

By Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The Team Pete Guardian Challenge Auction is scheduled for 5:45-9 p.m. March 31 in the Enlisted Club.

The auction is geared toward raising money for the Team Pete Guardian Challenge teams.

"The auction is probably the biggest fund raiser we have when it comes to Guardian Challenge," said Lt. Col. Bob Orwig, project officer for the auction.

The night's festivities will start with a Western Barbecue Buffet dinner at 6:15 p.m., followed by the auction.

"All of the items will be on display before and during dinner," Colonel Orwig said. "That way, everyone can walk around and find items they want to bid on and be ready when it hits the auction block."

Items up for bid appeal to a wide range of tastes.

"Last year, Cape Cod sent two lobsters," the colonel said. Other items included handmade jewelry

and sports memorabilia.

"The auction brought in a just over \$10,000 for the teams."

Some of this year's items include: an autographed copy of U.S. Astronaut Sally Ride's book "To Space and Back," a 1908 Garden of the Gods lithograph, an autographed picture of Jimmy Buffett, and an autographed ball from the starting pitcher for the Colorado Rockies Inaugural Game.

"This event is really a good time," said Col. Alvin Kemmet, 21st Space Wing Guardian Challenge project officer. "It's great to see airmen bid against chiefs and second lieutenants bidding against colonels. Our auctioneer is great and really keeps the crowd entertained."

The Team 21 Association, a private organization approved to operate on base, obtained all of the donations. The Association provides distinctive competition uniforms for all competitors and provides banquets, social activities, and a hospitality suite for 21st Space Wing members and their guests during Guardian

Challenge. Though the name of the auction refers to Guardian Challenge, proceeds from the auction go toward supporting Team Pete competitors, whether it's Guardian Challenge, Readiness Challenge, Top Dollar, or any other competition.

The auction dinner is \$10. To purchase tickets, contact one of the following points of contact:

21st Maintenance Group – 1st Lt. Bryson Blake, 556-3867

21st Medical Group – Staff Sgt. Mike Sigley, 556-1109

21st Space Wing Director of Staff – 2nd Lt. Jen Tribble, 556-4698

21st Operations Group – Maj. Matt Carroll, 556-8903

21st Mission Support Group – Master Sgt. Jeannie Staunton, 556-4723

721st Mission Support Group – 2nd Lt. David Keithan, 552-2169

821st Air Base Group – 1st Lt. George Sconyers, DSN 629-2711

## 21st SFS enforces 'Accident Alert'

By Tech. Sgt. Chad Schroeder

21st Security Forces Squadron

Starting Monday, the 21st Security Forces Squadron implements Accident Alert reporting during extremely adverse weather conditions. The program follows the same procedures used by state and city law enforcement agencies. The policy is implemented based on road and weather conditions on base, any backlog of traffic accidents, other

calls, and the weather forecast for Colorado Springs, Colo.

Minor accidents should be reported through alert reporting if:

- n There are no fatalities or injuries requiring medical attention.

- n No driver involved is suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

- n All vehicles and drivers involved are present.

- n The driver, vehicle and insur-

ance information is available.

- n No one insists that police respond.

Security Forces will continue to investigate all minor accidents on base.

If a call is received at Security Forces, the caller will be asked if the combined damage is less than \$1,000. If so, a patrol response isn't necessary. If the amount is unknown, a patroller will respond to determine the amount of damage.

Information exchanged should include the vehicle owner's name, address, telephone number, date of birth, driver's license number and state, the vehicle's year, make, model, color, license plate number and state, and the vehicle identification number. Insurance company, policy number and policy expiration date, agent's name and phone number should also be exchanged.

For more information, call 556-8235.

# UD '04 ups ante for future exercises

By Merrie Schilter-Lowe

NORAD and U.S. Northern Command Public Affairs

The size, complexity, quality of decisions, and the ability to communicate effectively with the multiple agencies involved in Unified Defense 2004 have raised the bar for future U.S. Northern Command exercises.

The exercise was held Feb. 19-25, and involved more than 50 federal, state, and local agencies in a series of simulated natural disasters and terrorist activities in Texas, Alaska, Colorado, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

UD '04 also included participants from North American Aerospace Defense Command, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, and the Joint Staff.

"We've raised the ante," said Army Lt. Col. Tim Croft, USNORTHCOM exercise planner. "Expectations will be even higher for our next exercise."

"An awful lot of learning occurred in this exercise," said Marine Corps Col. Gene Pino, the USNORTHCOM Director of Training and Exercise. "Based on what we've learned, we will make changes, and we will be better."

Colonel Pino said this was the consensus among participants he talked to, including people at the

Department of Homeland Security, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and state and local agencies.

The goal of UD '04 was to test homeland security, homeland defense, and the military's ability to deliver assistance to civil authorities during a presidential declared emergency or disaster.

"What we did in this exercise was provide the mechanisms that will further empower the nation to respond to a crisis in the homeland," Colonel Pino said. "The exercise allowed federal, state, and local agencies to train in an environment that's as close to reality as possible."

USNORTHCOM conducted UD '04 based on the Initial National Response Plan, its modifications and revisions. When approved, the final plan will replace the 1992 Federal Response Plan that outlines the federal government's role in emergency and disaster situations.

UD '04 focused on a terrorist nuclear attack in Texas. Other scenarios involved simulated hijackings of commercial airliners, a cyber-attack against Department of Defense computers, and attacks against maritime and port security assets in Alaska.

While exercise scenarios were simulated, response to each event was not, Colonel Croft said. Participants accessed and analyzed each situation in real-time, and based their decisions on real-world availability of resources.

"Staff had to consider not just the active-duty resources, but also what was available from National Guard and Reserve units," Colonel Croft said. He said decision-makers had to look at the bigger picture to deploy equipment and people to disaster and emergency sites as quickly as possible.

USNORTHCOM will conduct its next major exercise in August. Determined Promise 2004 will include participants from Virginia and California, Colonel Pino said.



Photo by U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Russ Tippets

Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91103, of San Pedro, Calif., conducts a vertical insertion from an Air Station Sitka Jayhawk helicopter onto the Petersburg-based Coast Guard cutter Anacapa in Juneau Harbor during Unified Defense 2004 training.



# Secretary briefs lawmakers in 'posture' hearing

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott

[Air Force Print News](#)

WASHINGTON – The F/A-22 Raptor, sexual harassment, force blending, and the tanker lease program were all topics of discussion as the service's senior executive testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee March 2.

Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James G. Roche, along with the other service secretaries, testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee for the service secretaries' posture portion of the 2005 Department of Defense Authorization hearing series.

Despite some minor glitches, the F/A-22 Raptor is destined to guarantee American air dominance, the secretary said.

"The limiting problem we have now ... has to do with failure of small parts on the plane, such that you don't get enough sorties per day," Secretary Roche said.

One of the problems is there are only a few subcontractors able to replace faulty parts. The secretary said that problem would plague any future aircraft produced in the United States, including the Joint Strike Fighter.

"It's good to know it now, so hopefully we can prepare for it," he said.

The secretary noted that Russian aircraft currently in development compare favorably with the Air Force's F-15 Eagle, but the Raptor would prevail in a head-to-head match up.

"The planes the former Soviet Union are constructing are very good. But, you bring the F/A-22 into the picture and it changes dramatically," he said. "The F/A-22 ... deters anybody from building a system and thinking they can achieve air dominance because they can't."

Turning his attention to the area of sexual harassment, the secretary assured the senators that the Air Force is aggressively investigating all reports. Secretary Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper recently commissioned an assessment of sexual assault response systems Air Force-wide.

"(We) tasked our major command commanders to include education, training, prevention, reporting procedures, response programs, and program oversight in their comprehensive reviews," he said.

The assessment was ordered before recent reports of sexual harassment at Sheppard Air Force

Base, Texas. The secretary said an initial review had been conducted within Pacific Air Forces last autumn to set a benchmark for the rest of the service to follow.

Secretary Roche praised a program unique to the Air Force – one that senators urged other services to examine – blending active duty and guardsmen into one unit.

The Air Force's 116th Control Wing at Robins AFB, Ga., blends active duty and Georgia Air National Guard Airmen to operate the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System.

"It has proven itself in combat," Secretary Roche said. "The blended wing has performed magnificently."

Other blending experiments include merging ANG Airmen from California and Nevada with Reserve and active-duty forces at Nellis AFB, Nev., to operate the RQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle.

"We're looking wherever it makes sense to do it, because it brings the Guard into our most modern systems," he said.

The Air Force's attempt to lease tankers from Boeing to replace portions of the aging KC-135 Stratotanker fleet came under scrutiny as well. Several lawmakers, including Arizona Senator John McCain, requested the Department of Defense provide Congress documents and e-mails about the proposed tanker lease to aid their review of the plan.



Courtesy photo

Senior Air Force leadership discussed pertinent issues at the Senate Armed Services Committee last week.



## 13 complete FTAC

Congratulations to the following March 5 graduates from the First Term Airman's Center Class 2004-08:

### Airmen Basic

Phillip A. Brown, 721st Communications Squadron

Isabell M. Greene, 21st Medical Group

Christopher C. Porter, 21st MDG

Shayna M. Trafton, Detachment 11



### Airmen

Jennifer D. Poggenpohl, 21st Space Communications Squadron

Cristina M. Rivera, 721st Security Forces Squadron



### Airmen 1st Class

Rosa M. Barringer, 21st MDG

Scott D. Carpenter Jr., 21st SFS

Darron O. Celestine, 21st Civil Engineer Squadron

Heather M. Kelly, 21st MDG

Jolene M. Kramer, 21st SFS

Juan J. Reynoso, 21st CES

Devon A. Williams, 21st SCS



# Sexual Assault Assessment Team visits base offices

A Sexual Assault Assessment Team from Headquarters, Air Force Space Command visited Peterson Air Force Base last week to do an end-to-end review of the wing's sexual assault policies and programs.

The visit is part of a larger Air Force-wide assessment to examine plans, policies, programs and procedures at each installation to ensure existing programs addressing sexual assaults are appropriate and effective. Each major command was tasked by Gen. T. Michael Moseley, the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, to visit their installations and assess the current status of sexual assault response programs.

The team reviewed all sexual assault documentation from the Legal Office, Military Equal Opportunity, the Military Personnel Flight, the Medical Group, the Office of Special Investigations, and Security Forces, said Maj. John Woods, the 21st Medical Operations Support Squadron Chief of Family Advocacy Programs. "They also visited the functional areas to assess individual knowledge of policy and procedures on sexual assault reporting procedures."

The team also assessed the wing's policy and procedures for providing support to victims of sexual assault.

Support is provided by the Victim Witness Assistance Program, Life Skills Support Center, Family Advocacy, and the Colorado Springs Community Victims Advocacy Agency, he said.

"The team also conducted focus groups to assess whether or not individuals assigned to the wing perceived any problems with sexual assault or

reporting suspected sexual assault," Major Woods said.

An open-door session offered people an opportunity to discuss issues or concerns they had regarding sexual assault, he said.

At the February CORONA leadership conference, Air Force leadership decided it was time to take the next logical step in reviewing sexual assault response after focusing on the Air Force Academy and evaluating lessons learned from various investigations of sexual various investigations of sexual assault response process problems identified there.

Military sexual assault was a topic in the news with the Senate Armed Services Committee recently holding hearings on the issue.

The Air Force considers every sexual assault a criminal act, and has substantial programs in place at all levels to prevent sexual assaults and other crimes, support victims, and hold offenders accountable. This comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of the Air Force sexual assault response system is being done to determine if there are additional ways it can be improved.

The goals of this Air Force-wide assessment include: striving to eliminate sexual assault and the climate that fosters it; ensuring an environment where victims have confidence to report; conducting appropriate investigation and prosecution; effectively addressing victims' health and well-being; and ensuring commanders and higher headquarters oversee program effectiveness.

*(Courtesy of Air Force Space Command Public Affairs)*



# 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.*

## LICENSE LAMENT – Feb. 26

Security Forces responded to the North Gate, where a military motorist failed to produce a driver's license, proof of insurance, or valid registration during a random inspection. A check on the Florida plate revealed the license plate tags expired more than two years ago. To compound his stupidity, the Vehicle Identification Number did not match the VIN assigned to the plates. The bonehead stated he found the plates in the car when he bought it, so he put them on. Duh. Tickets were issued for Failure to Provide Proof of Registration, Failure to Provide Proof of Insurance, and Failure to Provide a Valid Driver's License. The dunce driver was ordered not to get behind the wheel until he is properly insured and has a license.

## MEDICAL RESPONSE # 1 – Feb. 27

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR responded to NORAD Headquarters, where a military member was complaining of dizziness. The victim was taken to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

## GATE CRASHER – Feb. 27

Security Forces entry controllers reported a gate runner at the North Gate. Patrollers initiated a traffic stop on the wild wheeler. The man stated he thought the gate guard signaled him to proceed through the gate, though he was actually directed to go to the vehicle search lane.

## SHOPLIFTING SPREE – Feb. 27

Security Forces responded to the Base Exchange, where a suspect was being detained for her frugal clothes shopping – she was pegged

by an AAFES detective while stealing a belt, a pair of jeans, and a shirt. The garment grabber was issued a summons for shoplifting.

## WHERE AM I? WHO AM I? – Feb. 28

Security Forces responded to the North Gate, where a man was being detained. The ditz driver pulled up to the gate to ask for directions. When asked for identification, he was unable to present a valid driver's license. CSPD was contacted, and promptly issued a summons for driving without a license.

## DISORDERLY CONDUCT – Feb. 29

Security Forces responded to Base Housing, where a military member reported he and his wife were being harassed by a belligerent man outside their vehicle. The dangerous drunkard apparently shoved the caller's wife while trying to pick a fight with him. The boozed brawler was taken into custody.

## BACK AND WHACK – Feb. 29

Security Forces responded to a minor vehicle accident at the Automotive Skills Center. Perhaps in an effort to create more business for the Auto Skills Center, it seems a military motorist mistakenly backed her vehicle into a truck while pulling out of one of the maintenance bays. The two vehicles suffered minor dents. A citation was issued for Careless Driving.

## DISTURBING PHONE CALLS – Feb. 29

Two military members reported to Security Forces that they each received harassing phone calls over the weekend. The calls contained threatening and lewd comments. The demented dialer even left a message on one of the victim's phones with a pseudonym and false phone number. Tracing action allowed the civilian callers to be located and questioned.

## PEACEFUL PROTEST – March 1

Security Forces responded to the North Gate, where a small demonstration was taking place. Nine protesters were marching, and carrying letters they wanted to present to the Air Force Space Command Commander. CSPD was asked to assist with a possible traffic hazard due to individuals blocking the median. The letters were given to the Office of Special Investigations.

## OFF-BASE RESPONSE – March 2

Security Forces responded to a major vehicle accident at the intersection of Powers Boulevard and Airport Road. One of the accident victims was experiencing chest pains. American

Medical Response services responded to the scene. Security Forces assisted with traffic control until the Colorado Springs Police Department arrived and took control of the situation.

## MEDICAL RESPONSE # 2 – March 2

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR responded to the Officers' Club, where a military member was having difficulty breathing. Security Forces escorted AMR personnel to the scene. AMR transported the victim to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

## CAUGHT RED-HANDED – March 2

Security Forces responded to the Base Exchange, where a woman was being held for shoplifting. She was nabbed by an Army Air Force Exchange Service employee as she helped herself to a bottle of cologne, a printer cartridge, and a small toy. CSPD responded and issued the thief a summons for shoplifting.

## PISTOL PANIC – March 2

Security Forces responded to a call from a military member, who reported his spouse was at the Life Skills Center, and was carrying a loaded .22-caliber handgun in her vehicle. Security Forces members tracked down the gunslinger, who stated her car was parked at the Mission Support Facility. Security Forces obtained consent to search the vehicle, where they found the pistol tucked away in the glove compartment. The woman was briefed on proper procedures for carrying a handgun on base, and escorted off the installation.

## HIT AND SPLIT – March 3

Security Forces responded to the Commissary parking lot, where a woman reported her vehicle was damaged while she was at work. The red 2003 Dodge Ram sustained damage consisting of dents, scratches, and cracks.

## MEDICAL RESPONSE # 3 – March 3

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR responded to the West Gate, where a military member was experiencing difficulty breathing and light-headedness. He was transported to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

## ALARMING TRENDS CONTINUE:

In addition to these entries, there continue to be too many illegitimate alarm activations on base. Among those noted this week were seven activations due to human error.

*\*\* If you have any information on a crime report it to Security Forces at 556-4000.*

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# Competing with 'honor and dignity'

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

The High Frontier Honor Guard's Guardian Challenge Team is stepping out in Air Force Space Command's annual honor guard competition March 22-26 in Hangar 140.

The event features honor guard teams from throughout AFSPC. The winning team from the five-day competition will perform at Guardian Challenge, held at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., the first week of May.

"I'm looking forward to representing the Front Range against the other Space Command teams," said Airman 1st Class Regis Hess, a member of the High Frontier's competing team. "This competition gives us the unique opportunity to face off against the best of the best."

Teammate Senior Airman Austin Murray had similar anticipations.

"This competition allows us to compare ourselves with other teams, and gives us a chance to grow and improve," he said.

This is the first competition since the initial AFSPC honor guard face off, held here in March of 2002. The teams will perform typical honor guard ceremonies.

The team will perform funeral ceremonies and color posting during the evaluation, Airman Austin said.

This year's team was hand-picked by the High Frontier Honor Guard Trainer, said Senior Airman Ivan Imbuido, a member of the performing team.

Other members on this year's High Frontier Guardian Challenge team are Tech. Sgt. Andrew Fulbright, Senior Airman Adam Greer, Airman 1st Class Anthony Miranti, Airman First Class Makelyia Sheppard, and Airman 1st Class Ryan Green.

The High Frontier Honor Guard fulfills a key role in the quality of life of active duty, retiree, and veteran families by providing final tribute for deceased military members on behalf of the President of the United States and the United States Air Force. Also, as a courtesy to unit commanders, the teams provide a proud and professional representation of the service by presenting colors, performing retirement functions, or a number of other details.

"We're always looking for new members," said Senior Master Sgt. Diane Hayes, the High Frontier Honor Guard NCO in Charge. "Deployments and temporary duty assignments always leave slots available for new recruits."



During a veteran's funeral service, the honor guard detail folds the flag for presentation to a family member on behalf of a grateful nation. When folded, the flag resembles a cocked hat like that worn by George Washington. Airman 1st Class Anthony Miranti and Tech. Sgt. Andrew Fulbright prepare the flag for presentation.



LEFT: Senior Airman Adam Greer, Tech. Sgt. Andrew Fulbright, and Senior Airman Austin Murray demonstrate customary funeral honors that include a rifle salute. Often confused with the 21-gun salute, which is performed using cannons, the rifle salute is part of the customary funeral honors performed by the honor guard that originated long ago. Armies halted fighting to remove the dead from the battlefield. Three volleys were fired to indicate that the dead had been cared for and the armies were ready to return to battle.



Discipline and time are key elements to getting a six-person flag detail perfectly in sync. Tech. Sgt. Andrew Fulbright, Airman 1st Class Ryan Green, and Airman 1st Class Regis Hess ceremoniously fold the flag several times during the practice.



The team drills twice a week, honing their skills, and perfecting routines that honor our nation's veterans when they are laid to rest. Pictured left to right are: Tech. Sgt. Andrew Fulbright, Senior Airman Adam Greer, Senior Airman Austin Murray, and Airman 1st Class Ryan Green.



The team practices for the competition in which they will perform a retiree casket funeral, color posting, and veteran funeral ceremony. Front row: Airman 1st Class Ryan Green, Airman 1st Class Regis Hess, Airman 1st Class Makelyia Sheppard. Back row: Tech. Sgt. Andrew Fulbright, Senior Airman Adam Greer, and Senior Airman Austin Murray.



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

## This Week

### Today

n Play Group, 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Youth Center.

n Women Helping Women, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in the Life Skills Center.

### Friday

n Friday Night Madness, 8 p.m. at the Enlisted Club.

### Saturday

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

n Beginner Rock Climbing, March 13 and 14. Local area sites include Garden of the Gods, Shelf Road, and Castle Rock. Minimum age is 12, and class size is limited to 10 people. The \$20 cost includes equipment and instruction. To register, call Outdoor Recreation at 556-4867.

### Tuesday

n Sponsorship Training, 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the MSC, Room 1016.

n Certified wall climbing class, 4:30 p.m. in the Fitness Center. Newcomers can "learn the ropes" of tying knots, belaying, and other basics.

### Wednesday

n Money and Marriage, 5-6:30 p.m. at the MSC, Room 1016. Topics include budgeting, allowances, spending habits, and Christmas.

### March 18

n Money and Marriage, 5-6:30 p.m. at the MSC, Room 1016. Topics include investing for retirement and saving for college.

n Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m. at the MSC, Room 1016.

n Basic Investing, 11 a.m.-noon, at the MSC, Room 1016.

### Helpful Numbers

- n Family Advocacy 556-8943
- n Education Center 556-4064
- n Library 556-7462
- n Community Center 556-7671
- n Aquatics Center 556-4608
- n Fitness Center 556-4462
- n Officers' Club 556-4181
- n Enlisted Club 556-4194
- n Youth Center 556-7220
- n Family Support 556-6141
- n Red Cross 556-9201
- n Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- n Golf Course 556-7810

## Club 21 welcomes Friday Night Madness

By Margie Arnold  
21st Space Wing Services Squadron

The Enlisted Club holds Friday Night Madness this weekend. The event, organized by Club 21, kicks off at 8 p.m. Friday evening.

This small group of young active duty personnel – Senior Airman Jessica Sanchez, Staff Sgt. Christopher Pugh, Tech. Sgt. Jay Bardell, Airman 1st Class Michelle McCracken, and Senior Airman Kobi Jones – call themselves Club 21, not to be confused with the Enlisted Club, formerly known as Club 21.

"We formed this group to help boost morale and give dorm residents some options for a little nightlife on base so they don't have to go downtown," said Airman Sanchez, a member of the 21st Operation Support Squadron. "We came up with the idea of having the Enlisted Club stay open late on Friday night so dorm residents can have a chance for fun, a chance to let loose, listen to music, and dance."

Friday Night Madness is open to anyone 17 years or older. Although the event is primarily geared to dorm residents, the event is open to all enlisted personnel.

Club 21 will have a trial event Friday at the Enlisted Club, which will stay open until 2 a.m. that night. A disc jockey will play Top 40 hits. All enlisted are invited, whether living on or off

base, and there is no cover charge. How many people come out for this event and how late they stay will determine the future of Friday Night Madness.



LEFT: The Friday Night Madness founders hope to give Airmen a weekend haven to socialize on base. BELOW: Club 21 members, Airman 1st Class Michelle McCracken, Senior Airman Jessica Sanchez, and Staff Sgt. Christopher Pugh rack and stack an evening of music, games, and fun at the Enlisted Club.



Photos courtesy of 21st Services Squadron

## ARAGON DINING FACILITY MENU

### Today

#### Lunch:

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

#### Dinner:

Cornish Hen  
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

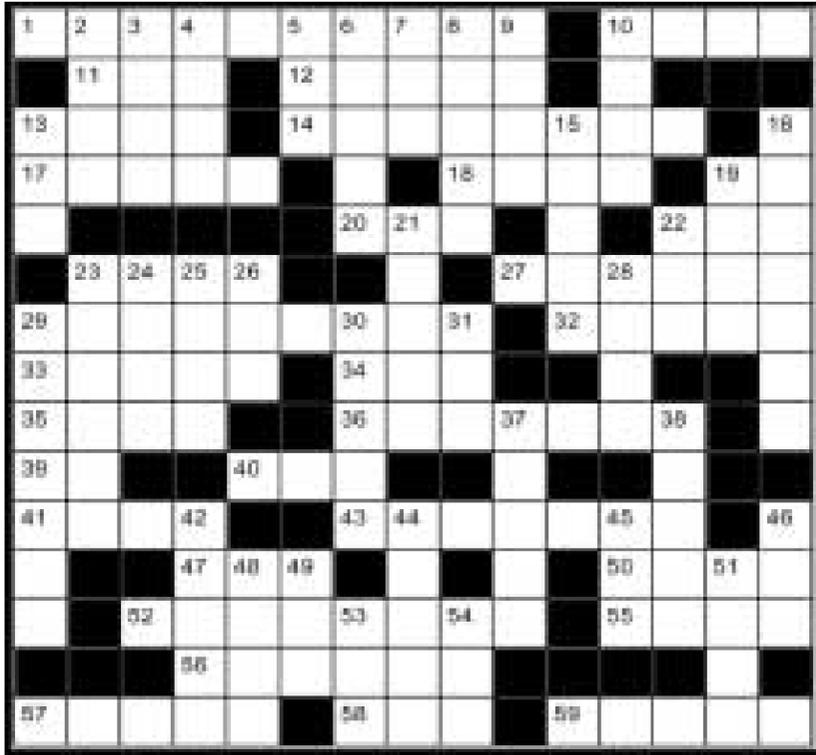
#### Dinner:

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



# CSAF, past and present

Answers located on page 18



**ACROSS**

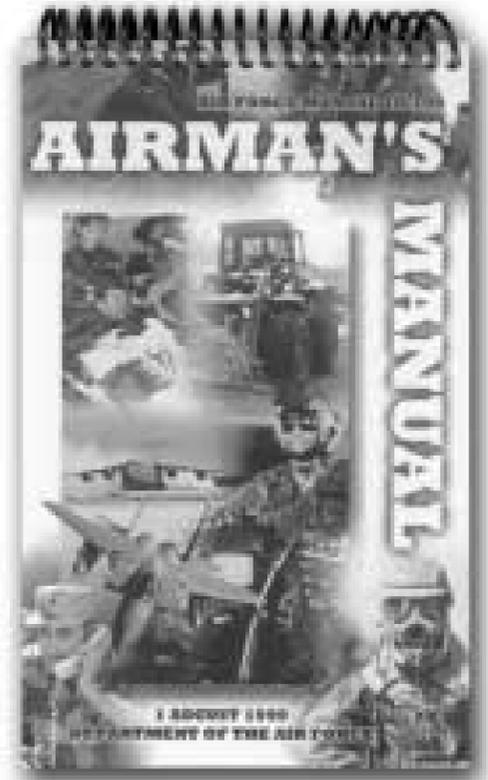
- 1. CSAF – 4/30/48-6/29/53
- 10. CSAF – 8/1/69-7/31/73 or 11/6/97-9/6/01
- 11. Military show of appreciation (abbrev.)
- 12. Cream of tartar
- 13. Plant
- 14. CSAF – 10/26/94-9/1/97
- 17. CSAF – 6/30/61-1/31/65
- 18. Oklahoma town
- 19. Postal abbrev. for state home to Barksdale AFB
- 20. Navy AFB equivalent
- 22. Investigation for airplane crashes (abbrev.)

- 23. Org. to stop drunk driving (abbrev.)
- 27. CSAF – 9/6/01-present
- 29. CSAF – 2/1/65-7/31/69
- 32. \_\_\_\_\_ Arabia
- 33. Musical show
- 34. Zodiac sign
- 35. Wife of king of Sparta (Greek mythology)
- 36. Puffed (as in a cigarette)
- 39. Video game maker \_\_\_ Sports
- 40. \_\_\_ Paulo, Brazil
- 41. Play
- 43. CSAF – 6/30/53-6/30/57
- 47. Head cover
- 50. Horse feed

- 52. Frenzy
  - 55. Bite
  - 56. CSAF – 9/26/47-4/29/48
  - 57. CSAF – 7/1/74-6/20/78
  - 58. Architect I.M. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 59. CSAF-7/1/86-6/30/90
- DOWN**
- 2. Away from the wind
  - 3. Measure
  - 4. Actress Delaney
  - 5. USAF command echelon between MAJCOM and MOB
  - 6. CSAF – 8/1/73-6/30/74
  - 7. Part one of a holiday drink
  - 8. Parts in a play
  - 9. Dale
  - 10. Browse
  - 13. Soar
  - 15. Subtract
  - 16. CSAF – 7/1/82-6/30/86
  - 19. Exaggerated
  - 21. CSAF – 7/1/78-6/30/82
  - 22. Kwik-E-Mart owner on The Simpsons
  - 23. CSAF – 10/30/90-10/25/94
  - 24. Made a perfect score
  - 25. Children's show \_\_\_ the Explorer
  - 26. Building block of life
  - 28. Boy
  - 29. Bothers
  - 30. Poet and critic T.S.
  - 31. CSAF – 9/18/90-10/29/90
  - 37. Happening on a cycle
  - 38. CSAF – 7/1/90-9/17/90
  - 42. Instead of those?
  - 44. CSAF – 7/1/57-6/30/61
  - 45. Rest of 7 DOWN
  - 46. Compass direction
  - 48. Swiss mountain range
  - 49. Actress \_\_\_ Carrere
  - 51. Soft mineral
  - 53. Smack
  - 54. Israeli machine gun  
*(Courtesy of 1st Lt. Tony Wickman)*

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# Motorcyclists: CSAF calls for mishap reduction

By Senior Master Sgt. Ty Foster

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

*This is the second article in a two-part series of articles addressing various aspects of managing the risks associated with operating motorcycles. Supervisors and commanders are encouraged to use these articles to communicate the importance of sound risk management and the impact of failing to do so.*

In his recent Sight Picture, Air Force Chief of Staff General John P. Jumper focused on safety – specifically the human aspects of safety.

His quest is to reduce the Air Force's mishap rate by 50 percent over the next two years – his ultimate goal is zero mishaps.

“Over the past decade, despite some excellent safety programs, we haven't made much progress in making the Air Force safer,” the general wrote. “Instead, we've been moving in the wrong direction.”

“Another program, procedure, or lecture won't help,” General Jumper wrote. “Each of us paying attention will.”

The general holds commanders and supervisors accountable for safety practices and performance – that includes on and off duty.

“We have to get rid of the idea that safety is a

concern only when ‘on-duty,’” the general wrote. “Safety has to be part of every Airman's daily life – in combat, on the commute to and from work, at home, and on vacation – anywhere you might be.”

That point should strike a chord with every Air Force motorcycle rider as well as their supervisors and commanders. We lost 25 riders last year – 23 died and two were permanently, totally disabled in Class A mishaps.

In addition to considering the human factors of risk management, the motorcycle itself is a factor to consider when striving to eliminate motorcycle crashes.

Today's motorcycles are high-tech, highly capable, mechanical marvels with engines ranging from 100 cubic centimeters in some scooters to more than 2,000 ccs in some of the land rockets on the market. Higher horsepower, greater stopping capabilities, lighter weights, and eye-catching designs are all effective lures to the new, and sometimes not-so-new, motorcyclist. In the hands of one who is not mentally or physically proficient, these machines can send a rider on a fast trip to an early grave.

To stay alive, riders must know their abilities as a motorcycle operator, know the mechanical and technological abilities of their machines, and not exceed either of those limits.

Air Force riders must to protect themselves too.

Some of our riders have this misbegotten belief that wearing all of the required protective equipment is a matter of choice.

I tell people, “It doesn't really matter what you think about wearing it. You give up that ‘choice’ when you take your oath.” Just as wearing our hair and our uniform are matters of compliance, so, too, is wearing all of the protective equipment required by military instructions.

It's about our integrity, not our image.

So argue, if you will, about the degrees of protection the required items offer. Will they protect you from serious injury or death in the event of a crash? Maybe, but “maybe” is better than “no.”

It's like General Jumper wrote, “... helmets don't save lives if you don't wear them.”

Even so, nothing we wear will prevent a crash. The most important piece of equipment that will be lodged firmly between our ears.

So how can we stem the rising red tide of Air Force motorcycle deaths and injuries?

Supervisors and commanders – you are pivotal in developing good judgment in your young motorcyclists. Be involved in their training and help them develop sound riding habits. Know who all of your

– See Motorcyclists, Page 18



**– Motorcyclists from Page 18**

riders are – both on- and off-road enthusiasts. Document their training, check their protective gear, and assess

the mechanical soundness of their machines. If you're not sure, check with your base safety office.

Don't assume that just because you never see someone riding on base

that they don't ride. The Air Force has an underground riding population out there that we need to bring into the fold. The only way we can do that is to know our people and for them to know and trust us.

Novice riders – start your riding career out right by attending an approved motorcycle safety course. Apply those mental and physical street-riding strategies to heighten your safety and the enjoyment of motorcycling. Riding may be risky, but it doesn't have to be reckless.

Experienced riders – serve as the role models for your young counterparts. Lead by example in wearing the protective equipment required by the Air Force, both on and off base.

In the end, I realize there is no panacea – no cure-all – to eliminate Air Force motorcycle deaths and injuries. It doesn't matter how many articles I write or workshops, inspections, and demonstrations I conduct. And as involved in their riders' lives as supervisors and commanders can be, they can't make that decision that might cost a life – it's on the rider.

For when riders decide to straddle

their bikes, start them, shift into gear, and roll out onto the road, they've accepted the risks – whether they know it or not – and the responsibilities for whatever may occur. Their split-second decision to speed up, slow down, pass, swerve, or not to ride after a drink of alcohol is in their hands – or, rather, it's in their heads.

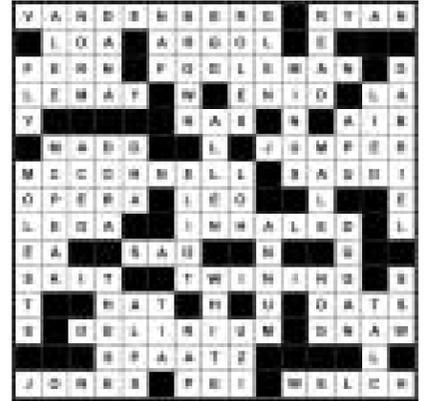
They have a choice to make every millisecond they're on the road. Ride responsibly and live – or don't and die by the motorcycle.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ken Bergmann

**Air Force Space Command Commander Gen. Lance Lord rides his motorcycle during the Cripple Creek Rally last August. As an avid motorcyclist, the general says, "Safety is an attitude – get one!"**

**Answers from puzzle on page 16**





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