



# Space Observer

“2003 AFSPC Best Large Wing PA Office”

Thursday, March 25, 2004

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

Vol. 48 No. 12



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec

## Team Pete - Tobacco Free

See Page 19



Courtesy photo



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips

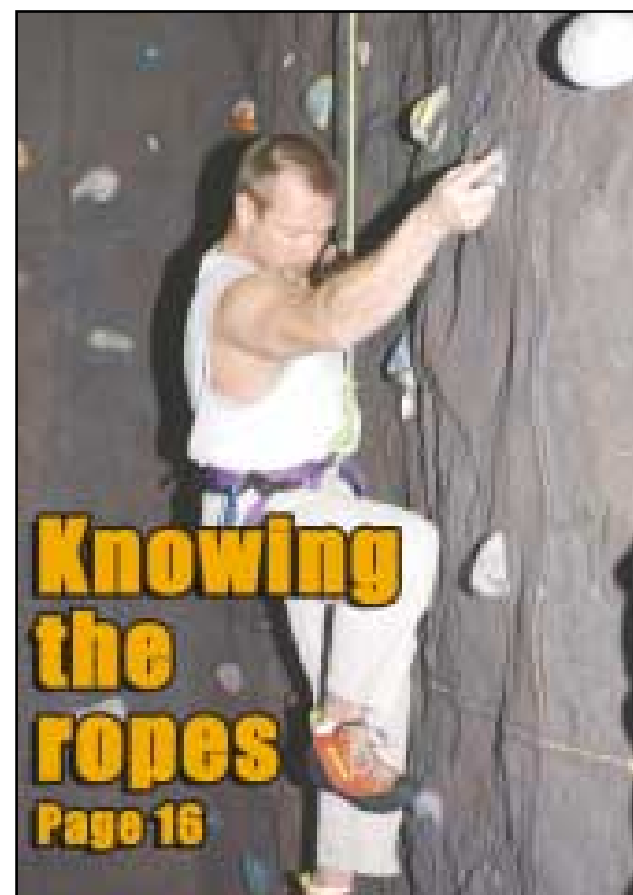


Photo by Margie Arnold

Inside This Issue:

Blotter ... 13

At Your Service ... 16

Snow Call 556-SNOW



# Motorcycle safety: each rider a mentor

By Gen. John P. Jumper

Air Force Chief of Staff



How many times have you heard a story like this one: A couple of friends at a party were drinking and one suggested they take his new motorcycle to get more alcohol.

They hop on the bike, no helmets, and the operator decides to show how fast the bike can go. He's been signed up for training, but he hasn't completed the course yet. Before long they're traveling at 120 mph in a 60 mph zone. The operator loses control and they crash. The passenger is killed, and the operator spends 30 days in the hospital.

Or one like this: A new motorcycle owner decides to get the biggest, baddest motorcycle he can get. He doesn't wear a helmet because he doesn't think it's "cool." He had preliminary motorcycle training and a learner's permit. He decides he can pass a car on the right around a curve. He loses control and launches 100 feet into the air. He dies on impact.

These actual incidents are only two examples of many similar stories that pass across my desk, and illustrate why we need to change the way we think about and approach motorcycle safety.

Motorcycles can be a great form of transportation and entertainment, but they must be respected. Lately, our Air Force members have been involved in a high number of motorcycle accidents, many of which were fatal. In Fiscal 2003, we lost 24 Airmen to motorcycle accidents, most of which involved unsafe operation of single vehicles and operators who practiced poor risk management or operated beyond their abilities, losing their lives in the process.

Every member of our Air Force is critical for mission success. On the job, we exercise good operational risk management in performing difficult and dangerous

tasks. We take care to train new operators in the safest practice of our profession. We provide oversight and guidance for inexperienced Airmen and young officers as they advance from apprentice to journeyman and craftsman. We pass on the benefits of our experience and correct mistakes to help our Airmen succeed.

We should also do so during our off-duty activities. Our concern for our people should not end with the workday, and our safety consciousness should not end there either. Learning about a favorite activity can be enjoyable in itself. The proper training, safety instruction, and skill level make any activity more enjoyable.

Just as we ask experienced operators to mentor and train our less experienced ones, I am asking experienced motorcyclists to mentor new riders and help them develop their skills and knowledge about riding. For that reason, I have asked the Air Force Chief of Safety, with the assistance of the Vice Chief of Staff and the Air Force Operational Safety Council, to explore, develop, and field a motorcycle mentoring concept that could foster the education and skills development of our motorcycle riders.

This Air Force-wide network of motorcycle clubs could foster relationships between riders who have been riding in an area for years and those new to the area or new to riding. They can also create a supportive environment of responsible motorcycle riding and enjoyment while serving as a force multiplier for commanders' mishap prevention programs.

My vision is for a mentoring program that will

provide motorcycle operators the opportunity to work together to maximize their skills, reduce their chances for mishaps, and have fun in the process. The formula is simple: fundamental knowledge in the form of street strategies and well-honed skills coupled with the most critical element – a responsible riding mindset.

I am also asking commanders to look out for their motorcycle riders. Make sure that the troops under your command who ride are trained to do so. A commander's responsibility for safety does not end with the duty day. Actively seek out those who have bikes or are interested in taking up motorcycle riding. Make sure they take the safety courses offered on our bases, even if they have no intention of riding on base, and encourage them to join these clubs. I ask commanders to encourage all their people to live life off-duty with the same regard for safety we practice on duty.

To those who ride motorcycles, I respect your right to choose a motorcycle as a form of transportation and/or recreation. But, I ask you to operate them safely, practice good risk management, and operate within your abilities. Above all, make sure you are wearing the proper safety equipment. Also, look out for those who aren't ready for more advanced challenges and prevent them from engaging in dangerous behavior. I'm a new rider myself, and I will be taking an approved motorcycle training course to make sure I am qualified to ride before I take my bike on the road. I'm looking forward to riding, but only when I have the skills necessary to ensure I won't be a danger on the road. And I won't go anywhere without my helmet.

Only through your efforts will we reduce the mishap rate throughout our Air Force. We will provide the tools necessary — it is every rider's responsibility to put them to use.

## Action Line

### 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.

### Shuttle update

In the March 11 edition of the Space Observer, we responded to an action line where a member was inquiring about the safety issues associated with snow accumulation between the parking lots of buildings 1, 2, and 3 and the possibility of providing shuttle service between these facilities to address safety concerns. We explored the option of using a shuttle to determine if usage would warrant offering this service permanently. As we began to take action to implement this test we found additional

information showing elimination of this service because of the expense of running a shuttle, infrequent use and insufficient funding. Based on the data, we do not believe it would be prudent to pursue this effort. We will continue to treat these areas via our snow removal process.

### Thrift Store restroom

**Question: Why doesn't the Thrift Store have a public restroom? It services the public and a number of the patrons are elderly and handicapped. Thank you.**

**Answer:** Thank you for your inquiry. There are bathrooms in the Thrift Store. They are not currently open to the public because of security concerns. A work order has been submitted to CE to address the concerns so the restrooms will be available to the public shortly. The bathrooms are not handicap accessible. A project has been initiated to correct that problem; however, a completion date is not known due to the uncertainty of funding. If you have further questions, please call Mr. Bill Schlepueztz, 556-7515.



# Space Observer

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

Contents of the Space Observer are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by DOD, the Department of the Air Force, or Gowdy Printcraft, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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

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

Articles for the Space Observer should be submitted to the 21st SW/PAI, Attn: Space Observer, 775 Loring Ave., Ste. 218, Peterson AFB, Colo., 80914-1294 or e-mail [space.observer@peterson.af.mil](mailto:space.observer@peterson.af.mil). Deadline for submission is 4:30 p.m. the Thursday one week before publication. All articles, copy and announcements submitted will be edited to conform to AFI Series 35 and the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual. For details, call the editor at (719) 556-7846 or DSN 834-7846.

### 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 25, 1986** – For the first time, an all-woman crew, assigned to the 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., stands Minuteman missile alert.

■ **March 27, 1999** – A combat search and rescue team rescues an F-117 Nighthawk pilot shot down during Operation Allied Force.

■ **March 29, 1923** – Lt. Russell Maughan sets a world speed record of 236.587 mph in a Curtiss R-6.

■ **March 30, 1970** – A two-man submarine, the first Air Force-owned underwater vessel, is added to the Western Test Range inventory, to be used to locate re-entry vehicles in the Eniwetok Atoll area.

■ **March 31, 1993** – Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C., closes, and flying operations cease at MacDill AFB, Fla.

# Outstanding Airman brings the heat

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

A 21st Civil Engineer Squadron troop was among the 14th Air Force's 2004 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Tech. Sgt. Ronald Meyers, the 21st CES Fire Department's NCO in Charge of Resources and Logistics, earned this year's award for the NCO category.

Sergeant Meyers' responsibilities as NCOIC include management of resources for the Fire Department — overseeing all funding, service contracts, and equipment purchases.

One of his biggest talents is his ability to anticipate every requirement, said Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Coleman, the Base Fire Chief. Sergeant Meyers was able to project unit needs out five years ahead. He's a forward thinker.

"The opportunity arose to move into the

new station with the goal of bringing our Fire Department into the 21st Century," Sergeant Meyers said.

Modernizing the Fire Department included the implementation of a weapons of mass destruction response program, he said.

"The base is part of a Department of Defense pilot program for weapons of mass destruction response," Chief Coleman said. "Sergeant Meyers did a lot of research into identifying requirements for tools, training and equipment for the project."

As Sergeant Meyers helps the Fire Department move ahead, he's quick to acknowledge the efforts of his 21st CES teammates.

"We compiled our goals for the year and worked together to get the station up to date," he said.

"The people in the squadron who worked with us had a lot of great ideas," he said. "My job was to make those ideas happen."



Photo courtesy of 21st CES

Tech. Sgt. Ronald Meyers, the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department's NCO in Charge of Resources and Logistics, responds to an exercise scenario.

## Guardian Challenge Operations Team 'competition tough'

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

Space operators from around the world are preparing to be in the thick of the Guardian Challenge competition at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

This year's 21st Space Wing Operations Team is made up of operators from Royal Air Force Fylingdales from the United Kingdom, the 137th Space Warning Squadron at Greeley Air National Guard Base, Colo. and the 20th Space Control Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. These units support the 21st Space Wing's missile warning and space surveillance missions.

"The 21st SW is in a unique position because our operations teams are competing at their home units," said Major Matthew Carroll, the Guardian Challenge project officer for the 21st SW Operations Group.

Team RAF Fylingdales competed last week. This week 20th SPCS personnel step up to the challenge, followed by the 137th SWS the next week.

"We've received great feedback from unit instructors," Maj. Carroll said. "Our Guardian Challenge training programs were geared toward making the teams competition ready, and competition tough."

This is the final round of a competition that actually started five months earlier for the members of the 21st Operations Group.

The 21st operations competitors were handpicked last November after an exhausting selection process, Maj. Carroll said.

Each 21st Space Wing geographically separated

unit assembled a competing team, he said. Once the top overall scores were determined, formal training for the winning teams began in preparation for Guardian Challenge.

As the project officer, Maj. Carroll has high aspirations for his team.

"In addition to playing our part in bringing the Aldridge Trophy home to the 21st SW as the best operations wing, we fully expect to show we're home to the best space operations crews in the Air Force," Major Carroll said.



Photos courtesy of 21st Operations Support Squadron

ABOVE: Flight Sergeant Ken Callaghan, with Corporal Andy Leckey, competed for Team Fylingdales last week.

LEFT: First Lt. Jenn Berger is competing for Team Eglin this week in Guardian Challenge.

## Air Force Assistance Fund

Team Pete goal - \$74,580.66

Week 1 (March 15-17) turn in - \$15,319



0% 21%

100%

GOAL



## 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 tar hot pots are placed away from the air intakes to minimize the impact on the building. However, two air intakes on the roof will cause some of the smell to enter the building. Work will begin over the Dental Clinic, and as the workers move to other areas of the roof, they will give as much notice as possible.

## OFFICERS' CLUB HOSTS TECH EXPO

The 2004 Spring Information Technology Exposition is today in the Main Ballroom of the Officers' Club from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Attendees can view the latest advancements in equipment like Information Assurance and security technology, notebooks, desktops, and peripherals.

## FLAG BURNING CEREMONY

Anyone with unserviceable flags should turn them in to the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Station before Wednesday. There will be a flag burning ceremony at 10 a.m. April 1 at the Fire Station.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Pikes Peak Combined Spouses' Club sponsors an egg hunt April 4 from 2-4 p.m. at the base picnic area behind the aquatics center. The hunt is open to all military children ages 2-10 (accompanied by a parent). Children should bring a basket to carry home their eggs and other goodies. Activities include the egg hunt, magic shows, balloon animals, face painting, and more. In the event of inclement weather, the egg hunt will be held in the Base Auditorium. For more information, call Kelly Brune at 260-6082.

## MOTORCYCLISTS URGED TO COORDINATE WITH WING SAFETY

Active duty military members planning on taking the mandatory Motorcycle Safety Foundation training course are urged to contact the 21st Space Wing Safety Office before enrolling. Due to limited funding for this training, individuals should contact the Wing

Safety Office before taking the course. Those who take the course without prior Wing Safety coordination may experience delays in receiving reimbursement. Call 556-4392 to coordinate attendance.

## 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.

## 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. today in the Mission Support Center, Room 1016. This seminar focuses on developing bullet-writing skills for preparing EPRs and award nominations. Officers and enlisted are highly encouraged to attend. 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](mailto:nicole.basnight@peterson.af.mil). For more information about Team Pete EPD, visit the website 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. New members are welcome. For more information, call Betty Evans at 591-6516, or Sarah Martino at 598-6486.

## OFFICIAL TRAVEL SERVICE FEE CHANGE

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.

## AF KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL APPROVED

As of February, the Department of Defense approved the Korean Service Medal for award to Air Force active duty, Reserve and Guard personnel as recognition for military service in the Republic of Korea and the surrounding waters after July 28, 1954, and ending on a future date as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

Air Force active duty, Reserve, and Guard members should direct any 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 and retirees over 60, and family members of deceased Reserve of 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.

## LOST COMMON ACCESS CARD REPLACEMENT

All active duty lost or stolen Common Access Cards will only be replaced with a letter from the member's commander or first sergeant. If you have questions, call 1st Lt. Kelly Calle at 556-4819.

- See News Briefs, Page 5



### 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.

– News Briefs, from Page 4

## REGISTER FOR SPRING II TERM AT CSU

Registration for the Spring II term at Colorado State University at Pueblo is now open. The term runs from March 15-May 16. Visit the Education Center, Suite 111 for registration information, or call Brandie Rick at 574-3312.

## ASIAN-PACIFIC HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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

## NEW YORK AIR GUARD OPENINGS

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

## HELP DESK RESETS CAC PINS

The capability to reset the Personal Identification Number on the Common Access Card is now available at the Peterson Communication Help Desk in Building 1038, Monday-Friday from 6 a.m.- 6 p.m. Only CAC owners can reset their own cards. Customers whose cards cannot be reset due to

card problems will be referred to the Military Personnel Flight. The system equipment in Building 1038 cannot issue or post certifications to CAC cards. That capability is only provided at the MPF.

## DISTANCE LEARNING TESTING

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

## FAMILY CHILDCARE PROVIDERS MUST BE LICENSED

Military spouses who provide childcare, or who want to care for children other than their own for a total of 10 hours or more per week, must be licensed to do so in quarters on base. The Mission Support Group Commander may revoke the housing privileges of individuals who provide childcare, but refuse to become licensed. To learn more about Family Child Care, call 556-4322.

## MADATORY CAC CARDS

All active duty personnel are required to have a new Common Access Card no later than April 15. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Kelly Calle at 556-4819.

## PPT3 GRANTS

The Pikes Peak Top 3 Enlisted Education Grant Incentive Program can supplement tuition assistance funds for all Peterson complex technical sergeants and below who are pursuing off-duty higher education. The program awards five \$50 grants each quarter to selected individuals.

Applications for the EEGIP are available at the Peterson AFB Education Center, the Pikes Peak Top

3 Web Site at <https://midway.peterson.af.mil/pikespeaktop3/>, or from any Pikes Peak Top 3 member. Instructions are on the form.

Other requirements include a copy of the applicant's validated TA form and a brief narrative. The next deadline is March 29. Completed applications may be sent to Pikes Peak Top 3, EEGIP, Box 14206, PAFB, Colorado Springs, CO. 80914. For more information, call Master Sgt. Matt Marion at 556-7910.

## BOOK REVIEW

Chief Master Sgt. (ret) Bob Vasquez of the U.S. Air Force Academy has just completed 7 *Basic Habits of Highly Powerful Lieutenants (and How to Employ Them)*. All ranks are welcome to attend. The briefing will be from 8 a.m.-noon April 19 in Building 350, room 2137. Contact 2nd Lt. Susan Ruby at 556-8912 or 1st Lt. Kevin Dewever at 556-2752 to schedule attendance.


## FSC VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

The Family Support Center will host a luncheon at 11 a.m. April 22 at the Enlisted Club, for all volunteers who have given time to on-base agencies. For more information, call Jim Reynolds at 556-6141.

## BLACK HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Peterson Black Heritage Committee is sponsoring a \$500 scholarship for Colorado Springs high school seniors. To compete, students must submit an essay on a selected topic. The deadline for submissions is April 30. Call Kervin Mack at 554-3257 for information.

## CHAPEL HOSTS PASSOVER MEAL

The Peterson AFB Chapel will have a Passover Sedar Meal April 6 at 6 p.m. in the Chapel. Reservations must be made by Wednesday. For reservations, or more information, call 556- 4442. 



# Team Pete, AFSPC garner more awards

Compiled from staff reports

Team Pete continues its winning ways with the announcement of many command and Air Force-level awards.

The most recent award winners were:

Secretary of the Air Force Small Business Special Achievement Award, Activity With Full-time Small Business Specialist – 21st Space Wing

## 21st Contracting Squadron

Outstanding Contracting Unit – Air Force Level Air Force Space Command And Secretary Of The Air Force Professionalism In Contracting,

Supervisory – Suzanne Snyder, 21st SW

## Air Force Space Command Intelligence Awards

Outstanding Intelligence Senior-Level Civilian of the Year – Rex C. Rudy, Headquarters AFSPC

Outstanding Air Reserve Component Intelligence Officer of the Year – Capt. Thomas P. Morlan, Headquarters AFSPC

Outstanding Active Duty Intelligence Senior NCO of the Year – Master Sgt. Patrick S. Nowe, 21st SW

Outstanding Active Duty Intelligence NCO of

the Year – Staff Sgt. David F. Dusablon, 21st SW  
Outstanding Civilian Intelligence Contributor of the Year – John L. Hladky, Headquarters AFSPC

## AFSPC Public Affairs Achievement Awards

Outstanding PA Entry-level Civilian – Jenna K. McMullin, AFSPC/PA

## 21st Medical Group

Medical Information Systems NCO of the Year – Staff Sgt. Showna A. Gantt

Public Health NCO of the Year – Master Sergeant Lillian E. Tisby-Sumpter

# Former sailor turned Army doctor retiring after 38 years

By Merrie Schilter Lowe  
North American Aerospace Defense and Northern Command Public Affairs

His dream was to join the Marine Corps but shortly after graduating from high school, 18-year-old Robert M. Gum followed in his father's footsteps and enlisted in the Navy.

He hung up his Navy uniform four years later to become a full-time college student. When he graduated in 1974, he was commissioned as an Army field artillery officer. Later, he earned a degree in medicine. In June, Col. (Dr.) Gum will retire from the service, ending a 38-year military career.

Colonel Gum is currently Deputy Command Surgeon at North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command. He arrived at Peterson Air Force Base in February 2003. It has been a challenging assignment, he said, but one for which he volunteered.

"USNORTHCOM is such an integral part of homeland security and I wanted to help build the command's medical infrastructure," said Colonel Gum. "We've made a lot of progress, but we still have a ways to go."

He attributes the unit's progress to others. "We have a heck of staff," he said.

As deputy command surgeon, Colonel Gum's job includes protecting

deploying military forces from disease and environmental threats and ensuring that USNORTHCOM is able to provide health care services to civil authorities during a presidential declared emergency or disaster. Based on his background, Colonel Gum has been preparing for this job – even before there was a USNORTHCOM – most of his military career.

For example, he is a consultant on chemical and biological issues and trained Department of Defense health care professionals on the management of chemical casualties. He helped several states design their emergency and disaster response plans, and developed responses for an Army and Air Force disaster assistance operation.

Because of his vast knowledge, Colonel Gum has presented more than a dozen papers to professional societies on chemical warfare and toxic agents, decontamination opera-



Photo courtesy of NORAD and NORTHCOM Public Affairs

**Army Col. (Dr.) Robert Gum, the Deputy Command Surgeon at North American Aerospace Defense Command provided medical support to the On-Site Inspection Agency visiting Moscow in 1994, served on a team investigating the Persian Gulf War Syndrome, and even trained a disaster medical assistance team for the 1996 Olympics.**

tions, and medical countermeasures following a terrorist chemical attack. Additionally, he wrote or co-authored articles about these topics for military

and civilian journals.

Of all his assignments, Colonel Gum said his most memorable was serv-

– See NORTHCOM doctor, Page 7

# AFSPC announces annual organizational award winners

By Stefan T. Bocchino

Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

Air Force Space Command's top performers were recognized March 11 at the 2003 annual awards ceremony in the Hartinger building atrium.

Lt. Gen. Daniel Leaf, AFSPC Vice Commander and Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Kriete, AFSPC Command Chief, presented the awards during the hour-long ceremony.

There were six award categories:

**Company grade officer** – Capt. Deborah Dickensheets, executive officer to the director of personnel.

**Senior NCO** – Senior Master Sgt. Michael Zirkle, Superintendent AFSPC antiterrorism and police services.

**NCO of the year** – Staff Sgt. Joseph Koester, NCO in charge AFSPC readiness and personnel readiness program.

**Airman of the year** – Airman 1st Class Joseph Polonsky, AFSPC Space Operations Squadron status of resource and training systems office.

**Category I civilian award** – Janet McCollum, secretary for the civil engineer flight.

**Category II civilian award** – Roberta McCoy, administrative assistant to the AFSPC Civil Engineer.

The winners will compete at the command-wide awards ceremony in April.

## – NORTHCOM doctor, from Page 6

ing as a Navy hospital corpsman in the Republic of Vietnam. "It gave me a chance to work with the Marines," he said.

Unfortunately, his timing could not have been worse – he provided medical care to a Marine rifle platoon during the Tet Offensive. Tet is the first day of the lunar New Year. Traditionally, the day had been observed as a holiday but in 1968 the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong decided to launch their largest offensive of the war that day by attacking the major cities in southern Vietnam along with major U.S. bases and airfields. More than one thousand Viet Cong troops also infiltrated the city of Saigon and took over part of the U.S. Embassy.

It took nearly two weeks to rout the enemy from Saigon but it cost the lives of more than 1,000 U.S. service

members and the city itself was left in ruins. The Communists lost more than 10,000 soldiers during the siege. By early March, the death of U.S. and South Vietnamese soldiers totaled about 6,000, with some 16,000 wounded and another thousand soldiers reported as missing in action. The North Vietnamese suffered more than 50,000 casualties.

When he arrived in Khe Sanh, Colonel Gum said he had welcomed the opportunity to serve with "A" Company, 26th Marine Regiment. However, he had not expected to see so many casualties. The experience is one reason the colonel became a doctor.

Ironically, Vietnam was not the last time Colonel Gum would face such wanton death and destruction. As fate would have it, he was in charge of the federal unit providing medical care at "Ground Zero" following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

At the time of the attack, Colonel

Gum was assigned to the chemical demilitarization branch at the CDC in Atlanta. "By the time the second plane hit (Twin Towers), we were on our way to New York," he said. "We saw more than 9,000 patients in the first three weeks."

Most of the patients were rescue workers who had been digging through tons of rubble for survivors. There were no survivors. Some 3,000 people perished in the attacks on New York and the Pentagon.

"Except for burn patients, we couldn't do anything for those recovered," said Colonel Gum. "In Vietnam I was able to help the Marines I treated," he said.

Though there were no survivors from the Twin Towers that did not stop New Yorkers from showing their appreciation for Colonel Gum and others at Ground Zero.

"People would walk up and shake my hand and say, 'I appreciate what you're doing,'" he said. And

people continue to thank him for the military's role in Iraq. This is a stark contrast to how people treated the colonel and others returning from Vietnam, he said.

"It's different; very different. I'll stop at a restaurant or store to pick up something and someone will stop and say, 'Thanks for what you are doing,'" he said. "I appreciate that."

Though Colonel Gum will not officially retire until June, he is leaving Colorado at the end March. He said he hopes to land a consulting job with a homeland security organization in Tennessee where he and his wife, Sharon, will move.

"I'll miss the military – putting on a uniform, the structure, the camaraderie," said Colonel Gum. At the same time, he said he is looking forward to retirement. "I am hoping to actually reduce my working hours to 40 to 60 hours a week," he said, laughing. That will certainly make his wife of 32 years happy, he said.



# Some personnel services become Web-only

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – As of March 15, Airmen no longer have to stand in line to accomplish a personnel records review or several other common tasks.

To make it easier for personnel customers, six different personnel services are now available only on the Web. Military personnel flight workers will point customers toward the Internet if they want to do any of the following:

- Update the Record of Emergency Data.
- Apply for a change to an assignment or change a report-not-later-than date.
- Apply for certain curtailments of date eligible for return from overseas.
- Accomplish a humanitarian or exceptional family member program application.
- Request a 'proof of service' letter, often needed for home loans.
- Make simple updates to common information like home address, home telephone number, religious preference, race, ethnic group, foreign language self-assessment, duty and personal e-mail addresses.

For people using these services, questions can be answered 24 hours a day online or by a toll-free call to the Air Force Contact Center.

The changes indicate the maturing of the virtual MPF concept and the realities of how busy Airmen are now with fighting the war on terror, said Maj. Gen. Thomas A. O'Riordan, Air Force Personnel Center commander here.

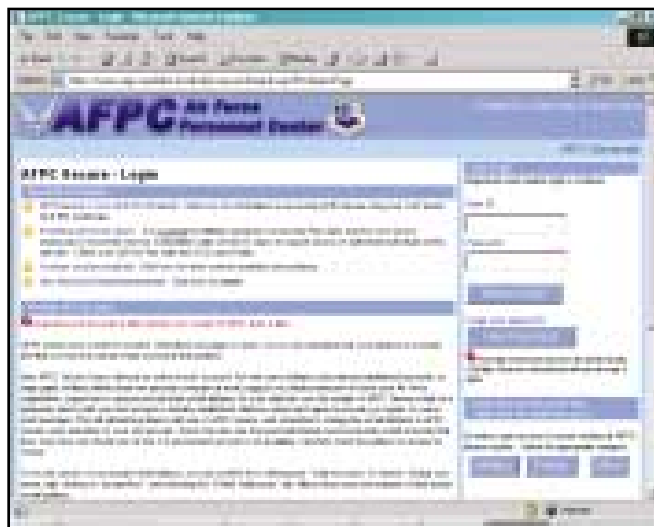
"The primary goal of our virtual services is to save time for our Airmen and commanders in the

field," he said. "These transactions are simple and direct. We'll achieve better accuracy and save the Airman a trip to the MPF."

This is part of an evolution in the way personnel services will be delivered to Airmen in the future, said Col. Dale Hess, the AFPC Director of Operations.

"We've been headed in this direction for a long while," Colonel Hess said. "Our Air Force Contact Center has positioned itself to pick up some of the services by phone or online that people used to have to stand in line for, and we're aggressively upgrading our online capabilities."

Officials said they expect that more online services will mean less work on both sides of personnel flight help desks, and that they anticipate the average time spent waiting in line for other services will



decrease for customers visiting personnel flights.

"We are very concerned about creating more work under the rubric of automation," the general said. "The goal is to slash time across the system and not simply outsource the workload to the Airman."

The changes do not mean that Airmen will not have applications for programs reviewed. The level of approval is not changing; instead, approvals will be routed electronically to the correct approving officials.

For instance a DEROS change requested online on vMPF will now be routed to the contact center, which then coordinates the request through the person's gaining and losing commanders.

These processes should also move much quicker, said Jan McIntosh, vMPF functional manager at the AFPC. "The nice thing is the member could initiate these actions at any time – even at 3 a.m. from home if they wish."

Airmen will not be turned away from the MPF, Colonel Hess said.

"We'll make sure our customers are guided through the process and it's explained to them," he said. "Airmen nowadays are very adaptable and computer-literate. In no time, this will be second nature to everyone."

Airmen can access the vMPF through the Air Force Portal, at [www.my.af.mil](http://www.my.af.mil), by clicking on the "careers" tab. It is also available at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil).

For more information, call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

(Courtesy of Air Force News Service)





# Air Force surgical team ready for duty

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

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan – It may seem like a small medical team to some, but people here need not worry about their emergency surgical needs. The five-person U.S. Air Force surgical team, an operational surgical component of the 376th Expeditionary Medical Group, is ready for duty.

The team is equipped to treat emergencies and stabilize patients for transfer to a more advanced medical facility. People here will still receive medical care comparable to what they would get in the United States, said Capt. (Dr.) Andre Graham, the team's surgeon.

"We provide emergency medical services to all personnel and prepare them for transport," Dr. Graham said. "We're also a fully functional trauma unit and ready to handle any contingency."

While the team is small, they are very experienced, said Maj. Delia Zorrilla, head nurse for the team.

"All members of this team, with the exception of Captain Graham, come from Lackland Air Force Base, (Texas), where we (are) members of Wilford Hall [Medical Center], the Air Force's only Level 1 trauma center," she said. "Captain Graham transferred here from Iraq, where he treated a lot of cases."

Not only did Dr. Graham serve in Iraq but he also has another, more personal reason to be excited about serving here.

"When I was an intern in New York, I treated people injured on 9-11 at the World Trade Center," he said. "Coming here is sort of like completing the circle

and finishing the work I started on that fateful day."

The team's main goal is to continue to upgrade the services they can provide.

"We'll be establishing standards and upgrading equipment as well as making future additions possible," Dr. Graham said. "We'll constantly look for ways to improve our services while also being available to help out at the regular clinic."

The team's main mission is to be ready to treat whatever medical situation may arise while they're here.

"We want everybody to understand and feel confident in the fact if something medically related was to happen to them, we're here and we'll take care of them," said Lt. Col. Deborah Cleary, surgical team chief and nurse anesthetist.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. William J. Seabrook Jr.

**(From left to right) Capt. (Dr.) Andre Graham, Senior Airman Nathan Vanepps, Staff Sgt. Chris McDaniel, Lt. Col. Deborah Cleary and Maj. Delia Zorrilla practice surgical techniques on a simulated patient. They are all part of the 376th Expeditionary Medical Group's surgical team.**

## 9 complete FTAC

Congratulations to the following March 19 graduates from the First Term Airman's Center Class 2004-09.



### Airmen

- Scott J. Hollister, 21st Comptroller Squadron
- Marian G. Frey-McGovern, 21st Medical Dental Support Squadron
- Joseph L. Platt, 21st Mission Support Squadron



### Airmen First Class

- Joshua R. Ackerman, 13th Air Support Operations Squadron
- Ryan C. Hillard, 13th ASOS
- Megan M. Lippert, 10th Dental Squadron, Area Dental Lab
- Michael A. Finney, 21st Operations Support Squadron
- Kelly A. Loewen, 21st Security Forces Squadron
- Dana L. Skillman, 21st Aeromedical Dental Operations Squadron



# 'Red Hats' ensure 'no one comes close'

**By the 21st Space Wing  
Inspector General Exercise Team**

The mission of the 21st Space Wing exercise controllers, or "Red Hats," is to provide direct feedback to their commanders on the mission performance of their units. This is part of the 21st Space Wing's ongoing efforts to evaluate readiness – the ability of each unit to deliver the outputs for which it was designed. In addition to providing feedback to their commanders, ECs serve as members of the wing exercise evaluation team that is tasked to evaluate how the 21st Space Wing and the tenant units assigned to the base respond during exercises. The 21st Space Wing Inspector General is the EET chief, and directs the CONDOR CREST exercise program that is used to evaluate the readiness of the units.

An article by Lt. Col. Ross Gobel, Vice Commander of the Air Force Inspection Agency, for the August 2002 edition of the Air Force Inspector General magazine highlighted the importance of the EET.

"If you're lucky enough to be assigned to an exercise evaluation team, take full advantage of the opportunity to improve your wing," he said.

Each 21st Space Wing EET member proudly wears the distinctive Red Hat during CONDOR CREST exercises and works hard to improve the wing.

While the unit EC is the foundation of the EET, the senior exercise

director for each 21st Space Wing group also plays a key role with the Red Hats. They manage their group's exercise program and work with the unit ECs to ensure unit level exercises are properly integrated and coordinated within their groups. When preparing to evaluate a unit, no single EC has all the knowledge and skills needed to build a comprehensive exercise. Each unit's EC works with a team of functional experts in the unit to design exercise events that will test the knowledge, skills, and mission capabilities needed to evaluate the readiness of the entire unit. That team of functional experts includes operational security monitors, full spectrum threat response monitors, security managers, information assurance managers, facility managers and unit safety representatives.

An additional functional area in readiness that is rapidly growing in importance is quality assurance of service contracts. Quality assurance evaluators are key to our ability to maintain integrity of functions being performed by contractors. The QAEs provide insight into contractor programs and give feedback to the unit commander on the health of the outsourced program. The ECs, with inputs from functional experts, use a variety of tools such as standard inspection checklists and their vast experience to conduct exercise evaluations.

Based on the results from exercises, the ECs can provide their command-



Photo by Joe Fischer

**Col. Gary Shugart, 21st Space Wing Inspector General, briefs exercise controllers on new exercise requirements and procedures during the Exercise Controllers All-call on March 15 at the Base Auditorium.**

ers with an independent assessment of readiness functions and provide an objective view of how the unit is doing. The entire readiness evaluation process now includes CONDOR CREST exercises, the self-inspection program, operational and unit compliance inspections, and contractor performance. The "Red Hat" ensures all required readiness functional areas are reviewed and recommendations are forwarded to the Commander and the Wing Readiness

Working Group. The goal is to improve of an individual's skill and knowledge in critical areas like threat, security, safety, operational risk management, deployment, ability to survive and operate, information-communications, training and outsourcing.

Those interested in joining the readiness improvement team should contact their unit commanders or the Inspector General's exercise branch at 556-6489.

# 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.*

## DOMINO EFFECT – MARCH 12

Security Forces responded to a major accident in the parking lot outside Air Force Space Command Headquarters. Apparently a three-car crunch occurred when an oblivious vehicle owner neglected to set his parking brake. One car rolled into the next in the bumper car fiasco, resulting in one broken taillight and dents and scrapes to the vehicles. Security Forces issued a citation for Failing to Properly Set the Brake on a Vehicle.

## GARAGE GRIND – March 13

Security Forces responded to a minor car accident in the parking garage of AFSPC HQ.

A delirious driver failed to acknowledge a wall while backing his car out of a parking spot inside the garage. The wall-walloper's vehicle took some scratching, and the driver took on a summons for Improper Backing.

## GAS, GAS, GAS! – March 13

Security Forces and the Fire Department responded to Base Housing, where a gas leak was reported. The caller admitted he thought he

caused the leak after backing into the gas line. Civil Engineers shut off the gas and repaired the leak.

## BUMPS IN THE NIGHT – March 13

Security Forces responded to a noise complaint in Dormitory 1154. A resident reported clamorous sounds coming from a nearby room. He described the noises as banging and crashing sounds. Responders attributed the hullabaloo to a destruction spree of personal property going on next door.

## HEADS UP – March 14

A base operator reported a disturbing phone call received at the office to Security Forces. A man claiming to work for North American Air Defense stated he was declaring a nuclear emergency. He claimed a mathematical flaw in the computer system was compromising nuclear weapons, and could potentially cause an explosion. He sounded frenzied, and was difficult to understand as he provided serial numbers and dates. The operator traced the fast-talking phone freak to an out of state number.

## FLIGHT LINE FENDER-BENDER – March 15

Security Forces responded to a minor hit-and-run at the flight line. The caller reported that over the weekend, one of the government-owned trucks was driven into another GOV. He noticed paint transfer and some dents upon returning to work after the weekend. The vehicles involved were a green 1998 Tow Tug and a blue 1988 Dodge Dakota.

## MAIL CALL – March 16

Security Forces responded to 21st Space Wing Headquarters, where a suspicious envelope was reported. The letter, addressed to the Commander, contained a sand-like substance. Analysis revealed the substance to be just that – sand.

## WHILE YOU WERE OUT – March 16

Security Forces responded to Base Housing, where a resident returned home to discover her house unsecured. The wary woman noticed the rear garage door was unlocked and the kitchen window screen was ajar. The caller also reported she noticed some of her patio furniture was moved around a couple of weeks prior to this incident, but she didn't think much of it at the time.

## MEDICAL RESPONSE – March 17

Security Forces, the Fire Department, and American Medical Services responded to the Commissary, where a customer reportedly fell. The victim was treated at the scene for minor cuts and released.

## TWO RIGHTS MAKE A WRONG – March 17

Security Forces responded to an accident at the intersection of Otis Street and Stewart Avenue. While making a right turn, the operator of an eighteen-wheeler inadvertently brushed aside another vehicle. The trucker was in the center lane of Otis Street with his turn signal indicating a right turn. The truck was turning right from the center lane to allow extra room. A car entered the right turn lane just as the trucker was turning right from the center lane. The vehicle was pushed aside, breaking the driver's side windows out, pushing in the door, cracking the wind shield and causing the passenger side tires to blow out. The driver of the demolished vehicle was issued a summons for Careless Driving.

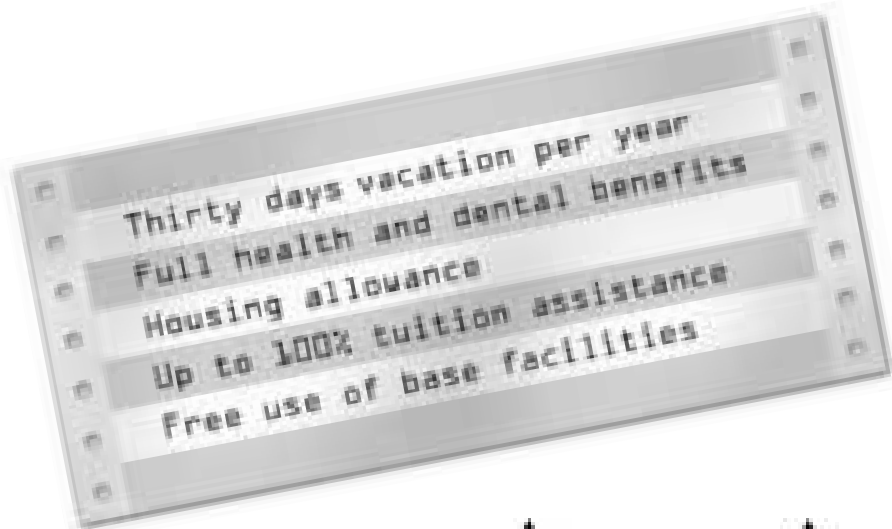
## ALARMING TRENDS CONTINUE:

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

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



## WELCOME TO THE AIR FORCE



**U.S. AIR FORCE**  
CROSS INTO THE BLUE

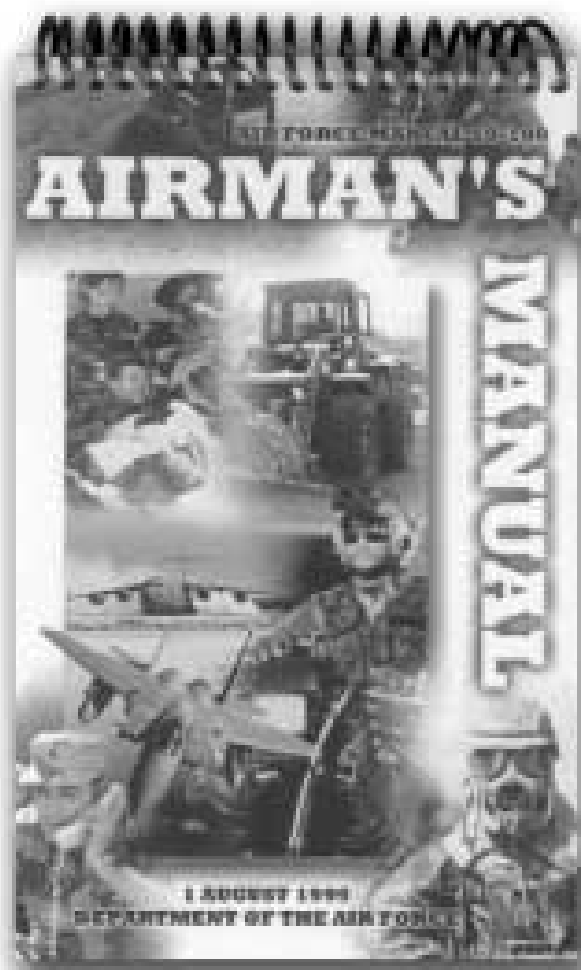
And that's just the beginning. Once you enlist, you'll also receive a good starting salary with regular pay raises, tax-free housing and food allowances. Not to mention opportunities for higher education and full retirement benefits after 20 years of service. Visit our Web site at [AIRFORCE.COM](http://AIRFORCE.COM) or call 1-800-423-USAF.

## Airman's Manual

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



# Online



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

# Fire Department upgrades 9-1-1 response

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

Beginning in April, the Base Fire Department receives all direct-dial emergency calls made from on-base locations.

"With the enhanced system, emergency calls now go directly to the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department, instead of being routed through Security Forces first," said Tech. Sgt. Ronald Freeman, an emergency dispatcher at the Fire Department. This will increase their response time.

"If the situation requires Security Forces to respond, like in the case of a domestic dispute, we can conference them in with the touch of a button," he said.

The system is a joint effort between the base and El Paso and Teller counties.

"The counties provided and maintain the equipment, which the base operates in accordance with county guidelines," said Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Coleman, the base fire chief.

Training for the new system takes place downtown, where the operators receive Emergency Medical Dispatcher instruction.

"There are two operators on duty at all times – one to answer the emergency call and dispatch the responders, the other to relay medical instructions to the caller if necessary," Chief Coleman said.

"The enhanced 9-1-1 response system gives us a lot of additional capabilities."

The technology can trace calls made from cell phones, pinpointing the caller's location using Global Positioning System coordinates. It also provides quick conferencing with the Poison Control Center in Denver, Colo., and the national language line for callers not fluent in English. The system also has Telecommunications Device for the Deaf capability, Sergeant Freeman said.

Contractors from the Systems Manufacturing Corporation and 911 Incorporated installed the Fire Department's new equipment over the past two weeks, so dispatchers can finally put all they've learned into practice.

"It's been a year-long effort," Chief Coleman said.



ABOVE and RIGHT: Contractors from the Systems Manufacturing Corporation and 911 Incorporated installed the Fire Department's new direct-dial emergency response technology. The system cost nearly \$120,000.



Lynetta Johnson and Senior Airman Robert Horn man the phones. The new system uses direct-dial phone lines, touch-screen monitors and computerized checklists.



Tech. Sgt. Ronald Freeman is one of eight qualified Emergency Medical Dispatchers who received specialized response training downtown.



# 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.
- Transition Planning, 8 a.m.-noon at the Mission Support Center, Room 1016.

### Saturday

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

### 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, 8-9 a.m. in the MSC, Room 1016. This is a mandatory briefing for those retiring or separating from the military.

### April 1

- 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

## Reaching the top with social climbers

By Margie Arnold  
21st Services Squadron

Getting to the top of the heap in this life is no easy climb. Experienced climbers like Joel Yourkowski know the ropes, and he can show others how to do it well and do it safely. Learning the basics of climbing on an indoor climbing wall is an excellent way to prepare for climbing the real thing outdoors.

Wall/rock climbers are a friendly, encouraging, helpful group of people. They will be happy to help others get hooked on the sport they love so much.

"I've been told by people who have climbed at other indoor climbing facilities that what we have here at Peterson is the best around because this climbing wall, with its rich texture, simulates real rock walls," Mr. Yourkowski said.

This indoor climbing wall is great for practicing technique, staying sharp, and refreshing all the skills learned toward becoming certified in wall climbing, Mr. Yourkowski said.

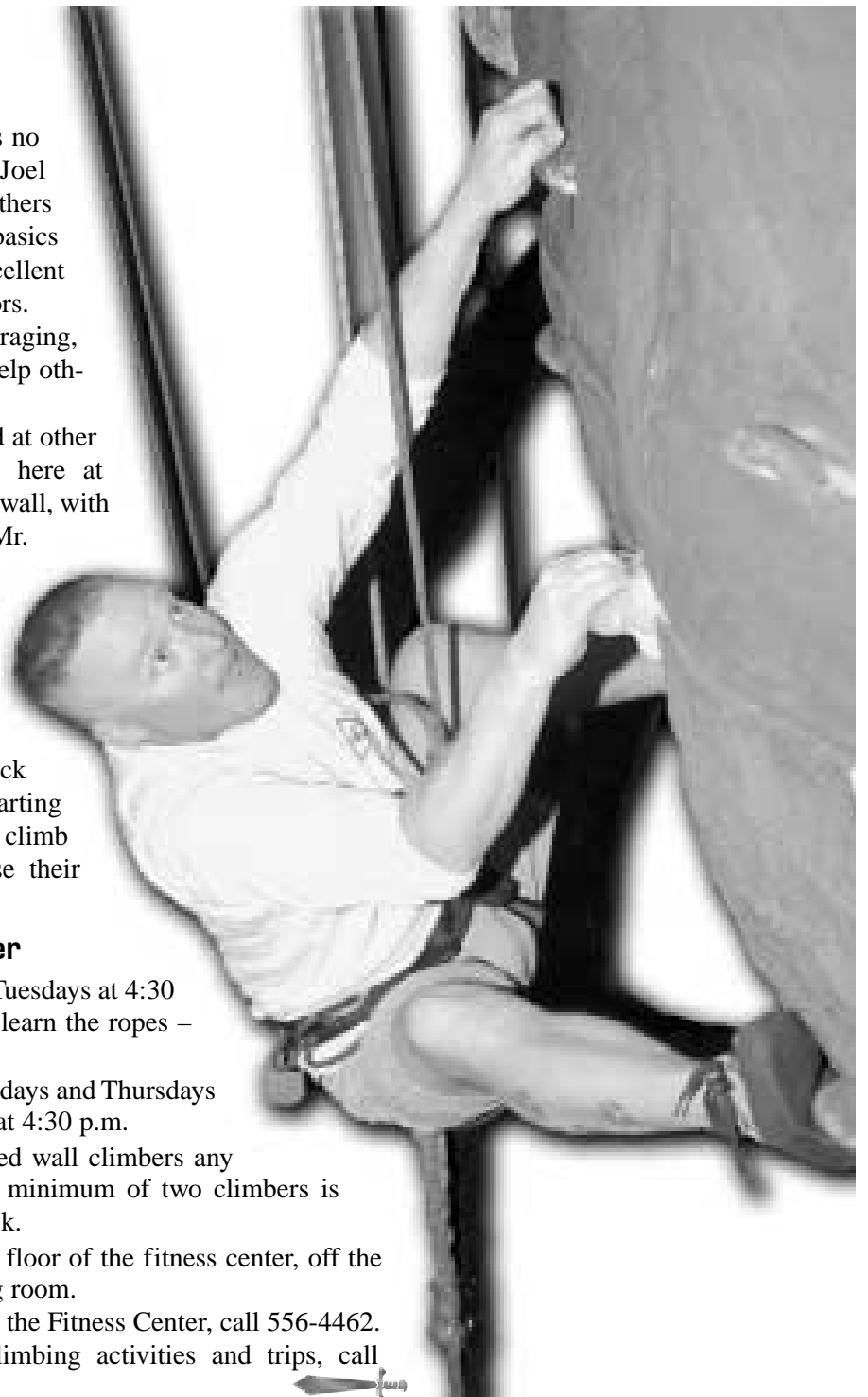
"If you want to use these skills on real rock walls, Outdoor Recreation has fantastic outings starting in the spring," he said. "For just \$20, you get to climb all day in a great rock-climbing place and use their equipment. It's a fantastic deal!"

### Indoor climbing at the Fitness Center

- Free certified wall-climbing classes are Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. Newcomers learn the ropes - tying knots, belaying and other basics.
- Open climb for certified climbers is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.
- The climbing wall is available to certified wall climbers any time during Fitness Center hours. For safety, a minimum of two climbers is required. Check in at the Fitness Center front desk.
- The climbing wall is located on the first floor of the fitness center, off the main weight room, in a room east of the spinning room.

For more information on indoor climbing at the Fitness Center, call 556-4462.

For information on upcoming outdoor climbing activities and trips, call Outdoor Recreation at 556-4867.



## ARAGON DINING FACILITY MENU

### Today

#### Lunch:

Mr. Z's Baked Chicken  
Pepper Steak  
Pasta Primavera  
Mashed Potatoes  
Rice Steamed  
Mixed Vegetables  
Fried Okra  
Greenbeans

#### Dinner:

Orange-Spiced Chops  
Liver with Onions  
Tempura Fried Fish  
Rissolle Potatoes  
Rice Steamed  
Broccoli  
Peas & Carrots  
Wax Beans

### Friday

#### Lunch:

Simmered Corn Beef  
Pineapple Chicken  
Yankee Pot Roast  
Crispy Potato Wedges  
Simmered Potatoes  
Fried Cabbage  
Carrots  
Black Eye Peas

#### Dinner:

Baked Fish  
Beef & Corn Pie  
Roast Turkey  
Franconia Potatoes  
Pea & Pepper Rice  
Corn on the Cob  
Stewed Tomatoes  
Mustard Greens

### Saturday

#### Brunch:

Baked Fish  
Hungarian Goulash  
Barbecue Chicken  
Parsley Buttered Potatoes  
Rice Steamed  
Vegetable Stir Fry  
Boston Baked Bean  
Cream Corn

### Sunday

#### Brunch:

Stir Fry Beef with Broccoli  
Turkey Nuggets  
Strip Loin Steak  
Mushrooms and Onions  
Baked Potatoes  
Rice Pilaf  
Corn on the Cob  
Green Beans

### Monday

#### Lunch:

Chili Mac  
Beef Cannelloni  
Southern Fried Chicken  
Cottage Fried Potatoes  
Mashed Potatoes  
Steamed Squash  
Glazed Carrots  
Peas

#### Dinner:

Pot Roast  
Baked Stuff Fish  
Roast Loin Of Pork  
Oven Brown Potatoes  
Steamed Rice  
Cauliflower Combo  
Succotash  
Green Beans with Mushroom

### Tuesday

#### Lunch:

Country Captain  
Chicken  
Meat Loaf  
Turkey a-La-King  
Steamed Rice  
Mashed Potatoes  
Harvard Beets  
Mustard Greens  
Okra and Tomato  
Gumbo

#### Dinner:

Teriyaki Chicken  
Veal Parmesan  
Salmon Cakes  
Filipino Rice  
Parsley Buttered Potatoes  
Fried Cabbage  
Succotash  
Mixed Vegetable

### Wednesday

#### Lunch:

Beef Sukiyaki  
Szechwan Chicken  
Sweet & Sour Pork  
Steamed Rice  
Pork Fried Rice  
Fried Cabbage  
Glazed Carrots  
Vegetable Stir Fry

#### Dinner:

Barbecue Ham  
Steak  
Turkey and Noodles  
Beef Ball  
Stroganoff  
Egg Noodles  
Mashed Potatoes  
Calico Corn  
Spinach  
Lima Beans



# The killing fields of Iraq – II

By Master Sgt. Richard Burch

Spectral Operations Resource Center

This is the last 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.

Bruce Gerrick and I volunteered to help dig the trench, at the same time taking detailed notes on the (rock layering) of the backfill to support future analysis. As we got further in depth, we started noticing a definite change in the color of the soil, and a discernable odor – not stench, just a stale metallic smell possibly caused by the high concentration of localized iron-oxidation.

At that point, the archeologists took over the dig within inches of depth from where we left off; they started uncovering small bones and brightly colored clothing. They were painstakingly meticulous, using small paintbrushes and carefully removing the dirt with their bare hands. It took nearly an hour to clean out a one square foot area.

The results of their analysis came out as dry as a reading of the Sunday news, yet as clear as a bell to this day ...

“One immature human femur, one immature human pelvis, estimate based on bone length approximately 5 to 6 years in age.”

“WHAT?” I had a huge lump in my throat. “You mean, a child?”

The answer came back as dry as the last.

“Yes, and based on the clothing, I’d say it’s a female.”

My head was spinning – a little girl, in a bright, purple flowered dress with gold ribbon – then more unwelcome information ...

“Looks like they had her hands bound,” the archeologist said, holding up what probably used to be her pink hair ribbon, which some ingenious Iraqi soldier had turned into a makeshift binding.

That was it for me. I had to go for a walk. Luckily, they decided they wouldn’t disturb the site any further and started back filling the trench. I will never forget my feelings or the scenarios that still run through my head, if I live to be 100 years old. But, we’re professionals and we had other sites to analyze and our days in this area were numbered – so I stored that away and got back to work.

We finished up our surveys in the desert and made the return trip to Baghdad. We had a few days to rest, clean the sand out of our gear and prepare for our next trip. This time we would travel to northern Iraq, Kurdish territory, near the city of Irbil.

Unfortunately, we didn’t get any frequent flyer miles on this mission. We got there the old-fashioned way – road trip. Fortunately, the British Ambassador had loaned us the use of a close protection team and two up-armored Toyota Land Cruisers. We made the



Photo by Master Sgt. Richard Burch

**The sad remains of a life cut short by Saddam Hussein’s henchmen, lie uncovered in a mass grave with the help of spectral imagery from U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command.**

six-hour journey to Irbil, setting up shop in a former Baath party resort hotel.

But, we weren’t there for a vacation. We had the same plan as before; visit as many of the suspected gravesites as possible, perform our geologic analysis and get back to Baghdad – safely.

Northern Iraq is tremendously different, geologically speaking, than southern Iraq. Rolling hills turning into mountains, stream fed valleys lead to green pastures. Not a place where you’d expect evidence of

– See Killing fields, Page 18

### – Killing fields, from Page 18

genocide and mass graves, but, to state the obvious, Saddam and his henchmen weren't exactly big fans of peace and tranquility.

We were on an abbreviated schedule, so we had to investigate as many sites as possible in a seven-day period. That meant we didn't have time to dig sample trenches at each site – which was fine with me. The first few sites we visited held little promise in supporting our spectral analysis; they were in the middle of farmland with very little spectral features. The surrounding land had been tilled so much over the past


decades that Bruce classified it as homogeneous.

The remaining sites in the area were better suited for spectral analysis, and contained the gypsum surface coating we were hoping to find. Unfortunately, most of the sites we visited in Northern Iraq had already been tampered with, either by the local populace or inadvertently by the US soldiers that happened to set up camp near them, which made any post analysis difficult.

With all of the logistical planning involved in the anticipated arrival of a Finnish forensic excavation team, the remainder of the mass grave assessments were put off until late spring/early summer. We felt we

had enough background data on the highest priority sites to continue our analysis and could provide ample support to the assessment team from the rear. So, again, I passed on my contact information, assured ongoing SORC support and prepared our equipment for redeployment.

I have a lifetime's worth of experiences and memories from this deployment, from the places I've traveled and sites I've seen, to the people I've met and the lasting friendships I'll savor.

The one memory I wish I could forget is that of the pretty little dress with the gold ribbon – buried in one of the many killing fields of Iraq. 

## Tobacco use dangerous for secondhand smokers

By Master Sgt. John O'Brien  
Health and Wellness Center

Team Pete leadership made the tough call, but making the tough call doesn't stop it from being the right call. As outlined in the Air Force Instruction 40-102, *Tobacco Use in the Air Force*, smoking will only be allowed in designated smoking areas.

Designated smoking areas are to protect the nonsmoker. Numerous studies have shown that smoking is unhealthy for smokers and for those around them as well. In the U.S. alone, of those people exposed to secondhand smoke, 3,000 deaths will be attributed to lung cancer. These findings are based on the total weight of the evidence gathered and are not dependant on any single analysis. This evidence includes several important facts.

First, it is indisputable that smoking tobacco causes cancer, and there is no evidence that there is a threshold

below which smoking will not cause cancer.

Second, although secondhand smoke is a dilute mixture of exhaled smoke and smoke from the burning end of the tobacco product, it is chemically similar to the smoke inhaled by smokers themselves.

Third, there is considerable evidence that large numbers of people who do not smoke absorb and metabolize significant amounts of secondhand smoke.

Finally, laboratory studies confirm the ability of secondhand smoke to cause cancer in animals and to damage DNA, which is an instrumental mechanism in cancer development. As little as 30 minutes a day of secondhand smoke exposure causes heart damage similar to that smokers experience. Non-smokers exposed to secondhand smoke have a lung cancer risk 18–32 percent greater than others not exposed.




As bad as it is for adult non-smokers, it's even worse for children who often do not have a choice regarding secondhand smoke exposure. The risks to children are widely acknowledged, and for the most part undisputed. Even the tobacco industry does not contest these effects in its media and public relations campaigns.

It is estimated, annually, that between 150,000 and 300,000 children less than 2 years old get bronchitis or pneumonia from breathing secondhand smoke, resulting in thousands of hospitalizations. In children, secondhand smoke exposure has been proven to increase the chance of fluid in the middle ear, a sign of chronic middle ear disease. It irritates the upper respiratory tract and is associated with a small but significant reduction in lung function.

Asthmatic children are at an increased risk due to their preexisting

medical condition. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that more than 1 million children have their asthma made worse by secondhand smoke and the number of asthmatic episodes and severity increase. Secondhand smoke may also cause thousands of non-asthmatic children to contract the condition each year.

But there is good news; as little as 10 years ago the majority of adults in the U.S. smoked; now on average only one in four smokes. Most smokers want to quit, and thousands do quit every day. Education and intervention are vital, but more importantly, supporting and helping those around you who desire to quit is key. For more information regarding smoking cessation contact your nearest Health and Wellness Center.

Information and facts for this article were compiled from various Internet sources at [EPA.gov](http://EPA.gov) search: secondhand smoke; also [lungusa.org](http://lungusa.org) and [who.int/tobacco/](http://who.int/tobacco/). 

# 21st CES/CEV urges: cease the grease

It's bad for us. But did you know it's bad for our pipes too? Grease blockages in sewer pipes are common causes of sewage overflows and basement backups in the Colorado Springs, Colo., area. Grease is a by-product of cooking and comes from meat fats, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, sauces and dairy products. Help yourself, your neighbor and the

environment by never pouring grease down the drain.

Grease blocking sewer pipes is a serious maintenance problem for the base and local private property owners. When grease washes down the sink, it sticks to the insides of sewer pipes. The build-up restricts flow and can block pipes completely, causing raw sewage to back up into your home or overflow

into streets and streams. Sewer blockages are not only filthy; they can cause serious health hazards. Cleanups are difficult, costly and time-consuming.

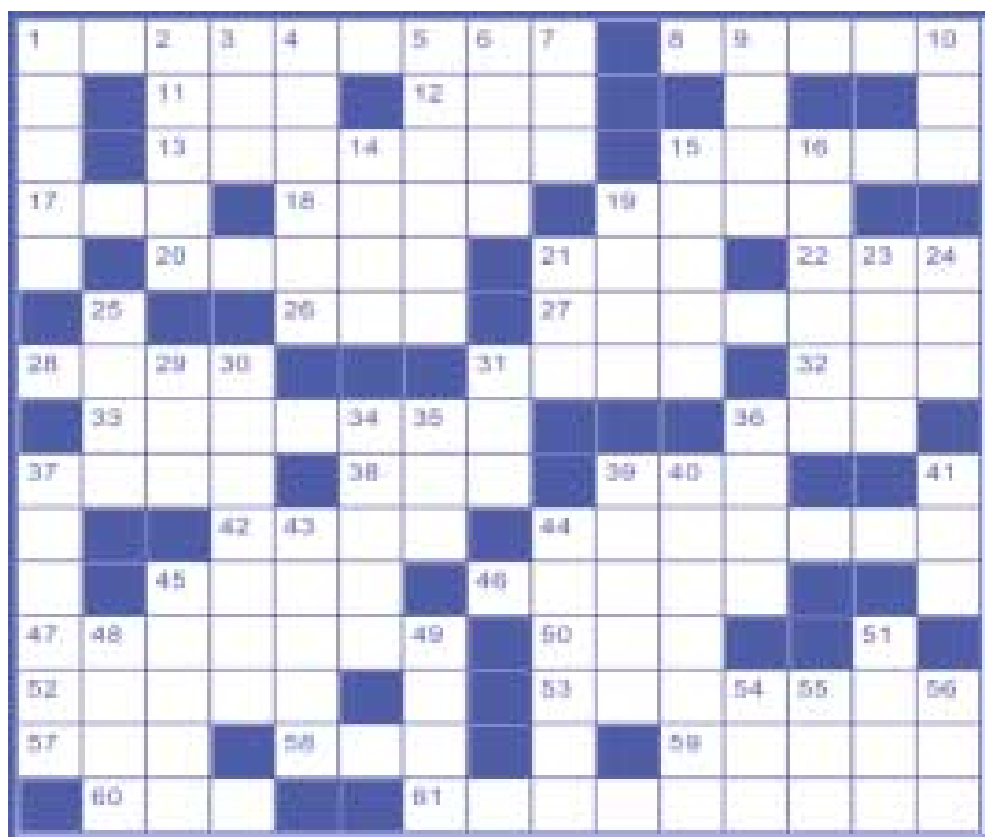
Home garbage disposals don't keep grease out of sewer pipes, and products that claim to dissolve grease may dislodge a blockage, but will only cause problems further down the line

Scrape all food scraps and solids

into a garbage can instead of the sink. Do the same with gravies, salad dressings and similar liquids that contain fats, oils and grease. Fats, oils and grease build up on the insides of pipes and on equipment requiring expensive removal from sewer collection systems and wastewater treatment facilities.

*(Courtesy of 21st Civil Engineering Squadron)*

## SECAF history, 1947-85



### ACROSS

1. SECAF 9/18/47-4/24/50
8. SECAF 10/1/65-2/14/69
11. Dined
12. Alias abbreviation
13. SECAF 5/1/57-12/10/59
15. La \_\_\_\_\_ Nikita
17. Actor Stephen of Michael Collins
18. Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue singer Keith
19. Soft drink
20. A type of jet engine developed from a turbine
21. USAF org. at a deployed location
22. NIMA system managing national/strategic imagery
26. Army equivalent to USAF Tech. School
27. SECAF 5/15/73-11/23/75
28. Singer Joan
31. Horse feed
32. Pot
33. SECAF 11/23/75-1/2/76 (acting)
36. Query
37. Soft mineral
38. USAF officer eval.

39. Rap group Run \_\_\_\_\_
42. Military org. in Kosovo
44. SECAF 2/15/69-5/14/73
45. Erosion
46. CA AFB home to the 9th Recon Wing
47. SECAF 8/15/55-4/30/57
50. Actress/model Carol
52. Army battalions
53. SECAF 4/6/77-5/18/79
57. Asner and Harris
58. Snakelike fish
59. Time maker?
60. Giant great
61. SECAF 4/24/50-1/20/53

### DOWN

1. SECAF 12/11/59-1/20/61
2. Angry with (two words)
3. Simpson trial judge
4. American architect
5. SECAF 2/4/53-8/13/55
6. Fine
7. Navy equivalent to AFB
9. SECAF 1/2/76-4/5/77
10. Formerly
14. Mongolian desert
15. Chicken and duck
16. Stoic emperor \_\_\_\_\_ Aurelius
19. Coterie
21. Doctor's org.

23. SECAF 5/18/79-2/9/81
24. Military identity
25. California wine valley
29. Extension
30. SECAF 1/23/61-9/30/65
31. SECAF 2/1/81-11/30/85
34. 007 once
35. USAF enlisted eval.
36. Apogee
37. Thrust
39. Issued (as in cards)
40. Bogart film, The \_\_\_\_\_ Falcon
41. Cleopatra's killer
43. Test answer?
44. Fall, winter, spring or summer
45. Belly
48. Disconnect
49. Number one?
51. Link
54. Asian holiday
55. Take a seat
56. Neither's partner

*(Courtesy of 1st Lt. Tony Wickman)*

**Answers located on page 22**





# NORAD, USNORTHCOM net Over-30 hoops title

## Wagner's buzzer beater caps perfect 15-0 season

By Tech. Sgt. Devin Fisher  
North American Aerospace Defense and  
Northern Command Public Affairs

It was what a championship game is supposed to be ... hard fought from the tipoff until the final buzzer sounded. Each team had its share of leads, but neither team could pull away from the other. With just 15 seconds remaining, the game was deadlocked at 49.

NORAD/U.S. Northern Command point guard Tony Little surveyed the court as he watched the clock run down to only five seconds remaining. The Air Force Space Command Civil Engineers' defense clamped down and denied all inside options.

Little drove hard to the basket, and as the CE defense collapsed on him, Little kicked the ball out to Gary Wagner who found himself alone beyond the three-point arc. Wagner, the 6-foot, 7-inch center who had enjoyed success inside the paint, buried a 22-footer as the buzzer sounded giving N/NC a hard-fought 52-49 victory to claim the Peterson Air Force Base Over-30 Basketball championship.

"We were playing for the last shot," said Little. "I was going to run the clock down to five seconds and then drive the ball and look for the open man



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Devin Fisher

**Champions: Top row, left to right, Robert Price, Kenneth James, Eugene Brown, William Riggle and Anthony Little; Bottom row, left to right, Roosevelt Boyland, Dan Reifschneider, Michael Smith, John Westerfield and Gary Wagner. Not pictured: Carl Blakey, Ross Brown, Rex Mitchell and Norm Selly.**

... their big guy slipped off Gary to (double team me) ... and Gary nailed the shot."

"Tony did a great job drawing the defenders to him," said Wagner. "I was all alone and got a great look ... and fortunately it went in."

With the game-winning three pointer, Wagner led all N/NC scorers with 11 points. Kenneth James, Dan Reifschneider and William Riggle each chipped in eight points. Shelton Haskins led the way for CE with 13 points. James Robinson added 10 and John

Faulkner had eight points.

While Little and Wagner said that was exactly how they drew it up during their final timeout, the N/NC player/coach quickly deflected the accolades.

"He was actually our fourth option," Reifschneider explained. "They shut our first three options down. Tony started to drive to the basket, and then made a great pass to Gary. When Gary shot the ball I thought it was going to be short ... but it went in."

The dramatic ending not only gar-

nered N/NC the title, improving on last year's second-place finish, but it put an exclamation point on a perfect 15-0 season.

Reifschneider noted N/NC's depth was the key to its success. During the regular season, N/NC normally rotated its five players every five to 10 minutes depending on the situation and the competition with "little or no degradation." When it came to the playoffs, N/NC substituted one or two players at a time.

"CE was definitely the toughest team we played all season ... they are a great team," Reifschneider said.

"They were our nemesis all year," Haskins said, noting N/NC handed CE, 11-4 overall, all four of its losses. "It was truly a heartbreaker. We did everything we could ... they deserved everything they got."

Haskins noted that CE had the final shot in the two regular season meetings, but couldn't convert at the buzzer as N/NC walked away with two point victories in each contest.

"I guess it just wasn't in the cards," he said.

### Answers from puzzle on page 21

