



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Leaders target specialties for re-recruitment

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Elliott

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Citing a need to retain the highest level of readiness, top leaders are focusing on keeping people in critical career fields in uniform.

"Nothing is more important to maintaining the sharp edge of our warfighting capability as retaining the highly trained professionals who make up our Air Force team," wrote Air Force Secretary James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper to commanders.

Pilots with six to 10 years of aviation service and developmental engineering officers with three to 12 years of service will be the initial focus of "re-recruiting", set to begin in November.

"We strongly believe that we need to re-recruit our people as they approach key career decision points," the secretary and chief of staff wrote. "The recent terrorist attacks on our nation make this priority even more urgent than before."

While pilots and developmental engineers are the first focus, the program will also extend to other career fields.

Several enlisted career fields may also be brought into the program.

"It takes eight years to replace someone who (separates) with eight years of service," he said. "Why keep bringing in more people through the front door, when we can keep a few from going out the back door? "The Air Force is a retention-based force, so we always take retention seriously, but I've never seen an effort of this magnitude," said Lt. Col. Tony Henderson, chief of accessions and retention policy.



A B-52H taxis for takeoff at a forward deployed location during Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by Senior Airman Rebeca Luquin

AF Secretary to focus on goals supporting war on terrorism

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Air Force Secretary Dr. James Roche plans to champion four goals he envisioned for a more effective 21st century Air Force in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that has recast America's Armed Forces in new national defense roles.

Roche revealed his plans during a press conference Oct. 5 with public affairs representatives from Air Force News, and Brooks, Randolph and Lackland AFBs.

"I had four goals when I took office that have been stressed since Sept. 11.

Before the attacks, the Air Force was starting to orient toward increasing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities for homeland defense," Roche said.

He said his second goal is retaining the best talent. The recent stop-loss action is only a temporary solution.

Roche said, "Retaining the best talent is more important than ever. We have to raise our talent and keep them."

Thirdly, Roche plans to re-focus efforts to promote efficiency and cost-effective

ness within units.

"We're going to continue to find things that we're doing in units that are not value-added and redeploy these assets to areas where there is a (greater) need."

Roche's fourth goal is to help rebuild the industrial base that supports the Air Force, admitting, "It's not there (anymore). It's shrunk so badly it can't work."

The Air Force Secretary said his number one priority is force protection of deployed forces that are engaged in supporting air power initiatives to put pressure on states (nations) that harbor terrorists.

"We need to develop our capabilities for providing 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and combat search and rescue," Roche said.

He said the Air Force will be readying itself over the next 12 months to engage in military operations different than what we've experienced in the past.

Such operations will not be limited to fixed targets,

Roche noted, saying, "We'll have to be agile and strike fast."

Future Air Force initiatives supporting both homeland security and overseas missions, Roche explained, include emphasis on foreign language

time, we flew fighter (missions) inside the U.S. We've been flying caps over New York and Washington, D.C. as well as cities drawn randomly."

Roche said future Air Force support involving homeland defense will feature many other initiatives, including missile defense.

The Air Force Secretary emphasized the need for sustained family support during these uncertain times.

"We don't know where we are going to deploy, and we're not sure what sacrifices will have to be made," he said, noting that this period of deployments and waiting to find out what will happen next will be particularly stressful on military families.

"I ask (our) families to stick with us. We can't have a country where our values are destroyed by these people (terrorists). We can't have our children living in fear. It's a matter of freedom vs. fear, and freedom has to win."

"We can't have a country where our values are destroyed by these people. We can't have our children living in fear. It's a matter of freedom vs. fear, and freedom has to win."

Dr. James Roche
Secretary of the Air Force

training and increased training of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance teams.

"I'm terribly proud of how we responded as quickly as we did," Roche said, referring to Air Force operations stateside immediately following the terrorist attacks.

He said, "For the first

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DISCOVERY

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Personal readiness at the heart of America's success

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFMNS) — After terrorists committed their attack against the United States Sept. 11, President Bush declared a war on global terrorism using every resource at his command.

His message to the U.S. military during a speech broadcast worldwide was "get ready."

What does this mean to us on the personal level, and what are the broader implications of his statement?

As military members we represent America's resolve in combating terrorism, and readiness will be at the heart of our success. Our personal readiness will mean more to victory than perhaps any other conflict.

Though all of the following information pertains directly to the military members, much of it pertains to our civilian workforce as well. Here are four perspectives on how to answer the president's call for readiness on a personal level — mentally, physically, spiritually and family.

First you must prepare mentally: Reading and studying as much as possible about this new enemy is the first step in learning to defeat them. As members of the U.S. military we are possible targets of terrorists, so each of us must be ready.

You can be ready by reviewing and applying anti-terrorism measures on a personal level and staying abreast of current events. Read the paper, watch the news, ask your supervisor questions and know where you fit in.

Review the Airmen's Manual 10-100, particularly Section 2, Personal Concerns. Take a moment to remember and ponder why you took an oath to defend this nation.

Review or memorize the Code of Conduct to refresh your warrior spirit. Rely and build on all aspects of your technical (job specific) and mobility training. This will increase personal proficiency and magnify your impact on the mission.

Mobility training (Self-Aid-Buddy-Care, chemical warfare and firearms) is no longer something used only during exercises or when we deploy, it's a core requirement at home and abroad. Each person should develop and use a personal deployment checklist to make sure all personal effects are in order.

Physically: Increase and maintain your fitness level to endure the long hours ahead; this becomes even more important if you're deployed to the "front lines." Good physical conditioning not only gives us the strength to meet the rigors of

combat, it also keeps us mentally sharp.

Additionally, this includes making sure all medical and dental items are in order (records, shots and prescriptions).

Spiritually: Keep your faith in America and remember as our president requested, to continually pray for our Nation's healing.

Most importantly, you must prepare your family. Our families must be

ready to take care of the home front during our absence...take yourself out of the picture and

decide what needs to be done in the way of

financial, legal matters and childcare plans.

Guide them

through this

frightening

time by

educating

them. Discuss

with and explain

to your immediate

and extended families

why America must act.

Lack of understanding

breeds fear. Also, remember

our kids know more

than we might think —from

television, radio, school and

friends.

friends.

Limit or tailor the discussion for young children to questions they have...but don't hide anything. Educate them on recognizing and preventing potential terrorist acts (i.e. suspicious packages). Finally, teach your spouse how use Air Force support networks.

In a broader sense, recognize the importance of our jobs. Personal preparation extends to those responsibilities and makes sure our workforce (training and work schedules), workplace (FPCON and INFOCON measures) and work tools (aircraft, spares and support equipment) are just as "ready."

Educate and assure your friends and neighbors we are ready to defend our way of life. Our communities' confidence in our ability to protect them is vital and their will sustains us.

We must answer the president's call for readiness starting with our own lives. Take care of your personal priorities now so your abilities are not hindered later. Your personal preparation is vital to preventing future terrorist attacks on America.

As Italian Air Marshall Giulio Douhet (1928) once said: "Victory smiles upon those who anticipate the changes in the character of war, not upon those who wait to adapt themselves after the changes occur."

So let's "Get ready!"

(Compiled by Capt. Robert Triplett as taken from Logistics Center Career Broadening Officers)

In the Months ahead...

In the months ahead, our patience will be one of our strengths — patience with the long waits that will result from tighter security; patience and understanding that it will take time to achieve our goals; patience in all the sacrifices that may come.

Today, those sacrifices are being made by members of our armed forces who now defend us so far from home, and by their proud and worried families.

A commander-in-chief sends America's sons and daughters into a battle in a foreign land only after the greatest care and a lot of prayer.

We ask a lot of those who wear our uniform. We ask them to leave their loved ones, to travel great distances, to risk injury, even to be prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives.

They are dedicated, they are honorable; they represent the best of our country. And we are

grateful.

To all the men and women in our military — every sailor, every soldier, every airman, every Coastguardsman, every Marine — I say this: Your mission is defined; your objectives are clear; your goal is just. You have my full confidence, and you will have every tool you need to carry out your duty.

President George W. Bush
Commander-in-Chief



SPO worker engineers success by earning top ASC award

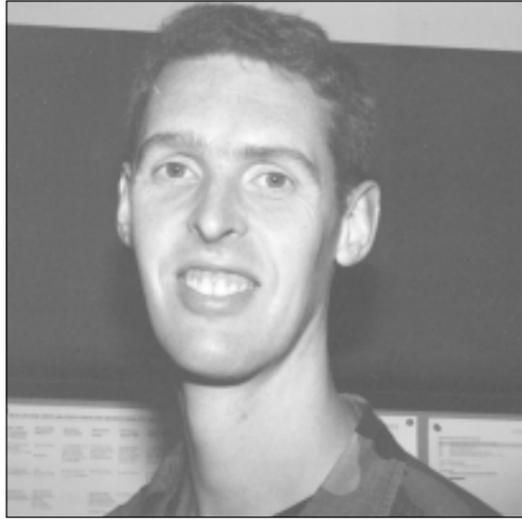
By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Being recognized as the best among 500 engineers within Aeronautical Systems Command may seem like a tall order. However, at 6'8," Capt. Paul Driessen is 'head and shoulders' above his colleagues in both stature, and engineering contributions supporting America's warfighters.

Recently, Driessen earned ASC's "Junior Military Engineer of the Year" award for 2001 on the strength of his work supporting a multi-million dollar automated Department of Defense medical information and management system.

"It's the highest award I have ever received. I was very surprised to have been nominated," said Driessen, the 311th Human Systems Program Office's deputy program manager for systems engineering.

As systems engineer chief for the Transportation Command Regulating and Command & Control Evacuation System (TRAC2ES) team, Driessen helped design, test and evaluate a worldwide interoperable computer-based patient and casualty care and transportation tracking system.



Driessen

"We were very involved in defining and enforcing testing procedures for TRAC2ES," Driessen said of his team that field tested the system overseas and stateside.

The 33-year-old Appleton, Wisconsin native earned a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering and an Air Force ROTC commission in 1991 from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He served his initial active duty assignment as test engineer at the Air Force High Speed Test Track at Holloman AFB, N.M. He has subsequently served as an F-4 Systems Program Directorate engineer at Hill AFB, Utah and as a ROTC instructor at Purdue University in Indiana. He has been assigned to the SPO since July 31, 2000.

SPO team's 'FEDEX for patients' system work earns base's top prize

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

An automated medical management system for warfighters dubbed the 'FEDEX for patients' has earned a 311th Human Systems Program Office team Brooks highest award.

The 311th Human Systems Wing Commander's Award was recently presented to the TRANSCOM (Transportation Command) Regulating and Command & Control Evacuation System (TRAC2ES) team for developing, deploying and sustaining a joint automated information system that gives the Department of Defense medical community enhanced patient care capability.

"I'm excited the team has been recognized for the job that they have done for the warfighter," said Lt. Col. Keith Loree, TRAC2ES team program manager.

TRAC2ES is an interoperable command and control system that efficiently and expeditiously manages worldwide patient and casualty treatment and movement.

"It matches patient needs with medical and airlift resources," said Loree. Its capabilities far exceed the two systems it replaces: the Automated Patient Evacuation System and the Defense Regulating Information System.

Loree said the 16-member TRAC2ES team was formed in 1997 to develop and deploy this joint service system for operational user TRANSCOM. The Office of the Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs is funding the project, part of a \$300 million major automated information system acquisition program.

"It was an amazing team effort," Loree said in referring to the three years of work needed to develop the system's operational capabilities.



“Toolkit” open for reserve, active duty family use

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Service members being called up for active service or those deploying have a new tool kit to help their families, a Department of Defense reserve affairs official said.

The Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Programs Toolkit is available as a printed product and also is available on the Internet at:

www.defenselink.mil/ra/family/toolkit/.

“It is a comprehensive set of resources,” said Army Col. James L. Scott II, director of individual and family support policy at DoD’s reserve affairs.

“It’s a set of tools that commanders, members, family members and family program directors or managers and the support group directors of managers can use to assist them in preparing units for the separations that take place during mobilization and deployment.”

President Bush’s Sept. 14 order calling up to 50,000 reservists to active duty means the tools could be a vast help to deploying service members responding to the terrorist threats, Scott said.

Though aimed at reserve component members, active duty service members will also find the information helpful, he added.

The toolkit is a standardized pre-deployment and mobilization handbook. It is an attempt to standardize information between services and the reserve components so they can all use the same language when they talk about deployment preparations, Scott said.

Some of the items in the kit are family readiness groups, publishing newsletters, crisis intervention, family care plans and so on.

One specific tool is a workbook-type section on family financial management planning.

The workbook asks a series of questions and gives service members a series of options. It also gives helpful hints like making sure all your important financial documents — mortgages, bank accounts, savings bonds — are in safe, fireproof locations and that they are accessible to another family member or friend.

The kit grew out of the Family Strategic Readiness Plan, Scott said.

The plan seeks to ensure that military family care systems, networks and organizations adequately serve reserve component families.

With the tool kit is another helpful web site, the Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Schedule of

Events at: www.defenselink.mil/ra/calendar.

It’s a calendar designed to provide places for family readiness training across the services. Those interested can search the calendar for training opportunities near them.

Finally, the site also has a Guide to Reserve Family Member Benefits at:

<http://raweb.osd.mil/publications/handbooks/Benefits.pdf>.

This booklet explains what military benefits are available, including medical and dental benefits, commissary and exchange privileges, military pay and allowances and re-employment rights.

“It’s a set of tools that commanders, members, family members and family program directors or managers and the support group directors of managers can use to assist them in preparing units for the separations that take place during mobilization and deployment.”

Col. James Scott
DoD Reserve Affairs

OPSEC keeps pieces of a puzzle apart

By Staff Sgt. Amy Parr

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Picture a large jigsaw puzzle with many pieces. Sometimes two pieces fit together and sometimes they do not. What happens when a piece does not fit? It is put to the side until a match shows up.

In operations security, each bit of information is a puzzle piece. When alone, some information might seem unimportant. But, when matched with other information, the entire picture can be completed.

According to Master Sgt. David Walker, Air Force OPSEC program manager at the Pentagon, when someone violates OPSEC rules, the military mission could be compromised, resulting in lost lives and equipment.

He said the enemy can analyze small bits of unclassified information from telephone conversations, e-mails and small talk and use them to examine the planning, preparation, execution and post execution phases of any activity.

This allows them to see the big picture of military action in any operational environment.

“The picture with bits and pieces of information added together provides the adversary an upper hand,” he said. “The enemy now has the information necessary to thwart our planned military operations.”

The purpose of OPSEC is to identify information and observable actions relating to mission capabilities, limitations and intentions in order to prevent exploitation by potential adversaries.

So, Walker said it is everyone’s duty, whether active duty, family member or civilian, to protect the mission.

Some things people should not talk about outside the proper environment include troop movements and locations, equipment locations, operational status of equipment, mission taskings and leadership movement.

Because cellular phones are very vulnerable to interception, Walker said it is important for people to use secure phones to protect sensitive information.

These phones encrypt and decrypt phone conversations that cannot be descrambled without the proper code. Walker said they provide the military a high degree of information protection.

Walker said it is also important to remember that the need to know takes precedence over a person’s security clearance.

“Even if a person has the proper security clearance, the information may be privy to a small group of people who are responsible for protecting the information,” he said.

“Prior to granting access to classified material, a person must have the proper security clearance and a need to know.”

Walker said following simple OPSEC can make the enemy’s job that much more difficult.

“OPSEC is very important, not only in wartime, but in peacetime,” he said.

“A little effort on our part can make it much harder for our adversaries to gain valuable information regarding Air Force military operations.”

For more information on OPSEC, contact local OPSEC program offices.

Each office maintains location-specific critical information lists of information requiring OPSEC protection.



Family Support renews efforts to prepare Brooks during war on terrorism

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

As Air Force families come to grips with the likelihood of their loved ones deploying in support of America's war on terrorism, the Brooks Family Support Center has been promoting initiatives designed to assist the Brooks community deal with issues associated with prolonged separations.

"There is a heightened concern within the Brooks community. I've been meeting with unit members who may possibly be mobilized," said Master Sgt. Melvin Gilchrist, Brooks Family Support Readiness noncommissioned officer.

Gilchrist said his job was created Air Force-wide in 1997 based on lessons learned from the Persian Gulf War. The Air Force learned then that many service members hadn't fully prepared their families for dealing with deployment related issues.

Historically, these issues include equipping service members' spouses to successfully handle home finances, child care, household emergencies and attending to special needs children's medical care through the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Family support offers guidance through information and various services such as financial planning and family care plan preparation.

"We provide family reunion information. There's an emotional cycle of deployment families go through from the time a service member plans to depart and when they return (home)," Gilchrist explains. He said this cycle encompasses three phases: preparation, separation and

reunion.

The preparation phase includes key actions such as updating emergency data cards, ensuring wills and powers of attorney are in force, and having mail forwarded for single service members. However, the phase's critical component, Gilchrist noted, is communication.

"We highly stress communication," Gilchrist said, referring to couples expressing their feelings through 'heart-to-heart' talks. He said Family Support is not a marriage counseling service, but acts as a facilitator in deployment preparation that involves the entire family in the process.

"One of the things we share with families is to involve their children in helping with (service member's) packing list," Gilchrist said.

Family support also helps families plan how they'll communicate during the separation. "We provide children with a stationery kit called 'The Write Connection' to assist them in letter writing," he noted.

Video and audiocassettes are other options they suggest for separated loved ones to communicate with one another.

"Our purpose is to encourage an exchange of information between family members to make the situation more tolerable," said Gilchrist.

Family support is aided in this process through help from several sources. Free domestic, international and global phone cards are available there through the generosity of the national headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Air Force Aid Society.

Additionally, the 311th Communi-



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Brooks Family Support Center's Master Sgt. Mel Gilchrist operates a videophone system that is available to military and civilians whose spouses are deployed.

cations Squadron has arranged through Family Support to provide Brooks military families two 15-minute morale phone calls per week.

They are available on a limited basis and can be reserved by contacting Gilchrist at 536-2444.

Family support also has a video phone system with a DSN connection that's available to families Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. The center also provides video e-mail service that families can use to send photos of themselves to loved ones.

Gilchrist said family support, located in Bldg. 537, is set up as a family assistance center with a phone bank to field questions.

These centers were used during Operation Desert Storm as a gathering place for military families.

The center here was last used in 2000 to assist 22 families who were evacuated from the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station as a result of hurricane-induced flooding.

Gilchrist said their charter is to help families be proactive in crisis management planning.

Besides military families, family support also assists civil service civilians and contractors who are TDY.

Their primary focus, however, is helping prepare military members and their families.

"Service members need to realize during times like this, that based on their job skills, they can be pulled from any unit to meet Air Force needs," Gilchrist advises.

Gilchrist is currently soliciting unit volunteers for the 'Key Spouse Program' to serve as points of contact to spouses of members who will be deployed or will be TDY.

"One of our Key Spouse Program volunteers was recently involved in a local school project that provided Teddy bears to New York City Fire Department families," he said.

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“Loose lips sink ships”

By Lt. Col. James Russell

358th Fighter Squadron

(Editors note: The following story was written for the base paper at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.)

As I labored with the challenge of finding a topic for discussion interesting to all, through no small part as a result of the tragedy of Sept. 11, I became increasingly concerned that we, as a service and, more frighteningly, a nation, have become complacent with a fundamental tenet of military operations. It became clear to me that I should spend a few moments clarifying why “loose lips, sink ships.”

I'll depart, for the most part from my usual manner of casual communication because I think the topic deserves a serious discussion. Here we go.....

When was the last time anyone talked to you about operational and communications security? For my part, I can tell you that I have seen a disturbing decrease in attention to detail with respect to protecting essential elements of information.

I have watched, with no small concern, this departure from a high level of attention to OPSEC/COMSEC I had come to expect as normal throughout the cold war and, for the most part, throughout the build-up and execution of Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Not surprisingly, this degradation in our undivided attention to protecting the security of critical information is coincident with the explosion of the information highway, the internet.

Just over a decade ago, households with personal computers were the exception and those with access to e-mail were non-existent—the absolute reverse is now reality.

With the technological explosion of the internet came an inherent responsibility to closely guard information that adversely affects national objectives with respect to military operations. Unfortunately, this new toy came without instructions and, over time, personal communication with friends, family, and co-workers has become increasingly revealing.

The internet and our growing reliance on electronic communications has become the singular greatest threat to OPSEC and that translates to protecting our people, both deployed and at home. I say this not only because reliance on electronic communication has developed an apathetic approach to protecting sensitive, although unclassified, information, it has had an alarming by-product with what we are comfortable discussing in open, unprotected areas - the local barber shop, restaurants or sporting events.

While OPSEC doctrinally refers to critical information attendant to military operations, there has always been a non-spoken objective to protect those who remain behind. At no other time has this been more critical.

Perhaps for the first time in history, protection of information about those who stay behind is as critically important as protecting information about troop activities pre-

paring to engage the enemy. For the first time the enemy will not engage our forces as a primary retaliatory tactic, but rather will continue with cowardly attacks on innocent civilians.

We have to do our part to deny information to the enemy and make this task and cowardly response as difficult as possible.

What about COMSEC? Most people I've talked to believe that COMSEC refers to computer security. Nope. That's COMPUSEC, and important in it's own right. So what is COMSEC, and why should you worry about it?

The doctrinal definition of COMSEC is essentially the denial to “unauthorized persons information of value that might be derived from the possession and study of telecommunications.” This highlights the second major change we have seen in the past decade....the “CNN war.” Every operation we have conducted since (and including) Desert Storm has been transmitted immediately to your living room.

The great problem with this instant form of information is the unbelievably difficult task of balancing our fundamental right to freedom of speech with our responsibility to deny critical information to our adversaries.

As a nation we crave instant and timely information about what our forces are doing in any conflict, but need to understand that there are reasons for protecting information detailing force disposition, unit participation, mission objectives, and any number of additional details which might place our deployed forces and, just as importantly, non-deployed forces and dependents of deployed forces at risk.

The days of “local news” are a thing of the past. Information released to a local news reporter becomes national news within the hour. Jealously guard the information you possess, the lives of servicemen and women in harms way are not the only concern in this war against terrorism, the lives of your children and yourself are equally at risk.

“Loose lips” don't only “sink ships,” they provide “tips” to terrorists seeking information on innocent targets they can attack to degrade our operational capability in the area of operations.

So what is the bottom line? Let's clean up our act with respect to OPSEC and COMSEC. The challenge of protecting essential elements of information without allowing your enthusiasm for information on the internet, or well intentioned desire to provide local media answers to seemingly harmless questions, compromise national security.

Sounds pretty heavy, eh? Sorry if I came off that way, but the threat is real and it is immediate. We are currently engaged in a war against terrorism and President Bush and his cabinet members are doing a fabulous job of leading the way in the refusal to compromise OPSEC and COMSEC.

Let's do our part and remain vigilant in the protection of our nation's greatest asset — the military family; not just the warfighters, but the unsung heroes who never raised a hand swearing an oath to support and defend the constitution of the United States, but are just as important in the defense of this great nation — our dependents.

God bless you all and God Bless the United States of America!



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., Oct. 15, Bldg. 538 — In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

Resume Workshop

9-11:30, Oct. 16, Bldg. 538
Learn the different resume styles and how to write and use them effectively to open career opportunities; learn the do's and don'ts of resume development; and as

an added bonus, learn how to develop impressive cover and thank you letters.

Rescheduled - Mutual Funds

11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Oct. 24, Bldg. 538

This final class of the investment series prepares the beginning investor with what mutual funds are, how mutual funds operate, and how to start investing in a mutual fund.

Contact the Family Support Center at 536-2444 for reservations or information.

CGOC Notes

Community service events:

Between 10 and 12 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.

Looking for 10-15 volunteers to visit and deliver pre-packaged baked goods to patients at the Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital Nov. 15 at 4 p.m., leaving Brooks at 3:30 p.m.

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



Stranded during terrorist attacks

Brooks' travelers experienced unique challenges

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

While Brooks maintained a constant vigil through on-going security checks resulting from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, three of our own faced unique challenges in the wake of the tragedy after being stranded either on foreign soil or stateside.

Brooks Heritage Foundation Executive Director Shelia Klein was on vacation in England with friend Jeannie Long between Sept. 4-28, a trip whose duration would later seem like an eternity.

"We had no idea whether we were going to get back home as planned," admits Klein. Everything seemed normal in London on the morning of the attack. "There's a six hour time difference between New York and London. As tourists riding city buses, we were insulated from the news."

By 3 p.m. London time, the pair had arrived at Trafalgar Square. "We walked over to a church to listen to a musical rehearsal for an evening prayer service we planned to attend," recalls Klein. Then something peculiar happened. "During a rehearsal break someone with the musical group said something to them. We couldn't hear what he said, but from their shocked looks we knew something must have happened."

Still unaware of the attacks, Klein and Long went to Piccadilly Circus to attend a theatrical show. "When we asked the box office lady for tickets she said, 'Normally, we don't perform Shakespeare on Tuesdays. We do the history of the U.S. abridged. However, the theater manager decided not to do it because of recent events in America.'" Klein and Long's puzzled expressions provoked the lady's stunning announcement: "Haven't you heard? New York has been attacked. It's burning!"

Recalls Klein, "It was like a dream. New York and the Pentagon attacked. She couldn't possibly be talking about America. It was surreal."

Stunned by the news, the pair headed to their hotel. At a bus stop, their worst fears were confirmed. A newsstand extra declared in big bold headlines: New York Attacked! Pentagon in Flames!

They got back to their hotel room in time to witness on TV a commercial airliner fly into the second World Trade Center tower.

"We couldn't believe it. We were in shock." Thoughts of family and friends raced through their minds as they saturated themselves with TV news. They eventually contacted relatives and friends stateside.

The next day, American tourists were the objects of overwhelming support from Londoners. This public display achieved its pinnacle on Sept. 12 at Buckingham Palace's 'changing of the guard' ceremony. "It was there where I first remember someone saying, 'We're so sorry for what happened to your country,'" Klein recalls, referring to condolences made by Australian tourists. They would hear that refrain many more times before coming home.

The pair attended the ceremony to witness history. "They planned to play the Star Spangled Banner. It was the first time in history that the Queen had altered the ceremony."

They soon heard the faint familiar strains of music coming from the Queen's band as it approached the palace. "The first song they played was 'Stars and Stripes Forever.' It moved everyone in the crowd."

For Klein and Long, the event triggered an emotional release. "We had feelings of being powerless in a foreign country where we couldn't get home."

British friends, accustomed to decades of IRA attacks, offered them advice: "If you change your



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

While the flags flew at half staff near the main gate at Brooks, several members of the Brooks community were stranded by the terrorist attacks and struggling to get home.

way of life because of terrorists, then they've won." The pair felt safe in England as American flags flew everywhere as a sign of solidarity.

However, it was at a church memorial service where Klein and Long understood the true depth of the British people's feelings for America's loss. "The government declared three minutes of silence nationwide." Like a scene from the sci-fi movie "The Day the Earth Stood Still," everything came to a halt. "We learned afterward that everybody in the country stopped what they were doing. I thought it was amazing," Klein said.

A continent away, America's northern neighbor also showed its solidarity. Dr. Brendan Godfrey, 311th Human Systems Wing deputy director, witnessed Canada's outpouring of support while stranded in Calgary, Alberta, with colleagues from the cities of San Antonio and Monterrey, Mexico.

"We were planning to fly back on Sept. 11. By Friday, we decided to get back home the best way we could," Godfrey said. The Canadians couldn't have been more hospitable to Godfrey's group of business and community leaders. "The hotel extended our reservations. We were invited to people's homes. The U.S. Counsel-General for Western Canada personally looked out for us. He wrote a letter on our behalf that expedited our crossing the border," Godfrey said.

Godfrey also appreciated the fact that no one complained during the long trip home by chartered bus and later rental car. "Everyone understood that

our sacrifices were inconsequential compared to the sacrifices others were making." He praised two city staffers, Henry Sauvignet and Manuel Longoria, for their extraordinary efforts in finding alternate ways of getting them safely back home.

Getting home safely was also on Rosemary Andrews' mind after arriving at Boston's Logan Airport on Sept. 10. The attacks cut short her Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., TDY, resulting in a 2,200-mile journey across America in a rental car.

The Air Force Research Laboratory Human Effectiveness Directorate's operations manager felt isolated and vulnerable in a place that seemed to be terrorism's epicenter. "I was right in the middle of it, alone without my family. I didn't know what else was going to happen. I didn't know if I'd see my family again," she said.

After reassuring phone calls with her daughters and husband, Andrews hitched a ride with two Randolph AFB colleagues with whom she had attended the aborted Hanscom training course. Their unconventional route home eventually crossed paths with a wind-blown American flag draped backward from a bridge overpass. "We drove up onto the overpass to fix it," she recalls.

Andrews best summarized feelings common to most Americans who were away from home at the time of the attacks: "You find yourself remembering things that are precious to you, such as your family."

“It was like a dream. New York and the Pentagon attacked. She couldn't possibly be talking about America. It was surreal.”

Shiela Klein

Brooks Heritage Foundation Director



Innovative Development through Employee Awareness seeks fresh ideas

By Master Sgt. Andre Marsh

311th Human Systems Wing

The Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program, or IDEA, seeks fresh and innovative ideas that benefit the Air Force mission and people and save time and money.

Ideas do not necessarily have to come from within a person's work area. The program is designed to account for ideas submitted from outside a person's responsibility.

Monetary awards are an essential part of the IDEA program. Awards range from a minimum

of \$200 up to a maximum of \$10,000. Awards are based upon tangible and intangible benefits, job responsibility and estimated first year's savings. Additionally, the IDEA's program data system will calculate all awards to ensure ceilings are maintained.

Brooks' members are asked to put on their thinking caps and submit innovative ideas that have the potential to save money, manpower, time and energy.

For more information on the IDEA program contact Andrea Garcia at 536-3661 or Master Sgt. Andre Marsh at 536-2945.



Air Force 'Tops in Blue' presents special show at Seaworld San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO— Tops in Blue, the entertainment showcase of the U. S. Air Force, will present a special show Saturday, Oct. 13, at SeaWorld San Antonio in preparation for a nationwide tour.

The 6 p.m. performance in the marine life adventure park's Gunn Meadow Theatre will be the only public appearance in San Antonio before the troupe of singers and musicians goes on the road.

The group had planned to tour Europe, but the tour schedule had to be revamped because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

SeaWorld guests can enjoy the special show along with more than 25 major attractions for all members of the family.

In addition to their normal high-energy show, Tops in Blue has included a special tribute that honors all Americans in the aftermath of Sept. 11.

"This tribute reminds us that Americans will always be heard," said Tom Edwards, the show's producer and director of Air Force Entertainment.

"Our nation's strength is profound, and music unites us all."

The show will take the audience on a magical journey of yesterday and today's pop and dance music, spiced with a combination of love songs and a heartfelt tribute to Americans that features the ever-popular "God Bless the U.S.A.," Edwards said.

This year's Tops in Blue team consists of 35 talented, active-duty Air Force members who, in Edwards' words, "display the pride, patriotism and dedication felt by all Air Force personnel around the world."

Tops in Blue performers have served as goodwill ambassadors for the Air Force for more than 45 years.

SeaWorld is open weekends through November, including Friday, Nov. 23, the day after Thanksgiving. Sunday, Nov. 25, is the final day of the park's 2001 season.

For more SeaWorld San Antonio information, call 523-3611.



Domestic violence can turn homes into places of torment

By Elizabeth Thompson

311th HSW Family Advocacy

In his address to the nation Sept. 20, 2001, President Bush outlined America's response to the recent terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. In his speech he described the creation of the Office of Homeland Security, a Cabinet-level position that reports directly to the President and is tasked with the responsibility of overseeing and coordinating "a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard our country against terrorism and respond to any attacks that may come." He further stated, "the only way to defeat terrorism as a threat to our way of life is to stop it, eliminate it and destroy it where it grows."

As an Air Force Family Advocacy Treatment Manager, I am reminded of another threat to our nation's health and well-being, one that is perpetuated not by terrorist organizations based in foreign countries, but rather by citizens of the United States. This threat is domestic violence in its many forms. Just as President Bush emphasized the need to stop terrorism before it begins, so too must domestic violence be eliminated where it grows.

In his press release Oct. 2, President Bush said, "Tragically, domestic violence can and does turn many homes into places of torment. Many children suffer or witness abuse in their homes, which can sadly spawn legacies of violence in families across America. Domestic violence spills over into schools and places of work; and it affects people of every walk of life."

Domestic violence or family violence includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and spouses. Unfortunately, the Air Force community is not immune from such problems and the Brooks Family Advocacy Program has helped families dealing with domestic violence and abuse, from children who witnessed one parent shooting another, to a young newlywed couple struggling with emotional abuse.

Brooks military and civilian personnel are invited to attend a presentation by Jane Schaffer, Family Assistance Crisis Team Program Coordinator for the San Antonio Police Department, from 4-5 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Brooks Club.

Schaffer will give several case scenarios and will describe not only the personality of not only the batterer, but also the victim who remains in the relationship.

It is important for the Brooks community to participate in this event to better understand and prevent domestic violence in our community.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Thompson at 536-4711.

**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
IT IS YOUR
BUSINESS**

Wednesday, 17 Oct 01

1500-1600

Brooks Club



Education loan relief possible for some service members

WASHINGTON (AFP) — To assist military members who have been reassigned or activated as a result of the recent terrorist attacks, the U.S. Department of Education directed lenders, colleges and universities to provide those affected with relief from their student loan obligations.

The reason for the relief, said Ron Paige, U.S. Education secretary, is simple: soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines need to be able to concentrate on the task at hand — defending the country.

“The young men and women who serve our country have an enormous job to do in the coming months,” Paige said. “The actions we are taking today will ease their financial burdens as they defend our country in these challenging times.”

These actions apply to members of the National Guard and the Armed Forces Ready Reserve who have been called to active duty. The department’s guidance applies to student loans made under the Federal Family Education Loan, William D. Ford Loan or Federal Perkins Loan programs.

Under the department’s guidance, lenders will automatically postpone student loan payments of borrowers during the period of the borrower’s active duty service. Borrowers with subsidized student loans will be eligible to have the federal government assume interest payments on their loans while they are on military duty.

For military people called to active duty whose loans are not yet in repayment because they are current students or recently left school and in a grace period, the department has directed lenders to hold their loans in the current deferment status.

Borrowers will not be required to make

payments to lenders during the term of their military service, as well as for a reasonable amount of time allowing the borrower to resume enrollment in school. In addition, borrowers generally receive a six to nine month grace period after leaving school. The department’s action ensures these students will not lose the benefit of this grace period as a result of their service.

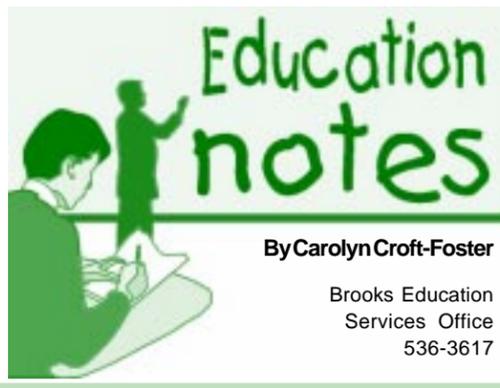
In additional guidance, the department strongly encouraged colleges and universities to provide both a full refund of tuition and other institutional charges or comparable credit to students forced to withdraw from school to fulfill their military obligations. The department also urged schools to offer flexible re-enrollment options to these affected students and to other students who have been forced to withdraw from school as a result of the terrorist attacks.

“Many people’s families and livelihoods have been dramatically changed by recent events,” Paige said. “I hope the nation’s colleges and universities will give people time and flexibility to return to their normal routines and activities, just as I hope they work with the department to help our military reservists make the transition to active duty.”

The department’s actions also relax requirements that schools return federal financial aid to the government when a student aid recipient withdraws from school. Students who withdraw because they are called to active duty or have been affected by the military mobilization, as well as others who withdraw as a direct result of the terrorist attacks, will not be required to return financial aid funds received for books and living expenses.

For more information, call (800) 433-3243.





By Carolyn Croft-Foster

Brooks Education
Services Office
536-3617**VEAP conversion to MGIB**

Servicemembers who have VEAP accounts are eligible to convert to the Montgomery GI Bill. Education Services is contacting members whose names appear on our list of eligibles.

If you believe you are eligible and have not been contacted, contact Education Services in Bldg. 570-C. Call 536-3617 for more information or to schedule a conversion briefing.

On-base registration for Flex 2

Palo Alto is offering courses at Brooks for the Fall Flex 2 semester, beginning Oct. 22 and continuing through Dec. 14. All courses are applicable to the Community College of the Air Force.

The courses include: speech, literature, biology, history, supervision, and computer literacy. Registration began Sept. 18.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment with a representative from Palo Alto College, call 536-3617.

Attention Fall CCAF graduates

All members of the Brooks community are invited to attend the Community College of the Air Force Fall graduation ceremony and reception. The ceremony will take place at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine auditorium, Bldg. 775 at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 19. Fifty-one degrees will be conferred.

Graduates will be in service dress. Uniform of the day is appropriate for military and appropriate attire is recommended for civilians and family members. The reception will follow immediately in the USAFSAM atrium.

Officer Training School

Enlisted members who have completed a bachelor's degree or are within 270 days of completion are eligible to apply to OTS. For more information, call 536-3617.

VA benefits

Personnel who would like information on VA benefits or would like to speak with an Education case manager about VA education may call the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551, visit their website at: <http://www.va.gov/education>, or stop by the local VA field office.

VA information is also available on the Brooks Home Page and at the Customer Service Desk at the Brooks Education and Training Flight in Bldg. 570-C.

**Youth Center
Bldg. 470, 536-2515**

Decorating Contests
Base Housing Residents....
Are you up to the challenge of creating a unique display for Halloween? Decorations are only limited by your imagination. Yard judging will be conducted the evening of Oct. 25.

Organizations...Get into the spirit of Halloween by decorating your doors or windows. Remember that Halloween isn't just for kids. Try your hand at creating ghosts, goblins, witches. Organizational doors and windows will be judged Oct. 26.

Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place in each category that day for doors or windows and the following day for yards. Register with the Youth Center staff for both contests.

**Base Library
Bldg. 705, 536-2634**

Come by the Base Library for Halloween candy Oct. 29-31. While you're there, check out one of the many children's books we have on Halloween.

We are getting low on paperback books for our trading rack. If you have some to donate, bring them to the library for others to enjoy.

**Brooks Club
Bldg. 204, 536-3782**

Preferred Plus! Program
Win big for the holidays. As



By Jan McMahon

Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

a thank you for your loyalty and patronage to the Brooks Consolidated Club System we are giving away a variety of prizes to our members through October. We will be conducting drawings for one year of free dues and \$100 Services gift certificates. In addition, various Services facilities will give away prizes to Preferred Plus! members at surprise times throughout the month. You could win a free round of golf, lunch or a \$10 gift certificate to the Skills Development Center or Outdoor Recreation. All completed entries are eligible for local prizes and will be entered into a command-wide drawing in November for the grand give away of \$15,000.

Football Frenzy

Air Force club members again have the opportunity to win a trip to a regular season NFL game, the Super Bowl in Honolulu and a new trip for four to Disney World or Disneyland. Football fans can watch the games on the big screen TV at Sidney's. Enter the drawings to win prizes during Monday night football games.

Only club members in good standing are eligible to win.

The Ultimate Membership Drive will be held through Nov. 18. Air Force Clubs are aiming to recruit 10,000 new members and all will be eligible to win a new car. Nine lucky people who join any Air Force club worldwide will have their choice of select models - including Chevy Cavalier, Dodge Neon and Ford Ranger.

**Family Child Care
Bldg. 510,
536-2041**

Are you tired of sitting home? Are you looking for a career?

Would you like to earn money? Would you like to work in your home?

If you answered yes to the above questions we have a solution for you! Stop by the Family Child Care Office an appointment with Jeanie Smith, Family Child Care Coordinator.



Brooks' 'Unsinkable Molly Brown' inspires hope with rags-to-riches story

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

You can set her on fire and she will thank you for giving her a glowing personality. For Sydney Powell is one of those rare individuals who possesses unshakable optimism in the midst of adversity.

She has become Brooks version of the "Unsinkable Molly Brown" as a consequence of a rags-to-riches story that has a happy conclusion in early civil service retirement.

A week before Christmas 2000, this career Air Force personnel officer lost everything she owned in a house fire.

She learned afterward that their house insurance had expired. All she needed to put the finishing touches to her misfortune was lose her job, but that would come later.

"You look for good in everything, no matter how bad things may seem. The fire brought our family together," admits Powell, Brooks Civilian Personnel Office's employee relations specialist.

Her nightmare was the beginning of a seemingly supernatural journey that has a fairy tale ending.

It began on a freezing early winter morning at Sydney and Corky Powell's 25-acre ranch located between Stockdale and Seguin.

At 2 a.m., the regulator atop their water heater exploded. Within minutes fire was racing through their mobile home. Adding to their torment, an ice storm had knocked out their electricity and phone.

"The fire was fed by a propane tank that had just been filled," she said, noting that they couldn't find in the darkness a wrench to turn off the tank.

Clad in pajamas and walking in bare feet on icy ground, the couple scrambled frantically for water to fight the blaze. Unfortunately, their water hoses were frozen. Sydney found water in her dogs' steel water bucket that she carried a few feet before tripping in a hole her dogs had dug. She landed on her face, spilling most of the water. Trying to douse the fire with what remained was futile as her husband soaked himself in the freezing night.

"I felt we were like on the Titanic," Sydney lamented, not knowing that the real "Unsinkable Molly Brown" had survived that shipwreck and afterwards, like the Powells, would thrive.

Sydney decided to save some of her family's prized possessions, including vintage rifles and shotguns and her son's laptop computer and guitar. She managed to toss these items out the front door.

"When I first went in, the smoke was curling down the hallway toward me, hugging the ceiling. I thought at the time, 'I can beat this,'" she recalls. She nearly succumbed to the toxic smoke. "I tried holding my breath, but I started choking. I didn't stop choking for 6-7 days."

Realizing they needed help, she dashed to her son's camper a 100 yards away, grabbed his van keys and drove off to the nearest neighbor, only to find their gate locked. She subsequently stunned a second neighbor with her



Fire gutted the Powell's mobile home the week before Christmas in 2000.

Courtesy photo

relentless horn honking, prompting the frightened couple to call 911.

When she returned, she saw her husband attempting to enter their burning home. "I yelled, 'don't go in there.' I sank to my knees and cried. I thought I wouldn't see him alive again." It was the only time in her life with Corky that she lost hope. Her husband relented, realizing there was nothing he could do to save anything else.

Fear suddenly gripped her. She knew the fire was beginning to melt the few things she did save. At that moment, a closet full of ammunition exploded. "It was like firecrackers going off," Sydney said as she dodged a hail of gunfire while retrieving the scattered items.

At daybreak, the smoldering pile of debris framed an undeniable reality. Everything was lost. Gone were Christmas gifts and irreplaceable treasures such as two matched antique saddles the couple had used during their 'horseback' wedding.

"I was in shock. I didn't talk to anybody for two weeks," she admits. Possessions to her no longer were important. "I thought, 'I don't want to accumulate things anymore. I just want to make my son and husband happy. I vowed not to spend money on myself, but only on my family.'"

She also learned how many friends she had. Brooks and Randolph AFB employees and Corky's co-workers donated several thousand dollars. Appliances, furniture, food and clothing were trucked in to their homestead, which now consisted of their son's tiny camper. "There was an outpouring of support from a lot of people we didn't know. It was fantastic."

This support paled in comparison to other incredible events, beginning with post-fire discoveries. "It's amaz-

ing and kind of mysterious how things that meant so much to me were not damaged at all."

Surviving the fire were Sydney's true treasures: a lock of her mother's hair tucked inside an envelope found in a charred trunk, and her mother's handmade childhood doll found in a plastic ziplock bag. A postcard from an aunt who sent the doll to Sydney following her mother's death also survived.



Sydney Powell with her late horse Summit. Everything they're wearing here was lost in the fire.

Courtesy photo

These were subtle signs of hope, magnified a few months later through a gift inherited from her mother. "My mother owned an interest in two gas wells that had dwindled (in production) to \$35 a month." The Rio Grande Valley wells were located on two ranches the family had once owned. Around February 2001, the Powells negotiated a lease with a new company that used advanced technology to drill another well there. "They hit one of the larg-

est pockets of natural gas ever found in Texas," Sydney said, noting that another new oil well they own will produce enough wealth to support future generations in perpetuity.

Philosophical about her windfall, she said, "Money doesn't solve problems, but it's the struggle that brings us together. We're rewarded by making right choices that makes our lives a blessing."

The fire also changed Sydney's perspective on life. "Nothing is important, except for the people we love. I really don't miss what I had lost. I didn't lose hope, because I had my husband."

The tragedy also renewed her faith. "I came out of that fire knowing I'll never doubt again."



Brooks' commissary was more than a 'mom & pop' store

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Characterized by many of its employees and patrons as a 'mom and pop' store because of its leisurely and homey atmosphere, the Brooks commissary was more than just a place to shop and work. It was a place, as the lyrics from TV's "Cheers" theme song suggests, "where everybody knew your name."

Its closing on Sept. 28 marked the end of an era in retail shopping here that had mimicked simpler times, reminiscent of the types of stores associated with small town America in the 1960s.

More importantly, it had become part of the Brooks family. This became very apparent to workers during the last weeks of operation. "On the last day the store was open, a woman who had been a customer for over 30 years brought a farewell cake to thank our employees," said Yvonda Fletcher, store director.

For many, the closing affected them emotionally. "A lot of our customers took it hard. In the last weeks they came to share stories and memories with our employees, then they just started crying," Fletcher said. She admits having never seen in her career as commissary management specialist such a strong bond between employees and patrons.

"I've never been in a store like this before," said the Austin native who has spent 19 of her 25 civil service years working in commissaries. She added, "Typically, customers would look for me and other employees to say 'hello.' We were on a first-name basis with our regulars."

Barbara Gilbert, who began working at the Brooks commissary as a cashier in 1979, recalls how the social atmosphere developed there among clientele. "Before we had an intercom system that played (store-wide) music, we in the produce department would play our radios, setting the dial to KONO 101.1. In the early 1980s the station played forties and fifties music on Saturday mornings. Many of our customers, retirees who had grown up listening to that music, would park their shopping carts and start dancing in the aisles," Gilbert remembers. The most popular dance patrons demonstrated with great nostalgia was the jitterbug.

The spaciousness of the commissary, opened in November 1988, encouraged such events and allowed AAFES a venue for special promotions. Over the years, various vendors and sports franchises held court there. In recent years, former Major League Baseball stars Goose Gossage and Kevin Bass signed autographs there. During its last months, the commissary hosted Minor League baseball and hockey players from the San Antonio Missions and San Antonio Iguanas.

"There was such a closeness in this place among customers and employees," Gilbert said, explaining that its slow-pace atmosphere was particularly appreciated by the majority of customers who were retirees.

John Kugelman, an Air Force retiree who in 1981 served as Brooks Civil Engineering's chief of customer service, remembers how the old commissary helped foster 'closeness' among customers and employees due to its design.



The Brooks commissary in 1943.

Courtesy photo

"It was an old wooden structure that had narrow aisles," Kugelman recalls, referring to the commissary that had been located across the parking lot from its successor, Building 661. In 1941, Building 653 was converted to a commissary. A nearby warehouse had previously served as the base's commissary. The first documented Brooks commissary opened in 1934.

Mary Murphy, who was the sole commissary cashier in 1942, recalled memories during an oral history interview with Dr. Pete Skirbunt, Defense Commissary Agency historian. Murphy told the Fort Lee, Virginia-based historian that the Army Quartermaster Corps' 908th Quartermaster Detachment ran the Brooks Field commissary.

Murphy was a one-woman operation manning

the register without taking lunch breaks. Long lines were common as an airman assistant helped customers by emptying the contents of their hand-held baskets onto a high checkout counter.

"Items stocked for sale were vastly different from the wonderful variety we have today," Murphy noted, saying, "The stock was limited to bare necessities - issue items and staples." The inventory ranged from bread, eggs, potatoes and onions to canned food, cleaning products and cigarettes. Pet food, frozen food and soft drinks were not stocked there, while most families who lived in base housing's 15 units had milk delivered to



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Barbara Gilbert and commissary colleagues pack inventory for shipment to other bases.

their homes.

Today, the majority of former Brooks commissary customers are shopping at either Lackland AFB or Fort Sam Houston, said Fletcher. She said most of the store's 26 employees have been placed at other local stores. Fletcher, who transferred from Randolph AFB to Brooks in January, has not yet been placed. "Talk about 'buzzard luck'," she quipped, noting that she truly cherishes having worked here despite the short tenure.

"It was a management decision to close this store," she said, explaining that Brooks' declining customer base had an impact on operations. When the \$4 million, 33,038-square-foot facility opened, it employed 43 people.

Monthly customer transactions peaked between 18,000-19,000, contributing to annual average sales totaling between \$5-7million. During its final year, the store averaged 8,600 customers per month, a sharp decline from previous years when patrons crowded the aisles to shop, swap stories and to dance.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

Brooks' commissary 're-born' as BX Market

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service recently announced plans to use the old commissary facility as the site for a new concept in shopping called BX Market.

"It will be a combination exchange and commissary that provides one-stop shopping for our customers," said Randy Rostad, senior business program specialist for AAFES' specialty stores sales directorate.

This shopping hybrid is part of a growing trend involving the supercenter concept, popular at Department of Defense installations worldwide.

The current Base Exchange, barber shop and laundry/dry cleaning activity will vacate their present location later this month and will be co-located in the former commissary.

"We're doing very basic modifications to the existing (retail sales) area (of the former commissary). The barber shop will be located in the (former) bakery storage room, while laundry/dry cleaning will be in the (former) administrative offices," Rostad explained.

Additionally, the former deli-bakery area will be converted into a mini-food court that will provide the same type of take-out service now offered at the Base Exchange snack bar.

Rostad said a 'soft opening' is scheduled for Oct. 24.

Moving to the modified former commissary, he noted, gives AAFES a lot more retail sales and parking space.



Surgeon general aided in early rescue, treatment efforts

By Amy Butler

When the Air Force's surgeon general, Lt. Gen. Paul Carlton, first learned that the Pentagon had been hit by a presumably hijacked aircraft and was on fire, he knew his primary mission was to find and care for casualties.

Carlton, the chief medical adviser to the Air Force's chief of staff, reported immediately to a "casualty collection point," an area set aside in emergency plans for medical workers to triage patients. But 10 minutes after the Boeing 757 slammed into the Pentagon, no patients were being brought to the building's central courtyard for medical attention. Carlton said he soon realized he and his team were useless until some patients were brought from the jet-fueled fire raging in the building.

"I am a trauma surgeon, and I was thinking, 'Gee, I am probably the senior trauma surgeon here — probably the only surgeon here,'" Carlton said in a Sept. 14 interview. "So, I have got to really focus on what my job is. And, so that is why we got organized very quickly."

After the attack, rumors spread about an Air Force three-star general who displayed courage and leadership under pressure and mobilized people to help in the rescue and medical treatment efforts. Carlton, who was scarred by burning jet fuel during rescue attempts, is likely that man, although he is clearly uncomfortable with the attention.

Throughout his interview with ITAF, he emphasized that his actions were small compared to the collective efforts of numerous Pentagon employees.

Carlton swiftly assembled a team to go into the Pentagon and find the injured, he said.

He and others entered the building from the courtyard entrance for corridors three and four. Smoke was billowing out of the building, and the general said he could barely see where he was.

His account, and the accounts of others who were trying to save victims from the Pentagon fire, are mostly based on sketchy sensory reactions — a strange approach for military officials who are trained to be precise and highly attentive to detail.

While he can't be sure exactly where he was, Carlton said he thinks he found his way to the alley between the Pentagon's B and C rings to find a man calling for help in rescuing victims of the attack.

"As we went down — I assume — corridor four, someone came by in the smoke and said, 'We have found someone in the alley,'" Carlton recounted. "We came into the alleyway and there was fire on the left. The building was burning and glass was popping and falling into the alleyway, but someone had just gotten through the area to my left with an axe."

Pentagon officials told reporters Sept. 15 the aircraft impacted the Pentagon between corridors four and five and came to rest in the C ring, but did not breach the exterior wall into the alley between the C and B rings.

The man with the axe, Master Sgt. Paul Lirette, had located victims and was clearing debris from the room where they were trapped, Carlton said. Soon, however, Lirette was overcome by smoke and had to retreat to the alleyway for cleaner air. Carlton said he gathered the men's T-shirts, soaked them in the puddles of water from the building's sprinkler system, and each of the five-member team used them to breathe as well as possible while crouched near the ground. "It was a particularly unpleasant smoke. It burned your eyes and it made you wheeze immediately," Carlton said.

"It was truly Dante's inferno," he added.

Once Carlton took Lirette's position at the opening of the room carved out by the axe, he saw the victim, pinned underneath what the general said must have been a table or beam.

Fire, fueled by puddling jet fuel, was consuming the far part of the room and inching toward the team and the victim, the general said.

"The fire was in the room, and a layer of debris. . . . The flame was, perhaps, 10 feet away. Somebody passed me a fire extinguisher, I

squirted it, and nothing happened. It was a water-based system and apparently it was fuel fire," Carlton said. "That won't put out a fuel fire."

Another man had lodged himself under the obstacle pinning the man down and was using his legs to lift it off, Carlton said.

"That exposed something of an individual. We asked him [the man lifting the surface] for a little bit more. He gave it a little bit more and we could see the individual," Carlton recounted. "He had obviously been stunned, because he just looked at us."

The victim didn't immediately react, the general said, and Carlton placed one of the dampened T-shirts over his nose and mouth to aid his breathing. The cold cloth may have been enough to prod the man into moving out of the flaming room, Carlton said.

"Between the three of us, we somehow got this man to realize it was now or never, and he rolled over toward us and booked out the door."

Whatever had pinned the man down was likely the very thing that saved him from falling debris, he added.

The general said he later discovered the man suffered some tissue damage in his neck and cuts and bruises, but doctors were most concerned about smoke and jet fuel inhalation. The man was identified Sept. 20 by Navy spokesman Ensign Mike Billings as a civilian employee of the Naval Operations Command Center. The victim was released from the hospital last week and is recovering at home from his injuries.

After the Navy civilian escaped the room, Carlton and the others attempted to search for other survivors in the area.

The fire, however, engulfed the victim's position no more than 30 seconds from when he escaped, Carlton said, and the men realized they were losing the battle.

"I think — from my experience in the room — the fire was winning at that point," Carlton said. "Anybody that was locomoting had locomoted."

"A rescue effort in the face of a fire is a fairly exciting affair — and difficult. Building collapse scenarios typically give you three times as many dead as wounded, as opposed to a regular high-explosive device, where you have three to five times as many wounded as dead," the general said. "And, so we understood that and so we didn't really expect a whole lot, especially after I had been exposed to that fire."

A man standing outside the burning room shouted that they must evacuate, and Carlton said he and the others retreated down the corridor and into the courtyard to treat the small number of injured people there.

Officials later discovered that the man who guided Carlton and his group out of the room was Cmdr. Craig Powell, a Navy Seal. The area in which the victim was found was a secure zone encased in a metal cage, officials discovered. Powell, who was described by Air Force spokeswoman Col. Patricia Boyle as a tall man, was actually bracing himself against the metal caging that was beginning to collapse. Powell stabilized it long enough for the others to escape and then ran from the scene to safety.

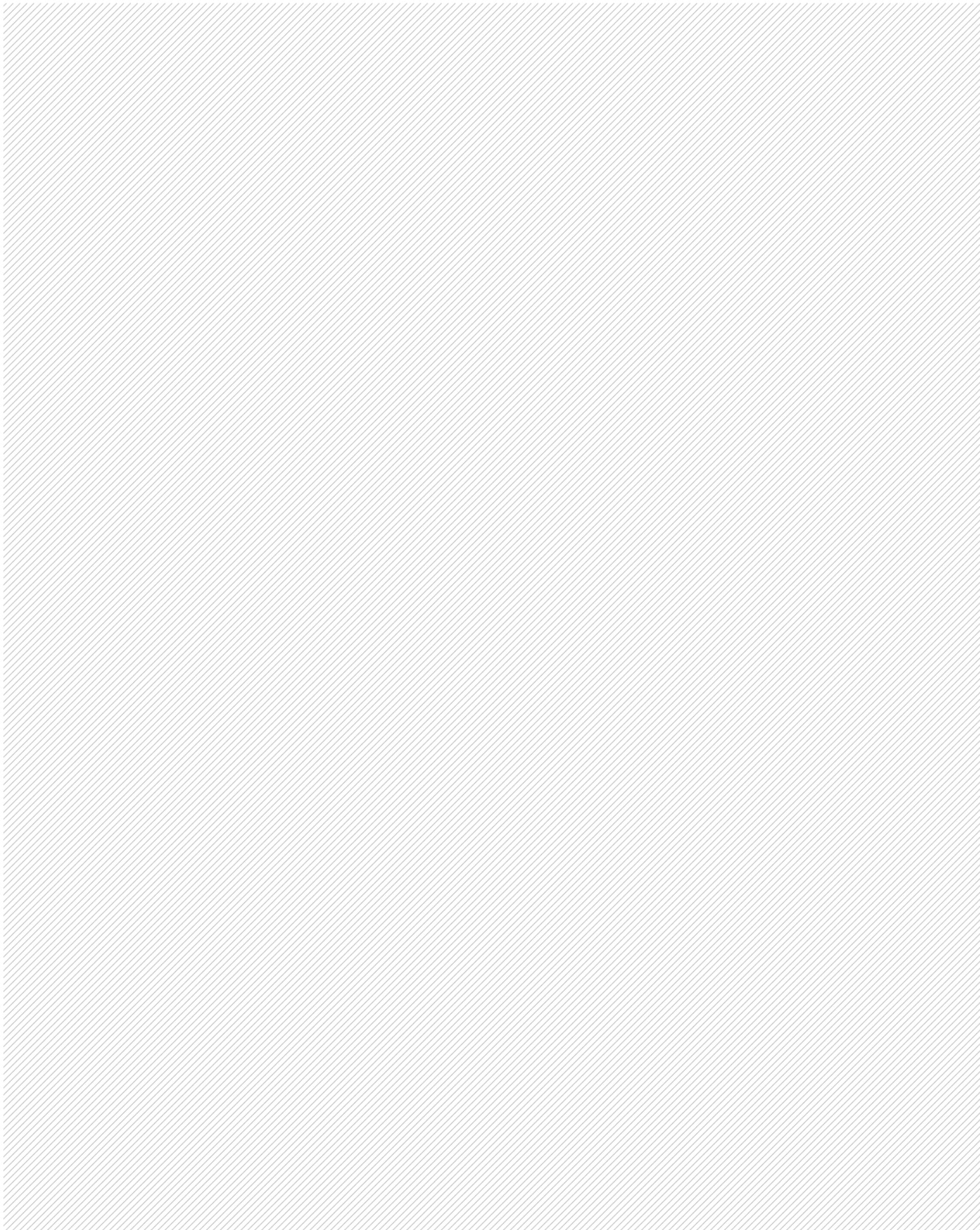
Carlton said that as they were evacuating, he heard a loud noise that he thought was the fire, but Boyle said officials later deduced it was the building collapsing.

Tom Fontana, communications director for the Pentagon renovation program, told Inside the Air Force Sept. 20 the rigid, steel framework built into the renovated portion of the building (wedge 1) actually held long enough for many injured to escape, while the older portion, without those reinforcements, was less stable.

Once back in the courtyard, Carlton and others triaged about 15 patients and were again evacuated outside the building near the river entrance. There, the team sent the patients to local hospitals by any means possible.

"We just simply flagged down the cars," the general said. "Every car that had a backseat, we just put a patient in."

Recovery efforts still continue at the Pentagon, as well as the World Trade Towers in New York City.





NEWS briefs

Brooks Air Force Ball

The Brooks Air Force Anniversary Ball has been rescheduled for tonight at the Brooks Club.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m and dinner at 7 p.m. Semi-formal or mess dress and After-5 attire for civilians is appropriate attire.

Anyone who already purchased a ticket and is unable to attend the rescheduled event will receive a refund.

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.

Lifebuilders program

The LifeBuilders Luncheon Program is held each Wed. from noon- 1 p.m. at the chapel. The program goal is to provide spiritual renewal and leadership training for those who attend. All base personnel are invited. Lunch will be provided for the cost of a donation.

If you have questions or would like more information please call the Chapel at 536-3824.

Ambulance service

Oct. 1 the City of San Antonio Emergency Medical Service (EMS) began providing 24 hour ambulance coverage for Brooks. In the event of a medical emergency while on Brooks, dial 911 (not 99-911) and your call will be directed to the City of San Antonio EMS dispatcher.

Air Force retraining

Air Force Officials have announced the start of the noncommissioned officer retraining program for fiscal year 2002. During FY02, approximately 1,300 NCOs - Staff Sgt., Tech. Sgt., and Master Sgt. - will have the opportunity to retrain from Air Force specialty codes with NCO overages to AFSCs with NCO shortages.

Some restrictions apply, depending on your grade and AFSC. Contact Staff Sgt. Strahan at 536-3045 for complete details.

2001 Marine Corps Birthday Ball Celebration

The Marine Corps Detachment at Lackland AFB will hold its annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball Celebration Nov. 9 at Mitchell Hall, Lackland AFB beginning with a social hour at 6 p.m., followed by the formal ceremony, with the traditional birthday cake cutting. Dinner will be served following the ceremony.

There will be a DJ this year providing dinner music, followed by dance music until 1 a.m. Dress for the event is formal military or civilian. Tickets are \$25 per person and seating is limited. Contact the Marine Corps Detachment, Bldg. 10416 at Lackland or call 671-2574/3219, for further details.

Save your phone books

Brooks will support the annual city-wide drive to recycle old telephone books. From Oct. 17-30, the Base Civil Engineer has arranged for a collection bin to be located along the concrete apron at the intersection of Bypass and Chennault roads, near the Bldg. 1148 picnic pavilion — for telephone books ONLY. No other recyclable material or waste will be allowed. Personnel who live outside the base are encouraged to bring old telephone books from home if no other bin is available. Also, please note that telephone books are not allowed in any other waste or recycling container on base.

Periodontics services

The Wilford Hall Medical Center Department of Periodontics, Lackland AFB, is seeking patients with specific needs for treatment in the periodontics residency program.

Applicants must be military retirees, family members of retirees, or family member of active duty and have been determined by a dentist to have a periodontal condition.

Patients will be selected for treatment based on the needs of the periodontal training program. The Department of Periodontics provides treatment of the gums and bone support of teeth. Treatment in this program does not include fillings, braces, crowns or bridgework. For more information, call 292-3800.



Sports

AFIERA defeats champ for Squadron Challenge title

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis defeated the two-time defending champion by winning Squadron Challenge X with a 'strategic' 60-point performance on Oct. 5.

AFIERA bested the base champ, edging the 311th Human Systems Program Office by just two points in the overall standings.

Fourteen teams competed this year in Brooks AFB's annual sports showcase that had originally been scheduled for May, traditionally the Air Force's Fitness Month.

AFIERA wasted no time in sending a message to their opponents that they were determined to avenge last year's third-place showing. AFIERA's strategy of being the only team to compete in all 16 events paid off in the end, as they gained critical participation points that helped them edge past their closest rival.

The SPO team, loaded with some of the base's best athletes, challenged AFIERA throughout the day, finishing a close second with 58 points. While the SPO squad won the most events with six, their failure to compete in women's basketball cost them. AFIERA finished second in women's basketball, but the three points they gained in that event was enough to put them over the top. The irony in AFIERA's maximum participation strategy is underscored by the fact that they won just one event, karaoke, which has their opponents now 'singing the blues.'

The Air Force Research Laboratory finished third with 46 points, a significant improvement over last year's fourth-place, 27-point showing.

The most surprising showing was made by last year's Squadron Challenge runner-up, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence. This one-time contender, possessing a perennial powerhouse golf squad, became a 'pretender' this year with a dismal 6-point performance that was all the more shocking when AFCEE didn't even compete in golf.

Squadron Challenge X final results

No.	Unit	Points	
Events			
1.	AFIERA	60	16
2.	HSW/YA	58	15
3.	AFRL	46	13
4.	COMM	41	12
5.	ABG/FM	32	12
6.	HSW	28	5
7.	USAFSAM	20	8
	USAMRD	20	10
8.	Clinic	8	5
9.	LGS	7	6
10.	AFCEE	6	3
	AFMOA	6	1
11.	HSW/PK	5	3
12.	68IOS	3	1

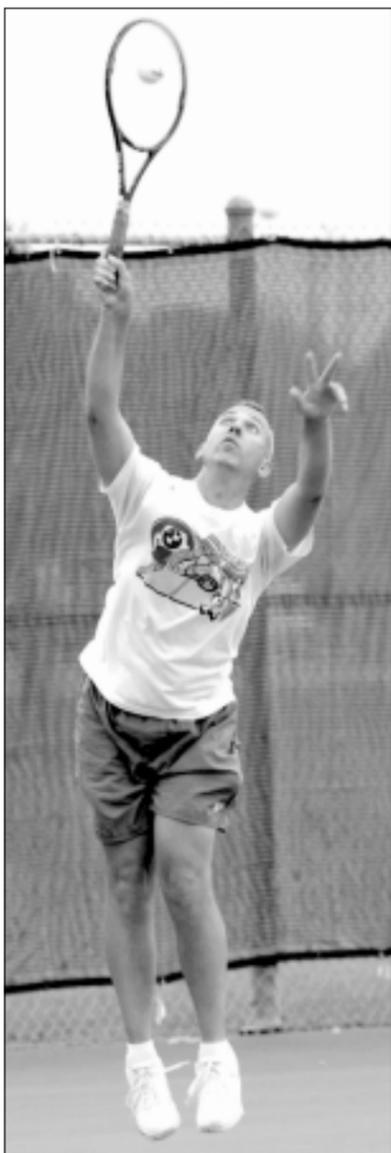
Photos by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez and Master Sgt. T.C. Coaxum

Volleyball proved to be a popular event.

Squadron Challenge X



Teamwork is a must in the tug-o-war competition



Lt. Col. Kenneth Cox, Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, participates in a tennis match.



Female athletes come out strong in the women's 100-yard dash.



Runners near the finish line in the men's 100-yard dash.





Brooks soccer star helps Air Force team make history with Armed Forces title

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The absence of a base soccer program did not stop a Brooks player from helping the All-Air Force women's soccer team make history by becoming the first undefeated Armed Forces champion to shut out all opponents.

Second Lt. Karrie Tarkowski, 311th Human Systems Wing Contracting Directorate's contract manager for base operating support, scored five of her team's 24 goals during the Armed Forces tournament held Sept. 9-15 at Fort Eustis, Va. Air Force reclaimed its crown, last won in 1999, by defeating defending champ Army twice in the double elimination tournament.

"In the history of Armed Forces women's soccer, no team has gone undefeated and un-scored upon," explains Tarkowski who was one of 11 former Air Force Academy players that comprised the powerful squad. "It was great being on the team. It gave me an opportunity to play with former Academy team-

mates," said the 23-year-old Littleton, Colo., native.

Tarkowski, a 2000 Academy graduate, arrived at Brooks in August last year to discover the base's soccer program consisted solely of lunchtime pickup games. She participated in these games, then coordinated with fitness center staff to apply for the All-Air Force women's soccer team training camp held in August at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. She was the only service member from San Antonio's bases to be selected to participate in the three-week camp. She made the team, one of 18 out of 35 selected.

"It's a sport I enjoyed playing while growing up," said Tarkowski, who as an outside midfielder helped the Arapaho High School Warriors win two state women's soccer championships. The four-year varsity player was good enough to participate in the U.S. Olympic Team development program. "I made it as far as regional camp," she modestly explained. Nonetheless, the Air Force Academy recruited her as an athlete who had been a three-time

All-Conference and one-time All-State soccer player.

She never considered turning professional like one of her former Colorado club teammates who now plays in the WUSA professional soccer league. Referring to an Air Force career that began as an Academy cadet, she said, "I chose a different path. I just didn't want to give up that opportunity. I wanted to do something important and give back to my country."

She was the Academy team starting forward. "Division 1 is faster and quicker level soccer. You can't be just a good athlete. You have to know the game and be a team player. Good teams win, not players," she said.

Tarkowski knew she had joined a very good All-Air Force team when she was reunited with two former Academy squad goalies. Capt. Stephanie Jardine and 1st Lt. Erin Staine, C-130 pilots stationed at Little Rock AFB, Ark., and Pope AFB, respectively, put the Air Force team in the record books with their brilliant combined play that pre-

vented the Army, Navy and Marine Corps from scoring a single goal.

Tarkowski scored her first tournament goal to break a scoreless tie early in the second half against Navy in the first round. "I took a shot from outside the 18-yard box in front of the goal and scored over the head of the goalkeeper in the right corner," she recalls. A southpaw, she used her deceptive left-foot kicks to her advantage. Ten minutes later she scored again. Air Force eventually sank Navy 3-0.

Her team's first-round match against Army, scheduled for Sept. 11, was cancelled due to the terrorist attacks. Play resumed the next day. "We were going against our biggest rival. I scored on a header. We won 4-0," she said.

Tarkowski scored a goal apiece in the next two contests against the Marine Corps and Navy. "We had won the tournament by the fifth match, but our goal was to go undefeated." For their accomplishment, team members received gold medals. "I think it's just great the Air Force has these sports programs," she said, noting that she is experiencing the best of both worlds serving on active duty and playing soccer.

She plans to try out for the team again next year. Tarkowski noted that her participation this year would not have been possible without the support of her organization, the fitness center and Lackland AFB's 1st Lt. Nate Tarkowski who she married in May.

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Courtesy photo

Brooks soccer player 2nd Lt. Karrie Tarkowski (left), helps the All-Air Force women's soccer team make history by becoming the first undefeated Armed Forces champion to shut out all opponents.

Services survive challenge, wins intramural golf crown

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The 311th Air Base Group's Services Division chipped their way to the base intramural golf championship on Oct. 4 by overcoming a strong challenge from the tournament's 'Cinderella' team.

Led by team captain and former base champ Jose Valadez, Services defeated the 311th Communications Squadron on the last two holes with decisive chip shots.

"We birdied 14 that brought us to within two. We broke even on 15 and 16. By then, it was too late. They were chipping lights-out. We had a couple of chances, but they earned it," said Comm Squadron player Steve Quick.

Quick, and teammates Tom Ray, George Irving and Tom Kuhn, had earlier stunned the intramural league champ and tournament number one seed, Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, with a first-round upset. Seeded fourth in the four-team tournament, Comm Squadron eliminated AFIERA in a four-hole playoff. "It was a squeaker. We beat them by one hole," recalls Quick, noting that Tom Ray's birdie on 8 sealed AFIERA's doom.

Services, seeded No. 2, advanced to the championship round by beating the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

Pre-season favorite and two-time defending base champ Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence missed making the playoffs by a half-point. AFCEE was one of six teams that did not qualify for the tournament.