

# S P A C E OBSERVER

Serving Team 21 and its Global Mission  
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Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

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## Manpower feeds the protectors

By Master Sgt. D.K. Grant  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The 21st Space Wing manpower office sponsored a chili and soup lunch last week, in honor of 21st Security Forces Squadron members and SFS augmentees.

The event was the result of concern for the morale of security forces and augmentees who have been working 60-70-hour weeks since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, said Senior Master Sgt. Darrel Evans, who came up with the idea.

Evans, after talking with a manpower SFS augmentee, realized that the base was raining baked goods on the security folks, but what the cops really missed were "real meals".

Evans bounced the idea off co-workers in manpower, and they sent word to various agencies inviting them to help "feed the cops."

Agencies responded and Evans and co-honcho Esther Martin oversaw setup of 13 pots of soups and chilis.

The entire manpower office pitched in, providing cutlery, accouterments and beverages and several pots of soup and chili as well.

Manpower also set up the Building 350 atrium, where 45

SFS troops were served lunch. Volunteers, escorted by a security representative, also delivered food to SFS members who were unable to leave their posts.

The soup and chili offering was such a success that manpower was additionally able to take several pots of food to the security forces squadron to feed the night shift teams.

The event, according to SFS commander Lt. Col. Lyle Cary, was timely, considerate, needed and deeply appreciated.

The security forces and augmentees have been working nearly double normal duty hours, which limits their time and ability to get a hot meal during their shifts, he explained.

Not only was the homemade meal welcome, the evidence of base concern improved morale.

According to manpower, the opportunity to support the security teams was a simple gesture compared to all they do for the base.

"Hopefully this lunch will prompt other units to step up and feed the force," said Evans said, adding that the wing legal office has already begun plans to host an evening dinner for the cops.



U.S. Air Force photos

Senior Master Sgt. Darrel Evans (upper left), manpower, watches as security forces troops begin to line up for lunch. Evans and co-worker Esther Martin oversaw the manpower office project held at the Building 350 atrium last week.



In addition to 13 soup and chili options (above right), security forces members and augmentees enjoyed a variety of breads, chips, toppings and side dishes.

Left: 21st Space Wing Vice Commander Col. Don Alston joins security forces members and augmentees for chili and soup during the Manpower-sponsored lunch last week.



Photo by Master Sgt. Kristin Clark

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**Straight Talk Line**  
**556-9154**  
Call the 21st Space Wing Straight Talk Line for current information on real-world wing events.

## Action line

**Q:** What is the policy for soliciting in base housing? Over the last month, we have had numerous children soliciting for funds.

I have seen a sign on base saying, "no soliciting." Thank you.

**A:** Thanks for your question. Yes, we do allow scouts and similar groups to solicit on base, but only if they get approval prior to the event. You can contact Colleen Miller at the Peterson housing office, 556-4332, for details on how to get approval for such solicitation.

The bottom line is, it isn't expressly prohibited, but coordination and approval are musts.

**Q:** Why are there two large pit bulls allowed to run loose in

base housing?

Can someone make sure they are looked after properly and on a leash? These are two dangerous dogs running around on base just after the children get home from school.

**A:** Thank you for your concerns for the safety of our residents. This is a good time to remind pet owners of their responsibilities to keep pets on a leash or in a fenced yard. When the housing flight receives complaints concerning specific pets, they contact the owners to correct the situation.

Complaints can be addressed to Dan Uresti, 556-7761, or Carl Patty, 556-7946, in housing.

Please call them if you notice dogs running loose again.

## Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line (556-7777 or fax 556-7848) is your direct link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice concerns over problems, share good ideas or provide some constructive criticism.

The Action Line is not a replacement for the chain of command. They can help make the Peterson and the wing a better place to live and work.



Brig. Gen. Bob Kehler



Photo by Christie Bond

## Military kids and school

Dr. Mary Keller, executive director of the Military Child Education Coalition, discusses education issues with Lyman Kaiser, District 11 school board president. Keller spoke at the Family Support Center Monday. The MCEC is a non-profit organization that works to address transition and other education issues related to military dependent children. For more information visit the web site at [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org).

## News in Brief

### Crime stoppers

Because of recent terrorist incidents in the United States, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 803 at Peterson Air Force Base is asking the military community to report any and all suspicious activity immediately.

If you see suspicious activity and you need to reach an AFOSI agent immediately, call the Crime Stoppers Hotline at 556-4357.

### Harvest of Love

The Annual Care and Share KRDO Harvest of Love food drive begins next month, and volunteers are needed for various positions. Peterson complex volunteers are needed Nov. 13-16, and 19-21.

Those interested can volunteer to drive military pickup vehicles, support pickup teams, work in the warehouse sorting and packing food, or work in the warehouse yard helping pickup teams unload and sort food.

To volunteer to drive and work on one of the pickup teams, call Senior Master Sgt. Neal Thatcher, 554-4351 or [neal.thatcher@Peterson.af.mil](mailto:neal.thatcher@Peterson.af.mil)

To work in the warehouse or warehouse yard, call Senior Master Sgt. Brian Gauthier at 474-3907 or [brian.gauthier@cheyennemountain.af.mil](mailto:brian.gauthier@cheyennemountain.af.mil).

To help contact schools to schedule pickup dates, contact Master Sgt. Lisa Wagoner at 556-1710.

For details about the program, contact Master Sgt. D.K. Grant, 556-6491.

### AFSA donations

The Air Force Sergeants Association, Chapter 1181, is collecting items to donate to different organizations.

Items include old or unused greeting cards to be sent to a children's rehabilitation center, old or unused stamps to be sent to the Children of America Foundation and food coupons to be sent to bases overseas.

Items may be dropped off at the mission support facility, Building 350.

### Officers Wives'

The Peterson Air Force Base Officers Wives' Club will have a social Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m., at the Officers' Club. The social is in support of the Family Support Center food closet.

Donations will be taken at the club. For more information or to make reservations, call 574-8500.

### Clinic change

The Peterson Air Force Base Clinic is changing the way it does business.

Beginning Nov. 13, the Nurse Triage line will be available for patients to call. People who call the line will be able to make same-day appointments, get lab and test results, get medication refills, and leave messages for specific providers.

The triage number is 556-2273. Active duty same day appointments will be taken 6:30-7:30 a.m. All other same day appointments will be taken 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

## Space Observer

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# Lockheed Martin wins JSF contract

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker  
Air Force Print News

Competition for the Air Force's newest multirole aircraft ended Oct. 26 when Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche announced the winner of the Defense Department's Joint Strike Fighter contract in a Pentagon press conference.

"Both proposals were very good, but on the basis of strengths, weaknesses and degrees of risk of the program, it is our conclusion that the Lockheed Martin team is the winner of the Joint Strike Fighter program on the best-value basis," said Roche.

This selection will allow Lockheed Martin's X-35B to enter the next acquisition phase (which is) system development and demonstration, said Edward C. Aldridge Jr., undersecretary of defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

"Today's Joint Strike Fighter announcement is a momentous step forward in our efforts to recapitalize and modernize the Air Force's aircraft fleet," said Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, in a written statement. "(It) is an essential element of our continuing transformation.

"The JSF brings persistent stealth over the battlefield for the first time, and will enhance the lethality and survivability of American and allied combat air, sea and ground forces," Jumper said. "This dynamic multi-role aircraft brings a robust air-to-ground capability that will enable us to bring critical effects to bear on tomorrow's battlefield."

According to Aldridge, there will be three variants of the JSF: a conventional takeoff and landing variant for the Air Force; a carrier-deck compatible variant for the Navy; and a short takeoff and vertical landing variant for the Marine Corps and United Kingdom.

"The JSF will be the world's premiere strike platform beginning in 2008 and lasting through 2040," Aldridge said. "It will provide an air-to-air capability second only to the F-22 air superiority fighter. The JSF will allow for migration by U.S. forces to an almost all stealth fighter force by 2025."

The source selection process was very strict, he said.

It began when Boeing and Lockheed Martin were each awarded contracts to compete in the concept demonstration phase of the JSF program in 1996. They began flying their concept demonstrators, the X-32B and the X-35B respectively, in 2000.



Courtesy photo

Competition for the Air Force's newest multirole aircraft ended Oct. 26 when Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche announced the Lockheed Martin team as the winner of the Joint Strike Fighter program.

This "fly-off" was designed to provide insights on basic aircraft performance, including commonality, modularity, short takeoff and vertical landing, hover and transition capabilities, and aircraft low-speed handling qualities.

The JSF is unique in that it is a joint program featuring a "family of aircraft" concept. It is designed to reduce development and production costs and the total cost of ownership by producing similar variants of the same aircraft for each customer.

The Air Force will be the largest JSF customer, purchasing 1,763 of the conventional takeoff and landing version of the aircraft.

The Marine Corps is expected to purchase 609 of the short takeoff and vertical landing aircraft variant.

The United Kingdom's Royal Air Force and Navy are also expected to order 150 of the STOVL variant. The Navy is expected to buy about 480 of the carrier variant.

## U.S. Commando Solo II takes over Afghan airwaves

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—After years of Taliban propaganda, the Afghan people are hearing another voice.

At any time of the day or night, an Air Force Special Operations Command EC-130E Commando Solo II is in the area of operations, broadcasting news and information to the Afghan people.

The aircraft and crews fly a variety of missions. In Afghanistan, they are broadcasting music, news and information in the various languages of the country. These are radio broadcasts only.

The planes, which are based at Harrisburg International Airport, Pa., are part of the 193rd Special Operations Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Army specialists in the language and customs of the area prepare the broadcasts.

The capability allows U.S. Central Command planners to warn the Afghan population to stay away from Taliban and al Qaeda targets. The broadcasts stress that the coalition campaign is not aimed at the Afghan people, but at the terrorists and their Taliban supporters.

"We have no wish to hurt you, the innocent people of Afghanistan," reads one English translation of a broadcast. "Stay away from military installations, government buildings, terrorist camps, roads, factories or bridges."

Another broadcast told the people of Afghanistan why the United States is attacking the Taliban and al Qaeda.

"On Sept. 11, 2001, thousands of people were killed en masse in the United States," it reads. "Among them was a 2-year-old girl. Barely able to stand or dress herself. Did she deserve to die? Why was she killed you ask? Was she a thief? What crime had she committed? She was merely on a trip with her family to visit her grandparents. Policemen, firefighters, teachers, doctors, mothers, fathers, sisters, broth-

ers all killed. Why?"

The broadcast also explained that the attacks in New York and the Pentagon were on innocent people — an act forbidden by the Muslim Koran.

"(The terrorists) believe they are heroes, Ghazi warriors triumphing over the evil of the West," the broadcast continues. "However, the truth is they are murderers and do not represent Islam."

Ghazi warriors are Muslim heroes from the early days of the religion.

Ham radio operators can listen to the broadcast at 8700 kilohertz, said 1st Lt. Edward Shank, a spokesman for the squadron.

The squadron has participated in operations in Panama, Bosnia, and Kosovo, and during the Gulf War. Their aircraft have been modified to not only handle radio but television broadcasts as well. They can broadcast via tape or live.

"If needed, we have the capability to take a speech by the President of the United States and beam it live via satellite to the aircraft, which then would broadcast it," Shank said.

The name "Commando Solo II" also has meaning. Commando refers to the special operations mission, and Solo refers to the fact that the aircraft can go it alone, Shank said.



Photo by Master Sgt. David Hawkins

Senior Airman Ken Lockhart, a security forces member from the 193rd Special Operations Wing, stands guard in front of the unit's EC-130E Commando Solo II aircraft.

# Commit to quit during Great American Smoke-out

By Tech. Sgt.  
Dwayne Ray

Peterson Health and Wellness Center

Are you thinking about quitting tobacco? Maybe you don't look forward to being out

at those smoking areas this winter, or maybe you're sick of the cough, or of your breath and clothes smelling like cigarettes.

The Peterson Health Promotion and Disease

Prevention Team wants to help you use the Great American Smoke-out Nov. 20 to make that commitment to quit.

Even if you are not ready to quit now, you can use that day to get ready to quit, and to

begin planning for the day when you will quit for good.

You can start right now. Stop by the Peterson Air Force Base Health and Wellness Center and pick up your "Commit To Quit" package.

You can use the package to help understand why you smoke and identify the benefits of quitting. In addition, the package will help you make your plan to quit for good.

As part of your plan, you will want to quit smoking on Nov. 20, along with thousands of people in the country. Quitting for the day will help you be more successful when you decide to quit for good, because it will show you how to prepare.

Use Nov. 20 to learn about your smoking habits and the resources you will need to help you quit. After you work through the package, the HAWC will help you overcome your personal barriers to quitting tobacco and help you capitalize on your strengths.

Tobacco cessation classes begin in November and January, and the HAWC can also connect you with other tobacco cessation programs across the Colorado Springs area.

For details call the HAWC at 566-4292.



*A look into the heart of the...*

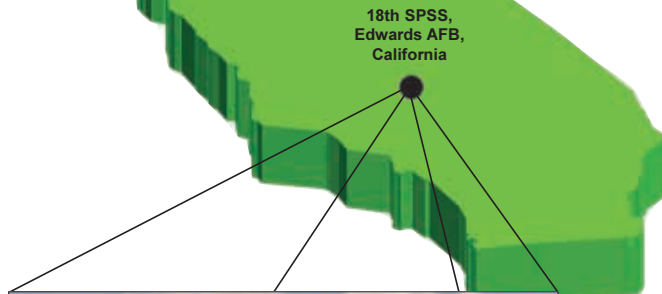
21st Space Wing



**GSU**  
Corner

# 18th Space Surveillance Squadron

By 1st Lt. Brian Conn  
18th Space Surveillance Squadron



18th SPSS,  
Edwards AFB,  
California



The first few months of an assignment to the 18th Space Surveillance Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base are filled with the challenge and excitement of learning about one of the most diverse units in the 21st Space Wing.

The role of the 18 SPSS is to conduct Ground-based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance, which directly contributes to the U.S. Space Command mission.

Support at the 18th takes many forms that are seemingly unrelated to space surveillance, including running functions like information management, security, personnel, civil engineering, communications, logistics and finance, system administration, and quality assurance evaluations. Although they seem unrelated to the operational side of the house, these sections carry a great deal of responsibility, complicated by the fact that they are each, at most, only two billets deep. Not only do these sections support the immediate squadron, but they also support four worldwide detachments: Det. 1, Socorro,

N.M.; Det. 2, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territories; Det. 3, Maui, Hawaii; and Det. 4, Moron Air Base, Spain.

Those who contact or are assigned to the 18th SPSS are likely to encounter the commander's support staff first. The staff's primary goal is to take care of customer needs. The fine job they do is evident in the recognition they receive, including high marks from the command inspector general.

The communications folks work overtime to keep circuit downtime to a minimum, and have been working closely with contractors to troubleshoot circuit cards, relays and more. They were also highly lauded by the IG during the recent wing inspection.

Success in every section depends on resource and personnel security. Security forces, force protection and anti-terrorism are a top priority here, and thanks to comments from command inspectors, our security forces know what an outstanding job they do to inform and protect squadron members and the site.

Every section in the Mission Support Flight goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that operators in this GEO-DDS squadron are able to focus on the mission. Every member in every section plays a critical role in support of U.S. Space Command operations and the space control mission.

## Cape completes new launch facility

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFPN) -- An Oct. 9 ceremony here marked the completion of Space Launch Complex 37, the launch facility for the Delta IV.

Delta IV space launch vehicles, one of America's newest generation of rockets called evolved expendable launch vehicles, are able to launch virtually any size medium or heavy payload into space, Boeing officials said.

The ceremony, which Air Force Secretary Dr. James Roche attended, marked the completion of the final element

of the new complex (the launch pad itself), Boeing officials said.

SLC-37 will enable Boeing to prepare a Delta IV launch vehicle in less than 30 days upon arrival from the factory. It will also reduce on-pad time to about 10 days and significantly reduce costs, officials said.

"The EELV program is about teamwork," Roche said. "The EELV program's success is predicated on thinking differently, not only about rocket design, but also the manufacturing, transportation, assembling and launch processes."



Photo by Scottie Bibb

## Harvest of Love

David Skeels (far left), Care and Share food bank operations director, explains Harvest of Love procedures to this year's Peterson Air Force Base coordinators. Learning the ropes were (left to right) Senior Master Sergeant Brian Gauthier, warehouse/yard teams coordinator; Christie Bond, base public affairs community relations chief; Master Sergeant Lisa Wagoner, school liaison coordinator; and Senior Master Sergeant Neal Thatcher, transportation/pickup teams coordinator. The Harvest of Love, sponsored by the Care and Share warehouse and KRDO Channel 13, has been confused with the Peterson Complex first sergeants' Caring Through Sharing food drive, which will also begin soon. The Harvest is an off-base volunteer program supported by Peterson for the past eight years. Food collected from local schools goes to the civilian food bank for distribution throughout 31 southern Colorado counties. Caring Through Sharing, however, is an on-base support function to support of base members' needs during the holidays. To volunteer for the Harvest of Love, see page 2 for contact information. To volunteer for Caring Through Sharing, contact your unit first sergeant.

Do you have a story idea?  
Let us know by e-mailing us at  
shane.sharp@peterson.af.mil  
or  
space.observer@peterson.af.mil  
or call us at  
556-8476.

## Today

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.
- Yoga, 12:05 p.m., at the Fitness Center.
- Cash drawings, 5-7 p.m., at the clubs. Only members are eligible.

## Sunday

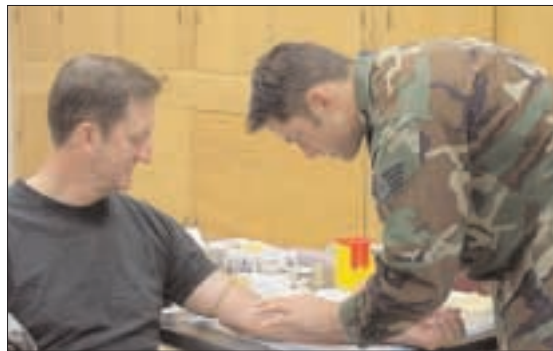
- Sunday Brunch, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Officers' Club.

## Monday

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.

## Tuesday

- Sponsorship Training, 7:30-8:30 a.m., at the Family Support Center.
- CSB/REDUX Briefing, 1-4 p.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Keystone Club meeting, 6 p.m., at the Youth Center.
- Karate, 5-7:30 p.m., at the Youth Center.
- Bowl three games for the price of two, at the Bowling Center, when you wear an "I voted" sticker.
- Pasta Buffet, 5-7 p.m., at the Enlisted Club.



Courtesy photo

## Saving lives

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Richard Munsell, 21st Space Wing chaplain, gives a blood sample to Staff Sgt. Jeremy Emerson during the Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program Oct. 23. More than 100 volunteers registered during the drive. Each year more than 30,000 patients are diagnosed with leukemia and other fatal blood diseases. More than 70 percent can't find a match among their family members, so must turn to the registry in search of a match. General information about the marrow donor program can also be found at [www.dodmarrow.org](http://www.dodmarrow.org).

## Wednesday

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.

## Thursday

- Play Group, 10:30 a.m.-noon, at the Chapel.

- Karate, 5-7:30 p.m., at the Youth Center.
- UNISERV TSP Briefing, 1-2:30 p.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Job Orientation, 1-2:30 p.m., at the Family Support Center.

## Nov. 9

- Yoga, 12:05 p.m., at the Fitness Center.
- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.
- Family Money Management, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center.
- Cash drawings, 5-7 p.m., at the clubs. Only members are eligible.

## Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy Center 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers' Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support Center 556-6141
- Chapel 556-4442

# Community Notes

### Community News

**TRAGEDY SUPPORT GROUP:** The Family Support Center sponsors a support group for people who want to discuss the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Coffee and cookies will be provided and participants may bring a lunch. Groups meet Tuesdays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Family Support Center, Building 350, Room 1016.

For details, call 556-6141.

**BAND OF THE ROCKIES:** The Band of the Rockies will have a free concert Nov. 9, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the auditorium.

For more information on the concert, call 556-9930.

**AUTO SKILLS CENTER:** The Auto Skills Center now offers emissions testing and VIN verification Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**ULTIMATE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:** The 2001 Officer and Enlisted Club Ultimate Membership Drive continues through Nov. 18.

All club members who sign up during this time are eligible for automobiles that will be given away to club members.

For information about club membership, call one of the clubs.

### CUSTOMER SERVICE IS

**ONLINE:** Answers to commonly asked questions concerning Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance are available online at [PeteCentral](http://PeteCentral).

### Education Center

#### MOVEMENT OF PETERSON

**CLASSES:** All classes from the four on-base colleges and universities have been moved off base to the Centennial Campus for the remainder of this term.

For more information, call Pikes Peak Community College at 574-1169.

**CLASS WITHDRAWAL:** Any military member taking classes at Pikes Peak Community College can withdraw from classes because of real-world situations if they do the following:

- Complete a PPCC registration/class adjustment form to withdraw.
- Complete a tuition appeal form.
- Complete an Air Force form 118 and have it signed by a supervisor.
- Submit all paperwork to the PPCC representatives on Peterson.

For more information, call the education center at 556-4064.

**CLEP AND DANTES:** The education center has received many score reports that have not been picked up.

If you have not received a CLEP/DANTES score report from an exam that was taken in August or early September, stop by the Education Office between 9-10:30 a.m., or noon-1:30 p.m., on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

### Youth Center

**FOOD DRIVE:** The Keystone Club is having a canned food and winter clothing drive through Nov. 10.

To donate, call 556-7220.

### Vote

**ON BASE VOTING:** Chap. (Maj.) Norman Ellis, base voting officer, reminds everyone to vote on Tuesday. There are many local and non-local elections voters should be aware of.

Call the voting hotline number at 556-8683 or log on to the Federal Voting Assistance Program Website at [www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov).

### CFC drive

**CFC:** The final day of the Combined Federal Campaign is Tuesday.

The campaign helps a number of different charities and human assistance agencies.

The money is distributed to charitable agencies that donors designate to receive their contributions.

### Right start

**RIGHT START BRIEFING:** The 21st Mission Support Squadron will have a Right Start briefing Nov. 13 and 27, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Enlisted Club.

The event combines the former newcomer's briefing and the information fair.

For more information, call 556-7525.

### OSI investigation

**OSI NEEDS YOUR HELP:** The British Ministry of Defense Police and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations are investigating a company that rents vehicles to U.S. and other authorized personnel in and around the Royal Air Force Lakenheath, Alconbury and Mildenhall areas within the United Kingdom.

If you think you have been defrauded by this company, call at 556-4347.

### Family Support

**JOB FAIR:** There will be a city-wide job and education fair Nov. 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Pikes Peak Community College, Rampart Range Campus.

For details, call 556-6141 or log on to [www.careerinformant.com](http://www.careerinformant.com).

## Chapel Schedule

### Protestant Services

Liturgical Worship  
8:15 a.m.

Traditional Sunday  
Worship  
11 a.m.

Gospel Services  
12:30 p.m.

Sunday School  
9:45 a.m.

### Catholic Services

Mass  
Weekdays

11:35 a.m.  
Saturdays

5 p.m.

Sundays  
9:30 a.m.

Reconciliation  
Saturdays

4 p.m.

### Religious Education

Adult and  
pre K-12th grade

Sundays  
8:30 a.m.

*Making*

*a*

*Difference*







ABOVE: Josh Lang hoses out "Zambezie" the hippopotamus' cage  
ABOVE LEFT: Staff Sgt. Roberta Barrows, 21st Communications Squadron, cleaning out the Wolfs Woods at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.  
CENTER LEFT: Eric Cave, Les Breedlow, and Murray Hill cleaning the llama cage as a llama looks on



ABOVE AND LEFT: Volunteers put together book bags together at the Colorado School for the Deaf & Blind during Make a Difference Day 2001.  
MAIN GRAPHIC: Teresa Owens working with a King Tailed Lemur at the zoo.

# Lending a helping hand

Photos by Robb Lingley  
21st Communications Squadron

More than 500 members from the Peterson Complex, as well as other military and non-military organizations, volunteered to help out during the Make A Difference Day activities Oct. 27.

Projects included painting, clean-up, sorting food, housework, reading to children and setting up a Halloween party. Locations include the Youth Outreach Center, the Ronald McDonald House, the Silver Key Nursing Home, the Children's Literacy Center, the Care and Share food bank and the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

# Character forms essence of true heroes

By Chaplain (Col.)  
John Blair  
AETC Chaplain

As I reflect on the Sept. 11 attacks on our great country, I have to ask: "What intangibles do we possess to carry us through this terrible crisis? What provides us with our courage, strength, faith and resolve? What makes us who we are?"

The answer is our character.

Character can be described in many ways, but there is one person who brings it into focus for me: Rocky Blier.

Blier was a halfback for the Pittsburgh Steelers and is a living legend.

Blier was a monument to

courage and character. Professional football scouts said, "Can't win in the NFL with this kid," "Is not capable of playing professional football" and "I don't think this man can make a pro club."

However, Blier was selected 417 out of 441 football players drafted in the NFL in 1968. The Steelers picked 18 players and Blier was the 18th. He was the only one of the 18 who made it in pro football.

Blier was drafted into the Army that same year and later had a foot, leg and thigh severely injured during combat in the Vietnam War. He was separated from the Army with 40 percent disability.

After returning from

Vietnam, Blier attended the Steelers' training camp. Despite the odds of his injured leg and time away from the game being stacked against him, Blier had non-physical skills working in his favor. One coach called it heart, another courage, and a third suggested character.

Character is that intangible force that retrieves shattered dreams and deflated hopes.

If you pick up the biography of any man or woman who has made a lasting contribution to humanity, some were extremely brilliant while others were courageous. But one characteristic will be present in every case: character.

Character is what Dr. George Sheehan, in his book

"Running and Being," refers to when he writes, "I have character which is simply the decision to stand pain."

He adds, "Some think of character as sprinting at the end of a race. But character is what gets you there to begin with. Character starts back in the hills with six miles still to go and you are thinking of how you can get out of it without anyone noticing. Character begins when you have 40 minutes of torture left and you're already hurting more than you ever remember."

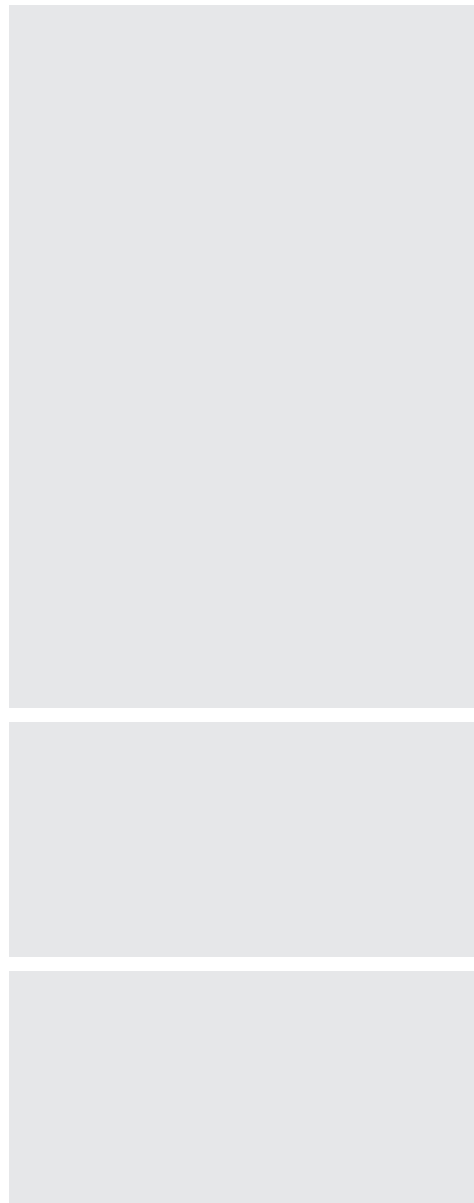
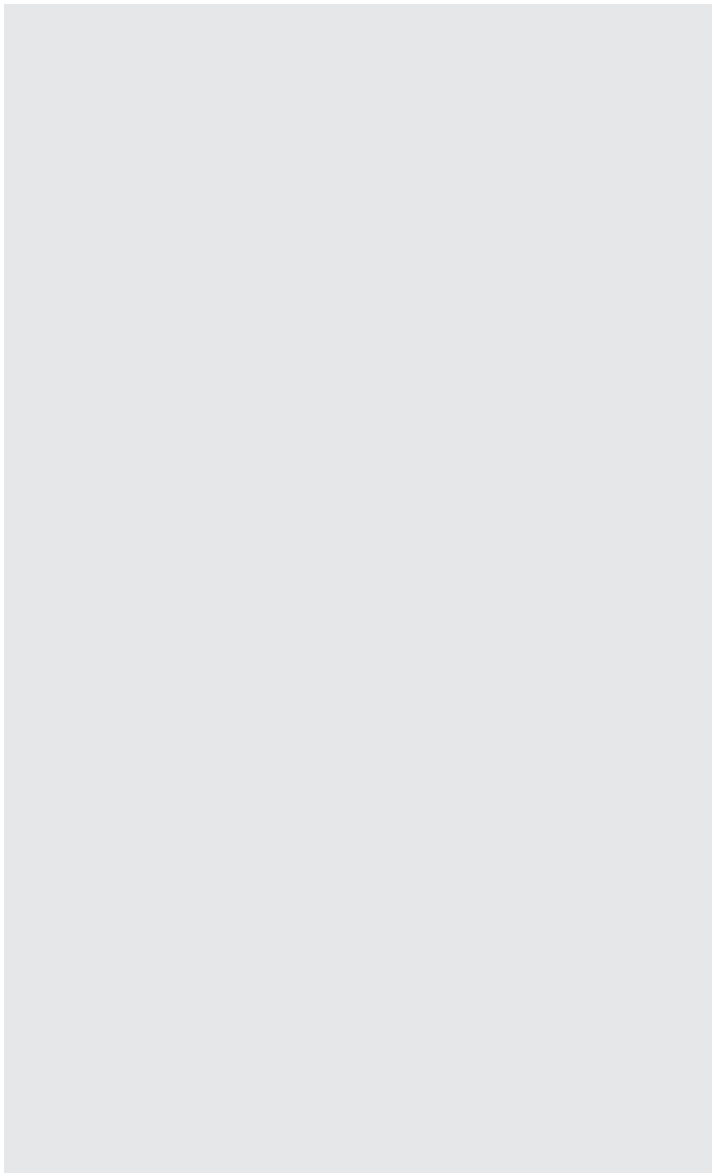
Character is also what Sheehan calls the "wall"—the psychological breaking point

that comes at the 20-mile mark of a 26-mile marathon. The wall is where the runner begins to fall apart. From the wall, the runner goes it all alone.

We have all been witnesses to many courageous acts during the past few weeks by people we can only classify as true heroes. So many displayed character and gave their lives in order to save others.

I challenge you to reflect on the true greatness of our Air Force.

Remember, America cannot be measured by its productivity or national resources, but only by its character.



## Runner completes 100-mile race just under 30 hours

By Airman

Nathaniel Kelleher

314th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark.**—“Run, Forest! Run!” Well, not quite, but to finish a 100-mile run, an instructor pilot from the 53rd Airlift Squadron needed all the motivation he could get.

“You’re running for 30 hours,” said Capt. Shannon Johnson. “You start in the dark, the sun comes up, you run all day, the sun sets, the stars come out, the moon comes out, you run all night long, the sun comes up and you’re still running.”

At the 92-mile mark, somewhere in the mountains around Perryville, Ark., Johnson realized he might not make the 30-hour time limit in the Arkansas Traveller 100-Mile Foot Race, Oct. 6 and 7, in Perryville.

Then something started burning inside. He had come too far not to make the final time limit, he said.

“So even though it really hurt, I just sucked it up and started running,” he said. He was the last to make the time limit, crossing the finish line in 29:52:20.

The Traveller, which is one of five “ultraruns” held annually in America, is not just a long road race.

“The whole time you’re on fire roads, which is a one-way rutted gravel road, or it’s on a trail; and it’s constantly up and down mountains,” he said.

This is just one in a slew of physical challenges runners face during the race, Johnson said.

“The big danger in these is your kidneys,” he said. “What happens is your body starts breaking down your muscle tissue because you can’t eat enough food, and that muscle tissue collects on your kidneys.”

To combat this, Johnson said he kept a hydration unit on his back and ate whenever possible at the various checkpoints, where he also received a lot of encouragement from his wife and other spectators.

“Throughout the whole race, you’d eat something at a checkpoint; 10 minutes later you’d be starving,” he said.

He said shoes were another problem. Johnson suffered bruises on the bottom of his feet, even though he was wearing high-quality running shoes.

“I didn’t realize most ultrarunners use three pairs of shoes, and they’ll swap out like every 30 miles,” he said.

However, all of these physical problems are not even half the battle, he said.

“You can train up to a certain physical level to be able to do it, but the biggest thing about these races is it’s mental,” Johnson said.

There were many times when he wanted to quit because most of the race he was running alone, he said.

Many runners dropped out or were forced to quit because of injury, or they could not make the checkpoints in time, he said. Johnson was the last of 85 runners who finished the race.

This was Johnson’s first 100-mile ultramarathon. He has run in eight marathons, but wanted a different type of challenge.

“The only challenge for me there was to get my time down lower and lower, and I really wasn’t doing that,” he said. “I’m more of a long-distance, endurance-type person, so I wanted to find something that was longer.”

He found this 100-miler and summoned the courage and motivation to run it.

“I didn’t know if I could make 100 miles or not, but I knew I wasn’t going to give up,” he said.

*(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs)*

### Sports

**CMAFS wallyball tournament-** A wallyball tournament will be Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., at the Technical Support Facility, Cheyenne Mountain. The cost is \$10 per team.

For details, call the Fitness Center at 556-1515.

**3-on-3 basketball tournament-** A 3-on-3 basketball tournament is scheduled for Nov. 12-15, 5-8 p.m., at the Fitness Center.

The entry fee is \$10 per team. Deadline for registration is Nov. 2.

### Shorts

For more information, call the Fitness Center at 556-1515.

**3-point shootout -** A 3-point basketball shootout is set for Nov 15, 11 a.m., at the Fitness Center. The entry fee is \$2 per person. Call 556-1515 for more information.

**CMAFS 10K fun run-** A 10K fun run is slated for Nov. 9, 11:30 a.m., at the Technical Support Facility at Cheyenne Mountain. The cost is \$1.

For more information, call the Fitness Center at 556-1515.