

# DISCOVERY



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 26, No. 23 - Friday, Dec. 6, 2002 - Brooks AFB, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

## Franks cites importance of troops in fight against terror

By Senior Airman Nicole Bickford  
363rd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — "What you do for your country every day purchases the next 200 years of American history."

Army Gen. Tommy Franks, U.S. Central Command commander, told hundreds of Operation Southern Watch troops this and more during a troop call recently.

"About 14 months ago, some terrorists made a real bad mistake," said Franks of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. "They figured if they slapped us upside the head, we'd fold and just give our country up."

Franks said that the men and women of the U.S. military responded, and are continuing to send a message that America will never fold, but will always fight for its freedom.

"Nobody wearing a uniform for the U.S. has done as much or has worked as hard as you are," he said. "Your nation owes you a great deal. In our line of work, we never quit."

While Franks said that there is no way to determine how long it will take to win our nation's war on terrorism, "we do know that at the end of this, we win."

"I don't want anyone to get anxious, to get nervous or get in a hurry," said Franks. "You and I are here for as long as it takes."

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

### Practice makes perfect

Members of the San Antonio Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team respond to a hazardous materials incident during a recent exercise at Brooks. Members of the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, as well as various other Brooks organizations

participated in the exercise. Exercise scenarios tested the partnership capabilities between Brooks and City of San Antonio emergency response teams, demonstrating the roles of the City and the Air Force in the event of a real world emergency. See more on page 17.

## Brooks named as semifinalist in 2002 Innovations in Government Awards

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

Brooks City-Base is one of 17 federal agency semifinalists for the 2002 Innovations in Government Awards.

The competition, a program of the Institute for Government Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, received 1,000 applications. Ninety-nine submissions made the cut to enter the semifinal round.

The awards, often referred to as the Oscars of government awards, recognize government programs that meet social and economic challenges.

The criteria used to evaluate each application are novelty, effectiveness in addressing important problems, significance and potential for replication by other government entities.

"Both the Air Force and the San Antonio community are honored that City-Base has been selected as a semifinalist for the Innovations in American Government Award," said Dr. Brendan Godfrey, 311th Human Systems Wing deputy director.

"We have worked long and hard to-

*Both the Air Force and the San Antonio community are honored that City-Base has been selected as a semifinalist for the Innovations in American Government Award. We have worked long and hard together to make City-Base a shining success.*

Dr. Brendan Godfrey  
311th Human Systems Wing  
deputy director

gether to make City-Base a shining success," he said.

In early winter 2002, the semifinalists will be narrowed down to fifteen finalists. In May 2003, the finalists will present their projects to the National Selection Committee on Innovations in American Government. The selection

committee will choose five winners, each of whom will receive a \$100,000 grant.

David Gergen, editor-at-large of U.S. News and World Report, chairs the committee. Gergen also serves as the Director of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University.

In addition to Brooks, other federal government semifinalists include from the Department of Defense and two each from the Departments of Justice, Transportation, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture. One program each from the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, General Services Administration, Library of Congress and the Federal Courts rounded out the group.

The Council of Excellence in Government partner with the Institute for Government Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government in administering the awards. The Ford Foundation funds the Institute through an endowment.

For more information or a list and brief description of the federal semifinalists visit the website at: [www.excelgov.org](http://www.excelgov.org).



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

# Commentary

## AFMC wrestles with authorization reductions

By Gen Lester L. Lyles

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — I'm sure most of you have been reading in your local newspapers or heard on your television or radio stations about personnel cuts coming to Air Force Materiel Command in the coming year. It's unfortunate that some of you had to learn about them prematurely from unofficial sources. Much of what you may have read or heard may lead to speculative conclusions before decisions are made.

First, and most importantly, if you've read or heard numbers associated with a reduction, those numbers are anything but final. There are still decisions to be made that could impact the total reductions levied on the major commands and eventually how they will be taken across AFMC.

As you probably know, authorization cuts do not automatically translate into employee separations. It may be possible to achieve the needed reductions by eliminating jobs that are currently vacant or that become vacant over the coming year. We don't yet know what the final figures will be for these proposed cuts, because the process of determining that is still under way. We are committed to keeping the number of employees adversely impacted by this action as low as possible within our ability to do so without jeopardizing the mission.

The second question that comes to mind is why? Why, when we're conducting a war on terrorism, preparing for possible conflict, and increasing the defense budget, do we need to reduce authorizations? The answer is complex and involves several factors that make up the proposals now being considered.

The reductions AFMC may have to take are the result of multiple factors. Air Force end-strength was reduced in anticipation of savings from future strategic sourcing or contracting out studies. In addi-

tion, Air Force was required to reduce manpower as a result of having more civilians assigned than authorized. Another of the many fiscal pressures driving these reductions is the need to pay for health care accrual costs.

Also, the volatile events of 9/11 created dynamic real world changes that generated additional manpower requirements for high priority missions. Air Force expected that our additional need for end-strength would be satisfied through manpower growth...unfortunately, that didn't happen. Without the ability to increase manpower the Air Force was left with a workforce skills imbalance. We now must balance our books and realign resources from lower priority to our highest priority missions such as special operations, security and intelligence.

The proposed reductions have been referred to as "arbitrary" cuts. I want to assure you that any cuts that are eventually taken are not going to be arbitrary in the Webster's dictionary sense of that word. These cuts won't be random. They won't be made without seriously studying the impact both on our people and on our mission. The Air Force uses the word arbitrary when referring to reductions that aren't tied to specific programs. I hope you can understand the difference and know that we would never arbitrarily eliminate someone's job or compromise our ability to provide the support the Air Force expects and receives from us every day.

I expect we'll soon have final decisions on these issues and will be able to tell you the outcome and how we are handling it. Again, it's my intention to minimize the impact of these cuts on our workforce. Thank you for your understanding of this very complicated situation and your dedicated work that keeps our Air Force and our nation strong!

## Is this the best or worst of times?

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

When Charles Dickens penned the immortal words, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times," for the opening to his classic work "A Tale of Two Cities," he could not have imagined his fictional words would be relevant to us today.

For many Americans, these may be the worst of times. In the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, all of us share some sense of helplessness or even, perhaps, hopelessness. This collective sense of uneasiness about our future pervades our society. It is fueled by rumors of war, economic distress, global warming and threats of terrorism. All of this seemingly bad news contributes to restlessness, the first-born progeny produced by the union of fear with the unknown.

Yet while all of us, to some degree, fret over concerns that our safety and well-being have been irrevocably compromised by world events, our inner compass directs us to an inherent sense that these days are also "the best of times."

Are they not the best of times when we learn of someone who has benefited from technological advances in medicine that provides hope for a full recovery from illness or disease? Is it not the best of times when someone learns to read for the first time or takes their first steps on unsteady legs? Who can argue that these are not the best of times when we witness the miracle of birth or the compassion and sacrifices of strangers risking their lives to save others?

For those who doubt that these are the best of times, look then within yourselves for glimpses of your past. Within this world of memories there exists moments in time that you forever cherish. Our treasured thoughts provide us momentary

relief from life's concerns and uncertainties, but, nevertheless, remain very real to us. All of us have longed for "the good old days," so much so, that we periodically travel back in thought "to our own best of times."

The innocence of our youth made most everything seem momentarily wonderful, from riding our first bike through the woods on a crisp autumn day to observing from a giant's perch a butterfly gently embracing a spring flower. That distant train whistle heard at night through an open screened window recalls not only a lonely sound, but the comfort of knowing that we were safe at home in bed. A multitude of comforting memories envelop our consciousness, from the freshness in the air following a thunderstorm to how magical newly fallen snow seemed to sparkle in the moonlight.

These "best of times" memories flood us, now and again, when we view the world as too distasteful to savor. Yet our memories are not just a portal to what has been, but serve as a window of opportunity from which to build a brighter future. Many of our most vivid "best of times" memories are a mirror reflection of what continues to exist in the world today. Do not ladybugs still trustingly cling to us? Doesn't a blazing sunset or richly hued rainbow instill within us a sense of serenity or wonder? Can you not imagine the endless opportunities that exist today for improving yourselves educationally, professionally and economically?

All of this and more await us if we take a few precious moments to realize that our lives are portraits in progress. Our self-portraits are defined not so much by what is wrong in the world, but by what we do to make our home, Earth, a better place in which to live.



Lyles





# We SALUTE you!



## Service Members of the Quarter

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2002



Airman  
**Senior Airman Trisha Podsiadlo**  
Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis



NCO  
**Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Dahlquist**  
U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine



Senior NCO  
**Master Sgt. Robert Eshelman**  
311th Human Systems Program Office



Company Grade Officer  
**Capt. Keith Blount**  
USAFSAM



Honor Guard  
**Capt. Phillip Kemp**  
USAFSAM

**Civilians of the Quarter**  
July 1 - Sept. 30, 2002

Category I Student Aide  
**Jessica Delgado**  
AFIERA/SDEM

Category II GS3-5  
**Willie Mae Lewis**  
311th HSW/PK

Category III GS6-8  
**Robert Alcorta**  
AFIERA/SDEM

Category IV GS9-11  
**Louis Sandoval**  
311th HSW/YA

Category V GS12-13  
**Janie Campos**  
311th HSW/BC

Category VI WG/WL/WS  
**Robert Wilkes**  
311th CS

Category VII NAF  
**Donna Harp**  
311 ABG/SVML



# Brooks Heritage Foundation gala celebrates 15th anniversary

**By Rudy Purificato**

311th Human Systems Wing

Everyone from congressmen to caterers considered the Brooks Heritage Foundation 15th anniversary gala celebration, in itself, a historic event. November 8, more than 200 people packed Hangar 9 to commemorate the creation of an organization that since 1987 has been dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Brooks' historic past.

The event, whose theme was "Pride in the Past, Faith in the Future," was the culmination of a lot of planning and coordination orchestrated to a large degree by Foundation executive director Shelia Klein.

"I thought it went very well. It came down to having a great support group," Klein said.

The celebration was the largest staged by the Foundation since 1992 when the organization officially opened the Aeromedical Evacuation Annex and gift shop that is located next to Hangar 9.

"We didn't celebrate our tenth anniversary (as a Foundation), but this event coincided with the tenth anniversary opening of the annex and gift shop," Klein said. She explained that the timing for the gala was perfect during a significantly historic year in which Brooks AFB became City-Base. "We (board of directors) wanted to let our members and the community know that we have a thriving organization," Klein said, referring to the

Foundation's continuing role here despite transition to City-Base.

Among the community leaders who attended the celebration was U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, who was presented the Foundation's "Community Support Award" for his efforts to preserve and protect the history and heritage of Brooks.

"Brooks is poised to play an important role (in economic development) as the city goes through a transformation period," said keynote speaker George Irish, president of Hearst Newspapers and a senior vice president of The Hearst Corporation. He praised the vision of the city of San Antonio and the Air Force for creating City-Base who he said he hopes "will become a national model."

His selection as keynote speaker could not have been more appropriate because Irish, while publisher of the San Antonio Light newspaper, greatly supported the work of the Brook Heritage Foundation. In 1992, Irish and his newspaper staff supported the Foundation's fund-raising efforts to renovate a World War II barracks that became the Aeromedical Evacuation Annex. Irish also assisted with the publication of 15,000 copies of a history of Brooks' first 75 years.

Founded 15 years ago as a nonprofit organization, the Brooks Heritage Foundation's charter is to educate the public on the important role Brooks has and continues to play in aerospace medical research and technology development. The Foundation fulfills its



Photo by Rudy Purificato

**More than 200 people packed Hangar 9 to celebrate the Brooks Heritage Foundation's 15th anniversary Nov. 8.**

charter through support of the material heritage activities of the 311th Human Systems Wing that includes the Air Force historical holdings located at Hangar 9, the Aeromedical Evacuation Annex, Schriever Heritage Park and the Sidney J. Brooks Memorial.

The organization also has an active scholarship program that helps graduating high school seniors pursuing careers in scientific or technical fields and students enrolled in the Brooks Student Education Employment Program (student aides).

The Foundation's importance to the preservation of Brooks heritage was validated earlier this year when it was a signatory on the Historical Properties Memorandum of Agreement signed prior to the conveyance of Brooks AFB property to the Brooks Development Authority in July. This memorandum

secured the future of historical assets, such as Hangar 9, as well as a cluster of buildings located in the '100' area known as "The Hill" where the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine supported America's early space program.

The celebration also served as a mini-reunion for many Foundation charter members, including the daughter of its first chairman. "Daddy's goal was to preserve the heritage of Brooks AFB and to make it accessible to the public. He wanted them to interact and understand what Brooks meant to the San Antonio community and to the military at large," said Lynda Billa-Burke, whose late father Robert Billa remained active in the Foundation until his death in 1995.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



## December Promotions

The following Brooks enlisted personnel have been selected for promotion to the next highest grade in December.

**To Airman First Class:**

**George Nelson**  
311th Human Systems Wing  
**John Lugo**  
311th Communications Squadron

**To Senior Airman:**

**Jonathan Ballard**  
68th Information Operations Squadron  
**Juanita Bartley**  
Air Force Research Laboratory  
**Colby Benjamin**  
311th Security Forces  
**Brian Bowles**  
311th CS  
**Ronald Hennessey**  
311th SFS  
**Tasha Klotzman**  
U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

**Cory Mazzola**  
68th IOS

**To Staff Sergeant:**  
**Jeffery Blankenship**  
311th SFS

**To Technical Sergeant:**

**Karl Giese**  
311th HSW  
**Darrian Fitzpatrick**  
USAFSAM  
**Donald Goudy**  
68th IOS  
**Angela Newby**  
USAFSAM  
**Annette Davis**  
311th HSW  
**George Viale**  
311th HSW

**To Master Sergeant:**  
**Cornelio Pereztarajano**  
USAFSAM  
**Timothy Harding**  
USAFSAM

**To Chief Master Sergeant:**

**Michael Goss**  
68th IOS

The following Brooks officers will be promoted to the rank indicated during the month of December.

**To Colonel:**  
**Carol Ramsey**  
AFRL

**To Major:**  
**Sara Hartwich**  
311th MDS  
**Christine Tedrow**  
311th HSW  
**Brandon Doan**  
AFRL

**To First Lieutenant:**  
**Roberto Elizondo**  
311th HSW  
**Craig Sutton**  
311th HSW

## Freedom

*Continued from Page 1*

"The one thing that we cannot do, is we cannot let anybody change the country our kids and grandkids will grow up in."

OSW troops will spend the holiday season thousands of miles away from their loved ones, but Franks reassured all gathered that the job they are doing every day is vital in protecting those freedoms.

"We're coming up on the holiday season," he said. "A time we give thanks for our freedom in the United States of America, a country where we can be anything we are man enough or woman enough to be."

"This is the place, right here, where it all comes together," he said. "Our nation owes you a great deal."

The general said he re-

alizes that some days it is harder to remember why we are here but, "one of the common characteristics of all of us who wear this uniform, is that there is not a single one of us who was drafted."

He also reminded people that they have the support of the president and of the majority of America.

"To the American people, you are all heroes," he said. "I've never seen support like this in my life, and I've been doing this for a long time."

"On behalf of everyone in your country, you are loved," he said. "So don't ever get too tired, don't ever get too worn out, don't ever get too (frustrated), to keep on going, for as long as it takes."



## Civilian health care program open season ends soon

**By 1st Lt. Brandon Lingle**

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

The Federal Employees Health Benefits program open season, the period when Air Force civilian employees can review and make changes to their health care plans, ends Dec. 9.

According to Janet Thomas of the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team program changes could affect more than 7,000 employees, with 11 health plan carriers dropping out of the FEHB and many others drastically changing their services in 2003. But carriers will still offer 188 enrollment choices.

"Even though insurance carriers leaving the FEHB or making significant service changes are required to notify their customers, we send letters to those affected too," said Thomas, "but it is still the employee's responsibility to ensure their plan is in order."

"Open season is the best time for people to review their health care coverage," she said, "not only to make desired changes, but to ensure their plan hasn't been altered or discontinued."

FEHB premiums are expected to increase an average of 11 percent in January. Health maintenance organizations will increase an average of 13.6 percent and fee-for-service plans will increase 10.5 percent, according to Ms. Thomas. Studies show health care premiums nationally will climb as much as 20 percent in 2003, according to the Office of Personnel

Management.

Employees with 'self-only' coverage will pay about \$4.45 more and those with family coverage will pay about \$10.21 more per pay period, she said. The government will continue to pay an average of 72 percent of FEHB premiums.

OPM officials attribute these premium increases to the health care providers' rising costs, advances in medical technology, and an aging population, said Ms. Thomas.

More FEHB information including guides, rates and plan descriptions are available on the OPM web site at: [www.opm.gov/insure](http://www.opm.gov/insure) or by visiting the BEST homepage at: [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm).

All Air Force-serviced civilian employees must make their open season changes by one of two methods:

— AFPC's Employee Benefits Information System web site at: [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST\\_GRB/EBIS.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm). Employees with self and family coverage or other insurance can use the BEST web automated system to make their elections and avoid having to transfer to a counselor to complete their transaction.

— The BEST automated phone system at 800-997-2378 or 527-2378 if calling within San Antonio. Hearing impaired employees may call the TDD line at 800-382-0893, or 565-2276 within San Antonio. Overseas employees may use the toll-free direct access number for the country that they are in. Counselors are available weekdays, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Central Time.

## 'myPay' upgrades offer more convenience, capabilities

**By 1st Lt. Robert Clay**

Brooks Deputy Financial Services Officer

myPay, formerly known as Employee/Member Self-Service, has been upgraded to give the user more capabilities to handle some of the more frequent financial transactions.

With the myPay system users can view, print and save leave and earning statements, change federal and state tax withholdings, update bank account and electronic fund transfer information, make address changes, and control Thrift Savings Plan enrollment.

Customers will also be able stop, change, and start allotments this spring.

Additionally, W-2's are scheduled to be available for print after the end of the year. Users will no longer have to wait for W-2's to be mailed. Customers can access the site, print their W-2's and get their refunds sooner.

Users who already have an E/MSS PIN can use it to log on at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>.

Those who don't have a PIN or need a new one can log onto the web site and click "need new PIN". Once the PIN is received in the mail, they too can log onto the web site and enjoy the convenience of taking care of financial needs from your computer.

For additional information contact customer service at 536-5778.

## Armed Services YMCA seeks military children for annual contests

The Armed Services YMCA is seeking both artists and readers for two annual contests.

Art Contest 2003, in its eighth year, is seeking artwork from children of military members in kindergarten through sixth grade, depicting their active duty, Reserve or Guard families. Top prizes are \$500 U.S. Savings Bonds and the winner's artwork is used on posters for next year's Military Family Month. Children of DoD civilian and Coast Guard may enter in an honorary category. The deadline for the contest is Jan. 27, 2003.

With the goal of promoting reading among children, the seventh annual

Armed Forces Services Essay Contest is open to first through twelfth grades, with prizes up to \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bonds. Children and teen family members of the armed services — active duty, Reserves, Guard and retired personnel as well as DoD civilian employees and Coast Guard, can enter the contest. Essays should be on any subject related to reading.

Deadline for entry is March 17, 2003.

Full guidelines for the contests can be obtained from the Armed Services YMCA website at: [www.asymca.org](http://www.asymca.org), by e-mailing: [essaycontest@asymca.org](mailto:essaycontest@asymca.org) or by calling 703-303-9600.



# 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:



Brig. Gen. Lloyd

Dodd

311th Human Systems

311th Security Forces Squadron .....	536-2851
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.....	533-4100
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.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay .....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA) .....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity .....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BXMarket .....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office .....	536-3372
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



## Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

### Sponsor training

10 a.m.-11 a.m., Dec. 10, Bldg. 537 —

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3011, sponsor training is required for all first-time sponsors and those who haven't sponsored within the past year. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn about tools and resources available to sponsors.

### Bundles for babies expectant parents session

8 a.m.-noon., Dec. 11, Bldg. 537 —

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

### Veteran's benefits assistance

8 a.m.-noon, Wednesdays, Bldg. 537 — Do you have questions about your VA benefits or need assistance filling out your VA claims? A VA representative is on-site every Wednesday to provide consultations, medical record screening and assistance with medical claims, by appointment only. Two copies of medical records are required. Call 536-2444 to schedule an appointment.

### Common sense parenting

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays, Bldg. 618 —

This six-week class is hosted by the Life Skills Support Center, Family Advocacy Program and the Family Support Center. It's designed to teach parent skills to encourage positive behavior, discourage negative behavior and teach alternatives to problem behavior. Topics include setting clear expectations, positive and negative consequences, teaching self-control, effective praise, preventive and corrective teaching, helping children make decisions and more.

### Employee assistance

The Employee Assistance Program provides government employees access to counselors to assist in dealing with life's issues. The call center's toll free number is accessible 24 hours a day at 800-222-0364, or 800-262-7848 for the hearing impaired. The toll free number is also the password for the website at: [www.foh4you.com](http://www.foh4you.com).

### Toll free access

The Brooks Family Support Center now has a toll-free number for access from anywhere in the U.S. Call 877-747-5938.



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Dennis Chapoy and Capt. James Rumbley check the lock on a camper trailer at the vehicle storage lot at Brooks. The camper is one of many items expected to be auctioned in February.

## Services auctions off unclaimed 'treasures'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Bargain hunters blessed with insight on value when viewing apparent junk as treasure will be given an unprecedented opportunity in February when the 311th Services Division auctions off unclaimed motorized vehicles.

Cars, trucks, boats and recreational vehicles are among unclaimed property at Outdoor Recreation's storage facility that will be sold to the highest bidders during a sealed bid auction planned for early February 2003.

"This is an opportunity for us to sell

abandoned or unclaimed vehicles that have been stored for years at the Vehicle Storage Site. Military personnel, civilians and retirees who have Department of Defense identification cards are eligible to bid in the auction," said Capt. James Rumbley, 311th Services Division deputy commander.

Services will announce early next year when bidders can view property to be auctioned. "They'll be given time to look at the items and make their bids," Rumbley said, explaining that Outdoor Recreation specialist Dennis Chapoy will help facilitate the auction at the site located on the old flight line

near Outdoor Recreation's headquarters at Bldg. 1154. At the site entry point, bidders will be given a property list identifying vehicles by lot number. After viewing the property, auction participants will mark their bids on the list to be turned into Chapoy who will immediately seal them. Services will announce the winning bids by the end of February.

The money raised from the auction will help pay unpaid storage lot fees.

"Early last year we began the legal process of trying to find the owners of property that appears to have been abandoned," Rumbley noted. About 50 motorized vehicles have been identified as unclaimed property. Last week, the 311th Security Forces Squadron began impoundment procedures.

"Registered letters have been sent to the owners' last known addresses. They have 60 days to respond," Rumbley said.

Should these owners fail to respond by either paying storage fees or removing their property from the lot, their vehicles will be sold at auction.



Dennis Chapoy and Capt. James Rumbley examine a boat that is expected to be part of an Outdoor Recreation auction in February.

Rumbley suspects that some owners may have died without having previously informed family members that they had vehicles stored at Brooks.

"We're not trying to make money. What we want to do is remove the property due to space limitations. It (site) is not a junk yard, but a professionally run storage lot," Rumbley said.

Auctioned material will free up valuable parking space that can be used by future customers.

"At \$15 per month, we are the cheapest in town in terms of outdoor storage fees," Rumbley noted.



A stored Jaguar gets a second look in preparation for Outdoor Recreation's auction planned for February.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil





## Reynolds to visit, present Air Force Outstanding Unit Award to Brooks

Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds, Aeronautical Systems Center commander, is scheduled to spend the day at Brooks Dec. 9. During his visit, Reynolds will present the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award to Brooks. Following the awards ceremony, tentatively slated for 10:30 a.m. at Hangar 9, Reynolds plans to have lunch with Brooks enlisted troops and later, receive a tour and briefing from members of the 311th Human Systems Program Office's Life Sciences Laboratory.



### **Mid-week Mass schedule change**

The midweek mass at the Brooks Chapel, formerly held Wednesdays, has been moved to Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. Friar Maury Smith, a local Roman Catholic priest and a Franciscan friar, serves the Brooks Chapel Our Lady of Peace Catholic Parish. Friar Smith celebrates Sunday mass weekly and either he or Deacon Gene Sekinger lead the other weekday services, also at 11:30 a.m. Mass is held each First Friday of the month and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community.

### **Chapel Schedule**

#### **Weekdays:**

11:30 a.m. — Mass or Eucharistic service

#### **Wednesdays:**

12 p.m. — Lifebuilders luncheon

6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

#### **Thursdays:**

7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

#### **Sundays:**

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass

10:30 a.m. — Catholic religious education

9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School, ages 3-adult

10:30 a.m. — Protestant Worship, includes children's church

## Brooks AFSA Chapter 1077 wins recruiting award

**By Rita Boland**

*Staff writer*

The Air Force Sergeants Association, Brooks Hanger 9 Chapter 1077, received the Division 610 Best Recruiting Award/Under 500, for 2002. Under 500 refers to the number of members in the chapter. The Brooks chapter has 388 members.

"It was really quite a surprise," said Tech. Sgt. Chris McLaren, president of the Brooks AFSA. "We spent a whole lot of time and effort trying to keep the association alive."

McLaren received the award on behalf of the Brooks chapter from the Division 610 president at their monthly meeting recently.

Chapter members who recruit more than 100 members within a year receive an all-expense-paid trip to the AFSA annual convention, and receive recognition from the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force. "(They) get recognized as a bluesuiter. They're given a three-piece suit to wear for the convention and they get accolades," McLaren said.

Despite its name, any enlisted Air Force member and their dependents can join AFSA. The association supports enlisted Air Force members at a national level through congressional lobbying, and also supports base and local charities.

"The big issue in Washington is concurrent receipt, (the policy which states that) retirees don't receive both their retirement pay and disability benefit, which is tax-free. The government reduces the retired pay by the amount of the tax-free disability benefits, so the retiree receives the same amount as if they had no disability. The only benefit they receive is a tax break on their

retirement pay," McLaren said. "It's a sad situation for the retired military men and women who have given their lives to protect our freedom and liberty. It's important that we have a voice on Capitol Hill constantly fighting to keep and improve our benefits."

The Brooks chapter conducts fundraisers to support their charities throughout the year. For the past 23 years, it has awarded two Brooks dependents with \$500 scholarships. They also run a booth at the base picnic, support the quarterly and annual awards at Brooks, and support Junior ROTC. Over the past year the chapter has donated money to St. Jude's Children Hospital and voted to donate \$200 to the Red Cross and \$200 to the Salvation Army for local flood relief.

The chapter boosted morale and raised money this year by sponsoring a fishing trip to Port Aransas. Fifty people participated in the day-long event. McLaren hopes this will become an annual event to foster teamwork and esprit de corps between the enlisted and retired members of the Brooks family.

Memberships dues are \$21 for one year, \$36 for two years and \$52 for three years. E-1 through E-4 can get an 18-month membership for \$15. Also, the recruiters have coupons for \$3-5 off any one to three year membership to recruit or rejoin. "Many NCOs pay for the airman's first year. As they continue their Air Force career, hopefully they'll get positive feedback in the form of benefits and better quality of life issues," McLaren said. The Brooks Chapter plans to conduct a membership drive soon.



# BROOKS

## SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon  
Brooks Services Marketing Office  
536-5475

### Youth Activities Center

**Bldg. 470, 536-2515**

#### Rent a Santa suit—

Are you having a holiday party and the most important person is missing? You no longer need to worry. Santa can make an appearance at your office parties, home parties, and visit children in your home. Rent a Santa suit for only \$15 per event. The suit comes with beard, hair, hat, belt, gloves, shoe covers, padding (if necessary) and a bag. Reserve your suit early. Call the center staff for more details on reserving a suit.

#### Entertainment books—

The Youth Center staff is selling the 2003 Entertainment Book. Purchase several for those hard to buy for people on your shopping list or use them for stocking stuffers. There are discounts to local attractions, hundreds of great restaurants, thousands of hotels and more. Each page is filled with coupons for dining out, informal carry out food, airfare, car rentals, movies, dry cleaning, car washes, merchandise and services. Books are \$20 each and can be purchased through Larry Flores at 536-8130. Books can be delivered to organizations at Brooks.

#### Tree lighting—

Christmas caroling! Santa Claus! The audience sang Christmas carols following the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 4 in Schriever Park. Santa and his helpers arrived as everyone sang "Here Comes Santa." Children, both young and young at heart, visited with Santa Claus. Refreshments were served following the ceremony.

#### Caroling—

Everyone is invited to join the Youth Center staff for a hayride and caroling through base housing Dec. 11. Young and young at heart will entertain housing residents with the wonderful sounds of holiday songs. Participants will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. The hayride returns to the center and hot chocolate and refreshments will be served.

#### Gift wrapping—

Bring your gifts in and let us do the wrapping through Dec. 19 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Youth Center. We provide the paper and ribbon. Donations benefit the Youth Activities programs.

#### Tamale sale—

The Youth Center continues a San Antonio tradition with a tamale sale Dec. 13. Pork or jalapeno tamales are \$4.50 per dozen. Orders can be picked up at the Youth Center Dec. 13 between 10 a.m. and noon or the center staff will deliver to buildings that purchase 10 dozen or more. Orders must be placed by Dec. 10. Call the Youth Center or fax your order to 536-8770.

#### Base Library

**Bldg. 705, 536-2634**

Some holidays have religious backgrounds that may be unfamiliar to you. Many have special foods included in the celebration. Why not read about them at the library? Broaden your horizons and check out one of the many available cookbooks. Get everyone involved with the food preparation. Also, remember to keep in touch with friends and family via the library's Internet. We have seven computers for customer's use.

#### Book signing—

Reknown author Whitney LeBlanc visits Brooks for a luncheon and book signing Dec. 17. A go-through-the-line luncheon is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sidney's. Following the luncheon LeBlanc will sign his book, "Blues in the Wind," from 1:30 to 5 p.m. at the Base Library. LeBlanc is not only a reknown author but has an extensive background in theater and communications. He is a visiting lecturer at numerous colleges throughout the U.S., taught acting for the stage and acting with emphasis on soap operas and television, and designed sets for numerous theatrical shows. Other ac-

complishments include a featured profile in "African American Review", Vol. 26, No. 2, 1992; Outstanding Director Award, Drama Logue, 1984 for "A Raisin In The Sun" and Outstanding Director Award, American Film Festival, 1975 for "Holidays"; "Who's Who in American Education," and "Who's Who in Black America."

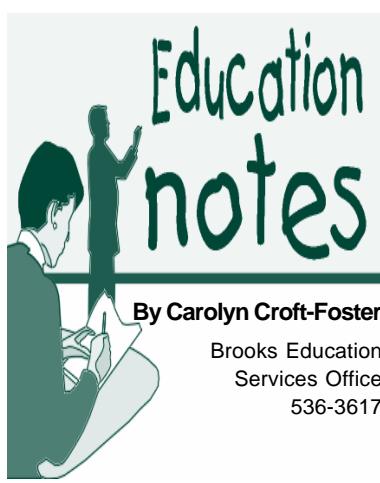
#### Family Child Care

**Bldg. 510, 536-2041**

Are you seeking childcare for your children, ages 6 weeks-12 years of age, on a full-time, hourly or part-time basis? Family Child Care may be your solution. The Brooks Family Child Care Affiliated Providers have 6 providers with vacancies and one provider being processed. Stop by the office or call Jeanie Smith, Family Child Care coordinator at 536-2041 for details.

#### Tops In Blue

Become part of the Air Force's elite entertainment showcase, Tops in Blue. Members of Tops in Blue travel around the globe as world-class entertainers performing at exciting, challenging and unique locations. Tops in Blue is open to all Air Force active duty military members and is composed of a variety of individuals, each with their own unique talents, including vocalists, instrumentalists, comedians, dramatists, lighting, staging, audio, video and special effects technicians, vehicle operators and administrative, logistical and other support personnel. Application are available through Vida Marsh, Services Marketing director, in Bldg. 1154, or by calling 536-8057. Deadline for entering the locally is Dec. 20.



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

## UTSA On-Base classes

UTSA is teaching three courses at Brooks in the Spring 2003 semester: Human Biology; Physiology (AHS 2103-003), Biosocial Genetics (BIO 3083-002), and Wavelets and Their Applications (MAT 6973). Deadline for admission for the Spring semester is Dec. 1. Students can start the process by visiting the website at: [www.utsa.edu/visitor/index.htm](http://www.utsa.edu/visitor/index.htm), or contact Clyde Phelix for more information about the Brooks courses at: [cphelix@utsa.edu](mailto:cphelix@utsa.edu) or by calling 458-4430. For more information, contact the Education

Services Office at 536-3618.

Brooks is the only military base to offer classes from UTSA.

### ACCD Spring 2003 registration

The Alamo Community College District begins Spring 2003 registration is underway. On-base classes include Speech, Art Appreciation, Computer Literacy, Freshman English, Algebra, U.S. History I, Music Appreciation, and Philosophy. Tuition Assistance covers the full cost of tuition for Alamo Community College District classes. Students need to request tuition assistance 48 hours prior to registration. The ACCD representative visits Brooks each Tuesday. To schedule an appointment, call 536-3617.

### Airman education commissioning

The Airman Education and Commissioning Program is open to airmen who wish to pursue a baccalaureate degree in any certified engineering program, meteorology, nursing, and selected foreign area studies and languages. Airmen

who are accepted into AECP remain on active duty while attending school full time and participating in ROTC. Nurse candidates must pass the National Council Licensure before commissioning. Upon completion of all requirements airmen are commissioned as a second lieutenant. Complete packages are due to the education Services Office by Jan. 6. All courses must be completed by Jan. 15 for consideration. Packages are forwarded to Headquarters/Air Force ROTC not later than Feb. 28 and selection is announced in May.

### Representatives schedule

Representatives from the colleges and universities that visit Brooks will return after the holidays. Students who need to see a school representative before the holidays can call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment. The current school representatives schedule is: Mondays, UTSA and Southwest Texas; Tuesdays, Alamo Community College District; Wednesdays, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Webster University; Thursdays, Our Lady of the

Lake and St. Mary's Universities; Fridays, National Graduate School.

### Active-duty members can increase GI Bill

Active-duty military members, currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5,400 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 is not a pay reduction; therefore, there is not a tax savings.

### St. Mary's University

St. Mary's offers graduate courses at Randolph Air Force Base in Business Administration, Computer Information Systems and Engineering Systems Management. The programs are 36 semester hours. Classes are offered in eight-week sessions, two nights a week. For admission or information about graduate programs offered through St. Mary's, call 658-4852.

This benefit is only open to personnel who first entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985, and participated in the Montgomery GI Bill.

This MGIB feature is not open to Vietnam-Era or VEAP Convertees.

Contact the Education Services Office at 536-3617 for additional information about any of the courses or educational opportunities available to personnel assigned to Brooks.



# Holiday happenings

## Brooks holiday party

Spend an evening in "Winter Wonderland" at the Brooks Club Dec. 13 at the annual holiday party. The event begins with a social hour at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased today, Dec. 6. Dress is holiday casual, no jeans or tennis shoes. The holiday party is open to all Brooks personnel.

## Cover me for Christmas

The 311th Services Division will collect donations of winter clothing including new and used coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, gloves and boots for all ages, to include infants and small children through Dec. 20. Blankets and comforters are also needed. Items will be distributed to Brooks personnel in need of such items during the winter. Any left over items will be donated to a church or charity organization.

Drop off items in the Marketing Office in the Brooks Atrium, Bldg. 1154, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Vida Marsh at 536-8057 or Jan McMahon at 536-5475.

## Toys for Tots

The Toys for Tots Joint Task Force, consisting of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Air Force, needs your help collecting toys for underprivileged children in the local area. The collection campaign runs through Dec. 22. Military community members can drop off new, unwrapped toys in collection boxes at BX/PXs and commissaries at Randolph Air Force Base, Lackland AFB, Fort Sam Houston and Brooks. Toys are stored in a central warehouse and sorted by age and gender. Through Christmas Helping Hands Life Line, with the assistance of local social welfare agencies, church groups, and other local community agencies, distribute the toys in the San Antonio community. Contact Capt. Jay Cryderman at [Jay.Cryderman@randolph.af.mil](mailto:Jay.Cryderman@randolph.af.mil) for large donations or more information.

## Elf Louise volunteers

Elf Louise Christmas Project volunteers are busy preparing for Christmas at the old Montgomery Wards building in McCreeless Mall. Last year, Elf Louise volunteers gathered, wrapped, and personally delivered more than 50,000 toys to nearly 9,000 families in the Bexar County area.

Project offices are usually open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and help is needed in several areas.

Through Dec. 13, help is needed to wrap more than 50,000 gifts, stock toy shelves and organize wrapped gifts in the warehouse. Gift wrap volunteers are plenty, but not many people volunteer to move boxes of toys or keep the workshop organized. Wrapping hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and noon- 6 p.m. Sundays. Walk-in individual volunteers are always welcome. Groups of volunteers must pre-register to ensure enough room for everyone.

Dec. 15-23 volunteers are needed to play Santa Claus. Teams of friends, family and co-workers can deliver toys to 6-10 families. Santa suits are ready to go. Santa briefings are held daily through Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sundays.

For more information, call the Elf Hotline at 224-1843, extension 200, or contact Sharon Earley at 536-2825, or by email at: [Sharon.Earley@brooks.af.mil](mailto:Sharon.Earley@brooks.af.mil).

## Holiday greeting card registration extended

The deadline for entering the annual holiday greeting card contest is extended. Cards may be placed along the median outside the main gate down toward Military Drive. Card judging is scheduled for Dec. 13. Register with Jan McMahon by calling 536-5475. A list of rules and guidelines is available in Bldg. 1154. Organizations with cards from previous years are encouraged to place them for everyone entering the base to enjoy.

## Red Cross gift certificates

The American Red Cross has gift certificates available for any dollar amount that can be used for lifesaving training. The gift certificates are perfect for expectant parents who need to learn CPR and first aid for infants and children, teenagers who could use baby-sitters or life guard training to land part-time jobs, or a child who needs to learn to swim.

To order a gift certificate call 210-224-5151 or, outside of Bexar County, call 800-775-6803. Giving the gift of safety this holiday season could help protect the most important gift; the gift of life.

## Texas holiday traditions

Join the Institute of Texan Cultures for Texas Holiday Traditions, a holiday celebration from 4 to 7 p.m. Dec. 8 at ITC Back 40, in conjunction with the McNay Art Museum's "Holiday Music at the McNay," from 1-4 p.m. Dec. 8.

Strolling musicians entertain visitors along paths lit by glowing luminarias. Guests can trim a freshly cut pine tree, enjoy holiday music and craft homemade cornhusk angels.

Visitors to the one-room schoolhouse can join the town pageant and, afterward, stop by the adobe house and visit "Pancho Claus." In the barn, or at the fort, holiday activities include stringing popcorn and cranberries, creating Victorian ornaments, and making clove-studded pomander. Seasonal treats, such as chocolates and tamales will be available for purchase.

ITC, one of three campuses of the University of Texas at San Antonio is concerned with the history and diverse cultures of Texas. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children ages 3-12,; \$3 for seniors 65 and older and military personnel with a valid ID card; and free for children 2 and under.



Poulis

# Q&A

**FULL NAME:**  
Katherine Jane Poulis

**DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:**  
Cost Analyst, 311th Human Systems Wing, Financial Management

**WHAT IS MY JOB:**  
I work with other personnel to make sure organizations execute their budgets efficiently and effectively.

**BIRTHDAY:**  
May 11, 1977

**HOMETOWN:**  
San Antonio, Texas

**FAMILY STATUS:**  
Single

**MOTTO:**  
Make the best of every situation and be truly grateful for everything you have.

**INSPIRATIONS:**  
My mother. She is strong, kind, intelligent hardworking and honest.

**HOBBIES:**  
Dancing, listening to music, spending time with family and friends, camping, and anything at the lake in the summer.

**PET PEEVE:**  
People who lie.

**BOOK(S) AT BEDSIDE:**  
Financial Management and Strategic Marketing textbooks, for grad school.

**I JOINED CIVIL SERVICE BECAUSE:**  
The Palace Acquire Program gave me an opportunity to get into government financial management. I was excited about the challenges. Civil service was appealing because I knew I would have a part in serving our country and the Air Force.

**FIVE-YEAR GOAL:**  
I will have graduated from Palace Acquire and will be a permanent Air Force employee, and have completed my master's.

**ULTIMATE GOAL:**  
Become financially independent

**IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:**  
Build a house in Boerne, Texas.

**FAVORITE MUSIC:**  
country

**MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:**  
Being named Financial Analysis Civilian of the Year, Intern of the Year and being nominated for Civilian of the Quarter.

**MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:**  
my dog Wookie.

# Feature

## Brooks Personality PROFILE

# The sum total adds up for intern



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonzo Ramirez Jr.

**By Rita Boland**  
Staff writer

Adding machines. Thick glasses. Rows of numbers. Welcome to the world of finance — in the movies.

In real life, the finance field offers challenges, interesting tasks and humorous human interaction. Just ask Kathy Poulis, a PALACE Acquire finance intern at Brooks.

"I wouldn't trade my job here for anything right now," Poulis said.

She did, however, trade her old job and life plans to pursue a career in finance.

Poulis received a full-ride scholarship to study chemistry at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. After graduating from TLU with degrees in math and chemistry, she became a teacher at Judson High School, though she knew at the time she wanted to work more in finance.

"You don't do the same thing all the time here," Poulis said. "I wanted a challenge. I didn't want to be in a lab all day."

She also wanted a chance to serve the Department of Defense (she considered joining the active duty military at one time) so when she heard about the PALACE Acquire program at a job fair, she knew she'd found her calling.

"It's such a great opportunity," Poulis said. "I just couldn't pass it up."

So she left her teaching job and came to work at Brooks.

Brooks has four finance interns who rotate among organizations during their three-year internship

status. The program works on a seven-nine-eleven program and when the internship ends, and Poulis and her colleagues reach permanent status, they will have acquired a GS-11 step two level.

After her first four months of work on base, Poulis attended the Basic Financial Management Officer's Course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

"It's an incredible opportunity and you get so much experience," Poulis said.

Poulis's chemistry background proved useful during her first rotation, which she spent at the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis. While at AFIERA she dealt with the finances of the engineers and scientists.

"I couldn't have asked for a better first rotation," Poulis said. "It was a nice mix. AFIERA was just incredible."

During her first year of work, Poulis made quite an impression, receiving accolades as the 2002 Intern of the Year and the 2002 311th Financial Analysis Civilian of the Year award.

"(Intern) is just a title," she said. "We're treated the same as permanent duty employees."

Being treated the same includes working the same hours and taking on comparable responsibilities. Poulis had much to learn when she first came to work at Brooks, not only about budgets and finance, but about the military.

"I came in and I didn't know any of

the acronyms," she said.

The PALACE program that Poulis works for places qualified applicants in fields like finance, communications and logistics.

"It's such a great program," she said. "I've sent so many people to the PALACE Acquire office."

Poulis said they work stable hours in financial management, which helps her coordinate another of her activities, obtaining her MBA. She started taking classes in May and plans to graduate in October. Classes run for nine weeks at a time and she attends courses two nights a week this session.

Between work and school, Poulis keeps herself occupied.

The free time she does have often gets devoted to her dog, Wookie. When Poulis got the Maltese almost three years ago, the pup was just a ball of fur.

"She's named after Star Wars," Poulis said. "She's really spoiled."

During the summer, Poulis spends her free time at Canyon Lake. Last summer she learned to waterski, but instead of being towed by a boat, a waverunner pulls her along.

Poulis also spends time with her family and is happy that, for now, she can stay in San Antonio. However, she's willing to move based on the specific job and to stay employed by the Air Force.

"I wanted to be involved in government somehow," she said. "I love my job."



# USAFSAM duo part of Imperial Russia's legacy

(Editor's Note: The U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine was once home to the father-daughter medical translation tandem whose lives as members of the Romanov family contributed to Russian and world history. Part I of this series examines the early career of a USAFSAM legend who was an eyewitness to the Russian court's political intrigue.)

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

If Doctor Zhivago were not a fictional character, Roman DeJohnson would probably have befriended him during the darkest days of the Russian Revolution.

DeJohnson, who would eventually be knighted by the King of Italy, was a gracious, refined gentleman whose unique talents contributed to successful careers here and abroad. His mastery of languages, music diplomacy and business earned him the respect and admiration of leaders in Imperial Russia, occupied Europe during World War II and in America as chief of the Medical Translations Branch for the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

"Of all the people I've ever known, and I have known a lot of wonderful people, I would have not changed my father. He was unusual. He (also) was my best friend," said Tamara Boubel, retired USAFSAM medical translator who today serves as a Brooks consultant specializing in scientific text translations.

Boubel's father had already lived a full life when he augured a new career as an Air Force civil servant at USAFSAM from 1949-1964. Born in 1889, DeJohnson was the son of Imperial Russian artillery general Robert Von Johnson.

DeJohnson is directly related to a Russian Grand Duke who was brother to Czar Alexander III.

Alexander's successor, son Nicholas II, served briefly as Russia's last Czar before he and his entire family were executed during the Russian Revolution of 1917.

DeJohnson's fluency in nine languages was eclipsed only by his early singing ability. Gifted with a beautiful soprano voice at age 11, DeJohnson sang for opera composer Giacomo Puccini in 1900.

"My father sat on Puccini's lap and sang something from Puccini's new opera 'Madame Butterfly,'" Boubel said.

After her father had sung flawlessly, Puccini exclaimed, "This is the way you're supposed to sing!"

DeJohnson's musical ability earned him the choir director job while a cadet at the Emperor Nicolai Military Academy, the 'West Point' of St. Petersburg, Russia where he graduated in 1907.

DeJohnson later studied English in London while attached to the Russian embassy.

"He had an inherent ability to persuade, but only used it to help others," Boubel said of her unselfish, humanitarian father.

DeJohnson eventually became a successful entrepreneur specializing in fine furniture and exotic woods. In 1916, he was awarded the contract to refinish the teakwood banisters on Czar Nicholas II's yacht the Polar Star.

His kin, the Czar, often confided in DeJohnson.

"He would pour his heart out to my father," conveyed Boubel about DeJohnson's frequent discussions with the gentle, but unhappy Russian ruler.

"He told my father that he didn't feel he'd be a good czar," she noted, explaining that the Russian emperor didn't want the enormous responsibility that was thrust upon him when he inherited

the Romanov throne.

Four years earlier, DeJohnson glimpsed the future turmoil that would befall the Czar's family when he had a chilling encounter with Grigory Rasputin on board a train.

"My father was alone in a compartment reading a newspaper when a bearded, long-haired man, dressed as a monk, sat down across from him."

Rasputin, a Siberian peasant reported to have miraculous faith-healing powers, had become Empress Alexandra's spiritual advisor and confidant. This mystic also was reputed to have incredible hypnotic powers.

"My father lowered the paper and saw Rasputin's huge gray eyes peering at him." DeJohnson could no longer concentrate on reading, feeling he had been hit by an invisible force.

DeJohnson did not know then that he would play a future role in Rasputin's murder.

"My father was in on the plot to assassinate Rasputin," Boubel confessed. This charlatan 'holy man' had cultivated many enemies, including powerful



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Tamara Boubel at Brooks during the Bedwell memorialization ceremony at Bldg. 150. Boubel, a former U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine translator, is related to Czar Nicholas II of Russia.

foes who DeJohnson supported.

Boubel said, "My father wanted to protect the Czar and his family from this man."

The plotters included DeJohnson's friend Prince Felix Yusupov, whose wife was one of many women at court who the womanizing Rasputin looked upon as an eventual conquest.

Rasputin's assassination occurred at the Yusupov Palace in December 1916.

"My father was asked to be a lookout in the courtyard."

A 'party' supposedly hosted by Yusupov's wife, who at the time was visiting the Crimea, lured Rasputin to the palace.

"He ate pastries poisoned with arsenic, but nothing happened. He kept eating and asking for the princess, then became suspicious. The plotters couldn't believe he was still alive," said Boubel.

After momentarily passing out, Rasputin revived in time to unmask the plotters' treachery. He eventually ran out into the courtyard where he was shot. DeJohnson witnessed Rasputin's "death."

The gunshots had attracted the police to the palace gates where DeJohnson distracted them, saying, "We had to shoot a rabid dog."

The plotters had carted off the "real" dog to which DeJohnson rhetorically referred.

"They dropped Rasputin into the (Malaya) Nevka River. He was still breathing," Boubel said.

Rasputin's body later resurfaced, revealing evidence that he had tried to untie the ropes that bound his body while underwater.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Czar Nicholas II of Russia and his family.

Courtesy photo



## NEWS briefs

### **PRK screening**

Brooks Optometry Clinic will resume screening patients for Photo-Refractive Keratectomy surgery during Dec. PRK is an elective procedure available for active duty personnel, but not everyone qualifies and there are certain risks involved. More information is available at: <https://www.afms.mil/warfightereyes>. Aviators and special duty operators interested in the procedure should visit [https://www.afms.mil/aeromed/USAF\\_PRK.cfm](https://www.afms.mil/aeromed/USAF_PRK.cfm) for information. Call 536-2322 for more information.

### **Altitude test subjects**

Altitude test subjects needed: Help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures to accomplish their missions without distraction or hazard resulting from exposure to altitude. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Each subject must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for more information.

### **Sleep study subjects**

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. Contact Laura Sanchez at 536-3616 for additional information, or visit the website at: [www.ntiinc.com](http://www.ntiinc.com) and link to "studies."

### **Scholarships**

Established in 1992, the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund supports college-bound seniors or full-time college students in the San Antonio military, civilian, or dependent community.

Independent evaluators will judge 600-800 word essays. Applications are available at Brooks, Lackland Air Force Base, Randolph AFB, and Fort Sam Houston libraries, education offices and family support centers.

Applications and more information may also be downloaded from: [www.brooks.af.mil/aaca/brokmlkbh.htm](http://www.brooks.af.mil/aaca/brokmlkbh.htm). Applications and essays are due at 1 p.m. Jan. 31. The scholarships range from \$500-\$1,000 and are awarded at the Scholarship Luncheon scheduled for Feb. 27 at the Brooks Club.

For more details contact Master Sgt. Veronica Berry-Jones at 536-8538.

### **Return addresses required**

There have been numerous inquiries to the U.S. Postal Service and MPSA regarding the requirement for a return address on parcels mailed to service members at Military Post Offices overseas and aboard ships. A return address is required for all parcels, and is highly recommended on letters. Parcels without return addresses may be refused for a number of reasons, including security.

Brooks will not distribute through official channels without a return address. Questions can be directed to Iris Seals at 536-3249.

### **Reenlistment bonus review**

The semiannual review of all Air Force Specialty Codes began in December, with results anticipated in January. The focus is on manning levels, retention trends, training costs, and career field manager's inputs regarding the effects of on-going or future force structure changes. All re-enlistment-eligible members, defined as members who have a date of separation one year or less away from the projected reenlistment date, are selected for reassignment/retainability required and the commander has selected them, must be aware of this information prior to reenlisting. If members can delay their reenlistment, they must be provided the opportunity to do so. Although the Air Force Personnel Center plans to announce the review results in January, if they are delayed, it could affect members' reenlistment plans.

In accordance with Air Force Instruction airmen serving in SRB skills announced for reduction or termination, who are re-enlistment eligible must reenlist before the effective date of the termination or reduction to receive the bonus at the previous rate. There is normally a 30-day window between the dates. Due to the short notice Jan. 17 release, members were authorized to petition the Board for Correction of Military records to request their reenlistment date be changed in order to take advantage of a higher SRB. Members will not have that opportunity with this release. If they choose not to delay their reenlistment until after the review, changes will not be allowed.

Any member who has reenlisted prior to the release of the message is not eligible to have their reenlistment declared erroneous and reenlist at a later date.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Sharon Portell in Reenlistments and Extensions by calling 536-6978 or by email at [sharon.portell@brooks.af.mil](mailto:sharon.portell@brooks.af.mil).



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez, Jr.

**San Antonio Fire Department, Brooks Security Forces, and San Antonio Police Department personnel stand together as a team during a recent exercise at Brooks where San Antonio emergency workers were called to respond to a "hazardous materials incident" at Brooks.**

## Exercises strengthen teamwork

By Lt. Col. Susan Loveland

311th Human Systems Wing Inspector General

The Inspection System, as implemented by Air Force Instruction 90-201, Inspector General Activities, the 311th Human Systems Wing Exercise Evaluation Team conducts operational readiness exercises of Brooks personnel and War Reserve Material. Exercises assist in evaluating the ability of base members to respond to accidents, increased states of readiness, contingencies, and deployment in support of tasked responses to worldwide hostilities. Although base property was conveyed to the city, Brooks members of all categories continue to have a responsibility to support responding teams and work together to mitigate the situation.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

**(Top) A member of the San Antonio Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team checks the scene of a "hazardous materials incident" during a recent exercise at Brooks.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez, Jr.

**(Left) San Antonio Fire Department members responded with all necessary equipment to a "hazardous materials incident" call from Brooks during a recent exercise.**



# Sports

## Chiefs 'massacre' Eagles in softball game showdown

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wings

Demonstrating their variation of the Atlanta Braves' famous 'tomahawk chop,' the Chiefs Group scalped the Eagles' softball team 14-3 during the first sports "massacre" in Squadron Challenge history.

Their Nov. 15 war dance across the diamond gave the Chiefs bragging rights over a beleaguered colonels group that had prematurely predicted victory. The premiere Squadron Challenge XII demonstration event ultimately validated to a partisan crowd the chiefs' pre-game boast that eagles can't fly very far afield when their wings are clipped.

"If you pitch slow, we might end this thing with a little dignity," bellowed Eagles' shortstop Chris Kleinsmith as he stepped to the plate in the waning moments of a game in which his squad was down by 11 runs. Before popping out to short, Kleinsmith briefly taunted the home plate umpire, saying, "I thought we're playing until we were ahead."

The only true winner that came out ahead after the game was over was the Combined Federal Campaign. The losing team, honoring a pre-game wager, donated \$250 to CFC. Both teams also



Photo by Rudy Purificato

**The Chiefs Squad taunted the Eagles with shirts made especially for the occasion.**

raised another \$366 for CFC during a post-game exhibition in which a slightly gimpy 311th Human Systems Wing commander got plastered in the kisser with a pie.

"No one was a winner or loser in this game," said Chiefs coach Darlin 'Big E' Evans. He expressed his appreciation to the base leadership and fitness center staff for staging the game that bolstered morale and helped raise money for CFC. The contest also marked the first time in Brooks sports history that a softball team composed of colonels competed against a squad consisting mainly of chief master sergeants and a couple of 'honorary chiefs.'

While Evans effusively praised his opponents during the post-game ceremony, his taunting game-time banter helped spark his team to victory.

However, Evans was uncharacteristically quiet in the early innings as his squad quickly fell behind. The

Eagles jumped on Chiefs pitcher Al King for three runs in the first inning. Eagles' pitcher and cleanup hitter Al Burnett scorched a triple to leftfield to score the game's first two runs. First baseman-coach Jim Dooley's run scoring groundout completed the rally.

Despite suffering a pulled groin in an earlier Squadron Challenge event, Burnett held the Chiefs to only one run through the first two innings.

Sparked by the hot bat of third baseman Rich Hollins, the Chiefs broke the game open with a six-run outburst in the home half of the third. Hollins, who was 4 for 4 with five runs batted in, blasted a three-run homer. Leftfielder Mike Smith kept the two-out rally going with a three-run shot that gave the Chiefs a lead they did not relinquish.

The Chiefs finally knocked Burnett out of the box in the fourth when they scored another seven runs. Meanwhile, injured Chiefs righthander King became nearly unhittable after the first inning. He shut down the Eagles' offense by tossing four scoreless innings to earn the win.

"We thought we were going to win this game," said a somewhat surprised Eagles coach. Dooley admitted, "They have a very good shortstop (Steve Smith) who kept us out of rallies. They (also) have a very good hitting team. We got beat by a better team. We just didn't play up to our potential."

The victory avenged a volleyball game defeat the Chiefs suffered against the Eagles three years ago. Squadron

Challenge organizers plan to make the Chiefs-Eagles softball game an annual affair.

Eagles	AB	H	RBI
Porter, lf	3	2	0
Kleinsmith, ss	3	1	0
Neville, cf	3	0	0
Burnett, p	2	1	2
Dooley, 1b	3	0	1
Farrell, c	2	0	0
Vanderbeek, rf	2	0	0
Cropper, 2b	1	0	0
Tong, ph	1	0	0
Kinne, scf	2	1	0
Brown, 3b	2	0	0
Bowley, ph	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

Chiefs	AB	H	RBI
Dodd, scf	1	0	0
Hollins, 3b	4	4	5
Goss, 2b	4	2	1
Smith, S., ss	4	3	2
Cahill, 1b	4	1	0
Martinez, rf	4	0	0
Bisson, c	3	2	0
Smith, M. If	1	1	3
Ackers, cf	2	0	0
King, p	1	0	0
Damer, ph	2	2	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>

Eagles — 3 0 0 0 0 3-5-1  
 Chiefs — 0 1 6 7 x 14-15-5  
 E - Kleinsmith, Hollins (3), Smith, S. (2).  
 LOB - Eagles - 6, Chiefs - 8. DP- none. BB-  
 Smith, M. (2), Ackers, (Intentional) . 2B -  
 Hollins, Damer (2), Bisson. 3B - Burnett.  
 HR - Hollins (3rd), M. Smith (3rd), S. Smith  
 (4th).



# YA defends Squadron Challenge title

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

For the second time in 2002, the 311th Human Systems Program Office showcased a group of talented athletes who dominated the competition by easily winning Squadron Challenge XII Nov. 15.

YA outdistanced its closest rival by an incredible 25-point margin. Their overwhelming total of 63 points was earned by capturing first place honors in nine events. YA athletes won men's racquetball, volleyball, men's tennis, golf, 4-on-4 flag football, one pitch softball, the 4 x 100 relay, tug-of-war and tied for first in the 100-meter dash.

"We won the golf competition by one stroke," said an exuberant Elton Hudgins who credits teammate Tara Shumway for helping position YA's team for the victory on the final hole. "She hit a great shot that enabled us to birdie the last hole," said Hudgins, whose other teammates included Nick Pellegrino and Col. Al Burnett, YA's director. YA, which has won three of the last four Squadron Challenges, has done so by repeatedly winning events they historically dominate, such as golf.

Squadron Challenge XII's premiere event, the 100-meter dash, resulted in no world records broken and sur-

prisingly ended in a tie. 311th Services Division's Terry Rivers, who became the "fastest human on base" when he unofficially set a new world outdoor record in the 100-meter dash two years ago during Squadron Challenge IX, gave his unit its only first place finish.

The Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis finished second with an overall 38 points, earned primarily by finishing first in three events: women's racquetball, women's tennis and women's 3-on-3 basketball.

The Air Force Research Laboratory, runners-up at Squadron Challenge XI, finished third with 28 points. AFRL won only one event: 3-on-3 men's basketball.

"It's been a good team building exercise, bringing people together. We get to see how good an athlete our colleagues are," said Hudgins, who praised Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd's decision to stage Squadron Challenge biennially.

## Squadron Challenge XII final results

Place	Unit	Points
1st	YA	63
2nd	AFIERA	38
3rd	AFRL	28
4th	MSG	22
5th	68th IOS	18
6th	MDS	18
7th	PK	14
8th	SFS	13
9th	HSW	13
10th	USAFSAM	11
11th	CS	10
12th	USAMRD	8
13th	AFCEE	3

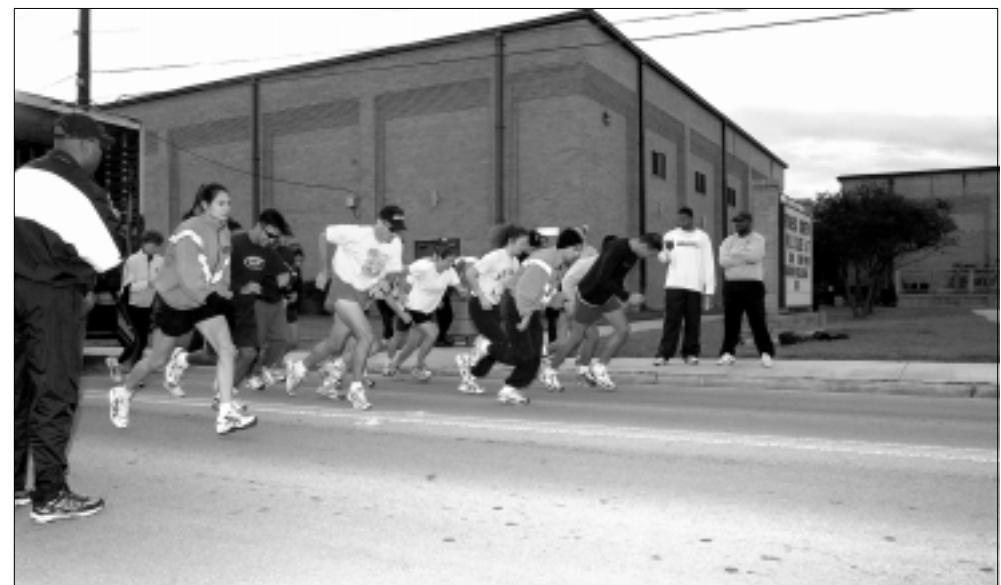


Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez, Jr.

Competitors from various organizations at Brooks give it their best as they compete for a win in the 5-k run during Squadron Challenge XII.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez, Jr.

The 4 x 100 relay was one of nine events YA placed first in.

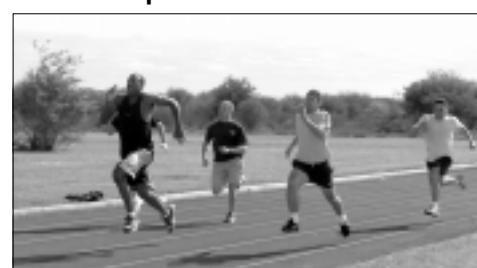


Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez, Jr.

Despite the efforts of 311th Services Division's Terry Rivers, the "fastest human on base", the men's 100-meter dash ended in a tie with YA.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

The Air Force Research Laboratory jumped at the chance to fill the first place slot in men's 3-on-3 basketball.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

YA's tug-of-war team's best effort paid off when they placed first in the event.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

The pie-in-the-face event at the barbecue luncheon following Squadron Challenge Day XII games turned out to be a popular event. (Left) Command Chief Master Sergeant Darlin "Big E" Evans and Kate Dodd, wife of 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, prepare their pies while they wait in line. (Center) Kate Dodd takes a shot at her husband, 311th HSW Commander Brig. Lloyd Dodd. (Left) Dodd takes the fun at his expense in good humor. The event was the final push to raise money for the 2002 CFC campaign.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez, Jr.

Senior Airman Kelly Lewis concentrates on her swing during the Squadron Challenge XII golf event.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez, Jr.

The popular volleyball event invited fierce competition but ended in another victory for YA.