

DISCOVERY

Labor Day marks end of 101 Critical Days of Summer

By Rita Boland
Staff Writer

Labor Day weekend signals the end of the 101 Critical Days of Summer. The holiday also marks the unofficial end of summer and offers an increased risk to military and civilians as families take a final road trip or take advantage of a last opportunity for the beach and other outdoor activities.

"It's historically a travel weekend for families," said Dave Lemme, ground safety manager for the 311th Human Systems Wing Safety Office.

Families taking to the road should heed the warning of statistics thus far this year.

Up to Aug. 20 in fiscal year 2003, the Air Force lost 70 members to on- and off-duty ground mishaps. Sixty-five of these deaths occurred during off-duty periods, and 59 resulted from private motor vehicle accidents, both automobiles and motorcycles.

Factors contributing to the accidents include darkness, alcohol, excessive speed, no seatbelts, fatigue and lack of proficiency, especially in regards to motorcycle use.

"The data is there to show that failing to use good judgement can result in very serious consequences, e.g. fatalities or permanent disability," Lemme said.

The Air Force historically loses more personnel during the 101 Critical Days of Summer, which begins



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

SECDEF sounds off

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld speaks to a crowd of nearly 3,000 military and civilian personnel from the San Antonio area during a town hall meeting at Lackland Air

Force Base Aug. 26. Rumsfeld used the forum to discuss proposed changes to the federal Civil Service system, issues affecting military deployments and the role of America in support of the war on terrorism.

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Rumsfeld hopes for civil service reform, military restructure

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld used Monday's town hall meeting at Lackland Air Force Base to discuss proposed changes to the federal Civil Service system, issues affecting military deployments and re-deployments and the Armed Forces' continuing role supporting America's on-going war on terrorism.

Rumsfeld used the forum to address these and other issues during a question and answer session involving an estimated 3,000 people who represented the local federal community, including nearly 100 Brooks members.

The Lackland event concluded Rumsfeld's San Antonio visit that featured a keynote address at the 104th Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention.

"I am very hopeful of bringing some reform and flexibility into the (civil service) system. We've proposed a realignment of the current civil service system from a seniority-based system to a merit-based system," Rumsfeld

"It is very clear to senior leaders that we must reduce the stress on the force. There are lots of ways we can be more efficient."

Donald Rumsfeld
U.S. Secretary of Defense

said, referring to pending legislation. He said the House of Representatives' version of the Defense Transformation Bill for reform of the civil service personnel system is "80 percent of what we want."

Rumsfeld added, "The Senate position is not as helpful to us."

The Defense Secretary wants to make significant changes to the federal civil service system that favors job performance rather than years of service as a determining factor for promotion and retention. He characterized the federal civil service performance-based demonstration

projects conducted during the past decade as "uniformly positive."

"There was some apprehension at the outset when we tested these DEMO Projects," he said, explaining that they have been helpful in providing a foundation for reform of the personnel system.

Rumsfeld said the civil service system needs to be modified in such a way that will make the federal government competitive in the job market.

"We're not competitive in the market place. We go to college job fairs and hand out paperwork to people and tell them we'll get back to them when it's processed," he said, noting that private sector businesses offer jobs, incentives and higher wages to qualified individuals without making them wait for a position opening.

Asked about a proposal to extend the military retirement age to 62, Rumsfeld quipped, "Being 71 years old, it seems young to me."

"We're thinking about it, but there is no specific proposal. It's a good idea because people are living longer and

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D I S C O V E R Y

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A safety message from the commander:

Brooks Team Members,

I wanted to piggyback the AFMC guidance sent out by personnel regarding the family day in conjunction with Labor Day Weekend. I wholeheartedly support this AFMC Family Day. If the mission permits, please take advantage of this well-deserved break.

"Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country," said Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor. "All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."

During the course of its 109-year history, however, Labor Day has evolved from a pure celebration of the American labor movement into the last long weekend of summer. Of course, in San Antonio summer seems to stretch for a few more months.

With this change has come an alarming rise in the number of alcohol-related accidents. Typically, alcohol is at the root of less than 40 percent of all highway deaths — outrageous, yes, but the percentage rises to more than 50 percent during the Labor Day weekend. About 500 people will die and another 25,000 will be injured across the nation this weekend. **DON'T BECOME PART OF THIS STATISTIC!**

Please be smart. Simply taking a second to weigh the risks, remember ORM, and ensure safe fun or travel. We want everyone back on



“Typically, alcohol is at the root of less than 40 percent of all highway deaths — outrageous, yes, but the percentage rises to more than 50 percent during the Labor Day weekend. About 500 people will die and another 25,000 will be injured across the nation this weekend. **DON'T BECOME PART OF THIS STATISTIC!**”

Tuesday safe, sound, relaxed and happy — ready to do what you do best for our Air Force and this great country!

Have a fantastic Labor Day weekend.

Col. Tom Travis
Commander, 311th Human Systems Wing

Officials warn of heat-stress dangers

By Airman 1st Class Susan Stout

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFPN) — As temperatures heat up across the country, heat stress is a concern that requires notice, according to officials here.

Early signs of heat stress include dizziness, headache, dry mouth, unsteady walk, weakness and muscle cramps.

"If you experience these symptoms, you should remove yourself from the activity, rest in the shade and take sips of water," said Lt. Col. Allen Naugle, of the 56th Aerospace Medical Squadron. "If signs or symptoms do not improve in 15 to 30 minutes, get to a medical facility. If signs or symptoms worsen, call for an ambulance."

Later signs and symptoms of heat stress include a hot body with a high temperature, confusion, weak or rapid pulse, unresponsiveness, vomiting, involuntary bowel movements, convulsions or coma.

"Call an ambulance for immediate transport to the hospital if you experience these symptoms," Naugle said. "Lie down in the shade with feet elevated until the ambulance arrives and take sips of water. If skin is hot to touch, begin active cooling — pour cool water over the body and undress as much as possible."

According to Naugle, adequate water intake is essential to replace water lost through sweating, respiration and elimination.

"Encourage personnel to begin hydrating several days before a lengthy or high-performance exposure to hot conditions to ensure adequate

hydration beforehand," he said.

"Advise personnel to begin water consumption at the recommended rate up to two hours before starting the activity, when possible."

Drinking small amounts of water frequently is better than drinking larger amounts less frequently, according to Naugle.

"When the activity is complete, fluid replacement should continue for approximately two hours," he said. "Alcoholic and caffeinated beverages do not make up for water loss. Carbonated beverages are not as effective as noncarbonated beverages in keeping the body hydrated because of delayed absorption."

On the other hand, drinking too much water can also have its disadvantages, he said.

"(People should not) exceed an hourly fluid intake of one and half quarts or total daily fluid intake of 12 quarts," he said. "Rapid ingestion of large amounts of water, greater than one and a half quarts per hour, may lead to hyponatremia, or acute water intoxication. This is a life-threatening condition that may lead to weakness, loss of consciousness and death, if not recognized and treated promptly."

Naugle recommends people wear protective clothing and sunscreen.

"Use sunscreen and wear lightweight clothing, hats and sunglasses if the mission allows," he said. "Eat a balanced diet, stay in good physical condition and take sufficient breaks in the shade. Most importantly, make sure you drink enough water."

(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)



Ribbon cutting marks opening of biotechnology education, research center at Brooks

By Rita Boland
Staff Writer

The Center of Excellence in Biotechnology and Bioprocessing Education and Research, a facility for training military and civilian personnel to handle vaccines, biosensors and other biological products, opened Aug. 26 at Brooks.

CEBBER is an educational partnership between the Air Force Institute for Operational Health and the University of Texas at San Antonio. The Air Force provided the building, equipment and personnel while UTSA provides staff and equipment. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved almost \$6 million in funding for the 8,000-square-foot facility.

"Ultimately, we will be training young people to be the type of scientists we need," said Dr. Ricardo Romo, president of UTSA during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

CEBBER gives established scientists a chance to collaborate on issues vital to homeland defense and national vaccine demands, while providing UTSA graduate and postgraduate students with a hands-on learning environment and access to top minds in the biomedical field. Current and potential employees on both the military and civilian sides can receive training and experience at the world class laboratory.

"What makes it a world class lab is it has sophisticated equipment," Romo said. "It has scientists who are internationally recognized."

The new research facility helps UTSA pursue its goal of becoming a premier research university while making San Antonio a homeland security research leader.

"This center is a vital national asset," said Congressman Ciro Rodriguez. "I urge each of us to continue and support development on Brooks and the Southside."

CEBBER fits into the San Antonio's plan of developing the Southside and planners hope the facility will develop a more technologically sophisticated workforce, attracting new business and residents.

"UTSA is very interested in the Southside," said



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez

Dr. Ricardo Romo, left to right, president of the University of Texas at San Antonio, Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, and 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Col. Tom Travis cut the ribbon during the official opening ceremony at Bldg. 175 Aug. 26.

Dr. William Scouten, associate vice president of research and development at UTSA. "We want to be seen as serving the Southside's needs."

Since Brooks became a City-Base in 2002, the Air Force and City of San Antonio have worked to bring research and education partnerships here.

"This has exactly what the conversion of Brooks is all about," said Fred Kuhn, the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Installations.

CEBBER opened amid much pomp and circumstance, with a ribbon cutting ceremony in the morning, complete with music from the Air Force Band of the West out of Lackland Air Force Base, tours of the facility and a reception. Rodriguez, Kuhn and Romo all gave speeches at the ceremony, as did 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Col. Tom Travis.

"The CEBBER is a perfect example of the type of collaboration which will make Brooks City-Base a success. In this case, UTSA graduate students will be learning in a world class biotechnology facility, potentially alongside Air Force or other DoD personnel," Travis said. "This interaction should provide the students an opportunity to understand science behind crucial force protection issues we deal with as part of our mission here at Brooks. And it may be an incentive for some of these talented scientists to sign on for a career as an Air Force civilian doing work for the DoD. I see this as an added benefit to this partnership," he added.

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Reform

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it's an opportunity for them to extend their careers," he explained.

Addressing future plans to make DoD deployments and redeployments more efficient and equitable, Rumsfeld said the current system is out of balance.

"We've called up a number of (Guard and Reserve) units and people too frequently. The deployment and redeployment process is imperfect. In the case of the Army, in some instances five days notice (on call-ups) is unfair to soldiers, families and employers. We need to manage it in a way that is respectful to people."

He said the Joint Chiefs of Staff are studying the issue in hopes of refining the process to allow more flexibility in the system. Rumsfeld expects to see improvements within a year.

Responding to a question about a New York Times story that cited Rumsfeld's proposal to restructure the military without adding more people, the Defense Secretary said, "Two weeks ago I wrote a paper on this subject. I've (since) met with the Joint Chiefs and senior leaders (in the administration) to discuss it. I identified 30 to 40 areas (for improvement). It is very clear to senior leaders that we must reduce the stress on the force. There are lots of ways we can be more efficient."

He said some of his proposals address the United States' global presence. Rumsfeld believes that drawdown of forces in areas of the world where America has maintained a presence will be useful in helping strengthen the Armed Forces' capability to respond to future contingencies.

He said the U.S. is committed to supporting current contingencies, such as Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"Right now, the level of forces in Iraq is appropriate at this time. It's my position, and it's the position of the President."

Rumsfeld said he did not know when U.S. forces will be withdrawn from Iraq, but noted that progress is being made there to bolster internal security using U.S.-trained Iraqi forces including police, soldiers, civil defense militia and border patrol personnel.

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New four star offers thoughts on commanding AFMC

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Air Force Materiel Command's fifth commander officially took the stick Aug. 22 during change-of-command ceremonies at the Air Force Museum.

Gen. Gregory Martin, former U. S. Air Forces in Europe commander, assumed command from Gen. Lester Lyles who retires after more than three decades in uniform.

Martin spoke to AFMC News Service before assuming command regarding his leadership philosophy and initial expectations.

AFMCNS: How did you feel when you learned you would be AFMC's new commander?

Martin: Absolutely thrilled! There are so many important and exciting things happening in the acquisition and logistics business, which I'm now going to have an opportunity to be a part of and learn more about. I can hardly wait to get started.

AFMCNS: Gen. Lyles told the command some very nice things about you. Is there anything you'd like to say about him?

Martin: I have had the pleasure of knowing Gen. Lyles from the time he was the Space and Missile Systems Center commander (at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif.), back in the 1995-1996 time frame, to being his next-door neighbor when he was the director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and then the vice chief of staff of the Air Force. And now, as a fellow major command commander, I've gotten to know him not only professionally, but personally. I can think of no finer gentleman or officer in our Air Force. But what's most impressive about him is, no matter what the job and no matter how difficult the challenge, he maintains a sense of professionalism and sensitivity to people that is truly extraordinary. And he does that while he works those most difficult problems and brings them to a successful and important conclusion.

AFMCNS: What kind of leader is Gen. Gregory Martin?

Martin: It's hard to capture a concept like that; I care deeply for the people. I care just as deeply for the mission. In the end, probably the most important feature is that I rarely have the answer to any problem I face by myself. It usually comes from a thorough and detailed review of facts and opinions from many others associated with that issue or prob-



Martin

lem. Then I try very hard to make sure that the path chosen is one that all of those involved will understand, internalize and execute with a sense of ownership and determination.

AFMCNS: Do you think your experience in operational commands will help you as AFMC commander?

Martin: I hope so. Going into this command, I know there are many aspects

of the Air Force Materiel Command mission that I'm not well versed in. But, by the same token, there are many activities that are important to our Air Force, and in which AFMC plays a major role, that I am familiar with. I hope that between my operational perspective and this command's acquisition and logistics perspective, we'll find new and important areas to make the command even more effective and efficient than it has been in the past. And that "even" is very important. I must also tell you that as a warfighter I have been the beneficiary of AFMC's work, most recently in major support roles for two major conflicts - Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. AFMC delivered every time and should be extremely proud of the support it provides to the warfighter, specifically the men and women on the front lines of the world's greatest Air Force.

AFMCNS: What can we expect from you as commander?

Martin: First of all, I have great admiration and respect for the leadership Gen. Lyles has already provided this command. I hope to continue the positive direction he set out for this command. Along the way I think we'll find, as is true in any organization, some loose ends and areas where I'll be able to provide my operational perspective and leadership and make improvements to a command that's already carrying huge responsibilities for our Air Force. Specifically, I think we have a golden opportunity to reconnect our command and the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition organization in a way that will provide tremendous energy and improvement to our acquisition cycle times and credibility. I will look for ways to continue to improve the speed in which we deliver the latest science and technology innovations to our weapons systems. I will continue the focus Gen. Lyles has had on creating the expeditionary culture and mindset within this command. And everywhere we can, we'll try to become, as Gen. Lyles has stated, more efficient and effective in everything we do.

AFMCNS: What do you expect from us?

Martin: I hope that I'll receive the same sense

of dedication and loyalty from the officers, enlisted and Air Force civilian members of this command that were so obvious to me as a warfighter in the field during the Global War on Terrorism. And I hope that when we see a better way of doing the job or we make a change in either the structure or the relationships of our organization, that we pursue those changes with enthusiasm and the attitude that will allow them to be successful.

AFMCNS: What are your initial plans and expectations for AFMC?

Martin: I think first and most important is for me to learn as much as I can. I have the initial schedule of orientation briefings from the different directors on staff and have just finished the initial look at a base visit schedule to visit each of the major installations in AFMC so I can better understand the people, mission and the concerns they have, whether it be concerns with the structure, facilities or resources. So, the first thing is to learn as much as I can from the organizations and from the bases. From that, we'll begin to work with the directors and commanders on those initiatives that can make a difference in improving the capabilities of this command. The problem during any orientation is that there's never a moment that a command such as AFMC is ever stationary. So while I'm learning, I'll have to be dealing with issues and challenges as they come forward. It's my hope that I'll get the orientations and introductory briefings done as quickly as possible, but nonetheless I'll rely very heavily on the professional people of this command to guide me during that orientation, while I'm dealing with the issues and challenges as they come forward.

AFMCNS: Is there anything else AFMC people need to know as you begin your command?

Martin: I think it's important for them to know that I don't have all the answers to the concerns and issues and all the challenges that face this command, but that's not new. I didn't have it all squared away when I went to USAFE and I didn't have it all squared away when I went to SAF/AQ or in any other job I've ever had. I depend on the people to help guide me as I learn and then to execute the decisions that we make along the way. Throughout my career that has served me well and the people have never let me down. I know that will be true at AFMC. As I said in the beginning, I am excited to be here doing this!

AFMCNS: Why do they call you Speedy?

Martin: When I was an F-4 pilot at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., in 1973 to 1976, they had an indicator in the F-4 that said G S knots. That stood for ground speed in knots. My initials are G.S. Martin and I was on the squadron football team. I was an end and was a little faster back in those days, so I got the name Ground Speed Martin, and that got changed to Speedy. That's my story and I'm stickin' to it. That's how that name came about.



Safety

Continued from Page 1

Memorial Day weekend, than any other time of the year. Increased road travel and more outdoor recreational activities are leading contributors to off-duty deaths.

Motorists can protect themselves by using seatbelts, getting adequate rest before and taking breaks during long drives and obeying posted speed limits. Parents should ensure their children are restrained properly in booster or car seats. State laws require children under one year and/or under 20 pounds to ride in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat. Children over one year and 20-40 pounds need to sit in a forward facing car seat. Children 40-80 pounds need to ride in a booster seat to keep the seatbelt in the proper location across the chest. Children under 12 should never ride in the front seat, especially if the car has an airbag.

Also, anyone who operates or plans to operate a motor vehicle should avoid consuming alcohol. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas leads the nation in alcohol-related traffic fatalities. Beginning Sept. 1, the Department of Public Safety will assign points to drivers' licenses based on severity of infraction. A moving violation results in two points and a moving violation that results in a crash will cost three points. When drivers accumulate six points they must pay a surcharge of \$100 and \$25 for each additional point.

Drivers charged with a DWI face more severe consequences. A first DWI conviction carries a \$1,000 surcharge paid for three years, totaling \$3,000. A second conviction costs \$1,500 for three years. Drivers who have two convictions in the three-year period will pay both fines, re-

sulting in payments of \$2,500 a year.

Incurring a moving violation while one's license is invalid will cost a \$250 surcharge for three years and driving without a valid license costs \$100 for three years.

Texas defines intoxication as a blood alcohol content of .08 and has a no-tolerance policy for anyone under the age of 21.

In 2002, 149 people died in 138 crashes in the San Antonio area.

For more information on driving in Texas including laws, road construction, safety tips and rest area information, visit the Texas Department of Transportation web site at: www.dot.state.tx.us.

"Don't let part of (your) life's legacy be a wooden white cross on the side of the highway," Lemme said.

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Brooks fourth annual Retiree Appreciation Day events honor retirees, remember POW/MIAs

Brook's Fourth Annual Retiree Appreciation Day is scheduled for 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 19 at Hangar 9.

Retiree Appreciation Day is an opportunity to honor retired military members in the surrounding area for their dedication and significant contributions to the country.

In addition to recognizing their patriotism, the event is intended as a reminder of the Brooks mission and the services the base has available to the local retiree community.

As in past years, the event is scheduled in conjunction with National POW/MIA Remembrance Day. This commemoration begins with the laying of a wreath at the base flagpole at reveille and continues with a formal table ceremony, along with the Retiree Appreciation Day activities, in Hanger 9 at 8:50 a.m.

Brooks personnel are encouraged to sign up to stand a short vigil at the base flag pole in honor of POW/MIAs. Visit the Web site at: <https://hswya2.brooks.af.mil/common/mil-gov/SilentVigil/SignUp.asp>. Time slots are

available throughout the day.

Representatives from various organizations, including TRICARE, Army and Air Force Exchange Service BX Market, Retired Officer Association, Retired Enlisted Association, Texas Veterans Commission, Purple Heart Association, American Heart and Diabetes Associations, American Cancer Society, Self Help for the Hard of Hearing, Wilford Hall Audiology Clinic, Brooks Military Personnel Flight, Family Support Center and Medical Clinic, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, American Association of Retired Persons driver safety and more will answer questions and provide information about available services.

As an added event, Adrian Cronauer, portrayed by Robyn Williams in the film *Good Morning Vietnam*, will speak at the Brooks Club at 1:30 p.m.

A retreat ceremony at the base flagpole and a missing man flyby are planned to conclude the event.

Contact retired Chief Master Sgt. Fred Dickinson at 536-2116 for additional details.

'Invisible heroes' needed for Brooks mentor program

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

While the U.S. Marine Corps continues to look for a few good men and women, the Brooks mentor program is seeking what it calls "invisible heroes."

"Mentors are invisible heroes. They are role models for students, encouraging them to use their talents while inspiring them to become productive citizens," said Rita Lassiter, Brooks Mentor Programs Coordinator.

Lassiter launched an annual campaign to recruit new Brooks mentors for a program that for years has helped hundreds of San Antonio children. She plans a series of orientation sessions at Brooks before mentors are assigned to various school campuses.

Orientations are scheduled for Sept. 17, 24 and 25 from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Bldg. 723 conference room.

Historically, the Brooks mentorship program has attracted a loyal following. Brooks employee Cliff Robertson plans to again serve as a mentor.

"My three kids attended Sinclair Elementary School. I told the principal, Janice Williams, that mentoring was my way, through

my job with the Air Force, of showing my appreciation and giving something back to the school. I made a positive impact in a young boy's life who does not have a positive male role model. I hope to continue to mentor this child to show him someone cares about his life and what he will do with it," Robertson said.

San Antonio educators are appreciative of the contributions made by Brooks mentors. Raul Zamora, San Antonio Independent School District's Program Manager for School & Community Partnerships, said, "Mentoring is important to our children in our community because they are simply looking for a friend, a confidant and a sympathetic ear. Many of them do not receive sufficient guidance or support at home. By giving a small amount of your time, one hour per week, you can change the life of a child. Mentoring is not difficult and you don't need to be an educator, social worker or youth development expert to help a young person. In mentoring, we can help more children build self-esteem, succeed academically and learn more about career options."

For more information about the Brooks Mentor Program, contact Lassiter at 536-6379.



ACTION LINE

536-2222



Col. Tom Travis
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:

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SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-4100
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BXMarket.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444

for information or to register

Resume workshop

Sept. 2, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Learn the different resume styles and how to write and use them effectively to open career opportunities. Learn the dos and don'ts of resume development, and how to develop cover and thank you letters.

Money smart series

Sept. 3 - Oct. 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

This series of brown bag seminars provides general consumer information on laws that protect consumers. Learn the laws that protect your rights as a banking consumer, ways to avoid scams, protecting your identity and how to resolve complaints regarding bank accounts. Attend one, some or all of the seminars that interest you. The seminars are listed in order: Borrowing Basics, Check it Out, To Your Credit, Money

Matters, Charge it Right, and Loan to Own. Call the Family Support Center for specific details and class schedules.

Car buying

Sept. 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

A vehicle is one of the largest purchases most people ever make. Learn the best sources of free information, how to budget before you purchase, compare financing versus leasing, and learn how to get the best deal.

Moving with children

Sept. 11, 9:30 -10:30 a.m., Bldg. 537—

This seminar for parents can help make your move a good one for the whole family. Children of different ages have varied reactions to moves. Learn what to tell your children and how to get them involved to make a good move.

Sponsor training

Sept. 11, 2:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537—

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

VA benefits assistance hours

Wednesdays, alternate Fridays, 9-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

The on-site VA representative at Brooks now has expanded hours to better accommodate base personnel. Schedule an appointment to receive claims assistance, screen medical records or have a one-on-one consultation.



Brooks new career assistance advisor offers his philosophy

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

Senior Master Sgt. Mike Walljasper took over as the Brooks career assistance advisor Aug. 11.

The Air Force created the advisor position to increase retention rates among first term airmen by explaining to them career and benefits options.

"A lot of airmen don't even know half of all the hidden benefits," Walljasper said. "Many don't explore what the Air Force has to offer."

He listed medical care, 30 days annual leave and education among those benefits.

All first-term airmen at Brooks get a "Right Decision Briefing" that explains how pay stacks up, what the Air Force has to offer, and what the civilian world has to offer.

"I happen to believe the Air Force is a good choice," Walljasper said.



“A lot of airmen don't even know half of all the hidden benefits. Many don't explore what the Air Force has to offer.”

Michael Walljasper

Brooks career assistance advisor

He also realizes the military and the Air Force don't fit everyone and in his job he attempts to find people the right life choices, not convince them to remain if the civilian sector better suits their needs and per-

sonality.

"You've got to be totally committed," Walljasper said. "There are a lot of sacrifices to make. There's no shame in not being committed."

Though all first-termers on Brooks meet with Walljasper, any Air Force member with career and benefits questions also can take advantage of the career assistance advisor's resources, even if an airman already has 15 years in service.

"At the 15 year point, I guess I would be a sounding board for them," Walljasper said.

In recent years, the Department of Defense and the Air Force made strides toward higher retention by improving pay to make it more comparable to civilian career choices and increasing available benefits.

Walljasper pointed out that pursuing a military career pays off in more than just quantitative value.

"The Air Force offers younger people the chance to lead," he said.

Walljasper also said the Air Force gives personnel the chance to control their rank progression.

"We control our promotions...up to master and we pretty much control them throughout," he said.

Walljasper volunteered for the career assistance advisor position, first talking to 311th Human Systems

Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Rich Hollins and then going through the selection process.

"The Air Force, to me, is an exciting way of life," Walljasper said.

"It's good to be part of the greatest Air Force in the world. There's so many things that are fulfilling that the Air Force had to offer."

Walljasper, who has 20 years of Air Force service, said he volunteered for the job to give something back to the institution he loved.

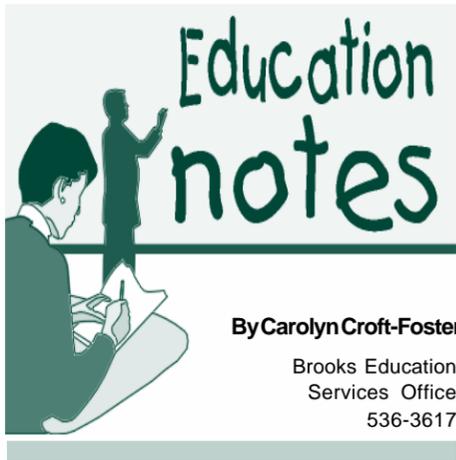
"I could never sell used cars, but I can sell the Air Force," he said. "This job will give you the opportunity to do that."

Walljasper has an open-door, "phone is always on" policy, eager to assist airmen when they need the counseling. He encourages airmen to bring their spouses to meetings to discuss career and reenlistment choices.

"It would be good to get the spouse involved," he said. "(The decisions) affect the whole family."

Anyone who has questions or would like more information can call Walljasper at 536-5528 or contact him through email at: michael.walljasper@brooks.af.mil.

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil



By Carolyn Croft-Foster

Brooks Education
Services Office
536-3617

Flex 2 On-Base Classes

Registration is underway for Fall Flex 2 classes with Palo Alto College. On-base classes include Government and Intermediate Algebra. The representative visits Brooks Tuesdays. For more information or to schedule an appointment with the ACCD representative, call 536-3617.

Embry-Riddle programs

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers Master of Aeronautical Science, Bachelor of Professional Aeronautics and Bachelor of Technical Management programs at Randolph Air Force Base. Plans are underway for a south-side teaching location in 2004. An Embry-Riddle representative will provide academic counseling sessions at the Brooks Education Office Wednesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Interested individuals may call 659-0801 to schedule an appointment.

CLEP tests retire

The College Board is retiring paper-based CLEP tests. The following exams will be retired Nov. 30: General English, General Mathematics, Accounting, American History I and II, and Spanish. General Humanities, General Biology, General Chemistry, German, and Western

Civilization I and II. All remaining exams will be retired March 31, 2004. Computer-based CLEP exams are available but service members cannot currently request reimbursement. The Brooks Education Services Office offers CLEP testing Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays at 8 a.m. Call 536-3617 for additional information or to reserve a seat.

Virtual Education Center

The Air Force Virtual Education Center is online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and the Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can also order CCAF transcripts from the site. To access the AFVEC go to the following Web site and establish an account at: <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>. Call the Education Center at 536-3617 for details.

CCAF Fall graduation

The deadline for Community College of the Air Force Fall 2003 graduation is today. Nominations must be received by CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., by today. Students who have just completed their last class or CLEP test and believe they are degree candidates need to contact Education Services to ensure their nominations have been submitted.

Excelsior College essay exams

Students wishing to take an Excelsior College Essay Exam in October need to request their exam by 5 Sept. 5. Regular CLEP and DSST testing is available Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays at 8 a.m. Call 536-3617 to reserve a seat.

Discover online

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program is available for use by military members, civilians, and family members. For additional information, call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment to review the Web site and get started.

AWC Nonresident Seminar

Recruiting for the 2004 academic year for the Air War College Nonresident Seminar Program is underway. Seminar meetings are held weekly starting in August and run until mid-June 2004.

Applications are available at: www.maxwell.af.mil/au/awc/ns/ns-enroll.htm. Bring completed applications to Education Services in Bldg. 558 or call 536-3618 for assistance, specific details or additional information.

Upper Iowa University

UIU offers classes at Brooks beginning in October. The university allows students to complete degrees through its Military Campus Resident Centers, on-line, or through external degree programs. The programs offered at Brooks include Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration, Public Administration, Technology and Information Management, Human Resource Management, Human Services and Management. Information pamphlets are available in the Education Office or visit the Upper Iowa Web site at: www.uiu.edu or call 536-3617. UIU has a Partnership Advantage Agreement with Palo Alto College.



Sept. 11 remembrance

The Brooks community is invited to a Sept. 11 remembrance service Sept. 11 from 7:30 to 8 a.m. at the Brooks Chapel. The service will include prayer, singing and the playing of Taps.

Midweek mass

Midweek mass at the Brooks Chapel is held Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Mass is held each first Friday of the month and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community. Call 536-3824 for details.

Lifemaker's series

The Lifemaker's Lunchtime Series is back in full swing. Lifemaker's is held Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Lunch is provided for a donation. The Lifemaker's series is open to all base personnel.

Chapel schedule:

Weekdays:

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

Wednesdays:

noon — Lifemakers luncheon
5:30 p.m. — Protestant choir rehearsal
6:30 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Sundays:

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

The regular Chapel schedule resumes at the end of the summer.



BROOKS



Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon

Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

ter by Sept. 15. The first coaches' meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. and play begins Oct. 6. Meet the commanders at the Health and Fitness Center every Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m. for a walk/run. Military and civilian members of the Brooks community are encouraged to participate. Participants receive a Commanders' Fitness Club T-shirt after participating four times. Additional prizes are offered for other sessions. Sign-up or get more information at the center.

Golf Course

Bldg. 821, 536-2636

Receive 10 percent off all merchandise sold in the Pro Shop during September, plus receive a free fountain drink or bottled water with each round of golf after 2 p.m.

Call the Golf Course for details on the tournaments scheduled during Sept.

Premiere Designs

Bldg. 705, 536-2120

It's not too early to start thinking about holiday gifts. Stop by Crafted With Care and look at the wide assortment of gifts available. Select from plants, fish, collectors plates, clocks, desk sets, patriotic ceramic figurines, dolls, jewelry, flag and shadow boxes and more. Prices vary from \$.50 to \$100.

Add a special touch to photos that you are having framed by letting us engrave a name or graphic on the glass. During September personalize the glass with names, designs or dates at no additional charge when you purchase an 11" x 14" or smaller metal frame and mat.

NEWS briefs

Retiree council vacancy

The Texas Area Air Force retiree council is seeking retirees interested in serving a tour on the council. Council members responsibilities include annual visits to each base in their geographic area, as well as those outlined in Air Force Instruction 36-3106, Retiree Activities Program. Nominations must be received by Nov. 7. Contact Bill Torrey at 565-4663 or by email at: william.torrey@randolph.af.mil for more information.

IRB annual briefing

In accordance with federal regulations an annual briefing is required for all investigators conducting research on human subjects or using data from medical or personnel databases. Military personnel, civilians and contractors who desire to conduct, fund or collaborate in research at Brooks, or with any other government or civilian institution, are required to attend. Briefings are scheduled for Sept. 9 and 25 from 8 to 10 a.m. and Sept. 11 and 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. Questions may be directed to Jane Marquardt at 536-4113 or Col. Harry Marden at 536-4466.

Motorcycle Riders' Club rally

The Brooks City-Base Motorcycle Riders' Club is looking for members to join. An inaugural motorcycle rally from Brooks to historic Bandera is scheduled for Aug. 31. Interested motorcycle enthusiasts should meet in the parking lot of Bldg. 704, the old BX, at noon and be ready to ride out by 12:30 p.m. All licensed/insured operators with street-legal motorcycle models are welcome. Brooks Riders' Club rallies are open to all Brooks personnel, including active duty, reservists, DoD civilians, friends and family members. All makes and models are welcome. Rallies are planned for every other Sunday, weather permitting. Contact Staff Sgt. Caesar Velez at 536-8490 for more information.

Comptrollers luncheon

The Alamo Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers luncheon is scheduled for Sept. 11 at the Randolph Air Force Base Officer's Club. The social begins at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker Gene Hildebrand will discuss "Power Networking." RSVP by Sept. 5. Contact Jack Bailey at 659-3656 or 651-6505 for details.

Tuskegee Airmen monthly meeting

The Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., San Antonio Chapter monthly meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 4, at the Randolph Air Force Base Enlisted Club. Contact Douglas Washington at 494-0026 for additional information.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Club members are invited to stop by the club Sept. 18 at 4 p.m. for Membership Night and to help celebrate the Air Force birthday. Super Snacks, a 30' submarine sandwich and cake and punch will be served.

Health and Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188

The Air Force needs varsity basketball players to represent Air Force Materiel Command in the Intramural All Star Basketball Competition at Tinker Air Force Base. Contact the Fitness Center staff for more information.

Letters of Intent for intramural basketball should be turned in to the cen-



Feature



Brooks Personality PROFILE



Sevening

Q&A

FULL NAME:

Gregory Adam Sevening, Capt.

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

Contracts Manager, 311 Human Systems Wing Contracting Office

WHAT IS MY JOB?:

I support the warfighter.

BIRTHDAY:

Aug. 19, 1976

HOMETOWN:

Carmel, Ind.

FAMILY STATUS:

Married

NICKNAME:

Sev

MOTTO:

"Humor makes the world go round."

INSPIRATIONS:

My parents

HOBBIES:

Sports, fishing, outdoor recreation and guitar

PET PEEVE:

Negative attitudes

BOOK(S) AT BEDSIDE:

Bible

I JOINED THE MILITARY:

to pay for school.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

to live life.

ULTIMATE GOAL:

to live life.

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:

be fishin'.

FAVORITE MUSIC:

Classic rock, folk

Capt. Greg Sevening glows with a warmth that emanates from a source deeper than his golden tan. Sevening has a deep religious conviction, a love and admiration for his family and a real sense of caring and consideration for other people. The three principles feed into each other, causing and resulting from the others.

"It really hit home when I was at the academy...whoa that's what it's about," Sevening said. "I got time for people. I've got time for other things. There are certain things out there that simply aren't as important as the people around you."

He had the opportunity to test his philosophy during a recent double deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sevening went to Crete for two-and-a-half months, working on a naval base as the contracting officer for all Air Force interests. With his tour about over, a more senior leader approached him with a request that he rotate into Kyrgyzstan to replace an officer who had been deployed for more than six months and had a wife eight months pregnant.

"If my wife was pregnant, I know that someone would raise their hand to replace me," Sevening said. "I know someone would do it for me."

Despite the short duration of their marriage, Sevening and his wife were together only six months before he left for his five-month deployment. Sevening's wife supported his decision to replace the other officer and aid his fellow military members. He just wanted to be home in time for their one-year anniversary, which they celebrated this week.

"I just hoped I got back before that six months (passed)," Sevening said.

He said he missed his wife and family while deployed, and added that most agreed the separation was the hardest part, but Sevening wouldn't trade the knowledge and experience he gained, nor the extraordinary people he met.

"It was probably the best experi-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Outgoing captain embraces new people

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

ence I've had in the Air Force," Sevening said.

His duties helped him cope with being apart from his wife, keeping him busy and giving him a sense of purpose.

"We did a lot of good things there," he said. "I worked my tail off."

Sevening, who grew up playing team sports, enjoyed the camaraderie and cooperation between the military members stationed together overseas. He also stressed to the troops the importance of having some fun to break up the tedium of work and loneliness.

"If people are having fun, that's the most important thing," Sevening said.

He believes that people need to take work seriously and satisfy their obligations, while realizing that other parts of life are more important than the job.

"Life is too short," he said. "It's too short to get worked up about it."

Sevening took advantage of his travels to learn about the cultures and life of those native to the countries he visited, a task made more interesting by the great diversity between the Greek way of life and that in Central Asia.

"(They were) two different cultures," he said. "I met a ton of locals. You get to meet tons of people in the

military."

Sevening tries to utilize each opportunity he has to meet and share with other people.

"I love meeting new people," he said. "Getting the opportunity to meet new people is probably the coolest thing."

Though he joined the military as a way to pay for college, his interest in other people compels him to remain in uniform.

"You don't meet the group of good people that you do in the military," he said.

Sevening said he always sought relationships with other people, though he's become more outgoing in recent years.

"Everyone's got something in common," he said.

While overseas, Sevening developed friendships with locals and other troops.

"I met real good friends

in Crete who will continue to be my friends," he said.

Sevening credits his family for instilling in him his values and outlooks. His grandfather, who also imparted upon Sevening his love of fishing, taught him lessons about caring for other people.

He recalled a story where his grandfather hooked a fish and then switched lines with Sevening, so the boy thought he caught the scaly creature. Fishing with his grandfather also developed another important quality in Sevening.

"Just sitting there and being patient," he said.

Sevening's mother also imparted on him a message he took to heart.

"Just do your best, that's all that matters," he said. He continued on that he remembered honestly to try his best at the Air Force Academy and in life and not to worry about what he can't control.

Sevening plans to continue enjoying his life, sharing the lessons he's learned with those he meets and learning from them in the process.

"God Bless America," he said. "It's great to be home."



Bowley's Civil War kin part of Black military heritage

(Editor's Note: 311th Mission Support Group Commander Col. John Bowley's family legacy is deeply rooted in military service that dates from the American War for Independence. Part I of this series examines his Civil War kin who contributed to African-American military heritage.)

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

When Col. John Bowley first acquired a copy of his great grandfather's Civil War memoirs he could hardly contain his feelings. While the 311th Mission Support Group commander knew that Freeman Sparks Bowley had served as a Union Army lieutenant, he did not know until the late 1990s that his relative's memoirs had been published in the book *A Boy Lieutenant*, which chronicles his service with the 30th United States Colored Troops.

"I have great personal

pride for both his convictions and his bravery in battle. Once captured he never denied or was ever ashamed of the brave Black soldiers who had fought alongside him," admits Bowley. He characterized his great grandfather as a patriot and an upright Christian gentleman.

The Brooks colonel, who is not shy about sharing his Christian faith and patriotic passion, believes that generations of Bowleys who have served in the profession of arms supporting American liberty were fulfilling their own destiny.

Having read his great



Library of Congress photo

A rare tintype of an unknown black Civil War soldier. Even though more than 178,000 blacks fought in the Civil War, few could afford to have their photographs taken.



Courtesy photos

First Lt. Freeman Sparks Bowley commanded the 30th United States Colored Troops.

grandfather's memoirs, reprinted in 1997 by Sergeant Kirkland's Museum and Historical Society, Inc., of Fredericksburg, Va., validated what he had learned as a career Air Force officer.

"All of life is a demonstration of how you are going to handle power, and how you use it unselfishly," he explains.

Born April 10, 1846, in Orlando, Maine, Freeman Bowley had lived his formative years with limited knowledge of the deprivations suffered by African-Americans who he would later command. Nor was he knowledgeable about leading men into combat, a destiny that revealed itself after he had celebrated his 15th birthday two days before the Civil War began.

At 16, Bowley enlisted as a private in Company I, 46th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He was honorably discharged in July 1863, having not yet served with Black soldiers.

The New York City draft riots of 1863 sparked Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to write President Abraham Lincoln about using African-American men as Union soldiers. Federal policy two years earlier had turned away thousands of Black men who had volunteered to serve. Grant's letter persuaded Lincoln to establish in 1864 the U.S. Colored Troops, a segregated branch of the U.S. Army led by white officers. Nearly 9,000 Black men were initially recruited to fill six regiments, including one that Bowley joined.

At the time the segregated Army units were formed, the 18-year-old Bowley was

attending Highland Military Academy in Worcester, Mass., a private boy's boarding school. As the only child of Julia and Jesse Bowley, the latter a Gettysburg veteran, Freeman was granted a commission as a first lieutenant.

"He went to the White House to meet President Lincoln," his Brooks descendent noted, explaining that Bowley gained access because of his friendship with a fellow cadet whose father was a member of Congress.

In his memoirs, first published in 1906, Bowley admits his lack of knowledge for the leadership position he had willingly accepted.

He writes, "I learned 'on the fly' about company operations and logistics from a book (titled) *Company Clerk*."

The 30th U.S. Colored Troops was initially responsible for guarding the troop trains of the Army of the Potomac. The unit served in the Battles of Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, the Wilderness campaign and Petersburg.

Bowley's compassion for his men is reflected in a memoir entry: "One man, Private Thomas Festus by name, the oldest in the company, showed signs of giving out, and I carried his musket for him. The looks of approval among the men amply repaid me."

In June 1864 Bowley volunteered to lead an attack at Petersburg in what is known as the Battle of the Crater. During the siege, Pennsylvania miners had dug a tunnel under a Confederate fort. A mine explosion to blow up the fort signalled the launching of the assault. The explosion and subse-

quent chaos resulted in heavy Union casualties. Bowley writes, "Of the more than 600 men who rallied there, only 130 escaped unhurt. All these were taken prisoners by Confederates. All the colored men who rallied with me were killed."

Bowley spent seven months as a prisoner of war.

In a handwritten letter dated July 31, 1864, that his Brooks descendent possesses, Freeman Bowley writes: "Dear Father and Mother. I was taken prisoner yesterday. I am well and am well treated. I think we shall go to Georgia, but can't tell. Don't worry about me. It was all for the best. I will write every opportunity."

Bowley was repatriated in March 1865. He rejoined his regiment and mustered out just before Christmas.

After the war, he briefly served as the Springfield Daily Union editor. He moved to California where he forged a 36-year career as a fireman with the Central Pacific Railroad. He died on Jan. 24, 1903, in San Francisco.

His death marked the end of one of the last eyewitnesses to the bravery of Black soldiers, 39,000 of who died during the war.

Freeman Bowley had, indeed, learned firsthand what former slave Frederick Douglas had accurately predicted: "Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pockets, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the U.S."

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



SPO's Brown wins first Brooks racquetball crown

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Donavan Brown made a name for himself in Brooks sports history Aug. 14 when he became the first athlete to be ranked here as the number one racquetball player by winning the base tournament.

Brown, who is assigned to the 311th Human Systems Program Office, defeated retired Air Force Colonel Brad Yoder in the championship match.

The tournament, which began Aug. 7., was held to determine player rankings that will make future competitions here more equitable. A total of 17 players competed in the tourney.

"We will rank them in three categories: novice, open and masters," said Hosea Talbert, fitness center specialist and tournament organizer.

While most tourney participants have yet to be ranked, the top three players are Brown, Yoder and Paul Wilson.

"We use to play against each other in PACAF tournaments," said Yoder, who retired from the Air Force in 1999. Yoder, who finished second in the tournament, works at the University of Texas as a professor of pathology.

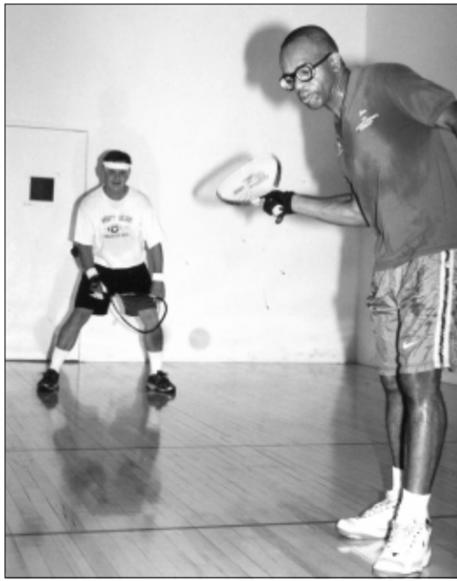


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Donavan Brown serves to Paul Wilson during the Brooks racquetball touney. Brown went undefeated to win the tourney and the top ranking as the number one player on base.

"I started playing racquetball in 1979," Brown said of the sport that he initially played in his native Jamaica. He earned his first number one ranking at Brooks where he was the only undefeated tournament player.

Wilson, an Air Force retiree who works at Brooks as a KARTA contractor, considers both Brown and Yoder "A" level players. He said player "levels" are normally determined by performance skills demonstrated in tournaments sanctioned by either the U.S. Racquetball Association or the American Amateur Racquetball Association.

"If a player has won a major tournament, then they move up to another

category," explained Wilson, who is a USRA member and an experienced masters category player. Player levels, which range from the top "A" designation through the lower "B," "C" and "D" rankings, are determined by both tournament performance and the ability of players to execute certain movements.

One such movement called 'splat', Wilson explained, is a back hand maneuver that uses a side wall to hit the ball to the front wall. A 'z' movement, he noted, involves using in sequence two side walls to hit the ball to the front wall.

Wilson praised the fitness center staff for maintaining quality racquetball courts which he considers to be the best in San Antonio. "This is the best (racquetball) facility in the city because they are well maintained and are designed to help players avoid injury," Wilson said. He cited a litany of court conditions that make playing racquetball here safe: lighting, climate control air conditioning, court floor and wall surfaces and most important to Wilson, proper floor safety lines.

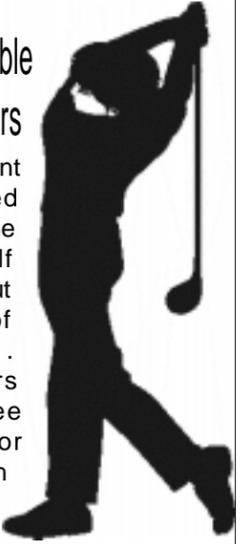
"Having solid safety lines (striping) is important to the server," he said, explaining that without it, serious injury can result. "The ball travels at 140 mph. I had my jaw broken," Wilson said, referring to an incident at an Air Force base in which insufficient racquetball court safety lines contributed to his injury.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

SPORTS SHORTS

Discounts available for Brooks golfers

Take 10 percent off selected merchandise at the Brooks Golf Course throughout the month of September. Brooks golfers receive a free fountain drink or bottled water with any round of golf purchased after 2 p.m.



Commanders' Fitness Club

Meet the Brooks commanders at the Health and Fitness Center every Thursday at 6:30 a.m. run/walk. Military and civilian personnel are encouraged to participate. Participants receive a Commanders' Fitness Club T-shirt after participating four times. Additional prizes are offered for other sessions. Sign up at the Fitness Center.

Call 536-2188 for more information.

Brooks among leaders at AFMC golf tourney

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks golf team's Air Force Materiel Command tournament performance this year and last appears to have re-cast them from perennial losers to annual contenders.

Six strokes off the lead going into the final round of the AFMC tourney, held at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., Aug. 11-16, the Brooks squad placed fourth among the ten squads that competed. Tourney host Kirtland won the championship for the second time in three years.

"It was (among) the best finish(es) that we have ever had. We're making progress. Overall (as a team) we're happy with it (results)," said Brooks team co-captain Jeff Mylar, who is assigned to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

Highlighting the Brooks team's overall showing was co-captain Linda Jeffery who successfully defended her AFMC women's division title by again winning the ladies' championship. Her three-day total of 224 was just a combined two over par. Jeffery's next golf date is in September at the Air Force golf team training camp at Offutt AFB, Neb., In 2002, she helped both the Air Force and All-Armed Forces teams win golf championships.

While Brooks finished higher at the 2002 AFMC tournament, the five-member squad's combined performance this year showed significant improvement. Their combined 1,232 score was just 28 strokes more than 2003 champion Kirtland. Last year, the Brooks team placed third with an AFMC tourney combined score of 1,301, which was 119 strokes more than the 2002 champion Robins AFB.

Not too long ago, the Brooks varsity golf team had become the command tourney doormat, annually finishing near the bottom of the team standings.

The team's worst AFMC showing occurred in 2001 when Brooks finished next to last, just one stroke better than last place Hill AFB.

Mylar considers this year's Brooks team to be one of the strongest the base has ever fielded. Newcomer

Brandon Doan, who is with the Air Force Research Laboratory, helped complement Mylar's performance in the open division. Doan fired a three-day total 224, good for fifth place. Venerable veterans James Barfield and Curt Nagle contributed to the team's successful showing as seniors division competitors.

"It had narrow fairways, deep roughs and lots of desert," recalls Mylar about the Kirtland par 72 course for men and par 74 for women.

He said the squad was a little disappointed by their last day's performance in which the squad experienced some bad breaks.

However, the group is optimistic about their chances in the future.

Mylar said, "In order to compete at that (command) level, we have to play that type of golf here (at Brooks). The Kirtland team plays together year round."

Over time, perennial contenders such as Kirtland and Tinker have developed team cohesion. It is something that Mylar and his teammates plan to strive for as they look to the future to fulfill their goal of winning a command title.

AFMC TOURNEY STANDINGS

Base	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Kirtland	402	409	393	1204
Tinker	395	413	400	1208
Hill	417	414	392	1223
Brooks	408	406	418	1232
Robins	423	418	415	1256
Wright-Pat	436	434	425	1295
Eglin	437	444	451	1332

*-Note: Arnold, Edwards and Hanscom AFBs did not field full teams

Sportsguards important for total mouth protection

By Erla Naumann
311th Medical Squadron

Individual and team sports are activities that benefit everyone — adults and children have fun, keep fit, and learn valuable team sportsmanship. But they can be hazardous, and everyone is aware of the need for kneepads, helmets, and shin-guards to protect vulnerable body parts. But what about protecting your mouth? Mouthguards play an important role in protecting not only the teeth, but also the tongue, lips and jaws.

In most organized contact sports, use of a mouthguard is mandatory, but it is also important for casual play, cycling, any ball sport, even weightlifting.

Custom-made mouthguards are available to active-duty members through the Brooks Dental Clinic. These are made by first taking an impression of the dental arch and then making a plaster cast on which the custom-molded guard is formed. This is more comfortable than the "boil 'n bite" guards, which are available at athletic supply stores, but these, also, provide good protection at a much lower cost.

If your family is enrolled in the Dependents Dental Plan, United Concordia, it will pay percent of the cost for athletic guards for children 13 years and older, once a year.

For more information, please call the Dental Clinic at 536-1846.



Massages now available at the HAWC 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Call 536-4292 for appointment or details

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Services claims base golf title

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The 311th Mission Support Group Services golf team became the first squad in many years to win the base championship as the reigning intramural league champs when they captured the Brooks title on Aug. 13.

Services defeated the Air Force Institute for Operational Health by one point during the base tournament held

at the Brooks golf course. AFIOH had been the league runners-up and the tournament's number two seed.

"We're fortunate to have won. It justified the work we did as a team during the (regular) season," said Services team member Rob Collins, whose base tournament teammates included Rudy Gonzales, Jose Valadez and Rick Cone.

Playing in pairs, Valadez and Cone won their match on the 17th hole in a close contest against AFIOH's Shawn Roe and Marty Baugher. "They beat us at 17, but we tied them at 18," Collins said of he and teammate Rudy Gonzales's play against AFIOH's Oscar Martinez and Jim Ronyak.

"In match play, we never had more



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Shawn Roe tees off for the Air Force Institute for Operational Health team in the base championship tourney finals against Services.

than a one hole lead," recalls Collins, describing the matches as seesaw

battles.

Both teams advanced to the championship round after eliminating their competition in the preliminary playoff on Aug. 6. AFIOH defeated the 311th Communications Squadron 2-0, while Services needed a three-hole playoff to beat the Air Force Research Laboratory.

Collins credits his teammates' knowledge of the Brooks golf course as a major factor in Services winning both the league and base crown. "Jose, Rudy, Rick, Jimmy (Connell), Bubba (Bretzke) and Bob (Hager) play this course all of the time. Three of these guys work at the golf course," said Collins, admitting that their collective experience and skill contributed to their championship season.