

# DISCOVERY



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 26, No. 12-- Friday, June 28, 2002 -- Brooks AFB, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

## As aquifer drops Stage I water restrictions enacted

By Rita Boland  
Discovery staff writer

Once again, citizens in the Alamo city are seeing restrictions on their water usage. Since the Edwards Aquifer dropped below 650 feet this week, San Antonio has entered Stage I of the city's drought plan. The measurements are made by the J-17 monitoring well at Fort Sam Houston.

The main restriction during Stage I is a once a week watering schedule for sprinklers or irrigation systems. Watering times are from midnight to 10 a.m. or 8 p.m. to midnight.

Residential addresses ending in 0 or 1 water on Monday, addresses ending in 2 or 3 water on Tuesday; 4 or 5 water on Wednesday; 6 or 7 water on Thursday; and 8 or 9 water on Friday.

Residents on Brooks follow the same restrictions as the rest of the city.

During Stage I restrictions water waste is prohibited including allowing water to run off onto a gutter, ditch, or drain; or failing to repair a controllable leak. Residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural Edwards Aquifer water users should reduce water consumption by any means available and pools must be covered at least 25 percent when not in use.

See Water Restrictions, Page 3



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

### Summertime fun

Children line up to have fun on an inflatable slide at the annual Brooks Picnic Bash, June 14. Several hundred base members and their families attended the day-long event

at the base picnic grounds, which included a variety of food and beverage booths, live music and fun activities for everyone.

## USAFSAM units capture Commander's Award

### New hypoxia training method earns recognition

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Successful testing of the Reduced Oxygen Breathing Environment, known as ROBE, that provides a safer, more cost effective method to train Air Force aviators in the dangers of hypoxia at altitude has earned two U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine organizations the base's top award.

USAFSAM's Hyperbaric Medicine Branch and Aerospace Physiology Training Branch collectively earned their first 311th Human Systems Wing Commander's Award this month. It's USAFSAM's fourth time to win the honor since the award's inception in 1995.

"In a unique collaboration, members of the Hyperbaric Medicine Division and Aerospace Physiology Training Branch functioned flawlessly together to demonstrate a new concept in altitude chamber-based hypoxia refresher training. This successfully demonstrated new methodology may lead to an Air Force-wide training pro-

gram update, lowering student and chamber attendant risk and enhancing training effectiveness," said Col. James Dooley, Hyperbaric Medicine Division chief.

The development of ROBE signals a significant change in training methodology experienced by aircrew members, parachutists and other special duty personnel who every five years must reacquaint themselves with the symptoms of hypoxia (decreased oxygen levels in the blood).

In pre-ROBE refresher training, participants are exposed to the partial reduction of oxygen pressure within an altitude chamber. This method, which simulates conditions found at increasing altitudes, produces a variety of side effects. They include decreased visual acuity (loss of clarity and color recognition); disorientation caused by the ability to reason effectively; trapped gas expansion that may lead to tooth, sinus and joint pain, eardrum rupture and eyesight damage; intestinal distress; neurovascular collapse and decompression sickness.

The ROBE method induces hypoxia by decreasing the total concentration of oxygen in the breathing environment instead of exposing altitude chamber training participants to the

See Commander's Award, Page 8

## Fourth of July celebrations planned throughout region

By Rita Boland  
Discovery staff writer

The Fourth of July — a time to celebrate freedom, independence, those who have died to preserve those ideals, and those fighting for them now.

The Fourth of July is also a time to gather with friends and family and honor our country.

Residents of San Antonio and the surrounding area have a plethora of choices for observing the holiday.

**Lackland AFB:** Lackland's "Star Spangled Festival" will take place July 4-5 and is open to the public. Both days include carnival rides, a children's area, a teen tent and food and beverage booths. Entrance to the carnival grounds is free, with individual prices for the rides.

Events on the fourth also include a car show, which involves a registration fee. Festivities include a concert each night.

On the fourth, Merle Haggard, David Ball, Straight Shot and Shawn Allen and the Bout Time Band will perform. Tickets are \$15. The evening ends with fireworks at 11 p.m. On the fifth, Cameo, Ram Herrera and Fingerprints will play. Those tickets are \$12.

See July 4th, Page 6



Camp Challenger challenges students

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Security Forces members tackle semi-pro football

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# Celebrating the past while looking to the future

By Gen. Lester Lyles

AFMC Commander



On July 1, 1992, two proud organizations merged to meet the challenges of a changing Air Force. Air Force Systems Command and Air Force Logistics Command each came with storied histories, and for the first time, one Air Force organization was given "cradle to grave" responsibility for air and space warfighting capabilities.

As we celebrate Air Force Materiel Command's 10th Anniversary and march into the 21st Century focused on transformation, I'm reminded that AFMC was actually born as a transformational command, with a charter to revolutionize Air Force acquisition and sustainment.

We continue that great tradition today and have built a 10-year record of excellence in delivering innovative capabilities to our warriors - capabilities that start with research in our labs. From there, our product and test centers serve as the vital link between us and industry, ensuring the right capabilities are developed, tested and delivered to our warfighters. And our air logistics centers ensure those capabilities are sustained throughout the product's life cycle. This has been our core mission for a decade and it continues to guide our efforts today.

But, the initial challenges in standing up a new organization with such a critical and expansive mission were daunting. AFMC's first commander, Gen. Ron Yates, was a visionary. Under his leadership, AFMC overcame the challenges involved in merging the acquisition and sustainment functions. AFMC evolved from a transformational concept into an innovative organization overseeing research and development, testing, systems acquisition and sustainment.

I had the honor of taking command of what I consider the most important organization in the Air Force in April 2000. For me, this has always been my dream job. When AFMC stood up, I was serving as vice commander and later commander at the Ogden Air Logistics Center. From there, I got the opportunity to command the Space and Missile Systems Center. So, I've been in AFMC for much of its distinguished history and was very excited to get the opportunity to come back as your commander.

“ AFMC's success is seen on today's battlefield, a battlefield shaped by the capabilities we've produced and sustained. ”

During the past two years, I've had the privilege of continuing the important work initiated by my three predecessors. I also inherited a world-class workforce. But, like my predecessors, change has been the status quo. During my tenure, the Space and Missile Systems Center was realigned under Air Force Space Command. We also completed closing two air logistics centers at McClellan and Kelly Air Force Bases. But, we've never taken our eyes off our target - delivering and sustaining revolutionary capabilities - capabilities the Air Force needed as it played a dominant role in several conflicts, including the ongoing war on terrorism.

Throughout the past decade, one thing has remained constant. AFMC has always been ready and able to change to meet the needs of the Air Force and our nation.

And we are still changing today, perhaps more significantly than at any other time since our first days as an organization. A very dangerous and changing world demands new capabilities and a new outlook on how we need to be organized as well as how we do business.

Our transformation is for real. It's not just a buzzword. The warfighters need tomorrow's technology today. Today's environment demands out-of-the-box thinking. Old paradigms are being challenged and new approaches introduced.

At the same time, we are shifting from a program-centric to an enterprise focus that looks at the big picture of what capabilities we need and how they fit together to produce dominant battlefield effects.

We are also actively engaged in ensuring our scientists and engineers remain a core part of our workforce. Their efforts represent our future. We are instituting initiatives that will enable us to recruit and retain new talent to replace the abundance of experience in all mission areas we will soon lose to retirement.

Whatever the challenge, we've always remained faithful to our mission through the changes of the last decade, diligently providing sustainable warfighting capabilities to our warriors.

We've had a distinguished first decade. AFMC's success is seen on today's battlefield, a battlefield shaped by the capabilities we've produced and sustained. This command has had a direct hand in developing capabilities that are right now in the hands of warfighters including the Global Hawk, the armed Predator, the Air Operations Center Weapon System, Tactical Datalink, the C-17, and the Joint Direct Attack Munitions.

Some of the products currently being developed in our labs are even more revolutionary and it will be exciting to see how they change future warfare. We've laid the groundwork for another electrifying 10 years.

We celebrate the past as we look to the future. Exciting times are ahead and I'm already looking forward to our 20th Anniversary!

## Celebrate all that it means...

By Gen. Lester Lyles

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

As we celebrate Independence Day this year, we do so with somber resolve — a rededication to our nation and a renewed commitment to preserving our freedom. Our resolution reflects the horrors and heroism of the past nine months. It reaffirms our will to put patriotism into practice.

While our men and women venture into harm's way, as we work long hours to provide warfighters the best possible capabilities, despite our remaining vigilant to warnings of future attacks and remembering those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in this war on terror, I ask you to celebrate.

Celebrate our great nation! Celebrate our families. Celebrate our contributions to preserving the peace and prosperity of our fellow men and women.

All of you — military, civilian and contract professionals — who are Air Force Materiel Command have risen to perhaps the greatest threat our nation

has faced since World War II. You, and others like you throughout the Air Force and its sister services, are the reason we will succeed in Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. Those whose extremist beliefs threaten our lives and our freedom ultimately cannot stand before your dedication, your performance and your resolve.

This year, Independence Day has new meaning for many Americans. For those of us who are privileged to serve the United States through our Air Force affiliations, it is the exclamation point on the statement, "I am an American, fighting for my country..."

Use this opportunity to celebrate being a member of the world's greatest Air and Space Force. Celebrate all that it means to be an American!

For me, the Fourth of July also is a time to celebrate the members of this unique command. Thank you for your superb efforts and many sacrifices. I am proud of your accomplishments and humbled by your display of grit and character. I celebrate you!

May God bless each of you and your families, and God bless America!

DISCOVERY

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# Air Force releases technical, master sergeant promotion lists

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER—The Air Force released its newest lists of technical and master sergeant promotions June 27.

To allow as many deployed airmen as possible to be considered in the regular promotion cycles, the announcements were delayed from the originally scheduled date.

The delay, however, will have no effect on the promotion effective date:

Aug. 1 for technical and master sergeants.

Delays resulted from the Air Force allowing extra time for deployed and returning airmen to test, said Air Force officials.

“We want to make sure we consider as many people as we possibly can so when we run the selection list it will closely mirror what it would look like if 100 percent of the eligibles had

tested in the normal timeframe.

This ensures the Weighted Airman Promotion System continues to be fair and equitable for all NCOs competing for promotion,” said Senior Master Sgt. Nathalie Swisher, chief of the enlisted promotion management section at AFPC.

A complete list of selectees will be available on AFPC’s home page by 4:30 p.m. today at: [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil).

## Brooks selectees

The following Brooks technical sergeants were selected for promotion to master sergeant. This list is broken down by organization:

**To Master Sergeant  
311th Communications Squadron**

Thomas Kuhn  
Michael Tasista  
Pedro Ybanez

**311th Medical Squadron**  
Tracey Wilkinson

**311th Air Base Group**  
Joseph Griffith

**Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis**  
Robert Davis  
Robert Feeman Jr.  
Debbie Metzger

**U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine**  
Rogelio Cano  
Carl Crane  
Allen Gartmann  
Timothy Harding  
Richard Madrid  
Stephen Parks  
Jano Corn Perez-Tara  
Wesley Walker

**Air Force Research Laboratory**  
Terri Scholin

**68th Information Operations Squadron**  
Luther Brewer  
Reginald Smith

**Air Force Medical Support Agency**  
Pamela Massey  
Gerald Blackman  
Mary Rogers

**Air Force Medical Operations Agency**  
Wayne Hanes

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

**To Technical Sergeant:  
311th Human Systems Wing**  
John Castillo  
Michael Watts

**311th Human Systems Program Office**  
John Berry

**311th CS**  
Milo Jenkins  
Thomas Ray  
Richard Stevens

**311th MDS**  
Anna Chapa  
Ethel Easter  
Brigida Hendrix  
Mary Nichol  
David Roberson  
James Welch

**311th Security Forces Squadron**  
Jeffrey Wheeler

**311th ABG**  
Christina Gonzales  
Douglas Price  
Curtis Reese  
Jacqueline Strahan

**AFIERA**  
Annette Davis  
Henry Debose Jr.  
Karl Giese  
Leslie Jones  
Adam McComb  
Sally Perez  
Ty Richards  
Angel Tyler  
George Viale

**USAFSAM**  
Michael Baker  
Michael Bishop  
Jeffrey Compton  
James Demarah  
Patricia Esquivel

Darria Fitzpatrick  
Tammy Frazier  
Letizia Lufrano  
Alvaro Magana  
Julie Morris  
Angela Newby  
Renee Patterson  
Mark St. Marie  
Chris Valadez  
Timothy Walters  
John Weaver

**AFRL**  
Danelia Chappell  
Robert Taylor Jr.

**68th IOS**  
Donald Goudy  
Damon Jackson  
Kenyon Nessel  
Vicente Salinas

**AFMSA**  
Vertis Cunningham  
Jayme Jackson  
Ray Knudson

*Congratulations to all Brooks NCOs selected for promotion!*

## Water Restrictions

*Continued from Page 1*

“The key to the decline in aquifer level is the lack of rain. San Antonians are pumping less than they did last year at this time. If we continue to use water wisely and the agricultural irrigators complete their major irrigation period by July 4th we should be able to prevent dropping into Stage II restrictions,” said San Antonio Water System Water Conservation Manager Calvin Finch.

*Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil*

## Conservation tips

Here are some simple conservation tips consumers can use to keep their water use to a minimum.

— Reduce lawn watering by any means available:

— Turn off automatic sprinkler system.

— If you must water, use the “footprint” test to gauge lawn-watering needs and manually turn on sprinkler system. Don’t forget to manually turn off the system, too.

— Hand water landscape plants.

— Use certified water conserving commercial car washes that recycle their water.

— Save water inside the home too:

— Use the dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads.

— Fix all leaks-dripping faucets, running toilets, etc.

— Take shorter showers.

*(Courtesy of the San Antonio Water System. For more information, visit the SAWS website at: [www.saws.org](http://www.saws.org).)*



## Most specialties released from Stop-Loss

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force personnel officials announced the release of most Air Force specialty codes from Stop-Loss, a Defense Department program designed to retain members of the armed forces beyond established dates of separation or retirement.

This announcement comes as a result of the latest review of AFSCs by the major commands, Air Staff, Air Reserve Component, Secretariat and the Air Force Personnel Center, and applies across the board to both active-duty and Air Reserve Component members.

The officer career fields remaining on Stop-Loss restrictions are: 11S, 12S and 31P.

The enlisted career fields remaining on Stop-Loss restrictions are: 1A1X0, 1A1X1, 1C0X0, 1C0X1, 1C0X2, 1C1X0, 1C1X1, 1N0X0, 1N0X1, 1T2X0, 1T2X1, 2F0X0, 2F0X1, 3P0X0 and 3P0X1.

Air Force members with an approved date of separation or retirement in those career fields approved for release are free to

separate or retire almost immediately. Officials are developing guidance for the release of all personnel remaining on Stop-Loss and expect to make the announcement to the field within the next couple of weeks, she said.

"Any released active-duty or ARC member, not mobilized or deployed, with an approved expiration of term of service, date of separation or date of retirement may be allowed to separate or retire no earlier than July 1," said Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, chief of promotion, evaluation and separation policy at the Pentagon.

Active-duty and ARC members who are deployed in support of ongoing operations or are either voluntarily or involuntarily on active duty to support ongoing operations will not be released until they return from their deployments or they are demobilized.

"I just want everyone to know that the Air Force and this nation are grateful for your service and the sacrifices you have made to keep us safe from evil," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche.

## CSAF survey results show AFMC is getting better

By Capt. Jeff Sandrock

AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — Following the May 24 release of the Air Force Chief of Staff's organizational climate survey results, Air Force Materiel Command as a whole showed improvements in several areas.

Survey respondents took the time to provide their leaders feedback in several areas of leadership and organization by participating in the survey, which ran Jan. 22 through March 8.

When asked about the organizational climate of their unit, the majority of participants had positive responses. The command-wide results were:

— Unit performance outcomes - 91 percent of responses were positive.

— The job - 91 percent of responses were positive.

— Core values, teamwork, and job enhancement - 85 percent of responses were positive.

— Training and development - 81 percent of responses were positive.

— Supervision - 79 percent of responses were positive.

— General satisfaction - 77 percent of responses were positive.

— Unit leadership - 76 percent of responses were positive.

— Participation / involvement - 75 percent of responses were positive.

— Unit flexibility - 74 percent of responses were positive.

— Resources - 71 percent of responses were positive.

— Recognition - 69 percent of responses were positive.

Compared with 1999's survey results, AFMC survey participants indicated by their responses that AFMC is getting stronger in these key areas.

All categories, except one, showed an increase of 1 to 4 percent in positive responses. The exception to this improvement trend was "the job," with positive responses constant at 91 percent.

Individual items of the survey asked respondents to agree or disagree with the statement. AFMC results to certain statements, with percentage of respondents agreeing, are as follows:

— I am aware of quality of life programs at my base; 85 percent of respondents agreed.

— My unit's daily operations are focused on reducing cost and improving performance; 77 percent of respondents agreed.

— I am satisfied with my unit leadership's commitment to improving my quality of life; 74 percent of respondents agreed.

— Efforts to improve management and labor relationships have had a positive impact on my unit; 66 percent of respondents agreed.

Survey respondents were asked to rank-order factors that contributed to their continued service in the Air Force. For each place ranking (first through seventh), the most commonly selected responses were:

1. Type of work / challenging work.
2. Competitive pay and compensation and type of work / challenging work (the same percent of people agreed on each item as deserving the number two spot).
3. Competitive pay and compensation inched out retirement benefits.
4. Work / personal life balance.
5. Professional development.
6. Patriotism.
7. Other reasons, not listed above captured the final position.

When asked to respond to the statement "My attitude at work is optimistic, neutral, pessimistic," 76 percent felt optimistic about their attitude.

Wing, group and unit commanders are under no obligation to release specific survey results to their superiors — yet they use the results to find out if improvements can be made wherever perceived problems lie.

A three-part cycle was established for each commander to solicit employees' thoughts on their organization, and to put those responses to work.

The first part, the survey itself, gathered specific responses in key areas discussed above.

The second part, which involves soliciting specific feedback, allows commanders to determine if there are any driving forces behind specific survey responses.

The third part, the action step, gives commanders the opportunity to take action in areas they deem appropriate, to improve the organizational climate of their unit.

With this employee feedback, leaders will pursue improvement efforts and more articles will follow to highlight actions implemented across AFMC.



## 68 IOS performs patriotic duty

### Unit spends day cleaning up Fort Sam cemetery

In pursuing its goal to perform a quarterly unit-wide community service project, members of the 68th Information Operations Squadron, led by their commander Lt. Col. Steven 'Remo' Payson, spent May 28 at Fort Sam National Cemetery in San Antonio.

Unit volunteers gave their time and effort removing flags from the headstones placed to commemorate veterans on Memorial Day — the cemetery hosts 98,500 gravesites.

"This was a unique and sobering experience I won't

soon forget, I'm glad I was able to share it with my son" commented Maj. Carlos Bushman, 68th IOS director of Operations.

Not satisfied with just helping remove the flags from the gravestones, volunteers assisted Fort Sam personnel in rolling and storing the flags for next year's use.

"You don't really appreciate what 98,000 flags stacked in a pile on a warehouse floor look like until you stand face to face with it," said Bushman.

Unit volunteers all agreed that they will likely never look at another small U.S. flag in quite the same way and the experience made them fully appreciate the significance of Memorial day and the sacrifices made by the veterans laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

### Transporting medical history

Several old Brooks research hyperbaric chambers are loaded onto a flatbed truck. Their destination — the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office in San Antonio. The chambers, decommissioned in the mid-to-late 1990s, now rest at DRMO and await interest from those who care to bid on a piece of Air Force medical history.

## Air Force Services Agency creates toll-free lodging reservations line

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — Air Force Services Agency officials have established a toll-free centralized number to help people reach any base lodging operation in the continental United States.

The number, (888) AF Lodge or (888) 235-6343, eliminates customers having to contact individual lodging facilities to make reservations.

Air Force lodging branch officials are working with the Defense Travel System team to develop "one-stop shopping" for all travelers' needs.

## Brooks Catholics support African missions

Brooks Catholics raised more than \$2,800 for the African missions during the Mission Sunday Mass June 23 concelebrated by Brooks pastor Father Maury Smith, OFM, and Nigerian priest Father Anthony Afangide, MSP.

The concern for the church in Africa continues a tradition began last year when Brooks gave more than \$3,000. The designated offering will go to the Missionaries of St. Paul, a Nigerian religious order founded in 1977 to evangelize the world.

MSP missionaries are in eight African countries along with Grenada in the West Indies, the United States, England and Sweden.

Father Anthony is the pastor of a large Catholic church in Houston. A small reception was held for the Father June 22 to help celebrate his 16 anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

For more information about the Missionaries of St. Paul, contact the Brooks Chapel at 536-3824.



## July 4th

Continued from Page 1

**Randolph AFB:** Patrons can enjoy music, food and fireworks at the annual Fourth of July celebration. Drugstore Cowboys, Planet Soul and Wilbert Beasley will perform throughout the evening. Booths will serve foods like turkey legs, hamburgers, tamales and cotton candy. Children's activities include magicians, clowns, face painting, crafts and jumping tents. The gates open at 5 p.m. and the festivities culminate with a fireworks display at 10 p.m.

**Fort Sam Houston:** For a more unique celebration, attend the "Salute to the Union." A 50-cannon salute will take place at noon at the Post Flag Pole on Stanley Road. The flags from the 50 states will be displayed.

**San Antonio:** The city celebrates Independence Day with fireworks at Woodlawn Lake Park beginning at 10 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 207-3000.

**City of Schertz:** Celebrate in small-town style with the Schertz 4th of July Jubilee. The festivities start on July 3, with a car show and sock hop in Pickrell Park, running from 6:30 p.m.-midnight. The carnival also starts Wednesday and runs through Sunday.

On the fourth, a parade themed "Honoring our Heroes" will go down Schertz Parkway to the park. After the opening ceremony, several musical acts and dancers will perform. There will also be a karate demonstration. At the end of the day, officials will set off a fireworks display.



**Fiesta Texas:** The amusement park will present a pyrotechnic show entitled "Lights of Liberty" on July 4, 5 and 6. People who have paid for admission to the park can obtain free tickets for seating to the fireworks on a first-come, first-serve basis. For information, call 697-5050.

**Sea World:** The world's largest marine life park will be open until 11 p.m. July 4 for its fireworks extravaganza. Call the park at 523-3611 for more information.

**Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium:** The San Antonio Missions take on the El Paso Diablos July 4. Robert Earl Keen will perform in concert following the game and fireworks will cap off the night. Admission price is \$12-\$15. For more details, call 675-5077.

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# Fireworks safety a concern for Fourth of July

## Misuse causes injuries, may even cause death

By Rita Boland

Discovery staff writer

With the Fourth of July holiday right around the corner, the issue of fireworks safety is a hot topic. Each year, thousands of people, especially small children, are injured using fireworks.

According to the Texas Pyrotechnic Association, or TPA, the misuse or abuse of fireworks, including homemade and illegal fireworks, causes the majority of injuries.

In the past several years, the amount of fireworks injuries has dropped.

Since 1994, injury rates have dropped more than 45 percent, though the use has increased.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission credits improved manufacturing coupled with greater fireworks safety education for the decrease.

Fireworks of any type are illegal on Brooks as well as inside the San Antonio city limits, though they may be purchased in Bexar County and set off in designated "safe zones."

The safe zones are located at 13455 Highway 16 South, 7640 Highway 87 East and on

the access road of IH-10 West at the Ralph Fair Road exit.

Items such as M-80's, M-100's and blockbusters are classified as explosives and illegal nationwide. This year in Bexar County all aerial fireworks are prohibited. These include any rockets or fireworks with fins.

"Fireworks and the Fourth of July seem to go together, but I cannot overemphasize the importance of safety," said Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander. "As a physician I've taken care of scores of people who have lost fingers, eyes and even hands. Children especially have to be watched. Old fireworks and fuses burn much faster than new ones. They'll burn faster than you can get away from them."

The National Council on Fireworks Safety provides the following guidelines for handling fireworks:

- Always read and follow label directions;
- Have an adult present; Buy from reliable sources; Use outdoors only;
- Always have water present (a hose and a bucket);
- Never experiment or make your own fireworks;
- Light only one firework at a time;
- Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15-20 minutes then soak it in a bucket of water);
- Never give fireworks to small children;

“Fireworks and the Fourth of July seem to go together, but I cannot overemphasize the importance of safety. As a physician I've taken care of scores of people who have lost fingers, eyes and even hands.”

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd  
311th Human Systems Wing  
commander

— If necessary, store fireworks in a cool, dry place;

— Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trashcan;

— Never throw or point fireworks at other people;

— Never carry fireworks in your pocket;

— Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework; Stay away from illegal explosives.

For more on fireworks safety, visit the TPA website: [www.texasfireworkssafety.com](http://www.texasfireworkssafety.com).

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# ACTION LINE

## 536-2222



**Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd**  
311th Human Systems  
Wing commander

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

**If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.**

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-3310
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Air Base Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	536-7000
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-1851
Civilian Pay.....	536-2823
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Base Exchange.....	533-9161
Commissary.....	536-3549
Brooks City-Base Office.....	536-6626

Here are replies to some of the 3x5 card questions and comments you have made at the last few wing commander's calls. Only a portion of the cards can be addressed today or in this forum. Some of the cards have been sent to the various OPRs within the wing and groups for further staffing and some cards (such as these, below) are of broad interest. In some cases I have combined very similar cards to provide one response. Just wanted to let you know we are listening.

**Q. When will retreats be restarted to show proper respect for the flag and to practice military customs and courtesy?**

A: Soon, I think. In our current force protection condition (FPCON) we need to avoid gatherings of people, which might pose a target for terrorists. I believe, however, we will be going to at least a modified lower FPCON in the next month or so. At that time we will get guidance from MAJCOM and be able to restart ceremonies like this.

**Q. Can cats run free in base housing?**

A: No.

**Q. Instructions for using 3x5 cards need to be given out at the beginning of the call.**

A: You're right.

**Q. Bring back the bowling alley and the old dining hall.**

A: I'm afraid that isn't going to happen. The bowling alley just didn't have enough business (except for the grill) to keep it open,

and the new dining arrangement -- while not perfectly smooth yet -- are meeting the need at a major savings of taxpayer dollars. Our dining arrangements, in fact, are being considered by a lot of bases and may well become very common around the Air Force in the future.

**Q. Start an anonymous web entry page and stop wasting 3x5 cards.**

A: The notion of being able to enter comments through the web is a good one we will explore. I think I'll keep the cards, though. I also get input from some people who say they don't have access to the web or aren't comfortable using it. In general, the more venues people have for communication, the better. I can afford the cards.

**Q. How will Alternate Work Schedule impact contractors working in our organization?**

A: Just about zero. The AWS is aimed at military and civil service. Contracts would have to all be revised to include AWS language and we aren't doing that. If you have any specific questions about civil services folks, be sure to contact our Human Resources shop at 536-3936. Questions about contractors should start at 536-6312.

**Q. Tell managers to praise their subordinates more, not to show favoritism. Support their subordinates. Be kind. Be friendly.**

A: Some Leadership 101 stuff here...good for all of us to think about once in a while.

— Be Safe! Remember "101 Critical Days of Summer" —



## Commander's Award

Continued from Page 1

vacuum of altitude, explained Col. Benton Zwart, who along with Tech Sgt. Allen Gray, were primarily responsible for ROBE program development and its successful demonstration in April.

More importantly, the new method reduces the risk of evolved gas disorders and decompression sickness to zero, potentially saving \$160,000 annually in hyperbaric recompression therapy. Other ROBE benefits include a safer environment for chamber technicians who experience as many as 200

altitude exposures over a five-year period. Training time is also reduced and effectiveness is enhanced using the new method.

Sharing the award with Zwart and Gray were other key personnel: Cols. Robert Bertoldo and James Dooley, Lt. Col. David Self, 2nd Lt. Barry Reeder, Master Sgt. John Bean, Tech. Sgt. Rogelio Cano, Tech. Sgt. Brian Lawrence, Senior Airman Chris Rivera, Airman 1st Class Tasha Klotzman and Airman Dawn Fojtik.

*Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil*



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Tech. Sgt. Allen Gray and Col. Ben Zwart, of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, hold the latest 311th Human systems Wing Commander's Award. Also on hand are Lt. Col. David Self, chief of Aerospace Physiology in USAFSAM (left) and Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, commander of the 311th HSW.

## NEWS briefs

### AFMC Family Safety Day

In an effort to place special emphasis on the personal safety of Air Force Materiel Command personnel during the Independence Day holiday Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC commander, has designated July 5 an AFMC Family Safety Day in conjunction with the Fourth of July holiday. Military members are authorized a four-day regular pass period. Although normal rules apply for civilian personnel, commanders may encourage liberal use of annual leave, or implement other excusals from duty.

### 311 ABG change of command

Col. Terry Nelsen will relinquish command of the 311th Air Base Group to Col. John Bowley Jr. July 12 at 9 a.m. in Hangar 9. Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander will officiate. Nelsen will attend attaché and Russian language refresher training over the next 10-months, and will become the Defense and Air Attaché in Kiev, Ukraine.

Bowley comes to Brooks from the Pentagon where he served as an assistant for Counterproliferation, in the Office of Counterproliferation Policy, in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy. For more information about the 311th Air Base Group Change of Command, contact the ABG Command Section at 536-3411 or 536-4739.

### Technology and crime

FBI Special Agent William Perez is scheduled to speak July 18 during the joint Billy Mitchell Chapter of Old Crows and the Alamo Chapter Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association luncheon at Dave and Busters at I-10 and I-410 July 18. The event begins at 11 a.m., with lunch served at 11:30 a.m.

Perez will discuss "The Impact of Technology on Crime: A Law Enforcement Perspective," and highlight cyber crime trends, well as FBI strategies and initiatives.

The cost is \$15, payable by cash or check, and includes Italian Rosemary Chicken buffet or Taco Salad buffet.

Reservations must be made by July 15 on the BMCAOC website at: [www.bmcaoc.org](http://www.bmcaoc.org), or call Marsha Ocain at 732-7697.

### Combat Dining In

The Brooks Airman's Council hosts the Enlisted Combat Dining In at the base park pavillion from 6-11 p.m. July 26. This year's theme is "Accepting the Challenge to Defend." Tickets are \$5 for E-4 and below and \$7 for E-5 and above. Contact Airman 1st Class Crystal Ray at 536-4967, or Airman 1st Class Kathryn Krekelberg at 536-2300 for tickets or more information.

### Dining out

Brooks personnel are invited to attend the Dining Out scheduled for July 12 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Brooks Club. The theme for the event is "Breaking New Ground— Going Where No One Has Gone Before," and features former Brooks commander, Brig. Gen. Robert Belihar as the guest speaker.

Tickets are available through unit representatives. For more information contact 1st Lt. Tara Shumway at 536-1955 or 2nd Lt. Leah Sprecher at 536-3511. More information and reservation forms are also available on the website at: <https://hswya2.brooks.af.mil/common/mil-gov/DiningOut/SignUp.htm>.

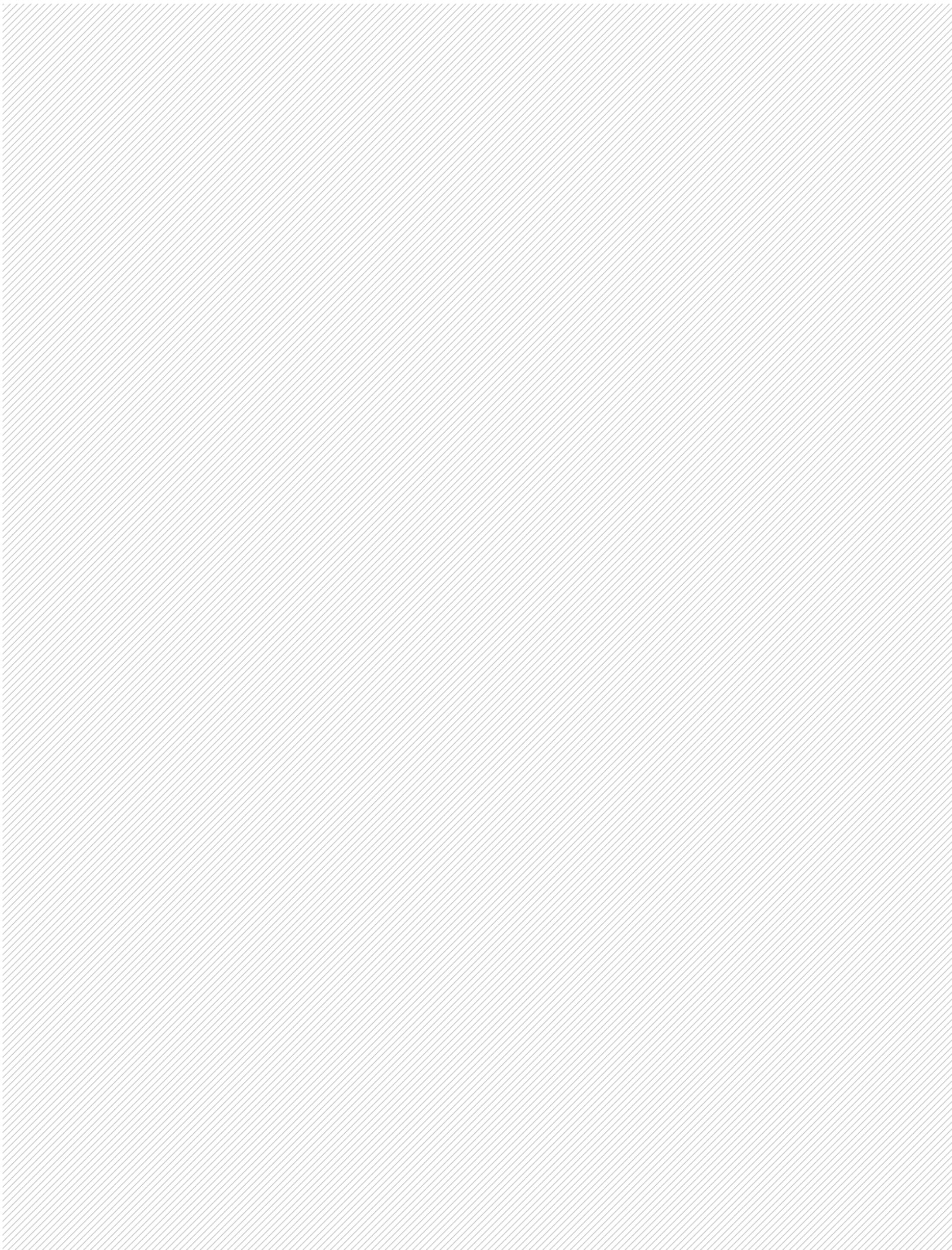
Child care will be provided if there is enough interest.

### Veteranos theatrical debut

The theatrical production of *Veteranos: A Legacy of Valor* debuts at the Lila Cockrell Theater in San Antonio this weekend. *Veteranos* is an educational tribute to America's Hispanic Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and includes drama, music and dance.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. June 28-30, and also 2 p.m. June 29-30.

Call 224-9600 for tickets, and 378-3406 for additional information.





# Brooks pioneer physicist, Allen, passes away at 79

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing



Allen

Theoretical physicist and laser bioeffects pioneer Dr. Ralph G. Allen, Jr. died June 5. The 79-year-old former Brooks scientist and World War II veteran was buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Allen, who was considered "the grand old man of lasers," was instrumental in pioneering Air Force laser research as a U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine scientist. Allen's most significant contributions in support of the Defense Laser Eye Protection Program was helping establish laser exposure safety standards and helping develop laser eye protection for aviators. "He pioneered the design of nuclear flash blindness protection," said former colleague Dr. Robert Cartledge who eulogized Allen during the funeral. Cartledge said his friend was at the forefront of the federal government's work to develop laser safety and nuclear weapons ocular protection standards.

Born in San Antonio on Sept. 27, 1922, Allen graduated from Brackenridge High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in May 1942 and later served as a B-24 Liberator pilot in the Mediterranean Theater during WWII.

After the war, Allen graduated with honors from the University of Texas in 1947 with

a bachelor of arts degree in physics. In 1948, he accepted a regular Air Force commission and was assigned to the Air Force Institute of Technology with duty at the University of Texas where he earned masters of arts and doctoral degrees in physics and mathematics.

In the early 1950s Allen was a nuclear weapons research pioneer at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. He later served with the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington, D.C. as chief of the Shielding and Radiation Effects Unit.

Allen's USAFSAM work began in 1957 as Nuclear Research Officer who supported early NASA projects. He subsequently served as the Air Force Office of Scientific Research's chief nuclear physicist from 1963-65.

Significant assignments included tours as Texas Division of Technology Incorporated director and general manager where he was instrumental in developing the astronaut helmet visor for the Apollo 11 moon mission.

From 1972 until his federal civil service retirement in 1987, Allen served with USAFSAM in several key positions including Chief of the Laser Effects Laboratory and Visual Sciences and Biophysics Functions.

"His most noteworthy achievement (at Brooks) was his supervision and management of the laser eye damage model. This model 'stood the test of time' and still is a valuable tool in predicting safe laser eye exposures," said former colleague Dr. Don Farrer.

Allen's widow Darlene invites the Brooks community to leave messages or memories in the Guest Book at [www.porter-loring.com](http://www.porter-loring.com) by selecting the Sign and View Family Guestbook icon.

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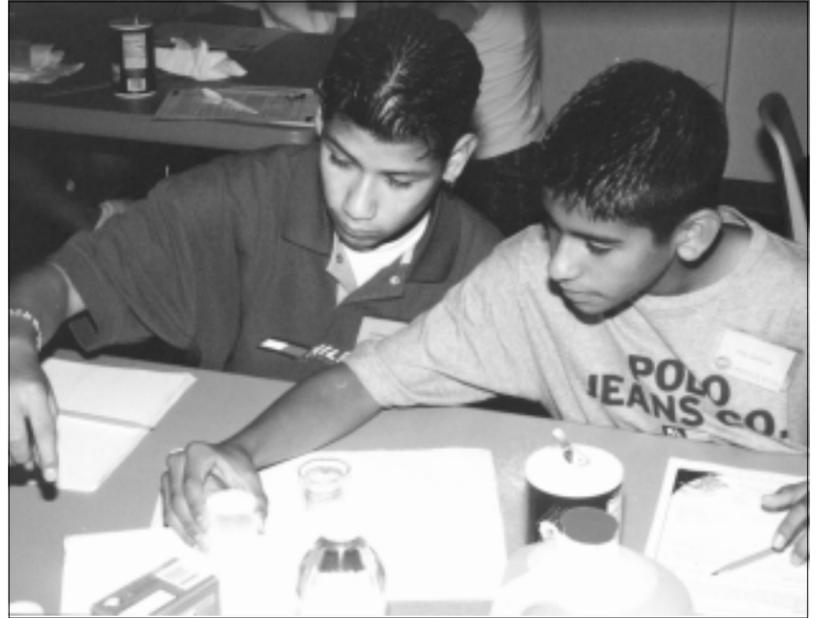


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Texas Pre-Engineering Program students work on an experiment at the Challenger Learning Center at Brooks.

## Texas PREP students eye future science, engineering careers

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Dozens of Bexar County middle school students recently conducted hands-on experiments for the first time at Brooks as participants in the Texas Pre-Engineering Program (PREP) that encourages future careers in math, science and engineering.

The June 18 Brooks trip, sponsored by Our Lady of the Lake University, featured 30 seventh and eighth graders who spent a half-day at the Challenger Learning Center primarily learning the physics associated with space flight.

"Last year, we did only ten (Texas) PREP (Challenger Center) missions. This year, they're actually doing hands-on science activities (here) for the first time," explained Shelia Klein, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director.

Inaugurated in 1978 by the University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas PREP today is a coalition of eight local colleges and universities that currently sponsor 1,800 students in an intensive 39-day summer session.

This no-fee program selects applicants based on academic achievement, interest and teacher recommendations.

"We're trying to get them interested in engineering, math and science careers. These kids have done well on the TAAS (Texas Assessment of Academic Skills), scoring at least 85 percent in math and science. They're so motivated," said Bruce Hoelscher, a Texas PREP physics instructor who works for

the San Antonio Independent School District as a Harris Middle School math teacher.

During their Brooks visit, PREP students conducted about a half-dozen labs that ranged from learning about microgravity to conducting experiments in chromatography (separation of complex chemical mixtures). Jenny Christian, on loan from the Northside Independent School District to serve as the Challenger Center's new flight director, conducted the PREP session here.

"This is my third year doing this," said Hoelscher of his participation in the program that has been a phenomenal success. "Ninety-nine percent of the participants in this program graduate from high school and 92 percent of them go on to college. It's inspiring to watch these kids go through this program. It's pretty in-depth. They get homework. They are ready to work," explained Hoelscher, who has an engineering degree.

A total of 14 Texas PREP sessions, featuring about 60 students per group, are planned this summer at various academic venues. PREP participants are enrolled in summer sessions for three years. Second-year PREP students participated in this year's Challenger Center activities.

"It's a worthwhile program, a key part of the Brooks City-Base plan to expand collaborations and partnerships with academic institutions in San Antonio," said Dr. Brendan Godfrey, 311th Human Systems Wing deputy director.

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Play it safe this summer  
— BUCKLE UP! —



(Editor's note: This is the last in a four-part series on the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's Survival-Evasion-Resistance-Escape training.)

The students, all of them already medical personnel in the Air Force, exited the bus in the early morning chill. The students had already learned how to survive a plane evacuation over water. They came to be trained to survive on land.

"All medical aircrew members must complete this training if they want to fly," said Master Sgt. J.T. McHan, superintendent of SERE operations at Brooks.

The field training, conducted by Survival-Evasion-Resistance-Escape Operations at Brooks, is the second half of an eight-day course that includes three days of classroom work and one day of water training in the SERE pool on Brooks. The instructors conduct several classes a year.

The training is held at El Rancho Cima, an area of land 30 miles northeast of San Antonio that is owned by the Boy Scouts. Despite its proximity to the big city, and its less than hostile owners, El Rancho Cima feels isolated and remote. The paths to the student camps are overgrown and much of the training takes place in areas that have no noticeable access.

"We have had people get lost out here," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Martin, a SERE instructor.

But they don't get lost for long, because instructors are trained to find people; it's part of their job.

Instructors train long and hard to ensure the quality of their work. All of them have undergone months of survival training in several environments, including the frozen tundra of Alaska and water training off the coast of California. Tech. Sgt. Mike Elliott spent 176 days on temporary duty in 2001. The biggest danger to students and instructors in Texas is the heat, though on this particular trip the weather was mild.

"We sometimes have people get sick from dehydration and our IDMT, Tech. Sgt. Robert Johnston, will provide onsite treatment if possible," McHan said.

If an aircrew medic needs to leave, he or she must return and retake the course to be eligible for flight missions.

After a bag inspection to check that none of the students brought any unapproved medication or any food to the training, students shouldered their loads and began the trek to their camp. Even aspirin is prohibited because it could mask a headache, a warning sign of dehydration.

Aircrew members were divided into four flights: alpha, bravo, charlie and delta. Each flight had an assigned instructor and each had a different camp and training schedule, according to the instructor's preference.



Photo by Rita Boland

Loaded down with gear, students hike to their training camp in south Texas.

USAFSAM students head to the field for ...

## The harder side of SERE

By Rita Boland  
Discovery Staff Writer

"The students all learn the same thing, but not in the same order," Martin said. "It's easy for instructors to get caught up in teaching survival for south Texas, but we'll try to give instruction for the arctic, desert and tropics."

Martin was the instructor for Charlie flight. On the way to camp, he stopped his group to point out edible plants and plants that have other uses, like making rope from the yucca. He told his class about different ways to identify plants that were edible and poisonous. He even had his class taste some leaves.

Along the hike to camp, Martin asked the group what their priorities would be in order to survive. The students responded with food, water and shelter.

"The way to think like a survivor is to think like a hobo," Martin said. "Shelter is the one of the most important things, especially in (the heat here). You can potentially go for weeks without food and days without water."

After a briefing at Charlie flight's camp, Martin instructed them on building shelters, from lean-tos to tents.

Students learned to use materials they found in their environment, as well as materials they had from the plane, such as their parachutes.

"They learn to build shelters that they can adapt to in any environment,"

said Tech. Sgt. Dave Anderson, another SERE instructor.

SERE instructors had three demonstration shelters set up in a clearing away from the student camps. Charlie flight set up three of its own tents, one with Martin, and two more on their own. Members of Charlie flight worked well together and set up tents quickly with no problems. After finishing, they learned about the strengths, weaknesses and best environments for the other shelters.

The tents the students set up for the night were parachutes or other fabric pieces suspended from string attached to trees. To insulate the tent, students found boughs to cover the ground.

The camp was an area where rough wooden benches and shelves have been placed around a fire area. To the side, a counter was created for the students to prepare their food.

"At first I was nervous," a student said. "But now I'm like I slept on the ground. I've never done any kind of camping before. I wish they had a bathroom."

In comparison, the instructor camp was one of luxury, complete with cots, hot food, a shower and one instructor's personal camping espresso maker. Large tents were set up for sleeping and the instructors had specialized off-road vehicles to transport materials and occasionally people.

Students had to clear the fire area, make jerky, gather firewood and design a latrine for themselves. Until dinner, they are told only to eat half a Power Bar. Previously, the students didn't eat at all during the day.

"We had problems with people getting sick from not eating," Martin said.

The students also learn to gather water, using a plastic bag attached around the branch of a plant. The water tastes a little of dirt, but not as bad.

"It's pretty good," one of the students remarked.

The instructors provided water for the students, to prevent them from dehydrating. The students were also told to bring Gatorade or Powerade mix to add to one canteen so they can replace their electrolytes.

Once Charlie flight set up their shelters and prepared the camp area, they learned to make fire. The students were taught that fire has many uses: heat, cooking and morale.

"Fire is a morale builder," Martin told the flight. "It's like in 'Castaway' when he (says) 'I built fire.'"

The students build fire from synthetic and natural materials. They use objects they would find in their survival kits, but they also learn how to rub one stick into another piece of wood to create enough heat to start a blaze. The friction does not actually create a flame, but with enough tinder and some well-placed breaths, the fire grows.

"Blow toward the bottom and down," Martin instructed.

The survivors must also learn to make signals. They used rocks, parachutes and flares to signal to a plane that they needed help and where they were.

Before bed on the first day, they learned to navigate using the stars. Students also must learn to navigate using maps and compasses.

"The teaching has been great," said Capt. Angela Gonzales, a flight nurse. "I've always thought 'How could people do it?' (Now) I see some of the things they've used to survive."

"This group is good," Martin said of Charlie flight. "You rock," he told them, when they arrived 10 minutes ahead of schedule. "Don't get overly cocky."

Despite the physical and mental difficulties of the training, Charlie flight was motivated. Ready to make jokes, they listened intently during instruction and worked hard at their tasks. They knew that this training could save their lives one day.

"Your survival abilities go up exponentially just knowing how to navigate and fish," Capt. Louis Bellace, a flight nurse, said. "These skills will kick in when the situation comes up. 'There are people who pay money for this kind of training.'"

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil



## Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

### Sponsor Training

July 9, 10-11 a.m., Bldg. 537

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those

who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

### Home buying seminar

July 10, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

This seminar provides home buying skills and information for home ownership. Get answers to important questions about buying a home. Financial assistance for first-time homebuyers who qualify will be available.

### 3-Day transition seminar

July 30 - Aug. 1, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537.

Making the transition from the military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve those 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. One should attend at least 180 days prior to retirement/separation. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 536-2444.

# BHF scholarship recipients plan diverse future careers

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

This year's Brooks Heritage Foundation scholarship recipients secured a financial boost toward fulfilling their diverse future career plans during the June 13 awards ceremony held at the Challenger Learning Center.

Nearly \$2,000 in scholarships was awarded to four young women who plan careers in pharmacology, computer science, fashion merchandising and business administration.

Kimberly Ann Rush earned BHF's top \$1,000 P.D. Straw Scholarship.



Rush

This award, named in honor of the late Air Force major general who was a World War II combat pilot and BHF life member, inaugurated the organization's scholarship program in 1993.

Rush, the daughter of Eli and Beatrice Rush, graduated from Taft High School in May. She worked as a summer intern with her father at Hangar 9 and is currently employed as an Eckerd's Drugs pharmacy technician.

A Northside Independent School District Chapter of the Society of English Scholars inductee, Rush plans to major in pharmacology at Texas A&M University.

Three students enrolled in Brooks' Student Educational Employment Program were awarded \$250 apiece as participants in BHF's Student Aide Scholarship Program.

This scholarship program was established in 1994. They include Laura

Gonzalez, assigned as a student aide to the 311th Human Systems Wing's Plans and Programs Office, who is majoring in business administration information systems at Our Lady of the Lake University.

A 1998 South San High School graduate, she is the daughter of Juan and Marina Gonzalez.

Stephanie Criollo has worked as a student aide for three years

for the U.S. Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis's



Criollo

Hazardous Materials Information Resource Systems Section of the Health and Safety Division. A 1998 Brackenridge High School graduate, Criollo is majoring in fashion merchandising at the University of the Incarnate Word. She is the daughter of Sally Criollo, secretary to the 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander.

Heather Canales has been a student aide since June 2000

working for AFIERA's Task Response Division. She has previously earned recognition here as AFIERA and Brooks AFB Civilian of the Quarter.



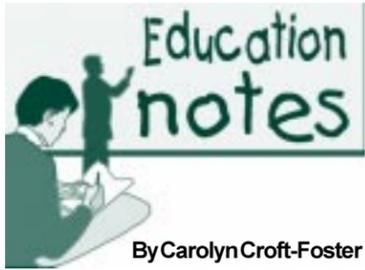
Canales

A 2000 graduate of Taft High School, Canales is a DownTown Youth Center volunteer who mentors and tutors needy children. A computer science major at St. Mary's University, she is the daughter of David and Beatrice Canales.

The SEEP scholarships are annually underwritten by the Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

**BROOKS AFB ENLISTED DINING-IN**  
 TIME: 1800-2300  
 DATE: FRIDAY JULY 26, 2002  
 WHERE: BASE PARK PAVILION  
 DRESS: BDU'S  
 COST:  
 \$5.00 E-4 & BELOW  
 \$7.00 E-5 & ABOVE



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

is a prerequisite for many health-related professional degree programs. For more information on registering for this class, call 536-3618.

### **AWC/ACSC recruits for non-resident seminar**

Recruitment is beginning for the Air War College and the Air Command and Staff College non-resident seminars. AWC enrollment is open to lieutenant colonel selects and above and GS-13s and above.

Registration forms are available on the AWC homepage at:

[www.au.af.mil/au/awc/enrolppr.htm](http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/enrolppr.htm)

Forms should be brought to Education Services for processing. Seminars are expected to begin at the end of July.

ACSC enrollment is open to major selects and above and GS-11s and above.

Registration forms are available at the Education Services customer service desk. For more information visit Education Services in Bldg. 558 or call 536-3617.

### **Embry-Riddle rep visits base**

An Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University 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.

### **Montgomery GI Bill increases benefits**

Active duty members currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5,400 (from \$23,400 to \$28,800) 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.

This benefit is only open to members 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 (Chapter 30/34) or VEAP convertees.

For more information, call 536-3618.



## **Yards of the Month**

(Top photo) Staff Sgt. Tobi Erskine, of the Brooks Staff Judge Advocate office, receives May Yard of the Month honors from Rita Fox, 311th Air Base Group deputy director. Erskine resides at 105 Chaney. Meanwhile, Specialist Carrie Crane, of the Naval Health Research Center Detachment, accepts May Yard of the Month honors for her residence at 101 Paeglow. Yard of the month winners receive a \$25 gift certificate from Services and a \$10 gift certificate from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. They also receive a flag and certificate.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

### **CCAF graduation deadline Aug. 23**

Deadline for nominations for Community College of the Air Force Fall 2002 graduation is Aug. 23. All nominations must be received by CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., by that date.

Students who believe they are a degree candidate need to contact Education Services at 536-3618 to ensure their nominations have been submitted.

### **CLEP English Essay exam set**

The English with Essay exam will be offered July 17 at 8 a.m. Please call 536-3618 to reserve a seat.

### **UTSA class offers human anatomy**

Human Anatomy will be offered this fall at Brooks. This



Logan

# Q&A

**FULL NAME:**

*Kathryn Ann Logan*

**DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:**

*Noncommissioned officer in charge of personnel and administration.*

**WHAT IS MY JOB?:**

*A little bit of everything.*

**BIRTHDAY:**

*Aug. 10, 1978*

**HOMETOWN:**

*East Dubuque, Ill.*

**FAMILY STATUS:**

*Engaged, I have a 4-year-old son and a soon-to-be-stepson and daughter who are 4 and 2.*

**NICKNAME:**

*K-Lo*

**MOTTO:**

*You can do all things through Christ for he gives you strength.*

**INSPIRATIONS:**

*Definitely my mom. I don't know what I'll do when she's gone.*

**HOBBIES:**

*Exercising, dancing, doing things with the kiddos, working in my yard*

**PET PEEVE:**

*When people say "I'm going to start my new diet on Monday."*

**BOOK(S) AT BEDSIDE:**

*My seven-level CDC's, and textbooks. I don't really have time for leisure reading.*

**I JOINED THE MILITARY BECAUSE:**

*I wasn't ready to go to college and wasn't sure what I wanted to do. In these short five and one-half years I've accomplished a college education and have direction in my life.*

**FIVE-YEAR GOAL:**

*To be an MSC officer and to become a personal trainer.*

**ULTIMATE GOAL:**

*Be the best mom and wife I can be.*

**MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:**

*finding the man of my dreams.*

**MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:**

*is definitely my family and friends and my especially my fiance. I could not have made it through these last couple of years without them. I want to take time to tell them thanks and I love them.*

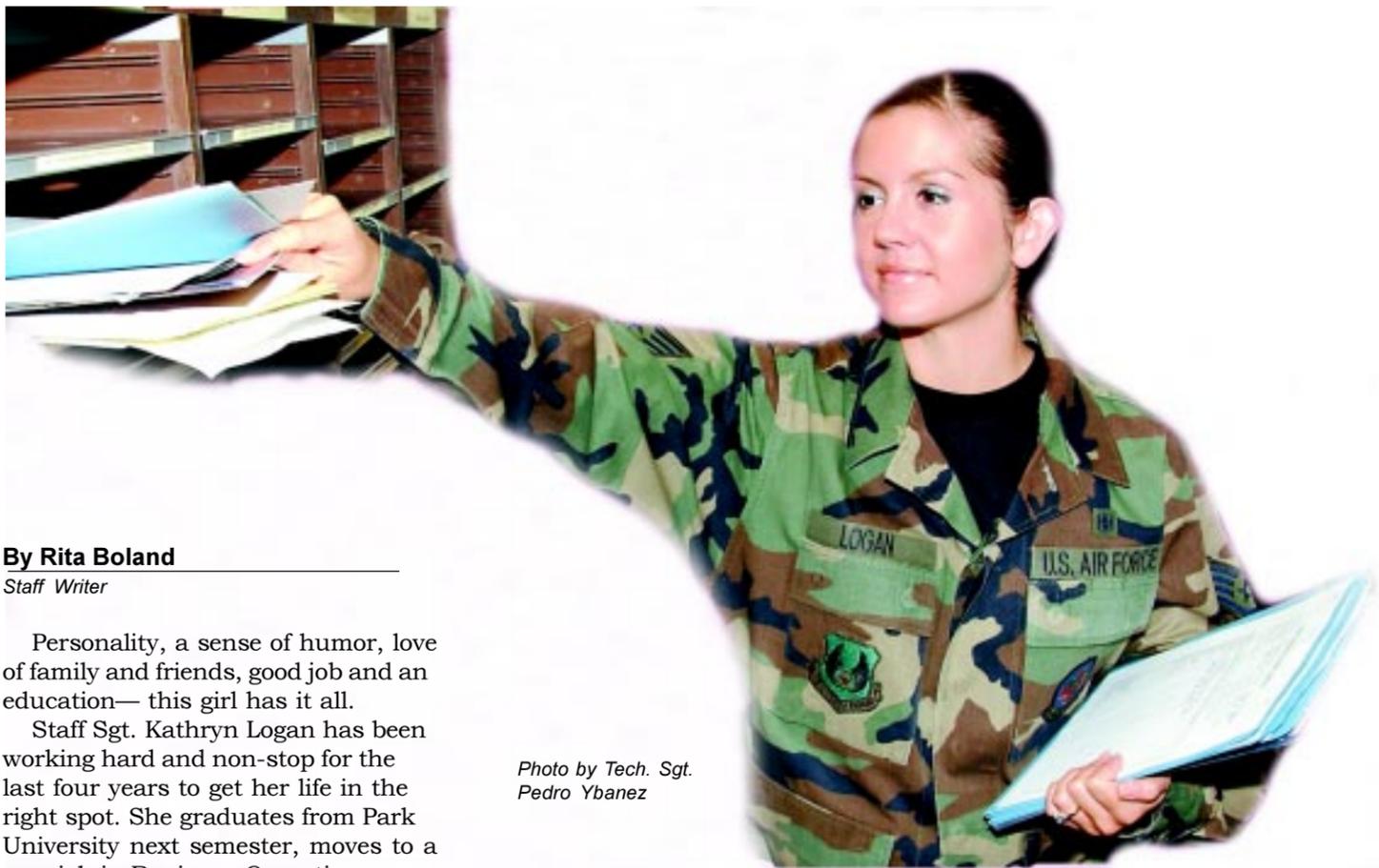


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

Personality, a sense of humor, love of family and friends, good job and an education— this girl has it all.

Staff Sgt. Kathryn Logan has been working hard and non-stop for the last four years to get her life in the right spot. She graduates from Park University next semester, moves to a new job in Business Operation Beneficiary Support at the Brooks Clinic next week, is getting married and has a 4-year-old son.

"God has definitely had a presence in my life," Logan said.

As has her son. A self-described partier when she first joined the Air Force, she has calmed down into her motherly role and grown closer to her own mom in the process.

"My son helped me get my focus on what I needed to do," Logan said. "I used to not get along with my mom. We got close after my son was born. She wasn't actually there, but she was always there on the phone. She's the coolest person in the world. She's very knowledgeable on life issues."

And Logan has needed that help. Her son was born six-and-a-half weeks early and spent two weeks in the hospital. Then in the past six months he was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease, a rare disease which doctors know little about. Added to those problems, Logan and her son were involved in a roll-over accident in June 2001, while on leave, during which the boy was thrown from the car.

"Here's my baby bleeding on the road and here's the car," she said, spacing a hat and a pen a good distance apart. "I climbed from the car like Xena the Warrior Princess and crawled over to pull him out of the road."

Her son recovered after the hospital "put him back together" as Logan described it, but still has scars from the injuries.

"It was very scary," Logan said, describing all the trials she's had with her son. "My faith is the only way I could grasp it. I thank God I'm active duty military."

Logan went active duty after graduating from high school and plans to make a career of the Air Force.

"Retiring at 38 sounds good to me," Logan said, smiling.

But she doesn't want to spend all that time enlisted. After completing her master's degree, which she plans to start on as soon as she finishes her bachelor's degree, Logan plans to apply to be an officer and stay in the medical field.

## She's on the fast track and the world is her gym



"I have to do so much, I'm a little overwhelmed," Logan said, describing her job and her life. "I feel like I'm going to lose every brain cell I have."

Fortunately, the busy pace at her office keeps her mind sharp. The sign on the door reads Administration Support and Personnel, but her supervisor calls it the ASAP office for a different reason.

"It's always busy in here and everything always has to be done right now," Logan said.

People go in and out of her office all day, asking for everything but the kitchen sink.

They want RIPS, rosters, suspense listings, government travel cards, inprocessing checklist, outprocessings checklists, commander's call planned every month, they need an aide for all of the ceremonies, detail rosters, they need to order items, TDY orders, updated file plans, AFI's, leave numbers, certified mail sent out, forms for the clinic, they need the copier fixed etc. The job isn't what she expected, and doesn't match her tech school training.

"This is my job. I work personally with the UPS and FedEx guy," Logan joked as she signed for a package.

On top of everything else, Logan is in the midst of planning a wedding.

"Sometimes I just want to elope," Logan said. "But then I'd miss the feeling of the dress and walking down the aisle. I'm not accepting that I'm going to be stressed. If it's a problem, I'm going to cut it out. I just want everyone to have fun and dance all night (My fiance and I) love to dance. We'll dance all night long."

Dancing and exercise are two of Logan's passions. In fact, she wants to be a personal trainer, at least part-time, when she gets out of the Air Force.

"When I came into the Air Force I was on weight management, which no one believes," Logan said. "Since then I'm really big on health and fitness."

Logan likes to kickbox and recently joined Bally's where she worked with a personal trainer for five sessions.

"I told her 'You're crazy!'" Logan said. "I hurt so bad afterward."

But Logan accepts the pain, as she does the other tribulations in her life, and leans on the people who mean the most to her and her religion. When she hears about other people who disapprove of her or her decisions, she shrugs them off and moves on. And she continues to find, and add, humor in her job, the people she meets and her life. She'll also continue to look forward to new jobs, a new family and new steps in life.

"I'm very excited," Logan said, encompassing it all.

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Photo by Rudy Purificato

Retired astronaut John Blaha was special guest speaker at Camp Challenger graduation.

# Camp Challenger astronauts avoid being 'lost in space'

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

'Lost in space' was never an option for a pioneering group of earth-bound extraterrestrials who demonstrated confidence and skill in negotiating the scientific frontiers of the first space camp held at Brooks.

Two dozen space campers, ages 10-14 years-old, participated in Camp Challenger sponsored by the Challenger Learning Center June 17-21. The highly interactive learning adventure was the first in a series of space camps held at the CLC. Other space camps are planned for July 15-19 and July 22-26.

"I came here with not too high expectations. It turned out to be more than I expected. It turned out to be a lot of fun," said Zack Gollner, a Scobie Junior High School student.

Dobie Junior High School student Ishaq Fahim, who plans a future career either as an astronaut or rocket scientist, was thrilled by the experience.

"I really liked working with the robotic arm and glove box (experiments) in the model space station," Fahim admits, explaining that the camp gave him a better understanding of how the international space station works.

"He always has been interested in space," said Fahim's mother Tahira who rewarded her son for making straight As in school by enrolling him in Camp Challenger.

The camp attracted a group of highly motivated and exceptionally attentive students from the Brooks community, San Antonio metropolitan area, Fredricksburg, Stonewall and even a summer vacationing

student from Massachusetts.

"It was hard to stay one step ahead of them because they are so bright and enthusiastic," confessed Shelia Klein, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director who marveled at how well the camp was received by its participants. She credited the camp's success to its coordinators, retired teachers Marilyn Dickinson and Jenni Long, who were responsible for designing and facilitating the imaginative and innovative curriculum.

Other space camp staff included Challenger Center volunteers Bill Merrill and Klaus Bartels, and camp



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Camp Challenger coordinator Marilyn Dickinson observes a student's experiment with "space" crystals.

counselor Amanda Jernigan, a Texas A&M University junior majoring in biomedical sciences.

"No one was bored. Everybody was actively engaged. I was surprised by the high level concepts in the science activities," said Merrill.

The curriculum was designed incrementally, with each activity leading to related concepts and applications that culminated with a Challenger Center mission simulation.

"They learned to troubleshoot and problem solve," said Merrill, who along with Bartels, conducted rocketry classes that leveraged participants' knowledge of the four forces of flight.

Dickinson, an 18-year space camp veteran, packed the curriculum with a plethora of mentally challenging activities. Space campers built two international space station modules using PVC plastic pipes; designed, built and launched various types of rockets; created comets using dry ice and soil; learned hydroponics in space plant experiments; solved superstructure engineering problems by building load-bearing trusses using toothpicks and marshmallows; and identified solar system planets through a unique detective game that featured food clues imbedded in peanut butter balls.

Students also practiced the scientific discipline of recording their experiment observations in a daily journal that Long designed.

The most popular activity truly challenged space campers' ability to improvise.

"They had to build a space station air lock and lab module. If they dropped a part, it was lost in space.

They had to improvise with substitute spare parts," Merrill explained.

To simulate microgravity, space campers wore gloves and were tethered to the space station by rope.

The space station activity culminated with an international flag raising ceremony. Space campers, portraying Russian and American astronauts, congratulated each other with genuine appreciation for the teamwork needed to build their 'home in space.'

Retired NASA astronaut John Blaha further elevated space campers' already high spirits when he presented participants with graduation certificates in a ceremony truly 'out of this world.'

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**“** I came here with not too high expectations. It turned out to be more than I expected. It turned out to be a lot of fun. **”**

Zack Gollner  
Camp Challenger student



# Brooks physicist's vision leads to advances in AF science

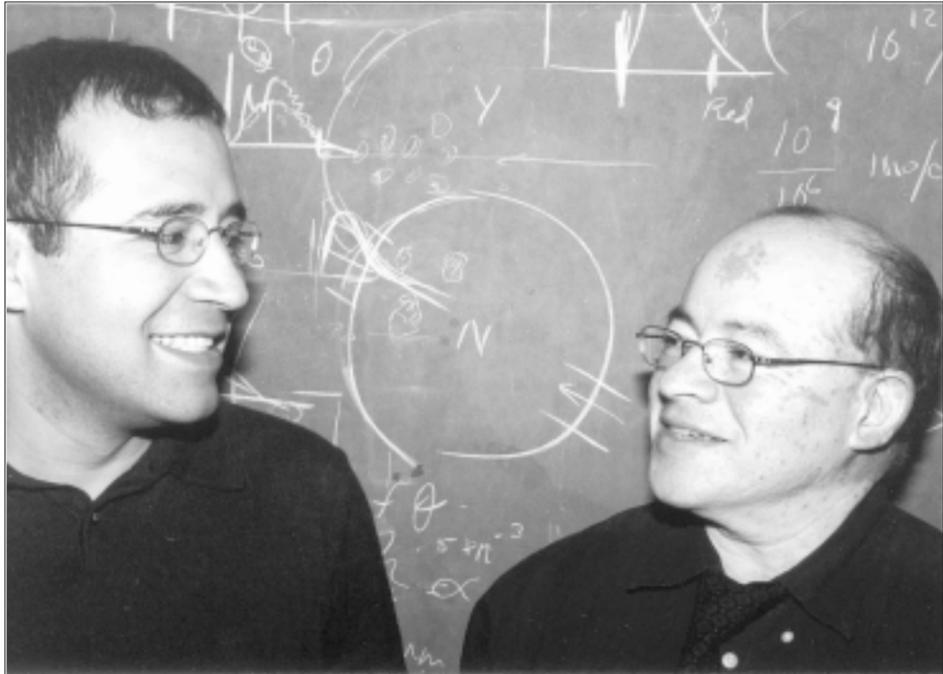


Photo by Rudy Purificato

**Dr. John Taboada (right), a Brooks physicist, and son Dr. John Taboada, an electrical engineer, have partnered to form their own company to design and build scientific marvels.**

**By Rudy Purificato**  
*311th Human Systems Wing*

The discoverer of a vision-enhancing technique used in LASIK surgery had a clear vision at an early age that a scientific career would be his future calling. Now, one of the Air Force's top atomic and molecular physicists is being called to another career as a entrepreneur-inventor who has partnered with his son in a private venture to create scientific marvels with Thomas Edison-like efficiency.

The end of a 34-year Air Force civil service career at Brooks this month represents a new beginning for Dr. John Taboada as he segues from being an Air Force Research Laboratory senior research physicist to the full-time responsibility of running Taboada Research Instruments Inc.

"We're developing one-of-a-kind special measurement instruments. Our motto is 'we can measure anything,'" said Taboada of his enterprise located in a 5,000-square-foot facility near Fort Sam Houston. Its success partially rests with Taboada's son John who possesses a special pedigree as chief executive officer. The son has a doctorate degree in applied optics and is currently studying patent law while com-

pleting law school. Several of his father's inventions have patents pending.

Taboada more than 'measured up' to professional challenges when he began working at Brooks in 1968 for the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's Radiation Sciences Division. During his career-long tour here Taboada pioneered the development of special devices, made several important scientific discoveries and advanced scientific understanding of concepts with futuristic applications.

Among his more important contributions was his discovery of photo refractive kertextomy (PRK), a technique that uses laser energy to resurface the eye's cornea to produce improved vision. Today, Brooks scientists are completing an Air Force Surgeon General-initiated PRK study that will possibly result in a future option for aviators seeking corrective surgery.

"Between 1974 and 1979 everybody was talking about correcting vision," Taboada said. At the time, he worked for USAFSAM's Laser Effects Branch concentrating on retinal effects studies using extra-short pulse lasers. His

research advanced laser hazards effects understanding and also provided useful data on how the eye's molecular processes work.

Taboada was also involved in the world's first corneal tissue experiment using an excimer laser. "We worked on other projects related to the cornea," he said, noting that thermal effects experiments were conducted to re-shape the cornea using heat. "The physics proved that short UV (ultra violet) laser pulses would have exceptional material removing qualities without causing (corneal) collateral damage."

Taboada later developed a one-of-a-kind instrument (patent pending) to measure the haze or loss of transparency that develops in the cornea after a PRK procedure.

His visionary work in corneal reshaping was overshadowed by more important Air Force priorities during the Cold War to counter the emerging threat of Soviet Union laser weapons.

"I switched to studies on high energy laser impact on aircraft windscreens," he said. This resulted in Taboada's design and construction

of the first computerized laser optic aircraft windscreen analyzer. He also developed a computer model for aircraft flights through nuclear bomb fallout. Variations on his model were subsequently included in defense strategy planning.

Taboada's scientific journey is fueled by his passionate curiosity.

As a Fox Tech High School student, Taboada became interested in elementary particle physics. This led to his Alamo Regional Science Fair grand prize-winning project involving a device that measured cosmic rays. He eventually earned a doctorate degree in condensed matter physics from Texas A&M University.

His earliest Brooks research, involving lean body mass measurement, validated other scientific studies that showed everyone who had lived in the U. S. during the 1950s and 1960s had been exposed to radioactive fallout. He discovered in several hundred research subjects trace amounts of radioisotope Cesium 137.

"Everyone was radioactive," he admits, explaining that nuclear testing fallout had affected America's food chain. "Fortunately, it (Cesium 137) dissipates in 10 years."

Among Air Force research discoveries Taboada made that will be the focus of his entrepreneurial investigations is the fascinating future possibility of creating 'bionic' human vision.

"Can we stimulate the eye to see in the Infrared (spectrum)?" asks Taboada, who modified the visible phototransduction process using IR laser pulse energy to produce an effect.

He also plans to further explore the controversial concept first espoused by a Hindu scientist in the 1930s known as the Raman spectrum. "I confirmed other scientists' (earlier) observations that the potential exists for biological cell material to communicate through waves called solitons," he said. Taboada explained that cancer cells have a different 'spectrum' (or pathological way of communicating) than normal cells.

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## Golf Course

**Bldg. 821, 536-2636**

### Tee for two

Learn the lifetime sport of golf with a family member, friend or coworker. The Brooks Golf Course is offering a two-for-the-price-of-one, learn to golf program Aug. 10, 17, 24 and 31. Instructions will focus on all basic aspects of the game.

In addition to weekly lessons, participants will receive special discounts in the Pro Shop and a Duffer's pack valued at \$50. This includes a practice swing stick, special ball to aid in perfecting putting, a pack of step down tees and a ditty bag containing additional tees, ball markers, repair tool and minor first aid items. Team price is \$100. Call the Brooks Golf Course for more details.

### Annual golf tourney

Join us on Aug. 2 for our annual tournament. The tournament will be played using a Florida scramble with a noon shotgun start. Cost will be \$20 for club members and \$25 for non-members. This includes cart and

green fees plus a barbecue plate at the end of the tournament. Enjoy brisket, potato salad, baked beans, cole slaw and Texas toast. Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place. Call the golf course or Brooks Club at 536-3782 for more details.

## Brooks Club

**Bldg. 204, 536-3782**

Summer is synonymous with barbecues. The Brooks Club will host a patio barbecue July 9 and 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At \$5.50 per plate (one meat only) it's a steal.

Enjoy your choice of ribs, brisket, sausage or chicken along with baked beans, corn on the cob, potato salad, cole slaw and tossed salad. Drinks include tea, soda or water.

### Night out on the town

Second Nature will perform jazz and R & B for your dining pleasure July 13 from 6 to 11 p.m. Dinner buffet menu includes steamed around of beef, honey glazed ham, California blend vegetables, french style green beans, roasted new potatoes, rice pilaf, apple/peach cobbler, dinner rolls and coffee, tea

or water. Cost is \$10 for members and \$12.50 for non-club members. Purchase your tickets from the club staff.

## The FrameWorks

**Bldg. 1154, 536-8648/2120**

Here are some great deals in July. Find sale prices on moldings and mats that are sure to fit your pocketbook. Save 30-70 percent on a select group of moldings and mats. There will be 50-foot and 100-foot bundles of moldings sold at a discount price during July. Make plans to stop by and select both mats and moldings to frame your favorite posters or photos.

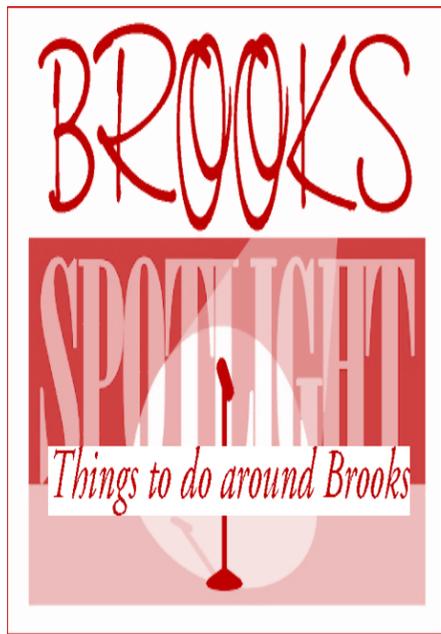
## Sidney's

**Bldg. 714, 536-2077**

### Saturday night movies

Free movies are shown every Saturday beginning at 5 pm. Enjoy pizza and a movie. Call to find out this week's scheduled movie.

Family movies are shown every Saturday at 1 p.m. Bring the entire family and watch a movie together. Snacks are available.



**By Jan McMahon**

Brooks Services Marketing Office  
536-5475

# AFRL contractor receives Silver Snoopy Award

**By Rita Boland**

*Discovery staff writer*

Dr. Jim Webb, a contractor for the Air Force Research Laboratory, recently received the Silver Snoopy award.

The Silver Snoopy is the NASA Astronauts' Personal Achievement Award and is presented to individuals for outstanding contributions to the success of human flight missions. It is a sterling silver pin shaped like Snoopy wearing a space suit and helmet.



**Webb**

Each pin is taken on a space mission before it is given out. Webb's pin flew on the Shuttle mission STS-98 in February 2001.

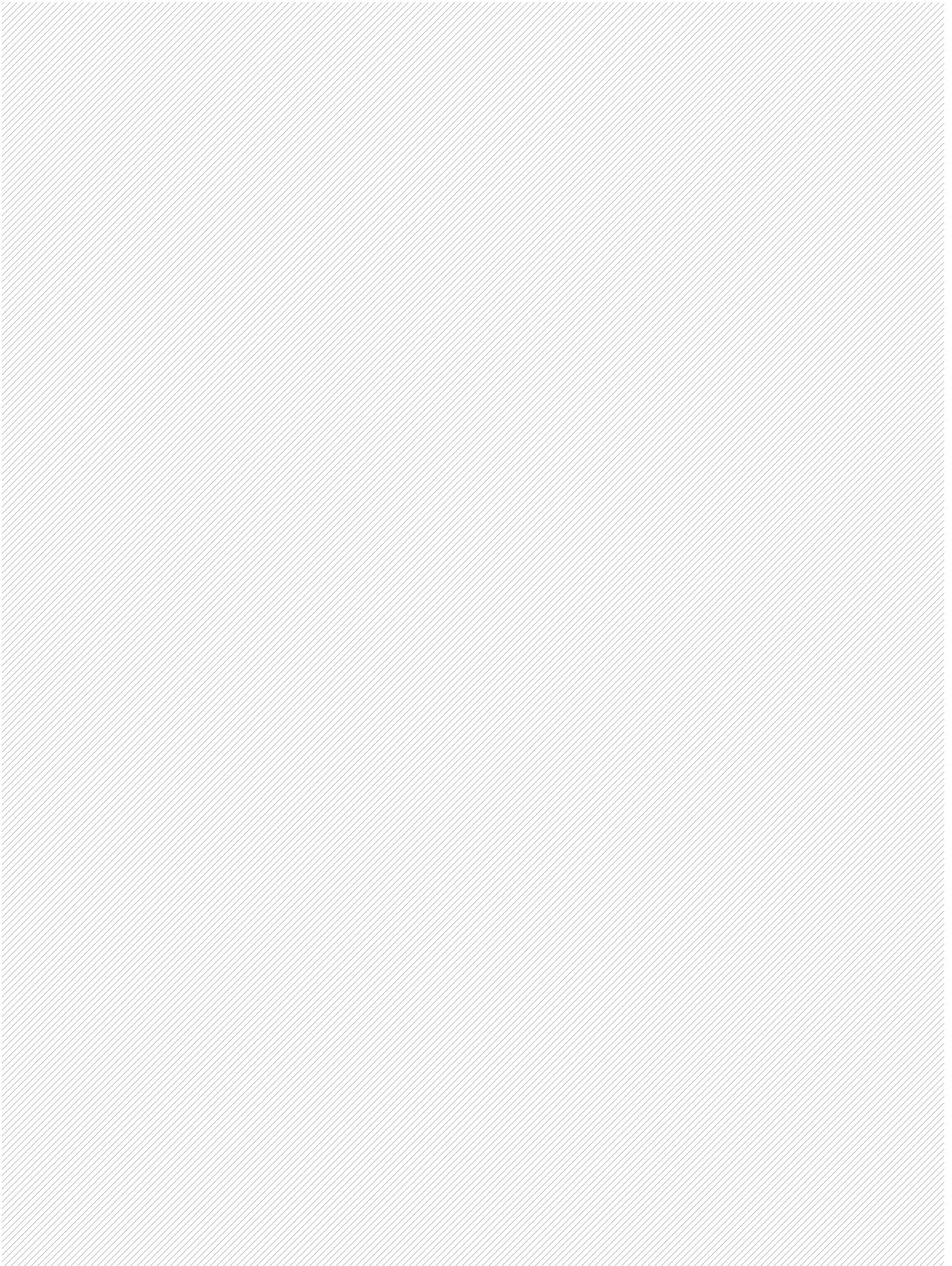
"I was surprised, very pleased, and thankful for the recognition," Webb said. "I am also aware that this project was a group effort that involved a lot of time and effort by our many volunteer subjects, technicians, medical monitors, and physiologists, especially Dr. Andy Pilmanis (AFRL's Chief of High Altitude Protection Research)".

Award winners also receive a certificate and a letter of commendation. The letter is signed and presented by an astronaut as appreciation for the recipient's work.

Webb works with AFRL's High Altitude Protection Research program at Brooks. NASA presented him with the award for his knowledge and research on exercise-enhanced preoxygenation that has application to both NASA and Air Force operations.

His work has been incorporated as operational procedure during preparations for work done in space outside the International Space Station and has dropped the prebreathe time by 30 percent.

The Silver Snoopy awarded was initiated in 1968.





# Sports



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The Brooks women's volleyball team (in white) scrimmage a local team at the base fitness center in preparation for the Air Force Materiel Command tourney.

## Brooks varsity women turn defeat into respect at AFMC volleyball tourney

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Their near-stunning upset of eventual Air Force Materiel Command champion Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., gave the Brooks varsity women's vol-

leyball team something to build upon for next year after a disappointing showing at the AFMC tournament in May.

"We showed the rest of the (tournament) teams what we're capable of doing. We almost took the match against

undefeated Eglin," said coach Jose Murillo, whose squad gained some respect at the command tourney held at Eglin.

Brooks, which did not win a tourney match, shocked a more powerful and experi-

enced Eglin team in the first playoff round. After losing the first game 25-19, Brooks rebounded with a 25-21 second game victory. Murillo's squad barely lost the deciding third game 15-11.

"By the time we played the last match against Eglin, we were playing so well together as a team. Eglin's players were mad at each other because we were doing so well," recalls Murillo about his team's valiant effort.

Brooks was not considered a contender at this year's tournament, despite last year's second-place performance. That 2001 Brooks-Kelly AFB 'Cinderella' squad was composed of several veteran players including three Kelly AFB stars. This year's team featured just two veterans with command-level tournament experience.

"Since we didn't have a lot of scrimmage games, I was expecting a slow start for the team," Murillo said, explaining that by the end of the tourney everybody was playing together at the same level.

Unfortunately, Brooks was outmatched by some very strong teams. "It was bad for us that we played the strongest teams first," admits Murillo about the single round-robin tourney. The annual event featured defending AFMC champion Edwards AFB, Calif., that failed to win a second consecutive title against tourney opponents Wright-Patterson (Ohio), Hill (Utah), Kirtland (N.M.), Hanscom

**“ We showed the rest of the (tournament) teams what we're capable of doing. We almost took the match against undefeated Eglin. ”**

**Jose Murillo**  
Brooks women's volleyball coach

(Mass.) and Warner-Robins (Ga.).

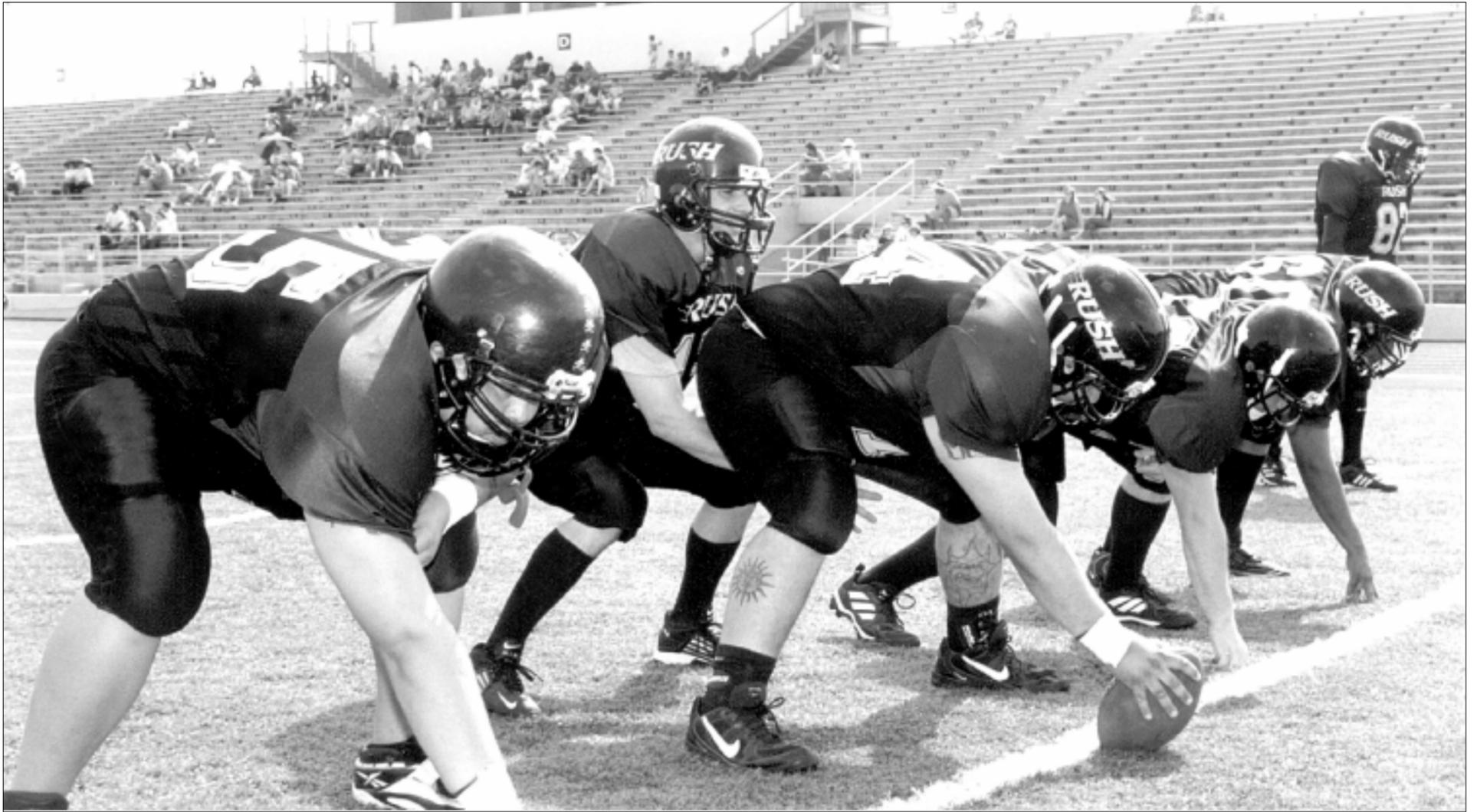
Brooks played Wright-Patterson in the preliminary round's first match. "Some of our players were nervous against Wright-Patterson, one of the top four teams," recalls Murillo, who has coached the Brooks squad for the past three seasons.

"It was a matter of our players getting adapted to each other," the coach said, noting that their confidence and skills improved quickly enough to pose a threat to the tourney's number one seed.

Eglin survived their playoff round contest with Brooks, and went on to dethrone Edwards in the championship match.

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for more sports!



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Ronald Hennesey calls the signals for the San Antonio Rush during a pregame drill at Harlandale Memorial Stadium.

## SFS athletes experience a real football 'rush' as semi-pro players

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Gridiron life offers both an adrenaline rush and a 'rush to judgment' ending in either glory or injury. For three 311th Security Forces Squadron athletes who have played or continue to star for the San Antonio Rush, participating in semi-professional football often provides semi-conscious lessons in the school of hard knocks.

"The game is very fast at that level. I learned that I'm not as fast as I thought I was," said Senior Airman Manuel Palomarez who played four games on special teams for the United Professional Football League team that is the farm club of the NFL affiliate Texas Coyotes.

Palomarez was recruited to play for the Class AAA-level Rush by SFS colleagues Airman 1st Class Ronald Hennesey and Staff Sgt. William McHale. Hennesey is the team's All-Star starting quarterback. McHale, a starting tight end and linebacker, has since been sidelined by a career-ending injury.

Despite the inherent hazards of playing against opponents whose rosters feature former collegiate and NFL players, all three Brooks cops agree their experiences playing at a level one step below Arena Football has been worthwhile.

"I've always wanted to get back into football," said Hennesey who was the star high school quarterback for the Buffalo, Texas Bisons. The 20-year-old patrolman had planned a college football ca-

reer after earning All-District and All-Region recognition and being named a Dave Campbell Texas All-Star blue chip prospect. Colleges recruited him. However, Hennesey, who had also lettered in track and basketball, had to postpone an athletic career in favor of helping his family.

As an Air Force cop, Hennesey never dreamed he'd get another chance to pursue football until he discovered the Texas Football League website while Internet surfing. He contacted the League's commissioner, Anastascio Galvan, who is also the San Antonio Rush's defensive coordinator. Hennesey subsequently made the team as a walk-on.

"My plan is to get back to college. The San Antonio Rush is a stepping stone," Hennesey said, alluding to college scouts' attendance at games.

Hennesey lured McHale to

a Rush practice. "It had been 12 years since I suited up for football," admits McHale, who at age 30 knew a future career in the pros was not even remotely possible.

McHale's athleticism and high school experience earned him a Rush starting spot. "I wanted to get physical, as a linebacker," claimed McHale, SFS's unit training manager. Ironically, it was rough physical play that led to his early departure from the team.

In his younger days, McHale favored ice hockey among the four sports he played. Nothing in his amateur career could have prepared him for the realities of semi-pro football. "It's an eye-opener. It's way more cerebral," said McHale when referring to the complex plays. McHale also learned how 'deep' the game can become from the

perspective of creating your own personal 'crater' after being clobbered by much stronger and bigger opponents.

"I was really excited to get an opportunity to play and take a couple of hits," Palomarez naively said in retrospect, adding, "The competition is fierce playing against former pros and Division I players."

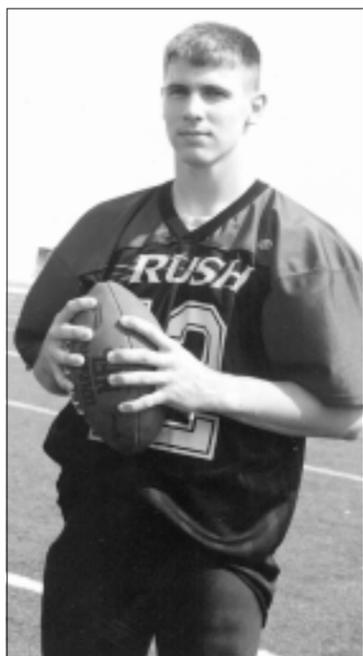
What inspired Palomarez to persevere was teammate Isaac Singletary, a one-legged nose tackle who the local news showcased for his grit and determination.

Palomarez is no stranger to athletic challenges. The 25-year-old Houston native was a three-sport letterman at Deer Park High School which produced some pro athletes, including a pitcher that Palomarez futilely batted against: New York Yankees starter Andy Pettitte.

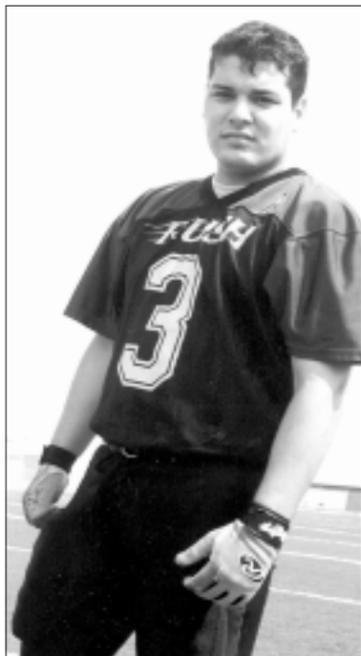
Palomarez earned a dual scholarship in baseball and basketball to Lamar University in Beaumont. Two years later he transferred to perennial baseball powerhouse - San Jacinto Junior College. Injuries and a lifelong desire to become a cop convinced Palomarez to pursue an Air Force career. Due to a pending re-assignment, Palomarez voluntarily left the Rush. Should his PCS move be postponed, he plans to re-join the team.

Meanwhile, the Brooks community can root for Hennesey at the Rush's home field Harlandale Memorial Stadium during a fan appreciation game on Saturday, July 27. Brooks Outdoor Recreation is selling a special VIP ticket package. Contact Dennis Chapoy at 536-2881 by July 16.

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Hennesey



Palomarez



William McHale (right), gears up with a team member for a game at Harlandale Memorial Stadium.