



AFAF Campaign: An extraordinary year

By 2nd Lt. Jodi Allen and
Staff Sgt. David Dusablon
Installation Project Officers

The Air Force Assistance Fund campaign formally ended for Team Pete April 30.

The Air Force Assistance Fund was established to provide an annual effort to raise funds for the charitable affiliates that provide support to the Air Force family, including active duty, retirees, reservists, guardsmen and their dependents and surviving spouses, in need. The Air Force Assistance Fund represents a commitment to caring through the following agencies: Air Force Aid Society, The General and Mrs. Curtis LeMay Foundation, Air Force Villages Indigent Widows' Fund, and Air Force Enlisted Village. These organizations help Air Force people with aid in an emergency, with educational needs, or to have a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members in need of financial assistance.

Contributors' donations go directly to the organization of choice and



less than 5 percent of the amount contributed is used for administrative costs associated with the agency. An exception is the Air Force Aid Society, which puts 100 percent of all donations toward emergency assistance programs.

The Air Force goal for this year

was \$5.2 million, and at press time, more than \$5.9 million had been contributed. The AFSPC goal for this year was \$336,020.32, and at press time \$403,634.81 had been contributed. Team Pete had the largest goal in AFSPC with \$74,580.66 and we achieved an astonishing \$109,788.04,

147 percent of our goal with a 35.9 percent active duty participation rate (also the highest in AFSPC). Thirty-three of 49 organizations exceeded 100 percent of their goal, with eight exceeding 200 percent (21st MSS, 21st CPTS, 821st ABG, Det 11, NORAD USNORTHCOM, Peterson NCOA, 10th DS, and 1st SPCS) and the 21st MSS exceeding 300 percent! Last year, AFSPC personnel contributed \$350,000 to the AFAF charities and received more than \$1.2 million back in assistance from the Air Force Aid Society alone.

The extraordinary results could not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Unit Project Officers and Key Workers who did an outstanding job informing the military community about the importance of these great organizations and how even a dollar could make a difference for someone in a time of need. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful cause and for making the 2004 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign a huge success for Team Pete's military community.

Action Lines

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line is your direct link to the 21st Space Wing commander. We suggest you first try to resolve problems at the lowest level possible – with the person or activity, and then follow the chain of command.

Though it's not required, we ask that you leave your name and phone number so we can get back to you for clarifications, or if your response isn't printed. If you can't get satisfactory results, call 556-7777. Or you can fax your question to 556-7848.

Smoking in the bowling alley

Question: Does the new installation smoking policy affect the bowling alley? I have not seen a designated tobacco use area and yet when I enter or exit the facility, I have to walk through a fog of smoke because of the number of smokers that are smoking just outside the main entrances. I can imagine it is even worse for people who bring their children. Can the TUA be located at one of the side entrances versus the main entrance? Thanks for

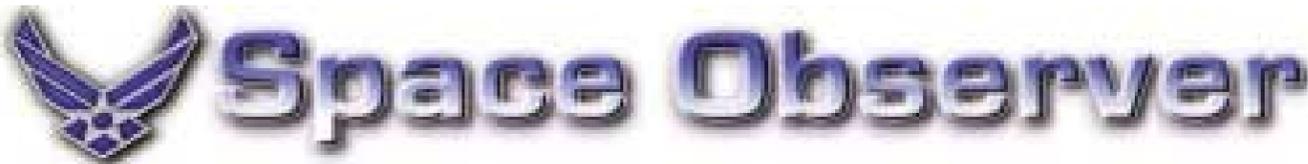
your support.

Answer: The Peterson Bowling Center does comply with the installation smoking policy and supports all smoking cessation programs on base. The tobacco use area at the bowling center is located on the east side of the building between the Aquatics Center and bowling center and the appropriate signage is posted. The bowling center staff is committed to enforcing the installation smoking policy. The bowling center staff reiterates the smoking policy through public announcements throughout the day. If you witness someone smoking outside the designate tobacco use area, please let a member of the bowling staff know immediately and they will take the appropriate action. If you have further questions, please call Steven Parker at 556-7412.

Parking lot construction

Question: Why isn't the parking lot in front of the Communications Squadron finished yet? There's a contractor who comes to work everyday, and he sits in a blue truck behind the Officers Club.

Answer: Thank you for your question. The parking lot is altered to meet AT/FP requirements. During the demolition of the parking lot, the contractor discovered two communications duct banks that were not on the construction drawings (unforeseen site conditions). The location of the ducts interfered with the grade of the parking lot design; they would not let water drain as required. The project had to be put on hold while a new design was completed, which extended the project into the winter. Once the ground became frozen, no work could be done until it thawed. The ground has thawed and work has restarted as of Monday. The contractor is scheduled to complete the parking lot in front of Building 1038 by June 1. The blue truck behind the Officers' Club doesn't belong to any of the contractors that are working on this project. After several attempts to locate the owner did not succeed, the make, model and license plate number were turned over to SFS. If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Ernie Branch at 556-1422. Thanks again for your concerns.



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A Moment in Time



■ **May 6, 1994** - First Lt. Leslie DeAnn Crosby graduates from the Air National Guard's F-16 Fighting Falcon training course in Tucson, Ariz., becoming the first U.S. Air Force Reserve woman fighter pilot.

■ **May 8, 1945** - Germany surrenders unconditionally.

■ **May 10, 1972** - Operation Linebacker begins during the Vietnam War.

■ **May 11, 1964** - The XB-70 Valkyrie rolls out at Palmdale, Calif. Designed to fly three times the speed of sound, at altitudes above 70,000 feet, the 275-ton aircraft measures 185 feet in length and 105 feet in wingspan.

Space, missile competition tests skills

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The 30th Space Wing hosted Guardian Challenge 2004, the largest test of space and missile warfighting skills outside of real-world operations, Monday-Friday.

Nearly 200 competitors from Air Force Space Command tested their mettle here in the Air Force's only space and missile competition.

The 37th year of Guardian Challenge reinforced an inherent tenet of the competition: To improve readiness and combat capabilities, officials said.

Maj. Gen. Michael A. Hamel, 14th Air Force commander, said that this year is no different from any other, and he credits space and missile warfighters of past competitions with establishing a dedication to refining mission procedures.

"The training and preparation for this competition builds upon the expertise and warrior spirit developed over the years by thousands of space and missile professionals," General Hamel said. "(Competitors) will take the lessons

learned back to their wings and apply them to our missions."

Competitors made final preparations and fine-tuned their procedures before traveling here for the competition week. Evaluations of space operations and maintenance disciplines were conducted at each command base, but security forces, missile operations, missile maintenance, communications, helicopter and chef competitions were all evaluated here.

"This is Air Force Space Command's time of the year to show our combat capabilities to the world," said Col. Robert Keyser, chief of the command's operations training and evaluation division and this year's competition commander. "Everyone is extremely fired up to show how good they are and to experience the camaraderie and esprit de corps of the world's premiere space and missile force."

One new addition to Guardian Challenge was the major command integration program. Command officials invited a representative from each Air Force major command to embed with a

competing team. The representative lived with the team, saw them in competition, participated in team morale events and gained an overall flavor for

the AFSPC mission, Colonel Keyser said.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Edmund K. Gibbons III

Staff Sgt. Tinisha Johnson, Det. 1 823rd Red Horse, Hurlburt AFB, Fla., evaluates Staff Sgt. Jason Shaw, 21st Services Squadron, testing the M2 burner on a timed M2 burner event during Guardian Challenge Tuesday.



Photo by Kevin Robertson

Raptor

OVER EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Operational testing on the F/A-22 Raptor began April 29 when the first two-ship sortie was flown and tested by members of the F/A-22 Combined Test Force here. After the operational testing is complete, a report will provide senior leaders with the information needed to approve the Raptor for full-rate production. During developmental testing, the CTF tested air-to-air weapons including the AIM-120 AMRAAM, the AIM-9 Sidewinder missile and a 20-millimeter cannon.

Voting: Exercising a right we all defend

By Maj. Jeffrey N. Pruitt
Installation Voting Assistance Officer

At a recent briefing on the Air Force voting program, Brig. Gen. Richard E. Webber, 21 SW Commander, made the following statement: "I'm always amazed that the very people whose job it is to defend the right to vote are often the ones who fail to exercise that right themselves."

I started thinking about his statement, about the fact that there are men and women fighting and dying in Iraq to give Iraqis the chance to participate in a democratic process which so many in this country take for granted. I wondered just how many of us in the Air Force voted in the 2000 Presidential election, so I did a little research and contacted the Federal Voting Assistance Program. The statistics I found surprised me!

In 2000, approximately 76 percent of the registered voters in

the Air Force participated in the presidential election.

Overall, 69 percent of military members exercised their right to vote (the Air Force was the No. 1 service), as compared to 51 percent of the general voting population.

So, overall the Air Force did very well. Still, the statistics nagged at me. One Air Force member in every four, for whatever reason, chose not to vote. I'm sure there are many reasons for not voting, and there will always be those individuals who just choose not to participate.

As the Peterson Installation Voting Assistance Officer, I cannot force anyone to vote, but I can encourage everyone to participate. I can also try to make it easier for those who want to vote by providing the necessary tools and assistance to do so. The process is simple, and it only takes a few minutes to fill out an Standard Form 76, *Federal Post Card Application*, to

register and/or request an absentee ballot. If you have questions or need forms, the first place to start is your Unit Voting Assistance Counselor.

Every organization is required to have at least one UVAC for every 100 members. You can also contact the Peterson Voting Hotline at 556-VOTE (556-8683) to hear important voting information. You also have the option of connecting directly to the Judge Advocate office or the IVAO. Another great resource is the Federal Voting Assistance Program website, www.fvap.gov.

Here you will find a wealth of information, including publications, forms, election calendars, and links to state voting information, just to name a few.

Act now to ensure that on November 2, 2004 your vote will be counted and your voice will be heard. Exercise your right to vote, a right which we all defend.

Voting workshop scheduled for May 11

Elaine Tucker, a program analyst with the Federal Voting Assistance Program, will be conducting a voting workshop here at Peterson Air Force Base on May 11. There will be two sessions, one at 9:30 a.m. and one at 2 p.m., in the Mission Support Group Conference Room, Room 2057, in Bldg. 350. There will also be a representative from the El Paso County Election Department on hand to answer specific questions about voting in Colorado. Everyone is welcome to attend, but seating is limited. Unit Voting Assistance Counselors are highly encouraged to attend. Voting assistance training is mandatory for all UVACs, and either of these sessions will satisfy the training requirement. There will also be a workshop at 9 a.m. May 12 at the Air Force Academy Community Center (Base) Theater.



EXERCISE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The city of Colorado Springs, is asking for 140 volunteers to test the hospital system Wednesday for CONDOR CREST 04-03/GLOBAL MIRROR. For more information, call Christy Martinez, Office of Emergency Management, at 385-7396 or Rose Marie Clouse at 385-7228. The base needs volunteers for the base Major Accident Response Exercise Monday – Tuesday and CONDOR CREST 04-03/GLOBAL MIRROR Wednesday. Civil Service, military and others are encouraged to call the wing exercise branch at 556-6489 to sign up.

SPRING FIT TO FIGHT RUN SCHEDULED

Gen. Lance W. Lord, the Air Force Space Command commander, will lead all uniformed members of the headquarters in a Spring Fit to Fight 1.5 mile run at 10 a.m. Thursday, starting at the base parade grounds. Direct questions to Senior Master Sgt. J.J. Christian, HQ AFSPC Fitness Program Manager, at 554-4490.

FITNESS CENTER COLLECTING FOOD DONATIONS

The Fitness Center is collecting donations of nonperishable food items for Silver Key Senior Services through May 28. Silver Key Senior Services is an organization that helps support less fortunate senior citizens. Donations are required throughout the year. The food pantry currently is running low on easy-to-prepare nonperishable food items.

AFSPC ANNOUNCES 2004 FAMILY DAYS

Air Force Space Command designated family days are: July 2, Sept. 3, Nov. 26, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30 to coincide with the federal holidays of Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, respectively.

CCAF GRADUATION SCHEDULED

The 2004 Community College of the Air Force graduation ceremony begins at 2 p.m. May 21 at the Enlisted Club. Graduates and their guests are encouraged to attend. Graduates planning to attend should call the education office at 556-4064.

GC COINS, PINS, PATCHES

Guardian Challenge coins, pins, and patches are now on sale. There are both 2003 and 2004 items for sale. The 2004 coins are \$5, the 2004 pins are \$3, and the 2004 patches are \$3.50. For those interested in the 2003 collectors items, the coins are \$1, pins are \$1, and the patches are 50 cents. For more information, call Capt. Lance Willoughby at 556-4570.

FITNESS CENTER CONSTRUCTION

The Fitness and Sports Center will be building a second level over the dumbbell room for storage and to reinforce the floor of the Health and Wellness Center unit above the free weight room. Construction is estimated to be completed July 19. During construction, the dumbbell room will be moved to share half of the Spinning Room.

CLINIC ROOF

The work on the 21st Medical Group roof has been postponed for two weeks. The new project completion date is May 28.

AFROTC INSTRUCTOR DUTY

The Air Force ROTC program has instructor openings for technical and master sergeants. For more information, call 1-800-522-0033, Ext. 2354.

RING OF FAME

The Peterson Sports and Fitness Center is requesting nominations for the Ring of Fame. The Ring honors distinguished Team Pete athletes with a photo and plate inscribed with their accomplishments displayed in the main hallway of the Fitness Center. The deadline for nominations is Monday. For more information, or to nominate someone, call 556-7092.

SUMMER BASEBALL REGISTRATION

The R. P. Lee Youth Center is now taking Summer Baseball Registration for children ages 3 – 15. Contact the youth center at 556-5242 for more information.

SCRAMBLE GOLF

A foursome golf outing is scheduled for June 11 at the Fort Carson Golf Course. The price of \$65 includes the green fees, cart, and lunch. For information or to sign up contact the Colorado Springs chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, Inc., at 719-963-8969.

NEW NCO CEREMONY

The monthly Team Pete NCO Induction and Recognition Ceremony will be held 3 p.m. Friday at the Enlisted Club.

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

The Armed Services YMCA, Peterson Family Support Center, Family Support, Schriever AFB Family Support and Fort Carson ACS will hold a Military Appreciation Day from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Armed Services YMCA. The event will offer free haircuts, cooking, massages, crafts and a fashion show. There will be limited childcare available. For reservations, call Armed Services YMCA at 719-622-9622.

MAGIC SHOW SCHEDULED

The Stars of Magic show will be held at 7 p.m. May 14 at the base auditorium. For more information or to buy tickets, call 554-3522.

PLAYGROUP SCHEDULED

A playgroup will take place from 10:30 a.m.- noon at the youth center here. For more information, call 556-8943.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Service members, their families and veterans can now search for scholarships online. To search for scholarships, visit <http://www.military.com/Education/ScholarShip/newsearch>.

ARMED FORCES DAY CEREMONY SCHEDULED

The Interquest Rotary Club and the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce will host an Armed Forces Day ceremony May 15 at Memorial Park. This free event will have fly overs, games, prizes and more. For more information, visit <http://www.join-r-forces-day.org>.

BUILDING RENOVATION SET

Renovation on the front entrance of the Mission Support building will begin Monday and is scheduled to last until Aug. 3. A temporary sidewalk will be built around the construction area to access the front entrance to the building. For more information, call Ernie Branch at 556-1422.

Chapel Schedule



Protestant Worship Services:

Liturgical Service, 6:30 p.m. Sat.
Traditional Worship Service,
8 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School 9:35 a.m. Sun.
Contemporary/Inspirational Service,
11 a.m. Sun.

Catholic

Weekday Mass, 11:35 a.m.
(except Monday)
Saturdays, 5 p.m.
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Reconciliation Saturdays, 4 p.m.

**For more information -
Call the chapel at 556-4442 for
available chapel programs.

Legal: know the facts about auto service contracts

People who are shopping for a new or used car, may be encouraged to buy an auto service contract. Auto service contracts have become increasingly popular as a way to provide consumers a means to deal with unforeseen vehicle repair problems. Before signing on the dotted line, the Better Business Bureau urges consumers to be sure they understand the terms of the contract and know who is responsible for providing the coverage.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, an auto service contract is a promise to perform certain repairs or services. Sometimes called an "extended warranty," a service contract is not a warranty as defined by federal law. A service contract may be arranged at any time and always costs extra. A warranty comes with a new car and is included in the original price. This separate and additional cost distinguishes a service contract from a warranty.

Before deciding whether to buy an auto services contract, the BBB suggests buyers ask the following questions:

Who backs the service contract?

It may be the manufacturer, dealer, or an independent company. Many service contracts sold by dealers are handled by independent companies called administrators. Administrators act as claims adjusters, authorizing the payment of claims to any dealers under the contract.

What's the cost of the auto service contract? Usually, the price of the service contract is based on the car make, model, condition, depth of coverage and length of contract. The cost of the service contract can range from several hundred dollars to more than \$2,000. In addition, buyers may have to pay a deductible each time their car is serviced or repaired.

What is covered and not covered? Few auto service contracts cover all repairs. Consumers should watch out for absolute exclusions that deny coverage for any reasons. For instance, if the contract specifies that only "mechanical breakdowns" will be covered, problems caused by "normal wear and tear" may be excluded.

How are claims handled? When a car needs to be repaired or serviced, some service contracts permit customers to choose among several service dealers or authorized repair centers. Others require the car owner to return the vehicle to the selling dealer for service. Customers should find out if they will need prior authorization from the contract provider for any repair work or towing services. They should ask how long it will take to obtain authorization and whether they can get authorization outside of normal business hours.

What are the buyers responsibilities? Under the contract, buyers may have to follow all the manufacturer's recommendations for routine maintenance, such as oil and spark plug changes. Failure to do so could void the contract. To prove they have maintained the car properly, consumers should keep detailed records, including receipts. They should find out if the contract prohibits them from taking the car to an independent station for routine maintenance or performing the work them-

selves. The contract may specify that the selling dealer is the only authorized facility for servicing the car.

What is the length of the service contract? If the service contract lasts longer than buyers expect to own the car, they should find out if it can be transferred when they sell the car, whether there's a fee, or if a shorter contract is available.

Consumers should check with the BBB for a reliability report on the business offering the contract and with any regulatory agencies that oversee this type of company. They should make sure you read and thoroughly understand the agreement and check that all verbal promises have been included. They should never sign a contract with blank spaces that could be altered or changed. Once the contract is signed, they should keep a copy of it for their records.

For questions about an auto service contract or to have an attorney look over one, call the legal office at 556-4871.

(Courtesy of the 21st Space Wing Legal Office.)

The new Air Force Uniform

Know the facts. Visit <http://www.af.mil/uniform/#>

Your link to frequently asked questions,
letters and photos





50 years of space, missiles

1958: U.S. enters space race with Explorer 1

Explorer 1 was the first successfully launched U.S. spacecraft. Launched at 10:48 p.m. Eastern Standard Time Jan. 31, 1958 on an adapted Jupiter-C rocket, Explorer 1 carried instrumentation for the study of cosmic rays, micrometeorites, and for monitoring the satellite's temperature.

Explorer 1 was designed and built by a group of scientists from the University of Iowa, led by James Van Allen. Van Allen equipped the spacecraft with a Geiger counter, a device for detecting high-energy ions and electrons. The goal was to measure the intensity of cosmic rays, fast ions that come from space, and in particular its variation with distance from the magnetic equator. Van Allen hoped to learn about the low end of the cosmic ray energy range, particles too slow to penetrate the full thickness of the atmosphere and reach the ground.



Explorer 1 was the first spacecraft to successfully detect the durably trapped radiation in the Earth's magnetosphere, dubbed the Van Allen Radiation Belt. Later missions in both the Explorer and Pioneer series expanded on the knowledge and extent of these zones of radiation and were the foundation of modern magnetospheric studies.

Unlike the orbits of the Russian Sputnik satellites, Explorer 1's orbit was elliptical and rose to an altitude of about 2,500 kilometers. Since the team decided to omit the spacecraft's tape recorder on the first flight, data could only be collected when Explorer 1 was within range of a tracking station, for just a few minutes each time.

(Information courtesy of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration)



Courtesy graphic

With the launch of Explorer 1, a small but important spacecraft, America joined the space race in 1958.

21st Medical Group celebrates nurses' week

Nurses and technicians comfort patients through every step of the healthcare system.

Military nurses and technicians are unique in that they provide care in traditional settings as well as during wartime and peacetime contingencies. The 21st Medical Group is taking this opportunity to honor their nurses and technicians for the outstanding service they provide.

Nurses and medical technicians are deploying to provide critical support to our troops, and, on the home front, they continue to provide healthcare to all members of our military family. They are comprised of active duty, reserve, and civilian nurses and technicians.

The 21st MDG's nurses and technicians are forward thinking and integral to keeping the Air Force Medical Service on the leading edge of healthcare. Nurses and technicians are equal players on the healthcare team. They are responsible for community health and ensuring the military is healthy and

ready for war.

They serve in various challenging situations, such as combat flight nurse/technicians who provide state-of-the-art care with the Expeditionary Medical Deployment System in austere environments; to humanitarian missions in third world countries; and providing care in outpatient clinics or hospitals in overseas locations or within the United States and its territories.

During Nurses' Week, May 6-12, the nurses and medical technicians celebrate together, for they are a cohesive team. It is the collective contribution of both nurses and medical technicians that ensure quality care for all 21st MDG patients.

The 21st MDG is proud to recognize the dedication, commitment, quality work, and tireless efforts of nurses and technicians to promote and maintain the health of Team Pete and this great nation.

(Courtesy of the 21st Medical Group)

Enlisted Against Drunk Driving



Protecting you and your family members by providing a safe alternative to drinking and driving.

Please call us! Fri. - Sat. 10 p.m. - 3 a.m.

Phone: 719-556-6384 or 55 NO DUI

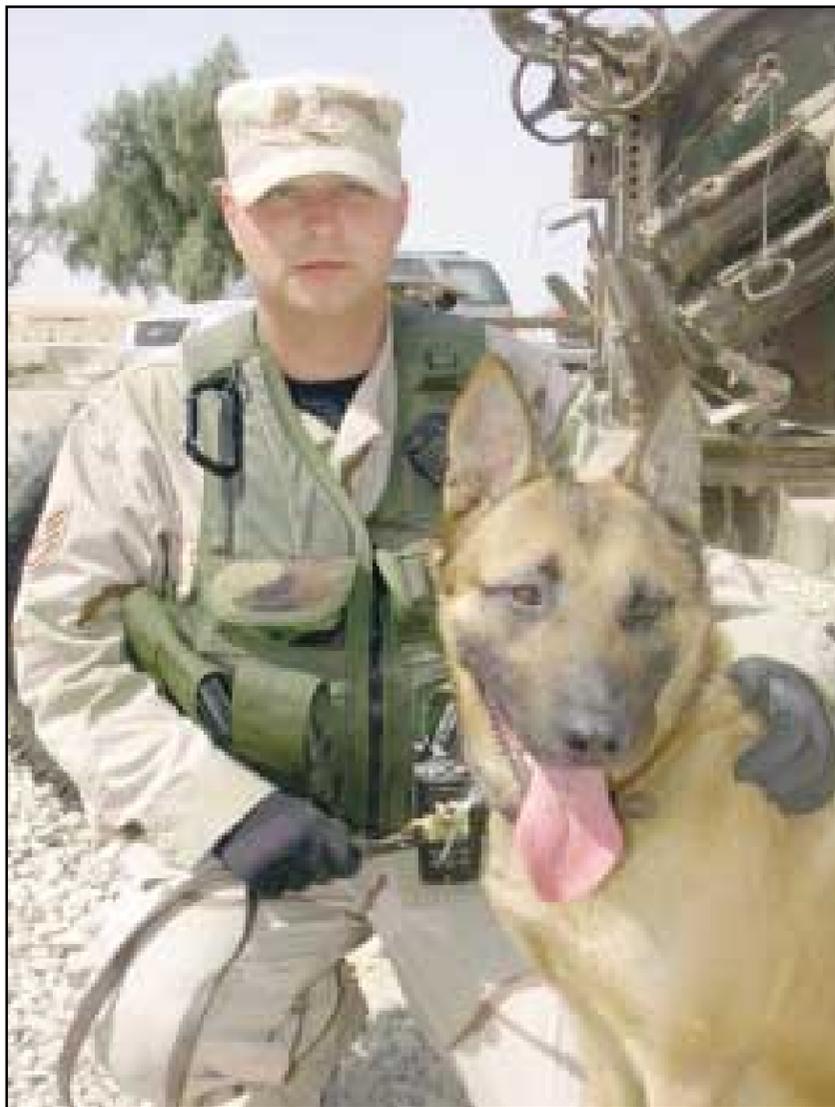


Photo by Capt. Susan A. Romano

Everyone's business

TALLIL AIR BASE, IRAQ – Staff Sgt. Tony Davis and King, both from the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, stand ready to protect. Officials remind troops that force protection is everyone's business.



Red Foxes find home on Peterson

By Airman 1st Class Danielle Morse

21st Civil Engineer Squadron

Several base personnel have recently noticed foxes scurrying around base. Spring is here, and foxes are out collecting food for their baby pups.

Fox families have a strong social unit, and the male and female pair for life. Foxes begin mating and making dens in February and March. Red fox pups are born between March and May. Litters usually consist of four or five pups.

Until the pups reach 12 weeks old, the mother and father bring food to them. After the pups are weaned, they join the adults in hunting.

In the fall, the young disperse from the family unit, and begin their own families the following year in a different location.

Foxes are an important part of rodent control here, helping control the local ground squirrel population.

An adult fox will generally respect the presence of a human and retreat when approached. Foxes should never be fed, as they'll quickly adapt to a human food

source. It's normal to see a fox after dawn and before dusk, or anytime during the day when they are feeding their young.

Keeping food sources out of yards and filling in holes around fences are generally the best solutions for keeping foxes away from buildings. The red fox population is currently being tracked through the environmental and pest control offices. Healthy foxes pose virtually no danger to humans, but if there are any concerns of a fox showing odd behavior, report it to the 21st CES Customer Service line at 556-4030.

Personnel Corner: 21st MSS

New OPR/PRF guidelines

Effective Aug. 1, all OPRs and PRFs should use the phrases "Basic Developmental Education," "Intermediate Developmental Education," or "Senior Developmental Education." The terms ISS and SSS are obsolete. Officials writing OPRs and PRFs may still be specific in reference to school names (such as AFIT for Logistics, etc.).

AFSC badge placement

Air Force Instruction 36-2903 states: When not wearing ribbons in both short sleeve and long sleeved shirts, Air Force Specialty Code badges must be lined up parallel with the nametag on the women's short sleeved blouse.

NCO retraining enters Phase II

The Fiscal 2004 NCO Retraining Program Phase II has entered involuntary phase implementation 1. Due to the low voluntary retraining rate, phase II involuntary retraining must be implemented, to maintain a balance of Air Force enlisted specialties. The involuntary phase will be implemented only for those AFSCS that did not meet retraining-out targets under phase I. Involuntary retraining will be implemented in the following AFSCS and grades:
1C6X1 - Space Systems Ops - E5-7

2A571 - Aerospace Maint - E6-29 E7-6
2A6X2 - Aerosp Ground Equip - E6-18
2E0X1 - Ground Radar Sys - E7-2
2E6X2 - Comm Cable & Ant Sys - E6-6 E7-1
2M0X2 - MSL & Space Sys Maint - E7-2
2P0X1 - Precision Measurement Equip Lab - E6-2
2R1X1 - Maint Production Mgt - E6-3
2S0X1 - Supply Management - E6-20 E7-16
2T0X1 - Traffic Mgt - E6-7 E7-2
2T370 - Spec Pur Veh & Equip Maint - E6-18 E7-4
3A0X1 - Information Management - E7-24
3E0X1 - Electrical Sys - E5-10 E6-12 E7-2
3E2X1 - Pavement & Const Equip - E6-3 E7-4
3E3X1 - Structural - E6-6
3E4X1 - Utilities Sys - E6-4 E7-5
3P0X1 - Security Forces - E6-19 E7-19
4A0X1 - Health Services Mgmt - E6-14
4A1X1 - Medical Materiel - E6-5
4N071 - Aerospace Medical Service - E6-8 E7-4
4N1N1 - Surgical Services - E6-6
4R0X1 - Diagnostic Imaging - E6-4
4Y0X1 - Dental Assistant - E6-4
4Y0X2 - Dental Lab - E6-2

Supervisors must review civilian performance plans

Supervisors are reminded to review each of their civilian employees' performance plans to verify that they have been certified by the employee, the

rating official and the reviewing official for the new civilian rating period. The new rating period began April 1 and closes March 31, 2005.

At the beginning of each rating period, supervisors should meet with each employee to review and discuss the employee's performance elements and standards. In addition, each employee who enters a new position or who is temporarily assigned for 120 days or more should be given a written performance plan. These plans should be certified within 30 days of the beginning of each appraisal cycle, and within 30 days of the date an employee enters a new position or is temporarily assigned for 120 days or more.

An AF Form 860 should be used unless an Air Force core personnel document has been created for the position. Any change to the core document must be coordinated through the civilian personnel flight's classification section. No changes to performance plans should be made after Dec. 31.

Finally, supervisors should contact their servicing employee relations specialist as soon as there are indications of a performance problem. Please call 556-4737 for the name and telephone number of your organization's servicing employee relations specialist.

TSP good way to increase wealth

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Department officials urge servicemembers to invest in their future through the Thrift Savings Plan.

Now's a good time for servicemembers to start paying themselves, officials said. The current TSP season began April 15 and runs until June 30. This is the time servicemembers can start or change their contributions to their TSP account.

Servicemembers can contribute up to 9 percent of their base pay each month, and up to 100 percent of incentive pay and special pay, including bonus and combat pay. But total contributions from taxable pay may not exceed the Internal Revenue Service limit of \$13,000 for 2004.

"You're never too young or too old to start a savings account in TSP," said Gary Amelio, executive director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board and chief executive and managing fiduciary of TSP for federal employees. "The tax deferral benefits are excellent and compounded earnings are simply a phenomenal way to increase your wealth."

TSP assets total more than \$110 billion. TSP maintains retirement savings accounts for more than 3 million participants including federal civilian employees in all branches of government, U.S. Postal Service employees and members of the seven uniformed services.

Created by the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986, TSP is a tax-deferred savings option and lowers the taxable income for participants. The savings plan is similar to 401k plans offered by many private employers. It's separate from the military retirement system, which is based

on years of service and rank.

Administered by the FRTIB, TSP was available only to civilian employees until October 2001, when the program was extended to active- and reserve-component servicemembers, including the Coast Guard. The program also was extended to members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Guardsmen and reservists who are also federal civilians are allowed to have both a military and civilian TSP.

"If you're part of both work forces, you can have two different accounts," Mr. Amelio said. "And you can combine the accounts after you separate from either service."

But if TSP participants with military and civilian accounts exceed the \$13,000 limit before the end of the year, the plan will return the excess contributions, Mr. Amelio said.

"It's called an excess deferral," he said. The government gives matching funds to Federal Employees' Retirement System TSP participants. Uniformed services and Civil Service Retirement System participants normally don't receive matching funds, but the service secretaries can authorize matching funds for servicemembers in critical military occupational specialties.

"FERS employees have a less lucrative defined benefit plan than does CSRS and the uniformed services," Mr. Amelio said. "So the TSP is intended to make up the difference for FERS participants." He also said that CSRS and military participants are limited to contributing up to 9 percent of their base pay, while FERS members are allowed to contribute up to 14 percent of their base pay.

When servicemembers leave active duty, they have several options. They can leave their money in

TSP, allowing it to continue to grow, take a partial or full withdrawal, roll the money into another plan or an Individual Retirement Account, or purchase an annuity. They also could choose to make periodic distributions to themselves, Mr. Amelio said.

More than 220,000 uniformed servicemembers signed up for TSP in 2002, the first year they were eligible. By December 2003, more than 390,000 people were investing in TSP.

"Participation numbers have been rising steadily since the plan was made available," Mr. Amelio said. "Today, we have about 410,000 members of the armed services participating. We've been putting a special focus with DOD on getting more and more ... servicemembers to participate. So we're very pleased that the numbers continue to go up."

Mr. Amelio attributes the increase in participation to knowledge, familiarity and comfort. "As members of the armed services become more familiar with TSP, the more they like it," he said. "They find that it's a wonderful savings program, easy to participate in, and doesn't cost them anything. The more they talk to their colleagues in the armed forces about it, they become more comfortable about the plan, and they like it more and more. That's why the participation is going up."

TSP has investment funds, which vary in risk and investment mixture; government securities investment; fixed-income investment; common stock index investment; small capitalization stock index investment and international stock index investment.

TSP enrollment can be done online through the myPay Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>, or by completing a TSP enrollment form and turning it in at the finance office. Enrollment forms are available at www.tsp.gov.



We go where you go

By Willie Smith
Army and Air Force Exchange Service

As I address various community groups and military units, I often get asked about the benefit the Exchange provides our local community. While the Base Exchange/Post Exchange is operated by the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, I want to stress how important the Exchange is to the entire military community.

Nearly 300 AAFES associates are currently working in Iraq to bring a little bit of home to deployed troops. An additional 144 AAFES associates are stationed in Kuwait. In fact, the National Retail Federations recently recognized AAFES' support in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom with the American Spirit Award. Past recipients of this prestigious award, designed to recognize exceptional achievement, include former Presidents Jimmy Carter and George Herbert Walker Bush, and former

Senator Bob Dole.

AAFES continues to expand support throughout Iraq from the humble beginnings of a back-of-the-truck mobile PX operation at Tallil Air Base on April 7, 2003 to a 5,300 square foot, hardside building in Kirkuk. Today, there are at least 30 PX/BX locations in the country and 54 throughout OIF/OEF. I say "at least" because AAFES opens stores almost as quickly as new sites are approved. In addition to these stores, AAFES supports those in isolated and hostile areas with some 65 unit-run Imprest Fund stores.

Forty-two call centers throughout OIF/OEF have been critical in allowing AAFES to further bridge the gap between the front lines and the home front. Troops who use the AAFES 550-unit Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone Card at call centers in Iraq and Afghanistan are calling home for as little as 32 cents per minute while those in Kuwait enjoy rates as low as 19 cents per minute. AAFES also operates nine Internet cafés in Kuwait where troops

can enjoy video teleconferencing, internet access, games and e-mail 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for a \$6 an hour.

Closer to home, AAFES generates much-needed funds that support our local Morale Welfare and Recreation programs. A percentage of the gross sales from AAFES facilities such as McDonald's, Anthony's Pizza, service Stations, and Shoppettes are paid to the base's MWR fund. In 2002, AAFES paid Peterson AFB MWR more than \$497,000. This money funds MWR programs and personnel in such facilities as Auto Hobby Shop, ski equipment rental and outdoor recreation equipment rental.

I believe AAFES provides retirees, family members, reservists and active duty service members the best value for their money while giving back to the Peterson AFB MWR fund. I thank the Exchange for its outstanding service to our military community and ask for your continued support of local AAFES facilities.



**It's coming –
are you ready?
*Twenty-four days and counting ...***

CAP, Aero club contribute to exercises, homeland security

By Senior Airman Shawn Clements
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The Civil Air Patrol and Aero Club here have vital roles in future exercises and in homeland security defense.

The two units will provide military and civilian



Courtesy photo

The Satellite Digital Imaging System allows this aircraft to transmit photographs.

members information for the ongoing fight against terrorism.

CAP has a new capability called the Satellite Digital Imaging System. This technology allows members to view near-real time images. This system allows CAP members to take images from the air and transmit them to people on the ground while still in flight. The photos get transmitted through a computer on the aircraft via e-mail, said CAP 2nd Lt. Paul Schoen.

“The CAP represents an additional dimension in our full spectrum threat response. The digital camera system on board the CAP aircraft can be a real benefit to battle staff, disaster control groups and unit control centers in a disaster or a major accident,” said Vic Duckarmenn, 21st Space Wing exercise director. “Exercising CAP is an excellent opportunity for us to focus on their capability and homeland security applications.”

Combined with the CAP, the Aero Club provides the base with more options for exercise scenarios, said Sandra Stienmier, Flight Training Center School Director. “I feel very strongly about the Aero Club’s

participation in these exercises and real-life situations.”

“When we can make these exercises as real life as possible, we save lives,” Ms. Stienmier said.

With the advent of the asymmetric transnational threat, the Air Force is taking a realistic look at all its resources and Aero Club assets are out in front. Not only does the Aero Club develop future leaders, they also play a vital role in homeland security, Mr. Duckarmenn said. The Aero Club aircraft are totally versatile. They can be used for anti-terrorist operations or natural disaster damage assessment.

By participating in these exercises, Peterson is using all its assets, Ms. Stienmier said.

“As the wing exercise director, I’m delighted that we have one of the best wings in the Air Force here. Their involvement in wing- and state-wide exercises will grow. I’m looking forward to working with this great organization,” Mr. Duckarmenn said.

The CAP, combined with the Aero Club, provides the wing with a small Air Force at their command, Mr. Duckarmenn said.

Moving day

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq – Airmen from the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron’s fire department here move a tent to a freshly poured concrete pad April 26. As part of an ongoing fire department upgrade, seven pads were poured to improve Airmen’s living quarters.

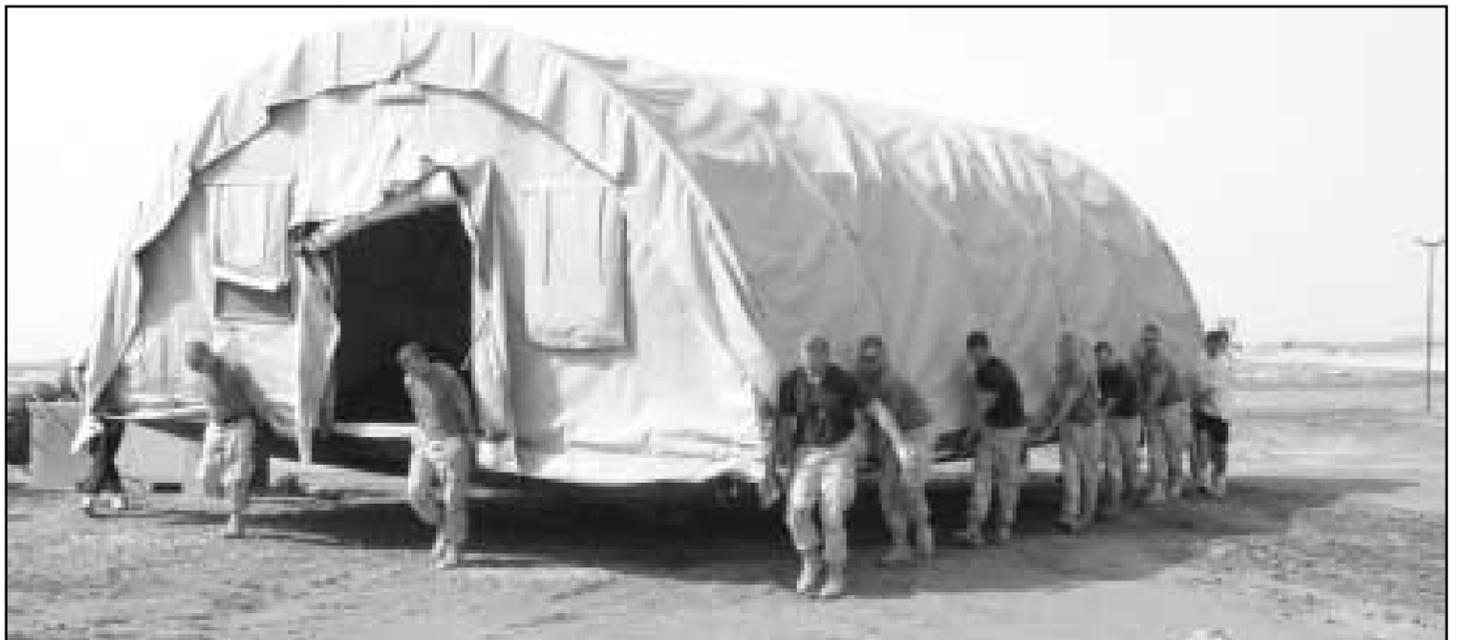


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Carrie Bernard

Blotter

The following real-life events with real individuals from around Peterson are to inform you of crimes, accidents and events occurring on base. These entries are from hundreds recorded in the Peterson Police Blotter:

***Editor's note: Although the Space Observer staff may make light of blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional security forces treat each incident seriously.*

VEHICLE VANDALISM – April 22

Security forces responded to a temporary living facility where a woman reported that her rear driver's side window had been shattered out of her Dodge Caravan. The Dodge destroyer ran off before security forces arrived.

DROP-ARM DAMAGE – April 22

Security forces responded to the parking lot behind the NORAD/NORTHCOM building, where

a moving truck had struck a drop arm. The accident happened as a result of the driver thinking he had enough room to get the truck by the drop arm.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT – April 23

Security forces responded to the Commissary loading dock, where a vehicle accident had been reported. A vehicle hit a truck while trying to maneuver around it. Security forces issued a citation for improper passing on the right.

EAGLE EYES – April 24

Security forces received an Eagle Eyes report from a sentry controller at the North Gate. The security forces member reported that a woman came to the North Gate and started asking to see high-ranking officials.

TRAFFIC STOP TROUBLE – April 24

Security forces stopped a man who had expired license plates. The bonehead became belligerent when security forces asked for proof of insurance. The Colorado Springs Police Department responded to the scene and issued a summons for compulsory insurance.

SHOULD I STOP HERE? – April 25

Security forces received a report of a gate runner and initiated a traffic stop in the BX parking lot. They escorted the gate runner to the North Gate and briefed her on entry procedures.

WHAT'S THAT SMELL? – April 27

Security forces and the fire department responded to the NORAD Headquarters building, where a caller reported exhaust fumes. The exhaust fume cause is unknown and the source couldn't be found.

BARRIER BANGUP – April 27

Security forces responded to the North Gate, where a vehicle accident was reported. A car struck two barriers while trying to navigate through them. The CSPD responded to the scene where they issued the barrier bashing blockhead a citation for an expired driver's license.

FALLING ALL OVER HIMSELF – April 27

Security forces responded to the North Gate, where a member reported a possible DUI. The sentry controller reported that the person parked his vehicle and approached the gate on foot and appeared to be stumbling. The CSPD responded, conducted tests and determined that the klutz was sober.

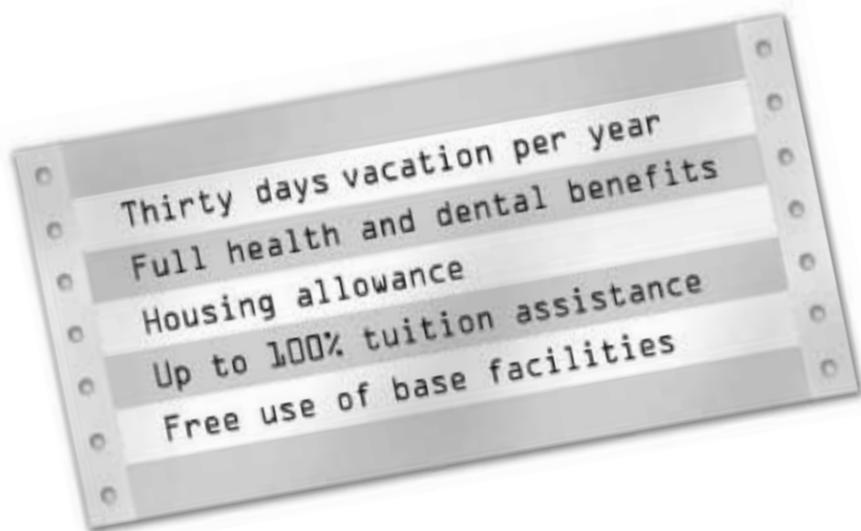
ALARMING TRENDS CONTINUE:

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

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



WELCOME TO THE AIR FORCE

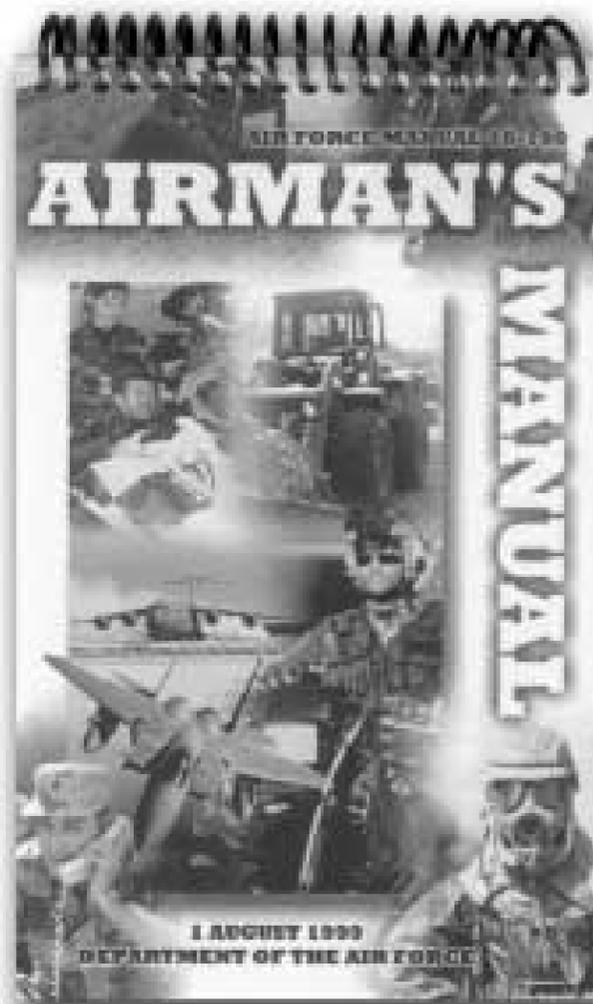


U.S. AIR FORCE
CROSS INTO THE BLUE

And that's just the beginning. Once you enlist, you'll also receive a good starting salary with regular pay raises, tax-free housing and food allowances. Not to mention opportunities for higher education and full retirement benefits after 20 years of service. Visit our Web site at AIRFORCE.COM or call 1-800-423-USAF.

Airman's Manual Online

<https://commweb.hill.af.mil/AMT/>



The complete Airman's Manual is now available online! Browse sections for review or test your knowledge of today's Air Force with online quizzes.

Watch vs. warning

Know the difference and know what to do

By Lt. Col. Fred W. Gaudlip
21st Space Wing Chief of Safety

The high incidence of lightning in Colorado tends to desensitize us from the seriousness of the threat it presents.

On any summer afternoon, lightning can be seen somewhere up or down the Front Range. The location of the lightning source makes a difference in the level of threat. Staying alert and knowing the proper response can make the difference between life and death. Peterson uses a sophisticated system of sensors and weather professionals to ensure the base populace has the best, most timely weather information. Base members should remain aware of weather threats and be prepared to respond in an appropriate manner. Knowledge of key terms is essential to enabling the appropriate response.

Lightning watch

Lightning conditions are expected within 30 minutes or within 5 miles. Everyone should consider avoiding outdoor activities and ensure they have identified adequate shelter in case conditions worsen. Lightning watches are more common than lightning warnings and are not broadcast over the Giant Voice system.

Lightning warning

Lightning is imminent or occurring within five miles of the base. When a lightning warning is issued, it's done over the Giant Voice system. The appropriate response to a lightning warning is for base members to cease outdoor activity and seek shelter. Only first response and wartime mission activities warrant continuation after the declaration of a lightning warning. There's no ambiguity involved with a lightning warning; there's an imminent danger and it must be avoided. The all-clear notification will be given when lightning is no longer considered an immediate risk. After the all-clear notification, base members can resume normal activities or an activity, as appropriate, if a lightning watch is still in effect.

30-30 rule

When off base, members should employ Operational Risk Management practices prior to participating in outdoor activities. Make every effort to follow the on-base guidelines using the 30-30 rule.

The 30-30 rule is a National Lightning Safety Institute guideline that promotes the following actions. If thunder follows a visible lightning strike by less than 30 seconds, people should consider this a lightning warning, cease outdoor activity, and seek shelter for at least 30 minutes after the last lightning strike accompanied by thunder within 30 seconds.

Shelter

An acceptable shelter is a fully enclosed, substantially constructed building. A car with a solid metal roof and metal sides is the second-best shelter. Open structures like picnic pavilions or bus stands do not provide adequate protection.

Lightning season is here. Stay alert and use the information above to avoid personal tragedy and mission degradation. Your family and the Air Force will benefit. For more information, visit <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov>.



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements
Staff Sgt. Christopher T. Redding, 21st Operations Support Squadron duty forecaster, reviews the weather readings.



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements
ABOVE: Joey Soria, 21st Operations Support Squadron duty briefer, reviews the weather on the Next Generation Weather Radar.
RIGHT: The command post announces weather warnings using the giant voice system.



Photo illustration by Kara Magana
Colorado has the second highest risk of lightning strikes in the United States.



at your SERVICE

This Week

Today

- Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m. at the Mission Support Center, Room 1016.
- Guidance for Strong Willed Children, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the youth center.

Friday

- Readiness Briefing, 11 a.m.-noon at the MSC, Room 1016. This briefing is for those deployed or going on remote tours. Spouses are welcome.
- Thrift Savings Plan Briefing 10-11 a.m. at the MSC, Room 1016.

Tuesday

- Sponsorship Training, 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the MSC, Room 1016.

Wednesday

- Applying for Federal Service Briefing, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the MSC, Room 1016.
- Pre-separation Briefing, 8-9 a.m. at the MSC, Room 1016. This is a mandatory briefing for those retiring or separating from the military.

May 13

- Overseas Briefing, 8-9 a.m. in the MSC, Room 1016.
- Smooth Move, 9-11:30 a.m. at the MSC, Room 1016.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers' Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

Fitness Center steps up activities during May Fitness Month

While May is designated as Fitness Month, the Air Force's Fit to Fight program means working out all the time. Still, Fitness Month is a good reminder of New Year's resolutions to lose weight, get fit and live a healthy lifestyle.

The Peterson Fitness and Sports Center has a month full of challenges for Team Pete in May. There will be a drawing at noon May 31 for two new Schwinn Spin bikes. One will be awarded to a male winner and the other to a female winner. To qualify for the drawing, entrants must participate in at least two Fitness Month events. An events calendar is available in the Fitness Center lobby.

Special Fitness Month events include a flying disc tournament; a 10K mountain bike ride; a three-on-three outdoor basketball tournament; an in-line hockey tournament; a sand volleyball tournament; a 5K/10K run; a one-pitch softball tournament; a road bicycle ride to Schriever Air Force Base and back; a singles tennis tournament; and a 5K family walk/run.

The Fitness Center will also host a health fair from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 14 and Retiree Health and Fitness Day is slated for May 26. For more information, call 556-4462.

(Courtesy of 21st Series Squadron)



Photo by 1st Lt. Julie Tucker
Capt. Angie Blair, Air Force Space Command Public Affairs, takes the Fit to fight test on the indoor track at the Fitness Center

ARAGON DINING FACILITY MENU

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>Lunch: Orange-Spiced Chops Liver with Onions Tempura Fried Fish Rissole Potatoes Steamed Rice Broccoli Peas and Carrots Wax Beans</p> <p>Dinner: Mr. Z's Baked Chicken Pepper Steak Pasta Primavera Mashed Potatoes Rice Steamed Mixed Vegetables Fried Okra Green Beans</p>	<p>Lunch: Baked Fish Beef and Corn Pie Roast Turkey Franconia Potatoes Pea and Pepper Rice Corn on the Cob Stewed Tomatoes Mustard Greens</p> <p>Dinner: Chili Mac Beef Cannelloni Southern Fried Chicken Cottage Fried Potatoes Mashed Potatoes Steamed Squash Glazed Carrots Peas</p>	<p>Brunch: Baked Fish Hungarian Goulash Barbecue Chicken Parsley Buttered Potatoes Steamed Rice Vegetable Stir Fry Boston Baked Bean Cream Corn</p> <p>Lunch: Teriyaki Chicken Veal Parmesan Salmon Cakes Filipino Rice Parsley Buttered Potatoes Fried Cabbage Succotash Mixed Vegetable</p>	<p>Brunch: Stir Fry Beef with Broccoli Turkey Nuggets Strip Loin Steak Mushrooms and Onions Baked Potatoes Rice Pilaf Corn on the Cob Green Beans</p> <p>Lunch: Lasagna Chicken Parmesan Hot Italian Sausage Green Peppers and Onions Jefferson Noodles Potatoes Au Gratin Stewed Tomatoes Broccoli</p> <p>Dinner: Lemon-Herb Chicken Barbecued Spareribs Stuffed Pork Chops Scalloped Potatoes Steamed Rice Cauliflower Combo Mexican Corn Tempura Vegetables</p>



Communication that inspires

By Senior Master Sgt. Daniel S. Voss
Team Pete Career Assistance Advisor

I subscribe to an electronic newsletter called "Leadership Wired," written by one of the most read leadership authors of our day, Dr. John C. Maxwell.

In the March 2004 issue, he wrote about one of the most critical elements of leadership – communication. Dr. Maxwell referred to Coach Red Auerbach, former coach of the Boston Celtics and the winningest coach in National Basketball Association history. Mr. Auerbach was known for spotting talent and getting the most out of his teams – but he also knew a thing or two about communication. He was quoted as saying, "It's not what you tell your players that counts, it's what they hear."

So, the question of the day is what do our troops hear when we talk to them about their duties, in meetings, or during counseling? Do our words cause or result in resentment, or do they inspire greatness?

In the newsletter, Dr. Maxwell outlined six communication principles leaders need to keep in mind if they want to inspire their people to achieve greatness.

1. Communicate the value of teamwork. Impress upon your people if they are going to be successful, they are going to be successful together. One is too small a number to achieve greatness.

2. Communicate each player's role. While you work together, each person still has a particular job to do – otherwise they wouldn't be needed. Make sure each individual knows what he or she needs to do to add the most value to the team.

3. Communicate the importance of raising the bar. Don't allow your troops to grow comfortable maintaining the status quo, even if they are doing a good job. Raise the bar. Set a new standard of excellence.

4. Communicate the importance of a good attitude. There's a familiar saying that "one bad apple spoils the whole bunch." When that bad apple is a bad attitude, it can absolutely ruin your team.

5. Communicate hope and encouragement. When things are going well, nothing hurts. But when your people struggle, the leader needs to offer encouragement and point out the light at the end of the tunnel.

6. Communicate the big picture. It's easy to become so focused on the particular details of the mission or task that you forget what you're ultimately working toward. Therefore, take the time to frequently remind your people how the pieces of the puzzle fit together.

So, why is the Career Assistance Advisor writing about communication? Because it's only through good communication that our people will learn about

performance expectations and how to establish goals to meet expectations – a critical element of career planning. Your people will also sense your passion to help them experience the satisfaction of achieving what they set out to accomplish through good communication.

If your people feel they have achieved their goals, their satisfaction with the Air Force way of life will increase and in turn, help them make better career decisions.

The bottom line is this – how your troops view life in the Air Force is most likely dependent upon what they hear you say with your words and your actions.

I implore you as the leader of your team – officer, enlisted, civilian, or contractor alike – to be passionate about helping your people achieve greatness together. You may never garner the accolades that Red Auerbach received as the coach of the Boston Celtics, but if you communicate these foundational principles passionately and consistently, you can help your people perform above their heads – achieving, as Auerbach's teams did, more together than they could individually.

(The information in this article is used by permission from Dr. John C. Maxwell's free monthly e-newsletter "Leadership Wired" available at www.MaximumImpact.com.)



Do you have an interesting or important job?

Everyone on Peterson Air Force Base has a unique mission. We would like to feature your office or shop in the "A Day in the Life" series, so people can learn more about how you contribute to Team Pete.

To nominate your workplace, call the editor at 556-4351 or e-mail the Space Observer at space.observer@peterson.af.mil.

Intramural Volleyball standings

(Matches played through April 30, 2004)

Competitive league

(Final standings)	W	L
1. HQAFSPC/XO	6	2
2. Team Colorado	5	3
3. 21 SCS/SCMTR	5	3

4. 21 CES/CEOW	4	4
5. HQ AFSPC/XP	0	8

Recreation league

1. DET 4 AFOTEC	9	2
2. 21 OG/OSS	8	3
3. TEAM COLORADO	6	3

4. AFSPC/CSS	7	4
5. AFSPC/IG	5	7
6. ARSTART	4	6
7. 21 CONS/LGCA	3	5
8. 21 SCS/SCBBC	3	6
9. 21 SVS	2	9

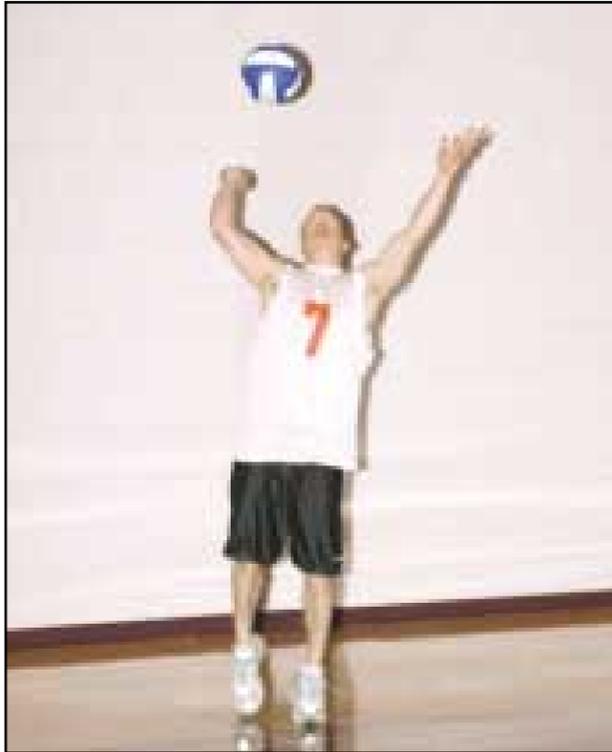


Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

A 21st Contracting Squadron member serves the ball during an intramural volleyball game at the fitness center.

Sports Shorts

WALL CLIMBING

Climbing wall safety classes are held 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Fitness Center. For more information, call 556-1515.

OPEN CLIMBING

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

TAE KWON DO

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

BACK-TO-BASICS CIRCUIT COURSE

The Back-to-Basics Circuit Course is 11

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

INTRAMURAL VOLLEYBALL

Intramural volleyball games are Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. and from 5-9 p.m. For more information, call 556-1515.

GOLF TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED

The Air Force Sergeants Association will hold a golf tournament at 8 a.m. May 21 at the Silver Spruce Golf Course here. For more information, visit <http://www.afsa1181.org>.

SOCCER FIELD CONSTRUCTION SET

The soccer field will be closed now until June 16 for seeding. Softball field No. 4 can be used for soccer.



TriCare publishes Pharmacy Uniform Formulary final rule

TriCare Management Activity announced the publication of the Pharmacy Uniform Formulary's final rule April 1, in accordance with the requirement established in the 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, Section 701, "Pharmacy Benefits Program."

The final rule went into effect Monday and established the process for determining the formulary status for prescription drugs into one of three cost-share tiers, based upon their relative clinical and cost effectiveness.

The new tiered cost-share structure encourages a more cost-effective use of the benefit while also providing beneficiaries with continued access to the medications they need.

Once the new structure is fully implemented, prescription drugs on the current Military Health System pharmacy formulary will be categorized as generic, formulary or non-formulary. Prescription drugs will be evaluated based on their clinical-and cost-effectiveness when compared with other drugs in the same therapeutic class.

The process will be guided by the Department of Defense Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. This

committee will receive input from a beneficiary advisory panel representing the general interests of all DoD beneficiaries. The Pharmacy Uniform Formulary final rule does not change the TriCare prescription drug benefit. It does not include prescription drugs, which are used in medical treatments, or procedures that are expressly excluded from the TriCare benefit by statute or regulation.

The list of prescription drugs, that are categorized as non-formulary will be published when the final determination is made.

"The military treatment facility remains the best value for all users of the TriCare pharmacy program," said Col. William Davies, DoD Pharmacy Programs director. "By having prescriptions filled at the Military Treatment Facility, TriCare beneficiaries eliminate their out-of-pocket costs."

In the future, prescriptions filled by the TriCare mail order pharmacy will cost \$3 for up to a 90-day supply of generic medication, \$9 for up to a 90-day supply of a brand-name formulary medication, and \$22 for up to a 90-day supply of a non-formulary medication.

Prescriptions filled using a retail network pharmacy will cost \$3 for up to a 30-day supply of generic medication, \$9 for a 30-day supply of a brand-name formulary medication, and \$22 for up to a 30-day supply of a non-formulary medication.

Beneficiaries choosing to fill prescriptions using a non-network pharmacy will pay either \$9 or 20 percent of the total cost of the prescription, whichever amount is greater, for both generic and brand-name formulary medications; and \$22 or 20 percent, whichever amount is greater, for up to a 30-day supply of non-formulary medications.

Applicable deductibles for non-network pharmacy use must first be met.

Up-to-date information on the TriCare pharmacy program will be available on the TriCare Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy. TMA will announce the implementation schedule as the information becomes available. This information will also be available at the 21st Medical Group Beneficiary Counselor & Assistance Coordinator office at 556-1016.

(Courtesy of the 21st Medical Group)

Have a story idea? Let us know by calling 556-4351 or by e-mail at space.observer@peterson.af.mil