

# DISCOVER



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 26, No. 7-- Friday, April 5, 2002 -- Brooks AFB, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

## Brooks suffers storm damage

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

High winds from a March 21 thunderstorm caused widespread damage at Brooks, estimated to be in excess of \$200,000.

"We lost a lot of trees all over the base," said Steve Holt, chief engineer for the 311th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Wind gusts, estimated in excess of 80 mph, damaged roofs, snapped wooden light poles, tore up field training tents and caused the collapse of a playground canopy near the Brooks Youth Center.

According to Gil Miller, deputy civil engineer, the most expensive damage involved several training tents owned by the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. The preliminary cost to replace the tents is estimated at about \$145,000, Miller noted.

"Six tents were destroyed and three others damaged. However, the EMEDS (Expeditionary Medical Support) tents, known as Alaska shelters, withstood 90-plus mph winds," said Lt. Col. Richard Abney, EMEDS course director. He said EMEDS training personnel acted quickly to secure valuable medical equipment.

"We buttoned up everything as best we could. We (then) evacuated 56 EMEDS students (from the damaged billeting tents) to Building 703," Abney recalled.

Fortunately, the storm produced no reported injuries to base personnel.

Two freezer compressors and two cooler compressors used by the Drug Testing Laboratory in Building 930 were damaged,

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

## Flight training

Maj. Michael Laughrey, a student in the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's Residency in Aerospace Medicine course, completes a pre-flight check of a T-37 at Randolph Air Force Base recently. Laughrey and several other RAM students participated in Medical Officer Flight Familiarization Training at Randolph.

## USAFSAM hosts first homeland security symposium

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

In what has been described as the Air Force medical community's variation of a "code blue" emergency response, the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine acted to fulfill our country's growing need for a 'community code' of cooperation in preparing for potential bioterrorism incidents by hosting a precedent-setting symposium here March 26-27.

Called the "Medical Aspects of Homeland Security for Leader and Decision-Makers Symposium," the event attracted a gallery of experts as presenters in this first-of-its-kind course designed to educate non-medical civilian and military leaders on medical bioterrorism countermeasures.

"We filled a need not addressed anywhere else, to teach medical aspects to non-medical people," said Col. (Dr.) Robert Johnson, symposium director who is USAFSAM's Preventive Medicine Residency program director.

More than 80 civilian and military leaders attended the symposium, representing the diversity of regional interest, ranging from Comal County public health officials and city managers to county judges, police and fire

department chiefs, and the University of Texas at San Antonio's security chief.

Col. Tom Travis, USAFSAM commander, said, "This symposium involved local and state interaction and pointed out our (USAFSAM's) capabilities."

USAFSAM showcased its expertise in public health, patient decontamination, and food and water safety as well as some of its training resources that included Expeditionary Medical Support team support.

What made the symposium unique as a model was the presentations' quality and substance that focused on bioterrorism incident medical coordination, planning, response and recovery operations.

Presenters featured experts from the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Federal Emergency Management Agency; Uniformed Services University of the Health Science; Texas Department of Health; San Antonio Fire Department; Southwest Texas Regional Advisor Council; Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis; and Texas-based food chain H.E.B., the latter sharing its food safety program initiatives.

"We had some of the world's experts

on bioterrorism as speakers including Col. (Dr.) Ted Cieslak," said Travis in describing the Brooke Army Medical Center physician who spoke about medical threats and potential terrorism agents.

Enhancing the talent-laden cast of presenters was Col. Bob Ditch with Joint Forces Command in Hampton, Va. who conducted three of the 12 sessions featured at the symposium.

Ditch's participation was significant in that USAFSAM could be invited to academically support the proposed Homeland Security University that may be located in Hampton Va., Travis noted.

A more immediate post-symposium USAFSAM initiative involves supporting the Texas Army National Guard.

"We've been asked to put it (symposium course) on distance learning for the Guard's 'Operation Lone Star' in June," said Johnson in describing the medical care-immunization exercise along the Texas border involving several county health departments.

Travis said the Sept. 11 attacks provided the impetus for USAFSAM's symposium initiative.

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**D I S C O V E R Y**

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Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.

## Everyone plays role in UCI success

By Capt. Risa Riepma

Brooks Health and Wellness Center

It doesn't matter what our specialty is in the Air Force, as airmen, the Air Force core values unite us all. Integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do guide each of us in both our professional and personal lives. The importance of our core values is evident not only during wartime but peacetime as well.

From April 28 to May 7, Brooks has the opportunity to demonstrate our core values at work during a Unit Compliance Inspection conducted by a team of inspectors from Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The team of inspectors will visit several units on base to learn more about our practices. The inspector general team will help units identify obstacles to mission accomplishment, identify any areas that are non-compliant, and highlight unit strengths in personnel with outstanding performers, and processes with best practices.

Brooks was last inspected in 1996 and many impressive changes have taken place in the past several years.

Now is our time to shine.

Whether your unit is being inspected or not, you play an important role in the success of this UCI.

Every unit on Brooks works together to accomplish the mission. Our ability to work together enables Brooks to develop combat capability and efficiency through the many facets of Aerospace Medicine.

How can you help? If your unit is being inspected, being familiar and ready to explain your UCI checklist is imperative. Preparation is the key. First impressions are critical.

Those of you who will not be inspected, your assistance is needed in conveying to the UCI team that Brooks is truly top notch.

The IG Team will be escorted throughout the base during the inspection and may decide to inspect units not on the schedule.

It's important to observe proper customs and courtesies and ensure the base appearance and work areas are presentable.

Core values and the Air Force's commitment to teamwork are just a few things that set us apart. Let's work together during the upcoming inspection to ensure it's a success.

## Stepping out of threshold shows devotion to country

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Block

22nd Fighter Squadron

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — Again and again, time after time, I've stood by and watched the four o'clock dodgers. Yes, the ones who deliberately run or stand in doorways of buildings to avoid standing at attention and saluting during the playing of the German and American national anthems.

Former President Calvin Coolidge said, "Patriotism is easy to understand in America; it means looking out for yourself by looking out for your country."

By definition, patriotism is the love for, or devotion to, one's country. Devotion, in this case, is defined as the fact or state of being ardently dedicated and loyal. The men and women of the armed forces should know this oh so well since we swore to uphold and protect the rights and liberties of our great nation.

You, the airmen, soldiers, Marines, sailors and Coast Guardsmen, are the true patriots who support, defend and love this country. You are devoted to our nation from land or sea, and from far or near, keeping the United States free so each citizen can enjoy freedoms.

Recently, our great nation was attacked. Never before has the United States had to face terror like that on Sept. 11.

Once again, our nation pulled together and showed the true colors of red, white and blue — the colors symbolizing patriotic ideals and spiritual qualities of our country's citizens.

Our flags rose high, filling the skies with pride, honor and patriotism. The men and women of the armed forces were called upon to stand and defend our homeland soil, which we so proudly and honorably did.

The Star-Spangled Banner, our national anthem, had a special place in the hearts of Americans. It has never meant more — and we played it loud and often.

It lifted our spirits, made us strong and pulled us together as a nation. We rejoiced to the world that we will survive and become whole again. The

strength of the people and nation was tested, just to find out that the United States of America would never fold or falter.

America, Home of the Brave and Land of the Free, continued to press on with the rebuilding stages. The winter Olympics hosted in Salt Lake City were a success. I watched in awe the accomplishments of all athletes, regardless of what country they represented. Some of those athletes were military members. I realized the United States let the world know, no matter what happens, we will endure.

During the opening ceremonies, as they carried the torn and withered flag flown over the World Trade Center, my emotions ran deep and my eyes became glassy.

As I sat there and watched, I felt a sense of patriotism I can't explain. Although I wasn't there, I think that same sense was felt throughout the stadium.

I'd like to applaud those of you who take the time to honor our flag at the end of the duty day. We are paid to protect our nation and its resources — and one of our greatest resources is our nation's flag.

Patriotism requires allegiance to the flag, which means obedience and readiness.

So I ask each proud American and every member of the armed forces to walk outside at 4 p.m. and stand tall. Stand proud and with honor, and let your heart swell with pride at the thought that America is the most powerful nation on earth. Honor old glory — for she has served us proudly in all types of weather.

As we lay her to rest for another evening we know she'll be there to honor us once again the next morning, as she has for 225 years. So I encourage you to step outside and pop that clean, sharp salute and show the greatest flag on earth the respect it deserves.

Editor's note:

The flag in front of Bldg. 150 is lowered by members of the 311th Human Systems Wing Security Forces Squadron at 5:30 p.m. each day.



## Symposium

Continued from Page 1

The school's reputation for medical training served as the foundation on which to build a course that could be useful to local, state and federal emergency response planners.

"We came up with the idea of what are the medical aspects of bioterrorism that senior leaders and decision-makers could use that fits into the national incident response system," explains Johnson.

However, symposium planners had to first assess, through an Internet search and coordination with various federal agencies, what training was being offered that addressed bioterrorism's medical aspects.

What they found was an information gap affecting non-medical emergency planners' response to medical issues involving bioterrorism incidents.

The symposium curriculum was created through the collaborative work of USAFSAM, AFIERA, 311th Human Systems Wing, Lackland AFB and Air Combat Command medical readiness personnel, and the Air Force Surgeon General's Applied Solutions in Operational Medicine.

*Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil*

## Storm

Continued from Page 1

said Glenn King, facility manager for the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis. Located on the roof, these compressors were fixed the day after the storm.

"None of the (drug) samples were affected," King said.

Building 930's new roof sustained minor damage when the compressors shifted. A roof-mounted fume hood, used for ventilation, was slightly damaged when winds knocked it over, King added.

"The SAWS sign at the HSW gate snapped, as well as three light poles, two at the softball fields and one at the tennis courts located between housing and billeting," said Holt. He said cleanup and repair work has been on-going since the storm. Once the damaged canopy is removed, public access to the playground will be restored, Holt said.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

**A work crew assesses the damage to the playground canopy near the Brooks Youth Center. The playground canopy was damaged by raging winds during last weeks' thunderstorms. For safety reasons, the canopy has since been removed.**

## PRK screening at Brooks optometry clinic

By Capt. David Koles

Chief, Optometry Services

Brooks Optometry Clinic offers Warfighter photorefractive keratectomy screening evaluations for Brooks active duty personnel in prioritization categories 1 and 2. PRK is a laser vision correction eye surgery used to improve distance vision.

Category 1 members include aviation and special duty personnel. They have top priority since they stand to have the biggest operational advantage by not having to rely on eyewear to perform their military duties.

Category 2 members include those requiring night vision goggles, eye protection, or respiratory protection. It doesn't include those who need

nuclear, biological, and chemical masks for deployment only. The Air Force goal for PRK is to increase mission effectiveness and safety of personnel in these two categories.

If you fit the criteria for Category 1 or 2 and are interested in obtaining PRK you must have at least 1-year retainability on active duty at the time of the actual surgery. All members must have commander's approval to have PRK.

The entire process takes several months and includes several screening evaluations.

PRK is an elective surgical procedure and screening evaluations for PRK are secondary to routine eye exams. If you believe you fall into Category 1 or 2 and are interested in pursuing PRK surgery call 536-1847 to schedule an appointment.



## Brooks Retiree Activities Office recognizes 2001 outstanding volunteer of the year

By **Ret. Chief Master Sgt. Fred Dickinson**  
*Brooks Retiree Activities Office*

Retired Tech. Sgt. James Hill was named the Brooks Retiree Activities Office Volunteer of the Year for 2001 during a recent ceremony.

Col. Terry Nelsen, 311th Air Base Group commander, presented Hill with a certificate of appreciation signed by Lt. Gen. Everett Pratt Jr. Former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric Benken, co-chairman of the Air Force Retiree Council, recognized Hill's valuable contributions to the Air Force.

Hill joined the U.S. Merchant Marines in 1945. Following training, he shipped out to Europe aboard a Liberty cargo vessel.

In mid 1946, at the age of 18, Hill enlisted in the Air Force and attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base.

"It was the days of the tar-paper shacks and our barracks had no air conditioning, but who would complain? Only movie theaters and department stores seemed to have that luxury in those days," Hill said.

Hill retired in 1967 from the U.S. Air Force Security Service at Kelly AFB after 22 years of service.

Soon after retirement Hill accepted an assistant field director position with the American Red Cross and began what he considers one of the most challenging and rewarding jobs of his life.

Shortly after New Years 1968, Hill reported to the Republic of South Vietnam as a Red Cross volunteer.

He was attached to the 173rd Airborne Brigade providing emergency communications, financial assistance and counseling to the troops.

At times, he said, he was just "someone to talk to" for homesick, worried G.I.s. He spent 18 months in Vietnam.

In 1981, Hill accepted a Federal Civil Service position at Kelly AFB and again retired from the government in 1993.

Despite both retirements, Hill has been a valuable volunteer staff member at the Brooks RAO since 2000, and is "still serving."

The Brooks RAO is located in Bldg. 570-B. Volunteers staff the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to assist retirees with pay, identification, medical and other personnel issues.

Call 536-2116 for more information.



*Courtesy photo*

Retired Tech. Sgt. James Hill, left, receives a certificate of appreciation from 311th Air Base Group Commander Terry Nelsen during a recent ceremony at the Brooks Retiree Activities Office. Hill was named the RAO's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for 2001.

### Senior Master Sgt. Promotions



**To Senior Master Sergeant:**

Bertell Francois  
311th Air Base Group  
Dennis Murphy  
*Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence*  
Michael Nauls  
311ABG  
Anne Rozkydal  
*U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine*

Don't forget to 'Spring forward' one hour April 6



## Civilian awards program seeks nominations, volunteers

By Dana Chryar

311th Human Systems Wing Human Resources

The Civilian Awards Program is an opportunity for the Brooks community to recognize the contributions of many of San Antonio's finest citizens employed at Brooks.

Brooks Instruction 36-6, implements the Civilian Personnel Awards Program. There are four quarterly awards based on the calendar year, and one annual award. The quarterly periods cover January-March, April-June, July-September and October-December. Annual awards are based on the calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

Organizations may nominate one employee per category each quarter except categories VI and VII where two nominees are allowed. For the annual award nominations, each organization may submit up to two nominees; a base quarterly award winner and one additional candidate in each category. The categories are:

- a. Category I: Student Aids (all grades)
- b. Category II: GS-3 through GS-5
- c. Category III: GS-6 through GS-8
- d. Category IV: GS-9 through GS-11
- e. Category V: GS-12 through GS/GS-13
- f. Category VI: All WG/WL/WS
- g. Category VII: All Nonappropriated Funds Personnel

All major organizations at Brooks, including the Human Systems Program Office, the 311th Air Base Group, the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, the Air Force Institute for Environment Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, all 311th Human Systems Wing staff, and participating associate and tenant organizations are invited to submit nominations using AF Form 1206, Nomination for Award. The forms are available on the Air Force Publications website.

Nominations packages should include the original form with four copies and a cover letter endorsed by the organizational commander. The nominations should address contributions to organizational mission, management goals, outstanding qualities, customer service, training, development and self-improvement efforts, and community involvement.

Nominees must be assigned to a Brooks organization during the award period, have served in the grade appropriate for the award on the last day of the award period, and not received an unfavorable personnel action during the award period. For annual award submission, nominees must be assigned to Brooks for a minimum of six months and compete in the category of the grade held for the longest period of time during the award period.

Quarterly award winners receive an 8-hour time-off award and a notable achievement award of \$100. Annual award winners receive a 16-hour time off award and a notable achievement award of \$150. All nominees receive a certificate of appreciation.

Nomination packages are independently reviewed and judged by a three-member board. Volunteer judges serve anonymously for one year. After their term, judges are recognized at the annual awards breakfast.

Brooks Human Resources office is currently seeking volunteers for judges and Awards Breakfast Masters of Ceremony to serve for calendar year 2002. Contact Dana.Chryar at 536-3663, or by email at: [dana.chryar@brooks.af.mil](mailto:dana.chryar@brooks.af.mil) for more information or to volunteer.

## Brooks plans Arbor Day and Earth Week

For seven years Brooks has earned the national honor of being named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

To become a Tree City USA a community must meet four standards; have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance.

This year Brooks is celebrating Arbor Day April 22 with the planting of trees. Brooks Earth Week celebration is scheduled for April 21-27. "Earth is a Wonderful Place- Preserve It," is Brooks slogan this year.

Questions regarding Arbor Day can be directed to Hamid Kamalpour, Brooks Natural Resource Manager, at 536-6703 or Rhonda Hilla at 536-2696.

Organizations are encouraged to participate in Earth Week activities and initiatives.

Energy conservation, clean-up efforts, recycling and planting are a few suggested activities.



# AFIERA teams aid city in mass casualty exercise

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Two Theater Epidemiology Teams from Brooks wowed city health officials with their response to a simulated mass casualty incident during a National Disaster Medical System exercise March 22.

TET personnel, part of the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, participated in the exercise because of their expertise in preventive medicine and public and environmental health.

"This is the kind of exercise that our teams should participate in. Being mobility teams, they are required to participate in one disaster exercise a year," said Maj. Jill C. Feig, AFIERA Readiness Division chief who was an exercise evaluator.

The NDMS exercise scenario, developed primarily by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District and Texas Department of Health, simulated the mass movement of hurricane-induced refugees from Kingsville, Texas, to the Alamo City where they took refuge in various shelters.

Ronald Reagan High School served as a scenario site where several refugees, played by about two dozen students, simulated illness suspected to have been caused by terrorists contaminating a food or water source.

"When we arrived at the high school we found about 12 kids with (disease) symptoms. We suspected it was a potential outbreak," recalls Maj. Scott Hebrink, a TET public health officer who serves as AFIERA's program manager for the suicide event surveillance system.

"We interviewed students using a questionnaire. All things pointed to a common water source (that had caused the outbreak)," Hebrink explained.

The teams' follow-up actions involved testing a Randolph Air Force Base pond. A water sample was



Photo by Master Sgt. Brent Squires

**Capt. Anoop Attreya, a public health officer and member of AFIERA's Theater Epidemiology Team, collects a water sample for testing during the National Disaster Medical Systems exercise. The water was thought to be the source of a simulated salmonella outbreak.**

sent to AFIERA's Epidemiology Lab where the Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device was used to identify a simulated sample of salmonella, a disease-causing bacteria.

"The lab identified the pathogen within two hours. The city was blown away by how quick it was identified. They (city officials) told me 'your lab is too fast,'" Feig said.

Feig said TET personnel fulfilled all of their objectives.

"They worked as a team and followed the proper steps during an outbreak," Feig noted.

TET participants included Lt. Col. James Neville and Maj. David Chin as preventive medicine physicians serving as team chiefs; Capt. Levette Hamblin and Maj. Scott Hebrink as public health officers; Maj. Kevin Gale and Maj. Phil Brown as bioenvironmental health officers; Staff Sgt. Carl Geise and Senior Airman Sherry Purdy as public health technicians; and Senior Master Sgt. Terry Meeker and Tech. Sgt. David Villarreal as bioenvironmental health technicians.

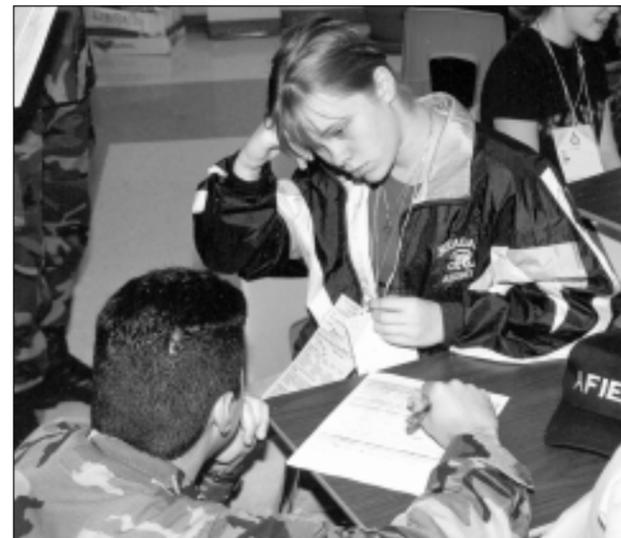


Photo by Master Sgt. Brent Squires

**A member of AFIERA's Theater Epidemiology Teams interviews one of about a dozen Ronald Reagan High School students who simulated illnesses during the recent NDMS exercise.**



# 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

### Smooth Move

**12:30 - 3 p.m., April 9, Bldg. 537 — (Pre-registering a must!)**

PCSing? Hear briefings from the travel management office, legal, the clinic, finance, housing and the family support center, and ask your questions. This is a "Year of the Family" class open to all active duty members, Department of Defense civilians, and spouses.

### PCS Overseas

**4-5 p.m., April 9, Bldg. 537—**

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

### Sponsor Training

**10- 11 a.m., April 16, Bldg. 537—**

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory for all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, everyone is welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

## Remember rules on Air Force tobacco use

**By Capt. Risa Reipma**

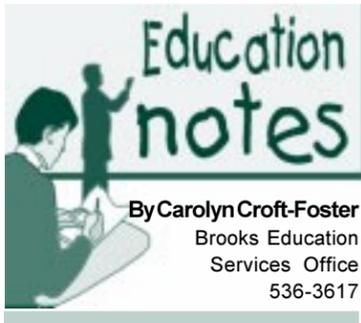
*Brooks Health and Wellness Center*

Occasionally it is necessary to refresh our memories on Air Force rules and regulations. According to Air Force Instruction 40-102, Tobacco Use in the Air Force, the Air Force prohibits smoking cigarette, cigars, or pipes, and the use or smokeless tobacco in the workplace to protect the health of all workers.

The use of tobacco products is permitted only in designated tobacco use areas. These areas must be clearly labeled "Designated Tobacco Use Area" and placed in a location that prevents smoke from contacting non-smokers adequate distance from doors and windows.

This regulation is applicable to both military and civilian workers.

For questions or to inquire about the Health and Wellness Center tobacco cessation program, contact Capt. Risa Reipma at 536-4159.



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

### Attention Spring CCAF graduates

The Aerospace Foundation's Pitsenbarger Award provides a one-time grant of up to \$400 to selected top enlisted personnel graduating from the Community College of the Air Force and planning

to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

The awards are endowed by the Aerospace Education Foundation through corporate contributions and donations from Air Force Association members and their chapters. Fall graduates who are interested should pick up an application from Education Services if they did not receive one in the mail. The deadline is May 14. Contact Education Services at 536-3617 for more information.

### CLEP general English with essay

Students wishing to take the CLEP General English with essay in April need to reserve

their seat by April 12. The exam will be administered April 17. All other CLEP exams can be taken on any regular testing date.

To reserve a seat for the test call 536-3617.

### CCAF increases value of 5-level

Effective Feb. 15, the value of 5-level Internship credit was changed from four semester hours to eight semester hours.

These credits are applicable as technical core credit in all catalogs.

Students who believe these additional credits will complete their degree requirements should call 536-

3617 to schedule an appointment.

### Six CLEP exams retire

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

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

CLEP testing is administered on Fridays in Bldg. 558, testing room. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 536-3617.

### Officer Training

Enlisted members who have completed a bachelor's

degree or are within 270 days of completion are eligible to apply to OTS. Application deadlines are May 7 and June 18.

### VA benefits

Personnel who would like information on Veterans Administration benefits or would like to talk to an education case manager about VA education may call the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at: [www.va.gov/education](http://www.va.gov/education).

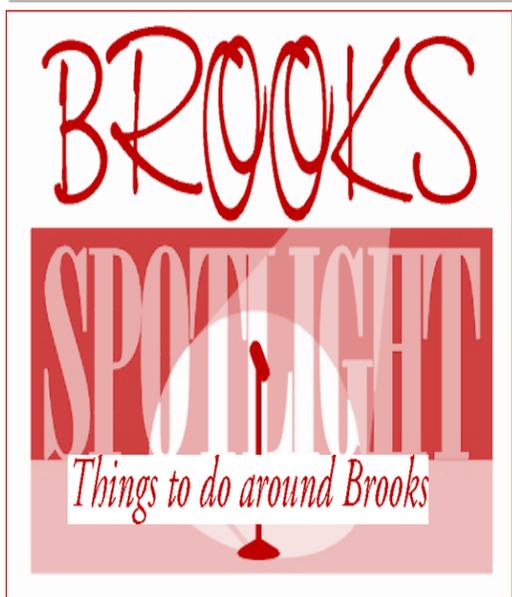
VA information is also available on the Brooks home page and at the customer service desk at the Brooks Education and Training Flight located in Bldg. 558.



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez*

### **Dorm honors**

Airman 1st Class Juanita Bartley, of the Air Force Research Laboratory, receives the Dorm Room of the Quarter award from 311th Human Systems Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Darlin Evans. Bartley was honored for the period covering Jan. 1 through March 30.



**By Jan McMahon**  
Brooks Services Marketing Office  
536-5475

### Youth Activities Center

**Bldg. 470, 536-2120**

Registration for the 2002 Brooks Youth Baseball season is underway for ages 5-6 years (Development League), 7-8 years, 9-10 years, 11-12 years and 13-15 years. Brooks' youth will be participating in a league with Lackland Air Force Base and Ft. Sam Houston. Non-Department of Defense personnel are accepted on a space available basis. For more details contact Larry Flores or the youth center staff at 536-8130.

### Summer Day Camp

Take advantage of the full-day Summer Camp 2002 Program from May 28 through Aug. 2. Summer Day Camp hours are 6:45 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Registration is open to all Brooks active duty military personnel from April 1-19. Registration for active duty, DoD civilians, retired military, reservists on active duty and contractors begins April 22 and will continue until all spaces are filled. Children will be placed on a waiting list after all slots are filled and offered weeks as they become available.

Parents are required to reserve and pay for weeks they need and must submit cancellations in writing in advance so the slots may be offered to others. Reservations may be submitted by email, fax or in person. Call the center staff for more information.

### Golf Course

**Bldg. 821, 536-2636**

Rudy Gonzales will host a Remarkable Recovery Tournament April 26, with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. The entry fee is \$25 per person and includes green fee, cart, brisket plate and beverage. Whether you're playing or not, stop by for a brisket plate and visit. The Remarkable Recovery Tournament is Gonzales' way to say 'thank you' to all who supported him during his illness the past year.

Call the Golf Course to register.

The Pro Shop will offer a 10 percent discount on jackets and wind shirts during April, while supplies last.

### Outdoor Recreation

**Bldg. 1154, 536-2881**

Equipment Check-Out will be open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. beginning April 15.

### Base Library

**Bldg. 705, 536-2634**

April 14-20 is National Library Week. National Library Week has been celebrated since 1958, recognizing the contributions libraries have made to our country. Join the Brooks Library staff for cake and punch as they celebrate April 16 at 3 p.m.

### Military Family Night

Brooks Night at the Missions is scheduled for April 17. The Marketing Office will have complimentary tickets on or around April 7. The Brooks Honor Guard will present the colors during the game and a member of the Brooks community will sing the National Anthem.

Additional free family nights are scheduled for June 11 for Ft. Sam Houston and

Aug. 21 for Lackland and Randolph AFBs.

### Recreation vehicle storage

The Service's vehicle storage lots are being refurbished. If you have a vehicle in either Lot 1 or Lot 2 contact Lydia Navarrette, NAF Office, Bldg. 705, or call 536-5328 to update your records. Overdue rental fees can be paid at the NAF office.

### Fitness Center

**Bldg. 940, 536-2188**

Squadron Challenge Day is May 17. Contact your squadron sports representative for more details.

The Fitness Center offers aerobics classes:

Monday	11:30 a.m. - Step
Monday	5 p.m. - Low impact
Wednesday	11:30 a.m. - Kickboxing
Wednesday	5 p.m. - Step
Friday	11:30 a.m. - High impact
Friday	5 p.m. - Circuit training

### The FrameWorks

**Bldg. 1154, 536-2120**

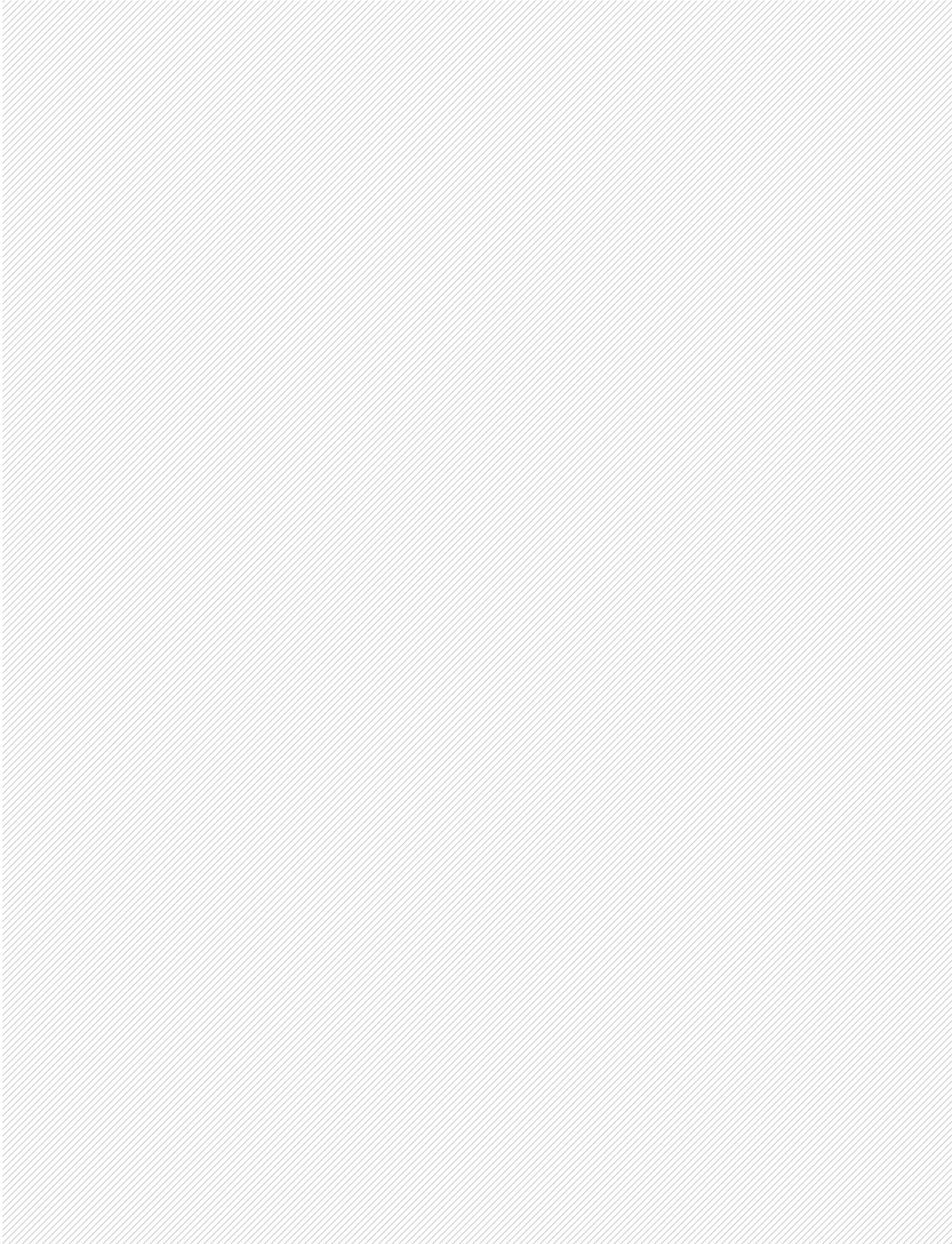
Administrative Professionals' Day is April 24. The FrameWorks has candy filled mugs, laser engraved paperweights, gift baskets and more. Balloon bouquets can be purchased for \$1 per latex balloon.

The FrameWorks is offering a two-day collage class April 16-17 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Supplies are provided but bring at least 15 photos to use. Have the finished project framed and receive a discount on framing. Framing classes will be offered if there is enough interest. Call for more details.

### Student Activity Center

**Bldg. 722, 536-2383**

Introducing first-run movies Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Fridays at 8 p.m. Students, E-3 & below, may use the center Tuesday through Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to midnight. We have a wide screen TV, VCR, dance floor, games and much more. Stop by and check out the center.





Wheeler



**FULL NAME:**

Tech. Sgt. Gilbert Wheeler

**DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:**

NCOIC, Personnel and Administration Orderly Room, HQ Air Force Medical Support Agency

**WHAT IS MY JOB?:**

I work in the orderly room. I process leave requests, promotions, evaluations, etc...

**BIRTHDAY:**

Jan. 2, 1966

**HOMETOWN:**

Rockford, Ill.

**FAMILY STATUS:**

Married with two children

**MOTTO:**

Take care of the things most important to you- your family

**INSPIRATIONS:**

My wife and kids

**HOBBIES:**

Repairing computers and fishing, when I have time.

**PET PEEVE:**

Disorganized people.

**BOOK AT BEDSIDE:**

Muscle and Fitness (wife's magazine)

**I JOINED THE AIR FORCE:**

No particular reason, I just always knew it was what I was going to do.

**FIVE-YEAR GOAL:**

I plan to retire from the Air Force in 3 years and take a cruise to the Caribbean for my retirement gift.

**ULTIMATE GOAL:**

Spending my retirement walking across any beach with my wife.

**IF I WON THE LOTTERY, I'D:**

Buy a ranch to build the dream house.

**FAVORITE MUSIC:**

KISS

**MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IS:**

graduating the NCO Academy.

**LAST MOVIE WATCHED:**

"Artificial Intelligence"

**MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION IS:**

My 2002 Mazda Miata, Special Edition

Brooks  
Personality  
PROFILE

NCO lives by his decision



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

A proud Wheeler shows off his titanium silver 2002 Mazda Miata, Special Edition, which he recently got from his wife.

**By Rita Boland**

Discovery staff writer

Everyone wants to know a guy like Tech. Sgt. Gil Wheeler. Wheeler is dedicated and organized in each aspect of his life; family and professional.

"I don't like disorganized people," Wheeler said.

He spends his days working at the Air Force Medical Support Agency at Brooks and at night he works at Conn's Appliances, repairing and programming computers.

"I have to juggle my schedule to spend time with my family," Wheeler said. "They're the most important thing to me."

Wheeler met his wife in high school. They were married a little more than a year after his graduation and soon after had a daughter. Since his wife had enough credits after three years of school, she skipped her senior year and joined her husband at his first duty station.

"She moved to Spokane with me and we went back to Missouri for her graduation," Wheeler said. The couple later had a son.

Wheeler's childhood helped prepare him for his military lifestyle. His parents worked for a company that moved the family around the country. He was born in Rockford, Ill., but moved to Tennessee, Massachusetts, and finally Missouri.

"They were great parents," Wheeler said. "The thing about traveling as a kid, it gets embedded in your mind. For whatever reason, it's time to move on."

His parents encouraged him to go to college and pursue a career from there, but Wheeler had other ideas. From the age of 15 he had models of Air Force planes and he painted the

Fly High logo on his wall.

"I tried college for three months. It wasn't for me."

Wheeler said he thinks the military is a great place to raise a family and his kids like the lifestyle as well.

"I have had very few complaints, but they are outweighed by the good," Wheeler said. "I've never missed a meal. My family has never missed a meal. The kids have a little more sheltered life, living on base."

Wheeler, who will retire from the Air Force in three years, has always had an interest in computers and plans to work at Conn's Appliances full time after taking a cruise with his wife to celebrate his retirement.

The job at Conn's will allow Wheeler to combine work and family. His wife, brother-in-law and sister-in-law all work at Conn's. Wheeler requested a transfer to Wilford Hall specifically so he could take the outside job. At the time, he had been stationed at Little Rock AFB, Ark. for nine years.

"I'd been in the Air Force for 13 years and never been overseas," Wheeler said. "I knew I was hot. I never thought I'd get (the transfer)."

He did get it and it led him to another job, a job in executive medicine.

"The lowest ranking individual we ever treated was Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force," Wheeler said.

In fact, he worked with five of them and a variety of generals from all different branches of service. He requested a photo from each of the leaders and most complied. He now has a photo album with signed and unsigned photos of some of the most decorated figures in military history.

As he flips through the pages, the youthful face under the blond flattop lights up and he tells stories about the

people on the pages.

"I'd show these books to the different people who came (to Executive Medicine)," Wheeler said. "They would tell you stories about all their friends, but they never talked about themselves."

Wheeler heard stories about Lt. Gen. Flynn, who spent more time as a POW than anyone else in the Air Force. Other stories included Lt. Gen. Robbins who shot down 23 Japanese planes in WWII and Maj. Gen. Pinson who flew through mushroom clouds during nuclear weapons testing to study the effects of the radiation.

"(Pinson) would never put his men through anything he wouldn't do," Wheeler said.

Wheeler also has a collection of commemorative coins from many of the people he treated, including the Surgeon General of the Air Force and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

Despite his prestigious collections, his most prized possession is his new Mazda Miata Special Edition. His wife bought the Titanium Silver car for him. His obvious excitement gives him the aura of a 16-year old who just received his first set of wheels.

"It's a six-speed with all leather," Wheeler said. "Only 1,500 are painted this color."

Wheeler's possessions are physical proof that he's been making all the right decisions at work and play.

"My dad didn't talk with me about my decision to join the Air Force for about 10 years," Wheeler said.

"He finally admitted I had made the right choice."

Father (and son) know best.



# USAFSAM students active in Cathedral Park restoration

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A 19-acre urban area that has been neglected and abused for more than half a century continued its transformation back to its roots as an ecologically vibrant habitat thanks to the contributions of U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine volunteers.

"They dramatically changed the property's landscape. The work they have done has transformed it," said an excitedly pleased Mary Kay Stewart, Cathedral Park project leader and a master gardener. She praised the efforts of more than 100 USAFSAM students who labored like eager beavers March 23 in fulfilling their required annual community project.

Students from USAFSAM's public health, bioenvironmental engineering and aerospace medicine apprentice courses participated in the daylong restoration event at the park located behind the Jones Episcopal Center, bordered by Alamo Heights and Olmos Park.

Stewart's husband, Col. John Garland III, a master naturalist and USAFSAM's Associate Dean of Bioenvironmental Engineering, created the link between the project and Brooks.

"Working at Cathedral Park is a great experience for the young aerospace medicine apprentices because they can see the results of their work. They've also taken part in a lifelong project that they can come back in the future and see the fruits of their labor. I also see this project as an opportunity to strength and expand the (311th Human Systems) Wing's relationship with local universities," Garland said.

"What they accomplished is breathtaking," exclaimed Stewart about student teams that cleared three trails through the thick underbrush, including an auxiliary trail off a main trail that wound uphill to a birdwatching sanctuary.

They chipped bamboo, trees and fallen brush into mulch for paths and lined a service road with rocks to prevent erosion.

They also removed rocks from the planned prairie area, planted seed for native Texas grasses, removed tree stumps and invasive non-native trees to help pecans and elms to

prosper, and cleared vegetation from two locations that will serve as meditation areas.

USAFSAM volunteer work is the cornerstone of efforts by a group of ambitious community volunteers who want to reclaim for nature what was once a horse pasture and later a dumping ground.

In the 1950s, the Kamko Foundation gave the property to the Everett Holland Jones Episcopal Diocesan Center.

Past dumping of construction debris created overgrown mounds that dimple the area.

Trash, brambles, ragweed and non-native trees and brush covered much of the area until two years ago when Stewart was asked to lead the restoration project.

Located at the headwaters of the San Antonio River and close to Olmos Dam, Cathedral Park is in the Central Flyway for migratory birds and is home to owls, cranes, ducks, and a rare plant called the Texas palmetto.

"It's classified as a semi-wetland," said master gardener Paula Butt, coordinator



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Cathedral Park as it looked before U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine volunteers cleaned the area. Years of dumping helped degrade the natural beauty of the area.

*"They dramatically changed the property's landscape. The work they have done has transformed it."*

Mary Kay Stewart  
Cathedral Park  
project leader



USAFSAM volunteers clear brush and debris from a Cathedral Park trail.



Air Force students remove weeds and other vegetation near a rare Texas palmetto (background) in Cathedral Park.

between Stewart and the Jones Center.

Stewart and Garland developed the Cathedral Park restoration master plan. Their vision is to create a place for contemplation and spiritual growth as well as a center for education about native plants and animals.

Their plan leverages the expertise of city arborist Debbie Reid, prairie expert Janice Merritt from the Cibolo Wildlife Center and Austin's Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Garland said they've received some assistance from the University of the Incarnate Word, whose graduate students can fulfill their community service requirement by inventorying park mammals and birds and tracking native plant reintroduction.

"Incarnate Word botany students will hopefully one day inventory the park plant life and

mark their location on a global positioning map," Garland said, explaining that this will help them chronicle plant life seasonal changes.

The project's next major phase is to create a permanent pond for mosquito control and native plant promulgation.

"Minnows eat mosquitoes," said Stewart about the pond that could be fed by the park's natural springs.

Other project goals include creating a 501C (charitable organization status) to help raise tax-deductible donations for park improvements and maintenance.

"One of our long-term goals is to establish an educational center to teach ecology management and preservation," Stewart said.



## NEWS briefs

### **Foundation scholarships**

The Brooks Heritage Foundation is accepting applications for its 2002 Scholarships. This year the Foundation is offering the \$1,000 P.D. Straw Scholarship and two \$250 student aide scholarships.

Eligibility requirements are described in the application, which are available at the Brooks Heritage Foundation office in Bldg. 659, adjacent to Hangar 9. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information contact the Foundation at 531-9767.

### **Volunteers needed**

The Brooks Clinic is looking for a few good volunteers. Several volunteers are needed for the reception desk. Knowledge of medical records, computers, and experience in customer service is a plus but not a requirement. Training is available. The reception desk responsibilities include greeting patients, scheduling appointments, pulling medical records, checking in patients in for appointments, including paperwork preparation, answering phones and directing calls, smiling, and enjoying the experience. Call Capt. Rebekah Friday at 536-6984 or Tech. Sgt. Flores at 536-8533 for information.

### **Special Emphasis**

In an effort to promote and emphasize diversity and multiculturalism in the Brooks community, the 311th Human Systems Wing commander has established a committee to assist with planning annual special observances.

Volunteers are needed to chair the 2002 committees for the following special observances: Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May), Hispanic Heritage Month (Sep-

tember) and Native American Heritage Month in November.

Committee members may also volunteer to serve as chairperson for a particular month. Each chairperson is responsible for the committees planning and the execution of events for their special observance month.

Participation is open to all civilian and military volunteers regardless of race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

Contact Capt. Sonya Ferreira or Master Sgt. Michael Parise at 536-2584 for details.

### **Altitude test subjects**

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

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

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

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

### **AFAAG Founder's Day dinner**

The U. S. Air Force Academy Association of Graduates Alamo Area Chapter will hold its annual Founder's Day Dinner at the Petroleum Club of San Antonio April 13, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Lt. Gen. J. D. Dallager, USAFA superintendent will be the guest speaker.

All academy grads are invited to attend. Contact Jim Wheeler at 492-0859 or Les Hobgood at 599-3583 for details and more information.

## Tax Tips

### Tax season is coming to an end

The final date to submit 2002 tax returns to the IRS is April 15, unless you request an extension.

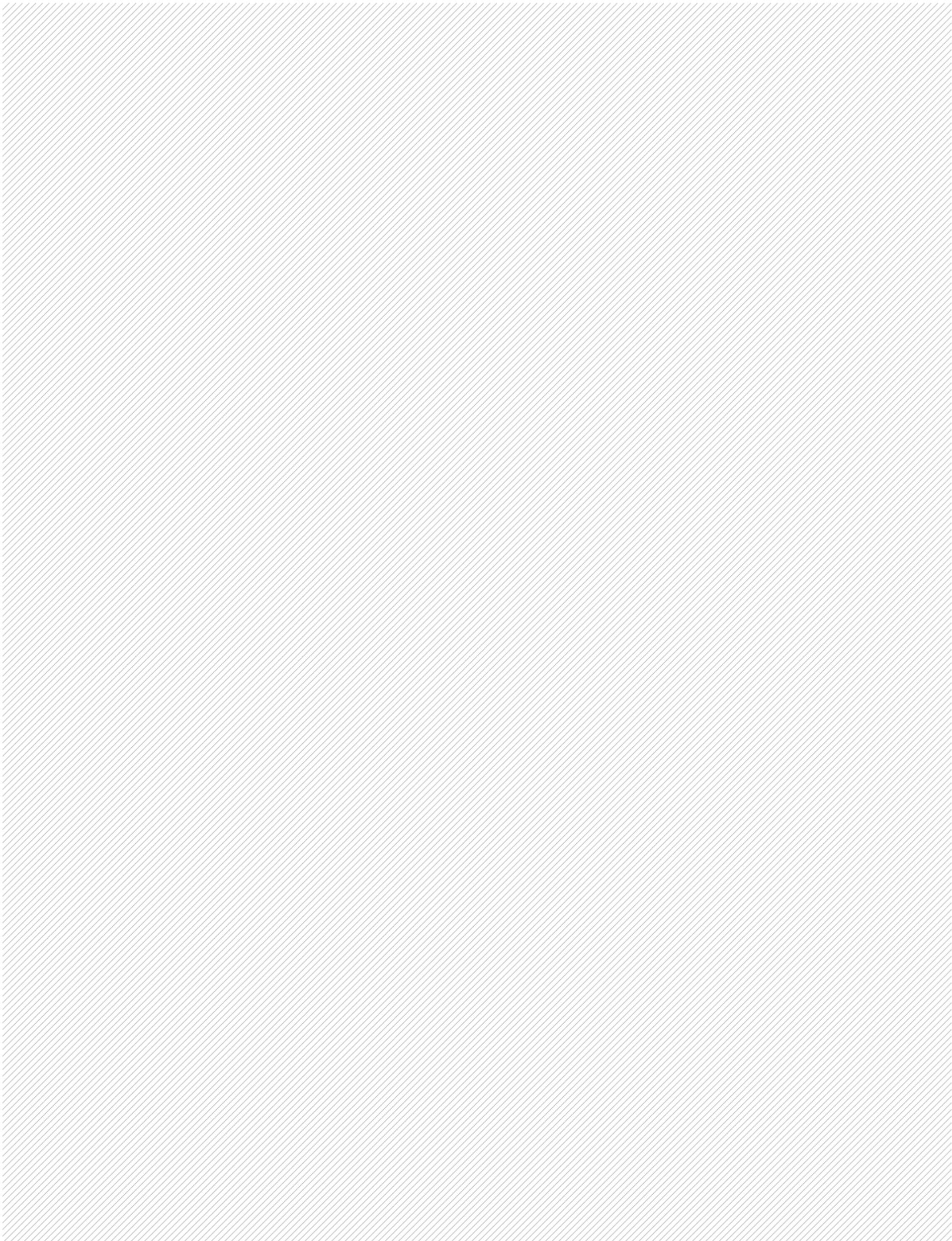
Paper returns must be mailed in a properly addressed envelope and postmarked by the due date. Returns sent by registered mail will be postmarked with the date of the registration. The registration is evidence that the return was delivered. Returns sent by certified mail, with the receipt postmarked by a postal employee are considered postmarked on that date. Again, the postmarked certified mail receipt is evidence that the return was delivered.

April 11 is the final date to submit electronically filed returns at Brooks. E-files are considered timely returned if they are transmitted by the due date, the IRS acknowledges the return was accepted and receives a completed and signed Form 8453. It takes up to 24 hours to receive confirmation.

The Brooks Tax Center is taking appointments Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8 to 11 a.m. and Wednesday afternoon from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Call 536-8696 for an appointment, or if you have questions.

Requests for extensions must also be filed prior to April 15. Those who need more time to complete their forms will find it easy to extend their filing deadline. Automatic four-month extensions are available by phone or computer, and through the paper Form 4868. Whether requesting an extension electronically or on paper, taxpayers must estimate the total tax liability based on the information available. If the IRS later finds this estimate to be unreasonable, the extension will be null and void. Callers can use Form 4868, the application for extension, as a worksheet to prepare for the call. The IRS toll-free phone number is 888-796-1074.

Taxpayers may also e-file an extension request using tax software on their computer or by going to a tax preparer. Those filing by computer get an acknowledgment that the IRS has received their request.





# Brooks family 'on a roll' as bowling enthusiasts

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Like their "Wild Bunch" western movie outlaw namesakes, they are extremely accurate when 'shooting' from the hip. So much so, that a Brooks family is gaining a Lone Star State reputation for contending in more 'bowl' games than the University of Texas.

Since the 1990s, the Bennett clan has been a force to be reckoned with in the world of amateur bowling. Their home serves as a sports trophy repository for their collective success.

"They have (won) between 28-30 trophies," said Tech. Sgt. Tom Bennett about he and wife Patricia's four sons who are members of the Kelly USA 'Wild Bunch' winter bowling league.

Bennett, who is a security forces member of the 68th Information Operations Squadron, and his wife who is a unit 'key spouse,' have served as bowling role models for Christopher, 14; Andrew, 12; Sean, 9; and Ryan, 7.

Carrying a 197 average, Bennett serves as a winter league coach who has helped his family improve their skills.

All four boys have placed in state and local tournaments and have recently

qualified to compete in the state Young American Bowling Alliance tournament June 1 - July 7 in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Tammy Gilbert, assistant manager and youth director at Davis Lanes at Lackland Air Force Base's Kelly Annex, said the Bennett children will be part of three teams being sent from here to the state YABA tournament.

Davis Lanes is home base for the Bennett family whose bowling acumen would have impressed the late Bowling Hall of Famer Earl Anthony.

"Christopher and Andrew started bowling when they were 7 and 5 years old (respectively). Andrew is left handed, but bowls right-handed," said their mother who is no bowling slouch with a very respectable 152 average.

A few weeks ago, she said, Christopher rolled a career high 212 game.

Career high games for Andrew, Sean and Ryan are 150, 155, and 169.

The Bennetts say their sons compete for the fun of the game.

However, someday their competitiveness may help earn them college scholarships.

Many of the tournaments the boys compete in give out scholarship money to the top division winners.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

**The Bennett Bowlers (left to right) Ryan, 7; Sean, 9; Andrew, 12; and Christopher, 14 demonstrate their bowling form at Davis Lanes at Lackland Air Force Base's Kelly Annex. All four boys have placed in state and local tournaments and have recently qualified to compete in the state Young American Bowling Alliance tournament this summer.**

"The kids are having fun and love to bowl in tournaments. It's up to them if they want to advance, so long as they continue to have fun and to improve (their skills)," said their father, refer-

ring to the ultimate amateur bowling challenge: qualifying for the Team USA National Championships.

## U.S. Air Force Marathon on-line registration available

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio)—Online registration is now available for people interested in participating in the 2002 U.S. Air Force Marathon, scheduled for Sept. 21.

All levels of marathoners, including people in wheelchairs, from around the world are invited to participate in the marathon, which is traditionally held the third Saturday of September.

More than 350 runners have already registered, according to Tom Fisher, marathon coordinator.

"That number is double what we had this time

last year," he said.

Those registrants represent 34 states and three countries.

The first U.S. Air Force Marathon was held Sept. 20, 1997 to coincide with the Air Force's 50th anniversary. U.S.A. Track and Field, the governing body of long-distance running in the United States, certified the course in 1997.

Air Force Marathon officials asked for certification in order to assure participants the course is exactly 26 miles, 385 yards.

Participating runners will receive a uniquely designed 2002 Air Force Marathon T-shirt and patch. Participants who finish the marathon within the eight-hour time limit will receive a medallion.

Reduced fees for early registration are available until July 1. Registration deadline is Sept 4.

To register, or for more information, visit the marathon website at: [afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil](http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil) or call the Marathon office at (937)257-4350 or 1-800-467-1823.

## Air Force-NASCAR partners shine at Bristol

By Tech Sgt. Bob Pullen  
Arnold Engineering Development Center Public Affairs

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Long lines outside the Air Force Recruiting tent set in the Bristol Motor Speedway's shadows March 23 looked as if the Air Force were giving away free F-16 rides.

In reality, it was an autograph session with NASCAR driver Elliott Sadler, driver of the Woods Brothers Motorcraft Ford the U.S. Air Force co-sponsors.

The Air Force has helped sponsor the #21 car at NASCAR events for the past two seasons, and Sadler has done his part by helping promote the Air Force to NASCAR fans across the country.

"We were lucky enough to get Elliot (Sadler) to come out for an autograph session here at Bristol," said Senior Master Sgt. Randy Fuller, Air Force Motorsports chief.

"He usually tries to come out and help us whenever he can. He's a great asset for our recruiting efforts."

Sadler attracted even more attention this year at Bristol, being the defending Food City 500 champion.

It was at last year's race that Sadler ran the last 162 laps on the same tires around the .533-mile track to capture his first Winston Cup victory.

During a radio interview at the recruiter tent, Sadler praised his partnership with the Air Force.

"Having the Air Force as a sponsor is a pretty big responsibility," Sadler said.

"The things these men and women in the Air Force do for our country sometimes go unnoticed. So I just want to represent the Air Force the best way I can."

For nearly two hours Sadler signed his name on photos, replica cars, t-shirts, and anything else fans wanted signed. At the same time, fans were taking plenty of Air Force literature and souvenirs, and Air Force recruiters were standing by to answer any questions.

The recruiters weren't the only ones in Air Force blue at Bristol Motorspeedway during the weekend.

Just before the Food City 500 started March 24, members of the Air Force Stars parachute team floated down over the more than 175,000 fans packed into the stands and made pinpoint land

ings at various portions of the track.

Maj. Gen. William Welser III attended, representing the Air Force.

Welser is director of operations and logistics at U.S. Transportation Command headquarters, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

"I'm proud to be able to represent the Air Force today here at Bristol," Welser said.

"The similarity between the Air Force and these NASCAR teams is evident. It takes a lot of teamwork for one of these cars to be successful, just like it takes incredible teamwork for the Air Force to be successful."

The Air Force also provided a fly-by of four T-38s from Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., before the race during the National Anthem.

Sadler's fortunes for the March 24 race weren't as good as last year's. A crash late in the race forced him behind the wall for the end of the Food City 500.

But you can count on the fact that next week the #21 Woods Brothers Ford Motorcraft car will be sporting the Air Force emblem, and trying to make sure that "No One Comes Close."



# Brooks varsity hoop team fails to advance at AFMC tourney

**By Rudy Purificato**

*311th Human Systems Wing*

In a sad ending to a very disappointing season, the Brooks varsity basketball squad made base history by not winning any games at the recently concluded Air Force Material Command tournament held at Kirtland AFB, N.M.

Losing to eventual tournament champion Robins AFB by a mere half-dozen points was no consolation for a team that had high hopes under the first-year mentorship of coach Hosea Talbert.

"This is very different for me," Talbert confessed, explaining that he had hoped for a better showing.

He said, "I come from a winning tradition. In my first year as coach at Mildenhall Air Base (England), I took a team that had not won a single ball game in three years and guided them to the UK (United Kingdom) Conference championship. We took second at the USAFE (U.S. Air Force - Europe) tournament. All they needed was someone to give them guidance."

Talbert had much more to work with

at Brooks, in terms of talent, than the initial Mildenhall AB team he helped turn around. In fact, Brooks won three of its regular season games.

Unfortunately, the Brooks squad did not respond favorably to Talbert's strategies during the tournament.

The command tournament melt down began almost immediately as Brooks showed the opposition its many weaknesses: inconsistent defense, insufficient team cohesion and inexperienced players.

"Some players did not step up to what I thought they were capable of doing," Talbert said.

Two of Brooks's starters played with the intensity and consistency of champions. As a consequence, Rob Taylor and Robert Garcia were again selected to the AFMC All-Tourney Team.

Talbert was philosophical about the dismal outcome. "One good thing about this, they have a year to think about it, and hopefully they won't let this happen to them again," he said.

Talbert's reasoning is sound, based on the history of team sports in which squads that lost the previous year bounced back to win championships.

## HAWC health tips

**By Capt. Risa Riepma**

*Brooks Health and Wellness Center*

### Sexually transmitted disease awareness

Sexually transmitted diseases are those that can be transmitted through sexual contact and include herpes, AIDS, gonorrhea, syphilis, and human papilloma virus.

Some STD's are incurable, but some may be cured if treated promptly. If you suspect that you may have been exposed to an STD and experience genital itching, discharge or burning, see your physician for diagnosis or treatment.

To minimize your chances of contracting a STD, prevention is of utmost importance. If you are not in a monogamous relationship, abstinence is the safest practice. Exploring other types of intimacy such as massage may also reduce your risk. If you do choose to have intercourse, latex condoms and those treated with spermicide containing nonoxynol-9 can help reduce STD's.

STD's can affect everyone. Be aware of your risks and practice safe sex.

For more information, contact the Health and Wellness Center at 536-4292.

## How long has it been since you've looked at your TRICARE options?

TRICARE is the Military Health Care System that covers active duty and family members, retirees and family members under and over age 65. Information will be available at the following facilities to discuss the health care options for TRICARE beneficiaries by age groups.

Briefings and booths are coming to various military installations in San Antonio.

Handout information will be avail-

able at Brooks BXmarket April 5 and May 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Enrollment in TRICARE Prime is available with Brooke Army Medical Center\*, Brooks Clinic, Randolph AFB Clinic, Wilford Hall Medical Center\* and Kelly Clinic, and with Network Civilian Primary Care Providers\*.

For additional questions regarding briefings, call 800-406-2832

\* Enrollment is limited in some clinics.