DISCOVERY

Air Force Materiel Command 2001 Year Of The Family yofam@wpafb.af.mil

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 25, No. 16 -- Friday, Aug. 17, 2001 -- Brooks AFB, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

SRB payment problem fixed

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER — Airmen awaiting delayed payment of their selective re-enlistment bonuses should receive their money by the end of August.

A processing problem prevented more than 700 airmen from receiving their bonus money.

The problem affected people who, in the last three months decided to enlist within 30 days of their original date of separation. It also affected new officer accessions and anyone who recently returned from a break in active service.

"We understand people are counting on accurate pay and we're working hard to correct the problem," said Master Sgt. Michael Whirlow, noncommissioned officer in charge, personnel system operations and Defense Finance and Accounting Service liaison. "I can imagine how frustrating it is for them not to get paid what they expected.

Officials still encourage airmen to check their leave and earnings statements to make sure they are getting the correct pay and bonus.

"I wouldn't advise anyone to spend the bonus money before it's in their account or if it's not the right amount," said Whirlow. "We highly encourage everyone to check their LES to verify that they were paid the right amount."

Courtesy Photo

Getting the jump

The U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's Tech. Sgt. C.J. Crane, seen here during an 18,000 foot High Altitude Low Opening jump from a C-141 over Reno, Nev., in 1996, did not have the luxury of a spacious rear door during recent test jumps in the modified C-130-J-30 at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Six USAFSAM parachutists participated in testing the egress capabilities of the modified Air Force cargo aircraft. See story on page 8.

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Targeted pay raises: Who gets them?

By Staff Sgt. Amy Parr
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Jan. 1 marks the beginning of a new year, as well as the start of the military's latest pay raise.

With recruiting and retention on the front burner, many leaders hope increased pay will entice people to join the military and encourage those already in the service to stay.

But, should raises be equal across the board or should certain ranks be targeted? And, if targeted raises is the correct response, which ranks should be targeted and at what percentage?

Currently, there are three proposals looking for targeting pay: the defense secretary's plan, Program Budget Decision 801; House Resolution 2310; and HR 2494.

There is also the opportunity for an across-the-board pay raise at either 4.6 percent within current budget guidelines, or at 6.8 percent with the additional $1 billion recommended by President Bush for military pay.

President Bush's budget provides funding for a 4.6 percent increase and allows $1 billion more toward military pay, said Maj. Shannon Averill, chief, Air Force pay and allowances.

In keeping with the president's budget submission, the Department of Defense plan takes the additional money and gives all ranks a flat 5-percent raise. It then targets particular grades for a total raise of 6 to 10 percent. The highest raises will go to mid- and senior noncommissioned officers and warrant officers, with 6 and 6.5 percent going to O-3s and O-4s, respectively.

HR 2310, proposed by Rep. John Murtha, provides an overall 7.3-percent raise with certain ranks receiving up to 10.5 percent. His plan targets enlisted members, depending on pay grade and years of service, with raises up to 10.5 percent. It also targets O-3s and O-4s with raises of 8.3 and 9 percent, respectively.

Rep. Ike Skelton's plan, HR 2494, calls for a minimum 7.3 percent and maximum 12.3 percent increase. For enlisted members, Skelton's plan calls for an increase of 8.3 to 12.3 percent. His plan also targets O-3s and O-4s, receiving 8.3 and 8.8 percent, respectively.

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Commentary

DISCOVERY

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Discovery Editorial Staff:
311th Human Systems Wing Commander
Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd
Director of Public Affairs
Larry Farlow
Editor
Cerise Fenton
(cerise.fenton@brooks.af.mil)
Public Affairs NCOIC
Staff Sgt. John Jung
Photography
Senior Master Sgt. T.C. Coaxum
Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez
Staff Sgt. Sabrina Johnson

Discovery **logo**
by Arlene Schirmer

311th HSW Public Affairs

Sylvia Black, Publisher
Pia Goodman, Prod. Mgr.
Pat McCain, Classified Mgr.
Anna Johnson, Business Mgr.
Diane Bohl, Sales Manager
Sherry Snoga, Account Exec.
Rose Stewart, Account Exec.
Steve Kalaher, Account Exec.

Advertising
(210) 675-4500
FAX:
(210) 675-4577
E-mail:
sblack@txdirect.net

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Remember the '101 Critical Days'

By General Lester Lyles
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

We are halfway through the 2001 Critical Days of Summer and I solicit your help in keeping the AFMC campaign active and effective.

To date, the Air Force has lost 14 irreplaceable airmen including one from the AFMC family. As in past campaigns, we need to keep focused on off-duty activities including private motor vehicle and motorcycle operations.

I need you to devote extra attention to keeping our folks safe as the campaign continues into the Labor Day weekend. Risk management awareness throughout the command will help, but personal involvement from all commanders and supervisors is key to a successful safety program.

Let's take a "back to basics" approach to the safety of our people— talk with the ones who engage in hazardous activities, demand effective pre-departure safety briefings for young troops headed out on leave, and identify areas for improvement early.

We must work together to protect our people during the remainder of 2001, but especially during the final days of the 101 Critical Days of Summer. Your support and participation are vital to our success.

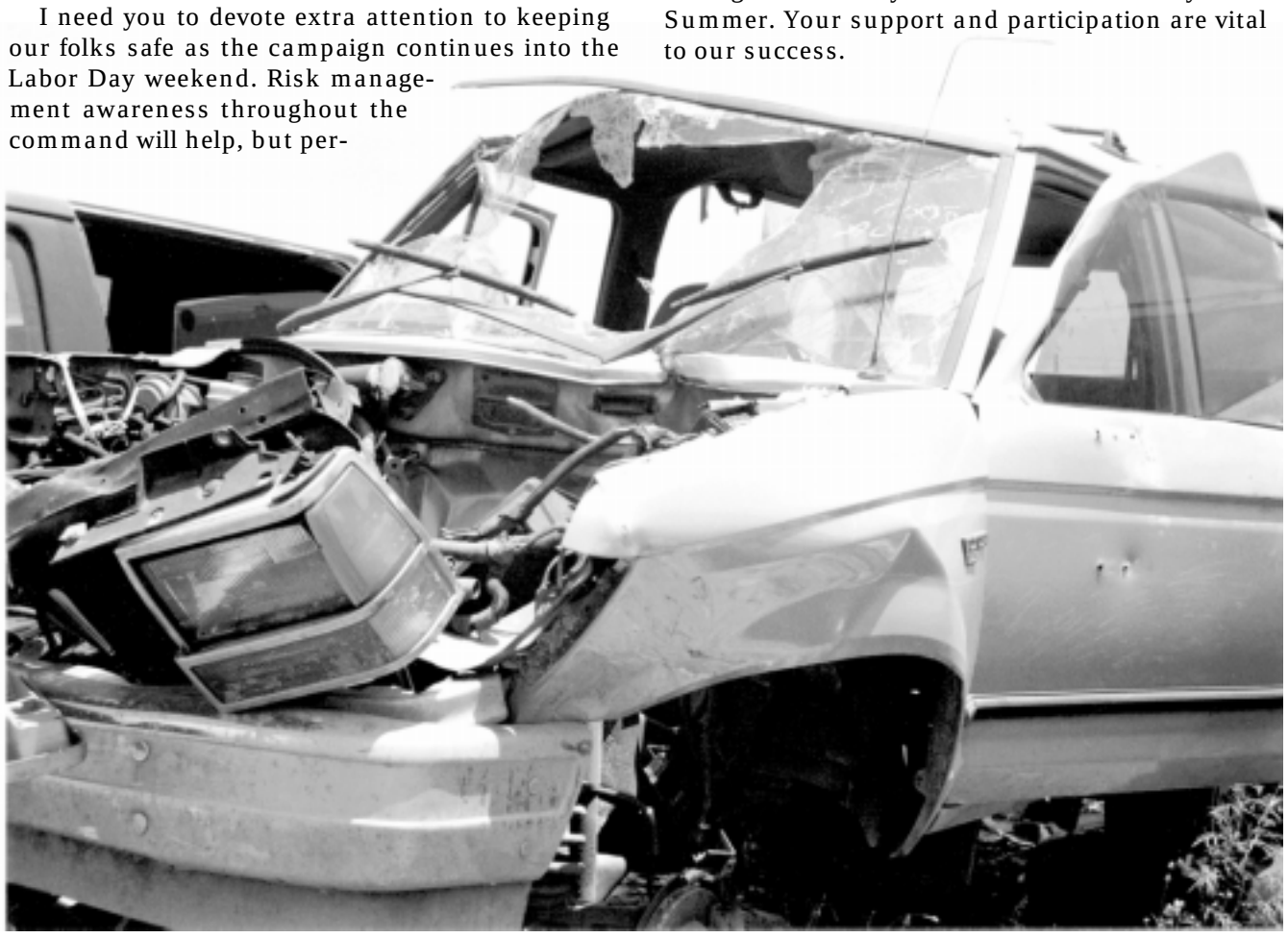


Photo by Dale Eckroth

Celebrate an important milestone for new staff sergeants

By Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — We recently announced the release of the staff sergeant selection list — a time for recognition, celebration and congratulations.

Promotion to staff sergeant is an important milestone in any Air Force career, since it marks the transition from airman to noncommissioned officer.

Surprisingly, I've heard a few comments expressing concern over the significant number of people accomplishing this milestone, and I've received several inquiries asking why the selection rate was so high.

Basically, we have had an increased number of vacancies at the staff sergeant level, coupled with a decreased pool of eligible senior airmen competing to fill them. This translated to higher selection rates, as evidenced by this year's 64 percent and last year's 50 percent.

The increased vacancies can be attributed in part to the decreased retention of mid-level NCOs in recent years and our initiative to reshape the balance of NCOs to airmen in our Air Force.

In 1999, we received authorization to increase the percentage of the Air Force enlisted force allowed to serve in the top five grades from 48.5 percent to 56 percent. This initiative allowed us to start reducing the average time in service required to promote our mid-level NCOs.

Despite this explanation, some still speculate that the real reason we increased promotion rates was simply to improve retention. While this wasn't the primary goal behind changing our enlisted force structure, we do hope earlier promotions will translate to improved manning and retention. As most probably already know, we are still short mid-level NCOs in many career fields.

Regarding the few comments I've heard about promoting people too quickly, I only need to look at this year's selectees to see we are on track.

Of the 20,793 people named on this staff sergeant selection list, more than 90 percent received the top rating on their most recent enlisted performance report. This tells me that at least three people in their rating chain believed they were ready for immediate promotion and were well-prepared to assume added responsibilities of the next rank.

I personally subscribe to the theory that improving an organization requires everyone to ensure their replacements have the tools, training, and support necessary for continued success. In that vein, I urge everyone currently serving in a supervisory position to help our new staff sergeant selectees adjust to their upcoming role as NCOs. At times, this can be as simple as explaining the logic behind specific decisions or reminding them of the vital part they play in executing our Air Force mission. Keep in mind, these will be the professionals responsible for ensuring most tasks are done correctly. A little recognition for jobs well done can instill great confidence in new supervisors.

Lastly, we must provide all selectees the opportunity to complete the Airman Leadership School before their line number comes due.

Remember, developing the next generation of enlisted leaders is an investment in our future. The effort we give today will ensure they are prepared to keep our Air Force the best in the world for years to come.

Thrift shop grand re-opening

Shoppers take advantage of bargains during the grand re-opening of the Brooks Thrift Shop on Aug. 2. The thrift shop, located on North Road, was closed for several weeks while vounteers renovated and spruced up the facility.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

ABG becomes 'network' with broadcast premiere

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The sweet sound of Louis Armstrong jazz greeted base 'channel surfers' who were recently introduced to a new cable TV network whose station moniker is as familiar to Brooks viewers as CNN and ABC.

The 311th Air Base Group's fledgling Commander's Access Channel took flight July 31 as a 24-hour news and information station that is broadcast on Channel 23.

"We have a lot of people (here) doing a lot of good things. We want to market what they are doing by getting the word out using another medium. This medium is great for folks in billeting, housing and the dormitories," said Col. Terry Nelsen, 311th ABG commander, who is Channel 23's founder and inaugural program director.

Channel 23 premiered with a continuous loop of individualized and stylish power point slides that advertise various base activities ranging from outdoor recreation and family child care programs to Brooks Club and Fitness Center events.

Eventually, programming will be expanded to include videotaped shows such as "Air Force Now" and a permanent weather feed at the bottom of the screen featuring local real-time weather reports.

"This channel opens up numerous possibilities. Perhaps our medical folks can show presentations to their people on our channel," Nelsen said.

Off-base viewers of Channel 23, however, will not see Brooks programs, explained Senior Master Sgt. T.C. Coaxum, Multimedia Services Center superintendent. Coaxum, who coordinated with Time Warner Cable for the equipment to set up the Brooks channel, said, "A filter has been installed that prevents people off base from viewing our programs."

Channel 23's primary purpose is to serve as a communications tool for the 311th Human Systems Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, to inform the Brooks community. It will be especially useful in broadcasting emergency messages.

> "By the end of August we'll be one of a few Air Force bases that has this capability."
>
> **Col. Terry Nelsen**
> 311th Air Base Group Commander

The creatively energetic Nelsen also plans to expand Channel's 23 viewing audience by allowing access to it through all desktop computers on base. "I have budgeted for the equipment needed to do this. By the end of August, we'll be one of a few Air Force bases that has this capability," Nelsen said.

Nelsen has already coordinated with billeting to have Channel 23 as its first station when visitors turn on their TV sets. His executive officer, 1st Lt. Ed Reder, is currently managing program content. "I eventually plan to turn over my program director duties to Vida Marsh, Services' marketing director," Nelsen said.

He encourages Brooks patrons interested in advertising their unit/organization activities or events to contact Reder. Meanwhile, Nelsen hopes to persuade viewers to "not change their TV dial" when they turn to Channel 23, whose music and programs will be frequently updated.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

Raise

Continued from Page 1

Averill said the congressmen's plans would require additional money. HR 2310 would cost an additional estimated $600 million for 2002. HR 2494 is estimated to cost an additional $1 billion.

Regardless of which plan is selected, Averill said pay raises are needed to keep pace with the private sector.

"Military pay raise shortfalls contributed greatly to retention and hollow-force problems of the '70s," she said. "But, 'catch-up' pay raises in (the 1980s) helped reverse those trends."

Leaders hope pay raises will help once again reverse negative recruiting and retention trends.

Averill said the adequacy of military pay raises is measured against annual average wage increases in the private sector, as measured by the Employment Cost Index.

Currently, military pay is estimated at 10.8 percent behind the private sector. The Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990 requires federal employee raises for civilian and military to be 0.5 percent below the ECI.

The Fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act set the military pay raise at 0.5 percent for five years to reduce the gap

"The Air Force agrees that any pay raise that helps reduce the military and private sector wage gap is good, but it doesn't address all of our concerns," Averill said.

"The Air Force is concerned with the ever-widening gap between wages of private sector and our enlisted corps for the same education and experience levels, making promotion a more attractive alternative than separation, current pay table compression, and the retention issues of our enlisted and officer corps.

The defense sec-retary's plan for a targeted pay raise addresses those concerns while the across-the-board pay raise doesn't. That's why Air Force leadership advocates targeted pay raises for 2002."

With an all-volunteer force, compensation programs must keep pace with the private sector in order to attract and retain quality, high-tech personnel in an environment of economic growth, low unemployment and with a very competitive marketplace, Averill said.

Photo by Larry Farlow

High-level installation visit

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment Raymond DuBois Jr., enters Bldg. 150 with 311th Human Systems Wing Deputy Director Dr. Brendan Godfrey. DuBois visited Brooks Air Force Base Aug. 7 after addressing the National Association of Installation Developers at a conference in downtown San Antonio. See story below.

311th HSW wins top Air Force-level award

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

When Aeronautical Systems Center commander Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds presented one of the highest Air Force-level awards to Brooks earlier this week, it was the culmination of a lot of hard work and initiative demonstrated by nearly a dozen organizations.

Reynolds presented the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award to the 311th Human Systems Wing for exceptionally meritorious service demonstrated during calendar year 2000. Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th HSW commander, accepted the award on behalf of the 11 organizations that contributed to this honor.

"This is the first time the 311th Human Systems Wing has won the award," said Maj. Curt Carter, 311th HSW Commander's Action Group director.

Carter, who prepared the nomination packet, said Dodd believed that contributions from various Wing organizations here and elsewhere were collectively so significant that it created a strong nomination. Dodd's instincts proved correct. Since becoming a Wing in 1998, the organization had not previously competed for the award.

Sharing the award are 311th HSW, 311th Air Base Group, 311th Communications Squadron, 311th Human Systems Program Office, Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis and its Detachment 3 at Kadena AB, Japan, 311th Medical Squadron, 311th Security Forces Squadron, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine and its Detachment 1 at the Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Ill. and the Department of Aerospace Physiology's Pressure Suit Training unit at Beale AFB, Calif.

The award citation identified a few of the more than two dozen initiatives that 311th HSW organizations demonstrated that contributed to enhancing Air Force readiness.

> "This is the first time the 311th Human Systems Wing has won the award."
>
> **Maj. Curtis Carter**
> **Commanders Action Group**

Among these was fulfilling Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan's challenge to deliver to warfighters critically needed laser eye protection, called clear laser eye protection spectacles, within six months.

Another major accomplishment was the Wing's contributions to helping mitigate problems associated with emerging global disease through the development and fielding of the Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device (RAPID).

This device has helped Air Force medical teams detect within hours rather than days disease-causing pathogens and microorganisms that are biological threats.

Also, scientists here worked with the Centers for Disease Control headquartered in Atlanta, Ga. on detection trials for plague and anthrax and helped the CDC with virus assessments that significantly contributed to a new influenza vaccine.

Another major 311th HSW contribution in 2000 was one of its organizations serving as principal investigator for a $3.6 million study on acute neurological effects of occupational exposure to JP-8 fuel that later resulted in the development of personal protective equipment for fuels workers.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

Conference features Brooks City-Base project

National Association of Installation Developers meet in San Antonio

By Larry Farlow
311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs

The Brooks City-Base project was one of the topics discussed at the annual meeting of the National Association of Installation Developers last week at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Antonio. The conference drew a number of high-level government officials, communities and companies who have been involved in base conversions and developments.

Described as a "Model for the Nation" the unique pilot project at Brooks has received special legislation from Congress to "Improve mission effectiveness and reduce the cost of providing quality installation support at Brooks Air Force Base."

A significant milestone in the implementation of the Brooks City-Base Project was passed when Congress approved the Master Plan for the Development of Brooks City-Base in June.

The metamorphosis of Brooks Air Force Base into a City of San Antonio-owned Brooks Technology and Business Park is scheduled to take place early next year.

Under the proposed partnership between the U.S. Air Force and City of San Antonio, Brooks will provide property to the City for economic development, and the City will provide municipal and other services to the base to allow it to focus more efficiently on its military mission and operate at lower cost.

The future vision for Brooks is a thriving bioscience, academic, environmental, technical center of excellence that will enhance Air Force missions at the base and encourage future development in Southeast San Antonio.

The Air Force plans to convey the property, fence-line-to-fence line, to the City with the Air Force leasing back the facilities it needs for its missions. This strategy appears to be cost effective and most advantageous to both the community and the Air Force.

Athletic cut uniforms tested

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Seeing a significant increase in tailoring costs, and based on feedback from the field, the Air Force is currently testing athletic-cut uniforms for men.

"In the past few years, we had noticed a 142 percent increase in tailoring costs at basic training to accommodate men with athletic-type builds," said Master Sgt. Ruth Nischwitz, chief of the Air Force uniform board office.

The test started in July and is projected to end in March. Participants are testing the service jacket and trousers. There are also plans to include men's shirts in the test program.

Uniform designers enlarged the upper torso, chest, neck and biceps and decreased the waist for the service jackets.

According to program managers at the Air Force Clothing Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, participants will evaluate the garments' appearance, comfort, fit and suitability.

Although the current test applies only to the men's uniform, the clothing office may possibly expand the test to include the women's uniform.

"I've always believed a team evolves into what you equip and envision them to be, he said. "If you want a fit force, arm them with uniforms that fit that image."

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

3-day transition seminar

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. , Aug. 21-23, Bldg. 538 —

Making the transition from military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking.

This seminar allows for better service to separating and retiring members and their spouses.

Topics include job search preparation, resume writing, interviewing skills, including appropriate dress, veteran's benefits and much more.

Members should attend the seminar at least 180 days prior to separation.

Contact the Brooks Family Support Center for details and information on other available services.

Want to obtain a copy of your credit report?

Write to each credit bureau, enclose the required information and fee. Your report is free if you have been denied credit. Also, Equifax will provide their customers a free report once a year.

Experian ($8)
National Consumers Assistance Center
P. O. Box 75002-0949
Allen, TX 75002-0949
1-800-682-7654
1-800-682-7655
www.experian.com

Equifax ($8.66)
P.O. Box 105496
Atlanta, GA 30348-5496
1-800-997-2493
www.equifax.com

Trans Union Corporation ($8)
Consumer Disclosure Center
P.O. Box 1000
Chester, PA 19022
1-800-888-4213
www.tuc.com

Review the following website:
www.creditreport.com

Contact LaWanda Hawkins, personal financial consultant, at 536-2444 for more information.

Visit the Brooks Family Support Center

USAFSAM parachutists 'get the jump' on tests for new Air Force cargo aircraft

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Many experienced parachutists would probably balk at the idea of being the first to jump out of a newly designed aircraft to determine if it's safe to exit the plane. However, several U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine adventurers did just that, and were thrilled by the challenge.

In June, over a desert jump site at Edwards Air Force Base , Calif., six USAFSAM parachutists tested the egress capabilities of a modified Air Force cargo aircraft known as the C-130J-30.

"It's a 'stretch limousine-like' version of the C-130," said Tech. Sgt. C.J. Crane, assigned to Aerospace Physiology's Aerospace Education and Training unit. Joining him as volunteers for the mission were USAFSAM instructors Tech. Sgt. Bill Tucker, Capt. Norm West, Senior Airman Clyde Jones and SERE (Survival Escape Resistance and Evasion) instructors Staff Sgt. Jeff Martin, Staff Sgt. David Howse and Tech. Sgt. Jim Kapp.

USAFSAM was tasked with providing test parachutists because Air Force Materiel Command's Test Parachute Program supports the Air Force Development Test and Evaluation activities sanctioned by the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB.

Parachutists from Ellsworth AFB, ` S.D., and Edwards AFB, and members of the Army's 1st Group from Lewis, Wash., also participated.

"We tested the air drop capability of the aircraft, which is longer than the C-130. We were the first people to ever jump out of that aircraft," Crane said. Neither Crane nor Tucker had previous test jump experience. However, both are graduates of the U.S. Army jump school. Crane, a veteran of 200 jumps, also graduated from the Air Force Academy jump school and had previously participated in HALO (High Altitude Low Opening) jumps as high as 18,000 feet.

"In our career field we're High Altitude Air Mission Support (HAAMS) technicians. We're the guys who accompany Navy, Army, Air Force and any DoD special forces unit personnel on HALO missions," Crane noted. Tucker added, "As physiology technicians we act as liaisons between the aircrew and jumpers, ensuring flight safety by monitoring the aircraft oxygen systems at all times."

While their own safety was never in question during the tests, Crane and Tucker admit they were a bit "jumpy" about parachuting from an aircraft wearing full Army combat equipment that included ruck sacks weighing between 28 and 34 pounds.

"They (test evaluators) were concerned with whether exiting jumpers would hit the side of the aircraft," Crane explained.

Tucker said, "I always have been nervous about exiting an aircraft, however, I have plenty of confidence in the parachute and in my parachute-landing fall (technique)." Tucker and Crane have both experienced 'less than ideal' exits, but have never had a parachute malfunction or hit the side of an aircraft.

The series of tests covered several days in which parachutists initially jumped from 2,000 feet and descended to the military standard altitude of 1,250 feet.

"During the first two days, one person per pass (over the drop zone) jumped. They (evaluators) stairstepped the jumps," Crane said, explaining that by the time the tests concluded groups of up to 32 parachutists jumped from the same aircraft exit. Subsequent tests involved multiple exit jumps.

In July, USAFSAM jump demonstration team member Tech. Sgt. Dave Anderson participated in HALO test jumps in the C-130J-30

"It was a great experience. I'd do it again," Crane said. USAFSAM's volunteers received commemorative patches as the first C-130J-30 parachutists, proof that they have the jump on all others who will follow them.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

Courtesy Photo

Tech. Sgt. Bill Tucker, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, carries a 28-pound Army ruck sack to the jump site at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Courtesy Photo

USAFSAM parachutists de-plane the C-130-J-30 during test jumps at Edwards AFB in June.

NEWS briefs

AACA barbecue plates

The Brooks African-American Cultural Association will sell barbecued brisket plates from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Aug. 30 at the base Scout Hut. The $5 plate includes potato salad, beans, bread, pickles, onions and tea. Tech. Sgt. Aaron Sinclar, of the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, will prepare the main course. Proceeds from the sale will support the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Kelvin Belcher at 536-9738. Orders must be placed by Aug. 27.

Retiree appreciation day

Brooks holds its third annual Retiree Appreciation Day Sept. 21 in Hangar 9. The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Retiree Appreciation Day is an opportunity to honor retired military members in the local area for their dedication and significant contributions to the country.

In addition to recognizing their patriotism, the event is intended to be a reminder of the Brooks mission and the numerous services that the base has available to the retiree community.

This year Brooks will join in the national POW/MIA Remembrance Day Sept. 21. This commemoration will begin with the laying of a wreath at the flagpole at reveille and will continue with a formal table ceremony in conjunction with the Retiree Appreciation Day in Hangar 9 at 9 a.m. Afternoon events will include tours of the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory and a retreat ceremony at 4 p.m. at the main base flagpole.

Representatives from various organizations will be on hand. They include TRICARE, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Retired Officer Association, Retired Enlisted Association, military personnel flight, Texas Veterans Commission, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Veterans Administration, Frank Tejeda Texas State Veterans Home, Brooks Family Support Center.

Brooks Clinic personnel and members of the base Health and Wellness Center will provide blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, height and weight checks and assessments.

The 311th Security Forces Squadron will conduct window etching in the Hangar 9 parking lot free of charge.

A special lunch will be available in the Brooks Club for all attendees, including those visitors attending the POW/MIA Commemoration Day ceremonies, from noon to 1 p.m. Drawings and special offers will be available to retirees throughout the day.

For more information, contact 2nd Lt. Brian Batson at 536-6977 or retired Chief Master Sgt. Fred Dickinson in the Brooks Retiree Activities Office, at 536-2116.

90th Infantry Division monuments

Two granite monuments, erected by the soldiers of the 90th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, who fought in World War I and II were recently discovered in Oklahoma. Those monuments, and an additional monument commemorating the 90th ID soldiers who fought in Desert Storm, will be dedicated Sept. 1 during a ceremony at Fort Sam Houston, birthplace of the 90th ID.

The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. at the Richard G. Stilwell Building, 1920 Wurzbach Highway. Members of the 90th ID, who are celebrating their 83rd reunion will attend, including three of the four Medal of Honor recipients.

Additionally, Maj. Gen. David Bockel, commanding general of the 90th Regional Support Command, will dedicate the 90th Division Memorial Highway, a portion of IH-10 which was designated by the state of Texas.

Periodontics dept. seeks patients

The Wilford Hall Medical Center Department of Periodontics at Lackland Air Force Base is seeking additional patients with specific needs for treatment in the periodontics residency program.

Applicants must be a military retiree or family member of a retiree, and have already been determined by a dentist to be in need of periodontal treatment.

Clinic briefs

The 311th Medical Squadron recently installed an automated telephone reminder system that contacts patients with information about upcoming appointments at the healthcare facility. The system uses specialized telephony and text-to-speech technologies to deliver a polite and friendly appointment reminder. The system calls one to two days before scheduled appointments.

Patients are asked to notify the clinic about address and phone number changes when scheduling an appointment.

The system asks patients to confirm their identity and to confirm or cancel the appointment via any touch-tone telephone. If a person is unable to make the appointment, he or she should press the appropriate selection to request cancellation. The system asks for confirmation from parents of minors with appointments. The system makes calls between 5:30 and 9 p.m

For more information, contact Capt. Natalie Sutto, 311 MDS, at 536-6875.

CGOC briefs

August meeting

The next CGOC meeting is today at 3 p.m. at the Brooks Club.

Community service events

Volunteers are needed to purchase and prepare a dinner for family members of ill or injured patients at Wilford Hall Medical Center's Fisher House, Sept. 6.

Volunteers are needed to help serve food to low income and homeless individuals at the Saint Vincent DePaul Food Shelter in downtown San Antonio at 4:30 p.m., Oct. 18.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Capt. David Koles at 536-2322 or by email at *david.koles@brooks.af.mil.*

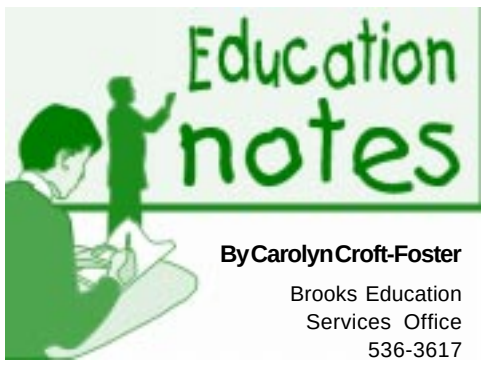
Social events

Stars and Bars 2001, hosted by Gen. Hal Hornburg, commander of Air Education and Training Command, is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Lackland Gateway Club.

The theme is "Unlocking the Future With Keys From the Past."

Mess dress or service equivalent attire is appropriate. Cost is $25 and includes New York Strip.

For more information, contact Capt. Natalie Sutto at 536-6875 or send e-mail to her at the following address: *natalie.sutto@brooks.af.mil.*



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

On-base classes

Fall Registration is underway for on-base classes. The Alamo Community College District representative will visit Brooks Aug. 21 and Aug. 23 to register students. Fall classes include: art appreciation, general biology, macroeconomics, English, literature, intermediate algebra, management, government, philosophy, and speech. Classes begin Aug. 27. For more information visit Bldg. 570-C or call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

ROTC selectee

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Jon Wilbur, of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, on his selection to the One-Year ROTC program. He will separate from the Air Force to attend Southwest Texas State University as a full- time student and member of Detachment 840. Upon completion of his degree he will be commissioned as a second lieutenant.

For more information on ROTC and other commissioning programs, please call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment with an Air Force guidance counselor.

OTS

Wilbur

Enlisted members who have completed a bachelor's degree or are within 270 days of completion are eligible to apply to Officer Training School. Deadline for applications is Oct. 2. For information call 536-3617.

CCAF graduation

All nominations for the fall 2001 graduation must be received by the Community College of the Air Force at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., by Aug 24. Students who believe they are a degree candidate need to contact Education Services at 536-3617 to ensure their nominations are submitted as soon as possible.

VEAP conversion

Servicemembers who have VEAP accounts are now eligible to convert to the Montgomery GI Bill. Education Services will contact those members whose names appear on a list of eligibles. If you believe you are eligible and have not been contacted, please contact Education Services in Bldg. 570-C.

For more information or to schedule to attend a conversion briefing call 536-3617.

OLLU Information

Registration continues for Trimester I, 2001, through Aug. 24.

For undergraduate weekend college call 421-3993 or visit the web site: www.ollusa.edu/~wec/sawec.

For graduate information call 431-3972.

August Enlisted Promotions

The following people will pin on new stripes in August.

To Senior Master Sergeant
Jennifer Houston
311th Air Base Group
Michael Olmstead
Air Force Medical Support Agency

To Master Sergeant
Lee Brooks
Air Force Research Laboratory
Ted Burgess
U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

To Technical Sergeant
Harry Southerland
311th Communication Squadron
Patrick Longe
311th Human Systems Wing
Tracy Turner
311 ABG
Julius Matthey III
311 ABG
Jimmy Scott
68th Information Operations Squadron
Carl Reeves, Jr.
68th IOS

To Staff Sergeant
Kimberly Mikle
Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety & Occupational Health
Risk Analysis
Trent Oswalt
68th IOS

To Senior Airman
Brian Marshall
311th Security Forces Squadron
Manuel Palomarez
311th SFS
Jonathon Farr
311th SFS (below the zone)

To Airman
Nicholas Kippen
68th IOS
Brian Sims
68th IOS

Jet fuel study prompts call for protective gear upgrade

By Chief Master Sgt. Gary Emery
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO — Preliminary results of a health study of exposure to JP-8 jet fuel have led the Air Force Surgeon General to recommend the use of more effective protective equipment for workers who come in contact with the fuel.

People were coming forward with health complaints after being exposed to JP-8, so the Surgeon General started to investigate worker's concerns, said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Thomas Neal, chief consultant for occupational medicine at the Air Force Surgeon General's office.

Reported symptoms included dizziness, lightheadedness, skin irritation and objectionable taste and odor, records show. The Department of Defense completed a 20-year phased changeover from gasoline-based JP-4 to the safer and more versatile kerosene-based JP-8 in 1996.

Information for the study, which compares health data from 169 fuel cell maintenance volunteers with 160 Air Force people who have no contact with JP-8, was gathered over an 18-month period at six stateside bases, Neal said.

Scientists and researchers from several major universities are participating in the $3.6 million study, which is being funded by the Air Force and other government agencies, he said.

Study results so far indicate no long-term health hazards from JP-8 exposure, Neal said. For instance, medical records show no significant difference in reported ailments between the fuels workers and the control group.

But, Neal said, the study was specifically looking for acute, short-term health effects in a very narrowly defined group of workers — fuel cell maintainers.

Nevertheless, because short-term JP-8 exposure has unpleasant and uncomfortable side effects, the Air Force is ready to move ahead to the next step —investigating more effective protective clothing and reviewing procedures to ensure maximum personal protection for fuels workers, Neal said.

"For many years, people exposed to solvents — such as painters working in enclosed places — have experienced similar symptoms to those we're seeing in people who enter JP-8 fuel tanks to perform maintenance," Neal said. "But that doesn't mean we're not concerned, we need to be proactive in protecting our people.

"That's not to say we haven't done so already. We have protective equipment and technical orders in place, but we're taking the initiative to explore recent advances in equipment that may provide greater protection," he said.

"Our interest is our people," Neal said. "We want to do everything possible to keep them healthy and safe."

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Airman Jessica Higgs, of the 311th Security Forces Squadron receives the Dorm Room of the Quarter award from 311th Human Systems Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Darlin Evans. Higgs, a personnel specialist, was honored for the period covering April 1 through June 30.

Brooks honored with FEW award

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Federally Employed Women (FEW) recently honored Brooks with the Federal Department/Agency Award for the base's contributions in helping foster the professional advancement of women in government service.

"This is the first time Brooks has won this prestigious award," said Iris Seals, president of Mission Trails Chapter 123 at Brooks who also serves as administrative communications chief/official mail manager for the 311th Communications Squadron. Seals and Betty West, with the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, accepted the award on behalf of the 311th Human Systems Wing at the 32nd Annual FEW National Training Program conference held July 12 in Indianapolis.

Brooks chapter competed against more than 300 FEW chapters worldwide. To earn the award, a federal department or agency must fulfill specific criteria that includes providing services or activities directly benefiting FEW program activities.

Seals credits the base's senior leadership for their tremendous support of chapter activities here that she believes was instrumental in Brooks receiving this honor.

"The Wing management here does not discriminate between males and females when it comes to promotions and job opportunities," Seals said. She cited a recent example in which Ann Bridges-Steeley, formerly with the 311th Human Systems Program Office, was selected for the Defense Leadership and Management Program.

> "This is the first time Brooks has won this prestigious award."
>
> **Iris Seals**
> FEW Mission Trails Chapter 123 President

Subsequently, Bridges-Steeley was selected for a Senior Executive Service position in Washington, D.C.

Seals, who has been chapter president since 1998, said the leadership climate played a major role in her organization's decision to compete for the award.

Contributing to the nomination review was Emma Chapa, Brooks' Hispanic Employment Program Manager, and Neda Jasper, the base's Black Employment Program Manager.

FEW was organized in 1968 to help the advancement of women in federal government. It was founded shortly after President Lyndon Johnson signed Executive Order 11375, which amended the Equal Employment Act of 1964.

This order added 'sexual discrimination' to a list of other discriminatory practices prohibited by the federal government in such personnel actions as promotions and job placement.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

BROOKS SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Outdoor recreation Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

Global XXI is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 8 at Brooks. Join in the walk from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and finish by 2:30 p.m., and the swim, from 9:30-11:30, finishing by noon.

The event starts and finishes at pavilion 3, Bldg. 720, adjacent to the base pool.

Everyone is welcome to jog, run or walk at their own pace. All participants must carry a validated start card and children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Water will be available and food and beverages will be sold at family prices in the start and finish area.

The American Volkssport Association , a member of the International Federation of Popular Sports sanctions the event.

Fitness Center Bldg. 940, 536-2188

Just arrived—two new Stairmaster FreeRunner elliptical striding system machines.

The Stairmaster FreeRunner 5600 is an elliptical striding system that allows users to simulate the natural movement path of running without joint impact or trauma.

With its patent pending variable stride length technology, the FreeRunner permits users to adjust their stride length from 10 inches to 40 inches.

The FreeRunner also has retractable handles to provide users with the options of lower body only or total body workouts.

Therapeutic massage

Gift certificates for therapeutic massages are now available. What a wonderful gift this would make for your spouse or best friend.

Swedish massage, used for relaxation, and deep muscle/neuromuscular therapy, used for acute or chronic pain, are being offered through the center.

Swedish massage is available for one-half hour at $25, or one hour for $45.

Deep muscle/neuromuscular therapy is available for one-half hour at $30 or $50 for one hour.

Call Theresa Medellin, RN, RMT, at 221-9915 or 382-7746 to schedule an appointment.

Base Library Bldg. 705, 536-2634

Have you ever wondered what the books with the green labels are? You've seen them on special shelves. They are fiction and non-fiction books the library leases from a company called McNaughtons.

In addition to being cost effective, the lease provides us multiple copies of best-selling books so our customers don't have to wait. When the book is no longer needed it is sent back to the company.

We can get the books you need using an inter-library loan request to libraries that have the book in their collection. It usually takes one to two weeks for the book to arrive. Best of all, there is no charge for this service.

Youth Center Bldg. 470, 536-2515

There is still time to register your children for the After School Program. Children must be at least 5 years old and attending kindergarten, or up to 12 years of age.

The program operates from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. A limited number of spaces are available.

Call the school-age coordinator, Felitia McLaurin, for more information.

The FrameWorks Bldg. 704, 536-2120

Stop by the Base Exchange mall and visit the new FrameWorks location! Bring in your artwork, photos or memorabilia and let Veronica or Becky assist you with your mat and molding selections.

We can now engrave logos, names and designs on glass, wood and enameled metal.

Sidney's Bldg. 714, 536-2782

Take advantage of the these specials during August:
— Drink specials every Monday evening; six popular choices-$1.50,
— Golden Tee Golf Tourney every Tueday-5 p.m. till....,
— Wednesday drink special-$1.95
—Drink specials every Thursday-$1.50,
— Bingo every Friday, cards on sale at 4:30 p.m., games at 5 p.m.,
— Club card drawing every Friday.

Brooks Club Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Stop by the club Tuesday through Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. and try the Boar's Head menu for dinner, or call 536-3782 to place take-out orders.

Buffets are offered every Friday evening from 5-8 p.m. for $7.95.

The menu for includes country barbecue Aug. 17 and 31, and chicken and dumplings Aug. 24.

Preferred Plus! Pays

From August through October club members will have opportunities to win local prizes ranging from a year of free dues to $100 in Services gift certificates, rounds of golf, or gift certificates for FrameWorks and Outdoor Recreation.

In November, entries from all Air Force Materiel Command bases will be combined for a command-wide drawing. One Preferred Plus! member will win $15,000 in cash or one of several prizes, including a Sony Play Station 2, digital cameras, portable DVD players and more.

For details and rules contact Vida Marsh at 536-8057, or Jan McMahon at 536-5475.

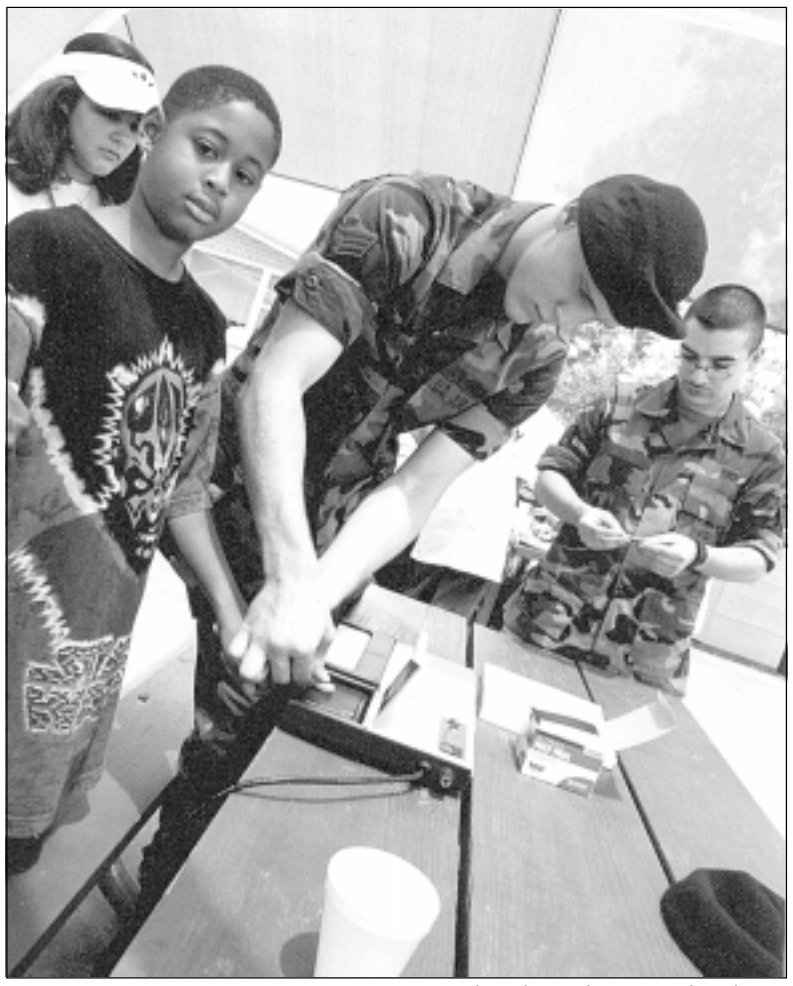


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Senior Airman Brandon Sorgenfrei, center, and Senior Airman Derly Gutierrez, 311th Security Forces Squadron, fingerprint children during National Kid's Day at the Brooks Youth Center Aug. 5.

Feature

Time to fly...

USAFSAM commander moves on

Vanderbeek's farm life experiences led to aerospace medical career

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Nobody who knew him as a farm boy plowing fields with his father or vaccinating livestock would have suspected that he'd someday become an Air Force fighter pilot and flight surgeon. Nonetheless, the seeds of Col. Rodger Vanderbeek's future career as a pilot-physician were sown on an Iowa farm.

Today, he appreciates how the work ethic and perseverance developed in his youth helped him contribute to Air Force readiness.

"I helped my dad, who was a tenant farmer, work 240 acres," said the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine commander.

The middle child of the late Peter and Louise Vanderbeek of Oskaloosa, Iowa, the USAFSAM leader remembers how farm chores contributed to his interest in medicine and aviation.

"I had an early interest in and desire to understand the physiology of farm animals," he said. As for flying, Vanderbeek's earliest memories was his pre-school observations of crop dusting. "I'd watch the crop duster for hours. I was fascinated by how low he would fly."

Harnessing the same spirit of independence he shared with his father, Vanderbeek decided that a farm career was not for him. After graduating as co-valedictorian of his high school class in 1967, Vanderbeek worked odd jobs to finance his general science studies at the University of Iowa.

"I put medical school on hold," he said after deciding as an undergraduate to become an Air Force pilot. While he possessed a private pilot's license, Vanderbeek became hooked on military flying at ROTC summer camp at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, N.Y.

"During my first flight in a T-33 I was 'jazzed.' My instructor did some aerobatics and I knew (then) I had made the right decision to become a pilot."

Following commissioning in 1971, Vanderbeek earned his pilot's wings at Williams AFB in Mesa, Ariz.

However, reality soon hit him with a jolt similar to a mid-air birdstrike during an initial assignment as an F-4 pilot at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea.

"There, I learned how to fly an airplane for real," he admits, crediting Vietnam combat veterans for helping him perfect his fighter pilot skills. Only weeks before Vanderbeek arrived in Korea, the United States had pulled out of Vietnam.

While he didn't experience combat, he did participate in the first "Red Flag" exercise in Air Force history as an F-4 pilot at Holloman AFB, N.M. The exercise, which simulated combat flying, was developed based on 'lessons learned' in Vietnam.

"Toward the end of 1976, I made a (career) decision," said Vanderbeek, explaining that his desire to become a medical doctor outweighed his interest in pursuing solely a fighter pilot career. His independent spirit prevailed when he opted not to incur any future military obligations by attending medical school as a civilian.

After separating from the Air Force in 1977, Vanderbeek later graduated from his college alma mater's medical school. Before earning a medical degree, he made another pivotal decision.

"I really enjoyed the Air Force. In my second year in medical school, I decided to become an Air Force flight surgeon."

He fulfilled that decision in 1983 with a Luke AFB Hospital assignment. Shortly thereafter as part of flight surgeon duties, he flew for the first time in an F-16 as a backseater. The new perspective was thrilling, renewing his interest in flying and setting the stage for yet another career change.

"Most of my life has been accidental," Vanderbeek joked about fateful circumstances that have prevailed upon a career that has come 'full circle' numerous times. He learned about the pilot-physician program from future Air Force Surgeon General Andy Anderson who spotted Vanderbeek wearing Air Force wings during a staff assistance visit. "I decided to merge the two careers," Vanderbeek said.

Courtesy photo
Col. Rodger Vanderbeek prepares for his flight in an F-4 at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

He also brokered 'a merger' with 1st Lt. Patti Balla, an Air Force pharmacist. While attending the Residency in Aerospace Medicine (RAM) course, he made USAFSAM history when he became the only RAM student to be married in the RAM classroom in Bldg. 180. In 1999, the couple re-dedicated their vows in the new RAM room in Bldg. 775.

Having subsequently achieved an equitable 'balance' of his aviation and medical professions as a pilot-physician stationed at Moody AFB Ga., Vanderbeek has since focused on human performance issues. As the Tactical Air Command chief of Aerospace Medicine at Langley AFB, Va. from 1991-94, he tackled operational support-related aeromedical issues.

"I helped develop a list of human performance issues," he said in describing concerns that today are among some of the Air Force's top priorities: pilot fatigue, sustained operations, laser eye protection, female pilot accommodations and situational awareness enhance-ment.

As USAFSAM commander, Vanderbeek built upon earlier human performance initiatives that views "the human as a weapon systems platform."

"Team Aerospace cares about the human operator," he said, noting that USAFSAM continues to make significant strides toward enhancing warfighter capabilities and survival. Among these initiatives are EMEDS (Expeditionary Medical Support) development and fielding, collaborative international health and global medicine training and scientific investigations, and academic partnerships.

"It's very rewarding for me to see the teamwork (here)," said the man affectionately called "Beek" who later this month relinquishes command of USAFSAM. For Vanderbeek's life experiences embody teamwork, a concept shaped early in his life when he and his father 'teamed up' on side-by-side tractors to plow straight furrows.

Courtesy photo
Vanderbeek briefs retired Gen. George Babbitt, former commander, Air Force Materiel Command, outside of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine during his visit to Brooks. Vanderbeek relinquishs command of USAFSAM Aug. 29 and plans to retire in Janurary.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

A birdseye view of Brooks Field, including Hangar 9, far right, in 1954

Photo by Goldbeck

Former Hangar 9 worker recalls Brooks' Air Reserve mission

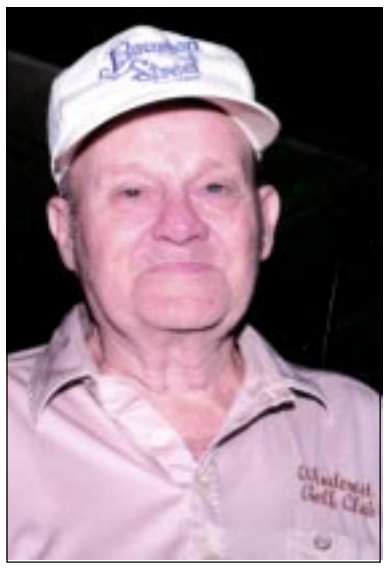
By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Retired Air Force Col. Conrad Rose was one of the last pilots to take off from Brooks' flight line before it was permanently closed in June 1960. He knew then that the old flight line, now in disrepair, would never be the same again. However, what he didn't know 40 years ago was whether Hangar 9 where he worked would survive.

"My office cubicle was here," Rose said when pointing to the area where the space shuttle model is located near the Hangar 9 restrooms. In 1958, Rose was a fulltime Air Reserve technician working in Hangar 9 as a member of the 433rd Military Airlift Wing. He was stationed here until the 433rd was moved to Kelly Air Force Base in mid-1960.

"I flew the last C-119 from Brooks to Kelly before the runway was closed," Rose said during his recent visit here after a four-decade hiatus. He was pleased by how well preserved Hangar 9 is, explaining the only thing that has changed is the interior configuration.

Hangar 9 was the hub of Air Force Reserve activity during the 1950s, noted Rose. The 76-year-old Windcrest resident said mission support here was hectic, challenging pilots' flexibility. "In late 1959 one of our pilots, Norman Chapman from Corpus Christi, came into the operations building located on the flight line. He told us that his wife had cussed him out when he told her he needed a fresh set of clothes right away because he would be gone on an urgent mission for 10-15 days," Rose recalls.



> "I flew the last C-119 from Brooks to Kelly before the runway was closed."
>
> **Conrad Rose**
> Former Brooks pilot

Such was the life of Air Force Reserve aviators operating from Brooks in the 1950s. Rose knew full well the challenges to family life as a Reserve pilot who began flying missions here as early as 1954.

Before he was stationed at Brooks as a civil servant, Rose spent time here during weekends and annual training flying for the 907th Training Wing of the 8707th Pilot Training Command.

It was during 1954-1955 when Rose worked with World War II "Flying Tigers" legend Col. Tex Hill who flew C-46s from Brooks as part of the latter's Air Force Reserve training duties. "We flew low-level missions around the countryside," Rose said, adding, "Most of our missions involved transporting paratroopers. I also helped train new pilots, conducting instrumentation checks."

Born in Cline, Texas, in Uvalde County, Rose was hooked on flying as a youngster. "Randolph Field pilots landed their planes in a field near my father's farm in Sabinal in the 1930s. I would ride my scooter out to where the pilots were to talk with them. Since then, I've been always interested in airplanes."

Rose volunteered to get drafted in 1943 and was subsequently enrolled in the Aviation Cadet Program at Fort Sam Houston's Dodd Field. He earned his pilot's wings in mid-1944 as an Army Air Corps warrant officer. Rose flew several combat missions in C-47s during World War II, dropping paratroopers over Germany.

Following the war, he served with the Military Air Transport Service, predecessor of commercial overseas aviation. During this tour he transported passengers to the Nuremberg war crimes trial.

In 1950, he joined the Air Force Reserve, retiring in 1975.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

Hangar 9 today.

Photo by Dale Eckroth

SPO scientist earns top life science award

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Guinness Book of World Records has no category for what a 311th Human Systems Program Office scientist has recently achieved: earning a new top professional award named in honor of a former colleague.

John Goines III, senior equipment analyst for the Life Sciences Equipment Lab's artifact section, has been named the 2001 recipient of the SAFE Association's Michael R. Grost Award.

The award will be presented to Goines in September during the annual SAFE Symposium in Nashville, Tenn.

The SAFE Association, an Oregon-based non-profit professional organization founded in 1956, is dedicated to stimulating research and development for safety and survival on land, sea, air and space.

> "It's very gratifying to earn this award, knowing that my co-workers thought highly of me to nominate me."
>
> **John Goines III**
> 311 HSW Systems Program Office

Since 1969, SAFE has presented awards to individuals in government, academia and industry whose achievementshave contributed to scientific improvements to safety and survival.

"It's very gratifying to earn this award, knowing that my co-workers thought highly of me to nominate me,"Goines said.

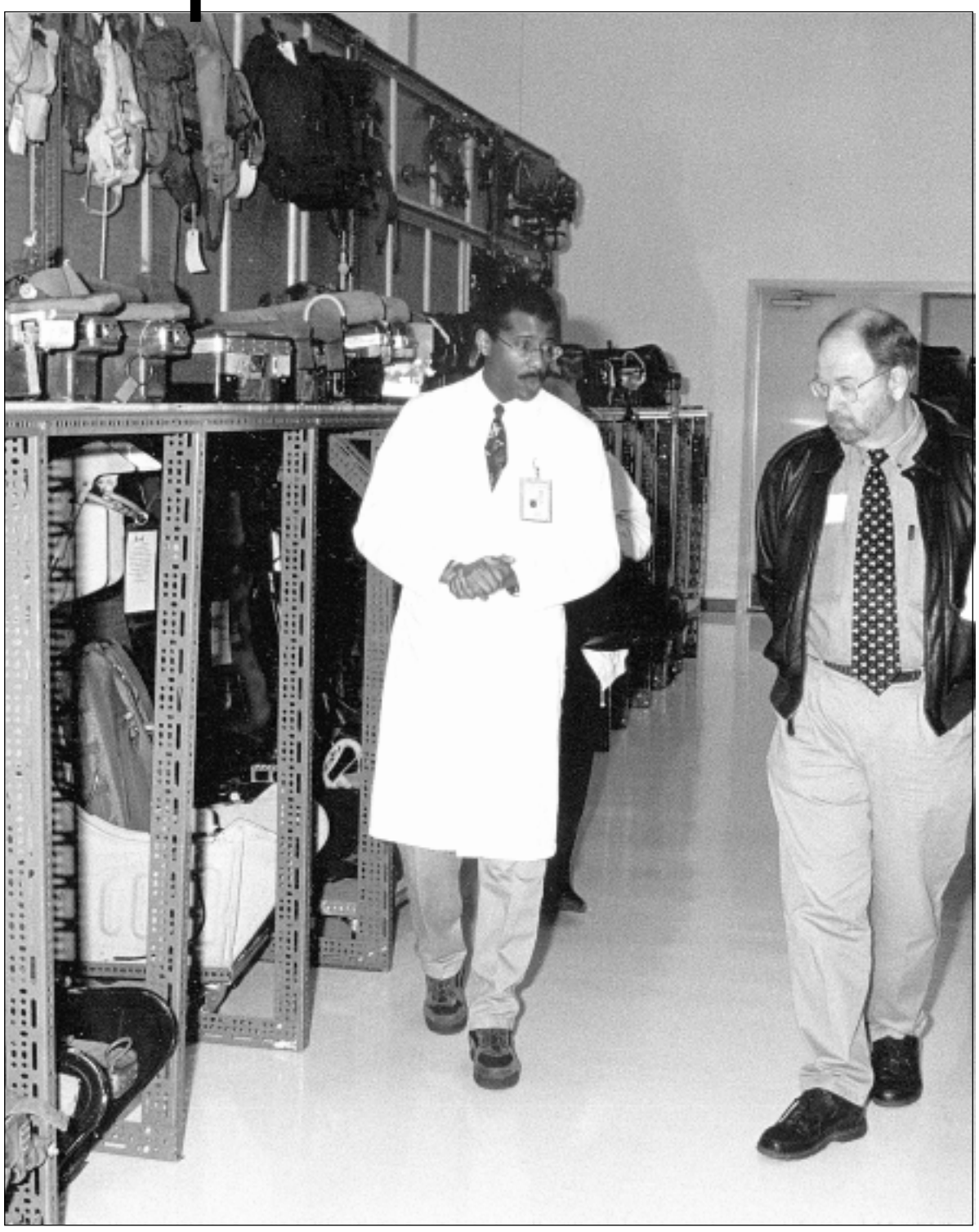
It is the highest honor Goines has earned in his Air Force civil service career that began at Kelly Air Force Base where co-worker Michael Grost founded the Life Sciences Equipment Investigation Lab in 1983.

Goines is the first Brooks scientist to earn this award established last year in honor of Grost who was the Life Sciences Equipment Lab chief scientist when he died at age 56 in November 1999.

It's awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to the life sciences area that have led to improvements that enhanced the life-saving potential of aircraft/spacecraft egress (escape) systems or life support systems.

Bob Swaim, with the National Transportation Safety Board, was the first recipient of the Grost Award. Swain won the award for discovering the centerline fuel tank was the cause of the TWA Flight 800 crash off Long Island, N. Y., in 1996. Safety improvements to these tanks have been made.

Goines earned the award on the strength of his MIA forensic investigations of equipment recovered from Southeast Asia.



Courtesy photo

John Goines III, 311th Human Systems Program Office scientist (left), escorts dignitaries through the artifacts section of the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory at Brooks during a recent International Security visit. Goines is the senior analyst at the laboratory.

Sports

Brooks golf team plays 'sub-par' at AFMC tourney

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

In any sport except golf, 'sub-par' play is unacceptable. The Brooks golf team's 'sub-par' performance at the Air Force Materiel Command tournament held July 31- Aug. 3 at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. was neither acceptable nor indicative of their talent and experience.

Brooks team's three-day total of 1,362 earned them a sixth place finish in a field of seven teams. Favored Kirtland AFB won the tourney with a three-day total of 1,208.

Although they fared better with a lower team score this year than at the 2000 AFMC tourney at Eglin AFB, Fla., Brooks players individually played worse this year. In the open division, Chris McClaren and Ted Burgess finished 13th and 14th, respectively, carding three-day totals of 242 and 250. The defending AFMC tourney champion Ernie Penton from Eglin AFB, who in April won the Jacksonville Military Invitational, was this year's overall tourney winner with a three-day total 213 highlighted by a first round two-under par 70.

In the senior division, Brooks' Curtis Nagle and James Barfield placed 12th and 13th, respectively, carding three-day totals of 270 and 275.

According to Barfield, who was playing in his third consecutive AFMC tourney, they 'didn't have a prayer' against Kirtland AFB, N.M., chaplain Alan Pineault who fired a first round 70 and three-day total 217 to win the senior division.

For the second consecutive year, Kathryn Grant placed the highest among her Brooks teammates. However, her fifth-place finish with a three-day total 315 in the women's division was not as good as her 2000 AFMC play in which she finished third with a total of 294.

Cynthia McLaughlin from Kirtland AFB won the women's division with a three-day total 251. McLaughlin had to share the AFMC title last year when she finished in a tie with Wright-Patterson, Oh., AFB's Tammy Garcia.

"It was sad to leave there (Tinker) knowing that none of us played to our potential," said Barfield who admits that he 'left his game' at the Texas border. He noted, "As a team, we expected to be in the running for the (championship) trophy because of our experience. We have no excuses. None of us played well."

"We're all disappointed," said Nagle, who played in his first and last AFMC tourney. He retires from the Air Force in January. "I was glad to have the opportunity to play in the tourney before I retire, but I didn't make one birdie during the entire time."

Nagle and Barfield said the par 72 course was in great shape, featuring some long drives and a few deceptive water hazards. "It was definitely a shotmaker's course," Nagle said.

Barfield joked about leaving his driver in his room. "I didn't have a tee box game. I used a four-iron on 17 of the 18 holes I played. Everything I hit I got into trouble."

TOURNAMENT TEAM STANDINGS

Base	First	Sec.	Third	Total
Kirtland AFB	402	400	406	1208
Eglin AFB	404	409	398	1211
Robins AFB	424	438	418	1280
Tinker AFB	432	436	445	1313
Wright-Patt AFB	434	437	456	1327
Brooks	449	458	455	1362
Hill AFB	462	451	450	1363

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

Photos by Rudy Purificato

The Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis team celebrates after winning its fifth consecutive intramural softball championship.

AFIERA wins fifth straight title on Sinclair's game-winning hit

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Player-coach Aaron Sinclair propelled his team to a dramatic 21-20 victory Aug. 9 over the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine with a game-winning hit that gave the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis an unprecedented fifth consecutive base intramural softball championship.

Trailing throughout most of the slugfest, AFIERA used 'small ball' tactics in the pivotal final inning to prevail against USAFSAM, the tournament's No. 1seed and two-time defending regular season league champs. Down by three runs in the final frame, AFIERA strung together three singles, a sacrifice fly and three walks for a come-from-behind victory against a more powerful club.

"They're the best hitting team on base. After the second inning, however, they began to get tired. We had to overcome a lot of adversity to win," said catcher Sinclair, whose backstop banter was relentless.

AFIERA played the game as if they had a hand and leg tied behind them. Missing from their lineup was the core of their offense: Rob Taylor, Jim Thompson and Adam Vaccarezza, all of whom are also base varsity players. Making matters even worse, AFIERA's starting second baseman Roberto Elizonda pulled a hamstring in the second inning and had to be replaced.

> "They're the best hitting team on base. We had to overcome a lot of adversity to win."
>
> **Aaron Sinclair**
> AFIERA player-coach

USAFSAM did not appear to look tired in the early innings as they lit up AFIERA righthander Doc Lee for seven runs in the first inning. "At least it wasn't as bad as what they did to me in the first game (of the tournament). Before we even came to bat, they were ahead 11-0," said Lee, who was the championship game's winning pitcher.

USAFSAM earned the right to face AFIERA in the finals after losing to them in an earlier playoff round 21-14. They defeated the 68th Intelligence Operations Squadron 15-13 just minutes before squaring off against AFIERA. If USAFSAM had beaten them, they would have forced a second championship playoff contest, exactly what they had accomplished last year against AFIERA.

Until Sinclair's clutch hit in the game's final seconds, USAFSAM appeared to be mirroring baseball sage Yogi Berra's self-fulfilling prophecy: "It's de ja vu all over again."

Not intimidated by AFIERA's 100-foot-long banner that spanned the breadth of the centerfield fence, USAFSAM was determined to dethrone their perennial nemesis. USAFSAM pounded Lee's wind-blown pitches in the first two frames.

Leading the attack was varsity player Joel Berry who crushed two homers and drove in five runs. Contributing to the onslaught was run-scoring triples by William Lawrence, pitcher Rodger 'Doc' Vanderbeek and Tim Rice, and a three-run blast by C.J. Crane.

AFIERA persevered, despite the fact that only five of their 19 hits were for extra bases. Homers by Jim Jarbeau, Mike Hlubek, Ty Richards and Rene Ramon accounted for less than half of AFIERA's run total. What AFIERA really took advantage of was USAFSAM's costly fielding miscues, magnified by aggressive base running.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

AFIERA's Aaron Sinclair connects for the game-winning hit against USAFSAM, earning AFIERA its fifth consecutive base intramural softball title.

USAFSAM	AB	H	RBI	BB
Skiver 3b	4	2	0	0
Landez, 1b	4	2	2	0
Lawrence, lcf	3	2	2	0
Berry, rcf	3	3	5	1
Bernal, c	4	2	0	0
Decker, rf	4	2	1	0
Crane, ss	3	2	3	1
Vanderbeek,p	4	3	2	0
Rice, lf	3	2	2	0
Kennedy, 2b	3	2	2	0
Gaspard, dh	3	2	1	0
Totals	42	24	20	2

AFIERA	AB	H	RBI	BB
Elizonda, 2b	2	2	0	0
Diggs, r-2b	2	0	0	0
Ramon, lf	4	3	4	0
Baugher, rcf	4	3	1	0
Jarbeau, lcf	3	2	3	1
Hlubek, 1b	3	3	3	0
Richards, rf	2	1	4	1
Schugerger,3b	3	2	1	1
Lee, p	2	0	2	1
Sinclair, c	4	2	2	0
Ramiro, ss	2	1	1	0
Totals	31	19	21	4

USAFSAM- 75233-- 20, 24, 3
AFIERA- 65244-- 21, 19, 2

E - Baugher, Hlubek, Crane, Decker, Skiver. LOB - USAFSAM - 7, AFIERA - 7. 2B - Kennedy (2), Rice, Gaspard, Skiver, Schugerger. 3B - Lawrence, Vanderbeek, Rice. HR - Berry (2), Crane, Jarbeau, Hlubek, Richards, Ramon. SF - Lawrence, Ramiro, Lee, Richards, Hlubek. I-BB - Jarbeau, Berry, Crane.

Brooks 'first time' host of Youth Games sectional

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Dozens of athletes from throughout Texas will compete Saturday (Aug.18) at the first National Youth Games sectional ever held here for a chance to advance to the finals to be held later this year in Orlando, Fla.

"We're excited about hosting the games," said Larry Flores, Brooks Youth Sports director.

Officials with the National Youth Games headquarters in Atlanta, Ga. granted Flores's request to host the sectional here during the 2000 finals held in Honolulu, Hawaii. Flores was a volunteer at the finals in which three Brooks athletes won medals.

The National Youth Games is a free youth participation program that promotes youth involvement in sports and encourages sportsmanship and friendly competition for youngsters ages 8 to 13 years old.

"The Texas sectional was held last year in Eagle Pass involving about 45-50 kids. I'm planning some different things when we host it," Flores said. Among the changes will be an opening ceremony at 9 a.m. at the fitness center gym. Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, plans to preside at the event.

Flores has also changed the lineup of events to help avert potential heat-related problems. Soccer will kick off the games at 10 a.m. at the fitness center field, followed by swimming at 11:30 a.m. at the base pool and basketball at 1 p.m. at the fitness center gym.

Brooks will field 21 athletes who won their respective sport and age category during local competition held here in July. The remaining competitors will be from the Montopolis Recreation Center in Austin; the Boys and Girls Club of Washington County in Brenham; the city of Cedar Park; the Boys and Girls Club of Crockett; the Boys and Girls Club of Eagle Pass; the city Parks and Recreation Department of Edinburg; St. Augustine Elementary School of Laredo; the city of Round Rock; and San Antonio's Parks and Recreation Department.

Only athletes with the best record in their respective category within the sectional advances to the finals in Florida in November. Defending National Youth Games soccer silver medallist Chris Jones and bronze medallist Traci Ortiz, both from San Antonio, will be competing in the sectional.

Parent volunteers from the Brooks Youth Sports Booster Club will help Flores stage the event. Flores said the public is invited to attend.

Pentagon senior NCO to officiate Little League World Series

By Master Sgt. Rick Burnham
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — As many as 3 million children play Little League baseball around the world, popping leather and lining hits from Tampa to Texas to Timbuktu.

As the world turns its attention to Williamsport, Pa., for the annual Little League World Series, a handful of those youngsters will unknowingly get their first exposure to the U.S. Air Force, courtesy of Master Sgt. Richard Ealy.

Ealy, superintendent of the National Security Policy Division at the Pentagon, is not part of a grand recruiting scheme the Air Force has devised to bring in new members, nor is he part of added security for President George W. Bush, expected to throw out the first pitch of the annual event.

Instead, Ealy will serve as an umpire in the 16-team event, scheduled for Aug. 17-26 at Howard J. Lamade Stadium in Williamsport, site of the series every year since 1959.

The 19-year Air Force veteran is one of a handful of officials nationwide selected to work the series, which will be televised on ABC and ESPN.

"It's an honor to be selected," he said. "Little League is a great institution, one that mirrors life itself, teaching the discipline of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play. To be chosen to work the series is one of the highlights of my career as an official."

No stranger to the world of sports, Ealy played baseball, football and basketball in high school, and was good enough to garner a tryout with the Cincinnati Reds before entering the Air Force.

He was a member of the base softball teams at both Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., and at Comiso Air Station, Italy.

"Little League is where my heart is," Ealy said. It is a profession, he said, that requires leadership, integrity, dignity, respect, loyalty, understanding and patience. It does not hurt, he added, for an umpire to have thick skin.

"Anyone can start out with the basics of umpiring, but to become a professional of the game, you will need to learn the rules, which change annually.

This year's tournament, with teams from around the world converging on Williamsport, will provide plenty of experience and training, along with enough memories to last a lifetime.

"I am really looking forward to it," he said. "It's a great opportunity."

SPORTS SHORTS

Triathlon de la Hispanidad

The second annual "Triathlon de la Hispanidad" will be held at 7 a.m. Aug. 25 at Lackland Air Force Base. The event, sponsored by their Hispanic Heritage Week Committee, consists of a 300-meter swim, an 11-mile bike ride, and a 5K run. Athletes will receive a T-shirt and water bottle. Plaques will be awarded to first-, second-, and third-place winners for each category. Registration forms are available at all San Antonio Air Force base and Army post gyms.

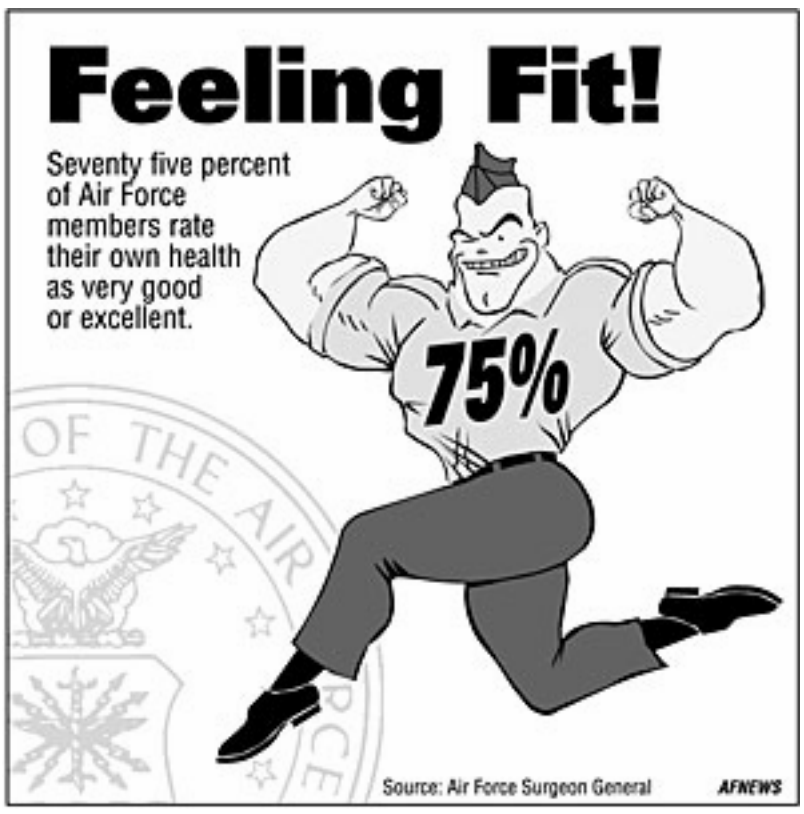
For more information contact Capt. Mary McGriff or Master Sgt. Hector Medina at 671-4802 or 671-4406.

Air Force Marathon

Online registration continues for runners interested in participating in the fifth annual Air Force Marathon Sept. 22. Visit the marathon Web page at: ***afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil/.*** Click on the "register information" button. Payment is by credit card only.

Entry deadline is Sept. 5. Registrations received after Aug. 15 may not receive a confirmation.

For more information, call the Air Force Marathon office at (937) 257-4350.

Military night

The Pillsbury Company's "2nd Annual Military Night at the Ballpark" with the San Antonio Missions is Aug. 20, featuring appearances by the Pillsbury Doughboy, Jolly Green Giant and Little Green Sprout, as well as entertainment during the game. The first 500 military members to show their ID at a special Pillsbury booth will receive a free Missions T-shirt.