Cripple Creek to honor Armed Forces

Cripple Creek is hosting a two-day event recognizing military members and their families Aug. 18-19. The event will include free breakfast, fly-overs, a parade, military displays and the Battle of the Bands contest featuring a band representing Schriever. A highlight in conjunction with this event will feature the Vietnam Combat Veterans’ Memorial Moving Wall on display Aug. 16-20.

For information, call 689-2502 or write at events@cripple-creek.co.us

Promotion party to celebrate newest NGCs

A promotion party for Schriever’s newest staff sergeants will be held at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 17 at the main gym. There will be free food and beverages and designated drivers will be available.

For information, contact Tech. Sgt. Cassandra Bushyager at 567-5661 or at cassandra.bushyager@schriever.af.mil.

SNCO induction ceremony emcees needed

Emcee auditions will be held in the wing conference room Aug. 21 at noon for the 50th Space Wing SNCO Induction Ceremony scheduled for Sept. 7. Two emcees will be selected to emcee the event.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Penny Boggis at 567-5412 or at penny.boggis@schriever.af.mil

A&FRC offers sponsorship training, 7 Habits workshop

The Astran and Family Readiness Center will be offering sponsorship training from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 22. Training includes being informed about on and off base resources and learning sponsorship responsibilities. It is also open to DOD civilians to attend.

The A&FRC also has slots open for the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People workshop. The workshop is from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 21-22 and promotes ways to effectively manage personal, interpersonal, managerial and organizational situations. To reserve a slot, contact the A&FRC at 567-3920.

For more information, contact Andrea Hernandez at 567-7340 or at andrea.hernandez@schriever.af.mil

Finance drop boxes no longer available

The finance drop boxes located outside the Satellite Dish Dining Facility and the High Plains Café have been removed due to little use. The after-hours drop box located outside the finance office in Bldg. 210, room 146A, will not be affected.

Completed vouchers can be sent through distribution to 50 CFTS/VMF, or can be faxed to 567-5080.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Algermissen at 567-5631 or at andrew.algermissen@schriever.af.mil

Base Briefs

INSIDE

News ........................................ 3-7
Feature ........................................ 8
Sports ........................................ 9

GPS fleet to transition to upgraded control system

Staff Report

By Master Sgt. Kate Rust

A&FRC offers sponsorship training, 7 Habits workshop

One man is a nuclear physicist who led the Air Force to create a command dedicated to space. The other is an aviation legend famous for flying airplanes into space. Together, they entered the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame Aug. 8. Inductees of the past and present, whose accomplishments formed the basis upon which Air Force Space Command now operates, were met with cheers and applause from more than 200 guests and headquarters personnel gathered at the Hartinger Building.

Gen. Kevin P. Chilton, AFSPC commander, presided over the ceremony.


“ UserInfo can clearly see the impact these individuals have had in their professional careers on what we do at Air Force Space Command,” said General Chilton. “These foundational work got us where we are today.”

Two pioneers inducted into Hall of Fame

The Air Force is completing final preparation for transitioning the Global Positioning System ground segment to the new Architecture Evolution Plan in September. AEP was developed by the Space and Missile Systems Center’s GPS Wing, under contract with Boeing, to place the legacy 1970s-era mainframe computer at the 50th Space Wing, Schriever AFB.

AEP is designed to improve operations, increase efficiency, and provide a foundation for new capabilities as they become available. When installed, the system will enable upgrades to control the soon-to-be-launched GPS Block IIF satellites. It will provide the foundation for a new security architecture supporting troops fighting the global war on terrorism.

The Air Force team, along with contractors from Boeing, Lockheed Martin and The Aerospace Corporation, have been preparing for transition to the new control segment since March 2006. The team has focused on ensuring GPS service will not be interrupted during the changeover from the legacy system to AEP.

The transition will take place over a period of four to six days and will transfer control to AEP one satellite at a time. The transition has been successfully rehearsed three times and is completely reversible if any problems are encountered. Users of the system should not notice the transition.

GPS is the world’s premier space-based positioning, navigation, and timing system supporting land, sea, and airborne navigation for military and civilian users around the world. The system is comprised of up to 30 satellites on orbit which broadcast a navigation message to users worldwide.

The ground segment provides command and control of the satellites and generates the navigation message for satellites to broadcast to users so they can determine their position on the earth. The new control segment is a critical part of an overall modernization plan to improve operations, sustainment, and overall service.

The Space and Missile Systems Center, located at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., is the U.S. Air Force’s center of acquisition excellence for acquiring and developing military space systems including six wings and three groups responsible for GPS, military satellite communications, defense meteorological satellites, space launch and range systems, satellite control network, space based infrared systems, intercontinental ballistic missile systems, and space situational awareness capabilities. SMC manages more than $60 billion in contracts, executes annual budgets of $10 billion and employs more than 6,800 people worldwide.

The 50th Space Wing at Schriever AFB, through the 2nd Space Operations Squadron, performs the satellite command control mission for GPS and the new AEP. GPS is the world’s largest military satellite constellation, providing highly accurate, 24-hour, all-weather, positioning, navigation, and timing data to military and civilian users worldwide. 2nd SOPS operates and maintains the Master Control Station at Schriever AFB and a dedicated network of worldwide monitor stations and ground antennas to control and support this constellation.

The 50th Space Wing operates satellite operations centers, remote tracking stations, and other command and control facilities around the world. These facilities monitor satellites during launch, put the satellites in their proper orbits following launch, monitor and control the satellites while they are in orbit, fix satellite anomalies when they occur, and dispose of satellites when they reach the end of their useful life. In addition to GPS, the wing operates several satellite systems including the Defense Satellite Communications System and Milstar. The wing also operates the Air Force Satellite Control Network which operates seven worldwide remote tracking stations.
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By Tech. Sgt. Kimberley Young
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

“I can be hazardous to any negative thoughts,” said former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Robert D. Gaylor. It was quite a way to begin a presentation, but as anyone who has ever heard him speak, no one would have expected anything less.

Chief Gaylor, the fifth CMSAF, was the guest speaker during the Master Sergeant Induction Ceremony here Aug. 3, but decided to come up from San Antonio, Texas, a day early so he could meet and speak with Airmen of all ranks.

Born in a small town with a population of 880, Chief Gaylor has done quite a bit in his life, and although he retired from the Air Force in 1979, he’s been an active part of the Air Force ever since.

Chief Gaylor has visited 28 bases so far this year, including some overseas, and his calendar is full into next year. He’s full of energy and he demonstrates that when he speaks.

“I love to talk and I have boundless energy and enthusiasm. You can’t wear me out,” Chief Gaylor said matter-of-factly. “I have never met a microphone I didn’t like.”

The great storyteller had everyone in stitches while imparting valuable insight, starting off with the importance of Airmen and how “every military member is important and vital to the success of the Air Force.”

He spoke of how today’s contributions to the Air Force are ongoing and the Air Force’s image is earned. He spoke of tennis nets and sand traps to demonstrate some of the obstacles along career paths, which allow Airmen to demonstrate what they are capable of doing.

“Conformity is a very powerful influence,” said Chief Gaylor, adding that he feels everyone should always strive to do their best and set their own standards. Then he asked a simple question.

“Why?” After a few responses from the audience, he stated the answer is simple, “everyone loves hot fries.” As people started looking at each other, Chief Gaylor settled in to tell us a story about a little boy named Juan in Laredo, Texas. Little Juan worked at a hamburger stand and he would see Juan take a bag and run as fast as he could.

Finally Chief asked him what he was doing and Juan told him he was making deliveries. When Chief Gaylor asked why he was running so hard Juan responded with, “Everyone loves hot fries.”

That simple statement made an impact on Chief Gaylor. Everyone should continue to make contributions creating a positive image, look forward to obstacles rather than avoid them as that builds character, and last but not least, do the best you can in everything they do.

Ensure people get the right treatment and they will say nice things about you because in the end, “everybody loves hot fries.”
Brig. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager is perhaps the most famous person affiliated with the distinguished history of the 50th Space Wing.

General Yeager was born in 1923 in Myra, W. Va., and graduated from high school in Hamlin, W. Va. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in September 1941.

In July 1942, he entered the last class of the "flying sergeants" program. This program allowed enlisted men to earn their wings as pilots and was a temporary response to drastic shortages of qualified pilot candidates. The Air Corps Act of 1926 and Public Law 99, which went into effect in 1941, authorized the program.

Public Law 99 reduced the education requirement making the average age of the sergeant pilot between 18 and 22 which was younger than most pilot training cadets with a college education.

After receiving his wings and rating as a flight officer in 1943, General Yeager served with the Army Air Forces in Europe from 1943-1945. He distinguished himself in combat over France and Germany, shooting down 13 enemy aircraft including five on one mission.

General Yeager was one of 17 "flying sergeants" to become an ace. On March 5, 1944, he was shot down over France and escaped capture by reaching the Spanish border with the help of the French Marquis.

General Yeager returned to the U.S. in February 1945 and briefly served as a flight instructor following graduation from the flight instructor course.

He moved to Wright Field, Ohio in July 1945 where he first served as the assistant maintenance officer of the Fighter Section of the Flight Test Division. Col. Albert Boyd, the chief of the Flight Test Division, personally picked him to attend the test pilot school in January 1946. Colonel Boyd then picked General Yeager, his youngest test pilot, to flight test the Bell X-1.

He made history on Oct. 14, 1947, becoming the first man to break the sound barrier, reaching Mach 1.06 (700 mph) in the X-1. On Dec. 12, 1953, General Yeager achieved a speed of Mach 2.44 (1650 mph) and an altitude of 76,000 feet in the Bell X-1A.

General, then Lt. Col. Yeager, joined the 50th Fighter-Bomber Wing (later redesignated 50th Space Wing) based out of Hahn Air Base, West Germany in October 1954, assuming command of the 417th Fighter Squadron. The 50th Fighter-Bomber Wing regularly chose General Yeager as its team leader in European gunnery meets. General Yeager often earned top individual awards and brought the wings team to overall championships in 1955 and 1956.

He returned to the U.S. in 1957, joining the 413th Fighter Wing at George AFB, Calif. General Yeager served in various fighter units until his selection to attend the Air War College. In July 1962, General Yeager assumed command of the Aerospace Research Pilot School where all military astronauts received training. In 1966, General Yeager returned to the fighter community, commanding the 405th Fighter Wing at Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines. While with the 405th, he flew 127 combat missions in South Vietnam.


General Yeager retired from the Air Force on March 1, 1975, with more than 10,000 flight hours in 180 aircraft types.
Street Talk

What is your favorite summer activity?

“Fishing.”
Senior Airman
Billie Barnard

“Anything that involves the beach and water, particularly jet skiiing.”
Tech. Sgt. Nichole Fleming

“Going to Cape Cod and Red Sox games.”
Civilian
Jeff Gonyea

“Fishing.”
Staff Sgt.
Mark Jenkins

“Sand volleyball”
Senior Airman
Seth Russell

Compiled by Lorna Guiterrez
WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley met Aug. 10 at the Pentagon with several Air Force leaders to discuss the road ahead for survival, evasion, resistance and escape training.

Air Force leaders plan to broaden the focus of SERE training for all Airmen due to the threat of isolation and capture for Airmen supporting the war on terrorism.

“As we’ve seen recently, the capture of military personnel has the potential of exploding into a larger strategic event with global impacts,” General Moseley said. “Today’s battlefields are non-linear and non-contiguous; their shape and venue change constantly. I worry we’ve not prepared our Airmen for the world we’re operating in.”

In today’s ever-changing world, Airmen increasingly find themselves in a non-traditional environment outside the wire. SERE training teaches Airmen principles, techniques and skills to survive in any environment, avoid capture, resist and escape if captured.

SERE training is currently conducted on three levels. All Airmen receive entry-level, or A-level, training. B-level is provided to those with a moderate risk of capture and C-level is reserved for those with a high risk of capture. B- and C-level training is provided primarily to aircrew members, those traditionally in higher risk duties. Col. Bill Andrews, a guest speaker at the summit, was an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot flying his 35th mission in the final stages of Operation Desert Storm when he was shot down, captured and spent time as a POW.

“An Airman captured faces grave moral and physical challenges,” Colonel Andrews said. “My training gave me a gut understanding that I was still at war and not in a time-out. My SERE training at the Air Force Academy 14 years earlier, was clear as a bell, giving me the confidence to not break in the face of the enemy.”

In addition to aircrews, advanced SERE training currently is provided to battlefield Airmen, those with the responsibility for combat control, pararescue, tactical air control and combat weather.

“This is a great day. For the first time in history, we’re talking about preparing all Airmen in the total force to deal with the increasing threat of isolation and capture,” said Chief Master Sergeant John Myers, SERE career field manager.

“We must ensure every Airman is properly trained to deal with these threats.” Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force Chief of Staff
Predator soars to record number of sorties

By Master Sgt. Steve Horton
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — When terrorists tried shooting mortar rounds at Balad Air Base in July, they didn’t count on the tireless, unblinking eye of an MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle overhead, transmitting their every move to Airmen on the ground here.

Airmen assigned to the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron here kept the terrorists who think they can continue their operations, and, as a result, tactics.

And with success comes more requests for the Predator’s service.

“The air battle staff asks for the Predator constantly because it provides such a fine (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) platform, and it’s always airborne,” the colonel said. “The objective here is to find and follow activity that might be aiding the insurgents.”

“Terrorists are planting, for example, don’t just affect our convoys, they pose a danger to civilians living here too,” Colonel Kott said. “The more surgical we can be at stopping insurgent behavior, the better it will be for the civilians trying to get on with their lives.”

The 46th ERS, consisting of less than a dozen Airmen, is responsible for the takeoff and landing of Balad Air Base’s fleet of Predators as well as flying operations within a 25-mile radius of the base.

Because the Predator has a long loiter time, Colonel Kott said. “That’s part of what the Predator is being asked to do. It is an ideal platform for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, so the 46th ERS mission load has increased.

Col. Marilyn Kott, the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group deputy commander. “They coordinate with ground forces to confirm targets and coordinate on the best course of action for the situation.”

Sometimes the best course of action is launching an air strike, other times it can mean remaining overhead to observe or follow possible insurgents as they move around the countryside.

“The crews flying the Predator report possible enemy activity and give the joint terminal attack controller and the ground and air commanders the opportunity to decide what they want to do with that information,” Colonel Kott said. “They can agree that the activity needs to be stopped right away and that our Convoy, they pose a danger to civilians living here too,” Colonel Kott said. “The more surgical we can be at stopping insurgent behavior, the better it will be for the civilians trying to get on with their lives.”

The 46th ERS, consisting of less than a dozen Airmen, is responsible for the takeoff and landing of Balad Air Base’s fleet of Predators as well as flying operations within a 25-mile radius of the base.

Every sortie is manned on the ground by a pilot, who flies the aircraft and controls the weapons system by remote control, and a sensor operator, who controls the camera view and laser-targeting system on the aircraft.

Once the Predator is in the air, the pilot and sensor operator will locate a target point used to zero in the weapons system. The sensor operator works with ground members to ensure the laser, which guides the Predator’s weapons system, is on target.

When the weapons system has been zeroed in, the pilot prepares to hand control of the Predator to Airmen stationed halfway around the world at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., or at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

“The Predator is coming into its own as a no-hold weapon versus a reconnaissance-only platform,” Major Dagley said. “The work it is doing with its precision-strike capability on top of top-notch ISR, is forcing more people to stand up and take notice. It is forging new ground almost daily. It is paving the way for future technologies and applications, and, as a result,”

By coming into its own as an weapon to compliment its ISR capability, the number of Predator sorties and flying hours will continue to increase. That’s good news to U.S. and coalition forces, and bad news to the terrorists who think they can continue to threaten the security of Iraq.

Predator general characteristics

Primary Function: Armed reconnaissance, airborne surveillance and target acquisition

Contractor: General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Incorporated

Power Plant: Rotax 914F four-cylinder engine producing 115 horsepower

Length: 27 feet (8.2 meters)

Height: 6.9 feet (2.1 meters)

Weight: 1,130 pounds (512 kilograms) empty, maximum takeoff weight 2,250 pounds (1,020 kilograms)

Wing span: 48.7 feet (14.8 meters)

Speed: Cruise speed around 84 mph (70 knots), up to 135 mph

Range: up to 600 nautical miles (454 miles)

Ceiling: up to 25,500 feet (7,620 meters)

Fuel capacity: 665 pounds (180 gallons)

Payload: 450 pounds (204 kilograms)

Armament: two laser-guided AGM-114 Hellfire missiles
By Lorna Gutierrez

It was day two of the intramural softball tournament here on August 14, as eight teams competed to see who would stay strong throughout the double-elimination tournament.

First up was the defending champions NOPS, who took on 4th SOP in the first game of the day. With a goal to defend its title once again, NOPS played strong throughout to win the contest 16-5.

NOPS' Benjamin Bryan had a home run in the first inning for the squad, which sent home teammates Joey Quiroz and Jerry Kelly. Chuck Madalone and Jon Moentmann both crossed home plate for 4th SOP in the first inning, but the resulting 2-3 score after the first was the closest 4th SOP came to the defending champs.

Mark Obert also had a home run for NOPS while Quiroz added a triple. "We played pretty well today," said Quiroz, adding that yells by the opposing team only encouraged his team to play better.

Next up was 50th SCS and CPTS, with 50th SCS coming up with a 14-8 win. It wasn’t until the end however, that the squad got any breathing room as CPTS trailed by only three runs until the final seventh inning.

Josh Folmar and Jimmy Rogers both had home runs in the first inning to get 50th SCS off to a strong 4-1 start. Rogers added another home run in the fourth for the winners, while Terry Dickerson added a home run for CPTS.

“We played real tough today,” said 50th SCS coach David Learm. “We were hitting a little off in a few innings, but otherwise it was a real good game.”

SIDC and SIDC-3 then faced off for the third contest of the day. A close game throughout, SIDC-3 edged out its opponent with an 8-7 victory.

Tied after the first inning, SIDC had a one-run edge up until the bottom of the fifth inning when SIDC-3 gained its own one-run lead after Bob Lawrence and Fred McKenna both crossed home plate. SIDC-3 held the one run lead in the sixth when Jeremy Bair and Vincent Hill added the final two scores.

Nigel Crisp scored two runs for SIDC in the effort.

"We played some decent defense and got some bats moving this time. If we do it again the next game we’ll have a chance to win," said coach Jim Powell.

Tournament play continues throughout the week with the winner being determined August 17.
Gen. Lew Allen Jr. graduated from high school in Gainesville, Texas, and entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1943, from which he graduated in June 1946 with a Bachelor of Science degree. In November 1946, he completed multi-engine flight training in B-25 aircraft and was assigned to the 7th Bombardment Group, Strategic Air Command at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas, where he flew B-29 Superfortresses and Convair B-36s aircraft before becoming an assistant special weapons officer for the 7th Bombardment Wing.

During June 1957 to December 1961, General Allen served as science adviser to the president of the newly established Aerospace Research Pilot School at Kirtland AFB, N.M. Specializing in the effects of high-altitude nuclear explosions, he participated in several series of nuclear tests and was scientific director of a major experiment that used a large number of rocket fuels and measured the characteristics of electrons trapped in the Earth’s geomagnetic field after an exospheric nuclear burst. Upon receipt of his fourth star in August 1977, General Allen led Air Force Systems Command, which had responsibility for research, development and acquisition of all military satellites, space boosters and Air Force ballistic missiles. The next year, he became Air Force vice chief of staff and, in July 1978, won congressional approval as the service’s tenth chief of staff. In the latter capacity, he kept the Global Positioning System satellite program on track when skeptics tried to kill it. As a member of Joint Chiefs of Staff, he contributed to deliberations on the SALT II agreement and the proper balance between long-range missiles and bombers. During his career, he flew more than 185 different fighters, and logged more than 14,700 hours in space and held the unique distinction of being the only person to have flown to an altitude of 280,600 feet, becoming the youngest person, at age 32, ever to qualify officially as an astronaut, and one of only eight men to qualify for astronaut wings by flying an airplane into space.

“He’s one of the individuals in the history of the Air Force who has bridged those two domains (air and space),” he said. “He spent more time operating in a domain between 100,000 feet and 400,000 feet than probably anybody alive on the planet today,” said General Chilton.

“A leader who made a difference from the time he was a junior officer. He made things happen in the Air Force, not just in space and not just in missiles, but in the air-breathing realm as well, that are still significant today in the way we operate as an Air Force.”

General Engle is a man well-known for his skill at flying airplanes and spacecraft. He entered the history books June 29, 1965, when he flew the X-15 experimental aircraft to an altitude of 280,600 feet, becoming the youngest person, at age 32, ever to qualify officially as an astronaut, and one of only eight men to qualify for astronaut wings by flying an airplane into space.

“He’s one of the individuals in the history of the Air Force who has bridged these two domains (air and space),” he said. “He spent more time operating in a domain between 100,000 feet and 400,000 feet than probably anybody alive on the planet today,” said General Chilton.

“I am honored and truly humbled to even be considered to stand among these legends and these giants of our space and missile heritage,” said the general. “It is truly one of the highest honors one can receive to be recognized by one’s peers.” He indicated that those peers were the members of the U.S. Air Force, “it elevates the honor even higher.”

MAJOR GENERAL JOE HENRY ENGLE
Retired Nov. 15, 1986

Engle became a research pilot in the X-15 program. He became the eighth pilot to fly the X-15, an experimental aircraft, reaching Mach 4.71 and 77,000 feet altitude Oct. 7, 1963. He entered the history books on June 29, 1965, when he flew the X-15 to an altitude of 280,600 feet, becoming the youngest person, at age 32, ever to qualify officially as an astronaut.
Children at the Child Development Center have some fun in the sun, and water, during Water Fun Day on August 10.

Natalie Konowicz, 15 months old, entertains herself at the water table during Water Fun Day at the Child Development Center.

Splish-splashing and having fun!

‘Today’s Air Force’ highlights mission in Ecuador

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — This week’s edition of “Today’s Air Force” highlights the Manta Air Base mission in Ecuador — the fight against drug trafficking.

It also features the Air Mobility Command Rodeo. See how more than 40 teams and 2,500 people from the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and allied nations took part in the readiness competition.

Finally, Airmen travel to the Republic of Nauru, located south of the Equator in the Pacific Ocean where the battle of Tarawa took place back in World War II. Their humanitarian mission includes medical aid and construction projects to better the life of its people.

This week’s line-up includes:

Segment A
War on Drugs
Manta Air Base mission

Segment B
Challenges/Competitions
AMC Rodeo
CBRN Challenge

Segment C
Air Force Humanitarian Projects
Tarawa Hospital Construction
Nauru Medical Aid

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