



Space Observer

Thursday, Feb. 17, 2005

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

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Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy



Photo by Richard Cox

**Base defender
earns top
Air Force award**



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Photo by Walt Johnson



Rumsfeld reminds troops: 'America supports you'

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld sent heartfelt appreciation to U.S. servicemembers recently as part of the Defense Department's America Supports You program and a reminder that the country is united behind its men and women in uniform.

"I simply want you to know that our country cares a great deal about you," Secretary Rumsfeld said. "I don't go anywhere that I don't have people express their admiration, their respect and their confidence in your dedication and professionalism.

"We are so fortunate to have men

and women – you, to be specific – willing to put your hand up and volunteer to serve your country," he said. "We thank you for it, and you should know in your heart that America supports you."

The secretary's tribute comes on the heels of a popular commercial that aired during the Super Bowl in Feb. 6. The ad showed a group of servicemembers walking through an airport terminal as people stood and applauded them – first one, then a few, until there was a groundswell of heartfelt clapping. The commercial was near the top of Super Bowl favorites, according to polls.

The America Supports You program kicked off in November to show-


case activities happening across the United States supporting the troops. The campaign Web site, which highlights organizations and individuals coordinating local and national support efforts, has had more than 1 million visitors.

Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense for internal communications and public liaison, said that while DoD officials knew many of these activities existed, the site has become a useful tool in "helping to link people and programs, and more importantly, to share these stories of support with the people who need to hear them most – the men and women serving overseas."

Support from the American peo-

ple has been overwhelming, and feedback from the troops is tremendous, Ms. Barber said.

"Thanks to one and all for your tremendous support, spirit and prayers," a Soldier deployed to Camp Slayer, Iraq, wrote on the Web site. "We couldn't do what we do without everyone behind us. God bless you all, and God bless America."

"It really feels great to know that we are not alone here on the battlefield," wrote another. "All the Soldiers overseas really appreciate the kind gestures that you all share in your hearts, and taking the time out of your busy schedules to show all of your loving support for us who defend this great nation. Thank you!" 

21st Space Wing revisits Snow Call reporting procedures

Delayed Reporting: Allows non-essential personnel more time to get to work safely. The 21st Mission Support Group commander initiates delayed reporting when he believes off-base conditions are such that more time is needed for road crews to make conditions safer. Delayed reporting also gives our on-base snow removal teams time to clear the flightline, roads and parking lots. Delayed reporting is based on normal duty hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is mandatory for all non-essential personnel to comply. In a two-hour delay, for example, all non-essential personnel will plan to arrive at 9:30 a.m., and not earlier than 9 a.m. This is very important as we need to give our crews time to prepare the streets and parking lots.

Base Closure: Only essential personnel must report for duty or remain on duty if weather is serious enough to prevent replacements from safely reporting.

Phased Early Release: All non-essential personnel may leave work at a specified time before the end of the duty day. Notification will be passed through unit commanders and will be done in three 30-minute intervals according to zip codes. The phased release reduces a mad dash to the gates and ensures everyone gets home safely. Unit commanders have the zip code list, but know that the farther away from base you live, the earlier you will be released. Supervisors may use their judgment in releasing people based on individual circumstances and mission needs.

Am I considered essential or non-essential? Essential includes, but is not limited to security

forces, firefighters, command and control, snow removal, dining facility workers, designated child care workers, shift workers, employees scheduled to telework.

Non-essential are those who could be delayed for short periods of time without serious mission impact. Commanders and supervisors must identify non-essential positions and ensure the appropriate personnel are notified.

How do I find out if we have a closure, delayed reporting or early release? Tune in to local radio and television stations or call 556-SNOW (7669) after 5:30 a.m.

The wing operations center will initiate notification via the recall system for members of the 21st Space Wing and will notify tenant units. All units, whether members of the wing or not, should consider using a telephone recall to ensure all co-workers get the word.

What uniform should I wear during inclement weather? It is ultimately up to your unit commander, but use common sense. No one can call foul if there is snow and ice and you've decided to play it safe and wear BDUs, gloves and boots.


If I am civilian will I be charged leave? A decision table for charging civilian leave can be found in AFI-36-815.

If I have an appointment at the clinic, should I still come in early even if we are on delayed reporting? No. Even the medical clinic personnel need extra time to come in safely! The snowplows need time to plow the parking lots, especially in busy areas like the clinic. Understand that snow delays and

early release will greatly impact appointment schedules, so just check-in and have patience. You may be asked to wait or reschedule. It's most important that everyone, including clinic staff, are able to travel to and from work safely.


Who clears the snow? 21st SW Civil Engineers are responsible for plowing the streets, parking lots and flightline. Building occupants must remove snow and ice from building entryways, steps, and sidewalks within 100 feet of the building or midway to adjacent facilities as soon as possible to avoid accidents. The base grounds contractor will remove snow and ice beyond 100 feet of buildings.

I live on base, will the base contractor shovel my sidewalk? If you live on base, you are responsible for removing snow and ice from your sidewalks and driveways within 50 feet of your quarters or midway to adjacent quarters.

I work at Cheyenne Mountain, do I just follow Peterson's announcements for snow delays? Due to the higher elevation, Cheyenne Mountain often has different weather. There will be specific Cheyenne Mountain delays/closures announced in the media and on the snow call line. For the most current weather advisories, delays and closures at Cheyenne Mountain, call their snow call line at 474-3333. People visiting the mountain should allow themselves extra time throughout the winter for sudden changes in weather, icy or snowy road conditions and wildlife crossing the roadway. All people working in and visiting the mountain should dress warmly and wear proper cold weather gear. 

A Moment in Time



- **Feb. 14, 1939** - The XB-15 flew a mercy mission from Virginia to Chile in 29 hours and 53 minutes.
- **Feb. 14, 1996** - The joint surveillance and target attack radar system E-8A flies its 50th mission in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. This surpasses the JSTARS record of 49 missions during Operation Desert Storm.
- **Feb. 17, 1912** - The first pilot physical examination requirements are published by the Army.
- **Feb. 18, 1918** - The 103rd Pursuit Squadron is formed with members of the Lafayette Escadrille. 



Space Observer

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Pentagon channel hits local airwaves

Residents of Peterson Air Force Base who are looking for in-depth reporting on the military can now turn to channel 34 on the base cable system.

Peterson Broadband now broadcasts The Pentagon Channel, a television network produced by the Department of Defense. Programming includes Department of Defense news briefings, military news programs, interviews with top Defense officials and short stories about the work of the military.

“It’s our goal to keep all military personnel, DoD civilians, and family members informed on military issues,” said Mel Russell, Director of Broadcasting, at the Pentagon Channel.

In addition to enhancing Department of Defense communications with the 1.4 million active duty service, the Pentagon Channel will provide the 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserve and the 650,000 civilian employees of the Department of Defense more

timely access to military information and news.

“The Pentagon Channel will provide military news and information which have a direct impact on the military member,” Mr. Russell said. “A better informed force makes us a better force.”

The Pentagon Channel television service is aired 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the base cable service on channel 34 along with the 21st Space Wing’s Commanders Access Channel on channel 3. Both channels

offer Peterson AFB personnel an opportunity to stay up-to-date on military and local news. The Pentagon Channel is also available via web cast worldwide at www.pentagonchannel.mil.

“This is another avenue for us to get the latest and greatest information out to all members of our Air Force Space Command family, including dependents,” said Lt. Col. Marcella Adams, Air Force Space Command deputy director of public affairs.

(Courtesy of Air Force Space Command Public Affairs)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Larry E. Reid Jr.

STEPped up

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – Brig. Gen. Richard Webber, 21st Space Wing Commander (middle), helps Laura Pinard tack stripes on her husband, now Tech. Sgt. Douglas Pinard, 4th Space Control Squadron, during his Stripes for Exceptional Performers Promotion ceremony Feb. 8.

Space war game improves joint warfighting capability

By Capt. Angie Blair

Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. – The Schriever III space war game pitted a 350-person team of space professionals in a global environment battle scenario set in the year 2020.

The simulation was designed to verify space capabilities and tactics and techniques used by the 21st century joint warfighter, officials said.

The game began Feb. 5 and ran through Friday. It brought together officials from 20 Department of Defense agencies and Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom to investigate future space systems, the missions they support, and how to ensure their survivability.

“Schriever III is more than a war game – it’s a valuable forum that establishes partnerships and fosters innovative thought at the strategic- and operational-levels of war,” said Gen. Lance W. Lord, commander of Air Force Space Command.

More specifically, the game examined the capabilities required to ensure global stability and explores how to build a seamless integration of manned and unmanned space systems, supporting homeland defense and U.S. global and theater interests, said Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Darnell, game executive director and commander of the Space Warfare Center at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.

The phrase “space war game” lends a notion that

the game is focused on a military fight in space, but that is not the case, game officials said.

“Our focus is how best to use space assets to coordinate the joint terrestrial fight,” General Darnell said.

The war game aimed to ensure the United States maintains its ultimate high ground – space superiority, officials said.

There are very few things in conventional combat today that do not involve space systems, General Darnell said. Missile warning, battle-space awareness, precision munitions guidance, navigation and timing, and military satellite communications all critically rely on space support.

How to consistently provide these combat tools to the joint warfighter is a focus area in the war game, officials said. Game participants investigate the optimal combination of space, air and near space assets to best support the warfighter.

“Space is a medium just like air, land and sea,” General Darnell said. “Our goal is to ensure we have the assets our warfighters and national decision-makers need to maintain space superiority.”

Near-space maneuvering vehicles, for example, will augment satellite constellations gaps for the combatant commander in the game scenario. Communication, friendly-force tracking, imaging capability and signals intelligence gathering are few of the areas that near-space capabilities can complement.

The near-space concept is a subset of joint

warfighting space, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper’s initiative to more rapidly and effectively harness space-based communications and intelligence capabilities to support warfighters on the battlefield.

Near space is the outermost part of the atmosphere, generally defined as the area between 65,000 feet and 320,000 feet above ground. Near-space platforms under development that might operate in a new mission area include balloons and unmanned aerial vehicles, officials said.

Machine-to-machine integration is another focus area during the game, officials said. The concept will ultimately speed up decision times in getting approval for a pilot to engage a time-sensitive target, improving the information relay process.

“About 90 percent of the time it takes right now to detect a target and to decide what to do with it and finally get (clearance) back to the pilot is spent in trying to get communication up the chain and back down,” said General Darnell, an experienced fighter pilot. “We’d like to reduce it to an almost instantaneous decision-making process where the only time required is the time it takes for the missile or bomb to arrive on target.”

More specifically, machine-to-machine integration requires different machines cueing one another to look at and validate a specific target. Ideally, decision-makers at the strategic, operational and tactical level would receive and view this information simultaneously, officials said.



Online system improves medical appointment process, saves time

By Senior Master Sgt. Ty Foster

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Making an appointment with the Peterson Clinic just got a lot easier.

Now, Team Pete's TRICARE Prime beneficiaries who are serviced by the 21st Medical Group may simply log on to their computer at work or home, check available dates and times and schedule their own appointments through the TRICARE Online system.

"It's actually more detailed than what we see here in the clinic when we're booking an appointment for a patient," said Capt. Kara Gormont, 21st MDG group practice manager. With TRICARE Online, patients can see their primary caregiver's appointment availability by time for any given day of the week.

Simply stated, TRICARE Online "gives patients a lot more options when they need medical care," she said.

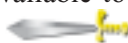
The system has been in use at Schriever Air Force Base for some time now and was recently stood up for the Peterson Clinic, the captain said.

To use the system, each eligible person must set

up a TRICARE Online account by logging on to the website at www.tricareonline.com. Each user defines their username and password for the program. Parents may set up the account information for their children. The system cross-references accounts with names of people who are already registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, Captain Gormont said.

While most people will have no problem with setting up an account, she said there are some temporary or new situations that may interrupt the registration process.

"Some people may experience minor difficulties with DEERS information if they just transferred to Peterson from a different region or if they have a newborn," she said. "If they've done their ONE SMILE during in-processing within the last two months, they should be able to access this tool."

Those who encounter difficulties may call the TRICARE Online Technical Support Center at (800) 600-9332. Support is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. During normal duty hours, Captain Gormont and her team are also available to answer questions by calling 556-1388. 



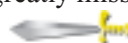
Mike Cockrum

In memoriam

Mike passed away on Feb. 7. He was born on July 12, 1963, in Henderson, Nevada, to Chuck and Bonnie Cockrum. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years before retiring in December 2004. Mike spent 12 years working assignments for military personnel, effecting thousands of lives during his tenure in the Air Force. He was a dedicated father,

husband, and friend. He is survived by his wife Kim, son Jake, and daughters, Kylie and Morgan, parents Chuck and Bonnie, grandmother Dorothy Reese, and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Mike was an avid outdoorsman and sports enthusiast. He spent thousands of hours coaching youth sports in the Falcon Community. Mike never encountered a stranger; making countless friends throughout his

lifetime, opening his heart to many people and loving everyone he met.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Falcon Elementary School Honors Choir in the name of Kylie and Morgan Cockrum and/or Falcon High School baseball program in the name of Jake Cockrum. Mike leaves a legacy of family and friends that will greatly miss him forever. 

Annual food safety training available

Public Health will host Food Safety Training for supervisors from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday Feb. 23 at the Peterson Enlisted Club.

This training is mandatory for all food facility supervisors.

For information or to sign up, call Jeff Johnson at 556-1218 or e-mail him at jeff.johnson@peterson.af.mil.

Find the Space Observer online at www.csmng.com

HELP WANTED

Seeking 6,000+ people with Eagle Eyes living and working on Peterson to help Security Forces identify suspicious packages and activity. Opportunity begins immediately, must be willing to assist 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Contractors, Civilians, Guard, Reserve, dependents and active duty from all services welcome!



U.S. AIR FORCE
EagleEyes

WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

**With Eagle Eyes,
any community member can
report suspicious activities
24 hours a day by calling the
law enforcement desk
at 556-4000.**

Base defender hits target with Air Force award



Lent

Peterson Top Defender

By Tech. Sgt.

Matt Gilreath

*21st Space Wing
Public Affairs*

A member of the 21st Security Forces Squadron was named as one of the Air Force's top defenders of 2004 here Jan. 24

Staff Sgt. Daniel Lent was selected as the Security Forces Individual Mobilization Augmentee NCO of the Year.

"I was shocked and very happy. I couldn't believe I had won," said Sergeant Lent, standardization and evaluation evaluator for the 21st SFS.

"When the nomination was initially submitted it was only for Air Force Space Command. When I found out I had one at the AFSPC level and it would be entered into the Air Force-wide competition, I wrote it off. I didn't give myself and my accomplishments enough credit to think that I could compete against the entire Air Force," the award recipient said.

In today's high-speed world and lightning-fast e-mail, it didn't take long for him to get word he had won.

While at work, Sergeant Lent received a

congratulatory e-mail from a Chief Master Sergeant who had been stationed here. In disbelief, Sergeant Lent decided to confirm the e-mail he had received by going to his squadron's manager.

Chief Master Sgt. Rosemarie Stange, 21st SFS security forces manager, had found out Sergeant Lent had won the award through an official message. "When I told him that he had won, he had a huge grin on his face and said he couldn't believe it," Chief Stange said. "Upon the return of the commander, we called everyone in the building together to announce the good news."

The climb to the summit for winning this award was considered a total team effort.

"Dan was a key contributor towards our 2003 Air Force Space Command Best Large Security Forces Unit award and the wing's overall Excellent rating during the AFSPC Inspector General Operational Readiness Inspection," Chief Stange said.

"I was thinking of all the levels that I had to compete at to win Air Force, and all the people's hands that my nomination had passed through and that is truly amazing," Sergeant Lent said.

He said the award has led him to reflect on his service and the people who have supported him.

"My wife was extremely proud of me," he said. "When I found out the news I sent a message to my parents as well. They are truly proud of what I have accomplished in the military."





Program allows full-time study while on active duty

By Crystal Toenjes
72nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. – A program allowing active-duty enlisted Airmen to attend college full time without loss of pay or benefits, and graduate with both a degree and a commission might just be the best kept secret in the Air Force, officials said.

“It’s easily one of the best programs in the Air Force, and not a lot of people know about it,” said Maj. Gregory Nelms, an instructor and the admissions officer with University of Oklahoma’s Air Force ROTC Detachment 675.

“You stay on active duty while going to school with full pay and benefits and a full scholarship, he said. Where’s the down side?”

The Airman Education and Commissioning Program gives eligible Airmen up to three years to complete a technical, nursing, foreign language or area studies bachelor’s degree and then be commissioned as a second lieutenant.

“A lot of people have goals of getting their degree and a commission; with this program you can accomplish both at the same time,” Major Nelms said. Three cadets currently attending OU were previously stationed here, and two others recently graduated from the program.

“I was going to school part time at Rose State (College in Midwest City, Okla.) and planned on transferring here at some point,” said Cadet John Demster, who has 16 years of service and is in his final semester studying chemical engineering at OU. “It was taking way too long to get through school taking one or two classes at a time.”

Cadet Demster was a technical sergeant in the 552nd Air Control Wing before applying to the program.

Cadet Daniel Snodgrass, who was a staff sergeant with the 960th Airborne Air Control Squadron,

will graduate in 2006 with a degree in electrical engineering. He has been in the Air Force about six and a half years.

“One of my personal goals is to get a degree, but I wasn’t getting it done between deployments, (temporary duties) and the demands of my work schedule,” Cadet Snodgrass said. “So the quickest way and best way I found to do that was to apply to the AECF.”

Cadet Michael Lukawski, a master sergeant in 552nd Air Control Wing, will complete his mechanical engineering degree this spring.

The cadets said they agree there have been big changes in their lifestyles going from the daily environment of an Air Force base to a college campus. “When you go from the military environment to a public university classroom it’s an eye opener,” said Cadet Lukawski. “We’re in our 30s, and the average college student... well, isn’t.”

Major Nelms said being on a college campus is a very unique environment for these nontraditional students, and he often calls on them in class to share their real-life military experiences with their fellow cadets.

“One of the things I decided to do was to treat this as a job,” Cadet Snodgrass said. “I come here early in the morning, and I don’t leave until early afternoon – no matter when my classes are or how many I have during the day because I want to get all my studying done here.”

Besides earning college degrees, the cadets also appreciate that the program has allowed them to spend more time with their families since they are not deployed.

“I’ve been able to see my daughter grow up,” Cadet Lukawski said.

The cadets said they also appreciate being able to provide for their families’ needs because they continue to receive their full pay and health benefits and access to all services on base, and will not have to worry about paying off any student loans when they are done.

“There’s no way I could have done it full time,”

Cadet Demster said. “I could have gotten out of the military and gone to school, but when you’ve got a house and a family you’ve got to pay the bills. This was a great opportunity for me.”

To qualify for the program, applicants should have at least one year in service and on station, both of which are waivable, and 45 earned college credit hours, up to 15 of which can be earned through testing.

Applicants for the technical, foreign language and area studies majors who reach age 30 on or before April 1 will need to submit an age waiver for review to assure they can complete their studies before their 35th birthday. Nursing major applicants can be commissioned up to age 47 with an age waiver.

Last year, 78 percent of those who applied to the technical fields were accepted, 88 percent of the nursing candidates were accepted, and 53 percent of the applicants in the other areas were accepted.

New cadets continue to receive pay at the level of their enlisted rank, with all cadets receiving minimum pay as a staff sergeant.

During the program, cadets attend school year round, including summer terms, except when they are attending summer field training.

“Their job is to go to school as a full-time college student,” Major Nelms said.

Cadets may attend any school with an ROTC program or fulfill their degree requirements at one campus and travel to another with a detachment to fulfill their ROTC requirements.

The application deadline for fall 2005 enrollment is March 1.

“If you’ve done well in school before, you’ve got a pretty good shot at getting into this program,” Major Nelms said. “As long as you can commission prior to age 35, don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t do this.”

For more information, go to www.afloats.af.mil/afrotc/enlistedcommissioning/FY05%20aecp.htm.

Are you a talented writer or have you always wanted to be published?

Are you stationed at one of the 21st Space Wing's geographically separated units and have a story to share?

The *Space Observer* is currently seeking hidden talent among our worldwide readers to try their hand at writing a story or two for the paper. Call the editor at 556-4351 today to get an assignment or to talk about your story idea. Civilians, retirees, military and family members welcome!



Blotter

The following real-life events from around Peterson are to inform you of crimes, accidents and events occurring on base. These entries are recorded in the Peterson Police Blotter and reprinted for situational awareness.

**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. Our vigilant security forces team treat each incident seriously and according to the rules and regulations.*

AIRMAN BASIC BOOZER BUSTED

- DEC. 28

An airman basic entered the 21st Security Forces Squadron to report that his mobile television and laptop computer were stolen from his dormitory room. He further stated that his room was locked and he noticed that it appeared that someone had broken the lock. The patrols were all set to do a full-fledged investigation, but noticed that the under-age complainant was drunk! Patrols went ahead and took care of the burglarized room, and then they hooked up the airman for under-age drinking. It does make you think though. Why would someone who has been drinking illegally waltz into the cop shop? Well, the airman's breath results came back at a staggering .195! For all of those who don't understand the point system, a .08 and above is DUI. With a .2 you can black out or choke and die on your own vomit. At .3 you're in a stupor, and anything more than that you run the risk of lapsing into coma.

MY SHOES! MY HAT! - DEC. 29

An active duty member entered the SFS and reported that a hat and a pair of shoes were stolen from his dormitory room. He happened to be suitemates with Airman Basic Boozer (see above). So, the thief decided that stealing a TV and laptop was not enough. He need-

ed some clothes to go along with it. Unfortunately, for the complainant, he is out about \$130 in lost merchandise. This poor guy now is running around barefoot, going to get sunburn on his head, and he shares a room with a walking blackout! Patrols gave the airman a hug and wished him a brighter future.

MY POOR CAR! - DEC. 29

An individual reported to the law enforcement desk that his Expedition was damaged while parked in the rear parking lot of Building 2. The damage consisted of a 30-inch long scratch almost 3-inches deep! Patrols verified and took pictures of the damage. The patrols left the damaged car and the upset owner to begin his own expedition to find out how all that destruction occurred.

THE CASE OF THE MISSING TAILLIGHT

- DEC. 30

A nice young lady telephoned the Law Enforcement Desk and stated that a taillight to her car had been smashed while she was at lodging and she didn't know how it happened. A patrolman responded and confirmed her report.

MAY I DRIVE PLEASE? - DEC. 30

The law enforcement desk received a call from a supervisor who stated his troop was not authorized to drive on Peterson AFB because he had too many traffic citations issued to him and his license was suspended. The supervisor also stated that the troop's chain of command had all briefed him not to drive, but the supervisor believed his airman was still driving onto Pete, and in fact, was in route from Schriever AFB. The LED checked to ensure that the airman was on the base driving suspension list, but could not confirm that he was. Nevertheless, the airman was caught driving onto base by an elite gate guard and subsequently released to his First Sergeant.

TRAINING MISHAP - DEC. 31

Security forces training never ends, and they con-

duct training as often as possible. Unfortunately, sometimes things do go wrong. A 21st Security Forces Squadron Flight Sergeant was doing an exercise that called for his patrols to conduct a high-risk traffic stop. The patrols had the Flight Sergeant's vehicle blocked in at the East Gate while it was closed and when they initiated a challenge on the vehicle the Flight Sergeant thought that it was his chance to get away. He flipped the vehicle from park to reverse and backed up about 7 feet before he hit a pole sticking out of the ground. The pole strategically got wedged between the rear right wheel well and the tire. The vehicle couldn't be moved without causing further damage. The Flight Sergeant had to abandon his beloved vehicle until someone could come out and cut the pole off. Shouldn't really give him a hard time about it though, when you exercise every available chance you get to ensure that everybody is properly trained, accidents are bound to happen.

CAN'T FIGHT THE FEELING - JAN. 1

Security Forces responded to the base exchange for a shoplifting incident concerning a dependent who decided it was ok to try to sneak out of the store with a DVD containing adult content. For some reason, teenage boys seem to love stealing merchandise like this. This has to be about the 100th time someone tried to steal some sort of pornography from the BX in the last three months or so. The BX is covered with cameras, so it is almost impossible to steal from there. Actually, it is about impossible to steal from the BX at all; the detectives are very good at what they do. To the avid readers of this dribble, you already know the outcome for the pubescent porno pilferer. CSPD responded and issued the young man a summons for shoplifting. Not to mention though, the porn pirate is not authorized to shop at an AAFES establishment for a long time to come. He's not the first teenage boy to try to steal pornography from the BX and he won't be the last. Will they ever learn?

** Anyone with information on a crime or any of these blotter entries should report it to the 21st Security Forces team at 556-4000.*



Personnel Corner

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER BOARD SECRETARIAT OFFERS OFFICER PROMOTIONS BRIEFING

Are you an Air Force officer who has always wondered how the officer promotion process works? Here is the chance! A member of the Board Secretariat from the Air Force Personnel Center will conduct an officer promotions briefing at 1:30 p.m. today in the Enlisted Club Ball room. For information, call Capt. Kelly Calle at 556-4819.


FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER KEY SPOUSE TRAINING AVAILABLE

Orientation training for 21st Space Wing appointed key spouses, unit commanders, first sergeants and spouses of unit commanders will take place from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Enlisted Club. For information, call the Family Support Center at 556-6141.

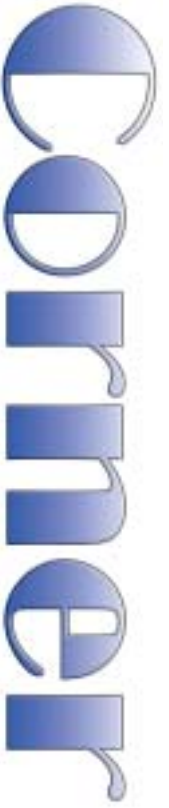
FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER OFFERS BUDGETING FOR YOUR FUTURE CLASS

Make your money work for you and learn how to take charge of your finances by developing a home financial plan. This two-hour class will teach basic financial management skills and how to develop a budget. Participants must bring a copy of a Leave and Earnings Statement and a list of all monthly expenses. The class will take place from 8 to 10 a.m. Feb. 25 at the Family Support Center. For information, call the Family Support Center at 556-6141.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT OFFERS GUIDANCE ON PT UNIFORM

The official physical training uniform should be available at Air Force Military Clothing Sales Stores by the end of March. Individuals should read the wear policy before wearing the uniform. Effective Oct. 1, the enlisted annual clothing allowance was increased to cover the cost of the uniform. All personnel will be required to purchase the uniform from the Military Clothing Sales Store and must have it by the mandatory wear-by date, which will be determined later based on inventory availability. 

Congrats



Members of Peterson Air Force Base would like to congratulate the following Technical Sergeants on their graduation from the Peterson NCO Academy Feb. 10:

John Levitow Award, John Donaway, Schriever AFB; *Commandant Award*, John Savage, Buckley AFB; *Distinguished Graduate and Academic Awards*, Jay Knudson, McConnell AFB, Kan.; *Distinguished Graduate and Academic Awards*, Brian McKenzie, Peterson AFB; and *Distinguished Graduates* Sarah Balian, Peterson AFB; Jeaneen Crawshaw, McChord AFB, Wash.; Eric Heitzenroder, Buckley AFB; Lisa Kaseman, Fort Lewis, Wash.; Christine Ortt, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.; Michael Perry, Buckley AFB; Jerry Phillips, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; Daniel Stoick, Fairchild AFB, Wash.; Billy Tramel, Hill AFB, Utah; and Indiana Tuxford, Fairchild AFB, Wash.

From Air Reserve Personnel Center: Craig Green.

From Buckley AFB: Karen Cain, Howard Cox, Eric Jordan, Craig Larsen, David Martin, Shayne Summers, James Switzer and Edward Wise.

From Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station: Jeffrey Fox and Laura Lakatos.

F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.: Danny Conrad, Jason Devereaux, Billy Ferguson, James Kirk, Timothy McCulloch, Kenneth Raff, James Sandusky, Scott Wernersbach and Keith Yost.

Fairchild AFB, Wash.: David Carrell, Kent Dyer, Jeffrey Hammond, Steven Jones, James Mchugh, Keith Morgan, Steven Plaisance, Brian Robo, James Summerall and Matthew Trower.

Fort Carson: Charles Brazier.

Hill AFB, Utah: William Adams, James Allen, Stephen Bahurinsky, Kevin Banker, Jason Beaudoin, Evan Behringer, Paul Brubaker, Don Coffee, Tracy Dehart, Michelle Hall, Luther Hamblin, Jeffrey Hite, Matthew Lee, Ray Lloyd, Frankie Mach, Darin McGuire, Christine Randle, Juan Santos, Brian Shepherd, William Shuttleworth, Werner Vonburg,

Bruce Wark, James Wilson and Osama Zanayed.

Iowa Air National Guard: Brian Roupe.

Los Angeles AFB: Gregory Swain.

Malmstrom AFB, Mont.: John Carter, Zina Edwards, John Engelhardt, Richard Hysing, Kelley Kerling, Todd Kinsey, William Locatelli, Jimmy Sonfelt, James Wooderchak and Anthony Zimmer.

McChord AFB, Wash.: Stephen Adamsky, Howard Adler, Rodney Angquico, Mark Belton, Steven Courson, Andrew Fullington, Christopher Kaech, James Kelly, Calvin Ridley, Jeffrey Runnfeldt, Troy Seaboch, Dean Siebert, James Vanherwaarden and Zachariah Wireman.

McConnell AFB, Kan.: John Clabough, Micheal Davis, Steven Dinapoli, Jason Haecker, Bessiemay James, Mark Kirkpatrick, Bonnie Mcguffin, Stephen Muse, Michael Sipes, Glen Stallard and James White.

Peterson AFB: Kenneth Bergmann, Jodie Briscoe, Yolanda Crump-Brown, Scotty Frederick, Terrance Gustafson, Richard Jensen, Jacqueline Lewellyn, Jeffrey Mattson, David Montagna, Michael Najjar, James Podolan, Gilbert Rucinski, Jeremy Sinnemaki, Ross Tomlin and Linda Ziesmer.

Schriever AFB: James Bates, Martin Como, Jennifer Diaz, Sherrie Horn and Mark Obert.

Travis AFB, Calif.: James Grant and Michael Wallis.

U.S. Air Force Academy: Michelle Bell, Karen Bryerton, Tanya Carbone, Virgil McCullough and Kevin Vance.

Washington State ANG: David Cullins. 

Peak Performer

Name: Ron Ahner

Organization: 21st Maintenance Group

Duty title: Program Analyst

Time in service: Two years and five months

Hometown: Palmerton, Penn.

Off-duty interests, hobbies: Playing softball

Why did you join the Air Force? At the time I joined the Air Force, the draft was in place and I wanted to belong to a service I liked. The Air Force provided me with great benefits of world travel and the G.I. bill, which pays for a college education. While in the Air Force, I learned various trades and skills that I have put to use since retirement from service.



Ahner



Team Pete around the globe

The 21st Space Wing operates 15 weapon systems, comprises 43 units in 26 locations in four countries, and spans nine time zones throughout the world. Team Pete has 192 deployed members supporting various operations across the globe. The 21st Space Wing makes up 93 of those members.

Do you have something you can donate to help support Peterson's competitors going to Guardian Challenge, Air Force Space Command's premier annual space and missile competition?

TEAM 21 Association is hosting the fourth annual Guardian Challenge auction to help defray the costs associated with Guardian Challenge 2005, and to raise enthusiasm on-base and in the local community to help support our team.

Date: March 30

Location: Enlisted Club

The preview of merchandise, cash bar and buffet will be from 5:45 - 7 p.m.

The Auction will last from 7 - 9 p.m. Come see a professional auctioneer perform this exciting event!

Minimum value of the donated items should be \$50.

Call Staff Sgt. Karolyn Allen at 474-3277 or e-mail her at karolyn.allen@afspc.af.mil for the entry form. The item can be serious or humorous as well as imaginative and creative, always keeping in mind our purpose... to raise money for our GC Team! The deadline for submitting the items is March 21.

Postal squadron outlines war trophy mailing restrictions

By Roger Kolkena

2nd Air Postal Squadron

Throughout history, Soldiers have come home with souvenirs from battle. Many of these war-related items end up on display in museums and showcases.

Although it is tempting to bring back reminders of service in a military campaign, with few exceptions, taking or retaining individual souvenirs or trophies is prohibited.

"It is against the law to take certain souvenirs from a war zone," said 1st Lt. Andrew Ignash, 2nd Air Postal Squadron postal operations flight commander. "You can go to jail for mailing an illegal object.

Shipping weapons as personal property is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Lieutenant Ignash said.

War trophies, defined as enemy weapons, ammunition, explosives or items of equipment, are nonmailable. This includes live or spent rounds, pistols, machine guns, weapons magazines and anti-personnel mines.

Most munitions and military articles of equipment may not be mailed; however, war trophies that obviously pose no safety risk, such as enemy uniform items and flags, may be mailed, Lieutenant Ignash said.

"If you're unsure whether an item can be legally imported, don't try to mail it," said Tech. Sgt. Craig Thomas, the squadron's postal manager. "Ask your postmaster to clarify the rules, follow the regulations as written, and there should be no problem."

Almost all parcels move as cargo on commercial airliners, Sergeant Thomas said. Mailing war trophies can cause mail delays, bomb evacuations and confiscation of parcels when detected during X-rays by foreign governments and airline officials.

"If an X-ray could show that it may be dangerous to the passengers of a plane, it shouldn't be mailed," said Steve Waller, the squadron's official mail manager. "Foreign countries could stop military mail flow through their country altogether if they believe that military parcels threaten their aircraft.

"Mailing weapons, even nonfunctional replicas, is an unsafe and illegal practice," he said. "For example, shell casing or bullet belt buckles, hand grenade paperweights, pistols mounted on plaques and so on could cause an international incident, delay the mail and could even (land) the mailer in a foreign jail."

For information, contact officials at the post office, customs office or legal office.

(Courtesy of Air Force News Service)

Earned an award?

Been promoted?

Completed training or earned a degree?

Fill out a Hometown News Release!

The Hometown News Release program is your chance to tell your Air Force story in your hometown, and it couldn't be easier! Just go online to

www.peterson.af.mil/21SW, click the

"Fill out an online Hometown News Release" link, and you're on your way!

You can also fill out a DD Form 2266 and send it to 21st Space Wing Public Affairs, via fax at 556-7848, e-mail at

21sw.pa.ms@peterson.af.mil, or in person to Building 845, room 219.

On behalf of humanity

By 1st Lt. Paradon Silpasornprasit
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

It's been a week since I returned from Utapao, Thailand. For me, Utapao was not an obscure, exotic locale, but the place where I was born. I wasn't there to visit my family though. I was one of the thousands of U.S. military members involved in the largest humanitarian relief operation in U.S. history.

Camp Red Horse was full of activity. More than 11,000 Marines, Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and multinational forces make up Operation Unified Assistance. They deployed to Southeast Asia after a massive earthquake off the coast of Indonesia triggered a devastating tsunami. Members of the Combined Support Force 536 worked around the clock delivering more than 6 million pounds of supplies.

On my first flight into the areas struck by the tsunami, I flew into Phuket, Thailand, aboard a C-130 from Yokota Air Base, Japan. The plane carried tents and building supplies. By the time I had arrived, the recovery effort was almost complete, and the focus had shifted to the forensics phase of identifying remains. Thailand suffered 5,000 deaths, 3,000 of which were tourists. I toured devastation sites and interviewed locals who had witnessed the tsunami first hand. They described waves two stories high crashing ashore and dragging everything out to sea. A small lagoon revealed signs of cars and homes

sucked in by the power of the ocean.

Phuket is slowly rebuilding. Missing persons posters plastered the city square. Pictures of children were especially hard to look at. The moment that stands out most is my visit to an improvised information center, where families searching for missing loved ones go for updates. At the time, it had been almost three weeks since the tsunami. A mother was looking for her 3-year-old son. I will never forget the look on her face as she realized her son had not been found. To my knowledge, she continues to go to the center twice a day in the eternal hope that her son would be found. This is one of thousands of stories.

Later, I was assigned to escort the Thai national media into Banda Aceh, Sumatra (Indonesia), the area hit hardest by the disaster. We flew out of Bangkok and landed on an aircraft carrier USS Lincoln. It was an amazing ride – there's no other experience that rivals landing on and being catapulted off an aircraft carrier. We embarked on Navy Blackhawk helicopters into Banda Aceh. From the air, I could see the devastation first hand. Miles and miles of coastline were completely swallowed by the sea. Entire villages lay scattered like match sticks.

In one section, the water wiped out an entire town, its remnants now a permanent part of the ocean.

We loaded humanitarian supplies and delivered them to villages via helicopter. This was the only means of transportation since most of the roads and bridges were washed away. The sky was filled with helicopters from many nations. The thundering roars of UH-60 Blackhawks and Hueys shattered the normally quiet countryside.

As we delivered the supplies we could see the look of appreciation in the eyes of each villager. Children, many orphaned by this tragedy, stood silently, still not yet comprehending what occurred just weeks ago. The villagers saw through the uniforms we wore and the walls and borders melted away for the briefest of moments. All that remained was one human being helping another.

This experience has given me a new perspective on what I have. It's hard for many of us to comprehend the staggering number of losses. People lost entire generations of family members. Many are left with nothing. In time this event will fade into history. But for the people affected by this tragedy, the future is an uncertain road.



A picture wall, much like the one erected in New York after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, is filled with pictures and information of missing persons are posted by friends and family members in hopes of hearing word someone has seen their missing loved one.



Photo by 1st Lt. Paradon Silpasornprasit

ABOVE: A UH-60 Blackhawk descends with building materials for one of the many camps set up to aid in the relief effort.

ABOVE RIGHT: Tsunami victims gather at the drop-zone as a UH-60 Blackhawk prepares to deliver food, water and medical supplies. Troops from all services worked around the clock during this massive effort to provide aid to victims.

RIGHT: Servicemembers load up a UH-60 Blackhawk with supplies to be delivered to one of the many drop-zones throughout the area of mass destruction.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy

Potable water containers are filled at a 20-station manifold before being loaded for distribution to victims and work areas across Thailand.



Photo by 1st Lt. Paradon Silpasornprasit

The path of destruction is far and wide, leaving thousands of residents homeless.



Photo by 1st Lt. Paradon Silpasornprasit

The United States is a key contributor to the tsunami relief effort and humanitarian efforts across the globe.



<p>Team Pete's noteworthy events</p> <p>To submit information for the base calendar, email space.observer@peterson.af.mil</p>	<p>February is Black Heritage Month and National Children's Dental Health Month</p>	<p>Friday, Feb. 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coast Guard's 64th Birthday 	<p>Monday, Feb. 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President's Day Holiday
<p>Tuesday, Feb. 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Prayer Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Enlisted Club. 	<p>Thursday, Feb. 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Heritage Month Luncheon at 11 a.m. at the Officers' Club. 	<p>Monday, Feb. 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Force Assistance Fund kick-off Aquatic Center's Spring Break Splash Blast registration begins 	<p>Team Pete's noteworthy events</p>

SERVICE
eat your money

Make reservations early, avoid holiday travel nightmares

By Margie Arnold
21st Services Squadron

The Christmas holiday of 2004 brought clogged highways where traffic sat for days, paralyzed by snow and ice storms, crowds of frustrated passengers camped out for days in airport terminals and piles of unclaimed luggage that resembled a Samsonite graveyard.

Most of the time, early planning for holiday travel could eliminate the travel crush. And, what's even better, "The earlier you make your holiday travel reservations, the lower the fare you can get," said Renate Powell, travel specialist at Leisure Travel, southern Colorado's only travel office devoted specifically to discounted travel for the military.

"What people don't understand is that not all the seats in a plane are the same price. For example, if a plane can seat 80 people, a few of the seats might be priced as low as \$150. You could

be in one of those cheap seats and be sitting right next to someone who paid \$600 for theirs," Miss Powell said. "Why do they pay so much more than you? Because that seat was one of the few available seats left on that flight. If a person really needs to be on that flight, they have to pay the \$600."

For holiday travel people sometimes don't make travel reservations early enough and that's when they end up paying a higher fare.

Both Miss Powell and Bill Morris, both highly experienced travel specialists at Leisure Travel, agree that now is not too early to make holiday travel plans for this year. "Whether it's a trip to Hawaii or Mexico for Christmas, or a trip across the country to be with



Mom and Dad, the sooner people make their travel reservations, the better," Mr. Morris said. "Airline travel can be booked 11 months in advance. And when you make your reservations early, you have a better chance at getting that cheap seat instead of that expensive one right next to it."

Caribbean cruises, packages to Mexico, trips to Hawaii, international trips, the professionals at Leisure Travel can see to anyone's holiday travel needs.

Leisure Travel

Located in the Community Activities Center, Bldg. 640, Peterson AFB
Open M-F 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Bill Morris, 556-6447, billsmorris@earthlink.net
Renate Powell, 556-2116, renatepowell@earthlink.net

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CENTER

556-1733

Leisure Travel - Colorado's only travel office devotes specifically to discounted travel for the military. Serving the military community with military specials on cruises, package trips and international travel.

Book now for summer vacations and even for the 2005 holiday season. Airline reservations can be made 11 months in advance. Book now while the cheap seats are available. Call Renate Powell and Bill Morris, experienced travel specialists at Leisure Travel. Renate, 556-2116, renatepowell@earthlink.net and Bill, 556-6447, billsmorris@earthlink.net

ARAGON DINING FACILITY MENU

<p>Today</p> <p>Lunch: Herbed Baked Chicken Stuffed Cabbage RLS Southern Fried Catfish Black-Eyed Peas with Rice Mashed Potatoes Sweet Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Peas</p> <p>Dinner: Roast Loin of Pork Jaeger with Mushroom Sauce Glazed Cornish Hen Potato Halves Rice, Orange Carrots Simmered Pinto Beans Corn Combo</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>Lunch: Mexican Baked Chicken Swiss Steak with Tomato Sauce Stuffed Green Pepper Baked Macaroni and Cheese Steamed Rice Fried Cabbage</p> <p>Dinner: Lasagna Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Sweet Italian Sausage Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Polonaise Cauliflower Italian-Style Baked Beans</p>	<p>Saturday</p> <p>Lunch: Crispy Blackened Chicken Cajun Meat Loaf Grilled Steak Baked Potatoes Mashed Potatoes Broccoli French-Style Peas Glazed Carrots</p> <p>Dinner: Fish Almondine Stir Fry Chicken with Broccoli Pork Chops with Mushroom Gravy Rissole Potatoes Rice Pilaf Calico Corn Club Spinach Fried Okra</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>Lunch: Tuna and Noodles Sauerbraten Chicken Breast Parmesan Au Gratin Potatoes Steamed Rice Cauliflower Combo Peas Fried Cabbage</p> <p>Dinner: Ginger barbecue Chicken Breaded Fried Shrimp Seafood Cocktail Sauce Spinach Lasagna Orange Rice Mashed Potatoes Black-Eyed Peas</p>
<p>Monday</p> <p>Lunch: Swiss Steak with Tomato Sauce Baked Chicken Hot Italian Sausage Peppers & Onions Steamed Rice Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Polonaise</p> <p>Dinner: Roast Turkey Baked Can Ham Raisin Sauce Fish and Fries Mashed Potatoes Corn Bread Dressing Succotash Vegetable Tempura</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Lunch: Onion-Lemon Baked Fish Pork Schnitzel Beef Yakisoba Baked Potatoes Mashed Potatoes Simmered Pinto Beans Spinach</p> <p>Dinner: Paprika Beef Barbecue Beef Cubes Chicken Fajitas O'brien Potatoes Rice Steamed Cauliflower Corn on the Cob Lima Beans</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Lunch: Mexican Chicken Mexican Pork Chops Chicken Enchiladas Mexican Rice Refried Beans and Cheese Mexican Corn</p> <p>Dinner: Pita Pizzas Country-Style Steak Fried Chicken Oven Brown Potatoes Mashed Potatoes Fried Cauliflower Bean Combo</p>	

Hours of Operation: Weekdays/Weekends: Breakfast 5:30 - 8 a.m.; Lunch 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Dinner 4 - 6 p.m.; Holidays/Down days: Supper 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; All carry out times 7 - 9 p.m.

Tuskegee Airmen excelled in Army Air Corps

By Senior Airman Amaani Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany – Today's Air Force family is a mighty quilt that unites servicemembers of all races, religions, nationalities and creeds around the globe. Our uniforms look alike, but the plurality of those who wear them is rich in culture and history.

This thought made me want to learn a little more about the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of determined men who enlisted to become the United States' first black military Airmen.

The unwavering resolve of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II arose during an era when many people found themselves engaged in another "war" on American soil over segrega-

tion and racial equality.

Nonetheless, the Tuskegee Airmen, hailing from various parts of America, strove to become pilots or master other aspects of aviation.

I wondered how such a group, many of whom still had to drink from "colored" water fountains, got such important and necessary training to promote their social and professional advancement.

At the urging of black leaders and the black press, the Army Air Corps began a special project to integrate black pilots into the fighter pilot program. The first aviation cadet class began in July 1941 at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Ala., and its pilots trained to fly single- and multi-engine aircraft.

The nine-month training began

with just 13 Airmen in the first class. One of the graduates was Capt. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., a West Point Academy graduate. Four other students were commissioned second lieutenants, and five students received Army Air Corps silver pilot wings.

Between 1942 and 1946, 992 pilots graduated from Tuskegee and received commissions and pilot wings. Black navigators, bombardiers and gunnery crews were trained at other bases in the United States.

Soon, hundreds of black Airmen became college graduates or undergraduates by way of the military, and others qualified through comprehensive entrance examinations.

According to the National Home of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Web site, "no standards were lowered for the pilots or

any of the others who trained in operations, meteorology, intelligence, engineering, medicine or any of the other officer fields."

Enlisted members received training in a variety of fields – aircraft and engine mechanics, armament specialists, radio repairmen, parachute riggers, control tower operators, policemen, administrative clerks and many other specialties necessary for full operability as an Army Air Corps flying squadron or ground support unit.

The Tuskegee Airmen prepared to fight, fought to win and took care of each other in the face of adversity. I am grateful for the service of these Airmen, just as I am grateful for the service of all military men and women who fight for freedom, democracy and equality each day.



Luncheon celebrates Black Heritage Month

The 21st Space Wing will host a Black Heritage Month Luncheon at 11 a.m. Feb. 24 at the Officers' Club.

The Honorable Rodney Coleman, former Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations and Environment, will be the guest speaker at the event. To R.S.V.P., call 556-7676.



CSS defeats civil engineers 54-29, preps for playoffs

By **Walt Johnson**
Sports Writer

The Air Force Space Command Communications Support Squadron Over-30 basketball team continued its winning ways Feb. 10 when it defeated the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron 54-29 at the Peterson Fitness Center.

The win improved the team's season record to 11-1, its only loss being a forfeit loss early in the season, and firmly established it as a team to beat. The CSS uses a simple method in its approach to the game that ensures they can give themselves the opportunity to be successful, said Gordon Birdsall, CSS assistant coach.

"The first time you play a team they could have people on a temporary duty assignment or players who have changed station. You can't fall into a false sense of security because you may have beaten a team in the past," Birdsall said. "What you know about this league is you may beat a team by 15 points one game and get beat by 15 points the next time you play them."

"We feel you have to go into every game realizing that teams want to beat you. We always tell our team that we have to play hard and expect to give our best effort each time we play," Birdsall said.

"This is easy for us because it relates to the job we do everyday. In the military we have no letup when we do our job and we bring the same attitude to the basketball court."

The only problem with this team is that it's hard to get a feel for what kind of team they are. This is a team that is capable of beating an opponent by 15 to 20-points, as it has on several occasions this year. They're also a team that's capable of beating a team by three points or less, as it also has had to do this year.


"One of the things I enjoy most about this team is it is one of the most balanced teams I have ever played with. We have a lot of players who are in great shape and that allows us to run on offense and play outstanding defense. We have good low post players but we aren't a low post team. We have very good three-point shooters and very good ball handlers but we aren't a guard dominated team," Birdsall said.

Birdsall said the one thing his team is probably very equipped to do is make a good run in the playoffs because of the versatility of his team. Any team that looks to make a big splash in a playoff situation should have certain elements that prevent it from being shut down by good teams and his team has those elements. This team has one quality that should help it

be successful while it is working on another quality that will be needed.

"The thing we like about our team is in any tournament you need to have good low post play and good guard play to be successful and we feel we do. We know come tournament time that other teams will have the same strengths that we do," Birdsall said. "So at that point, it will come down to the fundamentals and who can execute their game plan better. That is why we play so hard no matter who we are playing."

This team has the potential to win the base championship but he cautions that will not be enough because every team that plays in the league has the potential to win the base championship, Birdsall said. Right now, he likes his team's chances because of the makeup of the team, but they will be battling to get to a higher level.

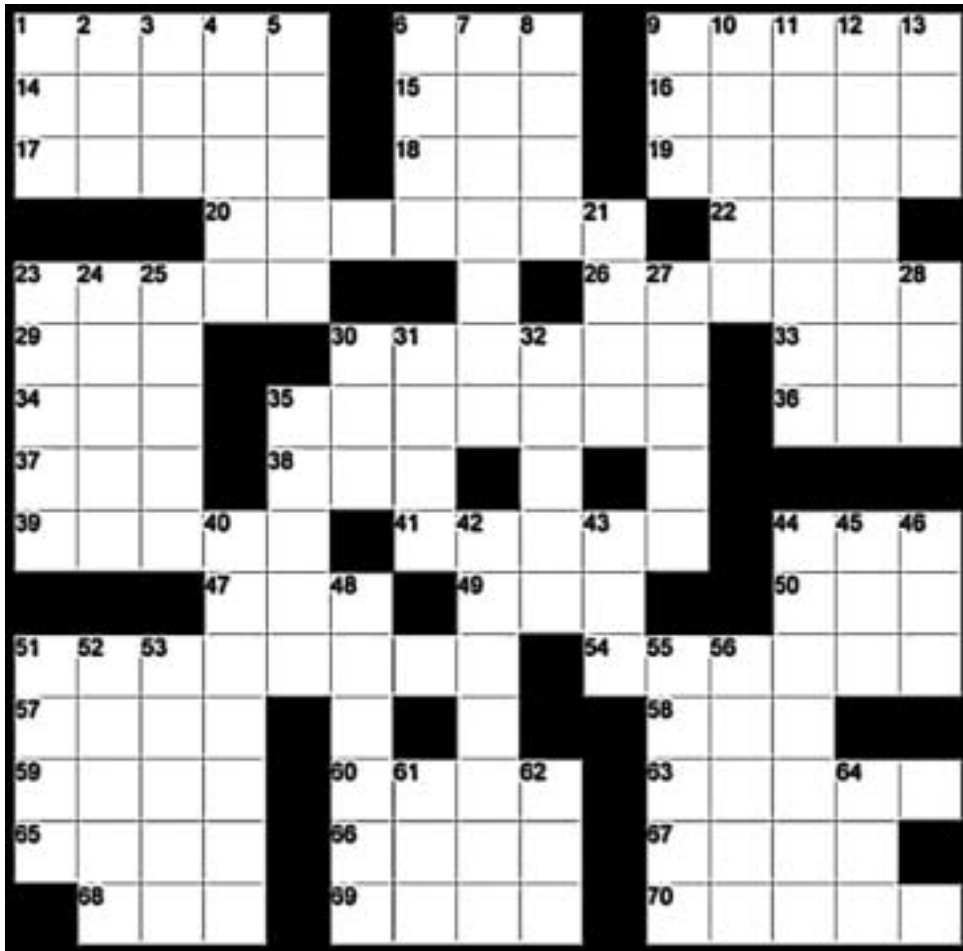
"We realize though that we need to work on executing our plays better and we will be doing that over the next couple of games. We want to be more patient on offense and improve our defense," Birdsall said. "In this league it is not about being able to score a lot of points but being able to play defense well enough to stop people. If you can hold a team to 40 to 50-points per game we should be in good shape." 

Intramural basketball standings

Competitive league basketball Standings			21 CONS			4 3			JPPSO-COS			2 4			Tuesday - Thursday Over 30 league basketball standings		
Games played through Feb. 9			21 MDG			3 6			21 SVS			1 5			Games played through Feb. 10		
Teams	W	L	84 ALF	1	7	21 CES	1	7	Monday - Wednesday Over 30 league basketball standings			Teams	W	L			
1 SPCS	9	1	21 CPTS	1	6	721 SFS	0	9	Games played through Feb. 9	Teams	W	L	AFSPC CSS	11	1		
21 OSS	7	1	21 SCS	7	3	Recreation league basketball standings			NORTHCOM 1	12	1	DET 4 AFOTEC	10	1			
21 MDG/ADL	5	3	Games played through Feb. 11			TEAMS	W	L	HQ AFSPC/CE1	1	1	NORAD	5	6			
21 SCS	7	3	21 MDG	7	6	AFOTEC DET4	6	0	21 MDG	7	6	NORTHCOM 2	4	8			
ARSTRAT	6	3	TEAM COLORADO	3	3	21 SCS	1	9	TEAM COLORADO	4	9	76th SPCS	3	6			
21 CES/FD	6	3				21 SF	1	10				21 CES	0	11			
21 SFS	6	3															
721 MSG	4	3															

African-American Military Trailblazers

Puzzle answers on Page 18.



ACROSS

- 1. Disorder or confusion
- 6. Ho ___ Minh
- 9. Examine by trial
- 14. Pervade
- 15. Coop resident
- 16. Central Perk offering
- 17. First black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Powell
- 18. Op and fine
- 19. Wal-Mart or Target
- 20. First American of WWI to receive

- French Croix de Guerre
- 22. Female sheep
- 23. Shut out
- 26. Greatest in age
- 29. The Greatest
- 30. Music player
- 33. Edge
- 34. Cistern
- 35. Black fighter ace of WWI
- 36. ___ Paulo, Brazil
- 37. Native or resident of (suffix)
- 38. ___ Angeles, CA
- 39. Twilled cloth of worsted
- 41. Fluid in tissue spaces
- 44. Actress Carrere
- 47. Aries sign
- 49. Personal ad abbrev.
- 50. X or gamma
- 51. African hunts
- 54. Course of action
- 57. Ukraine city
- 58. Lout
- 59. Model MacPherson
- 60. Burden
- 63. First Black graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy
- 65. Healthy
- 66. Sea eagle
- 67. Garfield foil
- 68. Singer Doris
- 69. Cincinnati team
- 70. First Black Air Force 4-star general of AFMC

DOWN

- 1. Mil. abbreviation for President
- 2. Health org.
- 3. YA-1 aircraft for USAF, in short
- 4. Séance board
- 5. Spanish sir
- 6. Martial arts actor Jackie
- 7. John Glenn middle name

- 8. Lean ___ the wind
- 9. USAF PME
- 10. Satisfied
- 11. First black to receive MOH for WWI
- 12. Closure of a normal body opening
- 13. Cowboy: "___-haw!"
- 21. Close
- 23. First Black graduate of USMA to become general officer
- 24. Make proud
- 25. Vampire is one
- 27. Ancient country of west-central Asia Minor
- 28. Mil. moving organization
- 30. Two people
- 31. Or ___; final warning
- 32. First Black promoted to the four-star grade
- 35. Blur or redden (the eyes)
- 40. First Black flag officer in the Navy
- 42. Take apart
- 43. Army AFSC equivalent
- 44. Plant of the genera *Trifolium*, *Lotus*
- 45. *Sam* ___; Penn movie
- 46. Affirmative vote
- 48. Black seaman credited w/ 6 plane kills at Pearl Harbor, won Navy Cross
- 51. Take an oblique course
- 52. Was hurt
- 53. Pal
- 55. 1960s programming language for business
- 56. British writer Thomas noted for Wessex novels
- 61. Mining goal
- 62. ___ Moines, IA
- 64. Tiny

(Courtesy of Alaskan Command Public Affairs)



**TEAM 21 ASSOCIATION OFFERS
GUARDIAN CHALLENGE COLLECTIBLES**

The Team 21 Association is selling items to raise money for the 21st Space Wing 2005 Guardian Challenge competition. The group is offering the following 2005 Guardian Challenge items for sale: coins for \$5 each; pins for \$3 each; and patches for \$4 each. The following 2004 Guardian Challenge items are also available: coins for \$4 each and pins for \$3 each. There are a limited number of 2003 GC coins available. Package deals are available, too. To purchase items, contact 1st Lt. John Delashmit at 556-4570 or visit him in the 21st Maintenance Group, building 865.

**CHILD CARE FACILITIES HOST
SECOND 'PARENTS' NIGHT OUT'**

The Child Development Center and Youth Center will host the second Parents' Night Out from 7 to 11 p.m. Feb. 25. Anyone eligible to use these facilities is eligible to take advantage of this offer. Parents may make reservations up to 30 days prior and must pay in advance. For information, call the CDC at 554-9592 or the Youth Center at 556-7220.

NATIONAL PRAYER LUNCHEON

The Peterson Chapel is hosting the National Prayer Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 22 at the Peterson Air Force Base Enlisted Club. A choice of beef burgundy over rice or chef salad will be offered for \$5. The cost is \$3 for those in the ranks of E-4 and below. The guest speaker will be Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles Baldwin, United States Air Force Chief of Chaplains. People can purchase tickets through unit first sergeants. Attire will be uniform of the day. For information, call chapel staff at 556-4442.

**CHAPEL HOSTS FAMILY
REUNION RETREAT**

The Peterson Chapel is holding a Family Reunion Retreat, Feb. 25 through 27, at the Horn Creek Conference Center, Westcliffe, Colo. The retreat is for families returning from, or leaving for, a deployment.

This weekend is a time for families to spend together in a recreational setting. While this is a chapel-sponsored event, there is no explicitly religious programming (other than camp-led prayers before meals). One to two hours of the weekend will be structured with family-relationship presentations from the chapel and other base helping agencies. The rest of the time is unstructured to allow families to relax and take advantage of the many opportunities (most of which are free) offered by Horn Creek Conference Center. Cost for E-4 and below is \$25 per couple or \$35 per family. Cost for E-5 and above is \$35 per couple or \$45 per family. For information or to register, call chapel staff at 556-4442.

**ASIAN-PACIFIC HERITAGE
COMMITTEE BEGINS PLANNING**

The Asian-Pacific Heritage Committee will meet from 11 a.m. to noon every Wednesday through May in the Mission Support Building atrium, Building 350. Committee members are looking for volunteers. Everyone is welcome. For information, call Master Sgt. Aaron Konia at 554-4629, Staff Sgt. Eden MacInnes at 556-0432 or Dolly Daniels at 556-7039.

**TSA OFFERS MILITARY
FAMILIES SPECIAL PASSES**

The Transportation Security Administration offers security passes to military family members who are at the airport to see off or greet their traveling military loved ones. The passes allow family members to enter the gate area rather than being held outside the security screening area. This allows military families to have more time for goodbyes or to plan a surprising welcome home. To receive a pass, family members must report to the airline desk of the carrier the military member is traveling on. The ticketing agent requires a photo ID for each person receiving a pass.

MISSILE SQUADRON HOSTS REUNION

The 12th Missile Squadron will host the 2005 Red Dawg Reunion March 2 through 5. All former members

of the 12th MS are invited back to Great Falls and Malmstrom AFB, Mont., for the event. Activities will include an icebreaker, base and missile complex tours, and the reunion dinner featuring guest speaker Brig. Gen. Ronald Haeckel, the 27th Commander of the 12th MS. For information and registration, contact 1st Lt. Todd Young at (406) 761-2784 or via e-mail, todd.young@malmstrom.af.mil. Up-to-date information can be found at the reunion website, www.red-dawg.s4u.org.

**AFSA CHAPTER 1181 HOSTS FIRST
TERM AIRMEN OF YEAR LUNCHEON**

The Air Force Sergeants Association, Chapter 1181, is hosting its annual First Term Airman of the Year Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 25 in the Enlisted Club ballroom. Eleven Team Pete nominees will be honored during the luncheon. Guests may choose from roasted strip loin of beef, marinated chicken breast or vegetarian lasagna at a cost of \$10 for club members or \$12 for non-members. Attire is uniform of the day. Contact Master Sgt. Mary LaCombe at 556-1333 to attend.

Answers to the puzzle on Page 17.

