

DISCOVER



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 26, No. 9- Friday, May 3, 2002 - Brooks AFB, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Air Force to undergo major wing reorganization Oct. 1

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The U.S. Air Force announced recently that it will transform its current wing organizational structure by implementing a standard organization across its entire force beginning Oct. 1.

This reorganization will align the Air Force's core competencies directly with its wing-level organizations.

"The U.S. Air Force will exploit three core competencies - to operate air and space weapons systems, to maintain these complex weapons systems, and enhance direct mission support of our expeditionary, rapid reaction, contingency-based Air Force," said Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff.

"Therefore, as part of the Air Force Transformation, we're aligning our wing organization structure to mirror these competencies. This will help us to become more expeditionary and allow us to train our leaders in warfighting, maintenance, and expeditionary operations," he said.

"These changes are needed to further the Air Force's abilities to sustain home station operations and rapidly deploy for worldwide operations."

As a result, each Air Force wing will be organized into four groups: Operations, Maintenance, Mission Support and Medical.

The medical group, however, will continue to focus on maintaining a fit and ready force, and will not reorganize.

See Reorganization, Page 3



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Paying tribute

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, presents a Brooks Fiesta medal to San Antonio firefighter Lt. Steve Overly during a memorable Brooks Fiesta Reception April 20 at historic Hangar 9. Overly was one of five honored guests at the reception. Other honorees included San Antonio Police Lt. Chris Anderson, American Red Cross Volunteer Lois McCarthy, American Airlines Pilot Brus Messinger and United Airlines Pilot Scott Sauter. The pilots are also Air Force reservists. See related stories, Page 13.

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AFIERA benefits from Proxtronics, City-Base

By Rita Boland
Discovery Staff Writer

Proxtronics, Inc. officially became the second partner in the Brooks City Base project with a Grand Opening April 15.

Proxtronics has actually had a working partnership with the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Risk Analysis at Brooks since last year.

"Proxtronics has been professionally supporting three AFIERA labs with 34 technical support personnel for nearly a year," Eric Stephens, the director of AFIERA said.

"Proxtronics also recently won an IDIQ contract with AFIERA, which is used to provide task order support as necessary to AFIERA's programs. This new office at Brooks will help support the various contracts by getting the Proxtronics management team closer to its customer. We look forward to the closer relationship."

The novel Brooks City-Base project allows Proxtronics and AFIERA to work in convenient proximity.

"By opening the office here we can better support our mission," said Joe Bonomo, senior contract coordinator of Proxtronics San Antonio Office.

The company's contribution in the partnership with AFIERA comes in four contracts: Radiation Dosimetry, Radioanalytical Services, Chemical Analysis and Epidemiological Surveillance.

Proxtronics works with the Air Force Center for Radiation Dosimetry to evaluate occupational exposure to radiation, maintain the U.S. Air Force Master Radiation Exposure Registry and conduct other more involved radiation detection and surveillance. The Air Force has no other laboratory that conducts this type of work.

The Radioanalytical Branch of AFIERA serves the Air Force and Department of Defense worldwide analyzing levels of radioactivity in the environment and in occupational settings. Proxtronics employees work with AFIERA in that effort. The partnership also helps various organizations meet standard radioactivity regulations.

The director of the San Antonio Proxtronics Office, Darrin Lawrence, was formerly the noncommissioned officer in charge of Radioanalytical Quality Assurance and Radiation Dosimetry at AFIERA. At Brooks he was assigned to the Air Force Radiation Assessment Team, which has the Air

Force's only radiation emergency response capability. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant during his 14 years with the Air Force.

"It's an honor to go from military to civilian as long as I can continue to serve the Brooks Air Force Base Community," Lawrence said.

Proxtronics will also help AFIERA collect environmental and occupational samples and analyze them to assure compliance with regulations and assess health risks. The Analytical Chemistry Division collects samples from air, water, food, soil and hazardous waste.

The final contract between AFIERA and Proxtronics is in the Epidemiological Surveillance Division. Air Force clinics and hospitals send laboratory specimens to this division for specialized testing. Proxtronics aids AFIERA with collecting, distributing and receiving the samples. They ensure packaging is correct and sterile so as not affect the results of the tests.

So far this year, the lab has processed more than 500,000 samples.

By the end of the year, Proxtronics projects it will process more than one million samples.

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D I S C O V E R Y

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Substandard performance: do we tolerate too much?

By Lt Col Neil Erno

AFMC Office of the Inspector General

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — I'd just finished venting about having to stop and ask a junior officer to render a proper hand salute when someone in the group said, "You deserve what you tolerate." Exactly right. Truer words were never spoken and I hope you'll agree we'd be better off if we shook our heads in frustration less and got involved more.

Small wonder that poor workmanship, untimely service, or substandard uniform wear thrive if that is what we've tolerated in the past. Seems reasonable that if we regularly accept mediocrity we should expect it to become the norm.

Won't we all be worse off for it?

We condone and validate substandard performance each time we choose not to highlight behavior and actions we know are improper.

Sadly that makes us part of the problem when we should be part of the solution. No crystal ball is required to see what's coming next.

Continued failure to act can only lead to more consternation and complacency as substandard products or services are offered and accepted. We perpetuate such performance each time we tolerate its existence and in doing so, predispose the next person to receive the same lackluster service.

Fortunately, inherent in this catchy 5-word phrase is not only the problem but the solution.

The corrective action requires force of character and of numbers. No one enjoys pointing out a poor service or product...until we get among friends or family—then we can't stop talking about it.

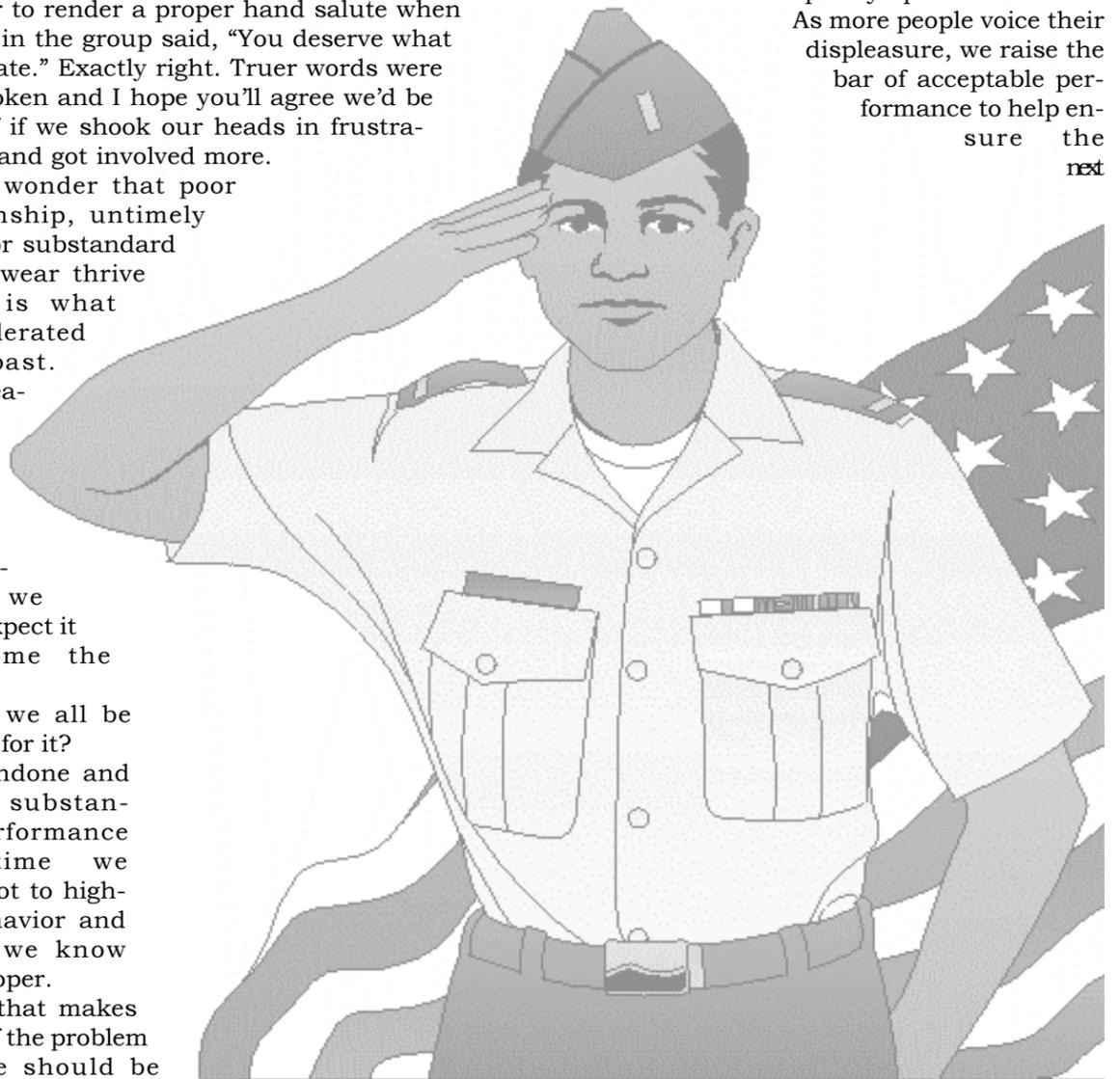
Strong character is required to address an issue face to face, to let someone know you're not satisfied with a service or product. When we get involved we're undoubtedly better off. Call it an ounce of prevention that benefits both the person providing the service and the customers that follow. Oddly, you won't immediately benefit from get-

ting involved which makes it a selfless act and why an epidemic must start.

Force of numbers speeds the process of returning to acceptable levels of performance—call it a quality epidemic.

As more people voice their displeasure, we raise the bar of acceptable performance to help ensure the

next



customer (and maybe that's you) receives better products and services.

Frequently, involvement requires only a minute and a few carefully chosen words—a small investment that's well worth the effort.

Consider this. Talk to the restaurant manager if you receive particularly good or bad service. Managers can't fix a problem they're unaware of and it isn't a problem until someone complains.

Get involved next time you see a GI not wearing the uniform properly or failing to render proper customs or courtesies.

Pick a problem and work to make the situation better as opposed to shrugging it off as just the way things are.

Making things better is not only personally satisfying, but is imperative to mission accomplishment and to taking pride in our service.

We deserve better. The warfighters deserve better...and it starts with tolerating less.

The resultant change epidemic will transform our command and our Air Force.

The *Discovery* is online.

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



Reorganization

Continued from Page 1

The ultimate impact on Air Force Materiel Command centers and wings, which are currently different than the standard Air Force wing organizations, is unknown at this time, said Col. Dave Taylor, chief of the manpower and organization division in AFMC's Directorate of Plans and Programs.



Dodd

"Although this change is primarily directed toward operational wings and groups, AFMC will be expected to implement the structure as much as possible, yet in a way that fits effectively into our unique center mission and structure," Taylor pointed out.

"Certainly, any variance we propose will have to be approved by the Chief of Staff," he said.

This new Standard Wing Organization will allow Air Force commanders to focus on their specific core competency with the desired end result being a more capable Air Force to meet the ever-increasing complex mission.

According to Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, it is unlikely that this reorganization will significantly impact Brooks.

May Enlisted Promotions

The following enlisted personnel will sew on new stripes in May.

To Technical Sergeant:

Christopher McClaren
311th Human Systems Wing

To Senior Airman:

Michael Chacon
68th Informaiton Operations Squadron
Nathanael Meagher
311th Security Forces Squadron

To Airman 1st Class:

Marshall Shambo
311th Medical Squadron

To Airman:

Laura Alcalá
U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

Kenneth Baggary

USAFSAM

Jessica Bandy

USAFSAM

Erin Beck

USAFSAM

Stephanie Braun

USAFSAM

Joanne Castillo

USAFSAM

Joshua Dennis

USAFSAM

Donald Eager

311th Communications Squadron

Sergio Escalera

USAFSAM

Sarah Fischer

USAFSAM

Tiara Glover

USAFSAM

Carrie Gonzalez

USAFSAM

Eric Griffin

USAFSAM

Joseph Howard

USAFSAM

Jeremy Hussey

USAFSAM

Keith Kelley

USAFSAM

Ashlie Miller

USAFSAM

Theodore Miller

USAFSAM

Sarah Oliver

USAFSAM

Amada Ranic

USAFSAM

Jacob Rewerts

USAFSAM

Jeremy Simmons

USAFSAM

Brandy Solano

USAFSAM

Angela Stover

USAFSAM

Kristen Swenson

USAFSAM

Patricia Torbert

USAFSAM

Lauren Trester

USAFSAM

Monica Wallace

USAFSAM

Amanda Warren

USAFSAM

Charles White

USAFSAM

Socorro Whitney

USAFSAM

Gabrielle Wintergruy

USAFSAM



Brooks nurses' post-Sept. 11 support mirrors National Nursing Week theme

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks nurses and medical technicians are truly fulfilling the National Nursing Week (May 6-12) theme "Nurses Care for America" with training and patient care initiatives that are contributing to the success of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This is not just a TDY anymore. These CCAT (Critical Care Air Transport) students are preparing to go off and do what they've been trained for. It's real-world now," said Lt. Col. Karen Evers, CCAT course director for the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. Since 1997, USAFSAM has been conducting CCAT training in support of Air Force aeromedical evacuation operations worldwide.

Evers said, "Operation Enduring Freedom is the first large-scale test of CCATs integrating in deployed settings with air evacuation." CCAT teams, which include a critical care nurse, are designed to support critical care patient aeromedical evacuation.

Commenting about the post-911 effect on CCAT students, Evers ex-

plained, "They have a sincerity with which they approach their training. They also have an appreciation for operating in small teams." She said CCAT students leave here not just proficient in their primary medical specialty, but become multi-skilled.

World events have also induced CCAT curriculum modifications, based on operational feedback from the aeromedical evacuation community. Additionally, Air Force Major Commands have made CCAT training a top priority for medical personnel assigned to mobility positions.

This increased sense of urgency also has been felt by USAFSAM's Contingency Operations Branch, tasked with flight nurse and aeromedical evacuation technician training.

"We've increased the intensity of the training scenarios to create a high pressure environment. We deliberately did this to produce signs of stress in our students," admits Senior Master Sgt. Audrey Magnuson, Contingency Operations Branch superintendent. She explained that students need to find out how they will react under pressure before they actually experience life-or-death situations during real-world contingency operations. "They need to keep thinking on their feet. People make big mistakes under pressure," Magnuson said. These pressure-packed scenarios are safely conducted on board C-9 Nightingale, C-130 Hercules and C-141 Starlifter mockups.

Capt. Carey DeFour, training scenario modification architect, said students experience a variety of medical emergencies while exposed to some new special effects, including combat sounds and operating in total darkness.

Modifications to other nursing-related USAFSAM courses have been made since 911. Aeromedical evacuation training now includes increased emphasis on Nuclear, Biological and



Photos by Maj. Denise Augustine

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine-trained Critical Care Air Transport Team members intubate a 'patient' during a Civil Air Reserve Fleet training flight aboard a U.S. Airways 747 jet.

Chemical (NBC) defense involving patient care and decontamination procedures.

Since 911, USAFSAM has been exporting its aeromedical evacuation training expertise to Central and South American countries. "It's a wonderful opportunity to share our knowledge and training with different nations," said Tech. Sgt. C. J. Perez, course superintendent for aeromedical evacuation. Perez said this initiative also has benefited Air Force readiness through military-civilian health care provider integration.

Integration has been the key to USAFSAM and Air Force success in nursing readiness, noted Maj. Judi Kincaid, USAFSAM's flight nurse course director. "We went from training scenarios to reality," Kincaid recalls about the Sept. 11 attacks. USAFSAM's aeromedical evacuation cadre formed into three teams to support the 433rd Airlift Wing when it went on real-world alert.

Another real-world mission that Brooks nurses participated in following 911 was the first cross-country Civil Reserve Air Fleet flight featuring a U.S. Airways 747 outfitted as an air ambulance.

"In one scenario, I was a psych(iatric) patient who goes berserk. I made an attempt to get to the flight deck, but was quickly subdued," recalls DeFour. Air Force nurses and U.S. Airways flight attendants experienced a variety of training scenario simulations that included aircraft rapid decompression and patients suffering cardiac arrest.

"We learned to work with civilian (air) crews and took away (from the exercise) a lot of modifications (in procedures) we want to make," said Maj. Denise Augustine, Aeromedical Consultation Team chief nurse for the 311th Human Systems Program Office.

Rudolph.purificato@brooks.af.mil



USAFSAM's Critical Care Air Transport Team nurses treat a smoke inhalation patient during an exercise aboard a Civil Air Reserve Fleet training flight.



USAFSAM, AFIERA take six 2001 Medical Service Awards

By Rita Boland
Discovery Staff Writer

Six members of the Brooks community were recently announced as the winners of a number of Medical Service Awards for 2001.

Capt. Carol Walters was named Air Force Clinical Laboratory Manager of the Year for her work at the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis.

Col. Sherrell Russell, deputy director of AFIERA, and superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Martinez Jr. were awarded joint honors with the U.S. Air Force Laboratory Team Award.

The other winners are assigned to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks.

Senior Airman Sunny Siler received the Aerospace Physiology

Airman of the Year Award, while Tech. Sgt. Kenton Lee was awarded the Aerospace Physiology Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award. The Air Force Col. Donald D. Dunton Ophthalmic Senior NCO award went to Senior Master Sgt. Connie LaPage.

"I was very proud to be chosen for such an honor, especially with the extremely high caliber airmen we have in this career field," Siler said.

Lee commented on the continuing commitment to excellence and his gratitude for the help of his chain of command, NCOs and airmen.

The Air Force Surgeon General sent each individual winner a letter and certificate that serve as proof of the award.

Individual winners are authorized to wear the Air Force recognition ribbon.



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

Deeply rooted

A local forester joins, from left to right, Col. Terry Nelsen, 31st Air Base Group commander, 31st Human Systems Wing commander Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, and U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine commander Col. Thomas Travis to plant a tree outside the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine as part of Brooks Arbor Day celebration. Several organizations on base participated in Arbor Day and Earth Week with activities of their own, including clean-up projects, plantings and educational presentations.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Constructive feedback

Lt. Col. David Gilmore, right, a member of the Aeronautical Systems Center Inspector General team, conducts a post-inspection interview with Capt. Risa Reipma and Shane Spahr, of the Brooks Health and Wellness Center. The HAWC was inspected as part of the Unit Compliance Inspection conducted by the ASC/IG team this week. Inspections are conducted, according to Air Force instructions, every two-five years. Brooks was last looked at during an Operational Readiness Inspection in 1997.



ACTION LINE

536-2222



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

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

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

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

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

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



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Spouse appreciation day

9-11 a.m., May 10, Base Chapel—

This Family Life Education Program seminar will cover a variety of topics, including the Key Spouse Program, the official Air Force Crossroads web site, and the role of the military spouse. Guest speakers will include Senior Spouse Advisor Kate Dodd, and Master Sgt. Melvin Gilchrist, Family Support Center superintendent. Pastries, coffee and carnations will be provided.

Sponsor training

10-11 a.m., May 14, 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 welcome to attend.

3-day transition seminar

8 a.m. - 4 p.m., May 21-23, Bldg. 537—

Making the transition from the military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve separating and retiring members.

Topics include job search preparation, resume writing, interviewing skills including appropriate dress, veteran's benefits, and more. Members should attend at least 180 days prior to separation or retirement.



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

Military night at the Missions

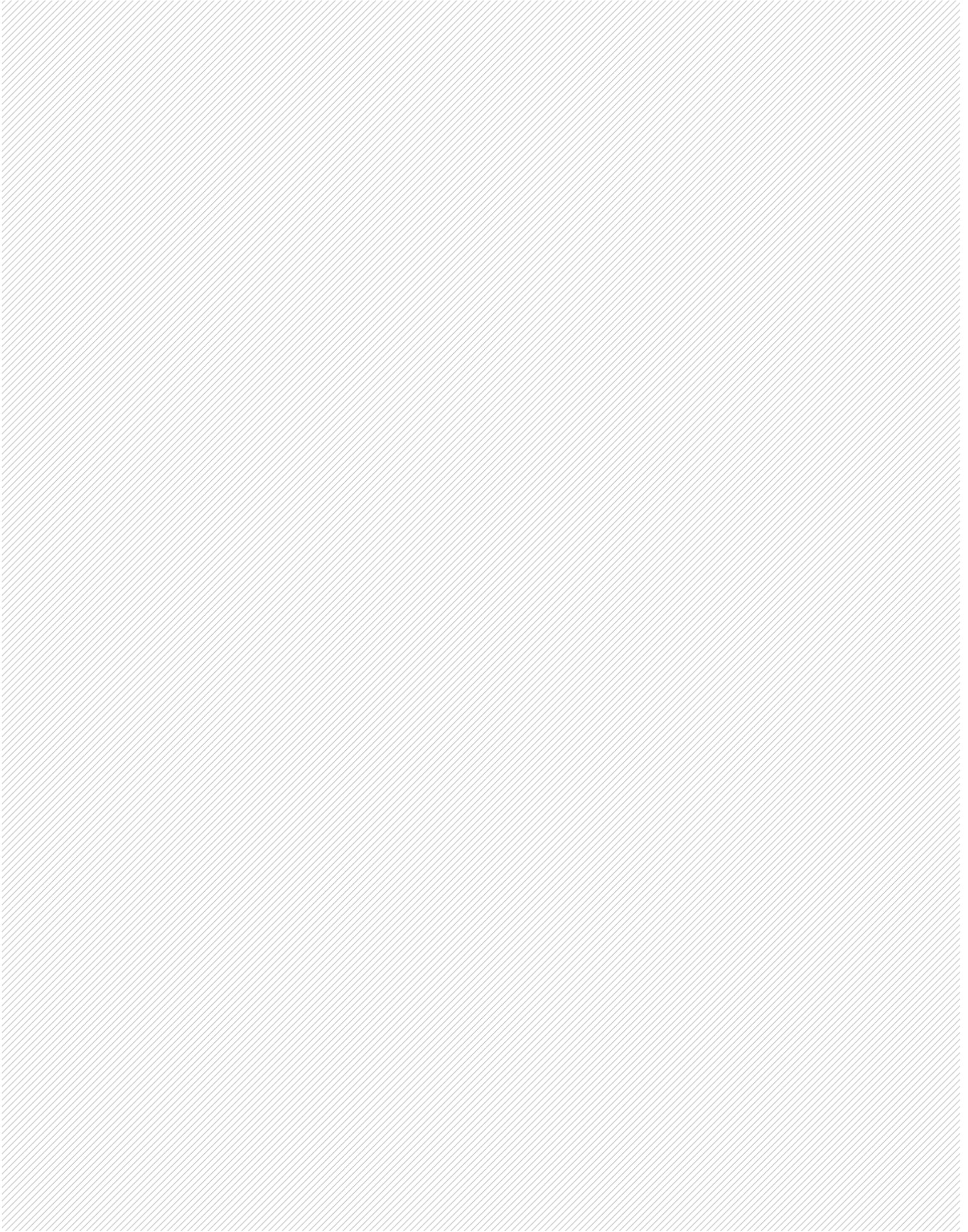
By Rita Boland
Discovery Staff Writer

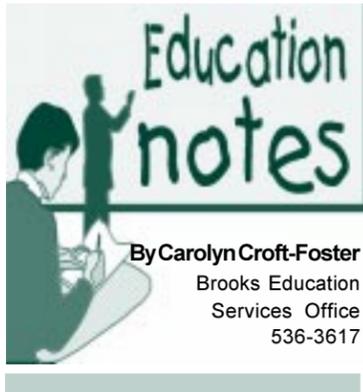
Brooks personnel took advantage of free ticket vouchers to watch the San Antonio Missions play the Midland Rockhounds recently. The Missions lost 8-5.

According to Missions ticket personnel, most of the 4,400 fans were from Brooks and used vouchers.

Col. Stuart Cowles, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander, threw the first pitch, and the Brooks Honor Guard presented colors.

The Missions also gave the game a military feel by trading in their white home jerseys for jerseys decorated with desert camouflage and hats to match.





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

Officer Training School

Master Sgt. Mark Stratton of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine was recently selected to attend Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Upon graduation he will be commissioned as a second lieutenant and serve as a communications officer.

Enlisted members who have completed a bachelor's degree or are within 270 days of completion are eligible to apply to OTS. Application deadlines are May 7 and June 18.

For more information, or to schedule a commissioning appointment call 536-3617.

Excelsior College essay exams

Students wishing to take the Excelsior College essay exam June 7 need to request

their exam today.

Regular CLEP and DANTES testing is available Fridays at 8 a.m. by appointment only.

Call 536-3617 to reserve a seat or order an exam.

Maymester

Alamo Community College District is offering Maymester, accelerated courses this year from May 13-31.

For more information, visit with the ACCD representative Tuesdays.

Summer class registration

Palo Alto College On-Base classes begin June 3 and end July 9. The courses at Brooks include: Speech, Literature, and Sociology. All on-base courses are applicable to the Community College of the Air Force as general education courses. For information about registration or to schedule an appointment, please call 536-3617.

Webster University

Webster University offers master's-level courses at Brooks this summer. Classes begin May 25 and end July 26.

The courses offered include: Procurement and Acquisition Management, Integrated Studies, Counseling Learning Practicum, Psycho-

pathology, and Organizational Development.

Call 536-3617 to schedule a Wednesday morning appointment with the Webster representative.

CCAF graduation

Twenty-two Brooks members are scheduled to graduate from the Community College of the Air Force during a ceremony at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's auditorium at 2:30 p.m., May 23.

The Education and Training Flight invites the Brooks community to attend.

CLEP exams retire

The College Board is retiring six CLEP Subject paper-based tests. The exams that retire July 1 are: American Government, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Human Growth and Development, Marketing, Sociology and Trigonometry.

VA benefits

Personnel who would like information on Veterans Administration benefits or would like to talk to an education case manager about VA education may call the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at: www.va.gov/education. Call 536-3617 for information.

Air Force Association is not an officer's club

By Capt. Brian Collins

311th Human Systems Wing

Mistakenly, many enlisted members believe that the Air Force Association is an "officers association."

In 1947, the first AFA president, Jimmy Doolittle, said "Generals, colonels, second lieutenants, top kicks, buck privates are all just plain mister in AFA."

Doolittle could say about the same today if he were to look at the world's largest chapter, Alamo AFA. Ten of the executive committee members are enlisted, 22 are Air Force retirees or Air Force civilians, but only six are officers. Organization vice presidents and leadership develop-

ment members are comprised of the same mix.

The AFA supports recognition programs such as the "Twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year," and others. They recently announced five security forces noncommissioned officers as the Air Force Association Team of the Year.

The AFA works for you, is made up of people like you, and needs you to keep it strong. Visit the AFA website at: www.alamoafa.org, contact the membership chair, Master Sgt. Annie Howell, at Annie.Howell@lackland.af.mil, or Brooks VP, Capt. Brian Collins at 536-6296, for more information.

FEW hosts diversity awareness luncheon

By Iris Seals

Mission Trails FEW Chapter

The Mission Trails Chapter of Federally Employed Women hosts a diversity awareness luncheon at Brooks from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 16 in Bldg. 578, Rooms 218-221.

The presentation focuses on "Military and civilian relations: working together to accomplish the Air Force mission." Guest speakers include Bel DeGracia, Human Relations advisor at Wilford Hall Medical Center, and Senior Master Sgt. Mary Royal-Highsmith, chief of Program Development, Equal Opportunity Branch from Randolph Air Force Base. Discussions will include components of military and civilian employee relationships to illustrate how using diverse strengths make our workforce stronger. Military, civilian, contractor, male and female are invited. Respond by May 13 to Iris Seals at 536-3249, or Diane Gagliardi at 536-1268.



Asian-Pacific Americans contributions honored in May

By Rita Boland

Discovery Staff Writer

More than 12 million people in the United States have one thing in common, they are of Asian-Pacific Islander descent. In honor of the contributions of this demographic of the "American Melting Pot," May is declared Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.

President George H.W. Bush designated the month in 1990, although Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month started in the form of a Joint Resolution as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week in 1977. The "week" was actually the first 10 days in May.

May was chosen to celebrate Asian-Pacific Americans and their contributions in commemoration of the immigration of the first Japanese to the U.S in 1843. In 1891, Yonosuke Enouye became the first Japanese American to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy.

The Chinese were the first group of Asian Americans to immigrate in large numbers to the United States. By the 1930s, Chinese American populations were well established in New York and Hawaii. They are the largest group of Asian Americans in the U.S., comprising just over 20 percent of that demographic.

When Asians first began to immigrate to the U.S., they were welcomed, especially Chinese immigrants who went to work on the Transcontinental Railroad.

However, as the Gold Rush started to boom, many people became fearful that the large number of Chinese immigrants would overrun the country, and violent protests were held in California and Wyoming.

In the late 1800s Asians were denied citizenship in the U.S. Those laws were repealed during World War II.

Contributions to the nation by Asian Pacific Americans have been significant, especially to the military. Between 1911 and 1969, 10 Asian Pacific Americans received Medals of Honor. Pvt. Jose Nisperos, who served

in the Army's 34th Company, Phillipine Scouts, received the first of them. During a battle Sept. 24, 1911, he suffered from a broken arm and severe lacerations. He was so crippled he lost the ability to stand. However, according to his citation, Nisperos "continued firing his rifle with one hand until the enemy was repulsed, thereby helping prevent the annihilation of his party and the mutilation of their bodies."

In 1997, Eric Shinseki, a native Hawaiian, was promoted to general in the U.S. Army. In 1998 he was named Vice Chief of Staff.

Asian American Women also aided their country in time of war. In World War II, Filipino American women aided American soldiers in the Philippines, working as undercover agents. Japanese American women were recruited as translators, and Chinese American women served in the Army, Air Force and the Navy.

Organizations now exist to aid Asian-Pacific Americans, fight prejudice and facilitate understanding between different cultures. These groups include the Japanese American Citizens League, National Association of Korean Americans, National Council for Asian Pacific Americans, National Federation of Filipino American Associations and the Organization of Chinese Americans.

Brooks celebrates Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month with the following events. A 5K run is scheduled for 11 a.m., May 8 at the Fitness Center. For more information call Airman Nicholas Kippen at 536-3060.

Sidney's hosts an Ethnic Lunch from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 15. Contact Airman 1st Class Kyle George at 536-8579 for details.

Finally, Brooks personnel are invited to attend a Food Gala May 23 at the base picnic grounds from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Participants can contact Pat Mokry at 536-3967 for more information.

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil

HAWC health tips

By Capt. Risa Riepma

Brooks Health and Wellness Center

The DASH diet- Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension

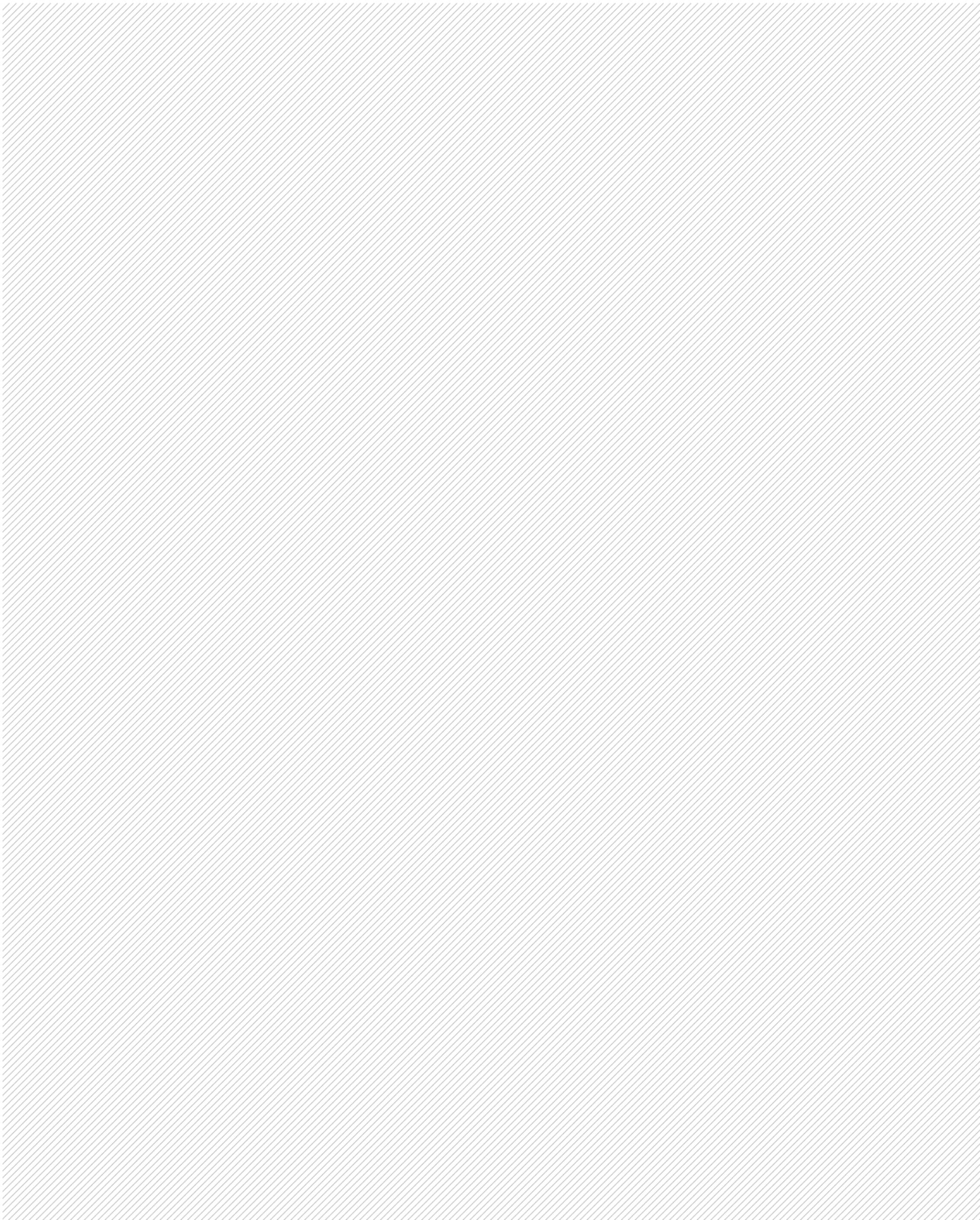
The DASH diet is low in saturated fat, cholesterol and total fat and can prevent and reduce high blood pressure. DASH emphasizes fruits, vegetables, low fat dairy products, whole grains and lean meats. Magnesium, potassium, calcium, protein, and fiber are responsible for the positive affect. Try these tasty tips for incorporating the DASH diet into your life.

* Blend frozen fruit with a ripe banana in some low-fat yogurt for a fast and delicious smoothie.

* Mix unsalted pretzels, almonds, and raisins with dried cranberries, dried apricots, and dried blueberries for a trail mix that is perfect for the afternoon snack.

* Use lean pork loin and vegetables such as onion, green, yellow, and red pepper when making fajitas. With low fat tortillas and refried beans, your family is sure to enjoy. Season with cumin and chili powder instead of salt.

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





Rodriguez

Brooks
Personality
PROFILE

Fiesta fits her
personality fine

Q&A

FULL NAME:

Rosalinda Sanchez Rodriguez

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

Student aide, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander's office

WHAT IS MY JOB?:

I help out the Commander's Action Group, Executive Office and Protocol and do different taskings for each.

BIRTHDAY:

June 12, 1981

HOMETOWN:

San Antonio. I live on the outskirts in a small suburb called Losoya.

FAMILY STATUS:

Single, and come from a family of four.

NICKNAME I CALL MYSELF:

None, but my family calls me Rosita and my friends call me Rosa or Rose.

MOTTO:

I never really had one but I like the saying, "Live like there's no tomorrow, dance like nobody's watching and love like it's never going to hurt."

INSPIRATIONS:

I really don't have a particular role model or one particular person who inspires me. I find different qualities in people, especially my family, look to what makes them a good person and try to live by those qualities.

HOBBIES:

Well, I love music, and all kinds of it too, and I love to dance. I also enjoy small children and spending time with them.

PET PEEVE:

People who can't drive, and those that are two-faced and hypocritical.

I JOINED CIVIL SERVICE BECAUSE:

My father retired civil service but the main reason I joined was because of the student aide program they have here.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

To graduate with my degree in human resources/management at Our Lady of the Lake University by Dec. 2003, get some work experience and possibly go for my master's degree.

ULTIMATE GOAL:

To live a fulfilled life and be happy. I want to have a job I enjoy and won't mind going to everyday, have a family and make the best of my life.

By Rita Boland

Discovery Staff Writer

She loves music. She's bubbly. She's happy. She's fun. She's Rosalinda Rodriguez.

"I'm a people person," Rodriguez said, with a huge smile across her face.

She has to be. Her father has one brother and five sisters, all except one with spouses and children of their own. Every weekend, her extended family gets together for a bar-b-que.

"Family is important," Rodriguez said. "I think family is one of the best things on earth."

Family is also the reason she stayed in San Antonio to go to college, and why she'll never leave Texas for good.

"I was in ROTC in high school," she said. "The colonel there was always trying to get me to join (the military). I thought about it, but then I thought, nah. I don't know, maybe it's just I'm too close to my family and I would not be able to handle being away from them for too long."

She does have plenty of military connections. Her cousin is stationed in Korea and she has a friend who plays in the Marine Corps band. Her uncle and dad were both in the military. Her dad then transferred to civil service and worked at Kelly.

Rodriguez, like all San Antonians, loves Fiesta. She has been in all three Fiesta parades (the River Parade, the Battle of Flowers Parade and the Fiesta Flambeau Parade) and participated in the Battle of the Bands.

"I've conquered all (the) parades," she said, laughing.



Photo by Dale Eckroth

Rodriguez with Grupo Alma, her boyfriend's Tejano band on the YMCA float during the River Parade.

Rodriguez marched with her school band in the Battle of the Flowers Parade six times, from eighth grade through her freshman year in college and in the Fiesta Flambeau Parade twice. She began playing trumpet in the sixth grade and switched to the baritone her sophomore year of high school.

"I love all kinds of music," Rodriguez said.

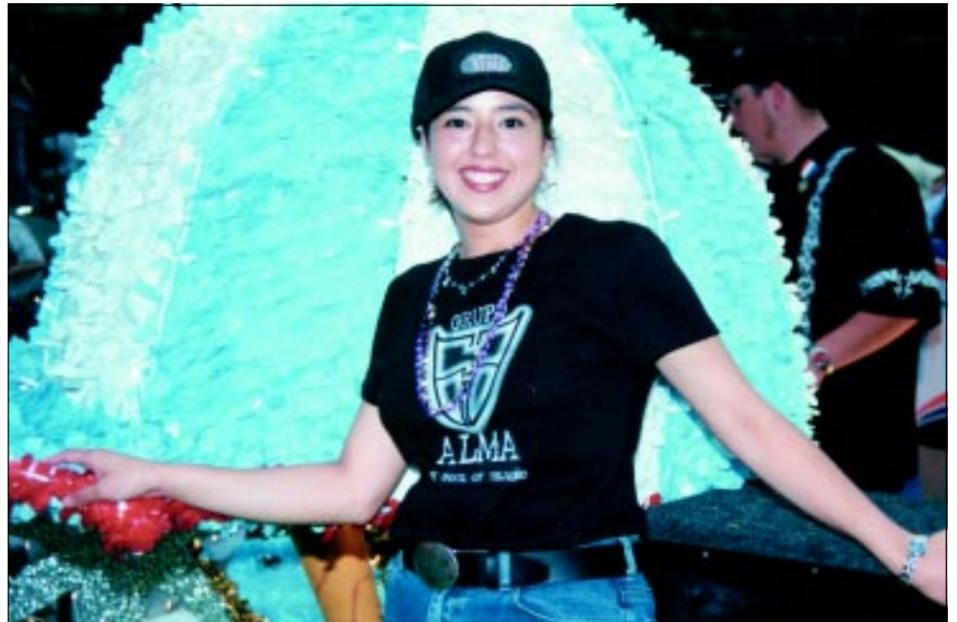


Photo by Dale Eckroth

Rosalinda Rodriguez on the YMCA float during the River Parade. She has now participated in all three of the Fiesta San Antonio parades.

Band was also where she met her boyfriend of four and a half years and eventually how she ended up in the River Parade.

Her boyfriend started a Tejano band three months ago and was asked to play on one of the floats in the River Parade this year. They needed extra people on the float to wave and have a good time, so Rodriguez rode along.

"I love Fiesta," Rodriguez said. "There's just so many people; all the different people from everywhere."

Her boyfriend's band, Grupo Alma, fits right into her have fun, enjoy people lifestyle. She attends all of their shows that she can because she's "with the band."

"I love to dance," Rodriguez said. "I get to have fun on the side. Everything they do is "Alma"nized. It's cool to go to his gigs, except I lose my dancing partner."

Life isn't all fun for the business major, though. She understands the importance of work and education. She planned on being a teacher and began college as an education major. Her plans changed when she taught her first class.

"I was teaching 30 ADD students," Rodriguez said. "The teacher gave me no help. I love kids, I just can't teach them. If you're going to be a teacher you need to know what you're doing, you need to handle your class and you need to have a passion for it. You need to be a really good influence. I don't want to be the reason they don't go on. There's a lot of pressure on teachers."

Rodriguez's best example of good teaching was from her band director in high school.

"He taught you life," Rodriguez said. He also taught his students accountability.

"Band was first, period," Rodriguez explained. "If we were going to be late, we had to call in. It was like work. If you didn't follow the rules, you got fired."

She also said that he talked to the students after school and worked with them.

"My boyfriend was really influenced by him. He gave us a whole aspect of the arts."

After she finishes her business degree, Rodriguez has thought about going back for her teaching certificate "just to have it." If she were to teach, she would want to pass on the lessons her band director taught her.

"If I taught, it would be elementary school," she said. "I would want to instill discipline, responsibility; the things you need in life. Give them the basics, math and English especially."

Rodriguez isn't sure what she's going to do in the future, but she isn't worried about it.

"I'm just kind of playing it by ear, enjoying my college life."

She might pursue a career in civil service. Her father encourages her to do so and her sister works for the census bureau in Washington D.C.

"My sister is one of my great influences," Rodriguez said.

Whatever she decides, she has the foundation for success. With the love and support of her family and friends and her own self-described "optimistic-reality" view on life, she'll go far.

"I'm a simple person," Rodriguez said.



Post-911 honorees recognized at Brooks 2002 Fiesta reception

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

In a prelude to future celebrations here, the 311th Human Systems Wing commander hosted a memorable Brooks Fiesta reception April 20 that honored five Americans whose post-911 service reflects our nation's renewed spirit of patriotism.

Pilots from United and American Airlines, a San Antonio firefighter and police officer, and an American Red Cross volunteer were special guests during the annual Hangar 9 ceremony.

"I've been surprised by the intensity of the feelings from people who have told me afterward how deeply touched they were by our recognition of civilians," said Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd in a post-script reaction. Dodd said the overwhelmingly positive feedback he has received from ceremony attendees includes the frequent claim "that it was the best Fiesta reception that they had ever seen."

Dodd credits 311th HSW Public Affairs community relations chief Ed Shannon for his idea to pay special tribute to people whose occupations have been in the national spotlight since Sept. 11.

"Ed is the genius behind the idea. He has done an absolutely incredible job," Dodd said, noting that he deeply appreciates the collective efforts of those involved in helping stage the best Brooks Fiesta event to date, including Shelia Klein, form the Brooks Heritage Foundation and Eli Rush, who is working under contract at Hangar 9 for the wing.

Ceremony honorees included American Airlines pilot Brus Messinger, United Airlines pilot Scott Sauter, San Antonio fire department Lt. Steve Overly, San Antonio police

Lt. Chris Anderson and American Red Cross volunteer Lois McCarthy.

McCarthy and her family were directly involved in helping people in New York City and at the Pentagon following the terrorist attacks.

"I arrived at the World Trade Center nine days after the attack and spent 21 days there. My (initial) reaction was incredible disbelief," McCarthy said. As a retired nurse trained in grief counseling, McCarthy relied on her disaster relief experience to help victims' families and Manhattan residents displaced from their homes.

She admitted that Divine intervention might have played a role in her family's involvement.

"It's really strange that my daughter Mary (Stigent), a San Antonio nurse, was in Washington, D.C. across from the White House when the attacks occurred. She was there attending a conference. During the first 24-30 hours after the attacks, she was helping the Salvation Army set up tents at the Pentagon," recalls McCarthy. Her son John, a specialist in hazardous material removal, was dispatched by his company to New York City to remove anthrax spores from a letter discovered at the NBC-TV studios.

Both commercial airline pilots have helped support America's war on terrorism as Air Force Reserve majors assigned to the 433rd Airlift Wing at Lackland Air Force Base. Messinger is also founder of World Memorial, a tribute to 911 airline crash victims.

Dodd said it was fitting that these people were honored during Brooks's last Fiesta reception as a military base. He said honoring civilians is symbolic of future City-Base receptions that will involve joint city of San Antonio-military participation.

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

El Rey Feo and members of his court visit with Brooks ambassador Staff Sgt. Ty Richards and his wife during the reception at Hangar 9.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

A diagram of the Brooks medal hangs near as Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311 Human Systems Wing commander, presents it to the honored guests.



Photo by Dale Eckroth

Flower arrangements lay outside the Alamo in downtown San Antonio, one of the more solemn traditions of Fiesta.

Brooks Fiesta reception a contradiction in itself

By Rita Boland
Discovery Staff Writer

The Brooks Fiesta Reception was a lesson in contradictions.

The intention of the April 20 reception, as it has been since 1994, was to kick off Fiesta with a military and Fiesta royalty gathering at Brooks. Installation commanders, local leaders and Fiesta dignitaries gather for a morning of lively conversation amid festive decorations and somewhat outrageous costumes.

The most evident contradiction came in the program part of the reception, held in historic Hangar 9. In a room filled with more stars than the planetarium and more royalty than Europe, the most honored guests were men and women who receive little recognition for their everyday jobs. And during an event designed for celebration, tears were shed.

Following the traditional speeches and gift exchanges by 311th Human Systems wing commander Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, King Antonio and

El Rey Feo, and the president of the Fiesta San Antonio Commission, an untraditional ceremony took place when Dodd introduced some very special guests.

The first surprise guest to walk onto the stage was American Airlines pilot Brus Messinger. Around the room the lights started to go on in people's heads - a 9/11 tribute. And people reacted. Attention became fully focused on the stage. Expressions became expectant. People waited to be moved and to show their respect.

As the other guests, United Airlines pilot Scott Sauter, American Red Cross volunteer Lois McCarthy and San Antonio Police Lt. Chris Anderson walked onto the stage the audience applauded and listened to their stories of heroism.

Both pilots are Air Force Reservists, and McCarthy served in New York to assist the victims of the World Trade Center.

However, the biggest applause and the cheers started when the final guest appeared. Lt. Steve Overly of the San

Antonio Fire Department was the symbol of America's heroes and America's spirit. He wore full firefighter gear, the outfit seen on the gritty firefighter on billboards, and immortalized by the heroes of the World Trade Center.

Once again the attendees of the reception stared at a contradiction, the unofficial symbol of America's War on Terror, framed by balloons and streamers.

"They did it in fine fashion," Col. Gary Henley and his wife Becky said. "It was inspiring."

After all the guests had been introduced, Dodd explained the meaning of the Brooks Fiesta medal.

A pentagon shape with images of the American flag, the Tower of the Americas and Hangar 9, beneath a red, white and blue ribbon. Yet another contradiction, serving as a reminder of the recent terrorist attacks.

The ceremony ended with a moving rendition of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" by Master Sgt. Anne Rozkydal.

Other contradictions, more

numerous but less impacting, pervaded the event. The modern clothing, conveniences and décor, contrasted the location itself, Hangar 9, a refurbished World War I airplane hangar. The presence of royalty, however honorary, being welcomed and honored by a military that has its origins in overthrowing monarchy for democracy.

"Don't say Brooks is closing," Dodd said in his speech. "Brooks is evolving."

The only facet of the reception that no one contradicted, was the reception's success.

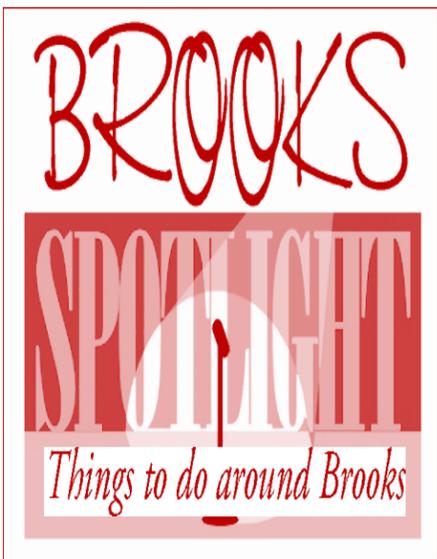
"(We) thought it was very, very well done," Fred and Pat May, guests of the event, said.

Maybe that's because Americans accept contradiction as life. They expect the old with the new. They expect heroes from everyday occupations. They expect the country to join together in a show of patriotism in times of struggle. And Americans always expect to be able to celebrate something. God Bless America. Viva Fiesta!

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil

“ I’ve been surprised by the intensity of feelings from people who told me how deeply touched they were by our recognition of civilians. ”

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd
311 HSW Commander



By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

fresh spring fruit salad with honey lime vinaigrette dressing and baked Alaska. Various wines will accompany the meal. Reservations are limited to the first 40 people to sign up.

Youth Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

The Brooks Youth Sports Booster Club co-hosts a golf tournament May 31. Check-in time is 12:30 p.m. with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. The format is Florida Scramble and is limited to 16 teams (18 Holes), four golfers per team. Mulligans are sold for \$2 each or three for \$5 with a limit of three per person. Prizes will be awarded for the longest drive and closest to the pin.

Registration fee is \$25 per person and includes green and cart fees. To register contact Larry Flores at 536-8130 or the Golf Course.

Golf Course

Bldg. 821, 536-2636

Take advantage of the May Special in the Pro Shop. Save 10-20 percent off selected golf shoes.

The Snack Bar offers a variety of sandwich daily, and soups and salads.

Base Library

Bldg. 705, 536-2634

Learn a new language with the help of audio cassettes from the library. Listen to them on your drive to work, while on vacation, or in the comfort of your home. Language tapes available include Arabic, Chinese, Czech, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Vietnamese and many more.

The library also has informative books and magazines on where to vacation, and what to see and where to stay while you're there.

Enjoy a carefree vacation by planning ahead.

Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188

Mission Fitness 2002

Throughout the month of May, fitness centers worldwide encourage Air Force people to make fitness a part of regular daily activity.

Each base hosts special events and programs during the month and a worldwide 5K Run is scheduled during Armed Forces Week.

"Mission Fitness 2002, known for years as May Fitness Month, is really expanding this year," explained John Robinette, Brooks Services director. "There will be more events and prizes, including an all inclusive trip for two to a health spa, and an outdoor adventure trip." The more a person works out or participates, the greater their chances of winning.

According to Roy Conatzer, Brooks Fitness Center director, everyone at Brooks can participate in the events planned for the month.

Daily Fitness Questions -

31 days, 31 questions, 31 answers.

Monday Munchies -

Enjoy a healthy treat from the center staff.

Tale of the Tape Tuesdays-

Get a handle on body fat by having staff members take measurements. It takes about five minutes to get an answer. Stop by prior to your workout.

Weight Watchers Wednesdays -

The best way to take off the weight is to assess your physical condition. Make an appointment for a Microfit assessment.

May 10- 6th Annual Strong As You Wanna Be Luchtime Benchpress

May 17- Squadron Challenge Day

May 30- Worldwide 5K Run

Mission Fitness Month events are designed for everyone, but only individuals 18 years or older are eligible to win the grand prize.

For more information, contact the Fitness Center staff at 536-2188.

Squadron Challenge

Squadron Challenge Day brings personnel together for a day of intense competition and fun, and creates an annual opportunity to compete for the Squadron Challenge Day Trophy. The events are open to military, Department of Defense and NAF employees, as well as contractors in direct support of the installation.

Scheduled events include the following:

5K Run — Teams have 1 male and 1 female. Best combined time wins.

Golf— This is 9 hole, four-person scramble format. Teams have 4 players, with at least one female.

Volleyball— Single elimination tournament format. Teams have 4 players and 1 must be female.

Racquetball— Single elimination tournament. Best two out of three 40-minute matches wins.

Tennis— Single elimination governed by UTSA rules. Matches are best out of 15 games.

3-on-3 basketball— Games are played to 10 points or 10 minutes. Officials will monitor play.

4-on-4 flag football— The game is two 12-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime. The continuous clock can only be stopped for an official or team time-out. A 30-second play clock is used. The quarterback cannot run.

100 meter dash— Teams have 1 male and 1 female. Females race against females, males against males. A combined time determines winners.

4 X 100 relay— Teams of 1 female and 3 males will run 100 meters each.

One Pitch Softball— Teams consists of 9 players, with 2 females. The lineup is 9 fielders and a pitcher from the team batting. Games last 5 innings.

Tug of War— Each team consists of 5 competitors, 3 males and 2 females.

For more information on scheduled events, contact the Fitness Center staff or your squadron representative.

The FrameWorks

Bldg. 1154, 536-2120

Mother's Day is May 13. Why not have children's artwork or photos framed for Mom or Grandma? Bring in your artwork, choose a mat and molding, then draw to see what discount you receive. It could be upto 50 percent off your framing order. Ask about additional savings.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Gourmet Night is back by popular demand. Make your reservations now and mark May 17 on your calendar. The dining experience begins at 6 p.m. that evening and takes guests through 10 sumptuous courses. The menu consists of assorted canapés, confetti vegetable consommé, shrimp almondine en papillote, pineapple burgundy sorbet, tournedos bearnaise, braised lettuce, baked berny potatoes,

NEWS briefs

Foundation scholarships

The Brooks Heritage Foundation is accepting applications for its 2002 Scholarships.

This year the Foundation is offering the \$1,000 P.D. Straw Scholarship and two \$250 student aide scholarships.

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

For more information contact the Foundation at 531-9767.

Volunteers needed

The Brooks Clinic is looking for a few good volunteers. Volunteers are needed for the reception desk.

Knowledge of medical records, computers and experience in customer service is a plus but not a requirement. Training is available.

The reception desk responsibilities include greeting patients, scheduling appointments, pulling medical records, checking in patients for appointments, including paperwork preparation, answering phones and directing calls, smiling, and enjoying the experience.

Call Capt. Rebekah Friday at 536-6984 or Tech. Sgt. Flores at 536-8533 for information.

Special Emphasis

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

Volunteers are needed to chair the 2002 committees for the following special observances: Asian-

acific Islander Heritage Month (May), Hispanic Heritage Month (September) and Native American Heritage Month in November.

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

Participation is open to all civilian and military volunteers regardless of race, color, sex, religion or national origin. Contact Capt. Sonya Ferreira or Master Sgt. Michael Parise at 536-2584 for details.

Altitude test subjects

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

Air Force aircrew members who are interested and meet the qualifications will earn approximately \$150 per month for participating in one session per month. Volunteers must meet Air Force body fat, height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 20-45 years old, and able to pass an appropriate physical exam.

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

Donate a phone

Every year, thousands of women in Texas become victims of abuse. The CALL to PROTECT program provides them with a free wireless phone. These phones are pre-programmed with wireless emergency service and serve as the victim's lifeline during emergencies. Bring any unwanted wireless phones to the upcoming Civilian of the Quarter/Secretary of the Year Awards Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. May 9 at the Brooks Club or contact Susann Baker in Bldg. 150, Rm. 177, or by calling 536-4544.

Squadron Challenge XI sports scoring, event changes

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A change in scoring that encourages commander participation and the return of the popular flag football highlights Brooks Squadron Challenge XI May 17 as part of the base's annual support of worldwide Air Force Fitness Month.

While event scoring remains the same, teams can now earn an extra five points for commander participation. Event scoring is unchanged with five points awarded for placing first, three points earned for placing second and one point awarded for participation. The team with the most points wins the Squadron Challenge Trophy.

The Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis is the defending champion. Last year, AFIERA dethroned the two-time defending 311th Human Systems Program Office by only two points. The eventual champion did not win any competition other than karaoke, but edged out other contenders on the strength of earning participation points as the only team to compete in all events.

"We've dropped CRUD, karaoke and the punt, pass and kick events, but added flag football," said Pablo Segura, fitness center specialist. Four-on-four flag football returns to Squadron Challenge after a one-year hiatus. It was dropped last year for the same reason that canceled the 2001 flag football intramural season: not enough players due to military reorganization and downsizing.

CRUD, a rugby-like pool table game; the singing competition called karaoke; and the punt, pass and kick football handling competition have been eliminated in favor of more athletically challenging events.



'Dark horse' volleyball team eclipses rival, wins base title

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

An even darker horse team eclipsed a favored dark horse squad to win the base intramural volleyball championship April 25 during a surprising and dramatic post-season ending that validated the belief that lightning, indeed, strikes twice in the same place.

A relatively unknown group dubbed Pool Players joined the 311th Security Forces Squadron as the only fourth-seeded volleyball tournament teams in Brooks' history to capture the base championship in consecutive years. Last year, the 311th SFS shocked their opponents and tournament favorite Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis by winning the base crown.

Pool Players engineered the sequel to upsetting favored teams by defeating league champion and former dark horse squad U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine in the tourney's opening round, then dashed the hopes of perennial tourney 'bridesmaid' AFIERA in the title contest.

"We came out and took care of business," said Pablo Segura, a Pool Player setter who was excited about his team's unexpected tournament success. That success was realized in the tournament's first round playing

against number one seed USAFSAM.

"They (USAFSAM) had beaten us in the regular season. However, we didn't have all of our players (then)," Segura said. USAFSAM, a regular season underdog-turned-champion, was victimized by a truly underdog squad cast as 'misfits' by other teams that did not pick them from the reserve player pool.

"We formed our own team. We have several players from Air Base Group and two from the Army," Segura said about a squad that came together at the right time to stun the opposition.

Pool Players 'racked up' USAFSAM with a dominating performance, beating them 21-15 and 21-19 to start the tournament. Meanwhile, AFIERA survived a tough opening round against nemesis 68th Information Operations Squadron by winning both match games 21-13 and 23-21.

The 68th IOS, upset in last year's tournament as league champ, eliminated defending champ USAFSAM with a three-game, second-round victory. Pool Players needed three games to defeat AFIERA in the second round. "They were tough," Segura said of AFIERA, which was determined not to repeat their tourney misfortunes of 2001.

Unfortunately, lightning zapped AFIERA again this year when they faced Pool Players in the championship



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sabrina Johnson

Pool Player power hitter Donald Wooden (center) attempts to spike the ball that was blocked by an AFIERA defender.

Segura believes AFIERA's loser's bracket match against a very tenacious 68th IOS squad, concluded moments before the title contest, may have taken its toll.

Perhaps too tired to realize the irony of playing another underdog for the base championship, AFIERA's fate may already have been sealed. Standing in their way of a title were two Pool Player stars with familiar faces: player-coach Jose Murillo and Donald Wooden who last year played for underdog champion 311th SFS.

"Woody (Wooden) contributed a lot (to our winning)," Segura said of his teammate who reprised his performance from a year ago by dominating the nets with powerful spikes.

Also contributing to Pool Players' 21-9 and 21-14 match game wins over AFIERA were Murillo, power hitter Albert Agadier, husband-wife backrow specialists Cedric and Minen Scott, setters Shawna Adam and Suzzane Mayerchak, and Bebbie Tamme.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil