

DISCOVERY

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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BROOKS
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A Technology and Business Center



Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

AFRL and NASA sign interagency agreement to combat pilot fatigue

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

The Air Force Research Laboratory's Human Effectiveness Directorate at Brooks and the NASA Ames Research Center in California recently signed an interagency agreement to share information and conduct research together on the human factors in space and aviation.

Much of the research, and the first collaborative effort, will center around the effects of fatigue on aviators and astronauts and methods to counter that fatigue. The NASA Ames Research Center studies pilot fatigue and ways to combat the problem for civilian pilots, while AFRL does the same for military pilots.

"We both do very similar kinds of work," said Dr. John Caldwell, principal research psychologist with the Warfighter Fatigue Countermeasures Program at AFRL.

"If they do something that is applicable to military pilots we want to be able to take advantage of that and vice versa," Caldwell said.

Caldwell's counterpart at Ames in the aviator fatigue cooperative effort is Dr. Melissa Mallis, principal investigator with the NASA-ARC's Systems Safety Research Branch.

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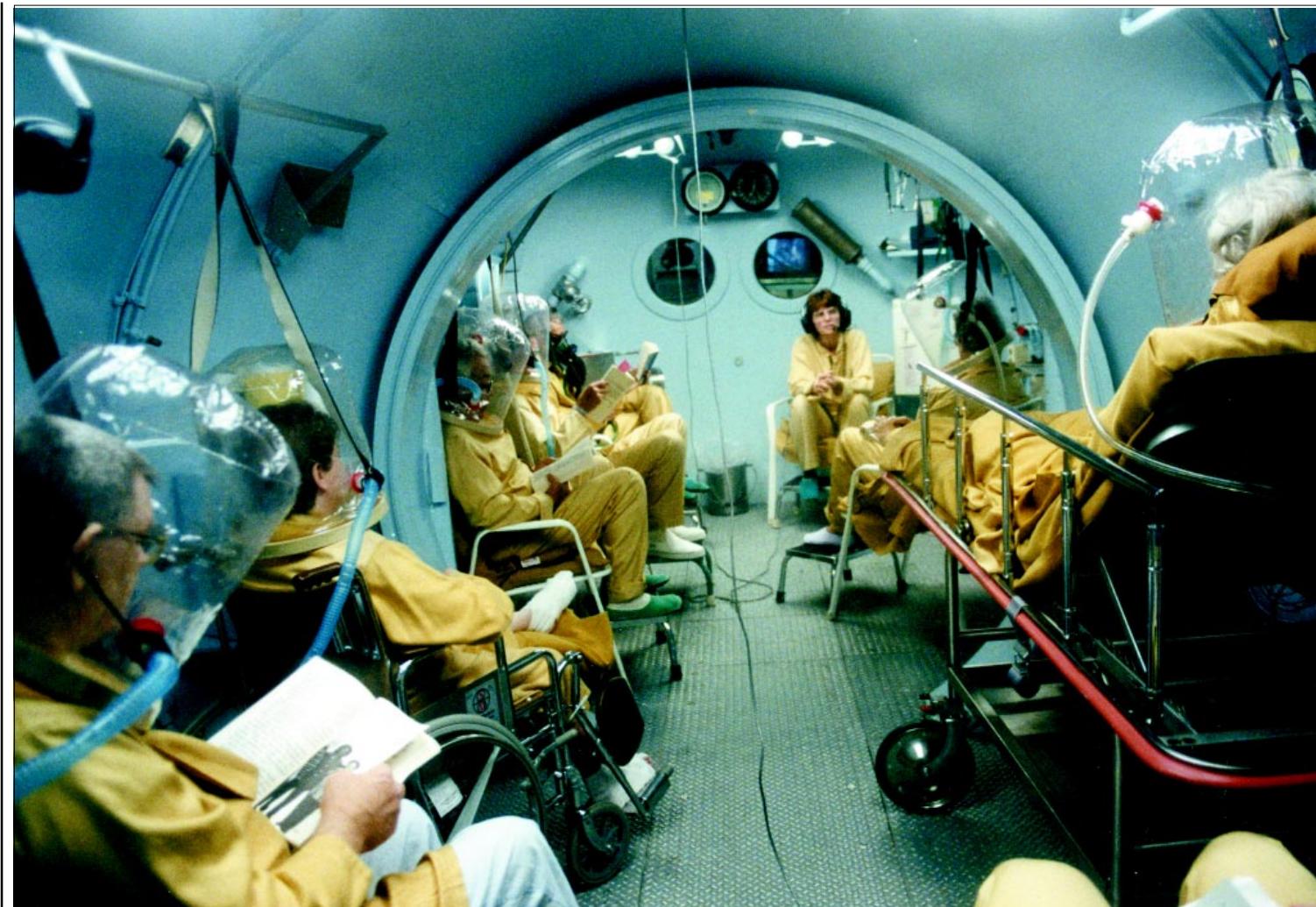
SPO invention improves air evac

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A unique Spurs fan club

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Courtesy photo

Giving credit where credit is due

Patients receive hyperbaric oxygen therapy in the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's Force Enhancement Department's Hyperbaric Medicine Division, also known as the Davis Hyperbaric Laboratory. At center is an Air Force

technician who monitors the conditions of the patients during the treatment process. The Davis Laboratory recently became the first nationally accredited Department of Defense hyperbaric facility.

USAFSAM makes DOD history with first nationally accredited hyperbaric laboratory

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Global health and safety received a much needed shot in the arm recently when a U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine organization that is devoted to education, training, medical research and patient treatment became the first nationally accredited Department of Defense hyperbaric facility.

The USAFSAM Force Enhancement Department's Hyperbaric Medicine Division, also known as the Davis Hyperbaric Laboratory, set the standard when it earned this prestigious accreditation from the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, the international scientific organization for hyperbaric medicine.

"This is a significant accomplishment. We're very careful about safety. Through the accreditation process the UHMS has defined strict safety requirements. We not only met those standards, we surpassed them," said Dr. Larry Krock, USAFSAM chief scientist.

As DOD's lead agent for clinical hyperbaric medicine since 1984, the Brooks facility is the first military or-

"This is a significant accomplishment. We're very careful about safety. The UHMS has defined strict safety requirements. We not only met those standards, we surpassed them."

Dr. Larry Krock
Chief scientist,
U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

ganization to earn national accreditation during the UHMS program's inaugural year and, to date, is one of only 18 hyperbaric facilities in the United States to receive the much sought after designation. Currently there are more than 500 clinical hyperbaric medicine chambers in the U.S.

USAFSAM's facility passed the UHMS inspection in May as Krock characterized it "with flying colors."

According to Capt. Melissa Mouchette, Chief of Nursing Services for the USAFSAM Force Enhancement

Department's Hyperbaric Division, the impetus for this accreditation program was to ensure safe operations and quality care. "There was no accreditation program before," Mouchette said.

While the USAFSAM facility has not experienced a treatment-related fatality since its inception in 1963, several foreign hyperbaric treatment sites have had safety problems involving the use of pressurized oxygen.

The consequence of using highly combustible oxygen therapy to help accelerate the healing process among patients suffering from an assortment of conditions could become, for facilities not attentive to safety, a double-edged sword. Mouchette cited several tragic incidents involving patients who died as a result of flash fires inside hyperbaric chambers.

One of the most deadly hyperbaric facility accidents in recent years occurred in Milan, Italy, Oct. 31, 1997. "A patient's hand warmer was the ignition source for the explosion and fire that killed 11 people," Mouchette said. While hand warmers are prohibited in hyperbaric chambers, some foreign

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



The Air Force way of life: Growth, maturity, responsibilities

By 2nd Lt. Dan Goldberg

311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs

Howdy partner.

That's one of my favorite greetings. I picked it up when I arrived in San Antonio six months ago. Wow, six months ago? I can't believe it; it seems like I just got to Brooks.

There comes a time in every brand new military member's life when you wake up and realize you're not in Kansas anymore, or in my case New York City. That reality hit me the day I graduated Officer Training School.

OTS was great. It was everything I expected and more. It changed my life while preparing me for my responsibilities as an Air Force officer. It reminded me a lot of college, though. Both supplied me with food and water, shelter, extracurricular activities, homework, guidance, a roommate and a chance to grow in every sense of the word. I was told what to do and how to do it and when I made a mistake, I was penalized for it, but, I learned from those mistakes.

These days I'm totally on my own. I have to fend for myself. There's no college, no OTS and for that matter, no parents to help me out either. I had to find my own apartment and I have to pay my rent, utilities, food, car, insurance, loans, phone and miscellaneous necessities, which are too numerous to mention.

Have I grown and matured in the past six months? You bet! The Air Force has allowed this kid from Staten Island to begin a new way of life, to enjoy new experiences and to gain wisdom that will continue for the rest of his career. If you're just starting out in your career, like me, you know the learning curve is as steep as Mount Everest. The key word here is proactive. Here's what I've learned so far and would like to share with other young officers and enlisted members.

— Know your surroundings. If your co-workers have certain books that can help you do your job better, ask to read them. If you don't know something, don't be afraid to ask. The only stupid question is the one not asked. Remember,

you're bound to make mistakes. It's better to make your mistakes and ask your questions now and learn from them than to wait until the last minute when its crunch time because you may place yourself and your organization in an unpleasant situation.

— Don't wait for things to come to you. You can make things happen. Ask what you can do, try to gain as much experience as possible and volunteer for projects.

— Keep your eyes and ears open. It's really the best way to acquire information and internalize it for when it needs to be used. I need to learn everything I can, so I sit and listen and observe the true experts, to learn what's going on around me. Some might think there's something "off" about this new guy who doesn't say much, but when I'm an expert in the field, you'd better believe I'll talk up a storm.

— Listen to the noncommissioned officers and senior NCOs who have been doing their job much longer than you have. They are the backbone of the military. They have a wealth of knowledge just bursting at the seams. Take time to sit down and chat with them and have a pen and pad because that information is going to help you throughout your military career.

— Find two mentors — one experienced officer and one experienced enlisted member. You'll get two perspectives on military life.

— Be flexible. Learn to adapt to your surroundings. Since we're starting out our Air Force careers, remember to keep that flexibility and have an open mind because this is all a learning experience.

Hopefully I've given you some insight into what I've experienced thus far. I'm not a self-help guru or an expert in work place dynamics. However, I can honestly say that this has been six of the best months of my life, and if you ever see me, don't hesitate to come over and say "howdy."

Lastly, to all the new lieutenants and airmen basic, keep your chin up and never forget your training — the rest will fall in to place.

Daniel.Goldberg@brooks.af.mil



Accreditation

Continued from Page 1

facilities allowed patients to use them because of the chilly conditions associated with temperature changes inside the chamber.

"The hand warmer (used in the Milan chamber) was activated by oxygen. Eight minutes into pressurization the hand warmer ignited," Mouchette said.

In Japan, a hand warmer used in a monoplace, a one-person hyperbaric chamber, unit was responsible for the death of two people.

"The explosion blew out the side of the hospital," Mouchette noted, explaining that it killed the patient as well as his wife who was sitting in the room with him. Debris from the explosion was found two blocks away.

These tragedies underscored a problem: the non-existence of a universally supported set of safety standards and the lack of an accreditation program that holds hyperbaric facilities accountable while treating patients.

The use of hyperbaric oxygen was initially intended to treat divers suffering from decompression sickness, commonly known as 'the bends,' and aviators victimized by altitude sickness.

"This hyperbaric department had never been surveyed for accreditation," Mouchette said.

The USAFSAM Hyperbaric Medicine Division had never been required to seek accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization. The reason for this, Mouchette explained, "is the primary mission of the Brooks facility is supporting operational missions and conducting research. Its secondary role has been as a clinical hyperbaric

treatment facility for more than 25 years."

Clinical operations here involve two multiplace and one monoplace hyperbaric chambers used to treat decompression sickness, arterial gas embolisms, suffered by divers, carbon monoxide poisoning and a variety of non-healing wounds resulting from such conditions as failing skin grafts and radiation-induced tissue damage.

In 2002, 119 people were referred for treatment at the Brooks facility resulting in a total of 1,400 patient treatments.

A milestone event that led to the UHMS accreditation program occurred in October 2000 when the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services released a report titled, "Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy: Its Usefulness and Appropriateness."

The OIG report revealed that the quality of hyperbaric health care in the U.S. had been compromised due to ineffective and insufficient testing and treatment monitoring.

Mouchette explained, "UHMS responded proactively to the OIG findings and recommendations by creating a national clinical hyperbaric accreditation program."

UHMS used existing standards and guidelines established by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization, the National Fire Protection Association, the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care and the Compressed Gas Association in its development of the accreditation program.

UHMS has since approved 13 disease conditions treatable by hyper-

baric oxygen. These specific physiological ailments are categorized in two clinical groups: primary treatment, which includes decompression sickness, and adjunctive treatment that features maladies such as acute thermal burns, diabetic ulcers and Clostridial gas gangrene.

Participation in UHMS's accreditation program is voluntary, but eventually it will become mandatory. The accreditation is good for three years.

The Brooks facility excelled in all inspection areas that included equipment quality, safety procedures, personnel training and documentation.

The USAFSAM organization also received accreditation accolades for its use and fielding of the Emergency Evacuation Hyperbaric Stretcher, a portable unit that the Air Force co-developed with the Navy.

The Air Force purchased several EEHS units in 2002 to support the warfighter in environments that do not have available hyperbaric chambers. Air Combat Command is one of the Air Force customers currently using the EEHS system.

The UHMS accreditation also resulted in special recognition for two USAFSAM hyperbaric technicians. Air Force Achievement Medals were awarded to Master Sgt. Gladys Wolff, NCOIC of Nursing Services, and Master Sgt. Rogelio Cano, NCOIC of Facilities Operations who is also the Safety Director.

"Their contributions, along with that of Tina Ziomba, our contract civilian nurse from International ATMO, were instrumental in successfully passing the accreditation survey," Mouchette said.

Partnering

Continued from Page 1

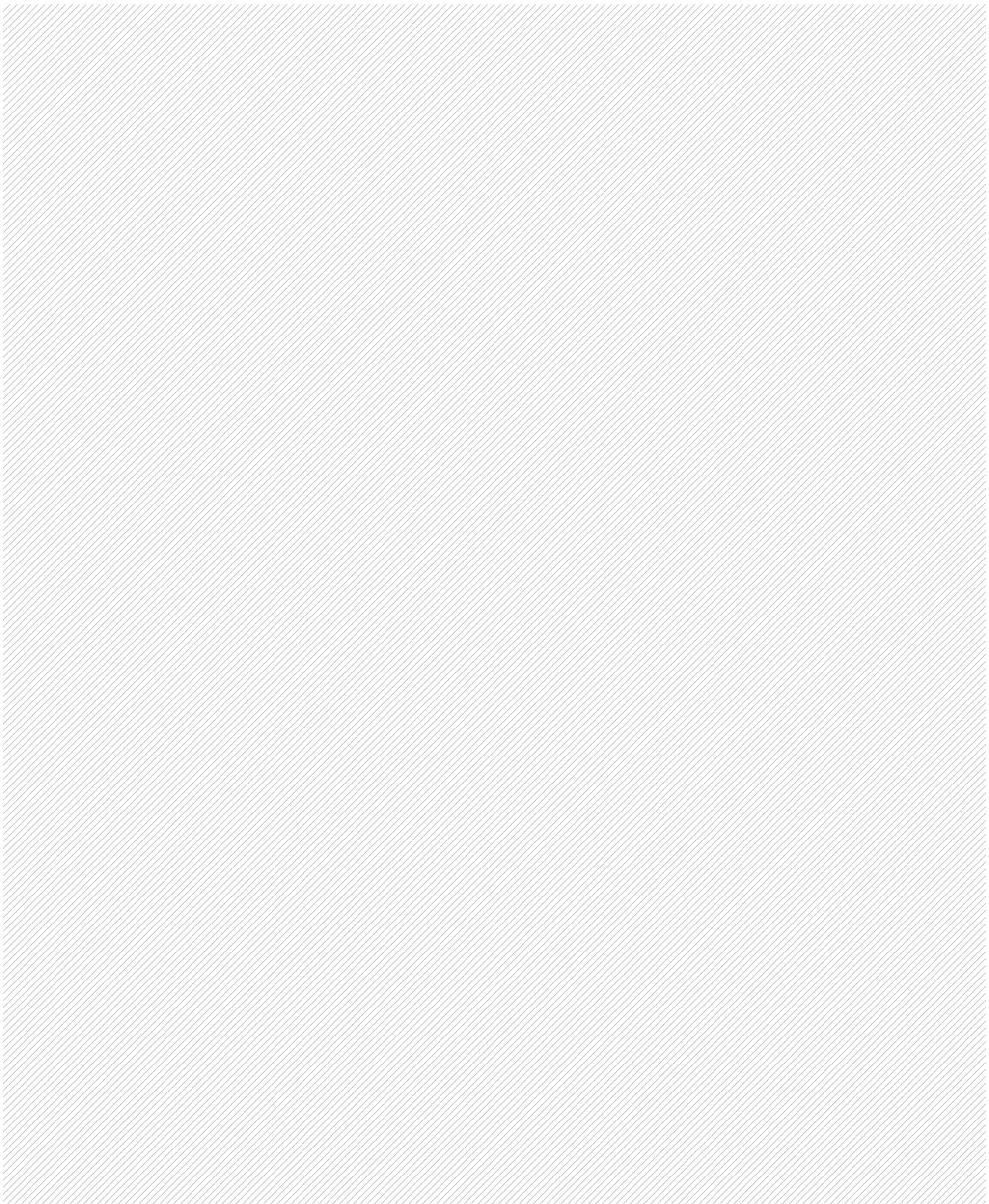
Caldwell previously worked at the Ames Research Center and has maintained an informal working relationship with the center.

"We've established a good working relationship. We needed to formalize it," Caldwell said. "That lays the foundation for being able to transfer funds across organizations and transfer people."

G. Scott Hubbard, director NASA Ames Research Center and James Brinkley, former director of the Human Effectiveness Directorate signed the interagency agreement. "This agreement is an exciting step forward in our strategic partnering to make sure we develop the best technologies for Air Force warfighters," said Dr. Hendrick Ruck, new director of the AFRL/HE.

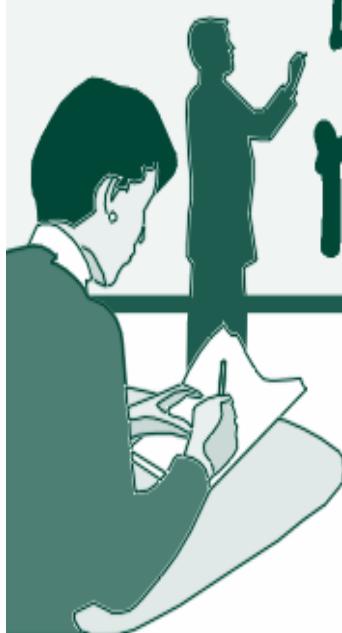
AFRL will study the effects of the stimulant Modafinil on pilots and will share the learned information with Ames. Other projects include collaborating on the effects of fatigue on the scientists and researchers working with the Mars Rover mission and personnel involved with jet propulsion studies.







Education notes



By Carolyn Croft-Foster

Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

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. The AWC Nonresident Studies Seminar Program is open to active duty, National Guard and Reserve colonels, lieutenant colonels and lieutenant colonel-selectees, or their equivalents, of any component of the U.S. Armed Forces and civilian employees, GS/GM-13 or above. At least eight people are required to form a seminar. Students with term credit from other editions may also enroll and should check with an AWC faculty advisor for details.

For those students who cannot take advantage of the seminar program, the correspondence program is also available for immediate enrollment. Correspondence students have six months to complete each term in the three-term core program with the required elective completed sometime during this 18-month period.

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 more information.

ACSC Nonresident Seminar

The Education and Training Center is seeking eligible major, major-selectees, GS-11s and above for the ACSC Nonresident Seminar Program. Nonresident seminars meet each week for 11 months from August 2003 until June 2004. The course grants Phase 1 Joint PME credit, Intermediate Service School credit, up to 27 semester hours of graduate course work, and reserve points as determined by AFPC. Seminars need eight enrollments per site. To register, visit Education Services to complete an ACSC application, or call 536-3618 for more information.

Evening testing available

Military members can take CLEP and DSST exams Wednesday evenings at the Brooks Education Services Office. Seating is limited. Call 536-3617 to reserve a seat.

Six CLEP exams retired

The College Board is retiring six CLEP subject paper-based tests in June. The exams are: General Humanities, General Biology, General Chemistry, German, and Western Civilization I and II. Anyone wishing to take one of these exams must take it prior to June 30. The following exams will be retired Nov. 30: General English, General Mathematics, Accounting, American History I and II, and Spanish. Call the Education Center for more information or to reserve a seat.

Virtual Education Center

The Virtual Education Center is on-line. 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 Brooks Education Center at 536-3617 for details.

Discover on-line

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



ACTIONLINE

536-2222



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

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

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

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

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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.....	536-3372
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444
for information

Heart Link, spouse orientation

June 26, 8 a.m.-noon, Bldg. 537-

The program is designed for spouses of military members married less than five years, but all military spouses are welcome to attend. Learn where you fit in, protocol, customs and rank structure, military benefits and support agencies and communicating in the Air Force. A handbook and lunch are provided. Childcare may be provided. Contact Tech. Sgt. Austin Peoples at 536-2444 to register.

Moving with children

July 10, 9 -10:30 a.m., Bldg. 537-

Your move can be a good one for the whole family. Children of different ages react differently to moves. Learn how to get them involved and what to say to them.

Sponsor training

July 10, 9 -10:30 a.m., Bldg. 537-

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

Resume workshop

July 24, 10- 11:30 a.m., Bldg 538-

Learn the do's and don'ts of resume development, different styles and how to write and use them effectively to open career opportunities.

Transition assistance

Aug. 19-21, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Bldg. 537-

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

Common sense parenting

Aug. 12, 11a.m.- 1 p.m., Tuesdays,
Bldg. 618-

This class, hosted by the Life Skills and Family Support Centers, is a six-week program designed to teach parenting skills that encourage positive behavior and teach alternatives to problem behavior. Topics include setting expectations, consequences, teaching self-control, prevention and correction and helping children make decisions. Call 536-5301 to register for the class.



KC-135 patient transport safer

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

Engineers from the 311th Human Systems Program Office, Aeromedical Test Branch in conjunction with Rohman Services Inc., developed a non-sparking electrical outlet for a frequency converter that makes aeromedical evacuation safer and easier.

The engineers began working on the new converter because of potential explosion hazards on the KC-135 aircraft that exists if fuel vapor develops in the cabin. Air Mobility Command tasked the KC-135 as an aeromedical evacuation platform for transporting patients because of the reduction in C-9A and C-141 aircraft.

"The KC-135) is more readily available when compared to a C-17," said Master Sgt. Robert Eshelman of the 311th SPO.

The Air Force also moves patients on the C-130 and C-17.

Since the KC-135 is an air refueling tanker aircraft, studies were conducted to determine if the spark generated by a three-prong plug being pulled out of the converter socket would cause an explosion of the fuel vapors.

"Medical equipment normally operates using standard house-hold power (60 Hz)," said Eshelman. "Most U.S. Air Force aircraft have 400 Hz, thus requiring aeromedical evacuation crews to bring a frequency converter onboard to convert 400 Hz power to standard house-hold power."

Personnel from the 311th SPO identified and studied the problem in Orlando, Fla., in an explosion test chamber. From outside the chamber,



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Robert Eshelman, left, and 1st Lt. David Mandel, both assigned to the 311th Human systems Program Office, test a new electrical power converter. The Aeromedical Test Branch of the SPO, in conjunction with contractor Rohman Services Inc., developed the converter for use with medical equipment on KC-135 aircraft.

the engineers pulled the cord from the outlet.

"It basically blew the chamber apart," said 1st Lt. David Mandel, chief of the Aeromedical Test Branch. "The rapid removal of a device which is drawing power can cause an arc between the metal prongs of the plug and the metal inside the outlet as they break contact. The same phenomenon occurs when a vacuum cord is ripped from the outlet and a blue spark can be seen, however, in this case, the results could be catastrophic. If this were to occur while fuel vapors are present in the air, the arc could have enough energy to ignite the mixture, as we saw in tests."

A team from RSI, headed by Ed Gambal, developed a prototype in 45 days to stop the problem. A small button was placed in the center of the

outlet. The button controls a mechanical relay, basically a switch, which is internal to outlet. This switch ensures that no current flows to the outlet until the button is depressed. The button is set so that as you insert the plug, the metal contact occurs before the button is pressed allowing power to flow to the outlet. Conversely, as the plug is removed, power is broken to the outlet before metal-to-metal contact between plug and outlet is broken.

"The outlets are designed in a way to cut power to the outlets as soon as the plug is extracted," Eshelman said. "This eliminates any sparks. These outlets were introduced into a modified frequency converter and passed explosive vapor testing."

The invention received approval from AMC in mid-May and was scheduled to be in the field by June. The invention

was developed especially for missions in Pacific Air Forces and a patent is pending.

In an effort to conserve funds, the engineers reconfigure existing converters with the new safety device instead of producing new converters. All 300 existing converters will be re-worked.

Victor Elizondo, who works for Wyle Laboratories under contract with the SPO, must examine each converter before it is used on an aircraft.

"Victor has to post-check all of them, test safety, leakage-current, shock hazards....," Eshelman said.

The invention will also save the Air Force money on fuel and batteries. According to officials, aeromedical evacuations sometimes must be scrapped because of battery danger of explosion. Medical equipment on KC-135s currently runs on batteries. In addition, batteries in the equipment would lose power, providing a shutdown in care to the patients.

"(The outlet provides) uninterrupted care of a trauma patient," said Melissa Corse, an engineer at the 311th SPO. "(Crews) don't want to have to worry about changing out batteries."

With the new converters, aeromedical evacuation crews can travel longer distances without fearing power failure or carrying extra equipment.

"This will have an enormous impact on aeromedical evacuation, especially in the PACAF theater," Eshelman said. "With the modified converters, crews now have safe access to standard household power onboard the KC-135 and can operate medical equipment indefinitely."

Other possible uses for the modified converter include use in homes so children don't shock themselves by sticking metal into outlets and grain mills where dust and flour can ignite if a spark is present.

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Medical Logistics has a big job

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

The Medical Logistics element on Brooks does a business of \$12 million dollars a year in supply and equipment sales annually, while providing maintenance for over 4,110 medical equipment items valued at \$41 million.

"We have to plan our projects and allocate our resources very carefully," said Marc Tawil, director of medical logistics. "Our operation is essential to the mission of the City-Base."

The element recently activated two Air Force reservists to help with the work of their mission, while they lost one civilian employee to the active reserve. Through the implementation of the total force concept, the Medical Equipment Management Office, a function of medical logistics, began its first a wall-to-wall, hands-on inventory of all medical equipment on the base. Previously, Brooks equipment custodians performed the inventories.

"Due to the activation of reservists, we have been able to take on this huge endeavor," Tawil said. "The 15 people assigned to medical logistics are the Air Force's finest."

The inventories for the major unit assigned to Brooks take approximately one month each. MEMO completed the inventory of the U.S. School of Aerospace Medicine and begins at the Air Force Institute for Occupational Health June 16.

"The goals of the inventory are many," said Senior Master Sgt. John Walters, superintendent of the medical logistics. "Primarily it is to guarantee accountability and ensure serviceability on all medical equipment items." Other objectives include the turn-in and disposal of equipment no longer needed for the mission. Medical logistics staff offers an equipment custodian training course the first Mon-

day of each month in Bldg. 1169, to teach custodians the proper management of medical equipment.

In addition to the inventory, the medical logistics staff also provides the proper channels for many on-going acquisitions for supplies and equipment.

When any organization on base needs to acquire a new piece of medical equipment, they should first contact the medical maintenance staff, who can review the request and ensure its maintenance support. Once the requirement receives funding, the paperwork should be sent to MEMO.

"This process is a must," said Master Sgt. Jim Bailey, superintendent of medical maintenance. "We try to standardize products as much as possible in order to minimize our investment in test equipment and alleviate the learning curve associated with new equipment. If we already have the tools and experience to maintain an existing line, we try not to change to another without good reason."

When an organization purchases equipment on their own Government Purchase Card or through other means that circumvent medical logistics, maintenance problems occur.

"If it's not on record, it's not being properly maintained," Bailey said.

The medical logistics staff reminds custodians to allow ample time for equipment orders to arrive because some manufacturers have a two to three months lead time before shipping. Once supplies are shipped, they generally arrive in two to three days and any order taking more than 10 days provokes an inquiry. Anyone with questions about supply or delivery should contact Tech. Sgt. Kevin McGee, the non-commissioned officer in charge of inventory management at 536-3316.

In recognition of the work done by the medical logistics staff, Air Force Material Command awarded the element the 2002 AFMC Outstanding Medical Logistics Account of the Year. They also won the 311th HSW Commander's Trophy for Excellence in November-December 2002.

Membership drive begins for Air Force Association

The Air Force Association, a national, nonprofit organization that fights for better benefits for Air Force people and supports a strong national defense posture is conducting its annual membership drive at Brooks.

According to membership drive Chairman Master Sgt. Annie Howell, AFA's effectiveness in support of Air Force needs is directly related to the size of its national membership. All active duty, reserve, Guard and Air Force civilian personnel are urged to join the AFA.

"Membership in the Association is open to all Air Force people," Howell said, "and the AFA is the only organization that represents the entire Air Force family." The Association has long been regarded as the Air Force's professional society and, through its Advisory Councils, "hears the needs of Air Force people takes positions on those needs and fights for them," Howell said.

The Air Force Association is also in a unique position to help the Air Force since it has more than 250 chapter organizations located in all 50 states and at many overseas locations. These chapters provide a civilian-military forum for building support for the Air Force needs that exist through no other organization. In this area, AFA members are encouraged to join the Alamo Chapter. Membership dues, only \$36 per year, or \$90 for three years, include affiliation with the chapter.

AFA members enjoy many varied benefits including a subscription to the highly regarded Air Force Magazine, eligibility for several low-cost group insurance programs, resume preparation and critique, an AFA Mastercard, car rental, as well as numerous opportunities to work with all elements of the Air Force family and community leaders to solve problems and effect change.

The drive continues through June 30. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Kathryn King at 536-3132, or Tech. Sgt. John Berry at 536-3161.



BROOKS

SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Youth Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

Ashley Richardson, daughter of Master Sgt. Buck and Teresa Richardson, was selected as Youth of the Year for Brooks. She was also selected as the Teen Volunteer of the Year for 2002. Ashley graduates in the top 11 percent of her class from Highlands High School in June. She is a member of the National Honor Society, PALS and Mu Alpha Theta. She received the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship in February, which she will use while attending the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hills. Her name will be submitted for the Presidential Volunteer Services

Award, for which the winner will receive a gold pin, letter of appreciation signed by the President of the United States and a \$1,000 scholarship. As the winner of the Brooks Youth of the Year Ashley will attend a one-week teen summit in Washington, D.C., where she will meet teens from around the world. Following a tour of the D.C. area and historical sites the summit will end with a meeting at the Pentagon with the Joint Chief of Staff to discuss and try to resolve teen related issues.

Golf Course

Bldg. 821, 536-2636

There's still time to take advantage of the \$8-for special during June. Bring a group of eight players and tee off between 4 and 4:30 p.m. and each player pays \$8 for 9 holes. The price includes a cart and drink.

Pitch & Putt Tournaments can be scheduled following regular tournaments. Contact Rudy Gonzalez at 536-2636 to arrange a tournament.

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

No place to put those extra items around the home or office? Rent an indoor storage unit and clear up the clutter. Forty-eight units are conveniently located on the flight line across from Outdoor Recreation. A 6' x 12' unit rents for \$35 per month and a 12' x 12' unit rents for \$60 per month. Call for more information.

Are you planning an organizational party, unit gathering, family reunion, birthday party or a large gathering of friends? Host your event at one of the

four pavilions at Brooks. Prices range from \$25-\$45. Call 536-2881 for specific details on fees and location.

Rent a bicycle and enjoy the local area and some local history for a wonderful day out. Outdoor Recreation also has camping equipment for those who want to spend the night under the stars. Stop by and check out the items available for rent.

Are you wondering what to do Labor Day weekend? Travel Texas with us. There's something for everyone in your group. A bus is scheduled to depart Brooks Aug. 30 at 9 a.m., arriving at the Knights Inn in Arlington at 1:30 p.m. Guests will register and have free time until 4 p.m. when the bus again departs for the Medieval Times in Dallas for dinner from 7-9 p.m. During each live performance at Medieval Times, guests of the castle enjoy an authentic medieval feast while knights on horseback battle to the death. Medieval Times is an adventure unlike anything you have ever experienced before. The bus will return guests to the Knights Inn. August 31 is a day of fun at Six Flags over Texas where guests can enjoy thrilling rides and shows. The bus will leave the Knights Inn at 9 a.m. for Six Flags and leave the theme park at 5 p.m. for the return trip to San Antonio, arriving around 9:30 p.m. The trip is \$125 per person, all inclusive. Make your reservations early and don't miss out on an affordable fun-filled weekend.

Premiere Designs

Bldg. 705, 536-2120

Premiere Designs has new operating hours. The shop is open Monday

through Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We do laser engraving for 5 cents per letter. We can also laser engrave logos for you. Camera-ready logos are \$2.50 each and an additional charge for creating or changing existing logos.

Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188

Wanted — men and women for the 2003 Fitness Racquetball Tournament. Play is scheduled to start July 14. Sign-up at the Health and Fitness Center by July 9. Call the Fitness Center staff at 536-2188 for more details.

The Commanders' Fitness Program is proving to be a tremendous success. Military and civilian members of the Brooks community are encouraged to meet the commanders at the Fitness Center every Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m. for a walk/run. Participants receive a Commanders' Fitness Club t-shirt after participating four times. Additional prizes will be offered for other sessions. Sign-up at the center or get more information from the staff.

Let one of our certified personal trainers start you on the road to a new and better you. They can help you determine what you need to do to get in shape. It's never too late to improve your physical condition.

Swimming Pool

Bldg. 710, 536-3744

The swimming pool is open. Hours of operation are: Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for adult lap swim, and 1-7 p.m. for open swim. The pools will be open from 1-6 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Call for information on swim lessons.



NEWS briefs

Promotion ceremony

The next Brooks enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for June 30 at 3 p.m. in the Brooks Club, Bldg. 204. The ceremony recognizes June and July promotees. Come out and support the newest promotees.

Legal office hours

The Brooks Legal Office closes every Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m. for training and again Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Urgent legal matters during these times may be addressed by contacting the on-call JAG through the Law Enforcement Desk at 536-2851.

Centrifuge subjects

The Air Force Research Laboratory Biodynamics and Protection Division is in need of active duty volunteers between the ages of 18 and 50 years,

able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam, to participate in several studies to help in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for Air Force aircrew in wartime and peacetime environments. Subjects may earn \$150 hazardous duty pay per month. Contact Suzanne Flores at 536-6258 for details.

Blood drive

The next base-wide blood drive is scheduled for 9 a.m.-3 p.m., July 22, at the Brooks Chapel. The Air Force is in dire need of O Negative blood, but all donations are appreciated.

Orthodontic patients

needed

The Tri-Service Orthodontic Residency Program at Dunn Dental Clinic at Lackland Air Force Base is seeking 10-18 year-old patients for treat-

ment by the incoming class of residents. Patients need to be eligible active duty family member beneficiaries who are not on the Tricare Dental Plan, United Concordia, or who have already met their lifetime orthodontic benefit cap. Beneficiaries and family members of retired personnel in the local area are eligible for consideration, and are especially encouraged to come in. Contact 292-2579 for an evaluation appointment or more information.

Sleep study subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers to participate in a number of ongoing sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet the necessary qualifications are eligible to receive compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Laura Sanchez at 536-3616 for additional in-

formation, or visit the website at: www.ntiinc.com and link to "studies."

Altitude test subjects

Altitude test subjects needed: Help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Each subject must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for more information.



Citadel president sets precedent by promoting Brooks PK officer

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

It is not every day that a retired Marine Corps major general who is president of one our nation's most prestigious military academies promotes an Air Force officer. In fact, the promotion to first lieutenant of Brooks Contracting Office contracting specialist James E. Rourk is a first for The Citadel's Maj. Gen. John Grinalds.

Grinalds promoted Rourk on Monday during a PK conference room ceremony in Bldg. 723. Following the reading of the promotion order, Grinalds deferred to Rourk's father, Edward, and his grandmother Sylvia Bush for the official pinning of the Brooks officer's silver first lieutenant bars.

"This is my first promotion (of a former Citadel cadet) since I've been president," said Grinalds, who has served in that capacity since 1997, the freshman year of Charleston, S.C., native Rourk.

"It was a fluke. I asked him to promote me and he did. We had come to The Citadel at the same time. I built a really good relationship with him," said Rourk who graduated from the South Carolina academy in 2001 with a business administration degree and an Air Force commission. He has been at Brooks for the past two years.

Grinalds, who earned the Silver Star medal in Vietnam, praised Rourk's accomplishments at The Citadel, a military educational institution since 1842. Among Rourk's activities that Grinalds said he was most proud of was the former cadet's service on the Cadet Honor Committee.

"His classmates elected him because they trusted him and because of his fidelity. They put their future in his hands knowing that should they come before him for a violation of the honor code that he would be fair," Grinalds said.

The Citadel president also asked Rourk to show ceremony attendees his graduation ring, which has special meaning for those who wear it.

"The ring symbolizes three things, that the wearer has had a good education, knows how to lead and most importantly says 'I am an honorable person,'" explained Grinalds. "He is here today because he has grown in wisdom and stature," he added.

The 25-year-old Rourk was delighted by the large turnout for his promotion, which included co-workers featuring PK director Col. Tommy Gilmore as well as several members of the Air Force Academy football team, some of whom are assigned to PK at Brooks as part of their annual summer training.



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.

Lifebuilder's series

The Lifebuilder's Lunchtime Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Contact the Chapel staff for more information.

Chapel schedule:

Weekdays:

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

Wednesdays:

12 p.m. — Lifebuilders luncheon

6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsals

Thursdays:

7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

Sundays:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass

10:30 a.m. — Catholic religious education

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

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



Stribling

Q&A

FULL NAME:
Lucille J.V. Stribling

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Biological Science Laboratory
Technician, Air Force Research
Laboratory, Human
Effectiveness Division

WHAT IS MY JOB?:
I manage two electron microscopy
research labs for AFRK/HED. Electron
microscopes look at itty, bitty
things with great big microscopes.

BIRTHDAY:
Sept. 21, 1956

HOMETOWN:
San Antonio, Texas

FAMILY STATUS:
Married for 22 years to my husband
Craig, with two children; Matthew, 13,
and Madelyn, 10.

MOTTO:
No matter what situation you're in,
you've always got the choice to do the
right thing.

INSPIRATIONS:
God and my family

HOBBIES:
My African Grey parrot, Nikki. It's
amazing how quickly she learns.
Also, piano, gardening and being a
sport-du-jour mom.

PET PEEVE:
Someone deciding to jump in with the
punch line and finish the joke I'm telling.

I JOINED CIVIL SERVICE BECAUSE:
of the stability it offered, initially. Working
at different bases each summer,
between years of college, taught me
that a person was able to meet great
groups of people, both military and
civilian, and San Antonio had several
military bases to choose from.

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:
travel and build a new home on our
land.

MY FAVORITE MUSIC:
is a little of everything.

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
is my family and the most unique,
outstanding group of friends.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
is Nikki, my parrot.

Feature

Brooks Personality PROFILE

Dedication, patience pay off for AFRL employee



Photo by Airman First Class Samantha Shieh

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

Lucy Stribling has many positive characteristics. Stribling has great dedication in both her personal and professional lives. This year she celebrated her 25th year working in civil service.

"I never thought about leaving," she said.

Stribling began her civil service career as a temporary worker during the summers at the various bases around San Antonio. Through that experience, she decided she wanted to pursue a full-time career with the government. "Brooks was always my favorite base and it had the labs," Stribling said. "I liked civil service. I liked meeting troops from different places. I liked the security and stability. I liked all the things civil service stood for."

After college, while working as an editorial assistant for the School of Aerospace Medicine, Stribling read the job advertisement for a lab technician in the Veterinary Pathology Branch at the School of Aerospace Medicine on Brooks. She decided to dedicate herself to the new field of electron microscopy.

"It takes two to three years to become proficient," Stribling said. "To learn all aspects (of the job) takes several years."

She has performed scanning electron microscopy and transmission electron microscopy for 21 years.

In her personal life, Stribling dedicates herself to her family. She and her husband just celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary. All of her dedication coincides with another personality trait, patience.

While Stribling can put those virtues

to good use in all aspects of her life, they come in particularly useful with one family member — her African Grey Parrot, Nikki.

"She's a hoot," Stribling said.

Stribling got the parrot two years ago at a bird show as a birthday present. Since then, she's put a lot of time into working with bird, honing its skills.

"I train her with vocabulary and behavior," she said.

Stribling's love for birds began as a child. "My dad's side of the family are bird people," she said. "I've been around birds most of my life."

Stribling had an African Grey Parrot earlier in her life, but the bird got ill and died. At the time, Stribling didn't know that when a bird shows signs of illness, it is already very near death.

"Birds don't show illness to ward off predators...it's a survival behavior," she said.

When she noticed her bird seemed sick, she decided she would take it into the vet right after work that day.

"(The bird) died between lunch and getting off work," Stribling said. After the incident, Stribling began educating herself more about birds and their habits. "I didn't want to make the same mistake twice," she said.

After gaining adequate knowledge about the feathered creatures, Stribling determined she was ready for another bird. She also absolutely knew she wanted another African Grey Parrot.

"African Grey's are known for their intelligence and speaking abilities," she said.

Stribling's previous parrot was wild and this time she wanted a calmer pet.

"I knew I wanted a hand-raised one," she said.

Stribling got Nikki at four months of age and began teaching her vocabulary. She would take the parrot out

side and point out objects, saying their names and colors.

"They have the mentality of a 3-to-5 year old," Stribling said.

According to Stribling, the bird can have small conversations and ask spontaneous questions. Sometimes Nikki even teases the Stribling's dog and other family members. "She has the capability of playing games," Stribling said.

Despite all the time she spends working with Nikki, Stribling says the bird seems to learn more from the environment around her than her formal training.

"The stuff I try to teach her, she never learns," Stribling said.

Nikki does learn from T.V., however, and enjoyed watching Barney when she was younger.

"It's so funny, it's like watching them grow up," Stribling said, with a grin.

Stribling's generally gentle voice becomes more animated and excited when speaking about her favorite pet.

"Nikki is my number one hobby," she said. "I could talk about her all day."

Stribling likes to talk in general and also loves to joke around. When she laughs, her mouth breaks into a huge grin and she tilts her head backward. She kids around with co-workers, generally sending them away with a smile.

Undoubtedly, though, her favorite conversations revolve around her family. She has two children, Matthew and Madelyn, and a husband, Craig, and she doesn't hesitate to share about their interests and activities.

Her favorite stories, though, include both her children, her bird and, of course, her dedication to them and patience in handling them.

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil





Brooks doctor's grandfather began family 'base' tradition

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A Brooks ophthalmology scientist is uniquely qualified to view the base community as family from the perspective of having followed in his ancestor's footsteps.

Since his arrival at Brooks in 1996, Lt. Col. Bruce Baldwin has joined a select group of people whose kin had previously served here.

"My maternal grandfather Verdell Cunningham was stationed at Brooks Field in the 1930s," said Baldwin, who until recently had served as the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine Ophthalmology Branch's Aerospace Vision Section chief.

"When I first came here, I really didn't think about it much," admits Baldwin, adding, "I never knew him. I always knew mom was born at Fort Sam Houston."

It was Baldwin's mother Elizabeth Cunningham who sparked her son's interest in family genealogy. This interest led to the recent donation of rare military artifacts and documents to the Brooks History Office archives.

During his parents' 1998 visit to Brooks, Baldwin became fascinated with his grandfather's 20-year military career. "She (mom) shared family documents (with me)," recalled Baldwin, noting that when they visited Hangar 9 he had an epiphany. "He (grandfather) could very well have changed the oil on planes in one of the hangars here, perhaps (even) Hangar 9," Baldwin pondered.

Besides finding the Fort Sam Houston home where his mother had lived as a child, Baldwin began

investigating his grandfather's life through documents his mother gave him.

"Nobody else in my family except me, my grandfather and great uncle have served in the military," Baldwin said. He explained that he would never had found out about his kin's Brooks connection if it weren't for his Air Force occupational specialty.

Baldwin, who earned a Ph.D in vision science from the University of Alabama in 1996, said Brooks and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio are the only places in the Air Force where his scientific specialty is practiced through research. The irony was not lost on him in learning that his grandfather had been stationed at both these bases.

Born Sept. 1, 1904, Staff Sgt. Verdell Cunningham enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1922 at Wright Field, Ohio.

"He was an aircraft mechanic assigned to the 7th Photo Section of the 88th Observation Squadron," Baldwin said.

Cunningham was subsequently assigned to Maxwell Field, Ala., and later received orders to report to Brooks Field June 28, 1931. Baldwin's grandfather served with the 12th Observation Group Air Corps' 22nd Observation Squadron at Brooks until he was reassigned to Hawaii in February 1933.

During his Brooks tour, Cunningham became a father for the first time when Baldwin's mother was born at Fort Sam Houson's Station Hospital in May 1932.

One of the rare documents Baldwin has donated to the Brooks archives is a color copy of the 22nd Observation Squadron's 1932 Christmas menu.

The squadron's logo, a blue sphere containing a large white star with colorful comet tail surrounded by 20 smaller stars, is prominently displayed on the menu along with the names of unit officers including the commander, Capt. Robert Kauch.

The menu offers a glimpse of the types of items that long ago disappeared from military bills of fare: oyster cocktail with cranberry sauce, Waldorf salad, stuffed olives and after-dinner cigarettes and cigars.

In addition to the menu, Baldwin's donated artifacts include a Brooks Field barber shop card. The card, which states "is good for \$3 in trade," features four punched holes in its periphery that each represent 25 cents.

"I don't know if my grandfather had received four 25 cent haircuts or one haircut for a dollar," Baldwin wondered.



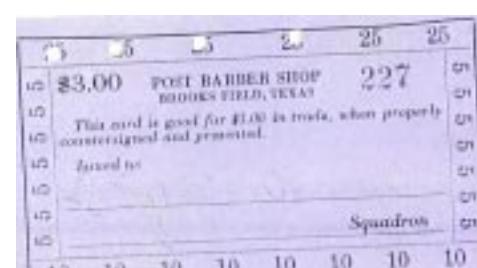
Photo by Rudy Purificato

The U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's Lt. Col. Bruce Baldwin displays a photo of grandfather Verdell Cunningham, who was assigned to Brooks Field from 1931 to 1933.



Courtesy photo

Verdell Cunningham, around 1922, before he was assigned to Brooks Field.



Courtesy photo

A rare Brooks Field barber shop card, circa 1932.

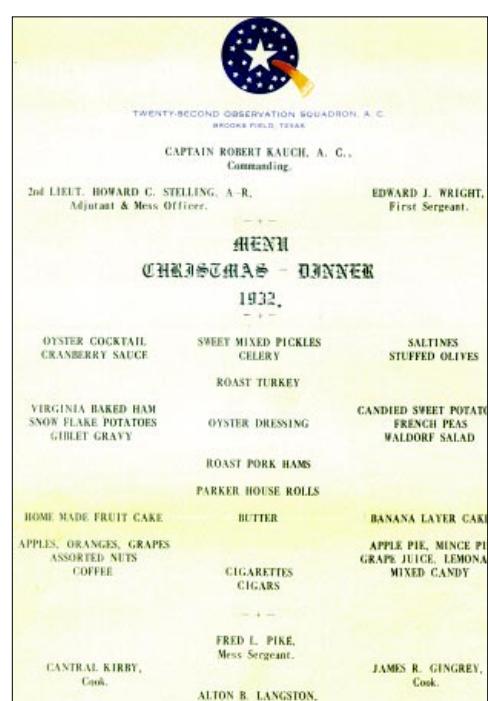
What he does know for sure is that his great uncle stayed for a brief time with his grandfather during the latter's Brooks tour.

"Sgt. Charles 'Percy' Cunningham entered flight school at Kelly Field and lived with my grandfather until he graduated Oct. 14, 1932. He was one of five enlisted guys from a class of 106 to

receive his wings," explained Baldwin.

Baldwin's grandfather spent his last military tour at France Field in the Panama Canal Zone from 1938 until his discharge in 1942. Cunningham died at the age of 46 in a non-aviation related accident near Maxwell Field Sept. 30, 1950, almost six years before Baldwin was born.

Baldwin is anxious to find out more about his grandfather's career, part of which was spent at Wright-Patterson where this vision scientist has been reassigned as a second generation member of that Ohio Air Force base's 'extended family.'



Courtesy photo

A Brooks Field Christmas menu from 1932 includes cigars and cigarettes for dinner guests.





Brooks varsity squad ready for looming softball challenges

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Neither the National Softball Association tournament that will be hosted at Brooks later this month, nor the looming Air Force Materiel Command tourney, cause Brooks varsity players any additional distress. After all, this group has learned to weather adversity, performance adjustments and higher altitudes where softballs transform into Ping Pong balls.

The Brooks team, and its take-no-prisoners head coach, are now poised at a crossroads on their journey to a championship. Since beginning their quest for respectability, the varsity squad has morphed into a team to be reckoned with.

"We started to play to our potential and built a reputation. It has been a nice turnaround for the team. It was a real boost for our confidence," said Brooks varsity coach Rob Collins, referring to his squad's impressive performance at the First Responders Softball Tournament held in May at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Formerly called the Band Aid Tourney, this annual competition has had Brooks team needing first aid from the beatings they suffered during humiliating losses. This year, however, it was for the most part their opponents who sucked wind as a result of Brooks' surprising performance that earned them the respect that eluded their predecessors.

"It was our first out-of-state tourney. From Brooks' standpoint, the guys were elated by their success, especially against teams that had a lot of

talent," Collins said.

To the Brooks coach, his team's performance against veteran Air Force squads was not that surprising because the club previously endured a grueling city league season. "We got our butts kicked in the city league. We finished 2-8," admits Collins about the San Antonio competition that featured teams classified at the "C" performance level.

Collins knew that having his club take its lumps in that spring civilian league would help strengthen them to fulfill their ultimate goal of winning the AFMC championship. "We faced much better teams in the city league than what we can expect to play at the command tourney," Collins said.

The coach's strategy all along has been to harden his players against tough, experienced teams. This toughening process has included contests against Fort Sam Houston and Lackland AFB as well as top teams at the Colorado tourney that featured the class "A" Air Force Academy squad.

"We have become more focused. If this tourney (Colorado) was any indication of how well we play on a road trip, I can't wait to play in the command tourney," Collins said, referring to the AFMC championship tourney in July at Eglin AFB, Fla.

Collins' plan to build a team resume of respectability as a contender was bolstered in Colorado, to the initial disbelief of their rivals. "When we arrived (there), teams thought we were the same old Brooks that would play over our heads and then get waxed," admits Collins.

Beating Sheppard AFB 17-9 in the opening round did not convince any opponent that Brooks had transformed itself into a legitimate contender. After a heartbreaking 23-22 loss to the Air Force Academy's #2 team, the Brooks squad reeled off victories against Tinker and Vance AFB, beating them by a combined 42-23 score.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

A screen protects Brooks varsity softball batting practice pitchers from being hit by viciously propelled projectiles.

"We played our absolute most perfect game to beat them," Collins said of their biggest tourney win, upsetting the heavily favored Air Force Academy "A" team 20-14. Just as impressive was the Brooks squad's come-from-behind win over Fort Sam Houston. "We were down 15-1 after the first inning," Collins said, noting that his club did not panic. Playing small ball, Brooks chipped away at their opponent's lead. Brooks eventually prevailed 22-18.

As a result of their success, Brooks advanced to the finals against the Air Force Academy's top team.

"They crushed the ball in a relentless attack," Collins said of their foe which won both ends of a doubleheader necessitated by Brooks having beaten the Academy team in an earlier round. "By the time we got to the finals it had become an endurance marathon," admits Collins.

While Brooks didn't survive that battle, they positioned themselves for a run at a much bigger prize next month when they try to win their first AFMC crown.



Brooks employee and her dog entertain at Spurs pep rally

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

Pam Henry and her dog Merlin delighted and entertained the crowd at a San Antonio Spurs pep rally held at the San Antonio State School, June 6.

"(The students) loved the dog," Henry said.

Henry works at the Naval Health Research Detachment on Brooks and in her spare time teaches dog-training classes at the Rob Cary's Pet Resort. She and her dogs also play on the Rob Cary Flyball Team and Agility Team. The teams perform at various events, including half-time at Spurs games.

"(Merlin) likes putting on a show," Henry said.

An employee of the State School who knows Henry through Rob Cary's called Henry and asked her to bring Merlin to the pep rally. Henry agreed and developed a routine with a basketball theme. The performers stayed at the rally for more than an hour.

"The kids were so excited that I couldn't bear to go, but I finally had to because Merlin was getting tired," Henry said.

Henry also said that the people helped by the school loved seeing a

"The kids were so excited that I couldn't bear to go, but I finally had to because Merlin was getting tired."

Pam Henry
Naval Health Research Detachment

dog and many had had dogs at home. The State School provides services to people with handicaps.

"It just really touched me in a way I hadn't anticipated," she said.

During the performance Merlin, dressed in a Tim Duncan jersey and matching shorts, passed, dribbled and stole the ball in a way only a 4 year-old Jack Russell Terrier can.

"He's the biggest ham in the world," Henry said.

Henry also brought along Navy stickers and handed them out to the crowd. Only a few students had the opportunity to pet and play with Mer-



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Pam Henry, an employee of the Naval Health Research Detachment on Brooks, and her Jack Russell Terrier, Merlin, entertain students during a San Antonio Spurs pep rally at the San Antonio State School, June 6. Henry and Merlin entertain at various Spurs events, including several halftime shows during home games.

lin and these students were hand-selected by the school administration beforehand.

"He's a better showman than a touching dog," Henry said.

"He can still brighten people's day with the entertainment part."

The school enjoyed the performance so much that they requested Henry and Merlin return during Fiesta.

"I told them I'd work up a Fiesta routine," Henry said.

She's considering dressing Merlin in a sombrero and poncho.

Henry plans to talk to other dog trainers about visiting the school, including those with golden retrievers who could allow the students to spend more time petting the animal.

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil



Pam Henry and Merlin, in his Tim Duncan jersey, stop to "high-five" a student of the San Antonio State School after Merlin's recent performance during a Spurs pep rally at the school.



Department of the Navy employee Pam Henry and dog Merlin, wearing a Spurs uniform, put on a show for Spurs fans at the San Antonio State School during the playoffs.



Winning it all

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

IsaMarie Perez is the whole package.

The 16-year-old who just finished her sophomore year in high school, won her second consecutive 1A state tennis championship in May.

"It made me feel good," Perez said. "It was an honor I guess."

Perez began playing tennis at the age of 10 in Puerto Rico. She picked up the game quickly and her parents started bringing her to Torrimar, a tennis academy.

"Isa is so good at tennis," said Isaac Perez, IsaMarie's 6-year-old brother.

When her family moved to Florida, she began playing tournaments at the age of 12. The Perez family moved to San Antonio in 2000.

Perez said being in a military family and learning how to adapt has helped her mentally in her tennis game, but she feels a little pressure from winning state as a freshman.

"It was pressure just (people) telling me I was going to win it all," she said.

Perez's mother is a senior master sergeant at the Air Force Research Laboratory on Brooks, but is deployed to the Middle East. She didn't get to see her daughter win a second straight championship, but was excited to hear the news over the phone.

Her mother's absence makes it



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

IsaMarie Perez, daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Maria Perez, assigned to the Air Force Research Laboratory at Brooks, practices at McFarland Tennis Center. Perez, who just finished her sophomore year in high school, won her second consecutive 1A state tennis championship in May.

harder for Perez to get to practice as her father cares for two children and runs his own business.

"It's been harder with my mom gone," Perez said. "Hopefully it will be easier (when she returns)."

Perez trains at McFarland Tennis Center with the head of the facility, Joe Rother. She wants to play tennis in college and hopes to get a scholarship, if not for athletics then for academics. She has a 4.0.

"It's rigorous sometimes," Perez said. "I like it."

Perez doesn't mind the effort and explained that she likes tennis because you play for yourself and all the victories or defeats lie with the individual.

"It's a sport (where) you carry all the pressure on your shoulders," she said.

Perez wants to go into medicine, studying pharmacology or sports medicine. While her current number one choice college is Stanford University in California, she hasn't narrowed down her options yet.

"I have a lot of colleges, maybe an East Coast school," she said.

Perez considers taking her tennis beyond the college level, but not until she graduates.

Right now she'll focus on succeeding on and off the court and welcoming her mother home in July.

Early registration open for 2003 USAF marathon

By Susan Murphy

Aeronautical Systems Center

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFPN) — Registration is under way for the 2003 U.S. Air Force Marathon scheduled for Sept. 20 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Runner categories have changed slightly from past years. A 5K fun run and a 1/2 marathon have been added. There will no longer be a marathon team category.

The Air Force Marathon is open to all levels of marathoners, civilians and military, from all around the world.

The first U.S. Air Force Marathon was held at Wright-Patterson AFB Sept. 20, 1997, to coincide with the Air Force's 50th anniversary. More than 3,200 runners participated in the marathon representing nearly every state and six countries.

Runners will receive a uniquely designed T-shirt and patch. Participants who finish the marathon within the eight-hour time limit will receive a medallion.

Reduced fees for early registration are available until June 30. Registration deadline is Sept. 4.

For more information, visit the marathon Web site at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil>, or call the marathon office at 800-467-1823.