

Space Observer

“2003 AFSPC Best Large Wing PA Office”

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

Vol. 48 No. 11



Photo by Budd Butcher

21 SW CHANGES HANDS PAGES 12-13



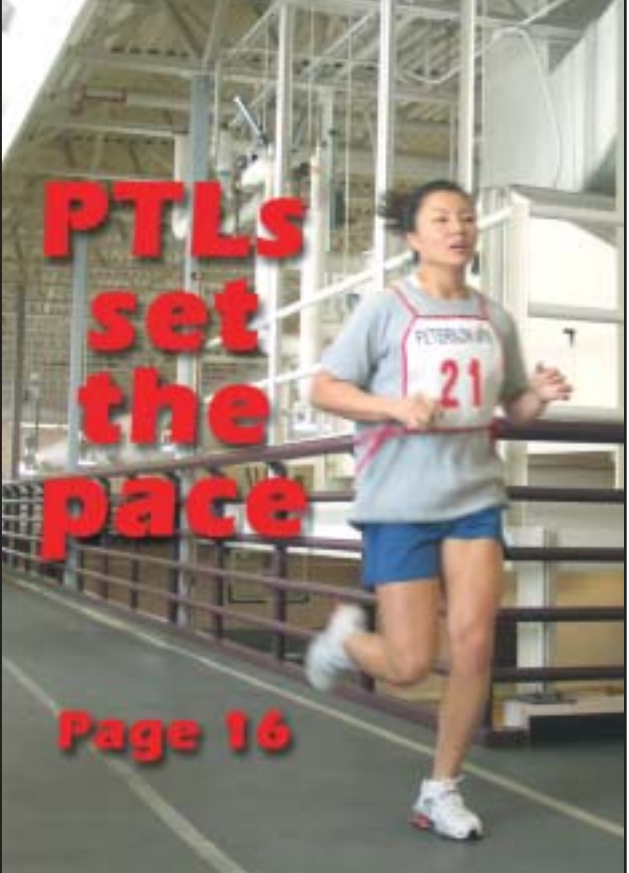
Seniors selected
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**Communication is key
at GC**



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**PTLs
set
the
pace**



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Photo by 1st Lt. Julie Tucker



Building on our success

By Brig. Gen. Richard E. Webber
21st Space Wing Commander

I'm truly humbled and honored to serve as your commander of the 21st Space Wing. Having lived here since 1999, Michele and I know what a great place Colorado Springs is, and we cherish our time here in this supportive community. I look forward to building on this strong foundation as a proud member of Team Pete.

From my experiences while deployed to Iraq this past year, and from my former position at Headquarters Air Force Space Command, I can say with

authority that the 21st is leading the way for this nation in the space arena. Having served shoulder to shoulder with the men and women of Team Pete, I know we have an amazing team of dedicated professionals.

The task ahead of us, then, is to continue operating at this high level - to build on our past successes and accomplishments, not stand on them. My vision for the 21st Space Wing focuses on three



key areas I believe will help us do that.

Strive for excellence: In space operations and the critical support we provide the war fighter through missile warning and space control, we must be outstanding. We must operationalize and normalize how we present space to combatant commanders and we need to do so at the highest level possible.

Provide world-class support: Our tenants here at Peterson and all of our

geographically separated units must have world-class support from us so they can continue to do great work. We all are part of the same team.

Take care of each other: I like to work hard and I like to play hard, and I like to do both safely. We all must take care of each other, knowing how precious our families - immediate and Air Force - are to us.

Keeping these three things in mind as we move forward, I know the 21st Space Wing will continue to excel as America's leader in space. This is a dream come true for Michele and I and we're pleased beyond words to be a part of this great team.

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.

An open or shut case?

Question: Can the right lane barricades at the West Gate be relocated sufficient distance so incoming traffic can know if the right lane is open or closed? I suggest relocating them to the traffic light. During a recent recall, both incoming lanes were open, and drivers were attempting to use both lanes. However, some drivers didn't realize that both lanes were open, so those who were dutifully waiting their turn in the left lane moved over to the right lane to block what they thought were selfish drivers attempting to break into the waiting line. As expected, there were some angry drivers. Thank you.

Answer: Unfortunately, due to the unpredictability of traffic surges and the location of the Gatehouse, it is not feasible to relocate the barricade in the right lane further from the gatehouse - Security Forces need to be able to move the barricade quickly when traffic begins to backup because of a surge. If the barricade was moved further away from the Gatehouse, the Security Forces could not consecutively monitor traffic

and move the barricades during a surge. Though current configurations and manpower do not allow us to change today's configuration, we will consider alternatives (such as a remote sign), and also pass your idea to our civil engineers who are in the process of designing a project to improve the current configuration. If you have more questions or ideas, please call Tech. Sgt. Chad Schroeder at 556-8235.

Lunch lines

Question: Why can't the morning ID checkers also help at the North Gate during the lunch hour? It seems like during the lunch hour vehicles get backed up to Platte Avenue and Peterson Boulevard/Galley Road. If they used the individuals who help in the morning, it wouldn't be extra work or drain on Security Forces.

Answer: The purpose of the ID checker program is to provide augmentees from other organizations to assist the Security Forces during peak traffic hours in the morning. Our bases are not manned to sustain the heightened security we've had since Sept. 11, 2001; as a result, this has an impact on all tasked units because members are pulled away from their primary unit to perform augmentee duties, impacting daily operations in those units. Additionally, we are deploying more than 300 personnel to support the current Air Expeditionary Force rotation, which is also impacting those units. Thus, we simply do not have the manpower to expand this program to the lunch hour without even greater mission impact, and we believe it is prudent to continue operating based on the original intent to help relieve traffic congestion during the early morn-

ing rush hour. For those who go off base during lunch and don't like the traffic lines upon their returns, try eating at one of the great on-base Services facilities such as the clubs or golf course - you won't be disappointed!

Gate gladness

Question: I want to commend the recent change in traffic pattern at Peterson's North Gate. Just wanted to let someone know that it is greatly appreciated and we hope it continues. Thanks very much.

Question: I would like to thank whoever was responsible for coming up with such an effective solution to the traffic problem at the North Gate in the mornings. It is a wonderful thing to be able to get to work in normal time instead of spending a long time sitting in traffic. Thank you very much.

Question: A big thank you for the changes in morning traffic flow at the north gate and a big thank you to those people who made it happen! Thanks!

Answer: We're glad you, along with many others, noticed. Our hats are off to the Security Forces and Tiger Team that addressed the traffic concerns starting last fall. The biggest element to continue its success will involve all of our base members - including tenants - providing augmentees to check the IDs. The wing cannot do it alone.

While the long-term fix will involve already-planned gate modifications and adding an additional gate, we'll all have to cooperate. If you see other areas for improvement, let us know!

Space Observer

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21st Space Wing Commander

Brig. Gen. Richard E. Webber

Chief of Public Affairs

1st Lt. Michael Andrews

Editorial Staff

Editor

Staff Sgt. Susan Mrowiec

Layout and Design

Kara Magana

A Moment in Time



■ **March 18, 1971** - Capt. Marcelite C. Jordan becomes the first woman aircraft maintenance officer after completing the Aircraft Maintenance Officer School.

■ **March 19, 1918** - The 94th Squadron, 1st Pursuit Group, flies the first operations across enemy lines in France.

■ **March 20, 1959** - The site in Cheyenne Mountain, Colo., is approved as the location for the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

■ **March 21, 1946** - The Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command, and Air Defense Command are created.

■ **March 22, 1976** - The first A-10 Thunderbolt is delivered to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., for operational test and evaluation.

Honor Guard Competition 2004

Tuesday

Museum Hangar
8 a.m. Opening ceremonies by Gen. Lance Lord, Air Force Space Command Commander
8:30 – 9 a.m. Open ranks inspection and group photo
9:15 – noon Competition for pallbearers and flag folding
noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30 – 5 p.m. Competition for firing party and colors

Wednesday

Museum Hangar
8 a.m. – 11 a.m. Competition for two person veteran funeral
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Competition nine person standard funeral honors

Thursday

Museum Hangar/Enlisted Club
8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Air Force Honor Guard question & answer session, AF HG Recruiting & AF HG Drill Team Demo
6 – 7 p.m. Awards banquet social begins at enlisted club
7 – 11 p.m. Awards banquet
U.S. Air Force Academy Band (Blue Steel) will sing the National Anthem
General Lord and Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Kriete will present awards
Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Williams is the guest speaker
Blue Steel will perform after dinner entertainment

Congrats to Senior Master Sgt. selects

The following Team Pete master sergeants were recently selected for promotion to senior master sergeant:

Carey S. Allen
Tony R. Arrington
Ronald P. Atencio
Rocky A. Belmontes
Garry E. Berry II
Victor W. Blake
Judith M. Buda
John P. Carrillo
Dennis L. Carter
Bobby J. Clark Jr.
Edward D. Colston
Donita K.R. Curtis
Patricia M. Dowdel
Robert D. Feiss
Gregory D. Floyd
Thomas J. Garcia
Christopher P. Izzo
Terrance Lamprecht

Michael Langhorst
Lee M. Lopez
Ronald J. Lowry

Charles H. McLaurin
Donald R. Moore
Alfred L. Mullings
Paula K. O'Keefe
Steven M. Pascuzzi
Beth A. Peura
Julian R. J. Plymale
Kevin L. Ray
Rodney Reyes
Allen J. Schrieber
Michael P. Shonka
Jon W. Smidt
William C. Smith

Timothy E. Winfree
Robert D. Woods



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ken Bergmann

Rising Star

Brig. Gen. Larry D. James, the Assistant Director of Air and Space Operations at Air Force Space Command Headquarters, celebrated his promotion to brigadier general on Monday, along with his wife Susan, his daughter Jocelyn and his mother Marie. Gen. Lance W. Lord, the Air Force Space Command Commander, was the presiding official. General James was selected as the next Vice Commander of the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif.

Luncheon offers hope

By Staff Sgt.
Sue Mrowiec

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Team Pete members gathered together for the 21st Space Wing National Prayer Luncheon March 9 at the Enlisted Club.

Guest speaker Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Lorraine Potter, the Chief of Air Force Chaplain Service, addressed the question, "Where is God?"

"Chaplain Potter was the first woman to become the Chief of Air Force Chaplain Service," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael Tinnon, the 21st SW Head Chaplain.

Chaplain Potter is the Chairperson of the

Armed Forces Chaplains Board, acting as an advisor to the secretary of defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff on religion, ethical and quality-of-life concerns.

Chaplain (Col.) Richard Hartwell, the Air Force Space Command Head Chaplain, summarized Chaplain Potter's thoughts from the luncheon.

"In the midst of lives busy with duty's demands, in the midst of deployments to Southwest Asia, the demands of supporting the Global War on Terrorism, witnessing the carnage created by terrorism, knowing fellow servicemembers' families who have lost loved ones in

Afghanistan and Iraq, and then facing the many challenges in our personal lives – it's easy to ask, 'Where is God in all of this?'"

Chaplain Potter referenced the Bible's book of Genesis to point to the certainty of God in uncertain and demanding times, he said.

"Those who attended the service had the opportunity to pause in the midst of their busy lives, and reflect upon our heritage as Americans, the blessing of our good land, and the chance to come together and pray for our local, military, and national leadership, our fellow citizens, and our nation," Chaplain Hartwell said.



Photo by Budd Butcher



Taking care of our own

Brig. Gen. Richard Webber, the 21st Space Wing Commander, fills out a donation form with 2nd Lt. Jodi Allen from the 21st Services Squadron during the Air Force Assistance Fund Kick-off Rally at the Officers' Club. The AFAF campaign is a six-week fundraiser dedicated to raising money for four Air Force-related charities: The Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Villages, the Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.



CLINIC GETTING NEW ROOF

The Peterson Clinic is undergoing construction on a new roof. Anyone with respiratory problems should contact the clinic in which they have an appointment to discuss the situation and minimize visits to the clinic until this project is complete. The smell could be a respiratory irritant, but is not toxic. All the hot pots (tar) are placed away from the air intakes to minimize the impact in the building. However, there are two air intakes on the roof that will cause some of the smell to enter the building. Work will begin over the Dental Clinic, and as the roofers progress, they will give as much notice as possible when they move to other areas of the roof.

GUARDIAN CHALLENGE AUCTION

- The Guardian Challenge Auction is scheduled for 5:45-9 p.m. March 31 at the Enlisted Club. Dinner is \$10. For details, contact your group point of contact.
- 21st Maintenance Group - 1st Lt. Bryson Blake 556-3867
 - 21st Medical Group - SSgt. 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

OFFICERS' CLUB HOSTS TECH EXPO

The 2004 Spring Information Technology Exposition is scheduled for 10 a.m. -2 p.m. March 25 in the Main Ballroom of the Officers' Club. Attendees

can view the latest advancements in equipment like Information Assurance and security technology, notebooks, desktops, and peripherals.

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 of simulated trauma. Though medical personnel may not do this every time for every patient, they need a stockpile of uniforms. For more information, call Master Sgt. O.K. Stoll at 556-1153, or Staff Sgt. Bella Smith at 556-1053.

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. Class size is limited to the first 30 who register. The classes are scheduled to be held on the last Friday of each month through April. To register, e-mail Staff Sgt. Nicole Basnight at nicole.basnight@peterson.af.mil. For more information about Team Pete EPD, visit the Web site at <http://www.peterson.af.mil/epd/>.

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. For details, call Betty Evans, Association President, at 591-6516, or Sarah Martino at 598-6486.

OFFICIAL TRAVEL SERVICE FEE CHANGE

Effective immediately, the agency service fee charged by Rogers Travel 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.

AF KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL APPROVED

As of February, the Department of Defense approved the Korean Service Medal for Air Force active duty, Reserve and Guard personnel as recognition for military service in the Republic of Korea and the surrounding waters after 28 July 1954, and ending on a future date determined by the Secretary of Defense. Air Force active duty, Reserve, and Guard members can direct questions to the Contact Center at DSN 665-5000 or 1-800-616-3775. Reserve or Guard veterans and retirees under age 60 can call the Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center at 303-679-6134. Reserve or Guard veterans, retirees over 60, and family members of deceased Reserve or Guard veterans and retirees can call the National Personnel Records Center Customer Service Center at 314-801-0800.

PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS CHANGE

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs now requires the personal appearance of all minors applying for U.S. passports, including children under the age of 14, who were not previously required to appear. The change is being implemented to enhance the accurate identification of applicants and aid in the prevention of international child abduction. For passport questions call the base passport agent, Master Sgt. David Barrett, at 556-7500.



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.

21st MDG starts 'yellow card' program

By Capt. Angela Thompson
21st Medical Group

On March 5, the 21st Medical Group adopted a new system for collecting third party medical insurance. The yellow card program is the 21st MDG's way of ensuring other health insurance information is gathered from patients.

All non-active duty patients, ages 18 and over, are asked to complete the Department of Defense Form 2569, Third Party Collection Program – Record of Other Health Insurance. Once the form has been completed, patients are given a yellow card to keep in their wallets.

The yellow card is a time saving device for both the customers and the 21st Medical Group.

"The new program helps ensure maximum discovery and recovery," said Bonnie Seaverson, a Signature Performance Representative at the 21st MDG. "This way, we can identify as many patients as possible to collect on as many claims as possible."

Since beginning the program, there was a 17 percent increase in reporting third party insurance information.

Having the card eliminates the inconvenience of patients' having to fill out new insurance forms each time

they come in. Once given this card, all the patient needs to do is present it at the time of check-in.

This program benefits both the beneficiary and the 21st MDG. Whenever we bill your health insurance, we automatically assume responsibility for paying any deductible associated with our claim against your insurance. As a result, the next time you use your insurance in the civilian community, a portion (if not all) of your deductible has already been met.

All funds collected by the 21st Medical Group go right back into pro-

viding care for patients. The money collected is used to purchase medical equipment, supplies, furniture, renovations, continuing medical education, and to augment staffing deficiencies.

Not only do patients reap time-saving and financial benefits from the yellow card program, they are also provided the opportunity to speak directly with a claims representative in the Clinic.

"We're well-equipped to answer questions for our patients, face-to-face," said Olivia Hodges, the Other Health Insurance representative at the

21st MDG. "Nobody's kept in the dark."

All military healthcare facilities are directed to collect from third party health insurance carriers the cost of medical services provided to non-active duty personnel treated in DoD medical treatment facilities, and are required to collect health insurance information annually.

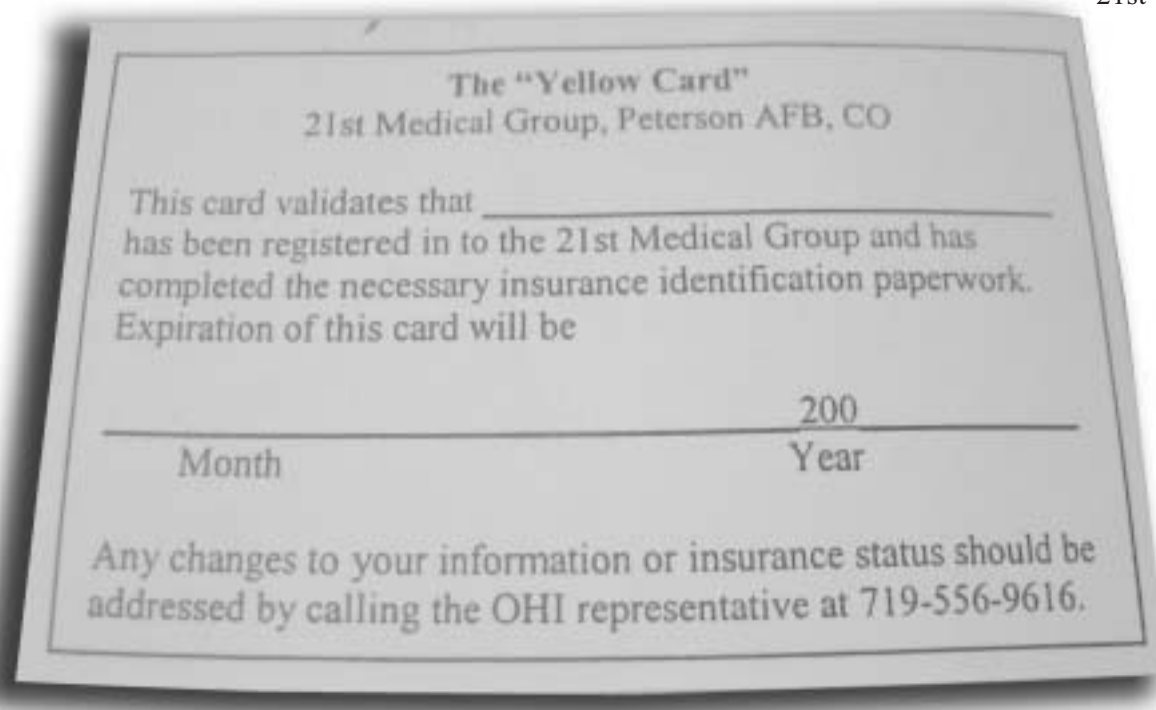
If the full cost of care is not collected from the insurance company, members will not be billed for the difference. Whatever a member's insurance company pays is considered "payment in full." The 21 MDG is prohibited by law from billing patients for

any co-pays, deductibles, or care the member's insurance does not cover.

This program will not affect member's health insurance. Health insurance premiums, unlike car insurance premiums, do not go up as a result of use. The cost of health insurance premiums are actually determined by a number of other factors such as age, sex, health, and geographical area.

Yellow cards are issued at the OHI customer service desk, located in the Pharmacy's main lobby.

For more information, contact the TPC program coordinator at (719) 556-9616.





21st SCS 'Water Walkers' stride into competition

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

Two members of the 21st Space Communications Squadron are representing Team Pete at this year's Guardian Challenge event.

Staff Sgt. David Kisner, Tech-Control's Operations NCO, and Senior Airman Jon McCullar, a Communications Computer Systems Controller, will lead the fight at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., in May.

"This competition is a great opportunity to see where we are as technicians," said Sergeant Kisner.

Not only is Guardian Challenge a learning experience for the competitors, but also a means of educat-

ing the military community on the role a communications specialist plays in the mission.

"This chance to showcase our skills as Tech-Controllers gives people a general understanding of what we do," said Staff Sgt. Michael Wylie, the Secure Internet Protocol Router Network Manager, and trainer of this year's communications team.

"In our career field we're trained in a little of everything, so the team is very well-rounded," he said.

The competing team was hand-picked from the most qualified members to represent the 21st Space Wing, Sergeant Wylie said.

Sergeant Kisner has four years of technical expertise under his belt, having retrained into the Systems Controller career field.

Airman McCullar, a fairly new addition to the 21st SCS, is also a skilled troubleshooter.

"Airman McCullar is an outstanding troop," said Master Sgt. John Bloodgood, Tech-Control's NCO in Charge. "He knows quite a bit about networks."

The duo is expected to draw on that wealth of knowledge to troubleshoot simulated network outages, isolating faults on digital circuits and equipment like Timeplex and Integrated Digital Network Exchange multiplexers.

But even with a stockpile of technical experience behind them, there will be challenges to meet.

"They will be competing on some tasks and equipment we don't have in the facility,"



Staff Sgt. David Kisner inserts an interface card into an Integrated Digital Network Service node. The IDNX node is a multiplexer/de-multiplexer used for the cross-country transmission of large amounts of digital data.

Sergeant Wylie said. "They will have to rely on recalling knowledge from technical training school and their career field development course material."

No matter what the challenges, the 21st SCS will meet them in competition, just as they meet them supporting the space mission every day.



Photos by Senior Airman Nicole Warren

Senior Airman Jon McCullar generates a digital test signal to send over a line to analyze the quality of the circuit.

U.S. forces get tax break for combat-zone service

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – American forces serving in designated combat zones supporting the war against terrorism continue to get a tax break from Uncle Sam. Depending upon rank, eligible servicemembers can exclude from federal income tax either all or some of their active-duty pay, and certain other income, earned in any month during service in a designated combat zone. The Internal Revenue Service's Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2003 states: "A combat zone is any area the president of the United States designates by executive order as an area in which the U.S. armed forces are engaging or have engaged in combat."

Servicemembers who serve one or more days in a designated combat zone are entitled to federal tax exclusion benefits for that entire month, according to the IRS.

Current designated combat zones include Afghanistan, Iraq, parts of the Kosovo area and other specified parts of the Persian Gulf region. This includes Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Servicemembers in several other areas specified in law as "qualified hazardous-duty areas" are eligible for the same tax breaks. Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia have been listed since 1995.

The downloadable Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2003 can be accessed on the IRS Web site. It lists

many, but not all, designated combat zones. Some servicemembers providing direct support for military operations within a designated combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area, such as Djibouti, Africa, Turkey, Yemen, and the Philippines, are eligible for income tax exclusions.

To be in direct support of a combat zone, a servicemember must be serving in an area the secretary of defense determines is directly supporting a combat zone. Servicemembers who were deployed from March 19 to Aug. 1 to Mediterranean waters east of 30 degrees east longitude also are eligible for combat zone tax relief, as an "in direct support" area. Servicemembers who served in Israel from Jan. 1 to Aug. 1 also were serving in an "in direct support" area. While servicemembers can use the tax guide in preparing their 2003 federal tax returns, those who have specific questions about designated combat zones should contact their unit personnel or pay officials or unit tax-assistance officer.

The IRS guide notes servicemembers normally do not need to claim the combat-zone exclusion or subtract eligible earnings on their federal tax returns. The services normally have already excluded combat-zone earnings from the taxable gross income reported on servicemembers' Form W-2s, the guide reads. The IRS points out that retired military pay and pensions are not eligible as combat zone income-tax exclusions.


In other military pay news, The National Defense Authorization Act for 2004 extended the increase in

imminent danger pay to \$225 per month to eligible servicemembers through Dec. 31.

The amount of servicemember federal tax relief depends upon a taxpayer's rank. For example, enlisted people and warrant officers serving in a designated combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area for any part of a month exclude all gross income earned for military service that month from federal taxation. For commissioned officers, the monthly income exclusion is capped at the highest enlisted pay, plus any hostile-fire or imminent-danger pay received. For example, in 2003, the most a commissioned officer could earn tax-free each month was \$5,957.70. For 2004, the cap increases to \$6,315.90 (\$6,090.90, the highest monthly enlisted pay, plus \$225 hostile-fire or imminent-danger pay.)

The IRS also allows servicemembers deployed to an area entitled to combat zone tax exclusion extra time to file their federal taxes, usually 180 days after the servicemember leaves the combat-zone or qualified hazardous-duty area.

And, the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 provides certain above-the-line tax deductions for reservists and guardsmen who travel more than 100 miles to attend military drills and meetings. This new provision allows reservists and guardsmen who cannot itemize deductions to still take these deductions. This provision is effective for the 2003 tax year.

The act also provides a \$12,000 nontaxable death gratuity to families of servicemembers who die on active duty, retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001. 

Do you have an interesting or important job?

Everyone on Peterson Air Force Base has a unique mission. We would like to feature your office or shop in the upcoming "A Day in the Life" series, so people can learn more about how you contribute to Team Pete. To nominate your workplace, call the editor at 556-4351 or e-mail the Space Observer at space.observer@peterson.af.mil.



AF gives guidelines for symbol placement on light-weight blue jacket

The U.S. Air Force symbol is based on the original Hap Arnold wings and represents many different aspects of the service's proud heritage and future. Recently, the Air Force authorized wear of the symbol on the light - weight blue jacket. Below are the official guidelines.

The symbol below is shown in the actual size as it is to be used on the light - weight jacket. The Air Force logo is to be embroidered in a polyester thread conforming to

Department of Defense Heraldic Yarn for Embroidery and Ribbon, Cable No. HA White 67101 with a stiff tear-off backing. The total stitch count of the logo and lettering shall be 4,631 stitches minimum.

The Wing symbol is to fit within a two-inch square. There is a one-quarter-inch space between the symbol's lowest point and the top of the U.S. AIR FORCE type (a).

The U.S. AIR FORCE type is to be one-quarter-inch high, 3 and

one-quarter-inches long is Berthord Aklindenz Grotesk bold extended. If Berthord Aklindenz Grotesk is not available, use all capital Arial bold font, 24 point. See Figure 1 for example (b).

The symbol is to be embroidered on the upper left chest. The dot in the center of the symbol shall be centered vertically between the shoulder seam and where the underarm side seam joins the armhole sleeve and centered horizontally between the center zipper and the sleeve armhole seam. See Figure 2 for example.

(Courtesy of Air Force News Service)



The new Air Force Uniform



... Know the facts visit

<http://www.af.mil/uniform/#>

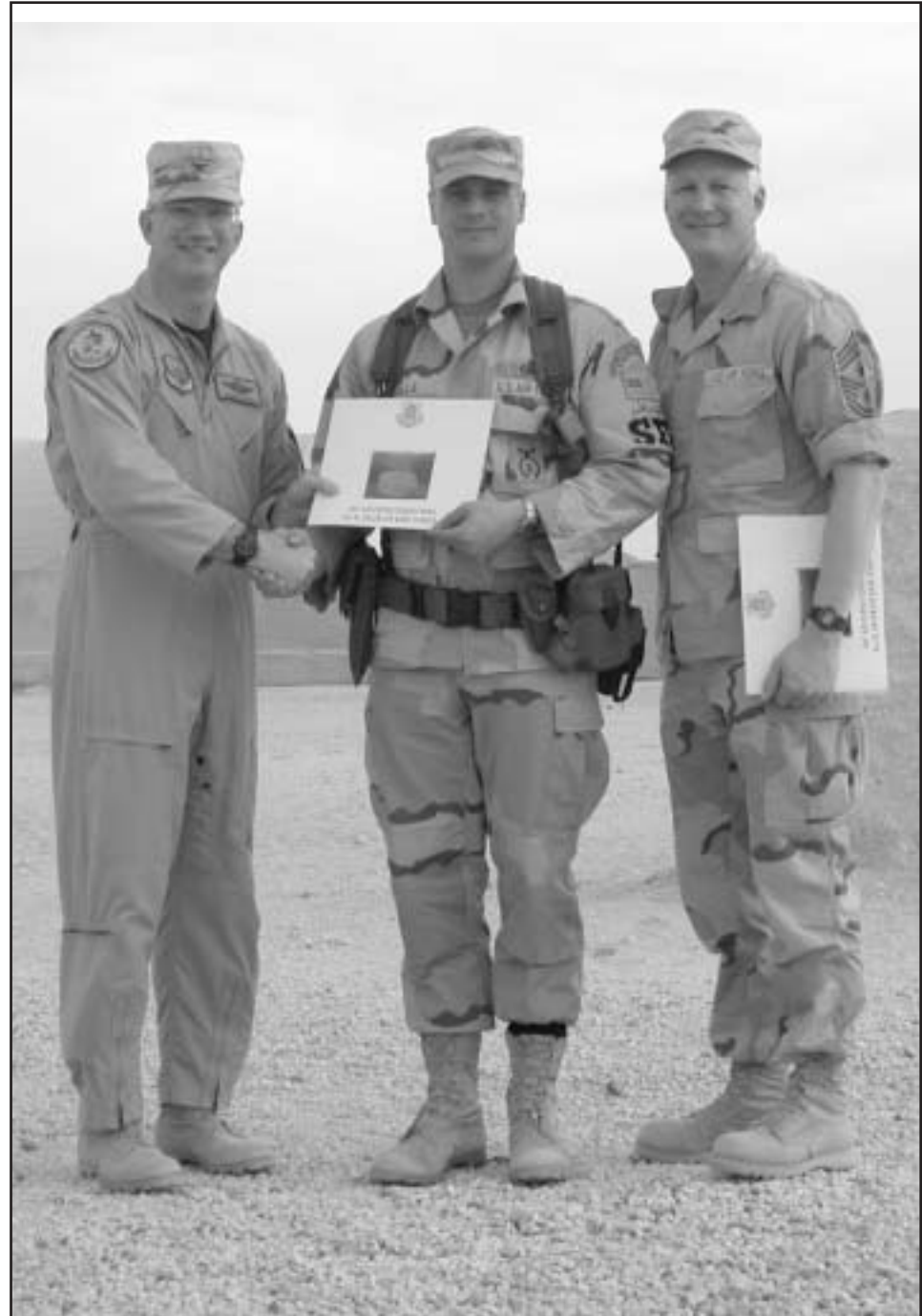
Your link to frequently asked questions, letters, and photos.

From the front



ABOVE: SOUTHWEST ASIA – Tech. Sgt. Jorge Talamantes receives the news from Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Tate that his wife is pregnant with their first child. Sergeant Talamantes is deployed from the 302nd Logistics Support Squadron in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. He will be supporting convoy operations into Iraq with the Army. Chief Tate is deployed from the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He is the Air Force Career Field Manager for Vehicle Operations.

RIGHT: Master Sgt. Scott McCalla, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, receives the Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Month award from 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander Col. Mark Kraus and Chief Master Sgt. Vance Clarke, 386th AEW Command Chief, at a ceremony March 5. Sergeant McCalla and Chief Clarke are both deployed to Southwest Asia from Peterson Air Force Base.



Photos by Senior Airman James C. Dillard

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.*

MEDICAL RESPONSE #1 – March 4

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and American Medical Response Services responded to Base Lodging, where a woman was suffering from severe vomiting and heart trouble. The victim was transported to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

BACKING BLUNDER – March 4

Security Forces responded to a minor collision in the parking lot of the Base Library. A delirious driver reported he inadvertently backed his vehicle into a stationary pole near the book drop, scratching the bumper and bending the pole.

HIT AND SPLIT – March 4

Security Forces responded to the Commissary parking lot, where a man reported a hit and run incident. The caller stated he witnessed the driver of a pickup truck back into his car while it was parked in the lot. The blatant bonker then drove off, leaving the victim's car with a large dent in the driver's side door.

THE PRICE OF BEAUTY – March 5

Security Forces responded to the Base Exchange, where an Army Air Force Exchange Service store detective was detaining a woman for shoplifting. The shady lady stole facial soap and hoop earrings. The Colorado Springs Police Department was dispatched, and issued a summons for Shoplifting.

DUMMY DRIVER – March 5

Security Forces responded to the West Gate, where a man was being detained due to a

problem with his driver's license. The problem was the license was suspended. CSPD was contacted, and promptly issued the lawbreaking lout a summons for Driving Under Restraint and Compulsory Insurance Penalty.

BARRIER BONK – March 6

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR responded to the West Gate, where a motorist struck a concrete barrier, suffering bruises to his face and jammed fingers in the accident. The man reported he was traveling through the gate when he was momentarily blinded by glare on his windshield. He attempted to wipe off the windshield, when he felt a jolt. The driver realized he struck one of the barriers, which causing his air bag to deploy. Vehicle damage consisted of large dents and scratches. The man was given a citation for Inattentive Driving, and Failure to Provide Proof of Insurance.

CLOTHING CONUNDRUM – March 6

Security Forces responded to Dormitory 1270, where two military members reported their clothes were stolen from the laundry room. The laundry room looters reportedly stole hundreds of dollars worth of clothing from the first floor facility before the victims returned to collect their belongings.

SHOPLIFTING – March 6

Security Forces responded to the Base Exchange, where a military dependent was being detained for shoplifting. The fashion-conscious fiend pocketed a pair of earrings before being caught by a store detective. CSPD responded, and issued a summons for Shoplifting.

MEDDLESOME MEANDERERS – March 6

Security Forces responded to reports of several suspicious individuals around Air Force Space Command Headquarters. The first individual was spotted along the tree line of the base perimeter near the North Gate. Security Forces members challenged the mystery man, who stated he was just going for a walk off base. The military member had apparently been drinking at the Bowling Center earlier in the evening and had gone for a walk to sober up. During a sweep of the perimeter near AFSPC HQ, Security Forces again encountered suspicious activity. This time, an individual was spotted attempting to gain access to the building. Another individual let him

inside without using proper entry procedures. Security Forces verified the alleged trespasser's identity, and let him in.

IN-FLIGHT EMERGENCY – March 7

Security Forces responded to the flight line, where an in-flight emergency was reported. The crew of an F-15 reported a possible malfunction with the landing gear. The plane landed safely, without incident.

PLAY NICE – March 9

Security Forces responded to Base Housing, where a woman reported her six-year-old child had sustained a bloody nose from a fight with another youngster. The Patroller sat down with the children involved and their parents to discuss the incident, while the Fire Department responded to the scene to treat the child's injured nose.

MEDICAL RESPONSE #2 – March 9

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR responded to the Commissary, where a man was complaining of chest pain. He was transported to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

MEDICAL RESPONSE #3 – March 9

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and AMR responded to the Commissary, where a woman was reportedly experiencing chest pains. She was taken to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

RED LIGHT RUNNER – March 9

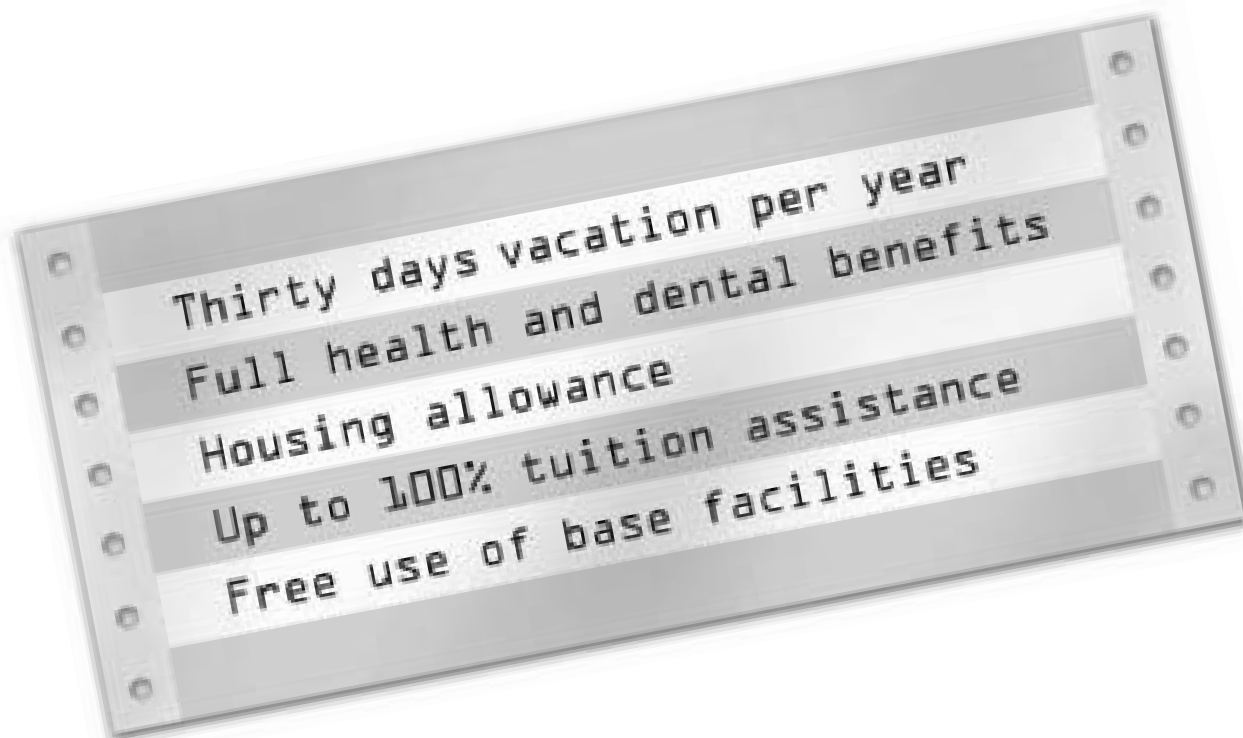
Security Forces responded to a minor accident at the intersection of Peterson Boulevard and Otis Street. The caller reported he was stopped at the traffic light facing east on Otis Street. When the light turned green, he entered the intersection. As he proceeded, a military motorist ran the red light, striking his car and causing a scrape from the front fender to the rear fender. The inattentive driver was issued a citation for Failure to Obey an Official Traffic Control Device.

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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WEBBER TAKES COMMAND

By Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Duane Deal relinquished command of the 21st Space Wing to Brig. Gen. Richard Webber in a ceremony March 11 at Hangar 140.

General Deal will be taking command of the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station.

"Today, I pass the reins to General

Webber," said General Deal. "I expect the 21st Space Wing will soar even higher under his steady and experienced hand."

Prior to his assignment at the 21st Space Wing, General Webber was the Director, Logistics and Communications, Chief Information Officer and Chief Sustainment Officer, at Headquarters Air Force Space Command.

General Webber was responsible for policy, plans, architectures, integration, space systems sustainment, interoperability,

resource management, system management, business process reengineering, and security of communications and information systems and programs. The general also managed assigned satellite systems as established by Joint Staff policies, as well as oversight guidance of the command's communications support squadron, a field-operating agency aligned under Headquarters Air Force Space Command's Directorate of Logistics and Communications. He directed the resources for all command activities associated with maintenance, munitions, transportation, supply and logistics plans. He also determined logistics requirements to sustain missile and spacelift, helicopters and support equipment at required readiness levels.

"This is a dream come true," said General Webber at his change of command ceremony. "The 21st Space Wing is leading the way for our nation in space."

General Webber was commissioned a

second lieutenant upon graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975. He has commanded a missile squadron, support group, missile operations group, missile group and space wing. His staff assignments include Headquarters North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Military Staff, the Air Staff, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, and Vice Commander of the Aerospace Command and Control & Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Center.

General Webber is a master space and missile operator with qualifications in the Minuteman II, Minuteman III and Global Positioning Satellite weapon systems.

General Webber's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters.



In a symbolic gesture, Maj. Gen. Michael Hamel, the 14th Air Force Commander, passes the 21st Space Wing guidon to Brig. Gen. Richard Webber. Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Coleman, Base Fire Chief, looks on as General Webber takes command of the wing. Photos by Budd Butcher



During his speech, Brig. Gen. Richard Webber, the 21st Space Wing Commander, touched on his three focus areas for the wing: excellence in space operations, "world-class" support for tenant units and the wing's geographically separated units, and the need to take care of each other.



Brig. Gen. Duane Deal passes the 21st Space Wing guidon to Maj. Gen. Michael Hamel, 14th AF Commander, as he relinquishes command of the wing, while Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Coleman, the Base Fire Chief, looks on.

RIGHT: Col. Gary Shugart, the 21st Space Wing Inspector General, accompanies Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, the 21st Space Wing Commander, as he reviews the troops prior to relinquishing command. This tradition has its roots in the Middle Ages, when it was not uncommon for the soldiers in the field to be unaware of who their commanders were or what they looked like. The review afforded troops the opportunity to actually see their commanders.



LEFT: Col. Cynthia Snyder, the 21st Mission Support Group Commander, leads members of the 21st Space Wing in rendering the customary honors of a change of command ceremony, which typically includes a parade formation and commander's review of the troops.



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.
- Basic Investing, 11 a.m.-noon at the MSC, Room 1016.
- Money and Marriage, 5-6:30 p.m. at the MSC, Room 1016.

Friday

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

Saturday

- Thunder Alley, 8:30 p.m. at the Bowling Center.
- Beginner Rock Climbing. Saturday and Sunday. 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

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

- Pre-separation Briefing, 3-4 p.m. in the MSC, Room 1016. This is a mandatory briefing for those retiring or separating from the military.

March 25

- Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m. in 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
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

O'Club hosts art auction

By Margie Arnold
21st Services Squadron Marketing

"Going once...going twice...sold to No. 42! The lucky man in row three takes home another fine work of art."

One exciting moment after another ensues at art auctions like the one being held at the Officers' Club starting at 6 p.m. Friday. It's an event where men and women can place their bids on works from such artists as Peter Max, Itzhak Tarkay, and Erte.

Hosted by the Officers' Club and the Park West Gallery, based in Southfield, Mich., the art auction will feature approximately 400 pieces valued between \$100 and \$40,000. However, the majority of the art auctioned will be between \$100 and \$1,000, with the median price being about \$300.

Only about 2 percent of the art at the auction is by the old masters, like Rembrandt, Durer, Lautrec, Manet and Whistler, said Tommy Varzos, auctioneer for the event. Most of the work at the auction is from lesser-known artists from the 1910s and 1930s.

Pieces range in size from small, 5-inch by 9-inch works, to art as large as 4-feet by 6-feet. The average size is about 2-feet by 3-feet.

"In many instances the frames are worth nearly as much as the art itself," Mr. Varzos added.

The art auction also features sports memorabilia like signed baseballs, ranging in value from \$70 to \$500, with \$200 being the average price.

Fans of animation art will find about 20 to 30 pieces. Sericels, limited edition reproductions of the original cells, will be available for auction.

Also up for bid is jewelry designed by the artist Erte.

The art auction begins at 6 p.m. with a preview and social hour featuring wine, champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Auction time is 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$8 when purchased in advance, and \$10 if bought at the door. For more information, call 574-4100.



Photos courtesy of 21st Services Squadron
ABOVE: The success of last year's art auction paved the way for Friday's event.

RIGHT: Alphonse Mucha created this pastel, fantasy-like painting of a woman. His work, along with that of others, will be up for auction Friday.



ARAGON DINING FACILITY MENU

Today

- Lunch:**
Liver with Onions
Orange Spiced Pork Chop
Tempura Fried Fish
Broccoli
Peas and Carrots
Steamed Rice
Rissolle Potatoes

Dinner:

- Pepper Steak
Mr. Z's Baked Chicken
Ginger Pot Roast
Mixed Vegetables
Green Beans
Steamed Rice
Mashed Potatoes

Friday

- Lunch:**
Beef Corn Pie
Seafood Newburg
Veal Paprika Steaks
Mustard Greens
Harvard Beets
Potatoes
Pea and Pepper Rice

Dinner:

- Yankee Pot Roast
Simmered Corned Beef
Pineapple Chicken
Fried Cabbage
Carrots
Mashed Potatoes
Black-Eyed Peas

Saturday

- Brunch:**
Creole Shrimp
Savory Baked Chicken
Swedish Meatballs
Asparagus
Creamed Corn
Squash
Baked Potatoes
Noodles Jefferson

Sunday

- Brunch:**
Cantonese Spareribs
Mustard Chicken
Oven-Fried Fish
Broccoli Combo
County Style Tomatoes
Peas
Macaroni and Cheese
Boiled Egg Noodles
Sweet Potatoes

Monday

- Lunch:**
Baked Stuffed Fish
Pot Roast
Roast Loin of Pork
Cauliflower Combo
Green Beans w/ Mushrooms
Oven-Browned Potatoes
Steamed Rice

Dinner:

- Chili Mac
Southern Fried Chicken
Beef Cannelloni
French-Style Peas
Glazed Carrots
Mashed Potatoes
Squash

Tuesday

- Lunch:**
Salmon Cakes
Teriyaki Chicken
Veal Parmesan
Fried Cabbage
Succotash
Parsley Buttered Potatoes
Filipino Rice

Dinner:

- Country Captain Chicken
Turkey A La King
Meatloaf
Mustard Greens
Okra and Tomato Gumbo
Steamed Rice
Mashed Potatoes

Wednesday

- Lunch:**
Cantonese Spareribs
Szechwan Chicken
Beef Stir Fry
Cabbage Carrots
Vegetable Stir Fry
Parsley-Buttered Potatoes
Pork-Fried Rice

Dinner:

- Barbecued Spareribs
Lemon Herbed Chicken
Stuffed Pork Chops
Cauliflower Combo
Mexican Corn
Steamed Rice
Scalloped Potatoes

Women urged to remain vigilant

By **Jacqueline Bechtol**
721st Mission Support Group

In 1987, Congress issued its first resolution for March to be recognized as Women's History Month, when we acknowledge and celebrate those notable and ordinary women who made extraordinary contributions in the history of our country. Such a resolution was necessary due to the pervasive oversight of the efforts of women who are unsung heroines of American history.

Those who hark back to their school days must admit their history books paid very little attention to women. In the early 1900's, women were little more than chattel, is evidenced in archival Texas law, until June 1918, allowed all Texans to vote except "idiots,

imbeciles, aliens, the insane, and women!" The 19th Amendment to the Constitution passed in 1920 granting women the right to vote was a direct result of women such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton who marched, were jailed, and dedicated their entire lives to this cause.

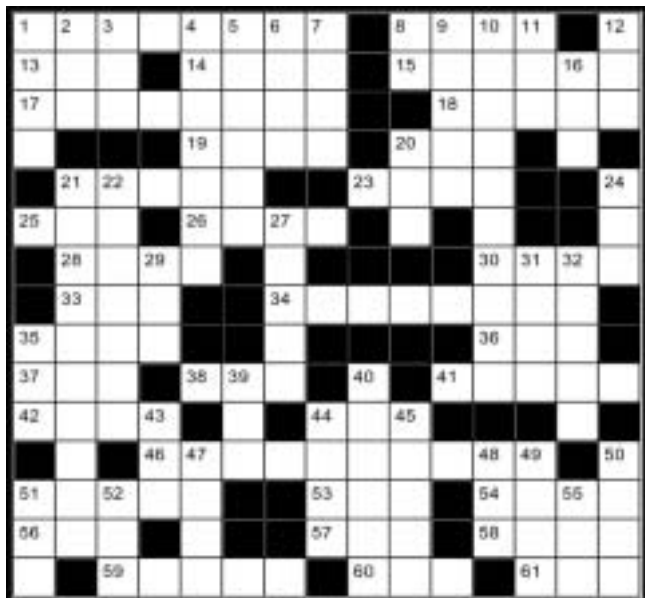
Most women quietly assumed their second-class status in our society and accepted their historical invisibility as the norm. Society dictated that every woman aspire to fill the role of wife and mother. In the 1960s, a few very brave women dared question what Betty Friedan called the "problem that has no name" — the boredom and isolation of too many housewives who gave up intellectual and professional pursuits to satisfy societal expectations.

These pioneers of the women's movement brought to the forefront the contributions of those women who had gone before, and insisted women be permitted opportunities which were heretofore offered only to men. Our more recent, highly successful career women such as Barbara Jordan, Elizabeth Dole, Barbara Walters, and Oprah Winfrey owe a tremendous debt to these heroines of the past.

Everyone should participate in Women's History Month, not only to increase their consciousness, but to provide insight and encouragement for women of all generations to come. We need to appreciate and exercise our options and remember, without vigilance, a right granted today may be a right withdrawn tomorrow.

Hometown USAF

Answers located on page 16



ACROSS

- 1. Texas AFB home to 80th FTW; a/c tail marking of EN
- 8. Omen
- 13. Allow
- 14. San Francisco Giants manager Felipe
- 15. Location of Lajes Field; home to 65th ABW
- 17. Turkey AB home to 39th ABG
- 18. Castle protectors
- 19. Part
- 20. Cap
- 21. North Dakota AFB home to 5th BW; a/c tail marking of MT
- 23. Squeezeable sport toys?
- 25. TV dog ___ Tin Tin
- 26. Former Russian ruler
- 28. Glass
- 30. Gone
- 33. Healers
- 34. Texas AFB home to 12 FTW; a/c tail markings of RA
- 35. Greek mountain
- 36. Army equivalent to USAF OPR
- 37. Cycle or tard
- 38. SECSTATE 1898-1905
- 41. Person who possesses

- 42. Type of Oriental food
 - 44. Halloween mon.
 - 46. RAF home to 48th FW; a/c tail markings of LN
 - 51. Hits
 - 53. Runner Sebastian ___
 - 54. Food time
 - 56. Model Carol ___
 - 57. Era
 - 58. Musical entertainment between the acts of a burlesque show
 - 59. Maryland Army fort
 - 60. Narcotic (abbrev.)
 - 61. Sphere
- DOWN**
- 1. Thin
 - 2. Chicken
 - 3. Continuation (abbrev.)
 - 4. Mocks
 - 5. Assign portions
 - 6. Irritate
 - 7. NC school
 - 8. Tail markings for a/c assigned to 149th FW
 - 9. Turkey air station
 - 10. Texas AFB home to 17th TRW
 - 11. Gun lobby

- 12. Beginning of titles for American naval ships
 - 16. Greek letter
 - 20. Meadow
 - 21. RAF home to 100th ARW
 - 22. Law of motion
 - 24. Egyptian boy king
 - 27. Military order to arrange troops
 - 29. CIA, FBI counterpart
 - 31. Ajar
 - 32. Tear up
 - 35. Away from home
 - 39. 1981 movie *Raiders of the Lost* ___
 - 40. Educational place
 - 43. George Lucas' company (abbrev.)
 - 44. A single time
 - 45. Youths
 - 47. Movie dog
 - 48. Military org. concerned with property movement
 - 49. Military slang for a "chopper"
 - 50. Pig
 - 51. Pine product
 - 52. Cash machine
 - 55. Oxygen
- (Courtesy of 1st Lt. Tony Wickman)



Fit to lead: becoming a Physical Training Leader

By 1st Lt. Julie A. Tucker
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Although WarFit is over, the spirit behind it is not. Rather, it's just reincarnated as the Fit to Fight program.

Whatever you call it – admit it, you still want to say, “WarFit” – the new fitness program is here and has quickly become part of our Air Force culture.

“The Fitness Center saw a 35 percent increase in daily participation,” said Cindy White, the Peterson Fitness Program Manager. “Over 90 percent of the units on base are exercising as a group.”

One of the reasons units are consistently exercising together is the creation of the Physical Training Leader, established as part of the Fit to Fight program. They are the people whose job – in addition to

their regular duty – is to lead safe and effective exercises and provide professional, accurate fitness assessments for their units.

The PTLs are the ones responsible for overseeing unit participation in fitness activities. It's their job to ensure unit members go to the gym at least three times a week during duty hours to participate in a minimum of 30 minutes of aerobic activity.

Love ‘em or hate ‘em, they're here to stay. You may even consider becoming one yourself.

There are certain requirements that must be met before one can be a PTL. As fitness leaders, they must set the example by meeting or exceeding the physical standards set forth by the Air Force.

PTLs must complete a workshop and certification class, and must be properly trained and current on Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. If you're exercising under the supervision of a PTL, don't let the fact that they have to know CPR scare you, but serve as a comfort!

For the PTL workshop, a couple hours are dedicated to classroom instruction, in which fitness guidelines for cardiovascular, strength, flexibility and body composition are reviewed, Ms. White said.

“Special populations, like individuals with back or shoulder problems, are addressed,” she said. “Injury prevention, (unsafe) exercises, and safety concerns are also reviewed,” she said.

The rest of the workshop is spent leading and participating in group exercises.

Future PTLs participate in a variety of fitness classes they can later conduct for their units, including: dyna-band exercises, sport conditioning, back to basics, and circuit training, Ms. White said.

“The key to a successful group exercise program is variety and cross-training, and these are just a few examples,” she said. “Piggybacking off classes that already exist, like spinning and kickboxing, are good options, too.”

The certification class focuses on the administrative components of the transition from Air Force Space Command's WarFit to the Air Force-wide Fit to Fight. It also provides a “how-to” for body-fat taping, and is concluded by doing a complete fitness test.

“PTLs are taught how to do accurate tests and are required to conduct 60 tapings before they are checked off,” said Ms. White.

Once all three classes are completed, the newly



Cindy White, Peterson Fitness Program Manager, lets runners know their times as they complete the mile and a half run portion of the Air Force fitness assessment. The runners were taking the assessment as part of the Physical Training Leader certification class offered at the Health and Wellness Center.

certified PTLs are off and running with their units, developing and executing weekly exercise regimens.

“We recommend there be at least one PTL for every 25 people, but there is no limit to how many there can be within a unit,” Ms. White said. “It's a great opportunity to demonstrate leadership and to have a positive impact on people's health, overall fitness, and the unit's Espirit de Corps.”

To learn about becoming a PTL, call the Health and Wellness Center at 556-HAWC (4292).



Photos by 1st Lt. Julie Tucker

Master Sgt. Jon Smidt, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center, completes a taping measurement on Tech. Sgt. Chris Juarez, 367th Recruiting Squadron, as Master Sgt. Steve Sullivan, 21st Civil Engineering Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Tarius McClure, 21st Security Forces Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Rob Badillo, Air Force Space Command Directorate of Personnel, left to right, observe during the Physical Training Leader certification class. In order to be a PTL, students must complete 60 tapings before they are checked off.

Answers from puzzle on page 15



The killing fields of Iraq

By Master Sgt. Richard Burch
Spectral Operations Resource Center

This is the first article in a two-part series by Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Burch, who gives a personal account of the discovery of mass graves in Iraq, and how members of the Space and Missile Defense Command helped locate them.

SOMEWHERE IN IRAQ – The buses arrived early in the morning; having driven all night from some small village; each packed with men, women and children. They found themselves in a desolate, barren stretch of nowhere – their final resting-place. Soldiers emptied the buses, lining up their victims, hands bound and – if lucky, eyes blindfolded – at the edge of a trench. Then the soldiers began their long day’s work – the methodical slaughter of whole families. By the end of the day, they’d buried their work, packed up, and were preparing for their next day of loyal duty to Saddam.

Since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, there have been bone-chilling discoveries, almost on a daily basis, of the atrocities committed by the former Baath party. These grisly reminders come to us in the form of mass graves, dotting the landscape in more numbers than anyone would care to imagine. At last count, there were more than 270 reported mass graves with more than 50 verified by international forensic teams. The number of Iraqi and foreign victims of Saddam’s regime is estimated at anywhere from 100 to 400 thousand people. Kurds from northern Iraq, Shias from southern Iraq, Kuwaiti, and Iranian prisoners of war – touching almost every person’s life in the region.

I became involved with the Iraqi mass graves during my first stint of duty in Baghdad, from May through July 2003. I was assigned as a spectral analyst to the

Coalition Provisional Authority Space Support Cell. One of the agencies we supported was the Ministry of Human Rights, which had been given the daunting task of assessing and verifying reported Iraqi mass graves. The Space Support Cell initially was tasked with providing high-resolution imagery and mapping support to the team for site survey planning. It became readily apparent that spectral imagery could play a valuable role in the mass grave assessment. My first attempt at using spectral to support the team was a success, in that I could determine the location of the site by highlighting the soil disturbances in the area, but since they already knew where the mass graves were located, the information was of minimal value.

Not willing to give up easily, I got in contact with Bruce Gerrick (Space and Missile Defense Command Spectral Operations Resource Center, SRA International Contractor), Senior Spectral Analyst/Geologist, for some ideas of how to use spectral data to highlight features that might indicate a mass grave. I gave him the background on what I had already provided to the Coalition Provisional Authority team and hoped that there could be something we could key on to find mass graves.

There is no such thing as a “mass grave finder,” since there are no definitive indicators to differentiate a mass grave from any other soil disturbance. Mr. Gerrick did notice that my analysis was keying on a certain mineral, gypsum, common in the arid regions of the Middle East.

Gypsum is an evaporite mineral usually located on or just below the top few centimeters of the surface. Once the hard-pan, a highly resistant subsurface layer (caliche layer) is disturbed, elements mobilized by the influx of fluids allows the precipitation of gypsum to be

expressed and it can then be identified on the surface using already proven methods.

Knowing we could find gypsum after the gravesite had been initially dug, we could go back in the data archives to analyze spectral data over the same area to find when there was no gypsum present. Using that information, we are able to narrow down the time frame to when the event occurred.

With what I deemed as new, earth-shattering analysis in hand, I called the Coalition Provisional Authority assessment team together for a briefing of my results.

The response I initially received from my technospeak infused briefing was resounding – silence. Either I left something important out, or I’d just wasted two weeks of intense analysis.

Then, Ian Hansen, Assessment Team Leader, said, “So, mate, (he’s British) what you’re telling us is you can scientifically prove the date of the mass grave event?”

Well, within the timeframe of the archived data, yes.

His reply was, “Outstanding!” He went on to explain that if we could accurately analyze spectral data around each one of the verified mass graves and prove that the events took place during a certain timeframe, the results could be used as evidence to prosecute the former regime, including Saddam Hussein.

Wait a minute; our analysis could be used to prosecute one of the most horrific dictators of our time – what an honor!

We had only two weeks left on our deployment orders, so I passed all my contact information to the Coalition Provisional Authority team, and guaranteed

– See Killing fields, Page 18



Photo by John Sterenberg

Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Burch, standing, takes a breather while colleague Bruce Gerrick digs an exploratory trench during a hunt for mass graves. The men, from U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, were on a mission in Iraq using high resolution imagery to detect and date the mass graves of Saddam Hussein's regime.

– Killing fields, from Page 17

them the full support of the Spectral Operations Resource Center back home. At the time, I really didn't know what I'd just volunteered to do.

Just over two months after my return to the States it became blazingly apparent, when the Director of the Human Rights and Transitional Justice Ministry sent a letter to Space and Missile Defense – Colorado Springs requesting support from the SORC, specifically Bruce Gerrick and myself, with “on-site” mass grave assessment. They had been so impressed with the analysis that they wanted us to accompany the mass grave assessment team to some unverified, still pristine, mass gravesites to perform geologic and spectral analysis.

The assessment team wanted to prove that the indicators we were finding in the spectral data were definitely at the suspected sites and also to find other indicators that would help their case. Mr. Gerrick and I volunteered without blinking. This would be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to use our skills on an international scale. We packed our bags, support equipment, gigabytes of data, and began our adventure.

We'd hardly set our bags down in Baghdad when we were told to get ready to leave for a two-week site assessment. We were going to the southern desert near the border of Saudi Arabia to verify several suspected mass graves from the mid 1980s.

We flew from Baghdad to Basrah to catch our connecting flight, a low-level high-speed combat ride in a British CH-47 Chinook. At some points, we were so low

level that we actually kicked dust up from the desert floor. We arrived shaken but safe at a Dutch Marine security force base, our forward operating location, and began preps for our missions.

It was decided we would drive out into the desert each day before sunrise and return after sunset. We would need this “secrecy” to ensure our movements would be hidden from the local populace, hopefully keeping these sites as pristine as possible to afford the incoming international excavation teams untouched forensic evidence.

We found out first-hand that information from “reliable” sources isn't always reliable. Some of the coordinates of suspected sites turned out to be nothing more than empty desert, but we soon found an area that looked as though it held promise. One site had heavy vehicular tracks into and out of the area, large-scale excavations – with no real rhyme or reason – and old sun-bleached clothing. Bruce and I began the geologic analysis of the area, taking notes of spatial and spectral features that might help us with site verification. We found that our previous analysis was exact and there were significant surface coatings of gypsum all over the suspected gravesite, not characteristic of the surrounding area.

While we were doing our geologic analysis, the forensic archeologists were performing their own analysis of the site, consisting of a small trench dug across the suspected grave. Over the last 19 years in the Air Force, I've had a lot of odd jobs in some pretty obscure places, but none of that would prepare me for what I was about to see and do.

