

DISCOVERY



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

USAFSAM hosts food and water security symposium

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

The U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine hosted the first Homeland Food and Water Security Symposium Aug. 15.

The one-day event addressed the needs of the military and civilian populations to ensure the safety and security of food and water supplies from terrorist attacks.

"Everyday we eat food products that come from 30 different countries," said Maj. Jay Fuller, coordinator of the symposium. "Trying to ensure the security and safety (of the food) is very difficult."

Fuller is the Director of Food Safety at USAFSAM.

The symposium brought together 60 members of the civilian and military communities to examine the threat of a direct attack on food and water supplies within the U.S. and to American citizens abroad.

"(The military) found Al Qaeda plans for water (supply sources) in the United States," Fuller said. "In Italy, we found Al Qaeda members with water supply maps and cyanide on their person."

The morning lectures, given by both military and civilians, included a presentation on the psychology of terrorism, employment screening, the epidemiology of foodborne illness, manufacturing plant security and

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Star spangled tribute

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Brooks' lawyer dances

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Jumper visits training camp

Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, accepts a jersey from Dallas Cowboys' running back Emmitt Smith, #22, during Air Force Day at the Cowboys' preseason training camp at the Alamodome. Cowboys' safety Darren Woodson, #28,

also presented Jumper with a jersey. Jumper, a Texas native swore in 30 Delayed Entry Program recruits on the 50-yard line before the practice. Basic trainees and technical school students from local Air Force bases attended the event.

San Antonio Mayor promotes Southside initiative at recent historic Brooks meeting

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza outlined the city's Southside Initiative for planned urban development during a special meeting of the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce held at Brooks City-Base last week.

The event marked the first time in South Chamber and Brooks history that the city and local leaders conducted official business involving southern sector economic development and urban expansion plans at Brooks.

Attending the meeting were leaders from Brooks City-Base, city staff, the South Chamber board of directors, Palo Alto College and representatives from the San Antonio, Southwest and South San Antonio Independent School Districts.

"This accelerated (growth) zone is the future of San Antonio with its close proximity to the city, Kelly USA and Brooks," Garza said, referring to the planned annexation of 54 square miles of undeveloped and mostly rural

South San Antonio. He added, "The city planning department is assessing opportunities to balance the rural attributes of the area with urban design to create something desirable for development."

Key to this proposed development are southern sector economic anchors that include Brooks City-Base, Kelly USA, Stinson Field and the Avenidas del Rio and Kelly Business Corridors.

The mayor's briefing here is part of a city campaign to garner community support for the Southside Initiative, featuring new urbanization planning principles to link and leverage local resources.

The first of two public hearings on the proposal is scheduled for Sept. 5. The city hopes to implement the annexation by the end of the year.

"Urban planning and land development is my top priority for city growth. We have to improve our neighborhoods, businesses and schools by creating partnerships," Garza said.

In order for the Southside Initiative

to fulfill its potential, the mayor said, all stakeholders must accept the plan's vision.

He outlined the Southside Initiative's five major components that include comprehensive planning, financing, learning, design and living.

While he cited financing as the biggest challenge in the city's plans for southern sector development, the mayor said developing a literate and trained workforce to meet the needs of future high technology businesses is essential for ensuring sustained growth.

He emphasized the need to partner with school districts and institutions of higher learning to explore opportunities and options that promote lifelong learning.

"We must build lifelong learning starting with early childhood development and continuing with job training and workforce development to support targeted industries."

The mayor also shared his comprehensive design plans for

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Commentary



The culture of Air and Space Expeditionary Force and the value of Air Force doctrine

Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

We have come a long way in the difficult process of defining, refining, organizing, deploying, and employing our Air and Space Expeditionary Force (AEF) concept. Despite being involved in three major operations (Operations Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, and Noble Eagle) during the transition, we continue to make steady progress in the manning, equipping, and training of the dedicated forces and in the force flow management that is so critical to their success.

Now I need your personal attention and support in two absolutely vital areas if we are to finally bring the AEF concept on-line in the challenging days ahead. The first area is the adoption of the AEF expeditionary mindset across our Air Force, and the second is the embracing of our doctrinal precepts in the organization and employment of air and space power.

Concerning what I call "The Culture of the Air and Space Expeditionary Force," everyone in the Air Force must understand that the day-to-day operation of the Air Force is absolutely set to the rhythm of the deploying AEF force packages. Essential to this cultural change is our universal understanding that the natural state of our Air Force when we are "doing business" is not home station operations but deployed operations.

The AEF cycle is designed to provide a rhythm for the entire business of our Air Force, from assignment cycles to training cycles and leave cycles. That process needs to be the focus of our daily operational business. We must particularly work to change processes within our own Air Force that reach in and drive requirements not tuned to the deployment rhythm of the AEF. That means that when the 90-day vulnerability window begins, the people in that particular AEF force package are trained, packed, administered, and are either deploying or sitting by the phone expecting to be deployed. There should be no surprises when that phone does ring, and no reclamas that they are not ready. More important, there should be no reclamas because someone other than the AEF Center tasked people in the AEF for non-AEF duties.

So I need your help. Wing commanders should be looking at a slide in daily staff meeting that tracks the training progress and availability of each unit type code preparing to deploy just like we track flight mission capable rates. We should all know what AEF we are in and when we are vulnerable to deploy. You may ask, "What about units that don't deploy?" The answer is that some parts of almost every unit in the Air Force is or will be in a UTC that deploys in the AEF cycle. The purpose of the new Combat Wing Organization is to make some parts of every wing trained and ready to be expeditionary.

The second issue we need to focus on is understanding and adhering to our doctrine. Just as important to the expeditionary culture is the fundamental understanding that we organize, deploy, and employ using organizational principles based on doctrine, not ad hoc command arrangements. Doctrine is not the opinion of the most senior officer present. Years ago we found we had nearly lost our way, and although we were and are magnificent operators, we were wasting time and energy in organizational structures that didn't make sense and were not understood by our people. Neither were they understood or supported by the joint commanders we were sent to support. Worse, this lack of doctrine was causing a "lost patrol" syndrome as we stood up small organizations or



Jumper

deployed with no coherent command and control structure. Since 1996 our focus on doctrine has given us the tools we need. We created a Doctrine Center and took the time at every senior Air Force level to codify what we had experienced in joint and combined planning, deployment, and employment. We agreed and codified those lessons as our best practices and issued them as our first comprehensive and integrated set of doctrine. Chief among those documents were AFDD-1 and AFDD-2, which laid out not only what we believe about the proper application of air and space power, but also the proper way to organize, present, deploy, and employ air and space power. We continue to institutionally review and improve those concepts to ensure they stand the test of time as well as to make sure that we transform with the times.

Two principles — Unity of Command and Centralized Control/Decentralized Execution — are the key pillars of our doctrine. We believe that airmen work for airmen and the senior airman works for the joint force commander. These precepts have served us well over time, but we airmen are plagued by bad habits — over the years we have not formed good habits in reading and practicing our own doctrine. When I review our laydown of forces in recent contingencies and exercises, I see some improvement, but not what we should expect from Air Force leadership that understands and enforces our doctrine. Despite the fact that AFDD-2 provides us with a clear view and ample examples of how we should best organize and present our forces, I still see instances where we have not established a Commander Air Force Forces, where we have deployed multiple squadrons to the same bases with no Air Force command element and no clear line of Air Force authority to any commander. Additionally, even in our permanently based force we can still point to units quartered on the same base or geographically separated units, but reporting up separate chains, some even linked to functional stovepipes rather than to a commander. In most cases we don't even notice doctrinal negligence because our airmen are such superb operators — we'll get the job done even in a lousy organization. We need to fix this for them. We know how to do it right: we've taken the time to argue it out, write it down and publish it.

I realize that doctrine is by design authoritative but not directive; however, if we haven't read it, it is neither. In the normal circumstance doctrine is the best way to proceed and if we must deviate, there should be a clear and compelling operational reason. I need you to help me bring discipline to the system and the way we deploy and employ our forces. The basics are simple: when we deploy we should be in a Wing, Group, Squadron or Flight. There should be a clear chain of command to a Commander of Air Force Forces. A deployed expeditionary unit should look like the Combat Wing Organization we are a part of back home. We should read AFDD-1 and AFDD-2.

An expeditionary mindset across our Air Force and an in-depth understanding of our force presentation doctrine are fundamental to the success of our AEF if we are to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. I will count on you to be out front with me in getting these messages clearly explained and understood across our great Air Force.



Safety

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“Food and water carry the potential for a much larger number of casualties than the military has experienced from terrorist attacks over the last 20 years.”

Maj. Jay Fuller
U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

potential for a much larger number of casualties than the military has experienced from terrorist attacks over the last 20 years,” Fuller said. “It’s a need that must be addressed.”

The protection from such attacks must come from the source, not the consumer.

Although certain quality assurance guidelines have always been in place, the pressing question now is how to protect food and water sources from a deliberate attack.

The symposium gave the military a venue to share their knowledge with the civilian population, and gave various organizations a chance to network with a large cross-section of

water vulnerability.

“We addressed the food from farm to fork,” Fuller said. “Food can be more at risk (than water) because there are so many sources.”

The afternoon session focused on terrorist profiles and operations and operational risk management. The Air Force pioneered the ORM risk assessment methodology for food supplies, which has been adopted by many federal and state agencies.

Fuller selected the speakers and topics based on knowledge from the course he teaches on food safety and the topics he thought could most benefit the food suppliers and the government.

“Based on the format of the Homeland Security Symposium that USAFSAM hosted in March, I was able to specifically focus this workshop to the food industry,” Fuller said.

The U.S. president declared food and water critical infrastructures that present a security concern for both military and civilian society members.

According to information provided at the symposium, 89 percent of attacks on food and water sources have been chemical. Many of these chemicals are difficult to detect or destroy in food.

“Food and water carry the

the food community.

“This type of symposium embodies the Brooks City-Base concept of military, civilian and university partnering,” Fuller said.

“It’s a great opportunity to improve our Homeland Security through education of the private sector and improved interagency cooperation between other military branches, state, and federal agencies.

Participants in the symposium included representatives from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Luby’s, HEB, various universities, Domino’s Pizza, the Texas Department of Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration.

At the end of the event, symposium participants were given an anonymous questionnaire. The respondents agreed the information provided during the symposium was both relevant and necessary. Feedback also suggested the event be lengthened to two days to allow for more in-depth coverage of the topics.

Plans for future related efforts include expanded training for the food industry and collaborative training programs with the U.S. Army, the USDA, and Texas A&M University.

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Meeting

Continued from Page 1

southside development based on new urbanization ideas that integrates neighborhoods with schools, commercial areas and public spaces through a mixed-used approach to urban growth.

“I’m sincere about doing something innovative, but we need to work together,” Garza said, adding, “Do we maintain the status quo or do we look at new strategies to create growth?”

He said the challenge of growth is not just confined to one part of the city, but is an over-reaching issue that ultimately affects the entire metropolitan area.

He said his biggest challenge is to convey the city’s long-term vision for economic development by changing perceptions and creating investment opportunities.

The mayor praised the vision and leadership that created Brooks City-Base and thanked the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce for its many years of promoting economic development initiatives.

“The southside has certainly become a player and leader of what’s happening in San Antonio,” said Garza of plans being developed here that potentially will have a major impact on the city’s future prosperity.

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Dodd to speak at Brooks Toastmasters

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd will share some of the secrets of his success as a communicator during his featured address at the Brooks Toastmasters meeting scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Aug. 28 in Bldg. 578's Room 218.

The event is free and open to the entire Brooks community.

The 311th Human Systems Wing commander's topic is "How communication skills need to evolve throughout a career."

"It's the first time that General Dodd has addressed our group," said 1st Lt. Mike Wyman, event organizer.

The general will share several personal anecdotes that helped him develop as a public speaker.

Wyman hopes for a large turnout to hear Dodd, whose eloquence and humor are well known to anyone on base who has attended a 311th HSW commander's call.

Wyman is especially interested in what Dodd has to say because of his own commitment to improving his communication skills.

"I joined Toastmasters after I realized that I was relying on briefing slides to communicate. I was getting sloppy with my communication skills," Wyman confessed.

Toastmasters meetings are a learning venue for both audiences and speakers. Participants are exposed to a wide range of topics designed to enhance interpersonal skills.

Communication is key to Toastmasters International, which was founded in 1924.

The Brooks chapter is one of more than 8,000 worldwide that features a membership exceeding three million people.

Anyone interested in joining the Brooks Toastmasters or serving as a speaker should contact 2nd Lt. Kevin Wegener, chapter president, at 536-6556 or Wyman at 536-8614.

Brooks selectees

The following Brooks senior airmen were selected for promotion to staff sergeant. This list is broken down by organization:

68th Information Operations Squadron

Lester Eckman
Norman Gadson, Jr.
Jason Drehobl
Annie Laura Jaime
Richard Martinez
Stephen Ralph
Enrico Salabarria
John Steagall

311th Air Base Group

Raul Olivares
Michele Kemple
Kimberly Parks

311th Medical Squadron

Jim Sanchezcabrera
Joseph Harvey
Teresa Lenehan

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

Steven Conrad

311th Security Forces Squadron

Andrew Adam
Jeffrey Blankenship
Arturo Dominguez
Ermond Gates
Kevin Jones
Brandon Sorgenfrei
Shawn Trotter

311th Human Systems Wing Financial Management

Rosana Garcia

Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health

Risk Analysis

James Baluyot
Trisha Podsiadlo
Jennifer Rigney
Joseph Shuerger
Crystal Stokely
Travis Tucker
Nyaunuwi Wilson

Air Force Research Laboratory

Angelica Broner
Cecil Hauser III

Air Force Medical Support Agency

Tamara Thiecke

Congratulations!

New Defense Department drug policy expands testing to catch more use

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is continuing its anti-drug efforts with a new policy that involves more frequent random testing of active duty military, reservists and civilian employees.

The new policy reflects the reality that the nation is at war, Andre Hollis, deputy assistant secretary of defense for counternarcotics, said.

"It's even more critical during war that our service members are mentally alert and physically fit. Drug use is inconsistent with that," he emphasized. "I'm sure that's the message you'll hear from the NCOs all the way up to the secretary of defense."

"We're going to increase our testing across all the services — active, National Guard and Reserve," Hollis said. "That's very important, because all of our men and women in uniform and civilian members of DoD are involved in this war effort. It's critical that we all give 100 percent and that we're drug-free and able to help the secretary and the president in this war on terror."

Hollis said the new policy also calls for minimum, across-the-board consequences for anyone in DoD — military or civilian — caught using drugs. He said that he noticed during his review that rules varied across the services regarding drug use.

For example, he explained, in the past service members of different branches found

using drugs under the same circumstances might have received different punishments. DoD is working closely with the services to come up with minimum uniformity to improve not only the sense of fairness, but also the clarity of the message, he said.

Hollis noted that message is simple: Drug use is incompatible with military service or civilian employment at DoD.

"Drug use is not going to be tolerated. There are going to be consequences," he emphasized. "We will not tolerate it." Abusers, he said, could be subject to dishonorable discharges, dismissals, prison time, fines and criminal records.

Responding to some media reports that allege a great increase in illegal drug use within the military, Hollis asserted, "Not so."

Recent DoD statistics bear out his contention there is no drug epidemic in the ranks. There is, however, a modest increase in the overall percentage of active duty troops testing positive for so-called club drugs during the past three years, he noted.

Hollis explained the increase by noting that more random testing by the services in recent years has been catching more drug users. Under the new policy, random drug testing will become even more frequent.

Second, the services have significantly increased their ability to test for club drugs increasingly favored by younger people, he said. Upgraded laboratory technology also enables testers to detect a subject's drug use further back in time than was previously

possible, he added.

Hollis noted that marijuana continues to be active service members' illegal drug of choice — used by 70 percent of the 16,759 drug abusers caught in fiscal 2001, down a few percentage points from 2000. The other drugs in the top three most abused by service members are cocaine and methamphetamine (speed). Ecstasy is a close fourth.

Drug abuse degrades performance, Hollis continued, and it may also cause well-documented adverse health effects. DoD medical experts point to recent studies that show users can suffer permanent brain damage from even one small dose of ecstasy.

Hollis said the new DoD policy will simultaneously encourage and educate service members to avoid drug use. DoD's zero tolerance on drug use will also be made clear to potential recruits, he added.

"We don't want people who are going to take drugs," Hollis said. "We want the 'best and brightest.' If you're going to take drugs, go somewhere else."

Service members in particular, he said, should recognize that today's world is a dangerous place. "You may be called upon to defend the country. You can't do that if you're 'high,'" he said.

"We want to make sure our policies are clear and that the consequences for breaking those policies are also clear," Hollis concluded.



Star spangled tribute honors Armed Forces

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Hailed by military retirees who have flocked to sold-out performances as one of the greatest musical extravaganzas to honor America's Armed Forces, the Josephine Theatre has extended its star spangled tribute "Oh Say Can You Swing!" to Oct. 13.

The show, which opened July 20 to rave reviews, had been originally scheduled to close Aug. 31. Air Force retirees have led a groundswell of support for a show so spectacular that they advise future patrons to bring with them dancing shoes and a box of Kleenex.

"It brought back so many memories. This is really spectacular. It stirred my heart. It's hard to explain how I feel, but I'm re-living the years spent with my husband," said Kay Smith, widow of an Air Force retiree. Air Force retirees Frank and Sarah Patterson said this production rivals U.S.O. shows they saw in the 1950s that featured former members of the Glenn Miller orchestra.

The musical tribute, a first for the Josephine Theatre, features a breathtaking array of 89 songs that take audiences on a musical journey through World Wars I and II, the Great Depression,

U.S.O. shows and Big Band swing.

"It's something that I've always wanted to do. The timing was right, especially with a resurgence of patriotism in America," said the show's director/choreographer Missy Miller. Miller and musical director Darrin Dziergowski collaborated on this original production which was developed for the San Antonio stage a few months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"One of the biggest challenges for the cast was learning all of the material," Miller said, noting that they had enough material to stage two separate musicals. Besides selecting the music, Miller and Dziergowski had to compose the myriad of arrangements for non-stop musical numbers which are separated only by brief narrative interludes that describe the history of the musical eras being reproduced.

The hit show is divided into two acts featuring a seven-piece swing band. An ensemble cast of eight highly energetic and talented performers dance, sing and humorously interact with audiences that are often spellbound by the dozens of costume changes and frenetic pace of the show.

Every song performed was a hit during its time and represents a nostalgic salute to some of American music's greatest composers and singers to include George Cohan, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Bing Crosby, Benny Goodman, Harry James, Dinah Shore, the Andrew Sisters, Kate Smith and Harry Connick, Jr.

A dance held one hour prior to the show where couples can dance on stage to live music performed by the swing band enhances the patrons' musical experience.

"We're also planning a gala on Sept. 11. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the San Antonio Firefighters Association," Miller said. Besides the show, the gala features food, wine and a silent auction.

As a result of the show's



A Star Spangled Musical

popularity, a sequel is planned called "Oh Say Can You Swing Some More!"

"We're going to include all of the music that we didn't use in the first show," Miller said of the new production that premieres in September.

Ethel Pedraza and her 89-year-old mother Manuelita from Saltillo, Mexico, are longtime Josephine Theatre patrons who plan to see the sequel. The elder Pedraza witnessed the birth of most of the music performed in the original production of "Oh Say Can You Swing." The music

honoring the military is particularly poignant to her because she remembers fellow countrymen who formed the 201st Fighter Squadron, a volunteer unit that served with the U.S. Army Air Corps in support of America's war effort.

Performances for "Oh Say Can You Swing" are held Fridays and Saturdays at 8:15 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

For tickets call 734-4646 or visit the box office at 339 W. Josephine St.

The box office is closed Mondays.

55th Air Force Anniversary Ball

"We Are Still Here"

September 13, Brooks Club

Social Hour: 6-7 p.m.

Military: Mess Dress/semi-formal

Civilian: after-five attire

Speaker: Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force (ret)

Robert Gaylor

Price: dependent on rank or grade

See unit ticket representatives or First Sergeants to purchase tickets.

Training honors Women's Equality Day

By Wanda Jackson

Federal Women Program Manager

The U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day" in 1971 to honor women's continuing efforts toward equality.

Referred to as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, it states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

The Brooks' Special Emphasis Program Managers, in collaboration with the San Antonio Federal Women's Program Council, host an official day of training in observance of the Women's Equality Day Aug.

26 at Kelly Field Club, Kelly USA.

The training is open to all federal employees and offers informational topics valuable to all federal employees.

Lt. Col. Consuelo Kickbush, who is noted for her dynamic and powerful motivational messages, is scheduled as the keynote speaker.

The cost for the full day of training is \$40.

To register, complete the registration form and a DD Form 1556, and return both forms to a special emphasis program manager.

For additional information contact Wanda Jackson, Federal Women's Program Manager at 536-2447.



In AFCEE's reverse auctions the lowest bidder wins

By Gil Dominguez

Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

It's similar to eBay, but with a twist. In the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence's version, the lowest bidder wins - not the highest.

The environmental center is trying out a "reverse auction" procedure that allows contractors to bid on some center work via the Internet. It's called a reverse auction because firms try to outbid each other by lowering the amount of their bids.

The initial auction, a first for AFCEE and Brooks, was held June 26. It involved a small number of companies competing for a job constructing a motorized security gate at an installation in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

The competition began at 9 a.m. and was over by about 9:48, with the lowest bid coming in at \$39,000.

The AFCEE personnel involved in the program's development said they were happy with the way the event turned out.

"I thought it was great," said Roger Wilkison, technical program manager for the environmental minor construction and operations and services contract. "We knew what to expect because we had already done in-house testing and conducted some training for the contractors."

The bidding reached its peak toward the end of the auction, which also was expected.

Contractors were notified in advance that an auction was to be held and issued a login identification and

password so they could access the auction Web site. Contractors who were interested in taking part were asked to submit technical proposals, which were reviewed by Wilkison, the project engineer.

The Web site is designed with administrative controls that lock out companies whose proposals don't meet technical requirements and, thus, are ineligible to participate.

"We were extremely pleased at how the auction was organized, coordinated and executed," commented Pat McMullen, program manager with Cape Environmental, the firm that submitted the winning bid. "Both the contracting and technical staff did an excellent job of putting it together. The auction went off exactly as they indicated it would."

With only minor modifications, future auctions will operate the same way. AFCEE officials will set a date and time for the auction and eligible contractors will log in and bid against one another. "What they are able to see on their end is whether they are or not the current low bidder," explained Wilkison. "Throughout the process they aren't able to see who the other contractors are. They have no idea who they're bidding against."

In the future, companies will be able to create and change their own passwords, instead of obtaining them from AFCEE. This should enhance contractor confidentiality, officials said.

EMCOS contracting officer Gerardo Villarreal, of the Environmental

Contracting Directorate, said the size of the contract will determine the dollar amount each company may lower its bid to to win the competition.

The auction continues as long as there is bidding going on. If there are no new bids within five minutes of the previous one, the auction stops. A new bid, however, extends the process for another five minutes.

"That keeps someone from coming in with one second left in the auction, submitting a bid and not giving someone the opportunity to respond," Wilkison explained.

A virtual clock that beats backward will be added to show bidders how much time is left in the auction.

The company that enters the winning bid is announced as the "apparent low bidder" and is required to send AFCEE an actual cost proposal, which is evaluated by officials. The contractor then submits a confirmation of negotiation letter and is awarded the job. However, if the cost proposal is not acceptable to AFCEE, the government reserves the right to reject that contractor and go to the next lowest bidder.

The idea to conduct an auction for AFCEE work was born two years ago during the development of the EMCOS contract. It was suggested by Gary Erickson, AFCEE director.

As its name indicates, the environmental minor construction and operations and services contract is meant to primarily support low-dollar, non-complex projects on bases in the continental U.S.

"Right now we can use it (the reverse auction) only on a firm fixed price basis," said Villarreal. "It has to be for a simple, well-defined project," and the customer must be willing to let AFCEE use the auction to select a contractor for a base project.

AFCEE contracting officials emphasized that reverse auction is being tested on a limited basis only on EMCOS and there are currently no plans to use it outside this contracting tool.

Since there is always the potential for technical problems, the auction be monitored at all times.

"We're always near a phone in case something goes wrong technically," said Wilkison. "We can also be reached by e-mail."

"It's just one tool in the AFCEE toolbox," he said. Col. Sam Garcia, AFCEE executive director, agreed.

"It must be stressed that this isn't necessarily the be-all and end-all, and it's not right for every occasion," he said. "It works well for some (EMCOS) jobs but for others it may be totally inappropriate. The fact that we've added this to our toolbox makes it exciting for us."

He added that companies will decide for themselves when and if they want to participate in a reverse auction and pick and choose the EMCOS jobs they want to go after.

Gil.Dominguez@brooks.af.mil



ACTION LINE

536-2222

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
BXMarket	533-9079
Brooks City-Base Project Office	536-6626

and much more.



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Sponsor Training

Sept. 10, 10-11 a.m., 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, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

Bundles for babies, expectant parents session

8 a.m. - noon, Sept. 11, Bldg. 537 —

Active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or expecting a child should plan to attend this Air Force Aid Society sponsored class. Obtain information about budgeting, basic baby care, infant development, effective parenting, car seat regulations,

Three-day transition seminar

8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sept. 24-26, Bldg. 537 —

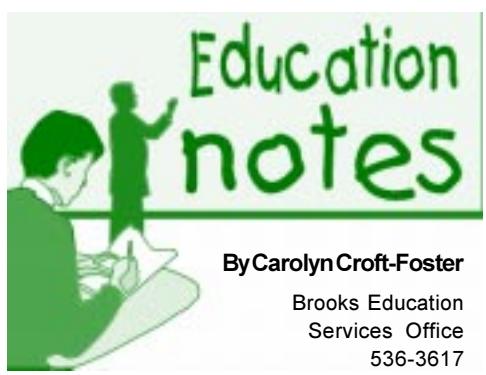
Making the transition from the military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve separating and retiring members and their spouses. Topics include job search preparation, resume writing, interviewing skills to include appropriate dress, veteran's benefits, and much more. Members should attend at least 180 days prior to retirement/separation.



Courtesy photo

Taking a bite out of crime

Col. Albert Bowley, (left), 311th Air Base Group commander, and McGruff the Crime Dog kicked-off the recent National Night Out Against Crime activities at the Brooks Youth Center. The annual event is intended to help fight crime and strengthen drug prevention efforts by sending a message of unity to criminals. Base housing residents were encouraged to lock their doors and leave their porch lights on throughout the evening.



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

Tuition assistance policy changes

Air Force members soon will benefit from a new Department of Defense tuition assistance policy that pays 100 percent of tuition for off-duty courses, according to Air Force education officials. This policy, effective Oct. 1, 2002, will pay tuition costs and mandatory fees for up to a maximum of \$250 per semester hour, or \$750 per three-hour course. The policy also includes a

\$4,500-per-year tuition assistance ceiling. Under the new policy, as long as the total cost falls under the authorized total, the student has no out-of-pocket expense for tuition. However, tuition assistance cannot be used to pay for textbooks unless they are included in an academic institution's published tuition rates, he said.

The increase to 100 percent tuition assistance was authorized by Congress two years ago but was not funded until fiscal 2003. The tuition assistance program is the same across the entire Defense Department. Each service had two years to develop a plan to make the programs work together. For more information regarding the new tuition assistance policy, contact Education Services in Bldg. 558.

ROTC application deadline

Airmen interested in applying for the Airman Scholarship and

Commissioning Program, Scholarship for Outstanding Airmen to ROTC, or the Professional Officers Course-Early Release Program must have applications completed and submitted to Education Services by Oct. 1 for the Oct. 15 board. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment to review application requirements.

Oct. 4, need to reserve their seat by Sept. 6. Regular CLEP and DSST testing is available every Friday at 8 a.m. by appointment only.

Call 536-3617 to reserve a seat.

Participants can increase Montgomery GI Bill

Active-duty personnel, currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5400 for a maximum contribution of \$600. This payment increases the full-time monthly rate one dollar for every four dollars contributed. The minimum payment is \$20 per month.

Contributions can be started and stopped at any time while the participant is on active duty.

This benefit is only open to personnel who first entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985, and elected to participate in the MGIB. This MGIB feature is NOT open to Vietnam-Era or VEAP Convertees.

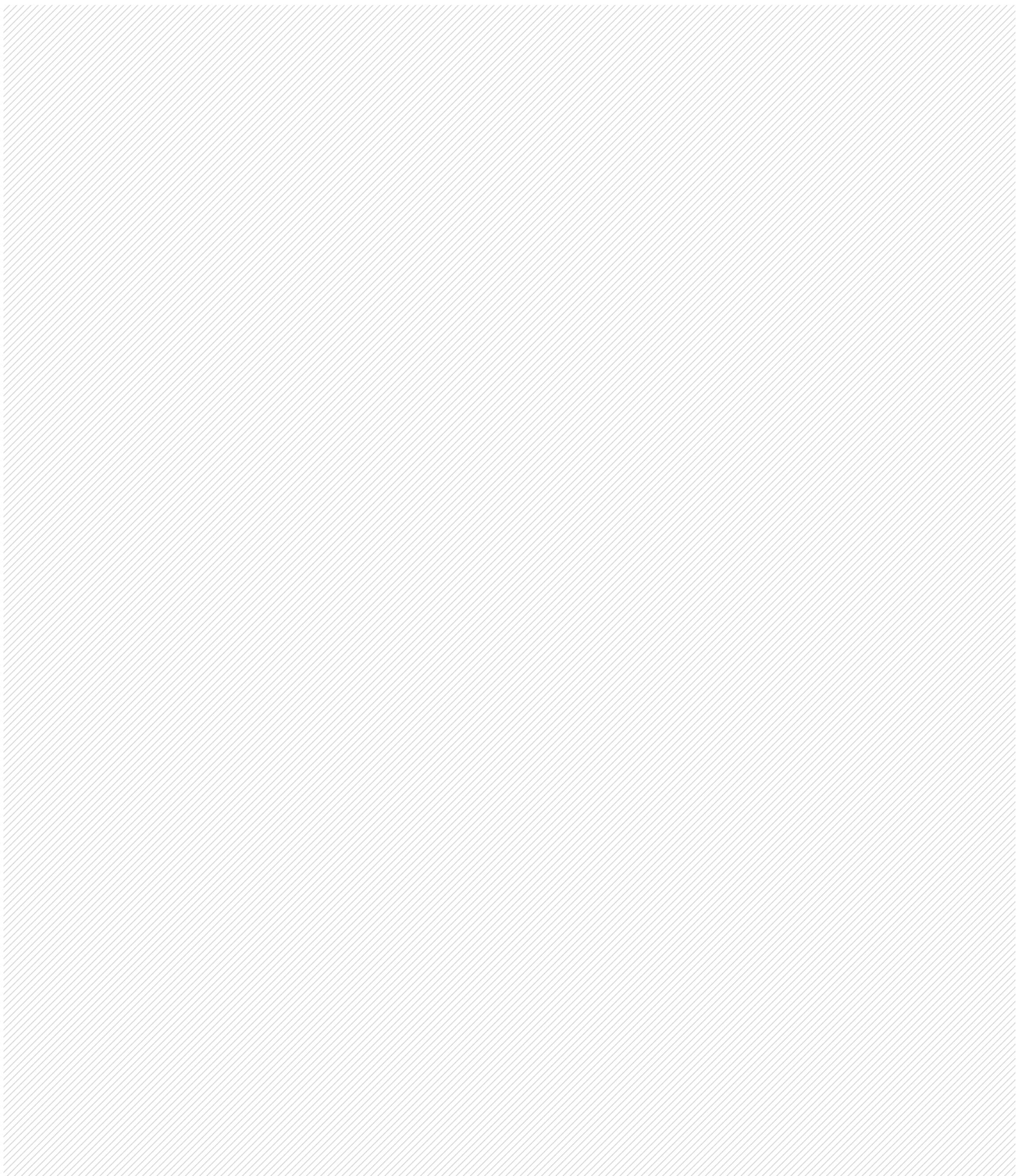
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

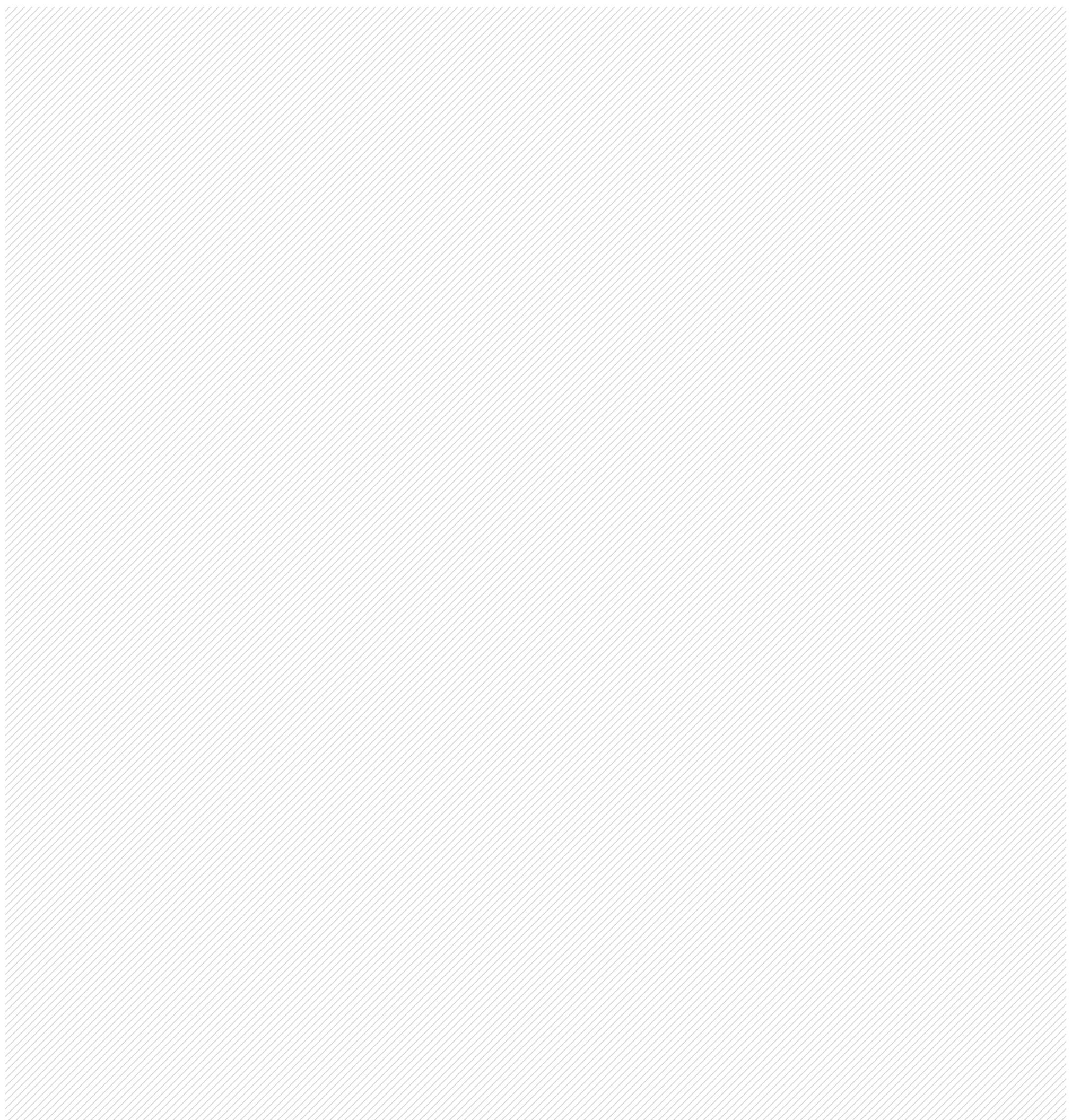
The ERAU representative visits Brooks every other Wednesday morning. To schedule an appointment with the representative to review graduate and bachelor's degree options, call 536-3618.

Essay Exam test dates

Students wishing to take the Excelsior Essay Exams Oct. 4 need to request their exams by Aug. 30.

Students wishing to take the CLEP English with Essay, also scheduled for







DEERS enrollment

The Department of Defense deadline for beneficiaries to update their eligibility in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and remain eligible for TRICARE for Life is Sept. 1. After that claims will be denied and no longer sent electronically from Medicare to TRICARE for payment until the eligibility information is updated. Check the TRICARE web site at: www.tricare.osd.mil/tfl, for more information.

Enlisted ceremony

The next Brooks enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for Aug. 29 at 3 p.m. in the Brooks Club, Bldg. 204.

All enlisted promotees will be recognized for their promotion to the next higher grade for September. Come out and support the newest promotees.

Altitude test subjects

Scientists at Brooks need a number of volunteer subjects to participate in hypobaric altitude chamber research projects.

Air Force aircrew members who are interested and meet 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.

Sleep research participants

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers to participate in a number of ongoing sleep research studies.

Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet the necessary qualifications are eligible to receive compensation starting at \$10 per hour.

NEWS briefs

Contact Laura Sanchez at 536-3615 for additional information, or visit the website at: www.ntiinc.com and link to "studies".

Official travel briefings

Two sessions of Joint Official Travel Briefings are scheduled for Aug. 28. The briefings are conducted by the Traffic Management Office, the Accounting Finance Office and the Commercial Travel Office. Two sessions are held in Bldg. 775, from 8-11 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m., and cover the same material. The briefings are offered to all official travelers, resource advisors and anyone interested in learning the most current travel information.

Seating is limited. Call the traffic management office at 536-2690 for reservations.

Periodontics dept. seeks patients

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

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

Eligible patients must obtain a written consult from their referring dentist. It may be faxed to "Attention: Periodontics," at 292-5193 or brought to the MacKown Dental Clinic during business hours.

A periodontal evaluation appointment will be scheduled at that time. Patients are 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. However, treatment under this program does not include fillings, braces, crowns or bridgework.

For more information, call 292-7273.

San Antonio Cruiser Sailors

The San Antonio Cruiser Sailors Chapter of the U.S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Association is trying to locate all cruiser crewmembers living in the San Antonio area.

Monthly meetings promote comradeship and the spinning of war stories.

Meetings are open to prior or current military personnel in all branches of service and are held locally.

Cruiser crewmembers or interested parties may contact Jim Patin Sr., at 656-4410 for more information on meetings.

37th Radio Squadron Mobile Unit reunion

The 37th Radio Squadron Mobile unit, later named the 6952nd RSM, headquartered at RAF Kirknewton, Scotland, hosts their second-ever reunion Sept. 19-20 in San Antonio.

The unit closed June 1966, but anyone who was ever assigned to RAF Kirknewton, Scotland, is invited to attend.

Contact Jim Adkinson at 509-8444, or by email at: jopar3@aol.com; or Roger Egger at 432-3075, or by email at: regger@aol.com.

TRICARE adds Walgreens

If you are eligible for TRICARE, you can fill prescriptions at Walgreens by presenting a military identification card, or TRICARE Prime card and paying the copayment.

Pharmacy copayments are \$3 for generic medications and \$9 for brand name medications.

Active Duty Service Members do not pay copayments for prescriptions at retail network pharmacies. A complete list of network pharmacy locations is available at: www.hnfs.net.

For detailed information on TRICARE pharmacy benefits, contact the TRICARE Service Center at (800) 406-2832.



Feature



Zimmer

Q&A

FULL NAME:
Bill Zimmer

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Chief, government purchase card
program for Brooks City-Base.

WHAT IS MY JOB?
I manage all GPC credit cards for not
only here at Brooks but 15 outside
locations. I set up new accounts, do audits,
train on the use of credit cards, teach how
to use the computer to track accounts
under the U.S. Bank CARE system.

BIRTHDAY:
Nov. 7, 1946

HOMETOWN:
Born in Dayton, Ohio

FAMILY STATUS:
Family in Ohio

NICKNAME:
Zim

MOTTO:
Just DON'T SAY no— find a way to
help our customers

INSPIRATIONS:
President Kennedy

HOBBIES:
Golfing, reading short novels and traveling.

PET PEEVE:
People who won't help someone in a time
of need, and people who are negative.

BOOK(S) AT BEDSIDE:
Leadership, by Colin Powell

I JOINED CIVIL SERVICE BECAUSE:
After Vietnam, I wanted to find one way
or another to try and make a difference
to save pilots lives.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:
I want to take the GPC program to the
goal, doing major contracts using the
card as a payment method, and
keeping this program one of the best in
the DoD. I also plan to retire here in San
Antonio in the next four or five years.

ULTIMATE GOAL:
Retire

IF I WON THE LOTTERY:
I'd retire and play golf around the
world

FAVORITE MUSIC:
Soft jazz and country

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
is serving my country in Vietnam.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
my two hole-in-one trophies, my golf cart,
the Zim Mobile, and being presented the
Quality of Life — Lifetime Achievement
Award from 311HSW/PK last year.

Brooks Personality PROFILE

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

"It's a great day, because you woke up today. Take one day at a time. Life's too short. Enjoy life."

Sometimes people speak volumes with a few, short sentences.

When Bill Zimmer uttered those words, he was sharing the message he would like to leave to others. However, he also summed up his personal philosophy, one of the driving forces in his own life and how his life has changed as he has matured.

Zimmer enjoys life by being passionate about his activities, both work and play.

He supervises the government purchase card office at Brooks and is in charge of the GPC Program for Brooks City-Base.

"I absolutely love this program," Zimmer said, grinning.

Zimmer tracks the spending on the various cards, 432 cards and 78 billing officials, to ensure that the cardholders do not use the cards fraudulently.

"Violations at Brooks, compared to other bases is basically nil," Zimmer said.

Most cards have a single-item spending limit of \$2,500, but the limits theoretically can be increased infinitely.

"In the future, (the Department of Defense) is going to pay major contracts with the GPC," Zimmer said.

Using the GPC card provides benefits to the buyer, supplier and the government. Once the card is swiped the U.S. Bank sends the money to the supplier's bank immediately and once a month the DoD pays U.S. Bank. The immediate transfer allows the customer to get the product more quickly, the supplier to get the money more quickly and the government to save money on interest.

"This is the greatest thing in the world," Zimmer said, describing the process. As he explains the GPC program, his face lights up and he looks almost giddy.

The GPC replaced purchase orders, which could take 2-4 weeks to process.

Zimmer has been working in the GPC office since 1999, when he transferred from the Human Systems Office.

While working at the SPO, Zimmer helped negotiate the Underwater Activated Release System. The device works by releasing the parachute from a pilot when the pilot hits saltwater. This prevents the chute from catching the wind and dragging the pilot over the waves, causing death by beating.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Taking life one moment at a time

"We were losing pilots that way," Zimmer said.

By working on the UWARS, Zimmer achieved a goal he'd had since Vietnam.

"I wanted to help save pilots' lives," he said.

Zimmer enlisted in the Army after high school to support his country during the Vietnam War.

In doing so, Zimmer, an avid sports fan, gave up a chance to play professional baseball. He had been drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies.

"I don't have any regrets about my life," Zimmer said.

What Zimmer doesn't say about Vietnam tells more about his experience than his words. When asked questions he answers slowly and carefully. His words never judge protesters, though he does explain that they were ignorant to the situation.

"I don't condone what happened to the students at Kent State," Zimmer said. "But I don't have a great sorrow in my heart for what happened to them either. They don't know what happened over there to those men, women and children."

"Vietnam was a different war, fought underground, in the jungles, in the swamps and in the rice paddies," he added. "There were a lot of drugs."

Zimmer spent much of the war in a "career field" which he is very hesitant to discuss, even today.

Suffice to say that his job was to seek out the enemy and the enemies' resources and neutralize them on the spot. That experience, more than anything else, is what feeds his philosophy. However, he has never done any drugs, or anything illegal, something in which he takes a lot of pride, especially since the soldiers in Vietnam were under such psychological stress.

"The first time you fire a rifle and you're firing at someone, it changes you," Zimmer said. "I stayed clean. When I first landed in Vietnam, I didn't think I'd ever come home again. I turned 21 in Vietnam."

Zimmer has a map of Vietnam on his wall in the office with the places where he camped marked. He also has a more poignant reminder of the sacrifices in the war. When he visited the Vietnam Memorial, he

bought a poster in the gift shop, picturing part of the wall. The part of the wall depicted includes the name of a man with whom he served.

Though Zimmer said he thinks of the war everyday, he has learned to take pleasure from each day. An avid golfer with a seven handicap, he owns a golf cart and plans to get a job in some aspect of golf when he retires.

"With golf there are so many avenues to go into," Zimmer said. "I could work in major golf tournaments. Time won't mean anything once you retire. Tuesday is Sunday."

Zimmer also enjoys baseball and football and has season tickets to the Cincinnati Reds and Bengals, his favorite teams.

Zimmer goes home once or twice a year to visit his "large Catholic family."

"When we have Christmas parties, there are over 100 people there now," he said, laughing. One of those almost always in attendance is Uncle Don - better known to the sports world as Don "Popeye" Zimmer, Joe Torre's right hand man as bench coach of the New York Yankees.

Zimmer also loves to travel and has been all around the United States as well as to Canada, Germany, Israel and Ireland. He went to Ireland on a golfing trip with three friends.

"It was beautiful," he said.

While there, he played at St. Andrew's in Scotland, which is now his favorite course.

When he isn't golfing, traveling or watching sports - or working - Zimmer works in his yard. He recently received the Yard-of-the-Month Award for his neighborhood.

Whatever endeavor he chooses to pursue at the time, Zimmer keeps in mind that the present is what matters, because tomorrow may never come.

"Too many things happen that you can't control," Zimmer said.

So he'll continue to concern himself with what he can control, enjoying every moment.



Brooks dancer's Latin moves light up ballroom

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

If a Brooks attorney could have her way she would do more than the old popular song "I Could Have Danced All Night" suggests. For now, she is content in filling much of her off-duty time preparing for and competing in ballroom dancing.

"I've always loved to dance," said Capt. Julie Jiru, who trained in ballet and tap dancing as a youngster.

The gregarious 28-year-old Brooks Staff Judge Advocate lawyer, however, has come a long way from her early years imitating the jazz dancing moves of entertainer Paula Abdul to competing at the professional level in ballroom dancing's Latin competition.

In March, this Mississippi native competed in Houston at the Texas Challenge Dance Sport Championship. "We finished second in our division. We had never competed together. I had never danced at that level," Jiru said of her partnering with San Antonio radio disc jockey Jason McClellan.

The pair spent four months preparing for the event to compete in two classic Latin dances: the rumba and cha cha.

"I was really nervous. The last time I had competed was five years ago in college," Jiru admits. Enhancing her



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Julie Jiru and dance partner Jason McClellan practice moves with the help of their coach, Esteban Cardenas, in preparation for the Latin dance competition.

anxiety was the complexity of the Latin motions that their coach Esteban Cardenas had choreographed.

"It's innovative and flashier. That's the type of dancing Jason and I do."

Precise timing and reacting quickly to changing situations on the dance floor are two key elements that Jiru learned when she began ballroom dancing in 1996 as a freshman at the University of Texas in Austin. Her campus ballroom

dance club participation initially provided Jiru training in classic ballroom dances including the fox trot, waltz and tango.

Jiru eventually became enamored with American rhythm, which encompasses the more flamboyant and passionately expressive Latin dances.

"It's just more fun, dramatic and lively. There's a lot more self-expression and more chemistry (expressed) with your partner," she confessed. She enjoyed great success as a national collegiate champion in tango.

She resumed her ballroom dancing career after earning a law degree and Air Force commission. Jiru didn't "miss a beat" when she returned to competition. However, she now knows the full meaning conveyed in the Dance Sport Championship's moniker "Texas Challenge."

"Something funny happened," conveyed Jiru about a miscue that occurred. "The cha cha was first, but a samba beat came on. Someone had keyed up the wrong music. I started to move around, but then the music was cut off," Jiru recalls. While their concentration was momentarily interrupted, she and her partner recovered.

"With all of the excitement and energy of competing, the hardest thing to do is keeping the timing to certain beats. You also have to make sure you don't run

into other dancers," she explains. Their freestyle type choreography posed an even greater challenge to them.

"You begin a Latin dance apart (from your partner)," Jiru said, explaining that 'breaking,' a term describing the beginning of a movement, must be executed on every beat.

Dancers average about 100 separate movements during musical numbers. The dance team must have enough choreographed material to precisely cover a two-minute rumba routine and one-and-a-half minutes for cha cha.

"I was gasping for breath. Your mouth goes dry," Jiru said in describing the condition she was in after her high-energy performance. Competitors are given only 10 seconds rest between dances.

Nevertheless, Jiru enjoyed the thrill of competing again.

"It's a huge commitment," she said of the time, money and resources devoted to ballroom dancing.

Among the finer details associated with this entertainment activity are dancers' costumes. For men, tailored outfits are designed for both esthetics and utility.

"Their tuxedos are custom-made without shoulder pads so that their shoulders don't (appear to) rise when they raise their arms. It's done to preserve a 'top line' image," explains Jiru.

Her "Texas Challenge"

With all of the excitement and energy of competing, the hardest thing to do is keeping the timing to certain beats. You also have to make sure you don't run into other dancers.

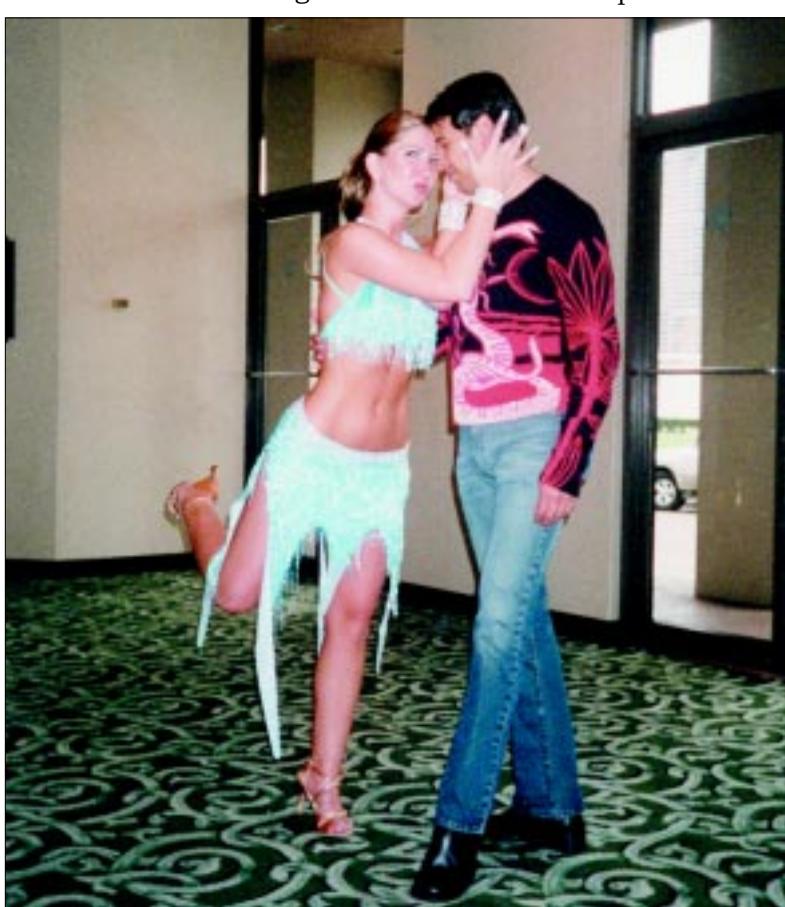
Capt. Julie Jiru
Brooks lawyer

dress was hand-made by San Antonio designer Rodrigo Virgen. Its design, while provocative, is based on Latin dance motions that accentuate hip and leg action.

"The most important thing is getting a good coach and trainer. When you practice, you can't get discouraged. It's very tiring and a lot of work, but it's also very rewarding."

Jiru has found a great dance partner in McClellan and equally inspiring coach in Cardenas. Now the trio is devoted to improving their technique as they plan for future competitions later this year.

Ultimately, Jiru wants to compete at the national level in such high-profile events as the Ohio Star Ball. Elevating Jiru's performance at that level would be her version of "dancing on cloud nine."



Julie Jiru and dance partner Jason McClellan practice a few dance steps in the hotel lobby prior to their competition at the Texas Challenge Dance Sport Championship in Houston recently. The team placed second in their division.



BROOKS

SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Family child care

Bldg. 510, 536-2120

If you need family child care assistance, stop by the Family Child Care Office so we may determine your specific needs. The office is located in Bldg. 510, or call Jeanie Smith at 536-2041. Brooks has four licensed providers and three more being processed.

The FrameWorks

Bldg. 1154, 536-2041

Avoid costly downtown prices and save time by shopping on base. The FrameWorks now offers business cards. Purchase 100 cards for \$10, 250 for \$20 and 500 for \$35. Bring in your information and select from different styles and colors. Samples are on display.

Lodging

Bldg. 214, 536-1844

The Air Force Services Agency has established a toll-free centralized number to reach any base Lodging operation in the U.S. The number is 1-888-AF Lodge.

NAF Outlet Sale

A NAF Outlet Sale is scheduled for 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30, in Bldg. 1157.

One vehicle will be auctioned off at noon. All other items will be sold on a first-come-

first-served basis. Items may be purchased with cash or check and must be removed the day of the sale. It is the responsibility of the buyer to remove all purchased items. All items are sold as is.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Join the Brooks Consolidated Club System and be eligible to win the newest coolest electronics. New and current club members across the Air Force become eligible to receive more than \$200,000 in prizes. Current club members are automatically entered to win a special set of prizes just for them. Winners are randomly selected for each prize.

Between Sept. 3 and Dec. 20 Air Force Clubs hope to sign-up 10,000 new members. The club system offers something for everyone. In addition to meals and entertainment, membership benefits include discounts on food, entertainment, and special functions, plus chances to win a trip to the Super Bowl, Pro Bowl and a regular season NFL game. Winners are randomly selected in mid-January.

For more information or to find out about your eligibility status, visit your club today.

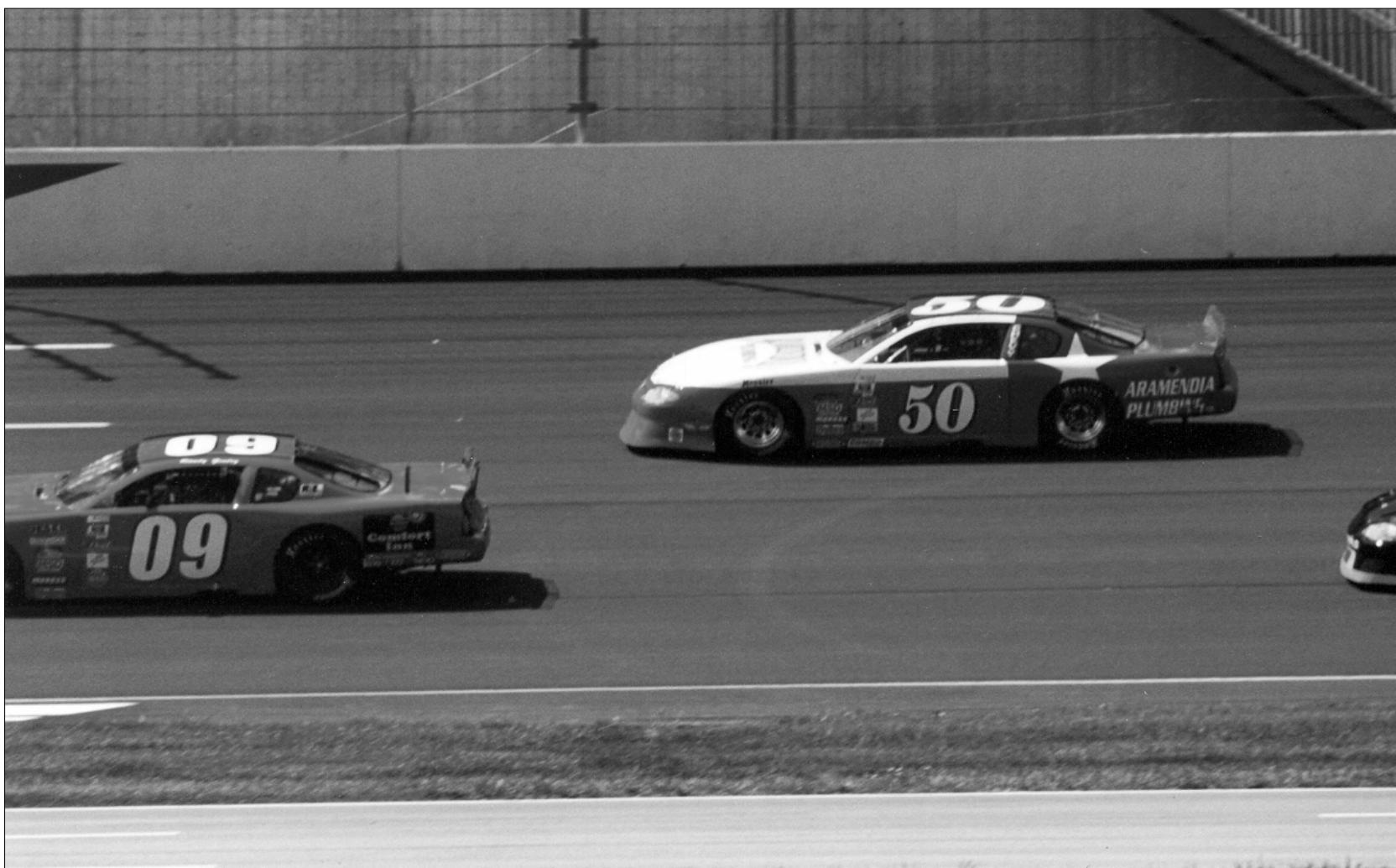
Sidney's

Bldg. 714, 536-2077

Football Frenzy is back. Club members have the opportunity to win a trip to a regular season NFL game, the Super Bowl and the Pro Bowl. Fans can watch the games, enter and win prizes at Sidney's. This year the "Punch or Punt" frequency card means more entries and chances to win a trip to the Super Bowl in 2004.

Grand prize winners will receive a trip for two to see the Dallas Cowboys vs. the San Francisco 49ers, the Super Bowl or the Pro Bowl. As an after season bonus, two members, and their guest, will fly to San Francisco to meet 49ers wide receiver, Terrell Owens. Trips include round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, local transportation, and game tickets.

Contact the club for additional information on Frenzy activities. Join friends for football excitement in your club and a chance to win.



Courtesy photo

The Aramendia race team, car #50, competed at the Nashville Superspeedway, one of more than a dozen races they compete in annually.

Living life in the fast lane part of Brooks couple's pro motor sports passion

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Denise and Tommy Owen had just finished their race when they witnessed actor-turned-professional race car driver Jason Priestley slam his Indy Racing League car into the wall at the Kentucky Super Speedway during a practice run. It was yet another sobering reminder of the inherent dangers of an unforgiving sport that they have pursued since high school.

"We were loading our trailer when it happened. We saw the crash," said Denise Owen in describing the accident in which the former "Beverly Hills, 90210" star suffered multiple injuries, including a fractured spine, during a collision at 180 mph.

Fortunately, the driver the Owen couple is pledged to support has not had any serious injuries. As members of San Antonio's Aramendia Racing Team, they know their roles are vital to the success of the Aramendia family's NASCAR investment and to the survival of the team's driver Joe Aramendia.

Denise, the Brooks branch services manager for Eisenhower Bank, serves as the racing team's scorer. "I count the number of laps our car takes on the track," she said, a job not too dissimilar to what her father Homer Hartness used to do in tracking aircraft as a former Brooks Field air traffic controller.

Her husband is the team's full-time crew chief who is responsible for helping build and maintain race cars.

"In high school I bought a drag racer," Owen said of his early days as a race car driver. However, he doesn't regret having switched to an auto mechanics career that has propelled him into the fast lane of NASCAR's racing elite.

Denise and Tommy Owen's passion

for the sport is fueled by the Aramendia brothers who have built San Antonio's top racing team. "Our father brought us up at the race track. We are carrying on a family racing tradition," said John Aramendia, owner of the racing team and the plumbing business he and brother Joe started 14 years ago.

"We compete in the All-Pro class. Our goal within a year is to compete at the Bush Series level," said Aramendia who has underwritten the staggering costs associated with professional racing. An average race car today costs about \$75,000. The expenses associated with racing a full season are astronomical. The average annual cost to support a Bush Series level team is between \$3-5 million.

The Aramendia team needs corporate sponsors to fulfill financial requirements associated with competing at the next level. Corporate sponsors, the sport's lifeblood, often reap huge returns on their investment through advertisement. The U.S. Air Force sponsors a NASCAR racing team, which competes for the sports top level prize - the Winston Cup. For their sponsorship, the Air Force name and logo are advertised on the racing team's cars and promotional material that serve as a highly visible recruiting tool within America's most popular spectator sport.

Dispelling a myth about why most racing teams compete, Aramendia said, "What people don't realize is teams don't survive off of races' winnings. They survive off of corporate sponsors." At their level, the top prize for winning a race ranges between \$15,000 and \$30,000. Teams primarily earn money and bonuses through the NASCAR point system that rewards them for their ranking based on season performances.

"I'm in it for Joe. He is a

championship winning driver," said John Aramendia. He admits they struggled financially building a business that supports their racing team, which includes brother James.

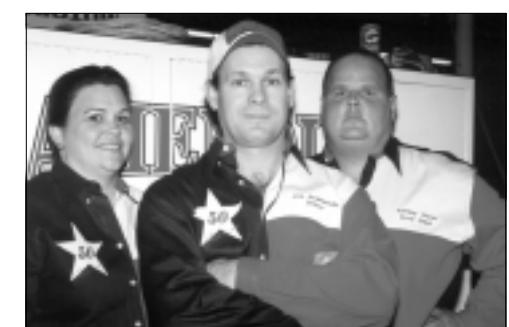
The team's primary focus is supporting and protecting their driver. "I've learned that the pit crew plays an important part in the success of the team. Usually 15-20 people support the race, with the pit crew limited to about seven key people," said Tommy Owen.

The crew chief directs the pit crew, which includes two tire changers, two tire carriers and jack, gas and catch can men. The latter uses a can to catch overflow fuel during re-fueling to prevent possible fires that could lead to an explosion. Less than 20 seconds is the pit crew industry standard to support a pit stop.

"For people to enjoy a race, there's a whole lot that happens behind the scenes. We spend 40 hours a week preparing for a race," John Aramendia said.

Besides maintaining four race cars, the team must operate a 53-foot-long transport trailer stocked with spare parts and equipment such as communications gear used by the team's spotter. As spotter, James Aramendia is in constant radio communication with the driver and pit crew to inform them of any accidents.

Mishaps are sometimes



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Professional racecar driver Joe Aramendia, (center), with logistical support team members Denise and Tommy Owen.

unavoidable.

"I went over the wall at the San Antonio Speedway when the throttle stuck. I landed 150 feet away on a six-foot chain link fence. A fence post impaled the car, but missed me by two feet," recalls Joe Aramendia. While he fractured his helmet and was semi-conscious, he raced the following weekend. "I had a life insurance policy before I started racing, but I got stuck paying a \$3,000 airfare bill," he admits.

"This is the first year we've competed for the whole season," Tommy Owen said of a schedule that includes 13 NASCAR-sanctioned races. Their season ends with an Oct. 19 race in Memphis, Tenn.

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Denise and Tommy Owen haul a "crash cart" containing race car parts and equipment. As crew chief, Tommy Owen is responsible for making repairs to the race car in less than a minute.



Chiefs challenge 'Eagles' to softball game dual

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

It probably won't reach the intense rivalry that exists between the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox, but nevertheless has all the ingredients for a classic sports showdown when the Chief's Group takes the field against an all-colonels 'Eagles' team in a softball game scheduled for Oct. 18.

A third rivalry will also be created during the second half of the planned doubleheader when the winner of the first contest plays an all-star military women's softball team.

"We've always played the eagles in softball on every base I've been on," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Darlin 'Big E' Evans, who supports the fitness center's plan to establish the first Brooks annual softball contest between the base's chief master sergeants and colonels.

"We want to get the leadership involved in sports to build morale and bring the base together," said Willie Mastin, fitness center specialist who is helping organize this special event. He credits Col. Stuart Cowles, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander, for his support in launching a new base sports activity that hopefully will generate a lot of interest.

"In 1999, we had a chiefs-eagles volleyball game that the colonels won," Mastin said of a contest that did not produce much fan interest. This time, Mastin and fellow event organizers plan to solicit base-wide support for the softball doubleheader through a

slogan/logo contest.

Contest participants are asked to submit entries to name the event and design a logo that will be reproduced on event T-shirts. The entries must incorporate all three groups that will participate in the event: the chiefs, eagles and the all-star women's team.

"The contest deadline is close of business Sept. 23," Mastin said. Entries can be submitted via e-mail to him or dropped off in hard copy or disk format at the fitness center. The winner, to be selected Sept. 25, will receive a grand prize provided by the 311th Air Base Group Services Division's marketing department.

A special event trophy will be presented to the winner of the doubleheader. "It's a softball bat mounted on a plaque. Each year, the winner's names will be engraved on it," Mastin said. The trophy will be identified by an award name, like such pro sports championship monikers as hockey's 'Stanley Cup' and tennis' 'Davis Cup.'

Making things a bit interesting for fans will be a base 'celebrity' playing for the Chief's Group team. "Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd is an honorary chief and will play for us," Evans said. Noting the disparity that exists in the number of potential players eligible to participate, Evans said there are 13 chiefs and 58 colonels on base. Evans predicts somebody is going to 'get smoked,' both on the softball diamond and during the post-game barbecue.

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Texas Open offers military free tickets, volunteer opportunities

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE — Sponsors and organizers of the 2002 Valero Texas Open have a limited number of free tickets for military members to attend the golf tournament in San Antonio.

The annual Professional Golf Association tour event takes place Sept. 23-29 at the La Cantera Golf Club. Golfers compete for a \$3 million dollar purse. The winner receives \$540,000.

Brooks members can get their free tickets at the Brooks Golf Course, or at Outdoor Recreation or the Marketing Office, both located in Bldg. 1154. Contact Vida Marsh at 536-8057.

The tickets are provided by a commercial sponsorship agreement between Air Education and Training Command Services and Golf San Antonio, the organizer of the Texas Open.

Military personnel interested in working as tournament volunteers, called PARtners, should visit the web site at: www.golfsanantonio.org and click on the PARtners link. People without computer access can get details from the tournament office at 341-0823.

The volunteer perk package includes a weeklong tournament pass for the volunteer and a guest, complimentary beverages during shifts, a hospitality area with food service during shifts, an invitations for two to the volunteer appreciation party, and a complimentary round of golf at LaCantera for those volunteers who work a minimum of 18 hours.

"Golf San Antonio will accept volunteers until they reach their goal of 1,200. They will still accept applications after that time period, but they go on a waiting list for assignments, or may be assigned to the tournament's roving 'strike force' committee."

HAWC health tips

Food-borne illnesses affect more than 30 million Americans each year. Nearly all can be linked to unsafe food handling practices. These are just a few steps you can take at the grocery store, at home, at school, or at your workplace to prevent food-borne illnesses.

* Check the "sell by" or "use by" date. If it's expired, don't buy it.

- * Don't buy cans with dents, bulges, or rust.
- * Set refrigerators between 35-40 degrees F and freezers below 0 degrees F.
- * Refrigerate meat, fish and poultry at the bottom shelf to prevent juices from contacting other foods.
- * If a package smells or looks suspicious, throw it out even if the "use by" date has not expired.
- * Wash your hands with hot, soapy water for at

least 20 seconds before handling food.

* Always thaw frozen meat, fish, and poultry in the refrigerator

* Never chop vegetables or salad ingredients on a cutting board used to prepare raw meats unless the board is thoroughly cleaned before use.

Don't be a statistic. Practice safe handling to reduce your risk.