



Space Observer

"2003 AFSPC Best Large Wing PA Office"

Thursday, Sept. 2, 2004

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

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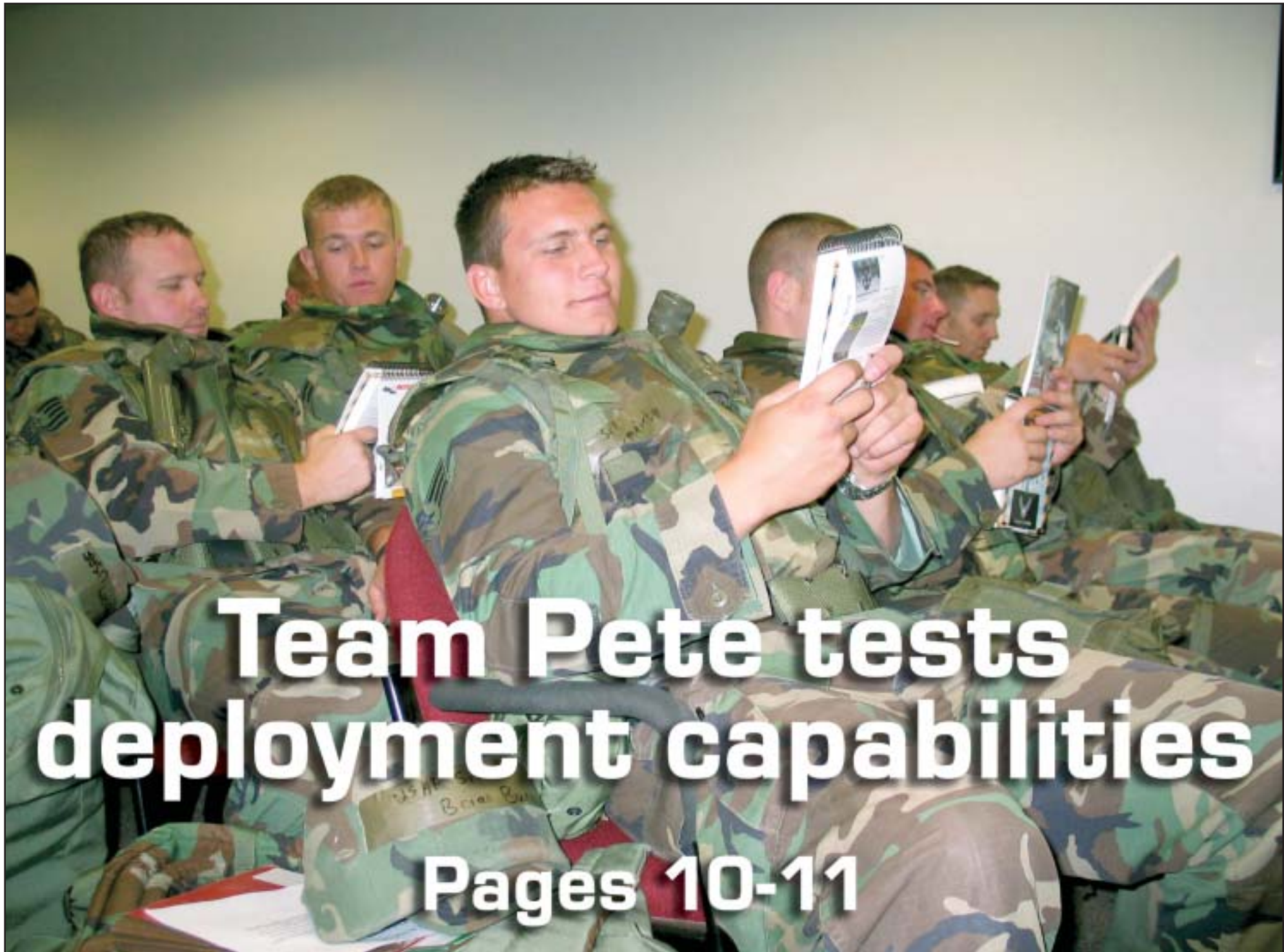


Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ty Foster



Accreditation Survey traces quality care

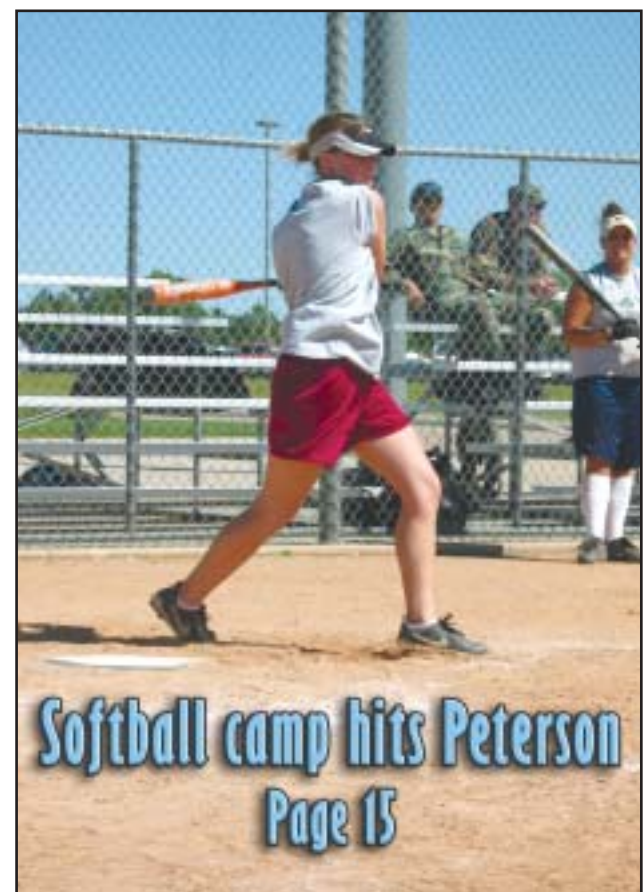
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Public health is nothing to sneeze at



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Photo by Airman Mandy Weightman



Softball camp hits Peterson

Page 15

Photo by Becca Turner



Good record of performance begins with documentation

By Col. Gary Shugart
21st Space Wing Inspector General

One of the more challenging aspects of being a supervisor is providing your troops effective feedback. To help standardize this process, the Air Force now provides preformatted performance feedback worksheets and requires the date of the last feedback session to be documented on Enlisted Performance Reports and Officer Performance Reports.

For most people, this provides an adequate record of areas where improvement is needed. However, for individuals that repeatedly fail to meet

Air Force standards, additional steps need to be taken.

As supervisors, we want to see our troops succeed. If we have an individual who is not meeting Air Force standards, we normally start by verbally counseling the person on what they need to do to improve their performance. With a desire to not hurt an individual's career, some supervisors are reluctant to formally document performance problems and they'll conduct numerous verbal counseling sessions that are never documented.

In some cases, the verbal counseling will correct the poor performance, but in other cases the person's performance does-

n't improve. At some point, the supervisor may reach the conclusion the Airman isn't going to meet Air Force standards and needs to be separated from the Air Force. Unfortunately, without proper documentation it's nearly impossible to build a solid case for discharge.

One of the things supervisors need to remember is they must consider the needs of the Air Force along with the needs of their troops. Supervisors have a responsibility to ensure we remove people from our Air Force who are not willing to live up to our standards. To meet that responsibility, supervisors need to properly document per-

formance problems. If verbal counseling does not produce an improvement in performance then the supervisor needs to start documenting the problems.

In numerous cases, Airmen who failed to respond to verbal counseling for poor performance experienced a complete turn around after they were issued their first written notification of poor performance. Tools available to the supervisor to document poor performance include the Memorandum for Record, Letter of Counseling, Letter of Admonishment and Letter of Reprimand.

A good source to discuss the proper way to prepare docu-

mentation on poor performance is the legal office.

If you receive documentation indicating your performance isn't meeting standards you need to stop and think about how you can change that trend. Commanders and supervisors want to see you succeed in the military. However, they also have a responsibility to ensure standards are fairly enforced and we keep the right people on the team. Considering the efforts ongoing within the Air Force to reduce end strength and reshape the force, people who choose not to meet standards are putting their Air Force career at risk.

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 fax your question to 556-7848.

Parking problem

Question: Why are all the parking spaces at the gas station, by the Commissary, full? The other day when I went to get gas, all the parking spaces for people to pull into after filling their car were filled. The cars waiting in line at the gas pumps for at least five minutes until people they finished shopping. Who is taking up all the parking spaces for patrons of the gas station? There was only one person in the shop when I went to complain. There should be several spaces reserved for people who pump gas so they can pull forward while they pay and shop, and others can get gas. Thank you.

Answer: You're absolutely right! We've submitted a work order for Civil Engineers to make and post signs stating "Service Station Customer Parking only." If you have any additional questions or concerns, please call the AAFES Manager, Ms.

Vickie Smith at 596-7270.

Forgetting the basics

Question: I wonder if we need a remedial class on the proper way to salute. The proper salute is one motion up and one motion down. Starting at the waist and ending at the waist. I see salutes that start at the chest and are only about 8 to 10 inches from start to finish, and ones that go from the head and straight out from the head. A salute is a mutual sign of respect. I feel many in our ranks have forgotten this. If I take the time and thought and have the proper respect to offer a proper and sharp salute than it is a slap in my face or any one else if we are not offered the same courtesy in return of the proper salute. Thank you.

Answer: I salute your commitment to excellence and upholding our customs and courtesies. As a sign of respect among those in the profession of arms, the salute is crisply rendered and returned between a junior enlisted or officer and a higher-ranking officer. It's important to remind ourselves – officer and enlisted alike – on the importance of maintaining and upholding our longstanding customs and courtesies.

Previously unsatisfied

Question: I didn't feel the response about satellite dishes in base housing, published in the July 15 edition of the Space Observer, answers my question. I have since done some research, and had I chosen to live on the Air Force Academy or at Fort

Carson, I would be authorized to install a satellite dish within certain restrictions. The action line response simply told me what the housing office had previously said. My question addressed the fact that there is a service that offers a certain sports package, and that service is a satellite service. Why is it that the other military installations in this area are authorized satellite dishes in housing, but not Peterson?

Answer: Thanks to your research and persistence in this quality-of-life issue, we've recently revised our policy on satellite dish installation in base housing. The new policy allows for dishes that are 18 inches or less in diameter to be installed within the fenced area below the fence line. The dish may not be attached to the fence, storage shed, house or trees. And dishes must be positioned for line of sight to the southern sky. You're fortunate, your housing unit allows for a south facing installation. However, not all housing units will permit the necessary line-of-sight within approved locations because of house or lot location. Unfortunately, in those instances, the request for satellite dish installation will not be approved. Be sure the satellite installer will guarantee alignment or the unit will be taken back. Remember, you must obtain approval from the Housing Flight prior to the satellite dish installation to ensure location satisfies the criteria outlined above. Please contact the Housing Flight at 556-7761, 556-7947, or 556-7173 for additional information.



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A Moment in Time



- **Aug. 22, 1923** – The Barling Bomber made its initial flight.
- **Aug. 23, 1954** – The YC-130 Hercules made its maiden flight from Lockheed Air Terminal, Burbank, Calif.
- **Aug. 23, 1990** – The 89th Military Airlift Wing receives the first of two Boeing VC-25A presidential transport aircraft at Andrews AFB, Md. The VC-25A is a modified 747-200B commercial transport that replaces the VC-137C.
- **Aug. 25, 1966** – The first class of German air force student pilots enters training at Sheppard AFB, Texas. The school will provide 212 pilots per year with training similar to that received by U.S. Air Force pilots.

Medical group undergoes accreditation

By Lt. Col. Brian Grassi
21st Medical Group

The 21st Medical Group hosted surveyors from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations from Aug. 16 to 18. This was the first accreditation survey for the 21st MDG after the organization was reactivated in October.

What made the survey even more challenging was that JCAHO


had changed their survey methodology, now titled "Shared Visions – New Pathways."

This new survey methodology has a major focus on patient and data tracers, which traces a patient's care through each clinic or service the patient visited during an appointment. Patients are randomly picked using the day's appointment rosters and then the surveyors "trace" the care through the stages of that appoint-

ment – this could include talking to the patient's family practice provider, the technician who inprocessed them and took their vital signs, the laboratory technician who drew their blood and the pharmacy staff member who dispensed their prescription. Besides these tracers, key staff members were interviewed on a variety of areas including leadership, staff competency and the care environment. Based on the surveyors' initial report, the 21st

MDG performed very well.

"We had 21 young Airmen and officers recognized by the surveyors as outstanding performers," said Chief Master Sgt. Victor Geary, 21st MDG Superintendent. "General Webber presented the 21 members of Team 21 with a coin for their performance."

A final report will be available within the next two weeks and the 21st MDG expects to receive a full three-year accreditation. 

Open season begins for life insurance

By Master Sgt. Ron Tull
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Federal employees will be able to enroll or make changes to their group life insurance as part of a special open season Sept. 1 - 30. The event marks the 50th anniversary of the insurance program.

"We estimate 127,000 Air Force employees will be eligible to enroll or increase their life insurance," said Maria Molly, Air Force Personnel Center benefits and entitlements chief here.

"The last time federal employees were allowed to make these kinds of changes was five years ago," Ms. Molly said. "Normally it would take a 'qualifying life event' or the employee getting a physical at their expense. This open season doesn't require a physical or answering any questions about one's health."

The Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance

program consists of basic life insurance coverage and three options including coverage for up to five times an employee's base salary plus coverage for family members. In most cases, a new employee is automatically covered by basic life insurance. The types and amounts of coverages available are not changing. Newly elected coverage will take effect after Sept. 1, 2005. The reason for the delay is to prevent employees increasing coverage only when they know they need it, resulting in a high number of immediate claims, said officials at the personnel management office here. Such claims increase the program's costs.


"This is a great opportunity, but I urge everyone to do their homework and remember that the premiums increase with age," Ms. Molly said. Information about the FEGLI program and the open season can be found at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/menu.htm.

There is a calculator available to help compute premium cost at [www.opm.gov/calculator/work-](http://www.opm.gov/calculator/work-sheet.asp)

[sheet.asp](http://www.opm.gov/calculator/work-sheet.asp).

Air Force-serviced civilian employees can make open season elections electronically via the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team automated Web or phone system. The Web-based system is located at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm. Employees in the United States can reach the automated phone system at 800-616-3775. Overseas employees must first dial a direct-access number for the country they are calling from and then dial 800-997-2378.

Hearing impaired employees may reach a benefits counselor by calling TDD toll-free at 800-382-0893. Benefits counselors are available weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Daylight Time.

The federal government established the FEGLI program Aug. 29, 1954. It's the largest group life insurance program in the world, covering more than 4 million federal employees and retirees, as well as many of their family members. 

VOTE: Officials urge early voter registration

By Master Sgt. Ron Tull
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Airmen deploying between now and the general election Nov. 2 should register to vote with their deployed unit address before departing, said voting officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

Registration can be accomplished by completing a Federal Post Card Application Standard Form 76. Some states will accept the form electronically or by fax. The form and all the state rules can be found on the "Airmen Votes" Web page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/air-menvotes.


"Registering in advance means the balloting materials will be waiting for them at their forward location," said John Lowrance, Air Force assistant voting action officer. "Deploying (Airmen) who do not yet know their deployment address or cannot

release it, will need to take some additional steps.

"They'll need to file an SF 76 explaining in the remarks box that no address is available," he said. "This will prevent the state from sending balloting materials. All states are different, but many will not resend balloting materials."

When people find out their address or if there is a change of address while deployed, they will need to send another SF 76 with their new APO/FPO address checking off "Mail Absentee Ballot To." In the remarks section, people should include the dates they will be absent, enter their old address and write in block letters the words "OLD ADDRESS."

Under the updated address, the applicant writes in block letters "NEW ADDRESS."

"The bottom line is to know your state rules and not make your ballot come looking for you," Mr. Lowrance said. 

Officials ensure servicemembers opportunity to vote in absentia

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense officials are committed to ensuring servicemembers have the ability to vote from anywhere in the world, Department of Defense's top personnel officer said.

"We're making a decided effort to make sure everyone gets the chance to vote," said David S. C. Chu, undersecretary for personnel and readiness.

Voting assistance officers are available on military installations and in units to assist servicemembers in finding information for their home states and districts. These officers can help people register to vote and request absentee ballots.

The U.S. Postal Service has committed to sending voting materials to and from servicemembers overseas via express mail, Mr. Chu said.

"This year, the post office is going ... to expedite the movement of absentee ballots ... to help us be sure they get out there in time and to get back and get counted," he said.

DOD officials have designated two specific timeframes to raise awareness of issues facing military voters specifically and everyone who must vote by absentee ballot. Sept. 3 to 11, which includes Labor Day, has been designated Armed Forces Voters Week. Columbus Day week, Oct. 11

to 15, will be Overseas Voting Week.

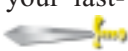
Voting assistance officers will redouble their efforts to get information to potential voters during these weeks, a DOD spokesman said. Commanders and supervisors will also highlight the importance of voting and options available to troops.

"We want to bring to light the availability of services provided to assist military members and their family members," the spokesman said.

A good source of information is the Web site of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, Mr. Chu said. The site includes links to absentee voting rules for all states and jurisdictions.

From this site, potential voters can fill out and submit an on-line version of the Federal Post Card Application, which allows individuals to register to vote or request an absentee ballot from nearly all U.S. jurisdictions.

Finally, Mr. Chu said, people should be aware they can use a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to vote in congressional and presidential elections if they do not receive their absentee ballots in time. Information on using this form is also available on the FVAP Web site at www.fvap.gov.

"You can (use this form) if you're a registered voter," Mr. Chu said. "And that is one of your last-ditch options." 

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 "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.



Program aims to help military spouses interested in teaching

By Samantha L. Quigley

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Spouses to Teachers, the Defense Department's latest endeavor to help military spouses interested in teaching, is serving a similar purpose as the popular Troops to Teachers program, an official said.

Department officials established Troops to Teachers in 1994, and responsibility for the program was recently transferred to the U.S. Department of Education. Troops to Teachers was created to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low-income families throughout America, according to the Troops to Teachers Web site.

Troops to Teachers laid the groundwork for Spouses to Teachers in providing individual state information, said Michael Melo, director of a Spouses to Teachers pilot program in Virginia, and director of Virginia's Troops to Teachers program.

Spouses to Teachers is currently a pilot program in six states: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Virginia. The program was prompted by military spouses who were already teachers or interested in teaching, but were facing difficulties finding certifi-

cation requirements and job information when they moved, said Gary Woods, acting director of DOD educational opportunities.

The program would offer information, counseling and guidance to eligible, interested individuals, they said. Initially, eligibility is limited to those with a bachelor's degree who are spouses of active-duty servicemembers and members of the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve on extended duty.

It will also offer limited financial assistance to help defray the costs of meeting state certification requirements in the pilot states.

On the future Spouses to Teachers Web site and in offices that will be handling the program, the goal is to provide information on teacher-certification requirements within a state. They will also have information on what kinds of jobs are available and share that between the system they are currently teaching in and systems they may be transferring into, Mr. Woods said.

These sources also aim to make spouses aware of additional course requirements for certification or credentialing within the new state and make sure spouses know where they

can turn for potential financial assistance to pursue those courses.

Because of that established network, the Virginia Spouses to Teachers office is able to help transferring spouses become aware of how they may need to augment their certification, as certifications are not always accepted in a different school system, Mr. Melo said.

"Because of the network we have from Troops to Teachers with the Department of Education, with the school districts, with the colleges, we're able to provide that information that the spouses need on what they need to do to be certified in a particular state," Mr. Melo said.

Even before the Web site has been posted, the response has been positive, Mr. Melo said.

"We're actually surprised at the number of phone calls we've already received," he said.

Four spouses are in the Virginia pilot program, and one has entered an academic program that will lead to a license.

While the program serves spouses interested in teaching, it also helps ease the burden of a national teacher shortage. The benefits, however, are not lim-

ited to the schools that stand to get quality teachers out of the program. The students reap rewards as well.

Like the former troops who take up chalk and eraser, military spouses bring some of the same skills to the classroom.

"The military spouse has (a) variety of life experiences that they've gained as a military spouse," Mr. Melo said. "So when they come into the classroom, they bring those same experiences so they can impart those life experiences in the learning process of the students."

Military families can come out ahead, too. This provides an opportunity for a spouse to pursue a degree and a career that will provide the family a better income over time, Mr. Woods said.

"One of the things that we're primarily interested in right now is providing access to careers for spouses that will enhance the family bottom line," he said.

The Spouses to teachers web page launched Wednesday and is linked to the national Troops to Teachers Web site, www.proudtoserveagain.com. That's the best source of information right now, they said.



Energy
conservation tips

Hot water heating typically accounts for more than 10 percent of a residence's energy usage. Setting the water heater to 120 degrees or the minimum temperature required for your appliances can significantly reduce energy use and prevent scalding of young children.

MEDICAL GROUP MAKES ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Peterson Clinic will close from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sept. 23 and Oct. 28.

Members of the Health Consumers Advisory Council remind everyone of the 21st Space Wing policy that children, 8 years old or less, may not be left unsupervised on base at any time. This also applies to visits to the 21st Medical Group. The Medical Group has no capabilities to supervise children. Parents must plan appropriately, or reschedule visits, when they are unable to supervise their children.

ASSOCIATION SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Noncommissioned Officer Association needs volunteers to help sell seatbacks and programs during the U.S. Air Force Academy football season. To view the football schedule, visit www.airforcesports.com. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bill Gardner at 554-2745 or e-mail william.gardner@peterson.af.mil.

SECURITY FORCES, CSPD CRACKDOWN

During peak traffic hours in the morning, there are vehicles coming off of Platte Avenue onto the Peterson Boulevard ramp to enter the North Gate. Some vehicle operators are making an illegal right-hand turn at the intersection of Space Village Road and Peterson Boulevard. This is a Class A traffic law infraction. At this intersection people are only allowed to go straight or left as the sign signifies. The 21st Security Forces Squadron has teamed up with Colorado Springs Police Department to cite violators. People will be cited for failure to obey traffic control devices. The fine is \$60.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

The Rocky Mountain Field Institute is hosting

the 12th Annual Volunteer Weekend at Shelf Road in celebration of National Public Lands Day, and as part of the Access Fund's Adopt-A-Crag program. For more information or to register, call 719-471-7736.

WING NEEDS PLANNERS FOR NCO WORKSHOP

Volunteers are needed to organize the 21st Space Wing Noncommissioned Officer Workshop planned for Sept. 16 through 17. For more information or to volunteer, call Staff Sgt. Leticia Johnson at 556-1341 or e-mail leticia.johnson@peterson.af.mil.

HONOR GUARD SEEKS APPLICANTS

The Peterson Honor Guard has an opening and is looking for a new member. Member must be a technical or master sergeant. To apply, members must have a resume or biography, a copy of their past five enlisted performance reports and an 8"x10" official photograph. For more information, call 556-8029.

PIKES PEAK ROAD RUNNERS OFFER MILITARY DISCOUNT

The Pikes Peak Road Runners offer a \$10 discount for any entries for the Discovery Trail Marathon or Half-Marathon for all active-duty military and their dependents in the Pikes Peak region. Entries must be received before Friday. For more information, visit www.pprun.org.

CIVIL ENGINEERS ANNOUNCE POWER OUTAGES

Electrical power outages in select military family housing units are scheduled through today. Affected residents will receive direct written notification. For more information, call Roger Williams at 491-4183.

MARROW REGISTRATION SET

There is a Defense Department Marrow Program Registration Drive from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Tuesday at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force

Station in the aerobics room. Members must have or arrange for CMAFS access in order to register. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kristin Clark at 556-9158.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER OFFERS CLASSES

The following classes are held in the Family Support Center classroom, 135 Dover Street, Bldg. 350, Room 1016, unless otherwise specified. Registration is required for all classes. To register, please call the Family Support Center at 556-6141 or stop by the FSC.

■ **CAREER MARKETING** – From 8 a.m. to noon today, a workshop on conducting an effective job search, writing a competitive resumé and interviewing effectively for a job. This workshop is offered once a month.

■ **ESTATE PLANNING** – From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today, learn how to estimate estate value and plan for future business, personal and health-care needs. This seminar provides an estate planning sampler, as well as information on disability planning, powers of attorney, living will, long-term care and death taxes. The presenter is attorney Skip Morgan. This seminar is offered every other month.

■ **READINESS BRIEFING** – From 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday. This is a mandatory briefing for those who are being deployed or going on a remote tour. This briefing educates members on the three phases involved with separation and the programs available for families left behind. Spouses are welcome. This briefing is offered once a week.

■ **PRE-SEPARATION BRIEFING** – From 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, this is a mandatory briefing for people who are retiring or separating from the military. Anyone retiring or separating must have this briefing no later than 90 days before separation or retirement. This briefing, offered every other week, covers veterans' benefits and the services of the Transition Assistance Program.

Chapel Schedule



Protestant Worship Services:

Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m. Sunday
 Sunday School 9:35 a.m. Sunday
 Inspirational Service, 12:30 p.m. Sunday
 Contemporary Service, 5 p.m. Sunday

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.



A year of firsts – 1983

■ Feb. 3 – Strategic Air Command completes the retrofitting of 300 Minuteman III ICBMs with new re-entry systems to modernize America's retaliatory capability.

■ April 1 – SAC transfers Peterson AFB, Colo., to Air Force Space Command.

■ April 22 – Air Force Headquarters designates Air Force Space Command as the operator and resource manager of the Milstar satellite system.

■ May 1 – SAC transfers to AFSPC resource management of Defense Support Program, Defense Meteorological Satellite Program, all missile warning and space surveillance radars and optical systems – Pave PAWS, Ballistic Missile Early-Warning System, Primary Atomic Reference Clock in Space, Cobra Dane, AN/FPS-85, Baker-Nunn, Ground-based Electrical-Optical Deep Space Surveillance – as well as Thule and Sondrestrom ABs in Greenland and Clear Air Force Station, Alaska.

■ May 17 – AFSPC acquires newly established Falcon AFS, Colo., for the development of a Consolidated Space Operations Center.

■ June 9 – The Deputy Secretary of Defense designates the commander of AFSPC as the Department of Defense manager for Space Transportation System Contingency Support Operations.

■ June 13 – Pioneer 10 becomes

the first spacecraft to leave the solar system.

■ June 17 – The Peacekeeper ICBM, carrying multiple warheads, launches for the first time at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. The unarmed warheads landed in the Kwajalein target area in the Pacific Ocean.

■ June 18 – Sally K. Ride is the first U.S. woman to journey into outer space as a Challenger crewmember of the seventh space-shuttle mission.

■ Aug. 30 – Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford is the first black astronaut to journey into outer space aboard the Challenger on the eighth space-shuttle mission.



Courtesy photos

First ones up

ABOVE: Astronaut Guion Bluford, the first black man to enter outer space, exercises on the middeck treadmill during his first shuttle flight, the STS-8.

RIGHT: Astronaut Sally Ride, the first woman in outer space.



Registered to vote? It's not too late.

Armed Forces Voters Week Sept. 3-11
Contact your unit voting assistance counsellor for more information or visit www.fvap.gov.

Program launches help for returning combatants, families

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

BETHESDA, Md. – A team of experts in military medicine and health communication at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences here launched a new health education campaign Aug. 24 – “Courage to Care.”

In particular, Courage to Care is aimed at helping combatants reintegrate back into their families after surviving the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. In general, the campaign is geared toward the entire Defense Department community – active-duty, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers and their families, as well as the health and community providers who serve them.

Courage to Care consists of ready-to-use fact sheets written for physician providers, as well as servicemembers, on topics about military life and health. The fact sheets are in the public domain, intended for distribution to provider networks and can be customized with a site’s local contact information and resources.

The first of two fact sheets is titled “Reintegration Roadmap – Shared Sense of Purpose,” and is for the health- and social-service provider. Its companion sheet, “Becoming a Couple Again, Creating a Shared Sense of Purpose,” is for military couples experiencing the transition.

The content derives from interviews conducted by the university’s health professionals with affected servicemembers and families who have experienced combat stress and family separation. The fact sheets describe the reintegration challenges and offer a step-by-step process to help re-establish relationships as couples and as families.

Nancy Vineburgh, assistant professor of psychiatry, coined the campaign’s name to convey the



courage to care from military doctors, psychiatrists and counselors. It also conveys the courage to care that military families and communities must assume in caring for their own health.

Ms. Vineburgh, who has worked on national public education, health education and health promotion campaigns, said she designed the fact sheets to be concise, contemporary and attractive. That in turn should facilitate and sustain the health dialogue between provider and the servicemembers on the receiving end.

Army Col. Charles Serio, the university’s brigade commander, sent a copy of the fact sheet to a relative who just returned from the battlefield, Ms. Vineburgh said.

“His wife said it was attractive enough to put on their refrigerator to remind them in the months ahead of the ‘relationship makers and relationship breakers’ outlined in the fact sheet,” she said.

“People tend to read and hold on to information that is attractive,” Ms. Vineburgh said. “These are issues that won’t go away overnight. Our team wanted to address not just the issues, but the process of healing and recovery.”

The university-based program is the brainchild of retired Col. (Dr.) Robert Ursano, professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and director of the university’s Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress.

Dr. Ursano was prompted to establish the program after receiving an e-mail message from a young woman whose brother, a Soldier of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., was returning home for two weeks of rest and recuperation, said Col. (Dr.) Molly Hall, an associate professor of psychiatry.

The woman wanted to know how the family should prepare to welcome her brother home from the battlefields of Iraq. She also wanted to know what issues the family should understand before he arrived to diffuse any combat trauma he might have suffered.

“That e-mail wound its way to us,” Dr. Hall said. “Out of that request came the first health fact sheet on coming home for servicemembers and their families on reunion.”

The fact sheet on reintegration was posted on the center’s Web site before Courage to Care became a university-wide campaign, Dr. Hall said.

Courage to Care speaks to the family’s need and recognizes their energy, effort and caring, Dr. Ursano said.

“Whether it’s taking care of a Soldier who’s lost his legs or whether it’s taking care of a child with chronic diabetes, we forget what it means and how much energy families (give) to those activities,” he said. “It requires their courage to face it every day in order to manage those types of health problems.”

“Courage to Care is an extension of our work in educating health providers and to enhance their communication with (servicemembers) and their families,” Dr. Ursano said.

“There’s a lot of health information out there, but it is often imbedded in comprehensive, health information Web sites,” Ms. Vineburgh said. “We wanted something simple and direct that could be used in provider offices as a take away for the military family or servicemember. The university provides access to some of the nation’s leading military medicine experts and providers, and we wanted to bring that expertise to the DOD community.”

Topics in future issues will include, “Workplace Re-entry of Guard and Reserve,” “Deployment Impact on Children and Families,” “Women’s Health During Deployment,” and “Talking About Injury With Spouse and Family.”

Courage to Care fact sheets can be downloaded from the uniformed university’s Web site at www.usuhs.mil/psy/courage.html. For more information, call 301-295-2470.



Versatile staff keeps public healthy

By Airman
Mandy Weightman
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

In a corner of the clinic, in the back of a hallway, to the right, sits another hallway often busy with military members either nearing a deployment or just returning from one, all with one thing in mind – medical reviews.

This area of the Peterson Clinic is Public Health. One of the main reasons military members go there is to have their medical records reviewed. The most important public health mission is to prevent disease and educate people on health hazards, said Master Sgt. Heinz Kiefer, the NCO in charge for the Public Health Flight.

To many people, with the exception of those who have had to visit before or after a deployment, the words public health are linked to sexually transmitted disease counseling, Sergeant Kiefer said.

Although that is one of the things offered through the public health clinic, there are many other areas these people are trained in. They provide a number of programs dealing with subjects such as food safety, immunizations and



occupational health.

“One of our main duties is to make sure people are medically qualified for deployment,” said Angel Ciernia, a public health technician at the clinic. “I make sure the administrative parts are done correctly.”

One of her main duties in the clinic is to perform record reviews for clearance on things such as retirement separation, security clearances and medical profiles.

Although they have all been assigned a specific duty, the jobs in public health are interchangeable.

“Everyone here is very versatile,” Ms. Ciernia said.

A merger between public health and flight medicine in October 2002 put the versatility of the staff to the test.

“The merger brought on more duties for the public health people, such as record reviewing,

but we are meeting the challenge,” Ms. Ciernia said.

Another program is the deployment medicine program, which ensures all deploying members are medically cleared and educated on the health risks of the area they are deploying to. They are also required to have an appointment with public health when they return to ensure they weren’t exposed to health hazards while they were deployed. Health risks such as small pox and anthrax are two of the largest concerns, said Senior Airman Maureen Nunez, a public health technician who’s main duty is to make sure military members are world-wide qualified for deployment.

“In addition to scheduled smallpox appointments, there is a smallpox briefing every Thursday,” Airman Nunez said. She often gives the smallpox briefings and deals with many of the deploying members.

No matter the service they are providing, public health technicians feel that although they may not have a glorious job, it is an important one, said Sergeant Kiefer.

“Public Health is vital to the Air Force mission,” said Airman Nunez.



Photo by Airman Mandy Weightman

Airman Ronetta Braggs, a medical records technician for the 21st Medical Group demonstrates a hearing test in the Public Health Clinic. Hearing tests are one of the multiple services Public Health provides.

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 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.*

SUSPICIOUS STROLLER – Aug. 23

Security Forces was notified of a suspicious

looking person around Dormitory 1270. The caller said the person was a male 19 to 22 years old, between 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 10 inches in height and weighed around 150 to 165 pounds.

THREATENING TROUBLE – Aug. 23

Security forces received a report from someone stating that he had been verbally threatened. They advised the victim to also file a report with the Sand Creek Law Enforcement division.

SCRATCH AND RUN – Aug. 23

Security forces responded to a parking lot near Dormitory 1270 where a person reported that his vehicle had been damaged. The person said that there was a full-length scratch on the passenger side of his car. Nobody has been linked to the caper.

BARRICADED IN HOUSE – Aug. 25

Security received a call from a person stating that a coworker had been verbally assaulted.

The victim stated the person should not be contacted until the alcohol was out of his system. Security forces entered the house later to see the man run and lock himself into a room. The victim stated that there were two firearms in the house, so the security forces professionals backed out and set up a cordon to ensure public safety. The Colorado Springs Police Department also responded to the scene. The CSPD took the man into custody after he decided to give up.

ALARMING TRENDS CONTINUE:

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

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

Senior leadership eligible again for time-in-grade waiver

By Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials are again offering lieutenant colonels and colonels a reduction of the time-in-grade requirement retirement.

Reduction of the three-year time-in-grade requirement for those officers to retire in their current grade dropped to no less than two years. Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche authorized personnel officials May 6 to reduce the time restriction. That offer reopened Aug. 12 for fiscal 2005.

"We remain focused on solving our end-strength problem through voluntary programs," said Maj. John Silverman, chief of Air Force retirement and separation policy.

"The recent law change allowing officers to retire with a minimum of two years time in grade is reflective of that effort and was another tool in our kit for which we wanted to take advantage," Major Silverman said. "Although relatively small, this program helps us toward meeting our mandated Air Force ends strength. As part of the force shaping, we also opened a similar opportunity for our retirement eligible senior noncommissioned officers, waving up to 18 months of their obligated service commitment for putting on a new stripe." Retiring officers must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a lieutenant colonel or colonel on active duty with at least two years and less than three years time in grade on the requested retirement date to retire under this authority.

- Must have served at least 20 years of total active federal military service and 10 years commissioned service by the requested retirement date to be eligible to request a reduced time-

in-grade retirement.

- Must have served satisfactorily in grade.

- All Air Force specialty codes may apply.

- Deployed people may apply; however, the requested retirement date must be at least 30 days following their return to home station. Member must retire not later than Sept. 1, 2005. Deployment periods will not be curtailed.

Waivers of active-duty service commitments will be given according to the limited active-duty service-commitment waiver program.

Officers under investigation for alleged misconduct, pending the disposition of an adverse personnel action for alleged misconduct, or recalled to active duty, are ineligible for the waiver.

The number of people permitted to retire with the reduced time in grade is limited to no more than 2 percent of the total number of people on active duty in that grade during each fiscal year.

The Air Force is projected to have 10,460 lieutenant colonels and 3,640 colonels on active duty Oct. 1. Two percent of these totals equate to a maximum of 212 lieutenant colonels and 72 colonels who may retire with the reduced time in grade in fiscal 2005.

"We are presently taking applications for retirement dates through Sept. 1, 2005, and expect a higher application acceptance rate over last year's fiscal program, especially since our officers have more time to plan for retirement," Major Silverman said.

"As soon as we meet the two percent ceiling, the program will close," he said.

Officers interested in this program can contact their servicing military personnel flight, or visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape2.htm.

2004 Falcon Football Home Game Schedule

Sept. 11 Eastern Washington vs. Air Force
Game time: TBA

Sept. 30 Navy vs. Air Force
Game time: 5:45 p.m.

Oct. 9 New Mexico vs. Air Force
Game time: TBA

Oct. 23 BYU vs. Air Force
Game time: TBA

Nov. 13 San Diego State vs. Air Force
Game time: TBA

Nov. 20 Colorado State vs. Air Force
Game time: TBA

21st and 50th Space Wing Tailgate Party

California vs. Air Force 10 a.m. game time

Who: All base personnel and families are invited to have a blast

When: Saturday 8 to 10 a.m.

Where: Air Force Academy's Falcon Stadium, Lot 4, Space 2

Food: Hot dogs, burgers, chips and drinks will be available for free. You are welcome to bring your favorite tailgate meat, food or drinks.

Barbecue grills and coolers with ice will be provided.

Contacts: 21st Space Wing, Senior Master Sgt. Linwood Murphy at 556-7000 or 50th Space Wing, Capt. Kevin Brackin at 243-4074.

Falcon Stadium Map



Command inspectors test wing's war-fighting skills

By Senior Master Sgt. Ty Foster
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The 21st Space Wing opened its doors and deployment processes to Air Force Space Command inspectors as the wing's first Expeditionary Readiness Inspection, dubbed Condor Contest ERI, kicked off here Aug. 26.

"Our transition to wartime footing, battle staff and deployment planning was outstanding!" said Brig. Gen. Richard E. Webber, 21st SW commander.

As part of the Air Force inspection program, ERIs are normally conducted every 24 months, said Col. Gary W. Shugart, 21st SW inspector general. They are used to "evaluate and measure a unit's ability to prepare and deploy to a theater of war during Phase One – and determine the ability to perform their missions in a deployed environment during Phase Two.

"While the expeditionary nature of today's Air Force results in people routinely being deployed from the 21st Space Wing, the ERI is designed to present a scenario which tests our ability to rapidly deploy a large number of people," Colonel Shugart said. "It goes back to the fundamental purpose of having inspections. The AFSPC/IG wants to evaluate the readiness of the 21st Space Wing to efficiently and effectively handle a 'worst case' deployment scenario."

Three mission areas are being evaluated in the inspection.

"Initial response is focused on preparing and deploying assigned unit type codes [UTCs]," Colonel Shugart said.

The Logistics Readiness war machine started spinning up as soon as the warning order was issued, said Mr. Ron Perron, installation deployment officer. Requests for passenger and cargo transportation were processed and units made final preparations for shipment over the weekend.

"Our Deployment Control Center and deployment pro-

cessing line is among the best I have ever seen!" General Webber said.

The second area for evaluation is mission support.

"Mission support looks at the ability of organizations such as personnel, civil engineering, legal, services and medical to provide support in a deployed environment," said Lt. Col. L.J. Van Belkum, 21st SW deputy inspector general.

Unit deployment managers prepped their people to process through the deployment line in support of the mission at Pete East, the Base X location for field evaluations.

Once in the field, the AFSPC inspectors engage the wing's deployed team in various scenarios as a means to evaluate the third element in an ERI – the ability to survive and operate.

"During the field exercise at Pete East, wing personnel will be evaluated on numerous skills such as their ability to perform their primary mission skills in a field environment, properly handle their weapons, administer self-aid buddy care, and perform

chemical or biological decontamination and contamination avoidance," Colonel Van Belkum said.

At the inspection's midpoint, General Webber, offered kudos to those under his command.

"We are off to a great start," he said. "Now, it is up to our deployed folks to demonstrate their wartime skills and Airman's Manual tasks. I'm confident they will do the same outstanding job they do each and every day."

In addition to and ERI, the wing is also subject to compliance inspections which are conducted every 48 months, the last CI was conducted September 2003. A CI assesses areas mandated by law as well as mission areas identified by senior Air Force and major command leadership as critical or important to assess/assure the health and performance of organizations.

The wing is due for an ORI in the coming months, Colonel Shugart said. Conducted every 24 months, an ORI evaluates and measures a unit's ability to execute its "Fight-in-Place" mission.



Senior Airman Mary Gates, 21st Mission Support Squadron, checks Airman 1st Class Juan Reynoso's, 21st Civil Engineer Squadron utilities shop, dog tags and ID card in the deployment line. Team Pete's civil engineers deployed a large contingent of people to Pete East to manage power, water, sanitation and post-attack reconnaissance.



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Ty Foster
Master Sgt. Mike McGrady, Condor Contest ERI first sergeant, ponies up some cash for his Meals Ready to Eat. In the field, MREs pack essential nutrition and about 2,200 calories into one small package.



Tech. Sgt. Terry Gustafson, a cargo deployment facility entry control augmentee from Detachment 11, verifies Staff Sgt. Felicia Beyale's, 21st Mission Support Squadron mobility equipment custodian, identification. Detachment 11 personnel fulfilled vital roles in the CDF area as entry controllers and building cargo pallets.



Senior Master Sgt. Rick Forgett, AFSPC Chief Logistics Readiness inspector, verifies the joint inspection form on a Security Forces cargo container.



Airman Miralem Bekric (left), a 21st Logistics Readiness Squadron cargo passenger service worker, follows Master Sgt. Ronald Lacy's, NCO in charge of the cargo deployment facility, spotting signals to properly adjust the forklift tines for cargo processing.



Team Pete's noteworthy events

To submit information for the base calendar, e-mail space.observer@peterson.af.mil

Friday, Sept. 3

Saturday, Sept. 4
California vs. Air Force

Monday, Sept. 4
Labor Day – Holiday

Saturday, Sept. 11
Eastern Washington vs. Air Force

Monday, Sept. 13
Football Frenzy at the Enlisted Club will kick off the football season. The Enlisted Club will be open for Monday Night Football throughout the season. This will also be the start of the club's membership drive.

Tuesday, Sept. 14
POW/MIA Day – The 21st Space Wing will host a POW/MIA ceremony at 4 p.m. at the flag poles in front of building 845.

Saturday, Sept. 18
Air Force Birthday

This Week

Today

- Play Group, 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Youth Center.
- Family Swim Night, 6 p.m. at the Aquatics Center.*

Friday

- Social Hour, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Enlisted Club.*
- Throughout the Holiday weekend, the Silver Spruce Golf Course will be holding a Course Championship.

Saturday

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

Sunday

- Use the Automotive Skills Center.*

Monday

- Water aerobics class, 6 p.m. at the Aquatics Center.*

Tuesday

- Family Swim Night, 6 p.m. at the Aquatics Center.*

Wednesday

- Eat the weekly ethnic meal at the Aragon Dining Facility.*
- Take an aerobics class at 12:05 or 5:10 p.m.*
- Back to Basics Circuit Course can assist with staying Fit to Fight at 11 a.m. For more information, call 556-4462.

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

at your SERVICE

Fitness Center aka Fit to Fight Center

The Peterson Fitness and Sports Center offers a variety of activities daily to assist Team Pete members in their goal to be fit to fight.

The center is hosting the Air Force Womens Softball Camp Aug. 25 to Sept. 12, as well as the DOD Womens Softball Tournament Sept. 15 to 17.

Softball isn't the only thing happening at the Fitness Center.

There will be a flag football tournament Sept. 7 to 9, the deadline for sign-ups is Sept. 5.

In honor of POW/MIA Day, the center will hold a 5K/10K run Sept. 17 at 11:30. People interested in participating can sign up at the front desk of the Fitness Center until the

start of the race.

An Ultimate Frisbee Tournament is scheduled for Sept. 21 to 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The deadline for sign-ups is Sept. 19.

September 25 will be a busy day for the Fitness Center. They will conduct a 35-mile bike ride from Peterson to Schriever AFB at 10 a.m. Participants can sign up until the ride starts.

They will also hold a 5K/10K run/walk in honor of the Aero Club's 50th Anniversary at 11:30 a.m. Participants can sign up until the race starts.

For more information on any of the events, call the Fitness Center at 556-4462.

(Information courtesy of the Peterson Sports and Fitness Center)



Photo by Dennis Plummer

Airman 1st Class Jeremy Littlefield, Space Communications Squadron, does stiff-legged dead lifts to help develop stronger hamstrings.

ARAGON DINING FACILITY MENU

Today

Lunch:

- Herbed Baked Chicken
- Stuffed Cabbage
- Southern Fried Chicken
- Black-eyed Peas with Rice
- Mashed Potatoes
- Sweet Potatoes
- Mixed Vegetables
- Peas

Dinner:

- Roast Loin of Pork
- Jaeger with Mushroom Sauce
- Glazed Cornish Hen
- Potato Halves
- Orange Rice
- Carrots
- Simmered Pinto Beans
- Corn Combination

Friday

Lunch:

- Mexican Baked Chicken
- Swiss Steak with Tomato Sauce
- Stuffed Green Pepper
- Baked Macaroni and Cheese
- Steamed Rice
- Corn on the Cob
- Spanish Style Beans
- Peas and Carrots

Dinner:

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

Monday

Lunch:

- Swiss Steak with Tomato Sauce
- Baked Chicken
- Hot Italian Sausage
- Peppers and Onions
- Steamed Rice
- Mashed Potatoes
- Broccoli Polonaise
- Carrots

Dinner:

- Roast Turkey
- Baked Can Ham
- Raisin Sauce
- Fish and Fries
- Mashed Potatoes
- Corn Bread
- Dressing
- Succotash
- Tempura Vegetables
- Herbed Green Beans

Saturday

Brunch:

- Crispy Baked Chicken
- Cajun Meat Loaf
- Grilled Steak
- Baked Potatoes
- Broccoli
- Peas
- Glazed Carrots

Tuesday

Lunch:

- Onion-Lemon Baked Fish
- Steak/Pork Schnitzel
- Yakisoba Beef and Spaghetti
- Baked Potatoes
- Mashed Potatoes
- Simmered Pinto Beans
- Spinach
- Stewed Tomatoes

Dinner:

- Paprika Beef
- Barbecue Beef
- Cubes
- Chicken Fajitas
- O'Brien Potatoes
- Steamed Rice
- Cauliflower
- Corn on the Cob
- Lima Beans

Wednesday

Lunch:

- Caribbean Jerk Chicken
- Beef Porcupines
- Chicken Enchiladas
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Steamed Rice
- Mexican Corn
- Peas and Onions
- Savory Baked Beans

Dinner:

- Pita Pizzas
- Country Style Steak
- Fried Chicken
- Oven Brown Potatoes
- Mashed Potatoes
- Fried Cauliflower
- Bean Combo
- Cabbage



Risk management: It's no fairytale

By Sandra Mock
21st Space Wing Safety Office

Once upon a time, there were bright young men and women who enlisted in the Air Force. They came from far and wide, from high schools and colleges, to serve their country, earn some money or get an education. They worked hard and played hard, but they had fun and enjoyed what they did. Some served a few years, others served many. They left the Air Force with more than when they entered – physically, mentally, emotionally. Above all, they left the Air Force alive and in one piece because they followed all the safety rules on the job and used personal risk management off the job.

Stories that begin with “once upon a time” are just that – stories. In real life, plans don't always work out. Life is not fair and you have to work at it to keep it on an even keel. And, believe it or not, using safety in your daily life – on or off duty – can help. “How,” you say with skepticism? Sometimes it's the little things

that get you.

Let's say the commander has given everyone a family day – like tomorrow – and you decide to take the family on a trip to see the sights. But you don't do a lot of planning because it's supposed to be fun, right? The tires on the car aren't in great shape, the antifreeze hasn't been checked in months, the weatherman is predicting storms and that last paycheck just matched this month's bills. But what the heck, off you go!

One hundred miles later, one of the tires gets a flat – no big deal there's a spare. Then the rain comes and instead of traveling 70 miles an hour you can only go 40.

Finally, the rain stops, out comes the sun and the temperature outside goes up along with the temperature gauge on the dash. You have to stop in the next town and have the engine checked. The mechanic says you need a new water pump. Man that hurts the pocketbook! By now you are a few

hundred miles from home, your car is in better shape than when you left, you need a place to stay and you are out of ready cash. Since this story didn't begin with “once upon a time,” we all know there is no happy ending. If you had taken the time to do a little risk management you would have been better prepared for the unexpected.

That's what safety is – being prepared for the unexpected. Things such as: wearing steel toed boots to protect against the possibility of a falling object; turning off the circuit breaker before working on an electrical outlet to prevent a shocking experience; wearing a seatbelt to keep your body in the car instead of under it; and following traffic rules so

everyone can drive safely on the road. But many people don't think anything can happen to them if they don't use safety. You've heard it before “I've been doing it this way for years and I haven't been hurt yet,” – or – “I don't need my seatbelt I'm only going a few blocks,” or “Safety glasses, I don't need no stinking safety glasses.” But sooner or later something will happen, so wouldn't it be better to be prepared?

Since Oct. 1, 2003, the Air Force has lost 72 of our fellow workers. Fifty-four have died since the beginning of the “101 Critical Days of Summer.” So here come the statistics: seven were on duty and 65 were off duty; 54 died in motor vehicle mishaps – 37 in vehicles and 17 on motorcycles. And who died in these mishaps? Nine females and 63 males. Thirty-nine of them were between the ages of 18 to 25, 23 were between the ages of 26 to 35 and 10 were between the ages of 36 to 58 – 17 were

Airmen Basic – Airmen 1st Class, 19 were Senior Airmen, 14 were Staff Sergeants, seven were Technical Sergeants, four were Master Sergeants and 10 were officers.

So what's does all that tell you? Well, if you are between the ages of 18 and 35, are an Airman Basic, Airman 1st Class or Senior Airman, and a male – please don't drink alcohol and then drive, don't try to drive faster than the sound barrier, and stay off the roads at night because those are the things that will probably get you.

Each and everyone of you is important – for yourself, your family and the Air Force. Please take the time to use risk management. If you are a supervisor, talk to your people before Labor Day. What are they doing? Where are they going? Are they taking risks? How can you help them mitigate the risks and still enjoy the holiday weekend? Let's take care of each other as we close out the 101 Critical Days of Summer. We need each and every one of you!



Enlisted Against Drunk Driving

We offer a free ride home, no questions asked.

Don't drink and drive – please call us! Fri. - Sat., 10 p.m. - 3 a.m.

Phone: 719-556-6384 or 55-NO-DUI

Women's softball hits Peterson

Air Force's top players visit Peterson for training camp, tournament

By Airman Mandy Weightman

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Women softball players from around the world will attend a training camp from Aug. 25 to Sept. 12 here. To be selected the players submitted a resume and were granted permission to take a permissive temporary duty for the length of the camp and championship.

"The women who make the team will be here for about four weeks," said William Hardy, the head coach for the Air Force Women's softball team. "The women who are cut during the camp will be here for one week."

The camp begins with approximately 30 women. The tryouts were held Aug. 26, and 15 women were cut Wednesday.

The goal is to pick the best women to represent the Air Force in the DOD-wide competition, he added.

Being able to represent the Air Force in this competition means following new rules. During the training camp and competition time, the athletes live by a strict set of rules including no smoking, drinking, driving or using cell phones on the field. They are taken to and from destinations by shuttles, and will stay in billeting during their stay on Peterson.

"I run a tight ship, but knowing that these athletes can follow the strict

rules set in place off the field lets me know they can follow the rules on the field as well," Coach Hardy said.

Following these rules along with the talent of the women selected for the last two seasons had left the Air Force team as two-time defending champions with a combined record of 17-1. Among the women at the camp this year, only six are returning veterans of the team.

"Due to deployments, job commitments and personal reasons, many of the women could not return this year," Mr. Hardy said. "But, just because a veteran returns does not mean they make the team. They have to show their skills during the tryout just like the women trying out for the first time have to."

Whether or not a person makes the team, the overall goal is that they have fun and learn while they are here, he said. And with the hard work and skill produced from these athletes, all they ask for in return is support from the base community during the competition.

"This is women's softball at its finest," Coach Hardy said. "They are the best in the Air Force and it is an honor to coach this team."



Photo by Becca Turner

ABOVE: Valencia Woods from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., tries to catch a pop fly hit by Melissa Fench from Malmstrom AFB, Mont., during the first day of tryouts at the Air Force Womens Softball Camp at the Peterson Softball Complex.

RIGHT: Kiasha Scott-McCloud from Little Rock AFB, Ark., runs to first base after a hit to centerfield.



Photo by Airman Mandy Weightman



Peterson mens softball team wins consecutive military world titles

By Master Sgt.
Joey Quiroz
Peterson Mens Softball Coach

The Peterson Mens Softball team won their second consecutive, U.S. Sports Specialty, Varsity A, Military World Tournament Aug. 20-22 in Dallas, Texas. There were more than 50 teams from all services at this tournament representing military installations throughout the country.

The team played rock-solid defense with some timely hitting the entire tournament. In the first game against MacDill Air Force Base, Team Pete led 16-4 going into the bottom of the seventh inning when MacDill's bats woke up and scored 12 runs in the bottom of the seventh to force extra innings. Team Pete came up in the top of the eighth and scored four runs to win the game 20-16. This game was one of the most exciting games of the tournament.

Team Pete beat Andrews AFB Md., 23-6, and then faced a combined team from Eglin and Hurlburt AFB, Fla., and



beat them 11-5. The next day, Team Pete lost a close game against Fort Sam Houston 12-9, and found themselves in the loser's bracket. They never panicked because they found themselves in this position last year after their first game and came all the way through the loser's bracket to win seven straight games to win their first World Championship.

After losing, Team Pete faced Eglin and beat them again 16-4 to get into the championship game. In the first game, they beat Fort Sam Houston fairly easy with a score of 15-2,

however in the second game, Fort Sam Houston jumped out to a quick lead in the third inning with a score of 9-2.

Team Pete answered the bottom of the inning with six runs to close the gap to one run with a big home run from Jay Johnson and key hits from John Karagiannes, Doug Burhans and Bryan Gorham.

The tournament was a total team effort – from the sponsors who made it possible for the players to go to the tournament. Team Pete players came from Peterson, the U.S. Air Force Academy, Schriever AFB and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station. John Karagiannes was named most outstanding offensive player, while Gary Fox was the most valuable player. Will Connor, Doug Burhans, Bryan Gorham and Jay Johnson were selected to the All Tournament Team.

The individual accolades were nice, but winning the championship was the big prize because there has never been a consecutive winner at this level.

Sports Shorts

FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNEY

The Fitness Center is hosting a flag football tournament Tuesday through Sept. 9. For more information or to sign up, call the Fitness Center Special Programs division at 556-4462.

WALL CLIMBING

Climbing Wall Safety Classes are 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Fitness Center. For more information, call 556-1515.

OPEN CLIMBING

Open climbing for certified climbers is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call 556-1515.

TAE KWON DO

Tae kwon do classes are from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for children ages 7 to 12, and 7 to 8 p.m. for people ages 13 and older. Cost is \$40 per month for the first family member, and \$30 per month for additional family members. For more information, call 556-1515.

BACK-TO-BASICS CIRCUIT COURSE

The Back-to-Basics Circuit Course is 11 a.m. Mondays, 5:10 p.m. Tuesdays, 6 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesdays, and 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. Fridays. The course features 15 exercises and self-paced cardiovascular training.

WEDNESDAY AEROBICS

The Health and Wellness Center offers Aerobics classes at noon and 5 p.m. Wednesdays at the Fitness Center.

FRIDAY SPINNING CLASSES

The HAWC offers Spinning classes at 11 a.m. and noon Fridays at the Fitness Center.

