

DISCOVERY



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 25, No. 24-- Friday, Dec. 7, 2001 -- Brooks AFB, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

SPO team wins top award

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A 311th Human Systems Program Office team earned the base's highest award for their extraordinary efforts, contributing to World Trade Center rescue and recovery operations. The team fielded a new night vision imaging device that will help American warfighters fly with greater proficiency.

The 311th HSW Commander's Award was presented to the SPO's six-member Requirements/New Technologies Integrated Product Team for their work in fielding two technological marvels, the Remote Casualty Location and Assessment Device and the Evaders Night Vision Imaging System.

Maj. Alvaro Gracia, the team's leader, was instrumental in deploying three RCLAD prototypes and their scientist operators to the World Trade Center after the Sept. 11 attacks. RCLAD uses micropower impulse radar to detect the slightest motion within a human heart through 30 feet of rubble.

"RCLAD was originally developed by the University of California's Lawrence-Livermore National Laboratories for the Department of Energy," said Gracia. The Air Force is interested in developing the device for rescue and recovery operations.

IPT team members also fielded ENVIS to enhance pilots' night vision to evade capture and facilitate nighttime rescues. It was developed to correct a deficiency identified by an American F-117 pilot during the air war over Kosovo.

Besides Gracia, team members include Ira Wilson, Richard Rousset, Alfonso Gonzales, 1st Lt. Vanessa Bowman and 2nd Lt. Paul Escabedo.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sabrina Johnson

Tis' the season

Santa Claus and his crew welcomed in the holiday season for members of the Brooks community during the annual tree lighting ceremony at Brooks Dec. 5. Activities included the lighting of the base tree, caroling and a visit by Santa Claus.

Ruff's AF career a blessing in disguise

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

He once was blessed with the God-given ability to hurl a 90-mph fastball that could have propelled him into a Major League Baseball career. Yet Col. Roy J. Ruff, Jr. considers the Air Force not only his true calling, but also a blessing that has enriched his life and that of his family.

Later this month, the incumbent 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander will retire after 30-plus years. This always-affable Winnsboro, S.C. native has no regrets about the career path he has faithfully and honorably pursued.

"My stepfather Dempsey Clark influenced me toward a military career. He was an Army sergeant who had served three tours in Vietnam. I have tried to emulate the example he set in taking care of his troops," recalls Ruff.

As the oldest of seven children, Ruff demonstrated leadership early in life. He also was a leader on the baseball diamond while attending North Junior High School in Colorado Springs, Colo. It was there where he and future New York Yankees star reliever Richard 'Goose' Gossage had formed an unbeatable righty-lefty pitching tandem. "Those kids couldn't hit us," Ruff said.

Ruff showed Gossage how to throw breaking balls, while the 'the Goose' reciprocated by teaching the future Air Force colonel how to throw fastballs. "We became friends right away. Both Goose and I threw some serious heat." After their 1968 championship season, their paths diverged. Gossage was drafted by the Chicago White Sox in 1970, while Ruff was drafted by the Army.

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Asteroid Boy

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Installations visit

Nelson Gibbs, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics visited Brooks to receive an update on the Brooks City-Base initiative and to emphasize its significance and support to the Air Force. Shown left to right are Col. Robert McMahan, SAF/IE, 311th Human Systems Wing business development office chief Pat McCullogh, Brig. Gen. David C a n n a n , c o m m u n i t y representative Bob Sanchez, Gibbs and 311th HSW deputy director Dr. Brendan Godfrey. Following his meeting with City-Base staff Gibbs also visited the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence.



D I S C O V E R Y

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Protect Critical Assets ...

By Gen. John P. Jumper

Air Force chief of staff

The winter holiday season has arrived and I want to emphasize the importance of the Air Force's most critical asset — you.

Today we are engaged in missions worldwide, including defense of our own homeland. All of you are performing superbly.

The holidays this year will have special meaning. Friends and family share a new and special bond following the tragedy of Sept. 11. Airmen are respected by their fellow Americans as we help carry out America's war on terrorism.

Taking care of one another has never been more important whether flying combat missions, building expeditionary facilities or driving to grandma's house.

I ask each of you personally to embrace two fundamentals: Use your seat belt; and don't you, your family or your

friends drink and drive. The loss of one of our Air Force family for any reason is heartbreaking enough. To lose one of our airmen or a family member to an alcohol- or seat belt-related incident that we could have prevented would be devastating.

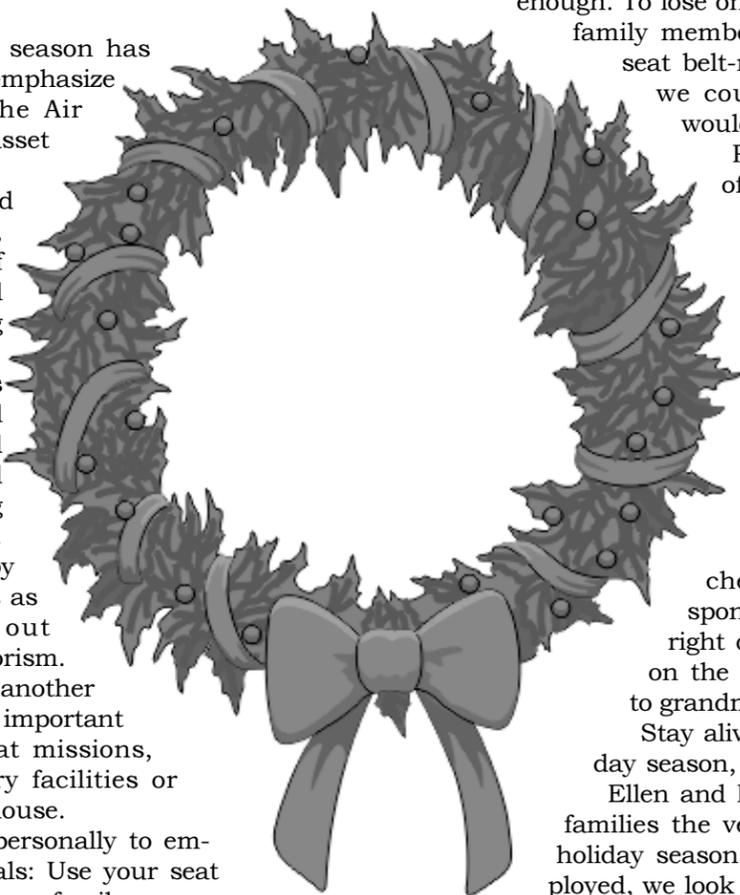
Please remember it is often the other careless person who causes a disaster. Be alert to the other guy who is drinking, worry about everyone else when you drive.

There is no more important time than now for leaders to lead.

Don't let holiday cheer impair your responsibility to make the right decisions: in the air, on the flight line or driving to grandma's house.

Stay alive and well this holiday season, wherever you are.

Ellen and I wish you and your families the very best during this holiday season -- and to those deployed, we look forward to your safe return.



The flag:

True patriotism or just another fad?

By Tech. Sgt. Tommy C. Clark

Headquarters Air Combat Command Safety

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — I'm a proud member of the United States military. My family's military lineage dates back at least as far as my grandfather's service during World War II. My father and several uncles faithfully served during the Vietnam War. I have continued that tradition by proudly serving in Operation Desert Storm and other recent contingencies.

What encouraged three generations of us to join? Once that decision was made, what made us all want to stay? Two words: Old Glory.

It is the same Old Glory, our United States flag, that became popular after the terrorist acts of Sept. 11.

I am pleased to see the outpouring of patriotism and unity across our nation. Everywhere you go today, there she is, Old Glory. I hope and pray this isn't a short-term fad, but I will be grateful no matter how long it lasts.

Military members are the keepers and defenders of our flag. That comes with a great responsibility: to ensure others show our flag the proper respect and to ensure it is not used carelessly as part of a fad.

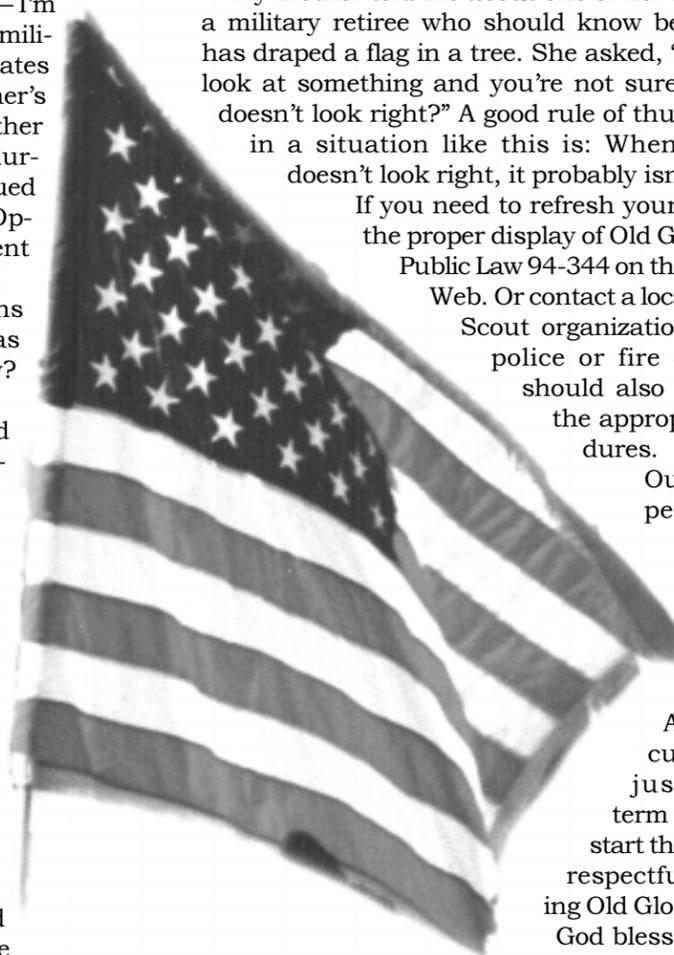
As people have reacquainted themselves with Old Glory over the last several weeks, they are doing so by improperly displaying her, wearing

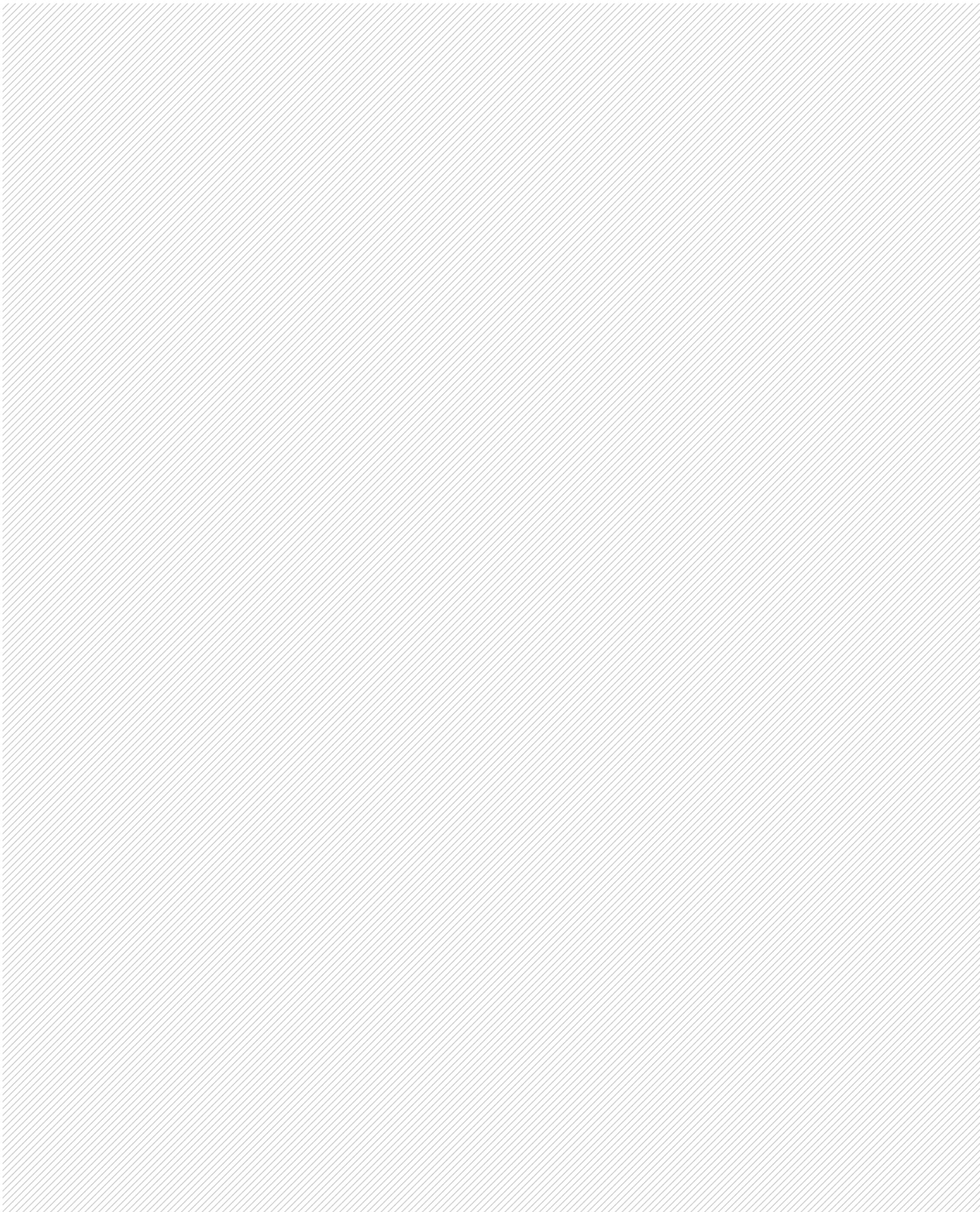
her as apparel or getting a bigger flag to keep up with the Joneses.

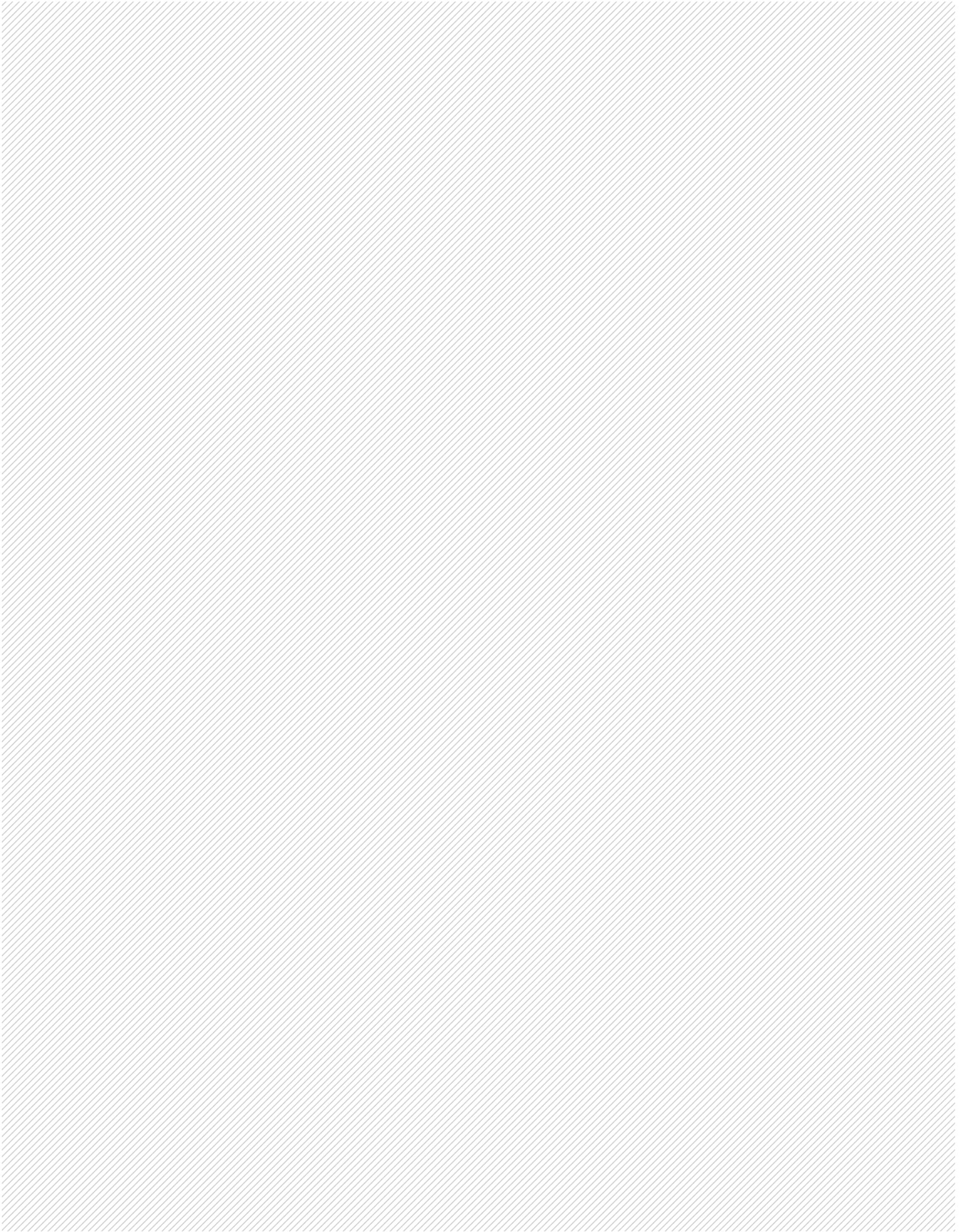
My mother told me about one of her neighbors — a military retiree who should know better — who has draped a flag in a tree. She asked, "Do you ever look at something and you're not sure, but it just doesn't look right?" A good rule of thumb to follow in a situation like this is: When something doesn't look right, it probably isn't.

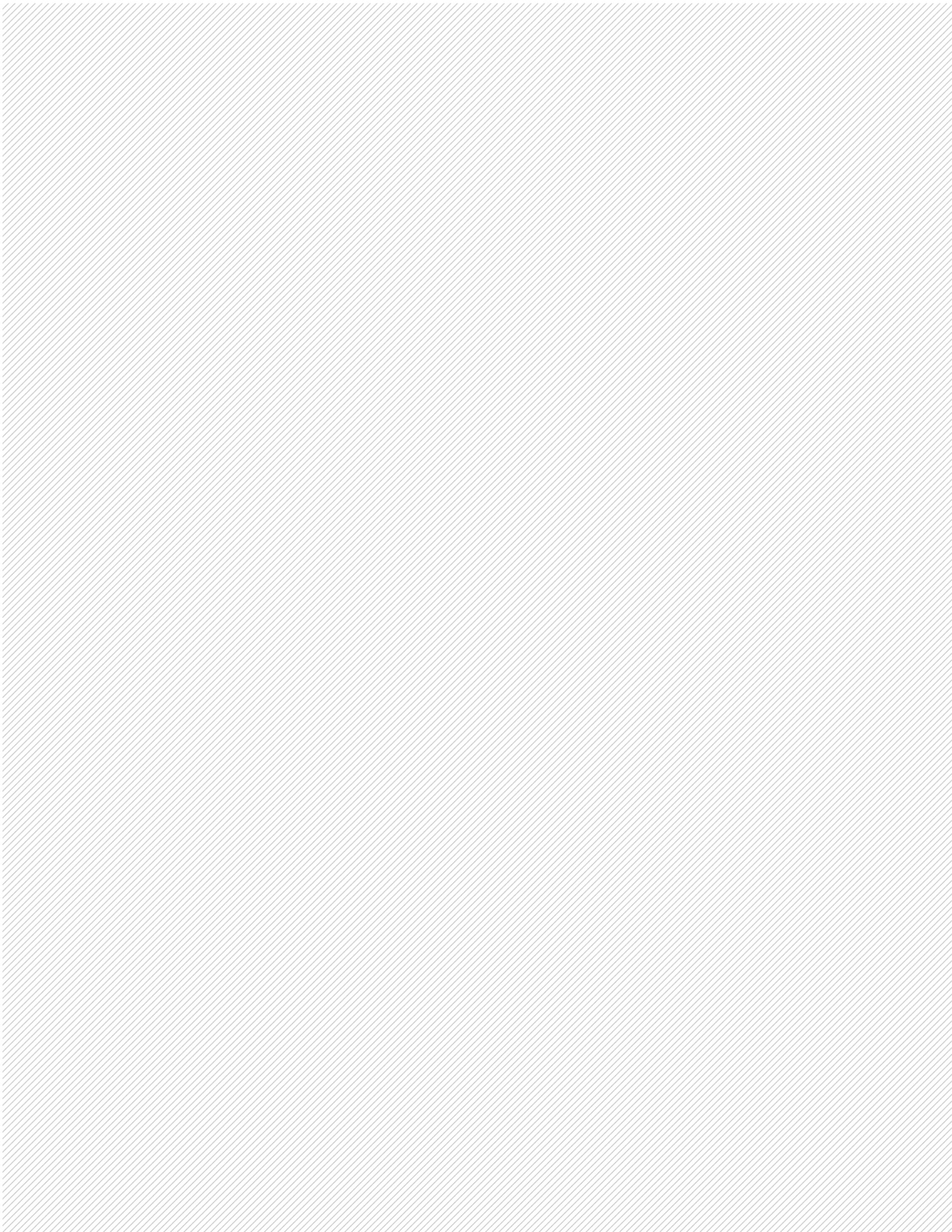
If you need to refresh your memory on the proper display of Old Glory, look up Public Law 94-344 on the World Wide Web. Or contact a local Boy or Girl Scout organization. The local police or fire department should also be aware of the appropriate procedures.

Our future depends on patriotism and unity becoming a permanent part of our American culture — not just a short-term fad. We can start that process by respectfully displaying Old Glory. God bless America.











Ruff

Continued from Page 1

"I couldn't get a deferment, so I enlisted in the Air Force in 1971," admits Ruff.

He had earlier considered a baseball career, but realized the inevitability of military service during the Vietnam War. He initially became an interior electrician, later serving as an instructor. Ruff learned early about the value of an education, something his father had emphasized. He earned an associates degree in business administration from Okaloosa Community College, Fla., followed by a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Troy State University as an Air Force 'bootstrap selectee.'

After graduating from Airman Leadership School, a meeting with the center's commanding general became a career turning point for Ruff. "He congratulated me for graduating. Then he asked me if I was interested in going to pilot training school." By 1978, Ruff had earned a direct commission in the Air Force Medical Service Corps.

"Having potential and challenging it, is what helps shape our life and future path," admits Ruff. Switching career paths allowed Ruff to pursue another interest: helping take care of warfighters. "Taking care of people became a natural advocacy for me."

Finding his niche led to many career highlights including his selection as the 2nd Bomb Wing "Company Grade Officer of the Year" in 1984 at Barksdale AFB, La.

During his first Brooks AFB tour (1985-1989) as Air Force Medical Support Agency patient information branch chief, Ruff implemented the inaugural Air Force-wide Medical Service Health Care Finder Program. A subsequent tour at Ramstein AB, Germany provided Ruff with even greater challenges as Headquarters, U.S. Air Force-Europe patient administration division chief. Besides helping orchestrate medical support for repatriated Americans formerly held hostage in Beirut, Lebanon, Ruff also coordinated medical and mortuary affairs support for victims of the 1990 C-5 crash at Ramstein.

Ruff later deployed to the Middle East during the Persian Gulf War where he served as U.S. liaison to British land forces. Following the war, he was named USAFE's "Young Health Care Executive of the Year" while serving as clinic administrator at Sembach, Germany.

His second Brooks tour has been no less challenging or rewarding than previous assignments. Ruff arrived here during a time



Col. Roy Ruff *Courtesy photo*

of great transition when the base experienced major manpower reductions while also converting from a Human Systems Center to a wing.

"It was a difficult period," Ruff said, noting that his focus was to ensure that people affected by downsizing received fair and equitable treatment. "My goal as vice commander was to build winning teams. The challenge I had was making people understand that we must take care of our people."

Ruff's common sense and honesty helped guide leadership decisions that affected missions and personnel.

He believes being truthful is imperative. "Integrity and service before self are essential," he said.

"I've had a wonderful time at Brooks. I thank General Dodd for the opportunity to serve. The people here have made my last tour easy and special. I hope that I've been the kind of boss that you wanted me to be," he said, advising, "Just do your best, and keep trying to get better."

He and his family will bid the Brooks community farewell at a 9 a.m. retirement ceremony Dec. 14 at Hangar 9.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



ACTION LINE

536-2222



Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

| | |
|--|----------|
| 311th Security Forces Squadron..... | 536-3310 |
| SFS after duty hours..... | 536-2851 |
| 311th Civil Engineer Squadron..... | 536-3861 |
| 311th Communications Squadron..... | 536-6571 |
| 311th Air Base Group Logistics Division..... | 536-3541 |
| Safety..... | 536-2111 |
| Housing Maintenance..... | 536-7000 |
| Housing Office..... | 536-1840 |
| 311th Services Division..... | 536-2545 |
| 311th Medical Squadron (Clinic)..... | 536-4715 |
| Military Personnel..... | 536-1845 |
| Civilian Personnel..... | 536-3353 |
| Military Pay..... | 536-1851 |
| Civilian Pay..... | 536-2823 |
| I.G. (FWA)..... | 536-2358 |
| Military Equal Opportunity..... | 536-2584 |
| EEO Complaints..... | 536-3702 |
| Base Exchange..... | 533-9161 |
| Commissary..... | 536-3549 |
| Brooks City Base Project Office..... | 536-6626 |



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Sponsor training

10 - 11 a.m., Dec. 10, Bldg. 538—

In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory for all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend.

Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

Smooth move

12:30 - 3 p.m., Dec. 11, Bldg. 538—

Pre-registering a must

PCSing? Hear briefings from travel management office, legal, clinic, finance, hous-

ing and the Family Support Center and get answers to your questions.

The class is open to all active duty members, DoD civilians, and spouses.

PCS overseas

3-4 p.m., Dec. 11, Bldg. 538—

Any move can be stressful, but an overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by attending the Smooth Move Seminar and staying after for this class.

Balancing work and life— first duty station PFMP orientation and survival tips for first termers

8 a.m. - noon, Dec. 13, Bldg. 538

This class is mandatory for members whose first duty station is Brooks. By starting off on the right track, one can avoid the common mistakes members frequently make.

Learn how to apply basic money management skills and become acquainted with the many programs and services available to you.

For more information, call the Family Support Center at 536-2444.



Brooks leader earns SES rank

By Rick Guidry

Discovery Staff Writer

Patsy Reeves, Plans and Programs Director for the 311th Human Systems Wing, was promoted to Senior Executive Service rank during a ceremony at the Brooks Club this morning. Dr. Brendan Godfrey, 311th HSW Executive Director officiated the event.

Reeves began her civil service career more than 25 years ago as a contract negotiator in the Copper Cap training program at Wright Patterson AFB, OH. She goes to Warner Robins this month to become Director of Contracting for the Air Logistics Center there, a 400-person organization.

In speaking of her promotion recently, Reeves said she was honored "simply because of the sheer limited numbers of available SES positions. There are many deserving people who don't receive this distinguished promotion because the competition gets tougher as one becomes eligible for the senior positions."

While she acknowledges her awe of the "tremendous expectations and challenges" of her new rank, Reeves carries an air of confidence that comes from being a program manager or contracting officer for key Air Force programs such as the C-17 simulators, JDAM, and AGM-130 air-to-surface missiles. She emphasizes that sustainment of weapon systems is a top Air Force goal, during a time when the financial drain of defense resources looms large.

The holder of two master's degrees says her experience at Eglin AFB, Fla. with development of missiles used in the Gulf War and Afghanistan gives her a sense of accomplishment.

Add her responsibilities as a top contracting officer for Kelly AFB as it prepared for closure, and the new SES officer emerges with unique tools to help the Air Force sustain operations amid transition of missions. She is particularly proud of her opportunity at Kelly to help people facing major career decisions.

Reeves says she was fortunate

to have participated in the Air Force Systems Command's "Top Rung" program in her intermediate management years during the early 1990's. Created by the vision of Lt. Gen. David J. Teal, then vice-commander of AFSC, the program's focus was on "shared leadership" between civilian and military members. It sought to give civilian members a broader breadth of experience than that available through normal career tracks. Reeves notes that her participation in this concept meant sacrifice on the part of her and her family. She became "geographically mobile", willing to move just as much as a military person. A glance at her resume proves that, with assignments at seven different military locations, including consecutive tours at the Pentagon. Relocations for educational purposes were additional.

Leaving Brooks is bittersweet for the new SES member. She speaks of her wish that she could be here to see the city-base project completed. Also, her XP experience leaves her with a desire to help Brooks build its reputation with customers who need biological and chemical support as the nation builds its homeland security capability.

Even so, Reeves emphasizes that she and her family made decisions to take new assignments based on simple factors, "Is this potential opportunity God's direction for our lives? Does it have the potential to have a positive impact on the Air Force community?"

Put simply, Reeves credits her success to hard work, sacrifice, and innovative thinking. She also places high on her list her ability to keep her personal priorities in order. God, family, and job.

The SES was established by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 and became effective in 1979. Its aim is creation of a senior executive corps whose members have solid executive expertise, public service values and a broad perspective of government.

John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil



MacKay trophy awarded for USS Cole rescue efforts

By Rick Guidry
Discovery Staff Writer

A Brooks flight nurse and her colleagues from Ramstein AFB, Germany were honored with the 2000 MacKay Trophy for their aeromedical evacuation of 39 sailors injured in a terrorist attack on the guided missile destroyer USS Cole in October 2000. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper presented the award at a Pentagon ceremony this month.

Capt. Karey Dufour, assigned to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine here since October as a flight nurse instructor, was a flight nurse for the 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at the time of the rescue. She and the squadron's flight medical staff teamed with C-9 flight crews from Ramstein's 75th Airlift Squadron to fly missions "10 Echo 1" and "10 Echo 2". It is the first time an

aeromedical evacuation crew has earned this award.

On Oct. 12, 2000 a suicide boat loaded with explosives rammed into the side of the USS Cole as it was refueling in Aden, Yemen, killing 17 sailors, and injuring 39. The award cites crews of Aeroevac Missions "10 Echo 1" and "10 Echo 2" for their timely, daring and flawless rescue of victims of the USS Cole tragedy. The 6,000-mile round-trip journeys between Aden, Yemen and Ramstein, Germany meant the difference between life and death for the sailors.

On notification, Capt. Dufour and aeromedical and airlift crews responded quickly, launching two C-9 crews within one hour of alert. During the 28-hour missions, the crews performed multiple in-flight divers, handled serious medical complications, and managed adverse weather and ground support



DuFour

difficulties to ensure mission success.

Clarence MacKay, head of the Postal Telegraph-Commercial Cable Companies, established the MacKay Trophy in 1911. The award is administered by the National Aeronautic Association and is awarded annually by the U.S. Air Force for the most meritorious flight of the year by an Air Force person, people, or

organization.

Dufour, a native of Madawaska, Maine, said she was honored to perform the mission.

Her flight, "10 Echo 1", carried out the first 28 of 39 injured.

"When we arrived in Yemen, there were 28 solemn faces," Dufour said. "The sailors made little eye contact. It was a wall of gloom."

It took a while, but eventually the sailors started feeling more comfortable, said Capt. Karin Petersen, an 86th AES flight nurse.

"They kept thanking us for everything and I just kept saying, no problem, it's my job," she said. Dufour echoed those sentiments and said it was a surprise to find out they earned the award.

"We were just doing our jobs. This is what we train for and do every day. The intensity was great, but the mission went smoothly because we

responded as planned. We were glad we could help out," Dufour said. "The true heroes in this scenario were the shipmates of the USS Cole, not us. The sailors were grateful for the support they got from the people in Yemen, but they wanted to get out of there. It was an absolute honor and a privilege to care for them."

She added the senior ranking officer on the flight was "the epitome of what an officer should be. She put aside her pain and showed concern for the status of people on the aircraft and the ship, overlooking her own condition and pain."

A graduate of the University of Maine, Capt. Dufour, attended the USAFSAM flight nurse course at Brooks October through December 1997. She said she was so impressed by the enthusiasm of

See MacKay, Page 10



MacKay

Continued from Page 9

the nursing instructor staff, she felt that she "had to come back to be a flight nurse instructor so I could add to that tradition. I wanted to share the excitement of the career field to help nurses train for day-to-day missions and contingencies."

In assignments before Brooks and Ramstein during her 7-year Air Force career, Dufour has been an emergency room nurse at Luke AFB, Ariz. She is qualified to provide aeromedical care on the C-9, C-17, C-141 and C-130 aircraft.

She has also provided emergency care to patients on a C-20, and can also do so on a C-17.

Referring to the Sept. 11 attacks, Dufour said her immediate reaction was the desire to respond and help.

"I responded the way most Americans did," Capt. Dufour pointed out, "with patriotism. I was angry we could

be caught off guard twice in a year. I was angry that so many lives were destroyed," she added.

The 29-year-old's immediate family is in Maine. Her father is a caretaker for St. David's Catholic Church in Madawaska, and her mother is an educational technician with the first grade in the school district there. Her brother Chad manages an Otso drug store in New Hampshire.

Capt. Dufour is single, and admits to having one dependent - a toy poodle named Sobee, who will be 6 years old on Christmas Day. Describing herself as an "outdoorsy" person, Dufour likes to snow ski, hike, bike, scuba dive and play softball. She adds that the entire crew keeps in touch.

"Once you share an experience like that, you become family."

When asked if she would perform the mission again, Dufour says "absolutely."

A member of Destroyer Squadron 22, the USS Cole is named for Sgt

Darrell S. Cole, U.S. Marine Corps, a Missouri native, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima. It has a crew of more than 300.

"I never dreamed that I would see my name on a trophy that is linked with the names of so many great Air Force pioneers," Dufour said.

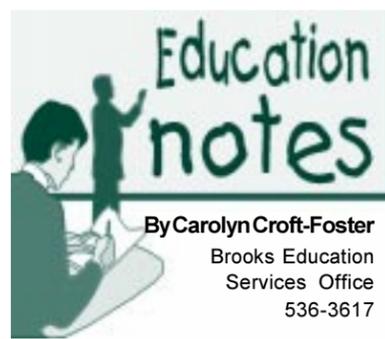
Past MacKay Trophy winners have included Henry "Hap" Arnold who won two awards, one as a lieutenant and the other as a brigadier general, Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker, Lt. James H. Dolittle, Brig. Gen. Benjamin D. Foulois, Capt. Charles Yeager, Operation Homecoming airlift crews, and Capt. Robert J. Goodman and his KC-135 crew. Numerous trophies have gone to Air Force special operations crews in fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.



Courtesy photo

Capt. Karey DuFour's name is now listed on the MacKay Trophy with the names of many Air Force personnel who have previously received the award.

John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil



By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education
Services Office
536-3617

Registration under- way for Spring '02

Palo Alto College will offer courses on base for the full semester and Flex 1. Classes begin Jan. 14 for 16 week lunch-time courses including: US History I, and Fundamentals of Speech. Flex courses include Art Appreciation, English, and Government. The PAC representative can register students for ACCD classes Tuesdays. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

Airman Education and Commissioning Program

The Airman Education and Commissioning Program is open to airmen who wish to pursue a baccalaureate degree in any ABET certified engineering program, meteorology, nursing, and selected foreign area studies and languages. Airmen who are accepted into AECF remain on active duty while attending school full time. Applicants who successfully complete their academic phase of AECF will enter Officer Training School. Nurse candidates must pass the National Council Licensure before attending OTS. Upon completion of OTS, airmen will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force.

Application cut off dates: CLEP 62065 must be taken by Dec. 31 for technical applicants,

Education Services Office application cut off date is Jan. 7. Requests for MOAEs are due at AFIT/RRE by Jan. 15. All courses must be completed by Jan. 15 for consideration. Packages are forwarded to no later than Feb. 28 and selection is announced in May.

Nine CLEP exams to retire

The College Board is retiring 9 CLEP Subject paper-based tests in fiscal year 2002.

The exams with Dec. 31 deadlines are: Intro to Business Law, Calculus with Elementary Functions, and Information Systems & Computer Applications.

Students who plan to apply to Airman Education Commissioning Program should plan to take the Calculus exam prior to Dec. 31, as it is a requirement for application.

The exams that will be retired July 1 are: American Government, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Human Growth and Development, Marketing, Sociology, and Trigonometry.

Officer Training School

Enlisted members who have completed a bachelors degree or are within 270 days of completion are eligible to apply to OTS. The next deadline for applications is Jan. 3. Call 536-3617 for more information.,

CCAF Spring graduation deadline

The deadline for Community College of the Air Force Spring 2002 graduation is Feb. 22. Nominations must be received by CCAF at Maxwell AFB, AL by that date. Students who believe they are a degree candidate need to contact Education Services to ensure their nominations have been submitted.



Feature



Bennett

Q&A

FULL NAME:

Patricia Jo Bennett

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

Key Spouse, 68th Information Operations Squadron

WHAT IS MY JOB?:

I assist families of deployed unit members in handling unexpected issues.

BIRTHDAY:

April 17

HOMETOWN:

Anchorage, Alaska

FAMILY STATUS:

Married with four sons

I BECAME AN AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER:

When my husband was on a remote assignment I went through many situations where I needed help and advice but could get none.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

To go back to school so I can learn computers and get a paying job since I lost mine during the Kelly closure.

ULTIMATE GOAL:

To make sure all four of my sons graduate high school and go to college.

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IS:

Having a wonderful family that believes in doing things together.

HOBBIES:

Crafts, fishing, figure skating, playing sports, PTA vice president.

PET PEEVE:

San Antonio drivers.

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE

Anything by John Saul

LAST MOVIE WATCHED

"Monster, Inc."

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM

Denver Broncos

FAVORITE CAR

Dodge Quad Cab and Durango

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION IS:

Figure skating medals



SPIRIT OF GIVING

Brooks volunteer helps 68th IOS spouses

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Patricia Jo Bennett gets in the holiday spirit by decorating a Christmas tree.

By Rick Guidry

Discovery staff writer

Patricia Jo Bennett was born in France. She grew up in Alaska. Her mother is from Kunsan, South Korea, and she's married to a Texan. The former figure skater turned bowler knows the distress of getting things done alone during emergencies when a key member of the family is away.

She's an Air Force spouse. But she's not just any Air Force spouse. In fact, the Anchorage native is key spouse for the 68th Information Operations Squadron.

In that full-time volunteer position, she helps spouses in the unit cope with situations while their "better halves" are deployed or tied up with the mission at home. With a heavy temporary duty schedule, someone in the 68th IOS is always gone or picking up the slack.

Don't bother looking for her job title in the regs. It doesn't exist. She's creating new parameters for the position each busy day in and out of her command section office. She's doing the job for free. Her only pay is hearing thanks from spouses for lending a helping hand.

Bennett helps coordinate lawn work through the squadron's "While You Were Away" program, climbs bureaucratic walls on behalf of those unfamiliar with the system, and sometimes simply offers a listening ear.

When people are overwhelmed with no one to turn to, the key

spouse representative is there to advise and comfort.

Offered the job when the previous volunteer left to return to school, Bennett says she jumped at the chance because she wanted to help other people avoid bad experiences when support is not there. She knows.

Her husband Tom went on a remote assignment to Kunsan and she never got help when she needed it. Everything that could go wrong did.

The Air Force's philosophy has changed since then to creating a much more supportive environment for families.

On a typical whirlwind day, Bennett is making sure the support is shown in concrete terms for the some 40 spouses she works for in the 68th IOS. That can be from providing family members free calling cards, to editing and publishing a squadron newsletter on her computer.

"No day is the same," she says, "there's always someone in the unit who could use a little support. "I'm just there to let people know there is no shame in asking for it."

The PTA vice-president at Royalgate Elementary believes education is the key to success. Sons Christopher, 14; Andrew, 12; Sean, 9; and Ryan, 6 share that view. They are all honor roll students in the South San Antonio School District.

Somehow she finds time to substitute teach in the school district's 1st through 9th grades in all subject areas. "I've always been actively involved in school district matters,"

Bennett points out proudly.

The Bennett family does things together. All are on the bowling circuit at Lackland Air Force Base and the Kelly Annex. Patricia has been a regular at the Skylark Lanes for seven years.

She and Tom roll in the Friday Stompers League. This summer, she improved her average, over 12 weeks, from 148 to 156.

Andrew received an award for placing 19th out of a field of 210 young people in division 18 in singles at the Texas State Youth of America Bowling Association Tournament held in Fort Worth, Texas in June and July. His total score with handicap was 675.

Sean and Ryan placed third in the San Antonio Tournament in 2000 in their division.

All four sons will be bowling in the upcoming San Antonio City Tournament in February.

In June Bennett went to Lubbock to bowl with a friend from Frost, Texas, in the Woman's Bowling Tournament. She rolled games of 225-197-164.

Her 586 scratch series earned seventh place in the Texas Women's Bowling Association's 64th Annual Championship Tournament. She beat 507 other bowlers in her division. She did so with six screws and three rods surgically implanted in her lower back, caused by a car accident in May 1998.

"Bowling has definitely been good therapy," she maintained, "It's the only thing I looked forward to after my back surgery. I'm very competitive."

The Bennetts also participate in talent shows. She and son Sean competed in the Lackland Family/Teen Talent Contest and placed second in the Parent/Youth category singing to Billy Gilman's "One Voice."

"Sean is my ham. I'm afraid he is going to run away to Hollywood," she quipped. They now go on to the final round in that category.

Andrew competed in the 8-12 year old group playing the clarinet. Andrew and Chris also competed. Top winners in each category go to Randolph where the worldwide winners are picked from the videos.

Calling herself an outdoors person Bennett has ice fished in Alaska, and once caught a 13-pound pink salmon. She says she favors fishing in Alaska over Canyon Lake because "you have to be more active when fishing in Alaska."

Her father is mayor of Houston, Alaska, a town of approximately 1,000 people, about 60 miles north of Anchorage where Patricia Jo grew up.

Volunteerism runs in the family. Her father is a volunteer fireman and certified EMT. He was part of the crews that fought fires in central and northern Alaska about two years ago.

Married 11 years in March, she cooks Texas red chili to her husband's taste, but her favorite dish is kimchi and rice.

Lt. Col. Steve "Remo" Payson, 68th IOS commander, said "Pat has been doing yeoman's work for us."

"I want all the spouses to know they are part of the 68th family, and Pat is getting that word out and making them feel welcome. She's accomplished a great deal in a short span of time."

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Brooks engineer recalls life under Japanese occupation

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

While he was born five months after the Pearl Harbor attack, the future Brooks engineer experienced the reality of living under Japanese military occupation during World War II.

"The Japanese tracked us," said Yasu Tai Chen when describing the manner in which the occupiers of his homeland Formosa (Taiwan) use to monitor civilian movement.

"One time I got lost and was taken to the police station. They called my father to pick me up," said Chen, who is a 311th Human Systems Program Office Life Support Branch test manager for the ACES II ejection set program.

In the late 19th century, the Chen family immigrated from mainland China's coastal Fu-Chien province 75 miles across the Formosan straits to Formosa, the Portuguese name for 'beautiful island.'

"Japanese occupation lasted for 50 years, from 1895 to 1945. My grandfather was born in the year the Japanese first occupied our island," recalls Chen. Three generations of Chens survived the regimented life the Japanese imposed on the Taiwanese people.

The Chens lived in the port city of Tainan, about 200 miles from the island's

capital of Taipei. Chen's father Wen-sor was a sugar manufacturing company accountant; his mother Pih-shia, a homemaker. Chen, the only son among four siblings, was given the Japanese name Yasu (pronounced Ya-soo).

The name, coupled with his fluency in Japanese, helped the boy adapt to life under Japanese rule.

"My middle name Tai means peace in Chinese,"



preceded by the wailing of air raid sirens.

Chen's family was seldom in danger because American attack planes did not bomb residential neighborhoods.

"They bombed military facilities and the airport," Chen said, "Close to the end of the war, 1944-1945, I remember about 9 a.m. every morning American B-29s and B-25s would fly over us to drop their bombs. We were in an underground

"Close to the end of the war, 1944-1945, I remember about 9 a.m. every morning American B-29s and B-25s would fly over us to drop their bombs."

Yasu Tai Chen

311th Human Systems Program Office

Chen explains, noting that he perpetuated his cultural identity by maintaining fluency in Mandarin Chinese and the Taiwanese dialect.

The Taiwanese people, however, universally knew the sites and sounds of the language of war.

"I remember hearing many explosions," Chen said, explaining that Allied attacks of his island were

shelter, but I was curious and watched them bomb the harbor and airport."

Chen said that some Taiwanese, who had immigrated to the United States before the Pearl Harbor attack, provided information about Formosa to American military intelligence. "We found out later they had exaggerated information about the Japanese infrastructure.

The harbor (at Tainan) was big, but it wasn't that big," Chen recalls. As a consequence, American attacks were frequent. By then, the Japanese military had moved villagers away from target areas.

While life under Japanese occupation was repressive, Chen said their occupiers had made many improvements to the island, including developing an industrial base. Considered a province of Japan, Formosa submitted to the Japanese educational system.

During the war, life on the island became even more difficult. Food was strictly rationed. "We had coupons for basic necessities such as rice, sugar and salt," Chen explained.

Shortly after World War II ended, the American government helped repatriate Japanese families living on Formosa. "They transported them in American warships back to Japan," Chen said.

By 1949, the Chinese Nationalists under Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, moved to Taiwan following their ouster by the Chinese Communists. Chen credits the American government for rebuilding Taiwan after the war.

"In 1970, I left Taiwan to study in Japan," Chen said. His former occupiers by then had become an industrial giant.

He earned a master's degree in mechanical

Remembering Dec. 7, 1941

At dawn on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, naval aviation forces of the Empire of Japan attacked the United States Pacific Fleet center at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and other military targets.

The goal of the attack was to sufficiently cripple the US Fleet so Japan could then attack and capture the Philippines and Indo-China. This would secure Japan's access to raw materials to maintain its position as a global military and economic power.

More than 2,300 servicemen and 1,200 civilians were killed in the attack.

In speech before a Joint Session of Congress the next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their might will win through to absolute victory."

engineering from Tokyo's prestigious Waseda University.

He later immigrated to the U.S. where he earned a second master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of West Virginia at Morgantown. His family eventually accepted his new life in America.

"My father told me that my decision (to come to U.S.) was right," said Chen, who knows a thing or two about surviving and prospering.

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'Asteroid Boy' a chip off the old block

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Someday when Eric Gonzales experiences his first moonlight romance, he can point to the night sky and honestly exclaim to the girl of his dreams: "My name is sealed on a special place for you."

That place is an asteroid named Gonzales hurtling through space about two degrees east of Saturn. The multi-ringed planet provides the backdrop for asteroid No. 15,628, discovered April 29, 2000.

Fittingly, cable television's Discovery Channel christened this chunk of space rock for a San Antonio 'junior scientist' who they discovered to be a true 'chip off the old block' from a family of scientists.

Eric's father Jim is an environmental engineer with the U.S. Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence's Technology Transfer Division. Older brother James is an award-winning 'junior scientist,' who like Eric, was greatly inspired by their dad.

"I don't have an asteroid named after me, but I have (won) more money," quipped James, referring to science fair scholarship money he's earned in recent years. His remark elicits Eric's quick reply, "My asteroid will last longer than your money will."

Eric, a 13-year-old Hobby Middle

School student, and James, a 15-year-old Northside Independent School District Health Careers High School student, are on a collision course with destiny. Despite their science fair successes, both plan medical careers.

However, it was their science fair projects that propelled both boys into the national spotlight. Explains father Jim, "For years there have been national and international science fairs for high school kids, but not for middle school students. The Discovery Channel realized they were missing an opportunity to recognize middle schoolers."

As a middle school student, Eric earned recognition in October at the Discovery Channel's 'Young Scientist Challenge' competition in Washington, D.C. He was one of 40 finalists, and one of three San Antonio students, selected to compete from an initial nationwide group of 4,000 middle school science fair students.

Eric earned the honor to compete at the national level with his comparative analysis of fat content in domestic and non-domestic animals. Prior to his national competition, Eric had to persuade his school to allow him to compete locally.

His school was so impressed with the 6th grader's project, that they waived their 7th grade requirement for

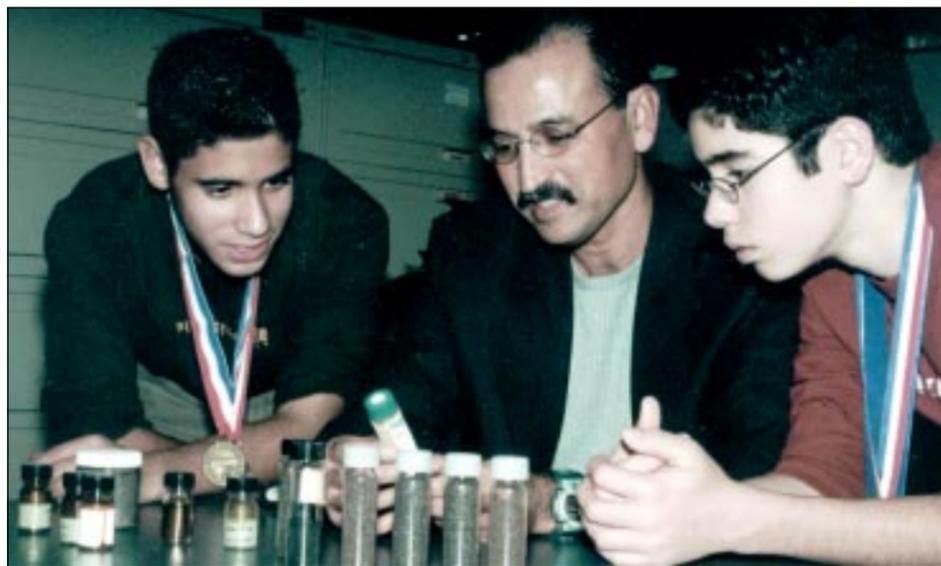


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Jim Gonzales (center), an Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence engineer, discusses soil samples with his sons James (left) and Eric.

submitting entries. Eric earned eligibility to be considered for the Discovery Channel competition when he became a grand prize winner at the Alamo Regional Science Fair.

While Eric didn't place at the national level, he earned \$500 plus the immortality of having an asteroid named after him. Asteroids were named for all 40 finalists as well as students' mentors and science teachers.

"It's visible at 10 p.m. (every night). It's located in the Taurus Constellation," Eric said, admitting that he hasn't actually seen it yet.

It was his brother James who influenced Eric into competing. James became interested in geology in 7th

grade. He earned third grand prize at the 1998 Alamo Regional Science Fair in the environmental category. "Eric saw how much fun I had and wanted to compete," James said.

The following year, the Gonzales brothers made Alamo Regional Science Fair history when they both won grand prizes in their respective categories. Additionally, James preceded Eric as a finalist at the Discovery Channel's national competition in 1999 where he placed fourth. Back then, asteroids were not named for finalists. James had to settle for a \$3,000 prize.

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AF small business utilization celebrates 'Diamond' jubilee

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Webster's Dictionary defines 'jubilee' as a season or occasion for joyful celebration, something the staff at Brooks Air Force Outreach Program Office recently experienced when meeting the new leader for Air Force small business utilization.

Joe Diamond, Air Force Director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, recently visited Brooks on as part of a nationwide tour to meet the Air Force small business community who have worked for decades helping small businesses compete for federal contracts.

Air Force Secretary Dr. James Roche appointed Diamond to the Senior Executive Service position shortly after incumbent Anthony DeLuca retired Sept. 1.

Brooks was one of Diamond's key destinations where the AFOPPO has been the Air Force leader in small business outreach since it was established here in 1998 by former Air Force Secretary F. Whitten Peters. Diamond voiced his support of and appreciation for this one-of-a-kind Department of Defense organization that has been the Air Force's primary small business outreach advocate during an era of increased federal spending on small business contracts.

"Brooks AFB and AFOPPO are doing a tremendous job of identifying those source (selection) and (acquisition) requirements by working with small business directors and specialists," Diamond said, explaining that their efforts have had a significant impact on Air Force outreach initiatives. He said AFOPPO has been particularly effective in the communications arena through Air Force small business community training and education as well as extensive media exposure.

Diamond met with key AFOPPO staff, including its director Col. Eddie Mims, to discuss outreach strategies and impart his ideas that will help advance processes already in place. "We're looking at ways to simplify the process, such as integrating information/data (on small business capabilities) that buyers and contracting officers will have at their disposal, assuming they have the motivation to use small businesses (for federal contracts)," Diamond said.

In recent years, the federal government has steadily increased its 'outsourcing' budget for goods and services provided by small businesses.

According to the Small Business Administration, the current federal goal is to award 23 percent of all government contracts to small businesses. By 2003, total federal con-

tract awards will rise to more than \$6 billion. The Air Force has been the Armed Forces leader in the number of federal contract awards to small businesses.

Diamond plans to leverage Air Force small business community 'best practices' to continue an already successful outreach program that fosters small business competition for federal contracts.

The 59-year-old retired Air Force chief master sergeant said Air Force small business outreach has become particularly important in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

One of the Air Force Secretary's goals is to restore to prominence an industrial base that supports military acquisition requirements. Diamond views the diversity that exists among America's small businesses, regarding their resources and capabilities, as key to helping support short and long-term national defense objectives.

"The war on terrorism will require an industrial base that can provide information technology, communications technology, installation services and support in the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance areas. Small business will need to focus on these areas, looking to foster the development of technologies in support of today's systems," explains Diamond.

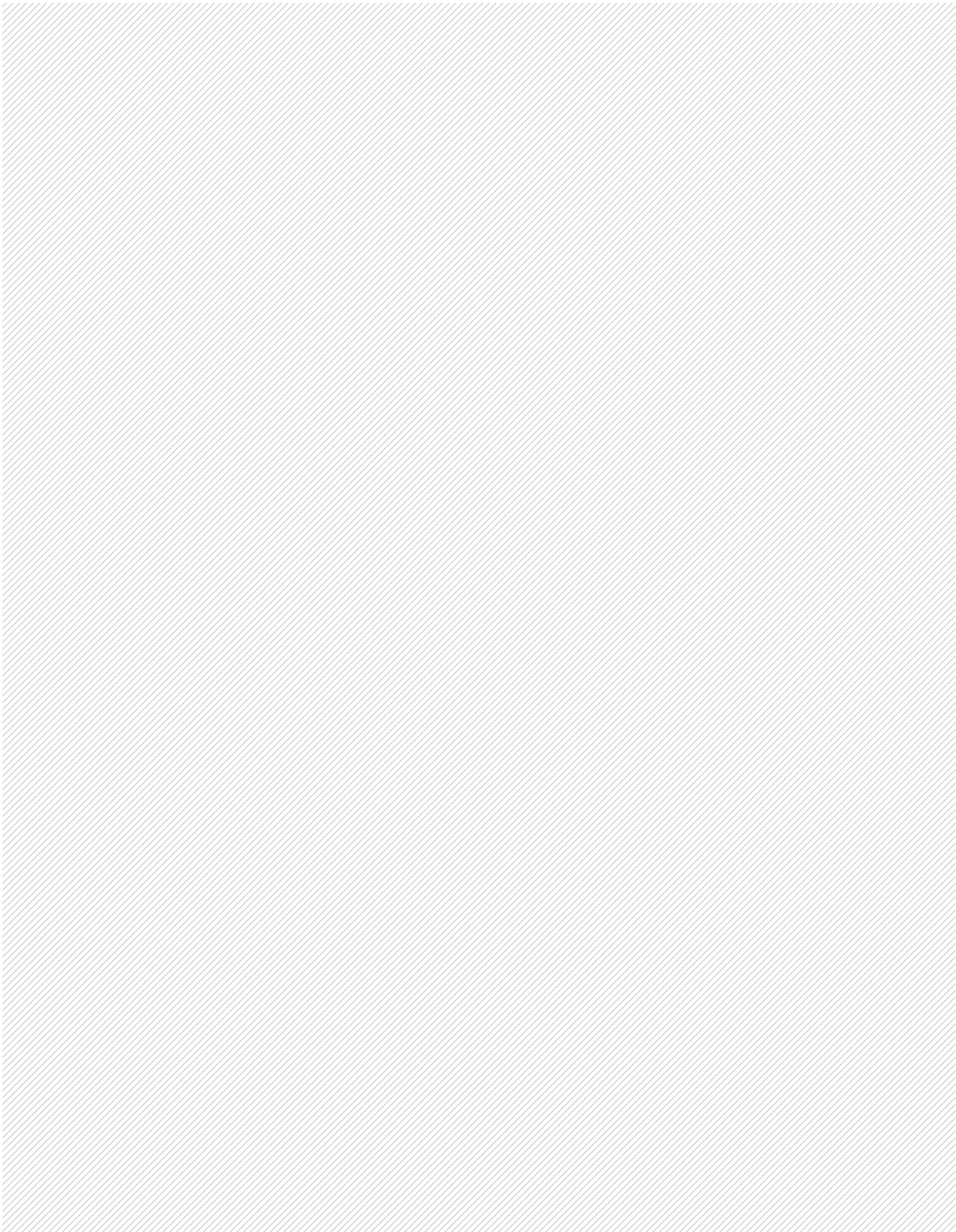
He supports continued collaboration between the Air Force, academia and small businesses to further develop technologies and capabilities supporting America's warfighters and our nation's homeland defense initiatives.

"As we begin to make determinations on our requirements for homeland defense, such as in the biomedical and microtechnology arenas, we must focus on small business," Diamond said, noting that quality suppliers will be critically important to supporting national security initiatives.

Diamond said his national tour is aimed at identifying current and future Air Force acquisition requirements as well as identifying small business resources to satisfy those requirements.

He is seeking the support of MAJCOM commanders and the acquisition community to increase their commitment to using small businesses, especially in the area of sub-contract participation to fulfill base operating support requirements.

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Sports

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Braving the Texas panhandle's bone-numbing wind on Halloween did not deter a Brooks woman from doing her part to honor commercial airline victims who were killed during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Betty Trivette, Brooks-based General Dynamics office manager and human resources representative, participated in the Americans United Flag Across America 'flag run' which began Oct. 11 and ended on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

"American Airlines sponsored the relay to honor American and United Airlines crews and passengers lost on Sept. 11. I thought it would be incredible to be apart of that (event)," said Trivette. She said the relay route followed the original flight paths of the four doomed airliners.

In an Oct. 29 San Antonio Express-News article by Sonja Garza that solicited San Antonio volunteers, Todd Wissing, an American Airlines pilot and the event's national communications coordinator, said, "We will symbolically complete the flight." Trivette responded to the story by contacting Fort Sam Houston's Capt. Stephen Keck, who organized San Antonio runners' participation in the relay.

Fifteen runners were needed to carry a 3-by-5-foot American flag for part of the Texas leg of the cross-country relay. The event had attracted thousands of volunteers who participated in the non-stop relay from Boston to Los Angeles.

The Alamo City contingent was assigned a 68-mile stretch from the eastern panhandle's town of Shamrock to just outside Amarillo's city limits.

This leg re-traced the route that would have been taken by American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175 if the planes had not been diverted into New York's World Trade Center towers.



Showing Support

Courtesy photo

Brooks woman runs with Old Glory in honor of terrorists' victims

"We ended up with 18 runners from San Antonio. We left San Antonio in two vans on Oct. 30 and drove all night. We arrived in the

panhandle at 4:20 a.m. on Halloween," said Trivette, a 1979 Samuel Clemens High School graduate who began her running career late in

life. She had previously participated in 5K and 10K runs and a half-marathon locally, but had never been part of a relay team.

"I ran an 8-9 mile leg. We took turns carrying the flag. There was always someone running with you," she said.

Recalling horrible weather conditions, she noted, "The 30-mph winds were piercing and cold. We had to run against the wind."

Trivette's start point was Groom, a tiny town between Shamrock and Amarillo.

She and her comrades could not help notice the symbolism associated with their athletic endeavor on behalf of lost souls when they ran past Groom's famous landmark, the 190-foot-high Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Encouraging the team along their remote, dust-blown route were event organizers, including airline flight attendants.

"They were awesome," Trivette said of the support and appreciation they received. "The whole experience was incredible. We wanted to show our patriotism and do something for the victims' families."

One of Trivette's teammates was George Jones, a retired 73-year-old Japan Airlines pilot, who was particularly inspiring.

"He was a magnet for all of us. He made sure we were all OK. All 18 of us were on an emotional high," recalls Trivette.

That 'high' manifested itself further following the race. "When we arrived at our Amarillo hotel, passengers from a Los Angeles tour bus who found out we were staying there began cheering for us."

The relay had an enormous impact on Trivette. "It was a life-changing experience for me. I now approach things in my life differently," she said, explaining that one of her goals is to complete 'unfinished business,' knowing that life is much too short.

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“The whole experience was incredible. We wanted to show our patriotism and do something for the victims' families.”

Betty Trivette
Flag Across America participant



Courtesy photo

Betty Trivette (center row, third from left) poses with a San Antonio group that ran a 68-mile relay between Shamrock and Amarillo, Texas.



New ABG team system presents intramural hoop foes with challenge

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The 311th Air Base Group is hedging its bets this year in its quest to beat its perennial intramural basketball rivals with a new system that fields four separate teams that are equally supported by a reserve pool of talent.

"The main reason we did this was to give every squadron a chance to field a full team of players," said Manuel Palomarez, player-coach of ABG #3. His squad consists primarily of 311th Security Forces Squadron personnel.

Last year, ABG teams were hampered by not having enough quality players to field competitive squads due to players' numerous TDYs and shift work. The new system, a concept developed by Master Sgt. Steven Brown, allows participating ABG teams to draw from a pool of substitute players.

"At times last year we needed people, but didn't have enough players. This year if we need someone (to fill in) we'll have them," explains Palomarez whose squad has so far prospered from the system.

ABG #3 recently won the pre-season tournament with an upset victory over the 311th Human Systems Program Office squad, the two-

time defending intramural base champ.

ABG #3 features a powerful veteran team that includes two base varsity players known as the 'dynamic duo,' - point guard Colby Benjamin and power forward Junell Dumas. The other veteran starters include center Brandon Sorgenfrei, guard Kevin Jones and off-guard Palomarez. Rookie power forward Carson McHale and an improved defense further strengthen the team.

ABG #3, however, lost its first game of the season last week to the always-contending Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis (AFIERA).

"HSW/YA and ABG 1,2 and 3 are the leading contenders," said AFIERA player-coach Aaron Sinclair.

AFIERA returns two key veterans and features three rookies who give the squad offensive and defensive balance. Base varsity team player Rob Taylor returns to AFIERA's lineup at power forward, supported by veteran 6'6" center Al Bolds. Rounding out the starting five are rookies 'Bad, Bad' Leroy Brown at small forward, Mike Weems at off-guard and Leo Funchess at point guard.

Sinclair said their perennial nemesis, YA, is still very good but

is not the only team to beat this year due to the ABG system mix. "They (YA) have lost their team sparkplug, Va'shon Moore," Sinclair noted. Moore. He is no longer assigned here.

ABG #2, coached by Ralph Pena, is another leading contender that packs a powerful offensive wallop. The new squad merges talent from the 311th Communications Squadron, the Brooks Clinic, Family Support and the former Brooks Fire Department.

Veteran starters include two base varsity team players: point guard Robert Garcia and center Jesus Ontiveros. "We also have starters Melvin Gilchrist and Tracy Washington as power forwards and 'rail-thin' 6'6" Armond 'Slim' Bailey at off-guard," explains Pena.

Other teams competing this year include ABG #1 and #4, 311th HSW Contracting (PK), 68th Intelligence Operations Squadron and the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

Only the top four teams will advance to the championship tournament tentatively scheduled for late February-early March. Regular season games are held at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at the fitness center gym.

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Brooks Atrium Bldg. 1154

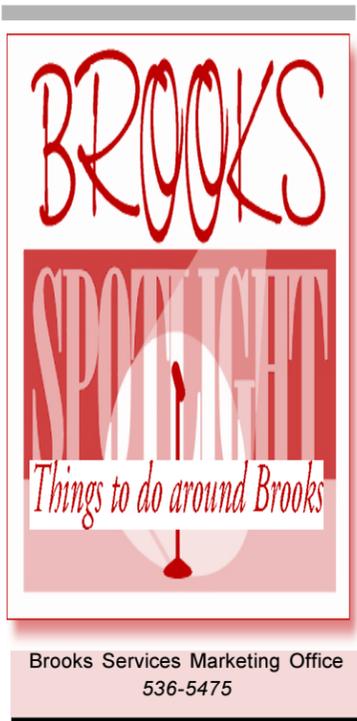
Visit the Brooks Atrium. Bldg. 1154, located on 9th Street directly behind the baseball field, as a new name. The recently renovated interior of the Brooks Atrium is home to the Services Marketing Department, The FrameWorks and Outdoor Recreation. While visiting The FrameWorks be sure to check out our consignment area, Crafted With Care. You can pick up handcrafted gifts for family, friends or office personnel. Rent items such as tables, chairs, grills, camping equipment, sports equipment, bicycles and other items from Equipment Check-Out located in Outdoor Recreation. They also are in charge of the Fam Camp, base pavilions, Lemon Lot and Vehicle Storage Lot.

The Family Support Center Loan Closet has recently moved to Outdoor Recreation. Military personnel who are doing a PCS move to or from Brooks can temporarily check out household items such as dish packs.

Stop by and visit the Atrium.

Brooks Club Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Join the Brooks Club staff for a fantastic New Year's Eve Party Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.



Tickets are \$10 per person and \$15 per couple and include heavy hors d'oeuvres, breakfast, champagne, and party favors.

Guests can enjoy a buffet with meat platters, vegetable trays, fruit trays, dips, buffalo wings, meatballs and more. Champagne will be served to each guest to bring in the New Year at the stroke of midnight.

At the end of the evening enjoy a breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, black-eyed peas, collard greens and coffee.

Purchase your tickets from the cashier's cage at the club.

The FrameWorks Bldg. 1154, 536-2120

The FrameWorks has relocated from the Base Exchange Mall back to Bldg. 1154.

The date for turning in holiday orders has been extended to Dec. 10. Gather your photos, artwork or posters and bring them in. Our framing specialists will assist you in selecting the right mats and frames to compliment your artwork.

Youth Services Center Bldg. 470, 536-2515

The Fine Arts Program is a comprehensive program promoting year-round classes, demonstrations, field trips and special events that climax in sanctioned local, regional and national juried exhibits.

Artwork in four age groups divisions and nine disciplines represents the national exhibit premiering at Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Conference and touring the United

States, Europe and Asia for one year.

Join the Youth Center and Base Library staff Dec. 11 for the opening of the National Fine Arts Exhibit Program in the Base Library, Bldg. 705, from 3:45-4:30 p.m. Youth artwork will be on display in the library Dec. 7-14. Light refreshments will be served following the program. Support our youth by taking time out to stop by and view the children's art.

Let's Wrap It Up

Santa Claus will send his helpers to make your holiday gift-wrapping painless. Bring your gifts to the Brooks Atrium Dec. 3-19 from noon to 2 p.m. and let us do your wrapping for you. We will even provide the paper and ribbon. Donations will be accepted for the gift wrapping. Donations will benefit the Youth Services Center and Teen Center programs.

Military Night At The Iguanas

Show your military identification at the Freeman Coliseum Box Office or the Box Office at 8546 Broadway and receive \$6 Upper Horse-shoe tickets for either the Dec. 22, 29 or Jan. 12 Iguanas games.

Important tips for child car seat safety

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION —

When the weather turns cooler, we all get our jackets and coats out of the closet. Putting an infant or child in a coat or blanket before putting them in their car seat can greatly affect the way the car seat is designed to work.

The harness straps in car seats are designed to lie flat and snug against the child. When they are adjusted properly, there should be no slack in the harness system. If the baby is wrapped in a blanket before placing him in the car seat, and the harness straps are loosened to accommodate the extra cloth, there is slack in the system.

In a collision, this extra fabric and padding will compress and cause slack in the harness system, which will allow the child to move further forward during a crash before being stopped by the harness straps—increasing the injuries they will suffer.

Keep the child in the clothes they will be wearing indoors. Place the child in the infant seat or car seat, making sure the harness straps are snug over the shoulders and that they lie straight and flat down to the buckle. Buckle the child in and then put the coat or blanket over them—on top of the harness system.

For more detailed information see the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/>.

Brooks holiday party

The Brooks Holiday Party, a Year of the Family event, is scheduled for Dec. 14 at the Brooks Club. This is your opportunity to celebrate being "Together For the Holidays."

Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Attire is dressy casual (no jeans or t-shirts). Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased through unit representatives, first sergeants or at the FrameWorks. Professional photographs will be available for an additional fee.

Call 536-2736 for ChildCare reservations.

Altitude test subjects

Scientists at Brooks need a number of volunteer subjects for participation in hypobaric (altitude) chamber research projects.

Air Force aircrew members who are interested and meet the qualifications will earn approximately \$150 per month for participating in one session per month.

Volunteers must meet Air Force body fat, height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least 2 years, be between 20-45 years old, and able to pass an appropriate physical exam.

Contact Jim Carlile at 536-3546, or Heather Alexander at 536-3440 for more information.

Santa Clauses wanted

Get into the spirit of Christmas by volunteering for the Elf Louise Christmas Project.

Last year, Elf Louise volunteers gathered, wrapped, and personally delivered more than 50,000 toys to nearly 9,000 families in the Bexar county area.

NEWS briefs

This year the Project is located in the old Montgomery Wards building in McCreless Mall, convenient for Brooks volunteers.

Project offices are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

Through Dec. 13, gift wrappers are needed. Scissors and tape are appreciated and wrapping hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Saturday, and noon-6 p.m. Sundays.

Helpers are needed to stock toy shelves and organize wrapped gifts.

Dec. 15-23 volunteer teams are needed to deliver toys to families. Delivery teams consist of a Santa, a driver and an elf helper. Complete Santa suits, wrapped gifts and candy are provided, you supply personnel, a vehicle and the Christmas spirit.

Santa briefings are held each evening at 7 p.m. through Dec. 13 to answer questions.

For more information, or to sign up call 224-1843.

For general information, contact Sharon Earley, toy elf, at 536-2825.

Scholarship applications being accepted

Applications are being accepted for the Bernard P. Randolph scholarship. The fund supports college-bound seniors or full-time college students in the San Antonio military, civilian or dependent community. Applications can be obtained at the Brooks, Lackland AFB, Randolph AFB or Fort

Sam Houston libraries.

Applicants will submit 600-800 word essays, which will be judged by independent evaluators.

Applications and essays are due by 3 p.m. Jan. 3, and awards will be presented at the Scholarship Luncheon Feb. 21 at Brooks.

Contact Lt. Dennis Clements at 536-2359 for more information.

Brooks exceeds CFC quota for 2001

This year's Combined Federal Campaign drive exceeded all expectations. The Brooks community opened this year's season of giving by contributing \$311,852 to the CFC campaign. This was 23 percent above the goal set for this year. The CFC organizing committee would like to thank all of the key workers who worked hard to make contact throughout the base, and all who contributed. Once again the people of Brooks showed their compassion and caring.

Comptroller's Social

The American Society of Military Comptroller's, Alamo City Chapter will host a Holiday Social Dec. 18 at the Lackland AFB Gateway Club from 4-6 p.m. The social is free to all members and guests.

The charity for this month is the Salvation Army. Unwrapped gifts for

boys and girls age 0-13 years will assist more than 100 families. For tickets or more information, call Betty Ann Rosales at 536-1335.

Brooks Toastmasters

Toastmasters is an international organization formed in 1924 to aid in effective communication, practicing public speaking in a relaxed environment. Toastmasters meets here each Wed. at 11:30 a.m.

Contact Rick Young at 536-4464 or Capt. Juan Ubiera at 536-1953 for more information.

Clinic Notes

Effective immediately, Prilosec (omeprazole) will no longer be available at the Brooks Pharmacy. The Department of Defense Pharmacoeconomic Center has deleted Prilosec from the Basic Core Formulary and has added Aciphex (rabeprazole) in its place. All military pharmacies in the greater San Antonio area have implemented this program.

Patients with Prilosec prescriptions from Brooks Clinic providers will automatically be switched from Prilosec to Aciphex (rabeprazole). Patients with prescriptions from other military bases or from civilian providers must bring in a new prescription by Jan. 31, 2002. Refills will be honored until then.

Patients always have the option to use their Tricare prescription benefit at any of the local retail network pharmacy. The co-pay for Prilosec will be \$9 for a 30-day supply.

All prescriptions filled at a network pharmacy must be refilled at a network pharmacy. For more information, call the Brooks pharmacy at 536-2134.