

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

# SPACE OBSERVER

Thursday, March 24, 2005 Vol. 49 No. 12

## DoD programs ease force stress without hiking end strength

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON Ongoing Defense Department transformation initiatives are designed to relieve force stress without increasing the number of military forces, a senior defense official told House Armed Services Committee members March 16.

By focusing attention on efforts to reduce stress on our forces, we

believe we can negate any need for an increase in military end strength, Charles S. Abell said in his prepared statement before the military personnel subcommittee. He is the principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The department has employed several transformational initiatives that are designed to improve military responsiveness while easing stress on units and individuals by building up capabili-

ties in high-demand units and skills, Mr. Abell said.

As part of that endeavor, he said, DoD officials have rebalanced about 50,000 troop billets across the active and reserve components from low-demand skill groups to high-demand competencies between fiscal 2003 and 2005. More rebalancing is slated for fiscal 2006 through 2011, he said, with most of the changes slated for the Army.

Military-to-civilian job conver-

sions are also helping to alleviate stress on the force, Mr. Abell said.

In 2004, DoD officials converted more than 7,600 military billets to be performed by DoD civilians or contractors, he said. And, they plan to convert another 22,000 military billets to civilian slots during this fiscal year and the next, Mr. Abell said, with additional conversions being planned for fiscal 2007 to 2011.

See DoD program, Page 11

## Detachment 3 deactivates data link terminal

By **1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble**  
821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

THULE AIR BASE, Greenland Detachment 3, 22nd Space Operations Squadron, commemorated more than 28 years of operational service of the Thule Tracking Station Data Link Terminal during a first-ever terminal deactivation ceremony here today.

This is the first of a series of major changes facing Det 3 in the coming years, said Maj. Mike Hower, Detachment 3 Commander.

Jared Murrell, Automated Remote Tracking Station Technician, and the youngest operator in the Air Force Satellite Control network, officially shut down the systems power.

The mission of the Data Link Terminal was to provide a limited alternative communication resource for the Air Force Satellite Control Network and other dedicated users using existing Satellite to Ground Link System uplink and downlink frequencies.

With the recommendation from the National Reconnaissance Office, Air Force Space Command ordered the deactivation of the terminal. The other dedicated data link terminal ground station antennas and equipment are located at Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif., Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., and New Boston Air Force Station, N.H.

Maintained and operated at Detachment 3, nicknamed Pogo within the AFSCN, the terminal averaged more than 600 satellite contacts annually and logged a total of more than 20,000 satellite supports in its nearly three decades of operation.

The deactivation and removal of the DLT paves the way for the AFSCN Remote Block Change upgrade scheduled to start at Thule in 2009, which will replace all of our 1980s-era antenna equipment with state of the art electronics, said Maj. Hower.

Although the Data Link Terminal has been deactivated, the missions of the Thule Tracking station will continue to support AFSCN operations.



Courtesy photo

Lise Fuller, wife of 100th Missile Defense Brigade Capt. Tom Fuller, signs copies of her first novel *On Danger's Edge*. Her next book signing will be at the Peterson AFB Base Exchange in the vendors' area from March 31 through April 2.

## Soldier's wife writes, publishes first book

By **Maj. Laura Kenney**  
100th Missile Defense Brigade Public Affairs

Set in the steamy jungles of Columbia, Lise Fuller's newly published first novel, billed as an action, adventure and romance, features passages as torrid as the setting.

Fuller, wife of 100th Missile Defense Brigade Capt. Tom Fuller, is justifiably excited about her entrance into the world of published authors. Her book, *On Danger's Edge*, released in early February, is selling well and she's had numerous book signings at locations as varied as B. Dalton's book store and the Peterson Air Force Base Officers Club.

Her next book signing will be at the Peterson

AFB Base Exchange in the vendors area from March 31 through April 2.

As both a military brat and wife of a soldier currently serving, Fuller is an unabashed fan of the Armed Forces, and her novel revolves around a Green Beret hero. She even named him after her husband, guaranteeing some good natured ribbing from colleagues for the real-life Tom; but her reasoning for doing so resonates with everyone who's ever served, or loved someone who's served.

I wrote this novel while Tom was deployed to Afghanistan. It seemed natural to name my main character Tom, and it seemed to keep my husband a little closer while I wrote, said Fuller.

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### Women's History Month Luncheon

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Making it real  
The art of moulage helps Airmen learn critical life saving skills. Page 12-13

### Go Get Out

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### Tell us how we're doing...

The *Space Observer* newspaper staff would like feedback on the new design and content. Email comments to [space.observer@peterson.af.mil](mailto:space.observer@peterson.af.mil)



# Euro-trip winter wrap-up



Photos by 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble

**Brig. Gen. Webber, 21st Space Wing commander, pauses for a moment with Maj. Mike Hower, Detachment 3 Commander, in a 500-foot long ice-covered corridor joining POGO-D, Air Force Satellite Control Network antenna, and the Detachment 3 Operations Center. The snow and ice was the result of Thule's worst storm since 1996. The storm, touting 199 mph winds in some areas off base, blew snow through holes no more than an eighth of an inch in diameter.**

The 821st Air Base Group, Thule Air Base, Greenland, the northernmost U.S. base, is the host unit for Thule Air Base. The group is a geographically separated unit of the 21st Space Wing, Peterson Air Force Base.

### THE 821st ABG...

- Operates a 10,000-foot runway and associated airfield; the only airfield in northern Greenland capable of supporting jet aircraft.
- Operates the world's northernmost deep-water port.
- Provides logistics resupply operations support for smaller military sites both in Greenland and northern Canada, as well as support for several arctic scientific studies.

### MISSION

The mission of the 821st Air Base Group is to operate and maintain Thule Air Base in support of missile warning and space surveillance operations missions. Provide security, communications, civil engineering, personnel, services, logistics and medical support to remote active duty units in a combined U.S., Canadian, Danish and Greenlandic environment of over 800 military, civilian and contractor personnel.

The 821st ABG operates DoD's northernmost seaport and provides a unique platform for arctic training, international scientific research, and environmental programs. The unit plans and executes infrastructure and quality of life programs.

Because of its location in the arctic, the base is completely self-sufficient, with its own electric and steam plants, and water filtration and pumping system. There are two large petroleum tank farms, capable of holding large fuel reserves that allow the base to operate without resupply for an extended period. The unit maintains 65 miles of roads, which connects it to several locations necessary to support the mission.

### HISTORY

In 1946, a combined Danish-American radio and weather station was established at Dundas, later called Thule. International tensions prompted Denmark and the United States to sign a defense treaty allowing the construction of a complete air base. Thule, much as it exists today, was built during the summers of 1951 and 1952.

The origin of the 821st ABG goes back to the establishment of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning Site in 1961. Throughout the years, several commands were responsible for the base, including Northeast Air Command, Air Defense Command and Strategic Air Command.

The unit was first designated as the 12th Missile Warning Squadron and later became the 12th Missile Warning Group. Air Force Space Command took control of Thule in 1983 and the unit was re-designated as the 12th SWS in 1992. In June 2002, the 821st was created as the host unit for Thule Air Base.



**Brig. Gen. Webber sees how he measures up to the snow accumulation on one of Thule Air Base's recently plowed roads. In some areas, snow drifts were as high as a two-story building.**



**Capt. Tyler Nielsen, 821st Civil Engineer Flight commander, points out temporary roof repairs at the Thule Air Base's Main Power Plant to Brig. Gen. Richard Webber, 21st Space Wing Commander and Chief Master Sgt. James Moody, 21st Space Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. on a tour of the facility Feb. 23. The 150 MPH winds damaged the base prior to his visit.**

## A Moment in Time

**March 20, 1959** – The site in Cheyenne Mountain, Colo., is approved as the location for NORAD.

**March 21, 1946** – The Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command and the Air Defense Command are created.

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

**March 23, 1921** – Lt. A.G. Hamilton descended 23,700 feet by parachute at Chanute Field, Ill.

# SPACE OBSERVER

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|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Team Pete's events</b></p> <p><i>noteworthy</i></p> <p>To submit information for the base calendar, email <a href="mailto:space.observer@peterson.af.mil">space.observer@peterson.af.mil</a></p> <p><b>March is Women's History Month and Nutrition Month</b></p> | <p><b>Friday, March 25</b><br/><b>Good Friday</b></p>   | <p><b>Sunday, March 27</b><br/><b>Easter</b></p>  | <p><b>Tuesday, March 29</b><br/><b>American Society of Military Comptrollers luncheon from 11:30 to 1 p.m.</b></p>  |
|   | <p><b>Thursday, March 31</b><br/>NCO Academy graduation - 6 to 9 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel</p> | <p><b>Friday, April 1</b><br/>Enlisted promotion ceremony - 5 to 7 p.m. at the Enlisted Club</p>                                    | <p><b>Friday, April 8</b><br/>Cyber Café ribbon cutting - 5 p.m. at Building 1164 dormitory courtyard</p>  |

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# A very bunny time for all



**Things to do for Easter Weekend**

**Flashlight Egg Hunt,** 8 to 9 p.m. Saturday at the Youth Center for ages 13 to 18. The event will take place in the YC gym in case of bad weather. The cost to YC members is free and \$2 for non-members.

There will be **Cosmic Bowling** following the egg hunt at the Bowling Center. The cost is \$1.25 a game and includes shoe rental.

The **Easter Bunny** will make an appearance at a breakfast event for children 12 and under, and their parents. The event will be from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Peterson Enlisted Club. The doors will open at 7:30 a.m. Families will enjoy breakfast, magic show, cookie decorating, and a photo with the Easter Bunny. The bunny is scheduled to arrive at 9 a.m. and will hand out grab bags to

the kids. Tickets are available beginning March 7 at the Enlisted Club for \$3.95 for children 12 and younger and \$5.95 for adults. Today is the last day to buy tickets. For reservations and tickets, call 556-4194.

There will be a **youth egg hunt** in the YC gym immediately after Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at the Enlisted Club. The egg hunt is for children ages 1 to 3 and 4 to 6 years and children ages 7 to 9 and 10 to 12 years. The event is free and open to all. For information, call the YC at 556-7220.

The Aquatics Center will host an **Egg Splash** event at the Aquatics Center Sunday featuring Scuba Bunny, who will be hiding eggs

in all sorts of places, both in and out of the water. For information, call 556-4608.

The Peterson Bowling Center will have an Egg Salad Special Sunday. For information, call 556-4607.

The Enlisted Club will have **Easter Brunch** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brunch will include prime rib, sliced baked ham, fried chicken, herb baked fish, potatoes au gratin, yams, mashed potatoes, corn O'Brian, green beans, assorted salads and desserts and traditional breakfast items. The cost is \$16.95 for non-members and \$13.95 members. The cost for children 6 to 12 of nonmembers is \$9.95 and \$6.95 for members children. For reservations, call 556-4194.

The **Officers Club Easter**

**Brunch** seating times are 10 and 11 a.m. and 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. Brunch will include baron of beef, baked ham, baked white fish, peel and eat shrimp, roasted chicken, sliced leg of lamb; fresh seasonal vegetables, potatoes, rice, breakfast favorites such as omelets, biscuits and gravy, sausage, bacon; the dessert station; fresh fruit and more. The cost is \$18.95 for non-members and \$15.95 for members. There will be music performed by pianist Joanna Harter. For reservations, call 574-4100.

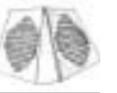
There will be a **10 percent off sale** at the Peterson Silver Spruce Golf Course on Easter weekend. The Pro Shop will discount selected items for this holiday. There will be no discounts on balls or gloves. For information, call the Silver Spruce Pro Shop at 556-7414.

*(Courtesy of the 21st Services Squadron)*

## ARAGON DINING FACILITY MENU

| Today  | Friday   | Saturday  | Sunday  |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Lunch:</b></p> <p>Mr. Z Baked Chicken<br/>Pepper Steak<br/>Pasta Primavera<br/>Mashed Potatoes<br/>Rice Steamed<br/>Mixed Vegetables<br/>Fried Okra<br/>Green Beans</p> <p><b>Dinner:</b></p> <p>Orange-Spiced Chops<br/>Liver with Onions<br/>Tempura Fried Fish<br/>Rissolle Potatoes<br/>Steamed Rice<br/>Broccoli<br/>Peas and Carrots<br/>Wax Beans</p> | <p><b>Lunch:</b></p> <p>Simmered Corn Beef<br/>Pineapple Chicken<br/>Yankee Pot Roast<br/>Crispy Potato Wedges<br/>Simmered Potatoes<br/>Fried Cabbage Carrots</p> <p><b>Dinner:</b></p> <p>Baked Fish<br/>Beef and Corn Pie<br/>Roast Turkey Potatoes<br/>Pea and Pepper Rice<br/>Corn on the Cob<br/>Stewed Tomatoes<br/>Mustard Greens</p>        | <p><b>Lunch:</b></p> <p>Baked Fish<br/>Hungarian Goulash<br/>Barbecue Chicken<br/>Parsley Butter Potatoes<br/>Steamed Rice<br/>Vegetable Stir Fry<br/>Cream Corn</p> <p><b>Dinner:</b></p> <p>Savory Baked Chicken<br/>Swedish Meatballs<br/>Creole Shrimp<br/>Baked Potatoes<br/>Steamed Rice<br/>Cream Corn<br/>Asparagus<br/>Steamed Squash</p>            | <p><b>Lunch:</b></p> <p>Stir Fry Beef with Broccoli<br/>Turkey Nuggets<br/>Steak Loin Strip<br/>Sauce Mushroom and Onion<br/>Baked Potatoes<br/>Rice Pilaf<br/>Corn on the Cob<br/>Green Beans</p> <p><b>Dinner:</b></p> <p>Oven Fried Fish<br/>Cantonese Spareribs<br/>Grilled Mustard<br/>Chicken Breast<br/>Baked Macaroni and Cheese<br/>Boiled Egg Noodles<br/>Peas<br/>Sweet Potatoes</p> |
|  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   |
|  | <p><b>Lunch:</b></p> <p>Pot Roast<br/>Baked Stuff Fish<br/>Roast Loin of Pork<br/>Oven Brown Potatoes<br/>Steamed Rice<br/>Cauliflower Combo<br/>Green Beans with Mushrooms</p> <p><b>Dinner:</b></p> <p>Chili Mac<br/>Canelloni<br/>Southern Fried Chicken<br/>Cottage Fried Potatoes<br/>Mashed Potatoes<br/>Steamed Squash<br/>Glazed Carrots</p> | <p><b>Lunch:</b></p> <p>Teriyaki Chicken<br/>Veal Parmesan<br/>Salmon Cakes<br/>Filipino Rice<br/>Parsley Buttered Potatoes<br/>Fried Cabbage<br/>Succotash<br/>Mixed Vegetable</p> <p><b>Dinner:</b></p> <p>Country Capt Chicken<br/>Meat Loaf<br/>Turkey a La King<br/>Steamed Rice<br/>Mashed Potatoes<br/>Harvard Beets<br/>Okra and Tomato<br/>Gumbo</p> | <p><b>Lunch:</b></p> <p>Beef Sukiyaki<br/>Szechwan Chicken<br/>Sweet and Sour Pork<br/>Chicken Gravy<br/>Steamed Rice<br/>Pork Fried Rice<br/>Fried Cabbage<br/>Glazed Carrots</p> <p><b>Dinner:</b></p> <p>Barbecue Ham<br/>Steak<br/>Turkey and Noodles<br/>Beef Ball Stroganoff<br/>Boiled Egg Noodles<br/>Mashed Potatoes<br/>Calico Corn<br/>Spinach<br/>Lima Beans</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.**



# Tigers lend helping paw

## 76th SPCS helps less fortunate in Colorado Springs

By 1st Lt. Trevor Nolan  
76th Space Control Squadron

Vanguards from the 76th Space Control Squadron volunteered their time March 6 to help feed the less fortunate in the Colorado Springs area. Partnered with the Marian House, a soup kitchen sponsored by Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs, 10 members of the squadron helped prepare, serve and clean up after more than 300 meals.

Captain Tim Bos, operations flight commander, organized the event.

Volunteering for these types of events creates a unit cohesion and esprit de corps that strengthens the relationships among members in the squadron, he said. They also allow us to be ambassadors of space command in the local community and give back to the city that does well hosting the military.

Aside from working with the Marion House, the 76th SPCS routinely volunteers with Habitat for Humanity International, Garden of the Gods and the Colorado Springs Mayor's office.

It's about going out and giving back to the community, said Lt. Col. Eric Holstrom, director of operations. It's about being good Americans.

For information about the Marion House, visit their website at [www.catholiccharitiescospg.org/mhsk/aboutus.htm](http://www.catholiccharitiescospg.org/mhsk/aboutus.htm).

# Free stuff for troops

- [www.operationhomelink.org](http://www.operationhomelink.org) – Free computers for spouses or parents of deployed soldier in ranks E1 through E5.
- [www.prweb.com/releases/2004/2/prweb106818.htm](http://www.prweb.com/releases/2004/2/prweb106818.htm) – Free mail and gifts sent to children of deployed soldiers.
- [www.operationuplink.org](http://www.operationuplink.org) – Free phone cards.
- [anysoldier.com/ForSoldiersOnly.cfm](http://anysoldier.com/ForSoldiersOnly.cfm) – To sign up for sponsoring soldier care packages for theater.
- [www.appreciateourtroops.org/forourtroops.shtml](http://www.appreciateourtroops.org/forourtroops.shtml) – To have commander sign up for mugs for unit troops.
- [www.operationshoobox.com](http://www.operationshoobox.com) – Free shoebox care package.
- [www.treatthetroops.org](http://www.treatthetroops.org) – Free cookies.
- [bluestarmoms.org/airfare.html](http://bluestarmoms.org/airfare.html) – Lowest airfare available.
- [bluestarmoms.org/care.html](http://bluestarmoms.org/care.html) – Free care packages.
- [66.241.249.83](http://66.241.249.83) – Free air conditioners and heaters.
- [www.heromiles.org](http://www.heromiles.org) – Free air travel for emergency leave and for the family members of injured soldiers to travel to medical facility.
- [www.bluestarmothers.org/airlinespecials.php](http://www.bluestarmothers.org/airlinespecials.php) – Airline discounts for rest and recuperation.
- [www.booksforsoldiers.com/forum/index.php](http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/forum/index.php) – Free books, DVD's and CD's.
- [prayercentral.net/engage/militaryprayer/daily.php](http://prayercentral.net/engage/militaryprayer/daily.php) – Daily prayer and scriptures.
- [www.militarymoms.net/sot.html](http://www.militarymoms.net/sot.html) – Free care packages.
- [operationmilitarypride.org/smsignup.html](http://operationmilitarypride.org/smsignup.html) – Free care packages.
- [www.soldiersangels.org/heroes/submit\\_a\\_soldier.php](http://www.soldiersangels.org/heroes/submit_a_soldier.php) – Get adopted to receive stuff.

## Team Pete on the Street

### Who do you think will win the championship in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament?



Tech. Sgt. James Williams, 21st Space Wing command section, NCO in-charge

Duke, they are always a contender and have a rich heritage of basketball and a tradition of winning.



Kara Magana, Space Observer Layout and Design, contractor

University of Illinois, of course. Their defense is second to none and they can always hit a three pointer in the clutch



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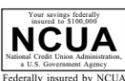
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# Personnel Corner

## MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT ANNOUNCES NEW HOURS

Starting April 4, the Military Personnel Flight servicing Team Peterson, including all tenant units, front range retirees, etc., will move to standardized hours. The MPF will be open for customer service walk-ins and appointments from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. MPF encourages everyone to use these core open hours to conduct business. MPF can accommodate exceptions on a case by case basis by making appointments with the appropriate MPF representative any time from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For questions concerning the new hours of operation, contact Maj. Jeff Boleng, 21st Mission Support Squadron commander, at 556-4023, or Capt. Debbie Horne, 21st Military Personnel Flight commander, at 556-7135.

## AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER ANNOUNCES O-5 BOARD SCHEDULE

Air Force officials have approved the following changes to the schedule for selection boards convening in calendar year 2005. The Colonel selection board

will not convene on Sept. 12 as previously scheduled. The Major selection board will convene on Sept. 12. One board has been moved. The Lieutenant Colonel selection boards previously scheduled to convene on July 6, will now convene on Sept. 12. Additional questions can be answered by visiting [www.randolph.afpc.af.mil](http://www.randolph.afpc.af.mil) officer promotion section.

## FAMILY MEMBER GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

Family Member Group Life Insurance automatically enrolls family members until the sponsor specifically declines or reduces the coverage; this includes a spouse whether or not they are a military member. For this purpose, a military member's spouse is covered effective from the date of marriage or the member's entry date whichever is more recent. All military sponsors have the responsibility to report any additions or changes to the Customer Service section in the Military Personnel Flight to ensure the system is updated appropriately. It is strongly suggested that this requirement become a part of the squadron's marriage checklist.

## PRESEPARATION BRIEFING MANDATORY FOR RETIRING, SEPERATING MEMBERS

The Family Support Center will host this briefing

from 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Family Support Center. This is a mandatory briefing offered every other week for those who are retiring or separating from the military. Members must receive this briefing no later than 90 days before separation or retirement. This briefing is necessary to ensure that you have sufficient information and time to take full advantage of your benefits as a veteran and to explain the services of the Transition Assistance Program.

## AFPC OFFERS IMPROVED AIRMAN PROMOTION DVR PROCESS

The Military Personnel Flight is no longer required to print and distribute data verification records for Airmen. Members may view and print their own DVRs via the vMPF. Members requiring assistance should contact their Commanders Support Staff for help.

## MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT OFFERS UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Sideburns must be neatly trimmed and tapered in the same manner as the haircut. The haircut must be straight and of even width, not flared, and end in a clean-shaven horizontal line. Sideburns will not extend below the lowest part of the exterior ear opening. This does not apply to individuals with shaving waivers.

# Peterson Air Force Base Chapel - Holy Week schedule

### Catholic

Saturday, 5 p.m. - Anticipatory Mass for Palm Sunday  
Sunday, 9:30 p.m. - Passion or Palm Sunday Mass  
March 24, 7 p.m. - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper  
March 24, 8:30 p.m. to midnight - Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
March 25, noon and 7 p.m. - Celebration of the Lord's Passion  
March 26, 7 p.m. - Easter Vigil  
March 27, 9:30 p.m. - Easter Sunday Mass and Blessing of Children's Easter Baskets

### Protestant

Sunday, 8 a.m. - Liturgical Service  
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Palm Sunday Service  
Sunday, 12:30 p.m. - Inspirational Service  
Sunday, 5 p.m. - Contemporary Service  
March 27, 7 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service  
March 27, 7:45 a.m. - Easter Breakfast  
March 27, 11 a.m. - Easter Unity Service  
April 3, 11 a.m. - Unity Music Service

### Chapel-Wide Events

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Drama Performance  
"The Living Last Supper"  
March 27, 10:30 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt

For information, call the  
Peterson Air Force Base Chapel at 556-4442.

What's missing? CH \_\_\_ CH



### **LEGAL OFFICE CLOSURE**

The 21st Space Wing Legal Office will be closed April 1 for an official function.

### **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON CANCELLED**

The Womens History Month luncheon scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 29 at the Officers' Club ballroom has been officially cancelled for this year. For information on the cancellation contact Connie Schlosberg at 556-1580.

### **PIKES PEAK LUNCHEON**

The Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers will be holding their monthly luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 29 at the Enlisted Club. Cost is \$6. For information, call 2nd Lt. Robert Waters at 556-4339.

### **WOMAN'S RING FOUND**

A womans ring was found in early March at the base car wash behind the service station. Claim it by calling Calvin Gammon at the Auto Skills Shop, 556-4481.

### **AIRMEN NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH WILL CEREMONIES**

The legal office is looking for sharp Airmen of all ranks to assist with will execution ceremonies on Wednesdays. There will be a 10:30 a.m. and a 1:30 p.m. session. Each session lasts about an hour. If interested, call Master Sgt. Marna Brasili at 556-1710.

### **TOUR GUIDES NEEDED**

The 21st Space Wing Public Affairs office is currently seeking sharp officers and airmen E-4 and above who have been on Peterson for at least one year to interview for positions in the base tour guide program. Each year Peterson is host to more than 1,000 base tour visitors. Share your Air Force experience with potential recruits of all ages coming on base from local schools, ROTC units nationwide, scouts and community organi-

zations. Tours typically last four hours and are hosted Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Interviewees must have their supervisors permission to become part of this elite team. Tour dates will be e-mailed each week as far as three months out so that members can sign up to escort the tours. For information, call 556-6208.

### **SPACE FOUNDATION SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR SYMPOSIUM**

The Space Foundation is seeking volunteers to fill a variety of roles supporting the 21st National Space Symposium, to be held April 4 to 7, at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. More than 300 military-related personnel support the National Space Symposium annually in a volunteer capacity. Symposium volunteers gain space industry knowledge, as well as access to the symposium conference sessions and the 34,000 square-foot exhibit center. Volunteers can assist in registration, security, transportation, and support for speakers, exhibitors and media. Military members and Department of Defense civilians and their families are encouraged to apply. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. An online volunteer application and more information can be found at [www.spacesymposium.org/national05](http://www.spacesymposium.org/national05). Interested organizations or individuals may also call Jennifer Picard at the Space Foundation at 719-576-8000 or toll free in the United States and Canada at 1-800-691-4000.

### **RELATIONSHIPS SEMINAR FOR ENGAGED COUPLES, NEWLYWEDS**

The Peterson Air Force Base chapel, family support centers of Peterson and Schriever, and Life Skills are sponsoring a free educational experience to help people who are preparing for marriage or are newly married. The seminar, Falling In Love Without Falling On Your Face, will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 22 at the Peterson chapel. Lunch will also be provided. Topics to be discussed include family backgrounds, expectations, communication, conflict resolution and family finances.

The registration deadline is April 18. For information, call 556-4442, 556-7804 or 556-6141.

### **ASMC CERTIFIED DEFENSE FINANCIAL MANAGER TESTING**

All modules begin at the Education Services Building 1141 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 19 and 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. April 20. Everyone must sign up prior to registration. For information, call an American Society of Military Comptrollers representative or Jenny Luvisi at 556-7665. Sign up by April 13.

**Cyber Café ribbon cutting is at 5 p.m. Apr. 8 at Building 1164 dormitory courtyard. Open house will begin at 5:30 p.m. Live music and a burger burn will accompany the event. For information, call the Peterson Air Force Base Chapel at 556-4442.**

## HELP WANTED

Seeking 6,000+ people with Eagle Eyes living and working on Peterson to help 21st 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, family members 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.

# Pete on patrol



## VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Team Pete's fire department and American Medical Response teams responded to the Commissary parking lot to treat a pedestrian who had been accidentally struck by a vehicle. The victim declined treatment. The driver received a summons for striking a pedestrian while backing. This accident should serve as a reminder that drivers and pedestrians must take care in the base exchange/commissary parking lots. Backing accidents like this one can be avoided by looking both ways, using mirrors and backing slowly. These areas are often congested with traffic. The speed limit in all parking lots is only 5 mph.

An alert driver entering the base from West Gate reported two vehicles had been weaving in and out of traffic, chasing each other, at a high rate of speed on Airport Road. Security forces tracked down the offenders at their dorm rooms and briefed them on proper driving pro-

cedures. Local roadways are not raceways. Dangerous driving doesn't only threaten fellow drivers and passengers, it threatens the Air Force mission. The speed limit on Airport Road is 35 mph.

Two vehicle owners reported minor damage to their vehicles when they were parked at the fitness center and Patriot Hall, respectively. Security forces responded, took statements and photos of the fresh scrapes and scratches. These types of accidents happen pretty regularly on base. The responsible thing to do when someone accidentally damages someone else's property is to report it. If we witness the damage, report it to the law enforcement desk at 556-8177.

## FIRE RESPONSE

The base fire chief reported fire damage in a dormitory dayroom kitchen. Since it was a possible act of arson, Air Force Office of Special Investigation was notified and responded to the scene. The agent determined it had been a grease

fire. When cooking greasy items, keep a pot lid or cover available. If a fire starts, simply smother it by covering the burning pan. Don't use water to extinguish the flames because that will cause the grease to splatter, which could cause the fire to spread.

## THEFT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

An airman first class called the law enforcement desk to report that his wallet had been stolen from his gym bag while he was using the Aquatic Center. His wallet contained two credit cards, three debit cards, an Airman's coin, military ID card, driver's license and \$2. Security forces established that the airman had left his bag unsecured in the locker room. The locker rooms at base fitness center facilities are prominently posted that patrons must secure their valuables. Losses like this cost duty time to replace items and create operational security vulnerabilities.

## ALARM ACTIVATIONS

Security forces continue to respond to multiple building alarms that were activated by human error. Most commonly, people forget their personal identification number or enter their PIN incorrectly to trigger the response. Attention to detail and awareness would mitigate this problem and end a lot of embarrassment during these situations.

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





# Peak Performer



Photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble

## Sergeant Graves

**Name:** Staff Sgt. Richard Graves  
**Organization:** 821st Air Base Group  
**Duty title:** Group Command Section NCO in-charge  
**Time in service:** 11 years  
**Hometown:** Hayward, California  
**Off-duty interests, hobbies:** Playing computer games  
**Why did you join the Air Force?** I joined the Air Force in the early 1990's primarily because there weren't many jobs available in California. I also thought it would be a great way to see

the world.  
**What inspires you to do what you do?** My wife and daughter inspire me daily.  
**Favorite part of your job?** The best part of my job is that I get to meet a lot of different people. I also love the opportunity to travel. Additionally, there's not much heavy lifting required in my job, so that's nice too.  
**What goals have you set?** I would really like to work toward achieving a graduate degree in astronomy.



# Congrats

# CORNER

Members of Team Pete would like to congratulate the following Staff Sergeants and Senior Airmen on their graduation from Airman Leadership School Tuesday.

**Airman Leadership School award winners:**

*The John Levitow Award*, Senior Airman Joseph Polonsky; *Distinguished Graduate and Academic Achievement Award*, Staff Sgt. Stephen Morgese; *Distinguished Graduate*, Senior Airman Trey Goodwin and *ALS Leadership Award*, Staff Sgt. Debra Dyer.

**ALS graduates:**

**Staff Sergeants:** Debora Dyer, 21st Services Squadron; Sally Holcomb, 50th Operations Support Squadron; Stephen Morgese, 21st Security Forces Squadron and Suzanna Phillips, 21st SVS. **Senior Airmen:** Brian Burmeister, 21st Civil Engineer Squadron; Daniel Chase, 721st SFS; Shawn Clements, 21st Space Wing Public Affairs; Joshua Dehart, 21st CES; Michael DellArio, Detachment 46; Steven Drew, 21st SW Chaplain Services; Leandro Escobedo, 21st SFS; Geovanny Govea, 21st SFS; Trey Goodwin, 50th SFS; Jose Guevara, 50th OSS; Travis Hoff, 21st CES; Nicholas Klein, Air Force Space Command; Benjamin Martin, Detachment 805; Rosalinda Mateo, 21st Medical Operations Squadron; Robert Nelson, 2nd Space Operations Squadron; Joseph Polonsky, AFSPC Space Operations Squadron; Carlene Ramos, 21st Space Communications Squadron; Tony Ramos, 21st SCS; Joshua Swicegood, 2nd SOS; Monica Trujillio, 721st SFS and Nathan Yearworth, AFSPC CSS.



### 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](http://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](mailto:21sw.pa.ms@peterson.af.mil), or in person to Building 845, room 219.

# Sports keep Force flying high

By Tech. Sgt. Matt Gilreath  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Having been deployed and been sent on temporary duty around the globe at different times over the last 16 years, I have noticed that the world of professional sports is a key to our morale when living in a tent far from home.

In October 1993, I was on my way to Egypt in support of Operation Bright Star. During the flight, we had to make an emergency stop in Naples, Italy.

We departed the plane and all of us went into the terminal wondering how long we'd be stuck there.

Our morale was diving deep. That is until the TV was turned on. Immediately, a crowd gathered around and cheers erupted. We had landed just in time to catch the ninth inning of the World Series game No. 6 between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Philadelphia Phillies.

Our focus now was on hopefully being able to stay and finish watching the game.

Each pitch brought a series of cheers and jeers and some fun-type trash talking as two Blue Jay batters got on base and two went down swinging. Mitch Williams, pitcher for the Phillies, was only one batter away from winning a championship.

The man he had to gun down was Joe Carter, outfielder for the Blue Jays. The pitch count was two balls and two strikes when Joe Carter ripped a three-run homerun over the left-field wall. The terminal erupted with cheers, the Blue Jays had come back to win the

game 8-6, winning the World Series.

Shortly after the homerun, we were called to board the plane and continue to Egypt.

For the rest of the trip, five hours, the only thing that was talked about was the 20 minutes of base-

ball we had been able to watch. It was our last taste of American sports on TV for the next 42 days.

We've had significant developments in technology since 1993. Now troops are able to watch the big games on TV in some of the most desolate parts of the world.

I think it's awesome when networks show units serving in Iraq, Qatar and Afghanistan gathered together to watch the Super Bowl, Pro-Bowl and the Final Four. They can enjoy a piece of home while worries disappear for a while. Their loved ones may even be able to catch a glimpse of them cheering and holding up a sign to support their team. They will see that their mom, dad, brother, sister, son or daughter is safe

and is as excited about watching the game as they are.

Following the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, I was deployed to Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

I remember sitting in a crowded general purpose shelter in Qatar with a friend of mine, Staff Sgt. Charles Ridley, 49th Materiel Maintenance Squadron, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning technician. We were watching the final World Series game between the New York Yankees and the Arizona Diamondbacks. I don't think the Diamondbacks can come back this late in the game, Sergeant Ridley said. It would be great to see the D-backs win their first championship though.

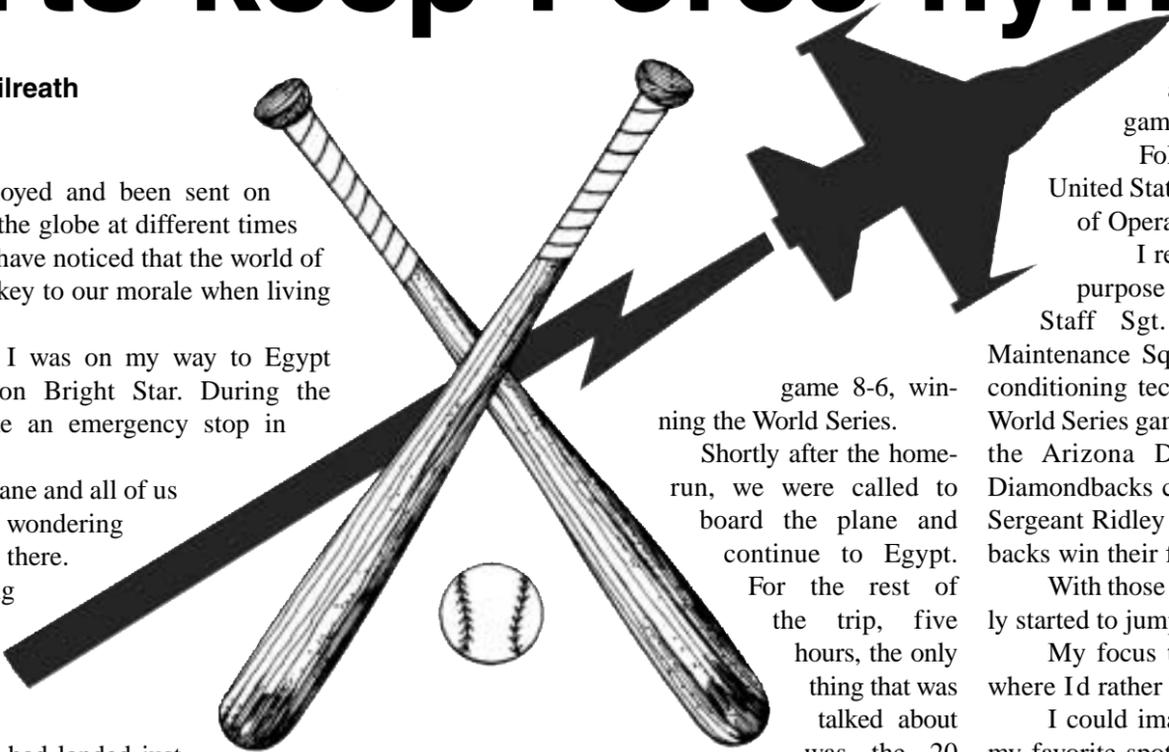
With those few words spoken, Yankee fans quickly started to jump on his case in defense of their team.

My focus turned to the game and I thought of where I'd rather be watching it.

I could imagine being at home. I was sitting in my favorite spot on the couch, the remote control in my hand, watching the game with a big bowl of popcorn. The people cheering around me became my kids playing in the living room. It brought back memories of the College World Series games my family enjoyed together at Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha.

Sports were an escape from the desolate desert that I was in, and were a way of opening the doors of communication and getting to know new people. It was one area that I consistently found people had an opinion about.

There will come another day when I'm sure I'll deploy. But look forward to meeting new people who gather to watch the games in the recreation tents. They won't be hard to find, I'll just listen for the cheers that keep our spirits flying high.





# Former weatherman wrestles with Air Force

By **Walt Johnson**

Sports writer

One thing you can be certain of when you have athletes competing at a championship level, there is an increased potential for injury or there will be a need for quick and efficient medical service.

The Air Force wrestling team has one of the top sports medicine technicians on its side as it prepares for the upcoming interservice competition.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Apodaca, NCO in-charge of physical therapy at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, has the task of keeping the Air Force team as healthy as possible as it goes through its grueling training camp.

Sergeant Apodaca was the NCOIC of sports medicine at the Air Force Academy prior to his assignment to Alaska. That is where he got his start in sports medicine, and it has led him to accept the challenge of keeping this year's team as healthy as possible in the pursuit of interservice gold medals.

Sergeant Apodaca almost didn't take on the challenge of being the Air Force trainer. The former weatherman, his first job in the Air Force, is used to taking on tough challenges as his time in his former career field will attest. While serving as a weatherman, Sergeant Apodaca would go out in the field and play with the Army. He packed ruck sacks and did the camouflage things like the Army. While he enjoyed doing

what he did, he found his love for physical therapy was pulling him in that direction. When he had the opportunity to apply for a new career field he decided to cross train into physical therapy, which was his second choice when he joined the Air Force. Sergeant Apodaca has become very proficient in physical therapy but he had to be convinced by his wife Rita and others to apply for the position.

Coach (Rich) Estrella sent out an e-mail to all physical therapy units in the Air Force seeking a fitness and conditioning coach. When I applied for this job my wife Rita said, This job was made for you and you need to pursue this. Some of my colleagues told me that I needed to apply for this position. I was hesitant because I figured they wanted a physical therapist more than a physical therapy technician. So I finally decided to fill out the paperwork and submitted my name, Sergeant Apodaca said.

After my resume was reviewed I did a telephone interview with coach Estrella and he invited me to become the trainer for the team.

Sergeant Apodaca knew coming into the camp that he would have to win over the athletes that were going to be in his care. He immediately established his credentials by treating the wrestlers injuries.

I think the thing I bring to the wrestling program is my experience in working with wrestlers specifically. I have been working with wrestlers for about 10 years and I've seen just about



Photo By Walt Johnson

**Air Force wrestling team trainer Tech. Sgt. Michael Apodaca, tapes the ankle of wrestler Peter Hicks prior to a practice session.**

every injury a wrestler can go through. I'm the new guy here and these athletes have never seen me before or worked with me before. I had to prove myself more to some of the older guys who were not too sure what I brought to the table. As time has gone by, more of the wrestlers are coming to me and asking my advice on the how they should treat their injuries, so confidence is growing daily in my ability to help them, Sergeant Apodaca said.

Sergeant Apodaca said he is gaining the trust of the wrestlers by making

sure he educates the wrestlers on proper stretching techniques, applying ice treatments correctly and taking Motrin to help the muscles recover. He said he and the doctor assigned to the team also are educating them on the how to understand when their body is telling them something is wrong and how to treat or heal any problems.

We are just trying to make sure that whenever they do have a problem it doesn't get worse. I have to make my assessment on whether or not the

**See Wrestling, Page 11**

***Soldier's wife, from Page 1***

*On Danger's Edge* portrays a woman who is reinventing her life after escaping an abusive marriage. Rorie Lindsay pursues a future in which she will be in control, and in which she can conquer her many fears. Her skills as a photojournalist have landed her an exciting job in the jungles of South America. The job takes a horrifying turn when she's kidnapped by terrorists. What follows is an exciting, fast-paced escape through jungle wilds from both the terrorists and Rorie's own inner demons—assisted by the extremely competent, patriotic and unexpectedly sympathetic Chief Warrant Officer Tom MacCallum.

Are there real-life similarities between the main character and her husband?

Yes, Fuller said. My husband is a former 82nd Airborne paratrooper who served in Desert Storm and in post 9/11 Afghanistan. He's my real-life hero, and also serves as my military consultant on this book, and the series that will follow. I did take some poetic license with a few aspects of the story, but they were necessary for the development of the plot. And it is fiction.

Besides the obvious heroic comparisons, both Toms have personality traits in common, and both struggle with feelings aroused by the untimely death of a best friend. Fuller dedicated *On Danger's Edge* to her husband's friend and fellow combat veteran, who died shortly after returning from Desert Storm.

Tom's been incredibly supportive, Fuller said. When he deployed to Afghanistan, he said that it looked like

the time was right for me to pursue my dream of writing a novel.

Fuller wrote chapters and sent them to her deployed husband, both for checks on military accuracy and for personal critiques. He enjoyed the reading, but the suspense of starting and stopping finally drove him to tell her to hold on till it was completely finished. Once done, the book received his unqualified thumbs up.

I think guys will even like this. The adventure part is as strong as or stronger than the romance, and it's a great read, said the captain.

Reed slender, but strong and vivacious, Fuller's energy is almost contagious. So also is her sense of patriotism and love of the military. In fact, she donates a percentage of each book sale to a local organization dedicated to assisting the families of deployed serv-

ice members, called The Home Front Cares. The organization offers practical and sometimes monetary assistance to families struggling while their service member is deployed, including everything from roadside assistance with car problems to help with an energy bill.

I always told myself that, if I ever made a go of this writing thing, I would give something back, Fuller said.

As to those steamy-as-a-jungle scenes? Fuller laughed and said, Some wives join the choir when their husband is deployed. I actually did that too, but all the writing I did was a way to stay close to my husband in spirit, as well as fulfilling my life-long dream of writing.

A complete review of Fuller's book is available on her Web site, [www.lisefuller.com](http://www.lisefuller.com).

***Wrestling, from Page 10***

wrestlers are able to go and also I talk every day with coach Estrella on health conditioning issues and how prepared they are to participate in the program. During the interview process coach Estrella told me that he was going to really rely on me and my assessment of the injuries to the wrestlers to make sure they are able to wrestle safely, Sergeant Apodaca said.

When this is over, I would like to think that I've played role in keeping the wrestlers as healthy as I could. The key to us being successful is preventing injuries and help them to recover from injuries in sufficient time to help the Air Force win the interservice championships and hopefully win a couple of national championships, Sergeant Apodaca said.

***DoD program, from Page 1***

Military end strength made available from these conversions, Mr. Abell said in his statement, is being used to reduce high-demand/low-density units, alleviate stressed career fields, demobilize National Guard units, and assist with Army modularity.

Mr. Abell said that force stress also could be reduced through the implementation of new technology like improved information systems, precision weapons, unmanned air and sea vehicles, and other less manpower-intensive platforms and technologies to relieve

stress on the force.

DoD has also employed innovative joint operations, to spread mission requirements across the force where possible in order to meet mission requirements, Mr. Abell said.

For example, Sailors and Airmen are supplementing Soldier and Marine ground forces in Iraq, he said.

There will be fewer Sailors and Airmen in coming years, Mr. Abell said. The Air Force will reduce its manpower through military-to-civilian slot conversions, while the Navy envisions reduced manning needs through advances in ship

design and other implementations of new technology.

Congress recently authorized the Marines to boost their forces by about 3,000, while the Army is slated to gain around 30,000 troops to assist in the war against terrorism and to facilitate the Army's modernization.

However, as a result of transformational changes occurring across the armed services, including the services' stress-reducing initiatives, Mr. Abell said that DoD officials do not see the need for additional permanent end strength at this time.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

# Making it real

# Moulage team dresses up casualties

By 1st Lt. Tracy Giles  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

In the real world, disastrous events such as tent fires, mortar attacks, missile attacks, chemical contamination and conventional attacks would produce mass casualties and a variety of wounds.

During the four-day Condor Crest deployment exercise at Peterson Air Force Base March 14 to 17, all of these scenarios and their resulting injuries were played out by the 21st Space Wing's field moulage team.

Moulage is the art of making fake wounds appear realistic, said Tech. Sgt. Leticia Johnson, moulage team chief. People learn by doing. They think about what to do for a particular wound.

Throughout the exercise, Sergeant Johnson and her team dressed up numerous wounds including exposed intestines, closed fractures, burns, bleeding and blisters.

You have to have a good imagination and some creativity in order to do this job, Sergeant Johnson said. I get most of my ideas from watching horror movies.

In fact, the kit the moulage team uses to create injuries is the same one that is used by many professional theatrical companies, she said. It includes liquid latex, gels, dyes, makeup and plastics.

One person picked to act as a victim, Airman 1st Class Allen Miller, an electrician for the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron, said he learned quite a bit from the experience.

Airman Miller, with second-degree burns on his face created by the moulage team, laid in a tent filled with smoke and waited for 21st SW firefighters to drag him out and practice their response.

He said they asked him questions to see if he was breathing OK, or if he was bleeding from any major arteries. Then they checked his pulse, followed by an appropriate treatment of his injuries.

This experience prepares me for real-world deployments and it means a lot, he said. We're learning to work as a team and it may even save someone's life one day.

There were more than 150 exercise participants from the wing and major command levels, said Vic Duckarmenn, 21st Space Wing exercise director.

Without the moulage team's professional efforts, (exercise) players would not have the opportunity to learn critical life-saving skills, Mr. Duckarmenn said. They provided the much needed realism in self-aid and buddy care training and ability to survive and operate scenarios.



Photos by Dennis Plummer

**ABOVE: A moulage victim with a severe stomach wound, lies on a litter waiting to be transported.**

**RIGHT: The moulage team kit includes liquid latex, gels, dyes, makeup and plastics.**



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Tech Sgt. Johnson creates a blister wound using makeup, gels and dyes. Sergeant Johnson prepares the blood to be used on the wound. She uses a sponge to dab the blood on the blister wound. The moulage victim is now ready for the exercise input to evaluate medical personnel.**



1



2



3

**Tech. Sgt. Leticia Johnson, moulage team chief, demonstrates the process of creating a stomach wound with the intestines protruding.**

# Bent's Fort



## Visit this trading post built in 1833

Bent's Fort looked like a castle on the plains to settlers traveling the Santa Fe Trail, as the fort, above and right, came into view.



Story and photos  
by Nel Lampe  
Mountaineer staff

Colorado was once on the southern border of the United States. Mexico was on the south side of the Arkansas River that flows near La Junta. Travel routes used by American Indians in the 1540s later became part of the Santa Fe Trail.

The Santa Fe Trail, 900 miles long, linked Missouri and Santa Fe. From Franklin, Mo., the trail led to Independence, Mo., through Kansas, splitting off into a Mountain Trail and the Cimarron Trail. The Mountain Trail had more water and grass, but was 60 miles longer than the Cimarron Trail. The Mountain Trail ran just north of the Arkansas River and on to Trinidad and Raton, N.M.

At a site which now is about eight miles east of La Junta, a trading post was built in 1833 by the Bent brothers, William and Charles, and a colleague, Ceran St. Vrain. They were traders who brought their first wagonload of goods from St. Louis in 1829 to trade for furs. The trip took several weeks.

The traders found that trappers and frontiersmen were eager to trade furs for supplies. The Bents carefully selected

a site to build a permanent trading post, close enough to the Santa Fe Trail to be accessible for wagon trains headed West and not too far away from Rocky Mountain fur trappers. The site was also near the hunting grounds of Arapaho, Cheyenne and other American Indian tribes, who would trade buffalo hides for trade goods, such as blankets and tools.

As trees were scarce in that area, the fort was built of adobe, a common style of construction in Mexico. Mexican workers were employed to make bricks of straw and mud. The completed walls were plastered over with mud. The adobe construction stood up well in the hot, dry climate of what is now southeastern Colorado.

The original fort was 25,000 square feet, with walls three feet thick and 14 feet high. There were 25 rooms on two levels, surrounding a courtyard. A walkway on the upper level provided a view of anyone approaching the fort.

Bent's Fort was the first civilization reached by wagon trains heading West on the Santa Fe Trail after leaving Missouri. Wagon trains on the Santa Fe trail had been on the road for eight weeks or more when arriving at Bent's Fort. The fort looked like a castle to those settlers in covered wagons. It was a place where they could buy needed supplies, make repairs to their wagons, get a good meal, a glass of lemonade with ice in it and rest awhile.

Forty to 60 employees worked at Bent's Fort, including Kit Carson, who hunted deer and buffalo to supply meat

See Bent's Fort, Page 16



Don Troyer shows trade goods available at the fort's store to visitors at Bent's Fort.



Phyllis Howard cooks a fried pie in the kitchen at Bent's Fort.

# Harpers



Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.  
March 24, 2005



**Bent's Fort, From Page 15**

to the fort.

Charlotte Green was the fort's cook and her husband was the fort's blacksmith.

The traders expanded their trade area to Santa Fe and Taos, taking wagonloads of goods from Missouri into that area of what was then Mexico. Charles Bent and St. Vrain ran stores in Taos and Santa Fe. Charles married into a prominent Taos family and later became Provisional Governor of New Mexico.

William Bent remained at the fort. He married Owl Woman, a member of the Cheyenne tribe, and got along well with the American Indians in the area.

The fort became a gathering place for diverse cultures, attracting mountain men, trappers, adventurers, explorers, travelers and writers, as well as settlers moving West and Indian tribes.

Thousands of beaver pelts were taken in trade at the fort and transported by wagon to St. Louis to be made into stylish top hats. When silk top hats replaced beaver hats in fashion, the beaver fur trade dwindled. The emphasis at Bent's Fort shifted to trading beads, mirrors, coats, pots and tools with the Indians in exchange for buffalo hides and horses.

By 1846, tensions between Mexico and the United States were escalating. As Bent's Fort was so close to Mexico's northern border, U.S. Army troops began arriving at the fort, filling store-rooms with Army supplies. Army horses and livestock overgrazed the grass. Soldiers took over the fort's guest rooms. Trade at the fort was disrupted.

William Bent's trade business never recovered. Gold seekers, border disputes and the settling of the West further depleted resources around the fort. The Indian tribes moved on.

William Bent tried unsuccessfully to sell the fort to the government. His trade business

at Bent's Fort came to an end. He abandoned the fort and moved 40 miles up river and built a new fort, which came to be known as Bent's New Fort.

The old Bent's Fort played a huge part in the settlement and development of the West.

Thanks to the Bents, fur trappers, frontiersmen and settlers had been able to survive. The Bents had a great influence on the Plains Indians, supplying them with goods and technology they'd never seen, even holding peace talks between warring tribes at the fort.

Even after it was abandoned, Old Bent's Fort was a landmark for travelers on the Santa Fe Trail who sometimes camped at the ruins. Much of the building materials were recycled by area settlers.

In later years citizens in the area became concerned about preserving Bent's Fort, but it was many years before serious efforts were made. The property was given to the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1926. Later it was given to the State Historical Society of Colorado and a few years later became Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, under the National Park Service.

Archeological digs were conducted, artifacts recovered, and the original walls charted.

Reconstruction of the fort was started in 1975, with heavy reliance on drawings and writings by Lt. James W. Abert who was at the fort several times. A diary kept by Susan Magoffin, who had a lengthy stay at the fort while recuperating from an illness, was also a source of information.

It is believed that the reconstructed fort is very accurate to the original fort. Bent's Old Fort is now a national park and is open to visitors.

National Park Service employees, wearing period costume, conduct tours and answer visitors' questions about life at Bent's Fort during the 1830s and 1840s.

A 20-minute video introduces visitors to the fort and its history.

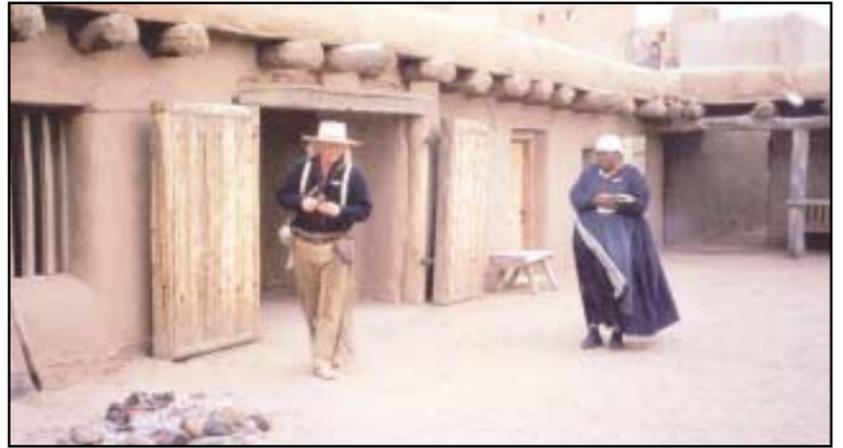
Free guided tours are at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. during winter hours, September through May, when the fort is open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Visitors who miss a tour may take a self-guided tour; a self-tour book is available at the visitor center.

Summer hours at the fort are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with tours at 9:30 and 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

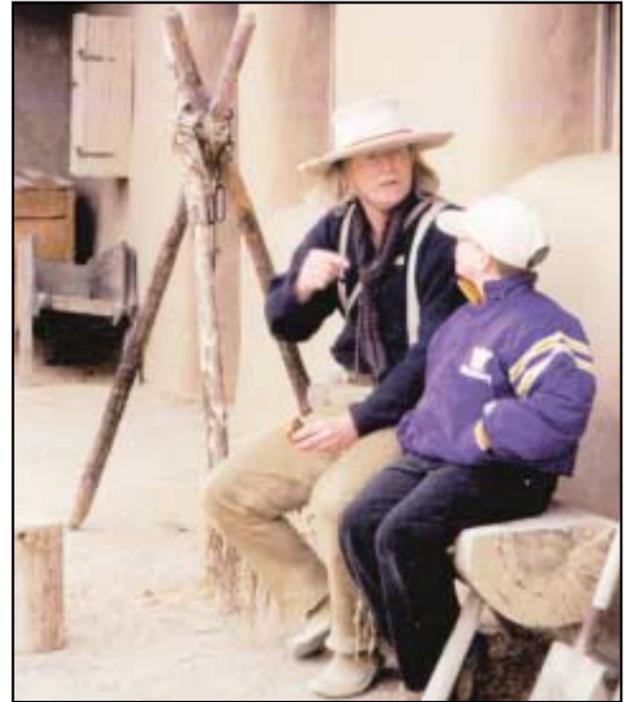
A living history fee of \$3 is charged for anyone older than 13. Children 6 to 12 are charged \$2 and children under 6 are admitted free.

Bent's Fort also holds special events, such as a Kids Quarters June 11 and a Santa Fe Trail Encampment July 29, 30 and 31. Call (719) 383-5010 for information.

A visitor center and a small gift shop are by the parking lot. Admission tickets and books about the Santa



**Robert Kisthart eats a fried pie made by Phyllis Howard, portraying Charlotte Green, the cook at Old Bent's Fort.**



**Robert Kisthart, portraying a hunter, tells a visitor about life at the fort in the 1840s.**

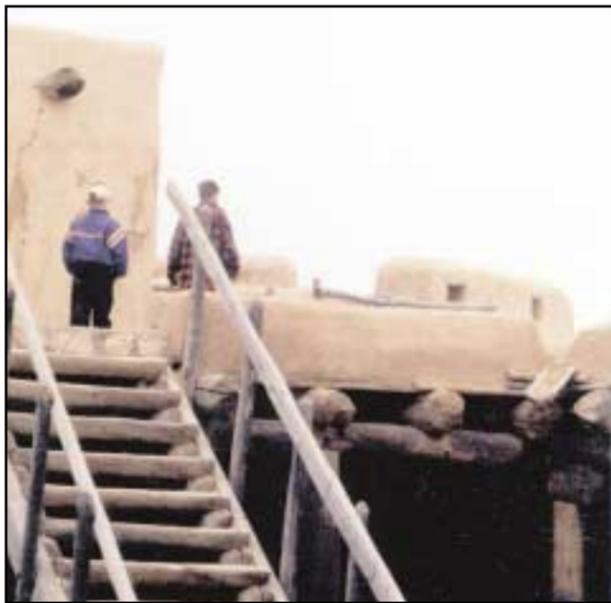
Fe Trail, western frontiersmen, explorers and Colorado history are sold. There are also souvenirs, videos, maps, post cards and reproduction trade goods, such as blankets, knives and hatchets. The parking lot is about a half-mile from the fort, so bring strollers if needed and wear shoes suitable for walking the path. Transportation may be available for visitors who aren't able to walk the path to the fort.

Refreshments are not available at Bent's Fort so bring your own water and snacks. Several fast-food outlets, local restaurants and parks are in La Junta. The Koshare Indian Museum is also in La Junta and worthy of a side trip if time permits.

Boggsville, where Kit Carson lived the last part of his life, is 10 miles away, and a Kit Carson Museum is in Las Animas, five miles away. The two facilities are open in summer.

Bent's Fort is about 100 miles from Fort Carson. Take Interstate 25 to Pueblo, then Highway 50 east, Exit 100A to La Junta. At the eastern edge of La Junta, take Colorado 194 eight miles to the historic site, following signs.

*(Courtesy of the Fort Carson Mountaineer)*



**Visitors to Old Bent's Fort explore the fort's upper level on a cold day.**



**Visitors learn about life at Old Bent's Fort from National Park employees role-playing 1840s' fort residents.**

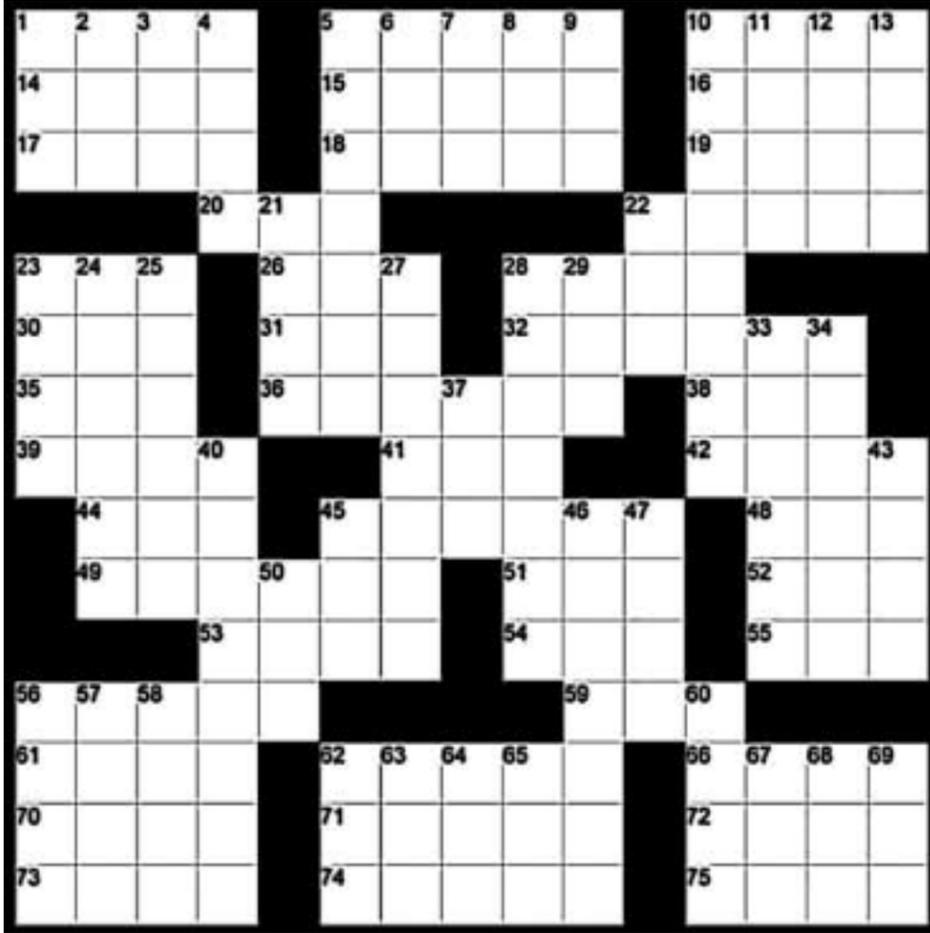
**Just the Facts**

- **Travel time** two hours
- **For ages** all
- **Type** historical fort
- **Fun factor** ★★★★★  
(Out of 5 stars)
- **Wallet damage** \$
  - \$ = Less than \$20
  - \$\$ = \$21 to \$40
  - \$\$\$ = \$41 to \$60
  - \$\$\$\$ = \$61 to \$80

(Based on a family of four)

# Airmen Medal of Honor heroes, part 1

Answers on Page 18



**ACROSS**

- 1. NFL distance record kicker
- 5. MOH recipient Maj. Ralph \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Terminate
- 14. Event

- 15. Emanations
- 16. 8th Century Hebrew prophet
- 17. MOH recipient 1st Lt. Donald J. \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. Bird sounds

- 19. Oscar winner Sorvino
- 20. 3, in a manner
- 22. Duck
- 23. Failure, as a bomb
- 26. USAF commissioning source
- 28. Kid's toy
- 30. Air sovereignty op since 9/11
- 31. Foot part
- 32. Deleted
- 35. "Tiny" member of A Christmas Carol
- 36. No pigment result
- 38. Mining goal
- 39. Garbage hauler
- 41. Boardinghouse
- 42. TV show \_\_\_\_\_ Bridges
- 44. Greek letter
- 45. U.S. Surgeon General under Clinton
- 48. \_\_\_\_\_-Fi genre
- 49. Word to describe blood relations
- 51. Afternoon drink in London
- 52. Mistake
- 53. Pal in London
- 54. Vietnamese lunar New Year
- 55. Color
- 56. Crystal of 3+ similar faces parallel to single axis
- 59. PS2 precursor
- 61. Sea World denizen
- 62. There's Something \_\_\_\_\_ Mary
- 66. MOH recipient Col. John R. \_\_\_\_\_
- 70. Wise
- 71. MOH recipient Capt. Harl \_\_\_\_\_, Jr.
- 72. Depiction
- 73. Helen of \_\_\_\_\_
- 74. MOH recipient Lt. Col. Addison E. \_\_\_\_\_
- 75. Rows in a church

**DOWN**

- 1. Chicken starter
- 2. Mekong delta people
- 3. Model Carol
- 4. Today's Laurer

- 5. Statehouse
- 6. Tint
- 7. Before, poetically
- 8. Track part
- 9. Multi-national space project, in short
- 10. MOH recipient Maj. Pierpont M. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Between
- 12. Passed knowledge
- 13. Russian ruler, once
- 21. NAS in Spain
- 22. NY Giant Manning
- 23. Flecks
- 24. United Nations org. for children
- 25. Downgrade
- 27. MOH recipient Maj. Louis J. \_\_\_\_\_
- 28. MOH recipient Capt. Steven L. \_\_\_\_\_
- 29. Commotion
- 33. Expunged
- 34. Behold
- 37. Neither Rep. or Dem.
- 40. MOH recipient Capt. John S. \_\_\_\_\_, Jr.
- 43. Employee
- 45. Dine
- 46. Come in to again
- 47. Stuff
- 50. Penn movie \_\_\_\_\_ Sam
- 56. Capture someone's attention inconspicuously
- 57. Raise, as in children
- 58. Othello villian
- 60. \_\_\_\_\_ over; miss
- 62. Police advisory, in short
- 63. Golden Girl Arthur
- 64. Grown up acorn
- 65. Ply
- 67. Flyer with 5 or more kills
- 68. Currently
- 69. USN rank

*(Courtesy of Alaskan Command Public Affairs)*



# GO! Get out!!

**Bull riders**

This year's Professional Bull Riders U.S. Army Invitational is at the Colorado Springs World Arena April 15 to 17. Tickets are \$25; call 576-2626. There's a free block party in downtown Colorado Springs on Tejon Street, April 14 from 5:30 to 11 p.m., with music, fun and a live bull.

**Academy theater**

Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk is Saturday at 7:30 p.m in the Arnold Hall Theater. Tickets start at \$20. Contact is Wednesday in Arnold Hall Theater at 8 p.m., with tickets starting at \$20. The Passing Zone is April 23 at 7:30 p.m. All performances are in the Arnold Hall Theater at the Academy. Call the box office at 333-4497. Theater guests should enter the Academy at the North Gate exit.

**World Arena venue**

Michael W. Smith is in the World Arena April 19. Tickets are on sale, 576-2626. The arena is at 3185 Venetucci Blvd., near Tinseltown theater. Parking is \$5 for each event.

**Pikes Peak Center**

The Artie Shaw Orchestra, directed by Dick Johnson, is in the center April 6. Tickets start at \$22; call the box office at 576-2626. Rob Becker's Defending the Caveman is April 8 and 9, at 8 p.m. The Pikes Peak Center is at 190 S. Cascade Ave. Parking is streetside or for \$5 in a garage behind the center.

**Museum Discovery Days**

Museum Discovery Days are every Saturday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Colorado Springs Fine

Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St. The event, geared for ages 6 to 10, introduces children to fine art. Regular admission fees apply: \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 6 to 10.

**Fine Arts Center travel film**

Travel films at the Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., Sunday are: Queen Mary II to Rio, at 2 p.m., followed by Great Canadian Train Ride at 4 p.m. Each film is \$6.

**Disney on Ice**

Mickey and Minnie's Magical Journey, by Disney on Ice, is in the Colorado Springs World Arena April 6 through 10. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. April 7, 8 and 9. There are shows at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. April 9, and at 1 and 5 p.m. April 10. Call 576-2626; tickets are \$16 and \$19.75, but there's a military discount for children's tickets. Buy one adult ticket, get one child's ticket by showing military identification at the box office.

**Zoo wildnights**

Have a Father and Son Wildnight at the zoo Friday, from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. The cost is \$60 for father and one son, \$25 extra for each additional. Dinner is provided on this overnight zoo experience. Call 633-9925, ext. 112.

**Royal Gorge Train**

The Royal Gorge train has started its season. Trips are at 12:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays or book a gourmet dinner trip at 5 p.m. Go online at [RoyalGorgeRoute.com](http://RoyalGorgeRoute.com) or call 1-888-724-5748. The train leaves from the Santa Fe Depot in Cañon City.

**Pueblo s art center theater**

Upcoming at the Sangre de Cristo Theater at

210 N. Santa Fe in Pueblo is The Passing Zone. at 7:30 p.m. April 22. Tickets are \$20 at the box office, (719) 295-7222. Take Interstate 25 south to Pueblo, then exit 98B.

**Easter events**

JoyRides has its annual Easter egg hunt Saturday at 11 a.m. The Easter bunny will be there.

There's an Easter egg hunt at Rosemount Museum grounds in Pueblo Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Tickets for the egg hunt are \$3 per child. For information, call 719-545-5290. Lots of eggs and prizes, games and refreshments. Take Exit 99B in Pueblo, go west about five blocks. The address is 419 W. 14th St. (Courtesy of the Fort Carson Mountaineer)

**Answers to the puzzle from Page 17.**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | L | A | M |   | C | H | E | L | I |   | H | A | L | T |   |
| G | A | L | A |   | A | U | R | A | S |   | A | M | O | S |   |
| G | O | T | T |   | P | E | E | P | S |   | M | I | R | A |   |
|   |   |   |   | T | R | I |   |   |   |   | E | I | D | E | R |
| D | U | D |   | O | T | S |   | B | A | L | L |   |   |   |   |
| O | N | E |   | T | O | E |   | E | D | I | T | E | D |   |   |
| T | I | M |   | A | L | B | I | N | O |   | O | R | E |   |   |
| S | C | O | W |   | I | N | N |   |   |   | N | A | S | H |   |
| E | T | A |   | E | L | D | E | R | S |   | S | C | I |   |   |
| F | E | L | I | A | L |   | T | E | A |   | E | R | R |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | M | A | T | E |   | T | E | T |   | D | Y | E |
| P | R | I | S | M |   |   |   | N | E | S |   |   |   |   |   |
| S | E | A | L |   | A | B | O | U | T |   | K | A | N | E |   |
| S | A | G | E |   | P | E | A | S | E |   | I | C | O | N |   |
| T | R | O | Y |   | B | A | K | E | R |   | P | E | W | S |   |