



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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BROOKS
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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

311th HSW presented Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

While calling Brooks City-Base "hallowed ground" for its extraordinary achievements during the past three years, Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds added a third consecutive Air Force Outstanding Unit Award streamer to the 311th Human Systems Wing flag during an Oct. 30 ceremony at Hangar 9.

The Aeronautical Systems Center commander praised the 311th HSW's many accomplishments, characterizing them as unprecedented and truly remarkable. He also recognized the Wing's contributions to Air Force readiness as "emblematic of the high mark of change" represented in the command's transformation, designed to enhance warfighter support.

"I hope you all feel tremendously proud, both collectively and individually, for you are truly an outstanding unit," Reynolds joyously told the standing room-only ceremony crowd.

Established in 1954 by the Secretary of the Air Force, this award is presented for outstanding meritorious service or outstanding achieve-

"I hope you all feel tremendously proud, both collectively and individually, for you are truly an outstanding unit."

Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds
ASC commander

ment that clearly sets a unit above and apart from similar units.

The 311th HSW earned the honor for its efficiency and operational effectiveness during calendar year 2002. Specific accomplishments cited in the award citation include the training of an additional 22 Expeditionary Medical Support teams for worldwide deployment; Operation Blue Dragon planning and implementation that involved the removal of radioactive material from Afghanistan; and the conversion of the former Brooks AFB into Brooks City-Base,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Aeronautical Systems Center Commander Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds, left, is joined by 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Col. Tom Travis as Reynolds attaches the third Outstanding Unit Award streamer to the 311th HSW flag.

which has saved the Air Force \$8 million annually, while earning the base state environmental cleanup recognition as the first federal installation to receive Texas' "Ready for Reuse" certificate.

"Out of all the experiences I've had during my tenure as your wing commander, one of the most gratifying is standing up here today and watching General Reynolds attach another streamer to our flag," said Col. Tom Travis, 311th HSW commander.

Travis continued, "Let me be clear, this award is your award. It acknowledges the collective efforts of all our military, Air Force civilians and contractor professionals. It signifies both the importance of our mission and the success we are having as we accomplish it. In the global war on terrorism, our warfighters are more effective through our human performance and global health focus. I expect the contributions of this team to be even greater in the integrated air and space force of the future."

JFK's 40th anniversary Brooks visit commemoration

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Past and current members of the Brooks community will gather in front of Bldg. 150 at 10 a.m. Nov. 21 to mark the 40th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's historic "cap over the wall" speech.

Kennedy's 1963 keynote address that dedicated the Aerospace Medical Center also validated America's commitment to space exploration and underscored the Air Force's contributions to putting a man on the moon.

The commemoration ceremony features the unveiling of a specially designed historic display that will be permanently exhibited in the lobby of Bldg. 150, a short distance from where JFK delivered his speech.

"The 3x4 foot display, produced by the Institute of Texan Cultures' fabrication division, features on brushed aluminum text on the history of the '100 area' and an aerial photograph of the 15 buildings that comprised the Aerospace Medical Center," explained Shelia Klein, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director. BHF funded the display as part of their continuing commitment to promoting Brooks heritage.

The commemoration event, whose theme is "Spanning the Millennia — Our Mission Continues," will also showcase Brooks City-Base's current con-



Courtesy photo
President John F. Kennedy walks with Aerospace Medical Division Commander Maj. Gen Theodore Bedwell, right, from Bldg. 150, behind, enroute to Bldg. 160 during his 1963 visit to Brooks.

tributions to aerospace research and technology development.

The celebration is also reuniting several key people who 40 years ago supported the Kennedy visit.

"Col. John Pickering and I wrote Kennedy's speech," recalls retired Lt. Gen. George Schafer, former Air Force Surgeon General who at the time of JFK's visit was the Aerospace Medical Division's vice commander.

"We sent the speech up to him. We were told he got the speech just before getting on the plane (to fly to Texas)," Schafer said.

Anniversary, Page 6

Climate survey past halfway point

By Scott Hopkins

Air Force Manpower and Innovation Agency

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE — Since its launch Oct. 1, more than 25 percent of Air Force people have taken the opportunity to speak to their leaders through the 2003 Air Force Climate Survey. The survey's importance hinges on maximum participation, and the more people who participate, the better the results, officials said.

The deadline for participation is Nov. 23.

More than 65 percent of active-duty airmen and appropriated-fund civilians participated in the 2002 survey. For the first time, this year's survey includes the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and nonappropriated-fund civilians.

"Our goal is to make things better for our people and our organizations," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper. "This is a great opportunity for you to provide direct feedback about how well your leadership and organizations are functioning."

The survey gives leaders honest, identity-protected feedback about the organization from the people who make it work. It measures factors that influence people's behavior and factors that are relatively enduring over time, officials said. Leaders at all levels can use this information to improve an organization's climate and to ultimately improve its effectiveness and productivity.

Survey, Page 4

Inside this issue:

Veterans Day

3

Local news

5

Crossword

13

Briefs

16

Sports

19



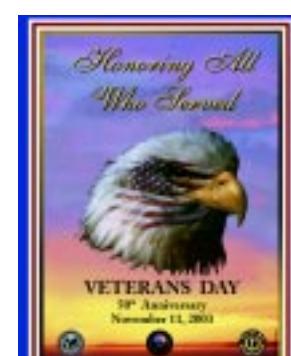
Brooks donation helps needy citizens

Page 6



Youth sports legend is more than a coach

Page 19



Local Veterans Day events

Page 3



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Discovery Editorial Staff:

311th Human Systems Wing Commander
Col. Tom Travis

Director of Public Affairs
Larry Farlow

Editor
Cerise Shapiro
(cerise.shapiro@brooks.af.mil)

Staff Writer
Steve Van Wert

Photography
Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Discovery logo by Arlene Schirmer



Sylvia Black, Publisher
Pia Goodman, Prod. Mgr.
Pat McCain, Classified Mgr.
Diane Bohl, Sales Manager
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John Randall, Account Exec.
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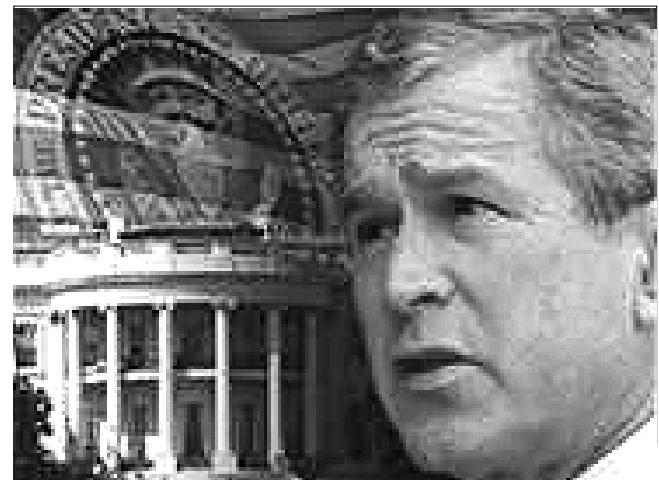
The *Discovery* is online.
Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.

A message from the President for Military Family Month

I send greeting to all those celebrating Military Family Month, sponsored by the Armed Services YMCA of the USA.

Our Armed Forces are upholding the noble tradition of duty, honor, and loyalty to our country as they secure our homeland and help make the world a safer place. Our nation is strong because of our brave men and women in uniform. As we work to advance peace and to fight terrorism, the heroic contributions of our military members continue to inspire individuals across our country.

I thank our military families for their continued support for our active duty service members. Your encouragement helps pre-



pare them for the important task they undertake in the defense of our freedom.

Laura Joins me in sending our best wishes. May God bless you may God continue to bless the United States and all who defend her.

George W. Bush

Sacrifice — who has the hard part?

By Master Sgt. Jeff Wepner
506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — Sacrifice is a word I often hear bandied about during discussions of serving in the military, and rightly so.

Each of us makes individual sacrifices to serve in the greatest Air Force in the world; many heroes have made the ultimate sacrifice serving our nation. However, my deployment as part of the AEF Blue rotation has reinforced my perspective on sacrifice.

If I had to list all the "sacrifices" I am making due to this deployment, I would come up empty. In fact, I would put forth to you that I have the easy part, working with outstanding professionals focused on accomplishing a critical mission. That commonality forges a strong bond here and helps us focus on the tasks at hand. It also provides us a great avenue for self-satisfaction and sense of accomplishment as we move forward together. Those tangible and intangible aspects of my deployment make it "easy."

So if I have the easy part, who has the hard part? Let me give you a couple quick examples.

Imagine a wonderful, supportive wife who did not have her husband by her side for her birthday, and may not have him by her side for their 20th wedding anniversary. That wife, also

the mother of three beautiful teenage daughters, now single-handedly bears the daunting task of maintaining a sense of normalcy in an increasingly chaotic world.

Those daughters also keep a mental scorecard: two missed birthdays and one missed high school graduation due to another TDY already scheduled for next year. Mother and daughters alike already have their fingers crossed for Thanksgiving and Christmas this year.

Are my examples unique? Hardly. As Air Force members, we all share similar experiences with the burdens we place on our families. What makes them unique is that they are my family and I can never repay them for the unwavering support and motivation they provide on a daily basis.

The examples I listed above are only the proverbial tip of the iceberg; for the past 18 years my family members have proudly played a key role in all my Air Force successes and continue to stand tall and do their part to help freedom flourish.

To all my fellow military comrades and their families: a big thank you for the sacrifices you make and the crucial support you provide, upholding the principles we cherish and fostering hope and the promise of freedom around the world.

November is Military Family Month



Remembering Veterans Day, honoring those who served

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor, in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe. These memorial gestures all took place Nov. 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 — the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The day became known as "Armistice Day".

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all Wars," Nov. 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of World War II and Korea, Congress was requested to make this day an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars. In 1954 President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead

brought from overseas were interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1973, a law passed providing interment of an unknown American from the Vietnam War, but none was found for several years. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from that conflict was placed alongside the others. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, The Third U.S. Infantry, The Old Guard, keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that Nov. 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m., Nov. 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater.

Every year the President of the United States urges all Americans to honor the commitment of our Veterans through appropriate public ceremonies.

As in past years, San Antonio and its military installations will recognize and honor America's veterans with numerous ceremonies throughout the area.

Parades featuring the joint mili-

tary float and ambassadors from local military installations are scheduled for Saturday. The Universal City event is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. on Pat Booker Road and another parade is scheduled for 1 p.m. downtown.

The Department of Veterans Affairs honors veterans by hosting the 50th anniversary of the Korean War commemorative ceremony at the Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital Nov. 8 at 10 a.m.

U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Kevin Green, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy and Operations, will give the keynote address. Retired Col. Robert Howard, a decorated Medal of Honor recipient is scheduled to speak. The Catholic Central Blue Battalion Marching Band and the Catholic Central JROTC Cadet Corps will participate in the ceremonies, as well as JROTC Cadets from Roosevelt High School, who will present the commemorative pin and thank the Korean War veterans.

Congressman Charles Gonzalez is slated to speak at the annual Veterans Day Memorial ceremony Nov. 11 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. The event is scheduled to begin with a musical performance by the U.S. Army Medical Command Band at 9:30 a.m. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m.

The ceremony also features the traditional joint military wreath laying, presentation of wreaths of civic and veterans organizations and a firing salute with echo taps.

The Ft. Sam Houston ceremony is the third largest ceremony in the U.S., topped only by the ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., and Punchbowl National Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii.

myPay use to become mandatory

2nd Lt. Christopher Hill
311th Human Systems Wing

Beginning Dec. 1, all military members are required to have a myPay Personal Identification Number. myPay is a secure Web site run by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service where members can receive around-the-clock financial services.

Members can view and print leave and earning statements and W-2s, change tax withholdings, update direct deposit information, make address changes, and change Thrift Savings Plan contributions without ever entering a finance office.

Starting Jan. 2, members will no longer receive a hard copy LES. Instead myPay will provide instant access.

Members who don't already have a PIN are offered several convenient ways to get one. The Finance Customer Service office in Bldg. 570A can issue a PIN, or request a PIN by e-mail by sending a message to: michelle.mitchell@brooks.af.mil. Members can also call Finance at 536-5778 to get one assigned.

The Air Force Personnel Center recently released a warning about a fraudulent myPay Web site. The site, www.mypay.com, is set up to resemble the official site, and contains familiar terms, such as DFAS and LES. By accessing the site and logging in, members inadvertently provide personal information, including social security numbers. Use caution when accessing leave and earning statements. Use only the secure official Web site at: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.



Influenza vaccination schedule set for all Brooks personnel

By Staff Sgt. Maurice Wilson
and 1st Lt. Craig Gaskin

311th Medical Squadron

Flu season is here but, thankfully, so is the flu vaccine. Flu season often means runny nose, aches, coughing, chills, and fever.

For some, the condition is worse than for others. However, with one simple shot most of the symptoms and frequently the illness itself can be avoided.

Although the flu vaccine is not 100 percent efficacious, 70-90 percent of people who receive the influenza immunization develop protection against influenza.

It takes approximately two weeks for an individual to develop influenza protection after vaccination. Individuals with an allergy to eggs, or who have had a reaction to the influenza vaccine in the past, should avoid receiving the shot.

The 311th Medical Squadron at Brooks is administering the flu vaccine for Brooks-assigned personnel

who are scheduled to deploy. Also, high-risk enrollees with medical appointments can receive their vaccination. Letters were sent to individuals who are considered high-risk, advising them to come in to receive their flu shot the week of Nov. 17-20.

Eligible personnel will receive the vaccine according to the following priorities: mission critical personnel, which includes service members scheduled to deploy and commanders; DEERS enrollees who are over age 65 and those who are considered high risk patients; healthcare employees; the trainee population; active duty personnel; Department of Defense civilian employees, and all other eligible individuals.

Staff Sgt. Maurice Wilson is the 311th MDS immunization technician. He is currently scheduling units for mass vaccinations at their squadrons.

For additional vaccination information or eligibility questions, contact Wilson at 536-2733 or the Brooks Clinic at 536-4389.

Survey

Continued from Page 1

To safeguard personal information, only Air Force-level analysis is done on the personal information. Questions that ask for a respondent's Air Force Specialty Code, rank or grade, time on station will be briefed to the secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief of staff; that information will not be released elsewhere.

Multiple levels of protection are built into the system. For example, squadron reports will list respondents by number of officers, enlisted members and civ-

ilians — not by rank or grade. Breakout can only be made if the category has at least seven respondents.

The 30-minute survey can be completed online at: <http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil> from either a government or personal computer. The survey is also available through Air Force Link at: www.af.mil.

Brooks participation rates by organization and office can be viewed at: <https://xre604.brooks.af.mil/csaf>. The site is updated each Friday.

'Lab' teaches warfighters to combat sleep deprivation

By 2nd Lt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt

Air Force Research Laboratory Public Affairs

The Air Force Research Laboratory conducts the first comprehensive training program on how to manage fatigue in military aviation operations next week at Brooks.

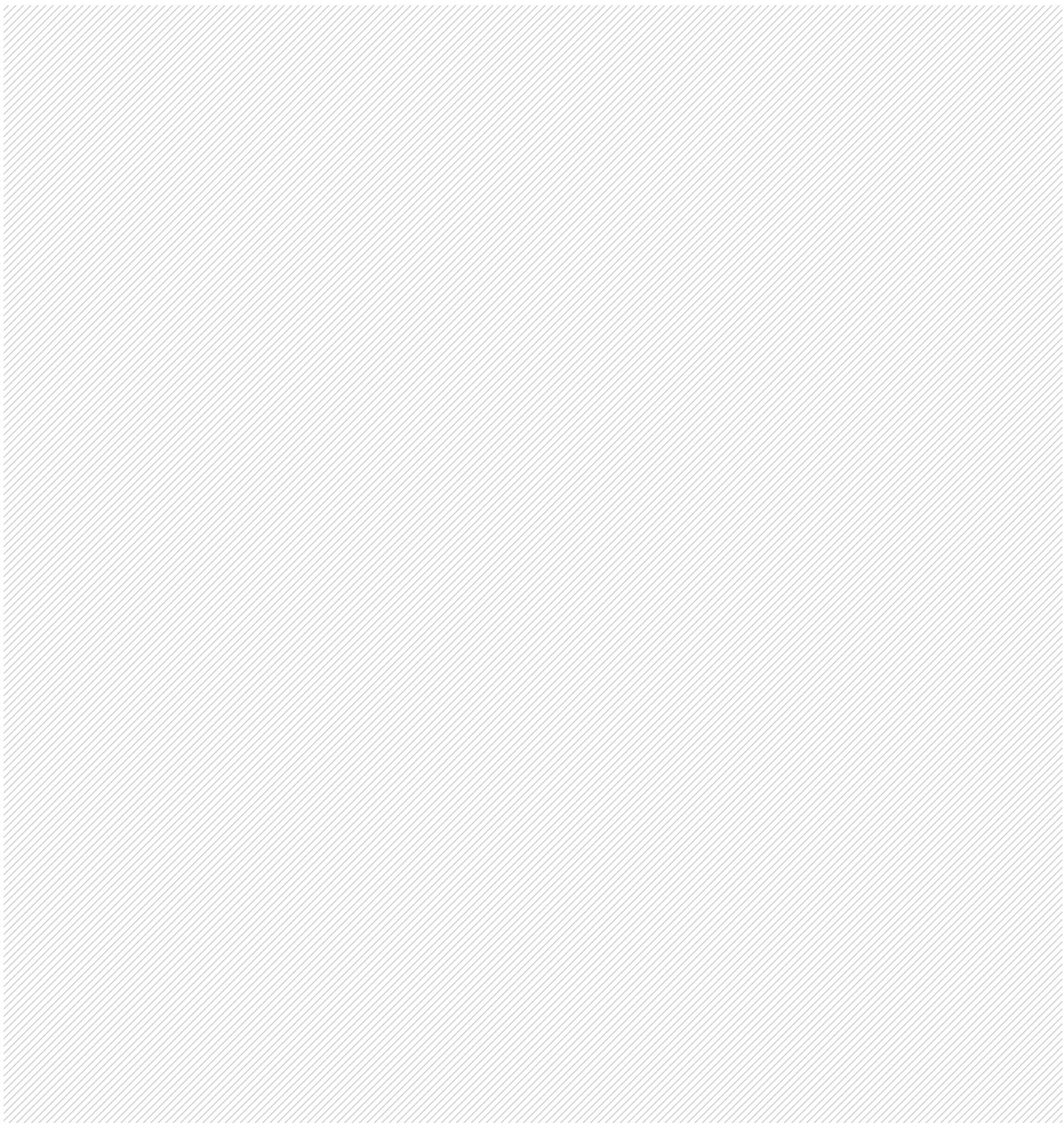
The course is geared toward pilots, aircrews, flight surgeons, maintenance personnel, schedulers and safety officers.

Dr. John Caldwell, Dr. J. Lynn Caldwell, and Dr. James Miller, of AFRL's Human Effectiveness Directorate, put the Warfighter Fatigue Coun-

termeasures Program together in response to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's call for a 50 percent reduction in the number of mishaps and accidents during the next two years.

The two-day workshop outlines the dangers of fatigue in military aviation and related operations, the mechanisms underlying fatigue, common causes of overly-tired personnel, and techniques for optimizing alertness in military environments.

The next course is scheduled for Jan. 14 and 15, 2004. Interested DoD personnel should register before Jan. 2 with Charlie.Dean@brooks.af.mil.





Brooks donation helps city's homeless, needy citizens

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Old Brooks mattresses, once destined for disposal, are now providing comfort to hundreds of needy and homeless people, thanks to a recent base logistics initiative.

A total of 234 mattresses, designated as unserviceable, were donated a few weeks ago by 311th Mission Support Group Logistics to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

"It is the first time on my watch that the Air Force has donated mattresses to us," said Dan Young, St. Vincent de Paul Society director of development. Young, who has been director for four years, said only Fort Sam Houston previously made a mattress donation to their organization when barracks at the Army post were renovated.

The Brooks mattresses became available after they were turned in from student/permanent party dormitories and visitors' quarters.

"Our folks made some calls and found a third party that was interested in the mattresses," said Joe Garcia, a 311th MSG Logistics spokesman, referring to St. Vincent de Paul, a non-profit faith-based charitable organization. According to Garcia, disposing of unwanted base material is conducted through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office. However, DRMO policy on used but serviceable mattresses requires they be steam cleaned at the owner's expense, he explained. The 311th MSG's other option was to have DRMO declare the mattresses unserviceable, but the base would pay disposal expenses.

Oct. 23, Brooks military and civilian volunteers helped load the mattresses onto St. Vincent de Paul vehicles for transport to the organization's downtown warehouse.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

311th Mission Support Group Logistics members help load donated mattresses onto St. Vincent de Paul Society vehicles at Brooks. The donation will benefit needy citizens in the local area.

According to base logistics, the donation's estimated value is \$27,846.

Young said his organization is very appreciative of the donation. "They are being distributed through our special ministry," he said. "We distribute donated material, such as clothing and furniture, to our parish-based conferences. We also distribute the material to walk-ins (customers)."

Young explained that his organization doesn't solely distribute donated material to homeless people, but provides assistance to anyone in need, including Section 8 public housing residents. The mattresses, he noted, are a welcome addition to their inventory.

The 135-year-old worldwide St. Vincent de Paul Society is affiliated with the Catholic Church only in that archdiocese boundaries are used to divide regions into conference-supported branches. St. Vincent de Paul has 77 conferences in the San Antonio archdiocese supported by 4,000 volunteers. The Society works closely with San Antonio Ministries. "SAM shelters house the homeless. We feed them," Young said, noting that Brooks volunteers were among a legion of people who helped them provide 256,000 meals to the needy in 2002.

Anniversary

Continued from Page 1

Schafer and Pickering were interested in how much of their original speech had survived Kennedy's edits, and how well the President would deliver it. "He added a couple of things in the introduction and (also) added 'the cap over the wall' (tag line)," Schafer remembers, noting that most of their speech was left in tact.

"He gave the speech as if it was extemporaneous," Schafer said of Kennedy, who was considered a great orator. "He only mispronounced one word — toxicology," the general recalls.

Schafer met Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline as they were walking toward the AMD commander's office in Bldg. 150 and he escorted them in.

Besides writing the speech, Schafer helped man the command post. "We expected trouble," he said, referring to a now de-classified intelligence report about a suspicious Chevrolet suspected in the area around Brooks whose license plate number matched that of a car later observed in Washington, D.C.

"There were FBI, Secret Service and Security Forces snipers positioned on the roofs," Schafer said, referring to the "100 area" buildings.

Hazel Holden, retired 311th HSW protocol officer who in 1963 was a secretary, remembers the Kennedy entourage. Holden, who will come from Houston to attend the ceremony said, "There was a crowd of civilians who lined up along both sides of Military Drive outside the gate. They weren't allowed on base, but wanted to see him. He was a little late getting here."

Holden, whose boss Capt. Jim Endicott was officer of the day, was given more freedom of movement than most employees during JFK's visit. "He (Endicott) invited me to go with him throughout the base. A lot of people

who worked on base brought their children here to see the President," recalls Holden. "Everybody was excited about him being here. The world was still innocent back then. We didn't know that his visit was the beginning of the end of that innocence," she said, referring to Kennedy's assassination the next day.

For a short exhilarating time, Holden and thousands of Brooks employees focused on the President and First Lady who briefly visited a research experiment.

Kennedy had heard about a Brooks space cabin experiment involving several airmen sequestered inside an altitude chamber, explained Lt. Col. John Stea, commemoration ceremony co-chairman. During Stea's months-long investigation to re-construct the JFK visit for the 40th anniversary celebration, he located one of the airman involved in that experiment. Using the internet, Stea contacted the airman who today is a professor in California.

"Dr. Ronald Taskey was at the time of Kennedy's visit a 19-year-old Lackland Air Force Base basic trainee who had volunteered for the experiment," Stea said, adding, "He was surprised that I had contacted him about JFK's visit, which evoked in him a lot of memories."

Taskey told Stea that JFK spent 5 to 10 minutes talking to chamber volunteers through an intercom. "They were thrilled by the visit," Stea relayed about Taskey and his comrades' reaction.

It's stories such as these that Stea wants to showcase as a Brooks legacy for current and future Air Force generations.

Parking in Kennedy Circle and the Bldg. 180 parking lot may be affected Nov. 21. Monitor your organizational e-mail for further information.



ACTIONLINE

536-2222



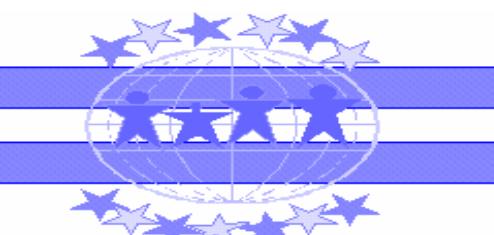
The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

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:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851
SFS afterduty 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.....	533-5900
Housing Office.....	533-5905
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

Resume workshop

Nov. 12, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg 538—

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

Sponsor training

Nov. 17, 9 - 10 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.

Transition seminar

Nov. 18-20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Making the transition from the military to civilian sector can be a big undertaking.

This seminar provides for better service to separating and retiring members and their spouses. Topics include job search preparation, resume writing, interviewing skills, including appropriate dress, veteran's benefits, and much more. Members should plan to attend at least 180 days prior to retirement or separation.

Bundles for Babies-expectant parent session

Dec. 11, 8 a.m.-noon, Bldg. 537—

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

Consumer credit counseling

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Bldg. 537—

You can get out of debt with a debt management plan. Call 536-2444 to schedule an appointment with a credit counselor.

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.

Call the Family Support Center at 536-2444, or Toll Free at 877-747-5938, to register for class, make an appointment or for more information.



'It's a small world after all' for USAFSAM's AMP students

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Two F-16 flight surgeons from the same tiny village who recently attended the Aerospace Medicine Primary Course here have validated what a Disney World theme ride has promoted for years — "It's a small world after all."

Having not seen each other since high school, Majors Valerie Ross and Paul Duntley could not have predicted that they would someday be reunited at Brooks as U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine students.

"Our mothers are friends. It was through them that Paul and I found out about one another," recalls Ross, referring to parents who live in Greene, population 2,500, located 20 miles north of Binghamton in New York State.

E-mail messages between their folks revealed that the pair shared a common destiny — both had become physicians, had recently joined the Air Force and were fulfilling military careers as F-16 flight surgeons. Most surprising of all, they were both going to be reunited as classmates for segment 2 of the Aerospace Medicine Primary course.

"We knew each other in high school. We (also) went to the same church," Ross said, admitting that they didn't tell one another they were planning careers as doctors. In fact, they were just two of three members from their graduating classes to become doctors.

After Duntley and Ross graduated

from Greene Central School in 1978 and 1980, respectively, they went their separate ways.

Duntley earned his medical degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine. He moved to Phoenix, Ariz., where he completed an internal medicine residency. He works in Phoenix as a teaching hospitalist at the Veterans Administration Hospital. Duntley also serves as a University of Arizona School of Medicine associate clinical professor.

"I joined the Air Force after 9-11. I was encouraged (to do so) by a couple of flight docs at work. I wanted to contribute by serving my country," said the 43-year-old Air Force Reserve officer with no prior military experience.

Duntley was commissioned in 2002 and assigned as a flight surgeon to the 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix.

Ross, meanwhile, earned her medical degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1988.

"An Air Force scholarship paid for medical school," Ross said, explaining that she served on active duty for four years. Specializing in family practice medicine, Ross launched her civilian medical career after separating from the Air Force in 1995.

"Sept. 11 (2001) was a watershed event for me. It was definitely the big reason I got back in the Air Force," admits Ross, who joined the Texas Air National Guard at Ellington Field in Houston where she



Courtesy photo

Majors Valerie Ross and Paul Duntley take time for a photo outside the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. The flight surgeons were raised in Greene, N.Y., and attended the same high school, but never expected to see each other at USAFSAM while attending the Aerospace Primary Medicine course.

serves as a flight surgeon with the 147th Fighter Wing.

Ross and Duntley's paths finally crossed last month as members of the same USAFSAM course flight.

Ross will remain at Brooks through November to complete the eight-week AMP course, while Duntley has elected to complete the course requirements by finishing segment 3 later.

During their time at Brooks, they sat near one another in class and learned something about the other that they didn't know in high school.

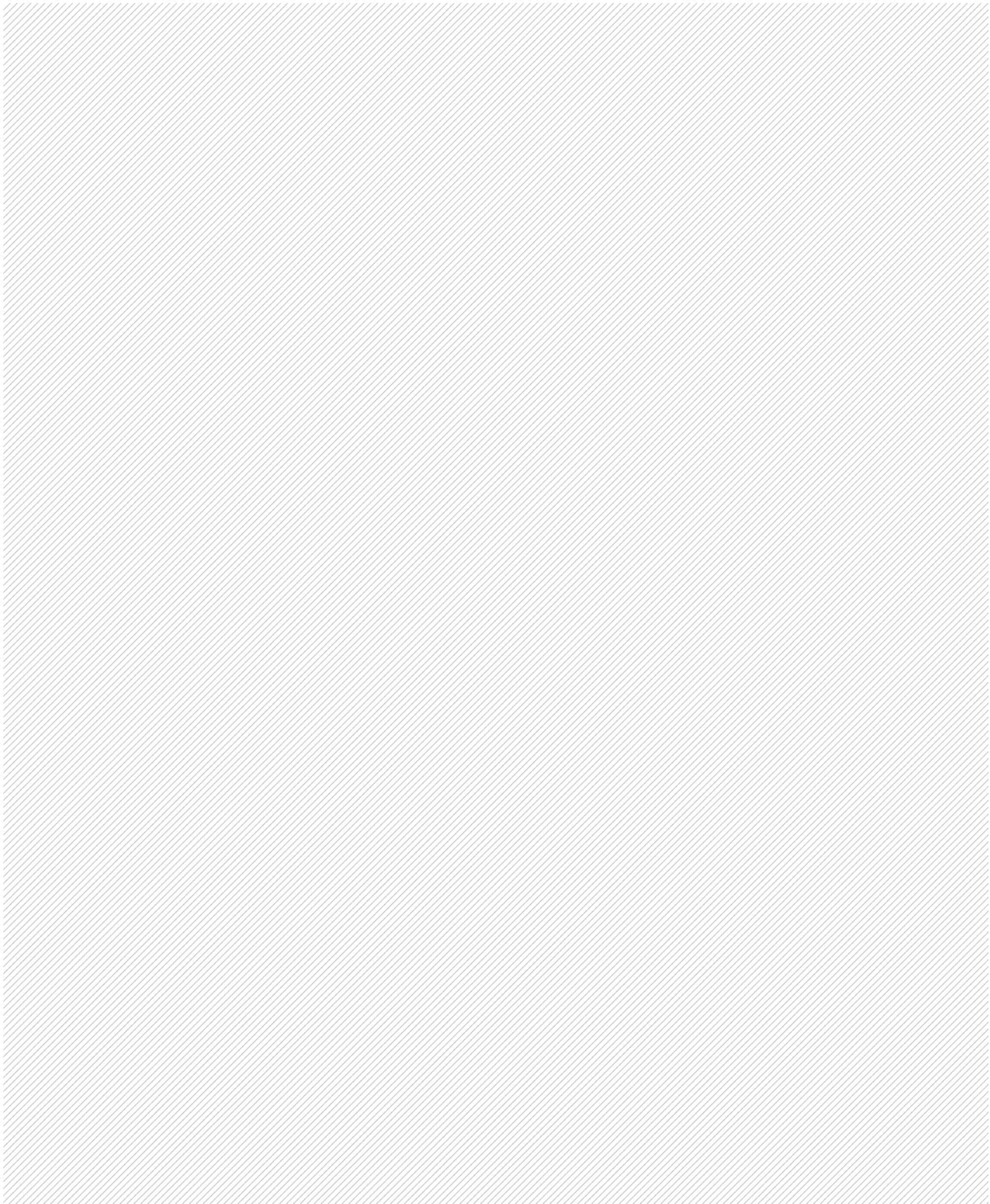
"I marveled how smart he turned out to be," quipped Ross, a sentiment

echoed by Duntley about his classmate.

"I sent her a videotape copy of my centrifuge ride as an example of what not to do," joked Duntley about his segment 1 AMP course training conducted earlier this year.

Besides sharing the same high school memories, the Greene natives can now tease each other about their centrifuge ride at 9Gs that made their confining experience feel that "it's truly a small world after all."

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil





BROOKS

SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

November is Military Family Month and the Brooks Club would like to kick off the month with a scrumptious buffet Nov. 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu consists of carved beef, roasted turkey, honey baked ham, roasted potatoes, white rice with brown gravy, California blend vegetables and glazed carrots, assorted desserts, rolls, coffee tea or water. Club members pay \$5.50 and non-members pay \$6.50. Bring the entire office, a group of friends or come alone and make new friends at this mouth watering buffet. Bonanza Bingo has returned to the Brooks Club and Sidney's. Purchase a card and win from \$2 to \$1,000. There are 12 ways to win money: Diagonal-\$2; horizontal-\$2; four corners-\$2; postage stamp-\$2; small diamond-\$5; vertical-\$10; block of nine-\$25; large diamond-\$100; crazy letter T-\$100; crazy letter L-\$100; small picture frame — \$100; and a coverall — \$1,000.

Family Night Buffets are every Tuesday at the Brooks Club. Adults

are \$4 and children, 6-10 years, are \$2. Children under 5 years eat free. A variety of buffets served, including barbecue, Western barbecue, Oriental, Mexican, Italian, and fried chicken—so watch for your favorite foods.

Let the Brooks Club cater your next special function. We do promotion parties, retirements, weddings, birthdays and family get-togethers. Stop by the club and let us help you plan your next event.

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

Rent an indoor storage unit and clear the clutter from your home, garage or office. Units are located on the flightline across from Outdoor Recreation. A 6' x 12' unit rents for \$35 and a 12' x 12' unit rents for \$60 per month.

Premiere Designs

Bldg. 705, 536-2120

Premiere Designs offers laser engraving, framing packages, business cards, presentation gifts, shadow boxes, flag boxes and many consignment items. Imagination is the key to a creative one-of-a-kind present. Add a special touch to photos you're having framed by letting us engrave a name or graphic on the glass. Let us show what a difference this can make to your family photos, that big catch that no one believed, your grandchild or any other special picture.

2003 Air Force family and teen talent contest

The family that gets up on stage together stays together. Brooks Youth Center hosts the 6th Annual Air Force Worldwide Family and Teen Talent Contest at the Brooks Club Nov. 14. Moms, dads, brothers and sisters are invited to perform together in the family-oriented event starting at 6 pm.

This program reinforces creative expression and helps youth gain a better appreciation of the performing arts. Family member acts may enter any of 15 categories for which they qualify.

Children, ages 3-18 years, or older if still in high school, or graduated in 2003, are eligible to enter. Family member acts may enter any number of categories for which they qualify.

The 15 categories are: parent and youth team, which must consist of one parent and one youth; husband and wife team, must consist of one eligible member and one spouse; children, ages 3-5 solo or group act; children ages 6-8 solo or group act; preteen, ages 9-12, solo or individual act; preteen, ages 9-12, group act; teen, ages 13-15, solo/individual vocal act; teen, ages 13-15, solo/individual instrumental act; teen, ages 13-15, solo/individual performance or specialty act; teen, ages 13-15, group act; teen, ages 16-18, solo/individual vocal act; teen, ages 16-18, solo/individual instrumental act; teen, ages 16-18, solo/individual performance act; teen, ages 16-18, group family act, which must consist of a husband and wife, both active duty members, with a minimum of one child, or a single parent with at least two children who are immediate family.

Videotapes of base winners will be submitted for an Air Force-level contest, where competitors will vie for U.S. Savings Bonds.

Contact Ron Hayes or Felitia McLaurin at 536-2515 for registration details and additional information.

Youth Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

Registration is underway for youth basketball for children ages 5 to 17. Registration will continue until all slots are filled. Brooks youth will participate in a league with Lackland Air Force Base and Fort Sam Houston as part of the Pizza Hut Spurs Drug Free Basketball League presented by Ultramar Diamond Shamrock. Girls and boys can learn the fundamentals of basketball and have fun playing in regulation games.

Cost for Youth Center members is \$35 and \$50 for non-members. Chil-

dren, 5-7 years of age, will be instructional only.

Practice starts Dec. 2 and the season runs from Jan. 11 through March 17. Practices will be held at the Riverside Baptist Landen Center Gym and games will be at the Brooks Health & Fitness Center.

If you are interested in coaching youth basketball for the Youth Services Center, contact Youth Sports Director Larry Flores at 536-8130 and 536-2515.

Airmen's Cookie Drive

The annual Airmen's Cookie Drive is just around the corner. Show your support by providing baked goods that can be individually wrapped. Teens will deliver the packages Nov. 20 to unaccompanied airmen in the dormitories — some who are away from home for the first time. Baked items should be delivered to the Youth Center Nov. 19 so they can be prepared for delivery. Pick up a form at the Center and fill it out in advance. This will enable the staff to better plan on the total number of baked items to be delivered. Call the Youth Center at 536-2515 for additional information.

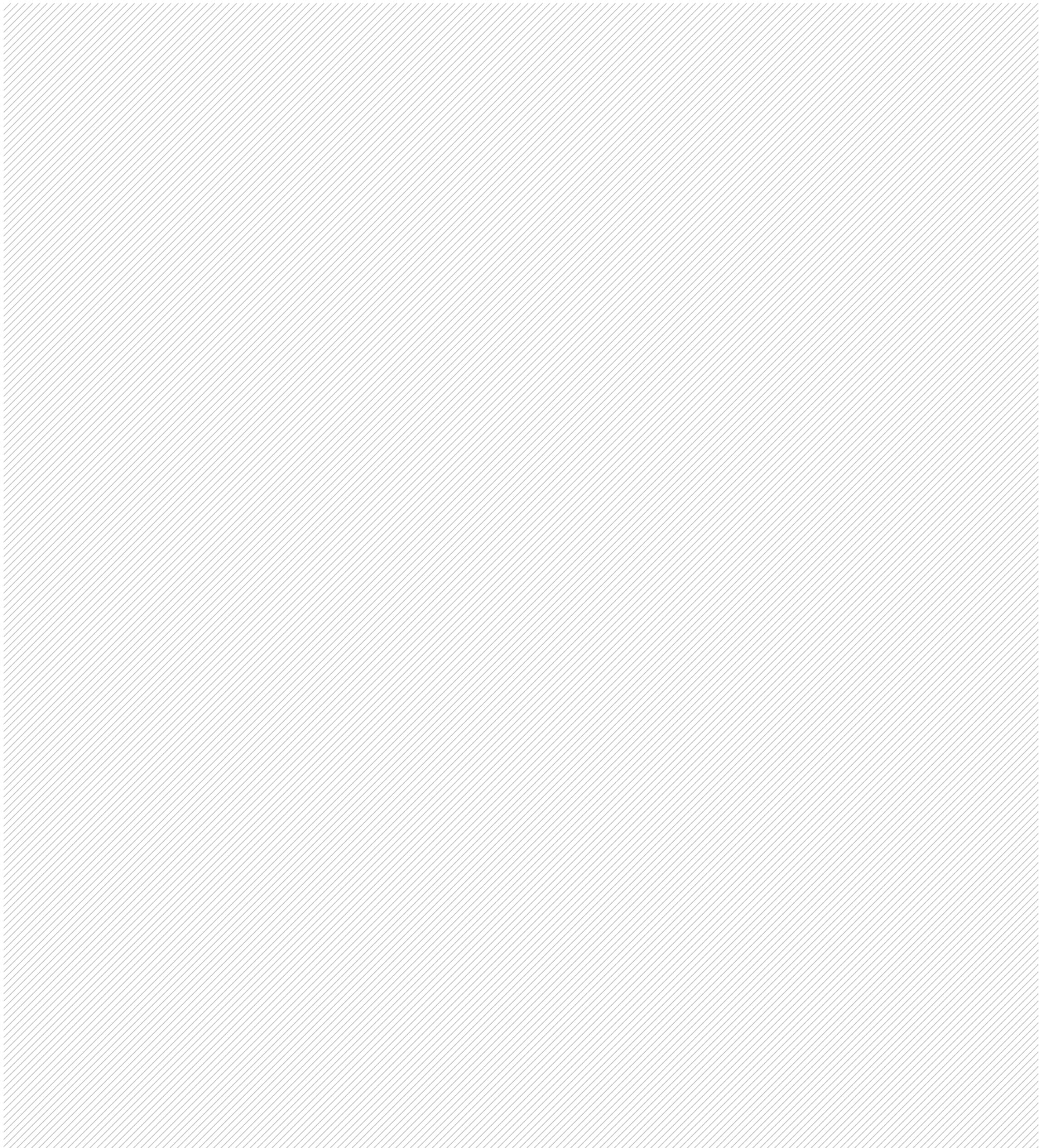
Holiday planning

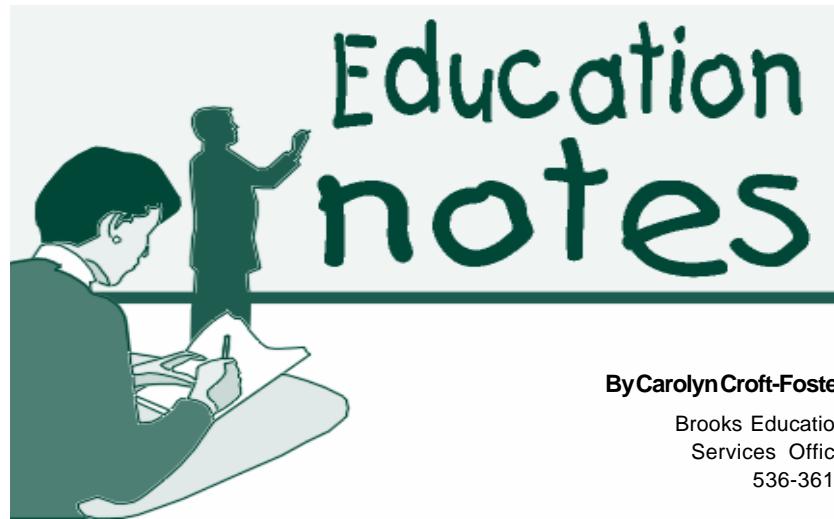
It's not too early to start thinking about Santa. If you're planning a holiday party in the office or home and don't have a Santa suit, rent one from the Youth Center and be the hit of the party. Suits rent for \$15 per event and include the suit, hat, beard, hair, belt, boot coverings and a "goodie" bag to deliver gifts to special people on your list. Call 536-2515 to reserve your suit early and ensure you have one for that special party.

Sidney's

Bldg. 714, 536-2077

Please pardon the mess while Sidney's gets a face lift. The building is being painted, both inside and out. Improvements are scheduled to continue through Dec. 29.





By Carolyn Croft-Foster

Brooks Education
Services Office
536-3617

CLEP tests retire

The College Board is retiring paper-based CLEP tests. The following exams retire Nov. 30: General English, General Mathematics, Accounting, American History I and II, and Spanish. In January the following exams will be recalled: Social Sciences and History, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, Psychology and Principles of Management. All other exams retire March 31, 2004. Computer-based CLEP exams are available at national test centers but costs are not currently reimbursed. The Education Office offers CLEP testing Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays at 8 a.m. Call 536-3617 to reserve a seat.

DANTES/DSST fees

The fee for DANTES transcripts for military members increased to \$20 in October. The cost of DSST exams for civilians also increased to \$45. Contact the Education Center for details.

St. Mary's University

St. Mary's Graduate School offers graduate courses in Business administration, Computer Systems and Engineering. St. Mary's also has a master of Arts program that leads to Texas Teacher's Certification. For details about any of the graduate programs St. Mary's offers, call the Education Services Center or visit the representative Wednesdays between noon and 2 p.m.

Upper Iowa University

UIU now offers classes at Brooks. The university allows students to complete degrees through its Military Campus Resident Centers, online, 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. Pamphlets are available in the Education Office or visit the Upper Iowa Web site at: www.uiu.edu. UIU has a Partnership Advantage agreement with Palo Alto College.

Upper Iowa also offers a "Math-Haters" course, Math 105 College Mathematics, that meets Community College of the Air Force math requirements. Class begins in January and runs for eight weeks.

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. The representative provides academic counseling at Brooks Wednesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Call 659-0801 if interested.

Texas State University

Texas State University offers a bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree, which provides excellent opportunities for individuals to capitalize on prior experience. Students pursuing this degree can transfer credits previously earned, individualize degree plans with emphasis in an occupational field of choice and earn credit for work and life experience and business, industry and military training. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. Call 536-3618 for more information.

Virtual Education Center

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

Discover Program on-line

The Discover Program is a career exploration program that can be used by military, civilians, and family members. Schedule an appointment to get started.

National Graduate School

The National Graduate School offers a program to finish a bachelor's degree in one year and then complete a master's degree in another year. The representative visits Brooks Wednesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 536-3617 or visit the Web site at: www.NGS.edu.



Native American History Month



Solutions, Page 18

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman

Alaskan Command Public Affairs

ACROSS

2. Bosnian stabilization force (abbrev.)
5. Last name of 1 DOWN
11. Ancient Peruvian civilization
13. Fable writer
14. Cherokee Indian War Medal of Honor recipient Charles ____
16. Winnebago India War Medal of Honor recipient Mitchell ____
19. First Native American astronaut John Bennett ____
20. Wild animals of Asia
24. Chickasaw Indian Medal of Honor recipient Raymond ____
26. Continued (abbrev.)
28. Native American tribe who performed service of 27 DOWN
30. Behind
35. Weapon stand with two legs
36. Shoshone woman with Lewis & Clark
39. Get (two words)
40. Military team to FEMA (abbrev.)
41. Dread
42. Italian three
45. Buck Roger; ____ Gerard
46. North central Native American tribe
49. Explosive
52. Tail marking for 12 FTW aircraft
53. Designer Christian
54. Landmark court ruling ____ vs. Wade
55. First Native American to graduate from US Naval Academy
57. Southeast Native American tribe
58. Pima Indian at Mt. Surabachi flag raising, (two words)
59. Even for the course
60. Military pay statement
61. 19th Cen. Seneca chief Ely S. ____;

DOWN

1. Middle name of USAF Korean War vet/US Senator
2. Someone who makes points in a game
3. M*A*S*H's Klinger
4. The Bachelorette star
5. Boxes
6. Lobbying group (abbrev.)
7. Southern dame
8. Military person responsible for education (abbrev.)
9. Yankee great ____ Gehrig
10. Marine Corps ship (abbrev.)
12. Formerly
15. Slack
17. Period
18. Building block of evolution
21. Clutch
22. Harvests
23. Idaho river
25. Designer Wang
27. Subject of Cage movie Windtalker
29. 7 in ancient times
31. Piece of corn
32. Performance
33. Due
34. Add and subtract subject
37. ____ lai
38. Pointed tool
43. Eliminate
44. Saga
46. Vehicles
47. One who serves liquid refreshments
48. Before
49. Fall
50. Grammy winner Jones
51. Rip
52. Actor Charlotte and Mime Nola
55. Baseball great ____ Ripken, Jr.
56. Chemical NaOH



Vasquez

Q&A

FULL NAME:
Linda R. Vasquez, GS-7

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Secretary to the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence commander.

WHAT IS MY JOB?:
I provide administrative support to the commander and director and provide protocol assistance for AFCEE.

BIRTHDAY:
Nov. 14, 1960

HOMETOWN:
San Antonio

FAMILY STATUS:
Currently talking marriage with my steady boyfriend

NICKNAME:
My family calls me "Lynn"

MOTTO:
"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phillipians 4:13

HOBBIES:
Dancing, spectator at most sports, especially the Dallas Cowboys, movies, spending time with family and friends and church activities.

PET PEEVE:
Slow drivers in the fast lane, and drivers who don't use their turn signals.

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE:
Daily Devotional, Bible, Teacher's CCD Lessonbook, and my current course of study.

I JOINED CIVIL SERVICE BECAUSE:
Way back when, it was one of the "choice" jobs for people like me with no higher education.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:
Get into the Contracting and Acquisition Copper Cap Training program.

ULTIMATE GOAL:
Become a GS-13/14 in the C and C career field

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:
First, make a donation to my church, then I'd pay off debts and help family.

FAVORITE MUSIC:
Christian, country, classic rock, soft jazz, Tejano and Latin.

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
is getting my bachelor's degree in 2001.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
is my Christianity.



An advocate for children

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart



By Steve VanWert

Staff Writer

without higher education," she said.

She worked in maintenance, then to the Kelly Clinic where she worked for five years. "It was my first experience with dealing with military and professional people." From there she transferred to the bioenvironmental engineering branch and, two-and-a-half years later, to AFIERA. "It was a blessing," she said.

Vasquez volunteers for Child Advocates San Antonio, an official organization affiliated with the San Antonio court system, where she assists counselors on court-ordered home visits to parents whose children have, in most cases, been removed temporarily to foster homes because of neglect or abuse. Her volunteer work involves working in the evenings primarily, but sometimes she has to attend court sessions to report on what she and the counselors have seen. If that happens, she takes leave during the day. Although naturally concerned with the parents' "rehabilitation," they're not her main concern. "It's for the children," she said.

And she couldn't devote the time necessary for CASA if it weren't for the understanding attitudes of the people in her workplace. "My boss is very supportive," she said. "They've all been, beginning with Col. Sam Garcia, who is now retired, who first encouraged me to volunteer, all the way through my current boss. They understand how important it is to me."

But before Vasquez could become a child advocate, before she could become active in her church and successful in her job and before she could feel satisfied as a person, she had to become educated. And she did it, admittedly, "the hard way."

Twenty-three years ago she started in civil service as a secretary in personnel at Kelly Air Force Base. "I was real young," she said. As a matter of fact, she had only recently graduated from Harlandale High School. But she was familiar with civil service. Her father was a civil servant at Kelly, as well. "It was a choice job for someone like me

one day Vasquez saw a segment on television about CASA and their need for volunteers. She called, attended the necessary courses and officially became a child advocate in March 2002. "There's such a need for volunteers to help these children," she said. "Some are victims of physical or sexual abuse; almost all are victims of mental abuse. Many go from foster home to foster home, and some are returned to their parents only to be removed because of repeat offenses. It can make you cry. I couldn't do it full-time. It's tough," she added. "It's a great

experience and I encourage anyone to become a CASA volunteer. It doesn't require a background in psychology or sociology. The volunteers are from all walks of life; teachers, students, grandparents, doctors, housewives, military (members) and civilians."

Vasquez thinks of herself as shy and introverted, although she admits that others may disagree. "I've come out of my shell," she admits, "I'm not afraid to be the center of attention

anymore. A few years ago, I'd never have the nerve to stand up in front of people and teach CCD classes."

Her church is the other vitally important part of her life. She's an active member of St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church in San Antonio, with an emphasis on "active." Vasquez teaches Catholic Christian doctrine classes to first and second graders, and has become extremely involved in Advocacy, Community, Theology and Service functions in the church. As an ACTS team member, she helps conduct 4-day retreats for from 15-to-30 people. "They're held at different locations, but they're all about fellowship and an opportunity to get closer to God," she said.

As her life has changed, so has her relationship with the Catholic Church. Although she attended mass as a child and young adult, it wasn't personally meaningful to her. "I saw the same people every week, but they weren't part of my life," she said. "Now I feel a personal relationship with God, and I consider the people I deal with in the church as my extended family." It's that "personal relationship" that ACTS attendees hope to find. "I love being able to help others feel as good about their religion as I do."

Her personal life is going great guns, as well. She and her boyfriend are "talking marriage," she said. They attended high school together, but never dated. Then, one day, they met in church. "I said, 'Aren't you so-and-so from Harlandale High?' and he said 'I remember you.' We spoke, began dating, and things went on from there."

A die-hard Dallas Cowboy fan, a music fan ("My brother is a musician with a local band."), and a child advocate, this successful working woman looks down the road to even greater things. "I'm taking classes now so I can get into the Contracting and Acquisition Copper Cap Training program," she said. "My ultimate goal is to be a GS-13 or 14 in the field before I retire."

Steve.VanWert@brooks.af.mil



Airmen 'scare up' donations for emergency fund

(Editor's Note: Airman Vukobratovich is active duty, deployed from Brooks. Sgt. Copeland is active duty deployed from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.)

By Master Sgt. William Sharp

379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar — It seems Dr. Hannibal Lecter, the crazed, cannibalistic psychiatrist from the Silence of the Lambs movie trilogy, helped raise money Oct. 31 for the Airmen Emergency Fund.

Also featured at Network 15's haunted house were mutant creepy spiders, a graveyard of ghouls, an exorcist room, a maze of darkness, mutilated "victims," lots of scary monsters and surprises and, of course, the brain-eater scene from the movie "Hannibal."

Guides were available to assist the faint of heart through the chambers of horror.

Network 15 is a group of enlisted members in the E-1 through E-5 paygrades. Members focus on issues concerning the base population and develop ideas on how to improve the quality of life at Al Udeid, especially for junior enlisted members. The group meets weekly.

"The idea of a haunted house started as a morale builder. Then some of the (Network 15) airmen thought it might be a good idea to make it a fund raiser," said Senior Airman Ricci Vukobratovich, Network 15 sergeant at arms and a small computer technician with the 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron. "We looked at a lot of different things and decided to deposit the money where it could be put to good use."

"(Junior enlisted) airmen aren't the highest paid



Photo by Master Sgt. William Sharp

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar — Senior Airman Ricci Vukobratovich, small computer technician, 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, and Airman Amber Dodrill, firefighter, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, ready the Hannibal Lecter scene for Halloween night. Vukobratovich is active duty deployed from Brooks. Dodrill is active duty deployed from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

in the military. When a crisis happens, they aren't always in the best financial position to help themselves. We thought donating to the Airmen Emergency Fund would show we are dedicated to helping our fellow airmen, especially when they need it most," said Staff Sgt. Josh Copeland, Network 15 vice president and noncommissioned officer in charge, base supply customer service element, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.

To pull off a haunted house, Network 15 members needed workers and supplies. Since Oct. 1, team members, up to 30 per day, logged more than 150 hours decorating time. Base supply, civil engineering, travel management office, chiefs and first sergeants, the top IV enlisted group, and others pledged support in terms of volunteers, expertise, and about \$3,500 worth of wood, paint, and vari-

ous other scrap materials.

In addition, Network 15 airmen spent about \$2,000 out of their own pockets to purchase masks and other Halloween specialty items.

Network 15 members who donated money to purchasing supplies realize the chances of complete or partial reimbursement are slim. Still, they don't seem to mind.

"We'd love to see the whole base come through here. We'd like to give those airmen who gave their own money at least a little money back, but we (Network 15) all agreed before anyone donated anything: we want as much money as possible to go to the emergency fund," said Vukobratovich.

"And the good thing about this is if we (Network 15) plan a haunted house next year, the supplies are already on hand," said Copeland.

Brooks provides 'spooks' for haunted hayride

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

After a TDY of sorts as "spooks" in which they scared the living daylights out of people, a group of base volunteers have given further credence to the long-held belief that Brooks is haunted.

Fortunately for Brooks, these airmen-turned-ghouls decided to haunt hundreds of people at an off-base location during the Halloween season. They supported the inaugural "haunted hayride" co-sponsored by the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the Alamo City Sports Complex.

"We have 20 volunteers, mostly from the 311th Communications Squadron and the Air Force Institute for Operational Health," said Airman 1st Class Crystal Ray, past president of the Brooks Airmen's Council and a member of the 311th Communications Squadron. Ray, who served on the haunted hayride organizing committee, said Brooks volunteers were more than happy to support the community fund-raiser conducted Oct. 23-25 and Halloween weekend,



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Ghouls and spooks only the Addams Family would embrace, these Brooks volunteers posed as urban legend creatures during a "haunted hayride" Halloween attraction co-sponsored by the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

Oct. 30-31 and Nov. 1.

Their eagerness to participate, Ray alluded, was partly based on their collective desire to get in touch with their "inner, ghoulish self."

"It's the first time I've done anything like this," said Airman Donald Scott, a 311th Communications Squadron member who learned "to communicate" using a butcher knife. His equally ghoulish wife appeared to be the victim of a haunted hayride dispute.

"I've done this before," admits Scott's wife Adriann, referring to other previous hauntings in which she supported a church-sponsored Halloween event that showcased a

suicide scene.

The Scotts, whose theatrical makeup made them look like victims of a terrible accident, were tame in appearance compared to other members of their group.

Brooks volunteers posed as infamous urban legend creatures that included the "Donkey Lady" and a maniac from the Texas Chainsaw Massacre.

The event was held on nine haunted acres of the Alamo City Sports Complex, located near the infamous "haunted ghost tracks" on Shane Road.

"We've expanded on the theme of the ghost tracks, by including many

"We've expanded on the theme of the ghost tracks, by including many urban legends. , ,

Jeffery Fields
Co-owner Alamo City Sports Complex

urban legends," explained Jeffery Fields, referring to mysteries associated with the southside, San Antonio and Texas.

Fields and business partner Bob Ashton, who co-own Alamo City Sports Complex, came up with the haunted hayride idea as a family-oriented Halloween attraction.

Ashton and Fields, in concert with the South Chamber, spent months planning the event which they hope will become an annual tradition. They relied on volunteers to stage the event which attracted thousands of people over two weekends.

As for Brooks volunteers who enjoyed an assortment of hauntings featuring involuntary organ transplants, they'd do it again, "in a heartbeat!"



NEWS briefs

Brooks Heritage Foundation gift shop anniversary

The Brooks Heritage Foundation Gift Shop celebrates its 11th Anniversary Nov. 14 by offering free Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee to early morning patrons. The doughnuts and coffee will be available from 7 a.m. until they run out. Forty dozen doughnuts will be purchased, but come early as they will go fast. There is a limit of two doughnuts per person. The Gift Shop also opens at 7 a.m. so you can do some holiday shopping while you enjoy your doughnut and coffee.

For more information, contact the gift shop at 531-9767 or by e-mail at: bhf@satx.rr.com. The Gift Shop is located in the Annex, adjacent to historic Hangar 9.

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 close of business today, Nov. 7. Contact Bill Torrey at 565-4663 or by email at: william.torrey@randolph.af.mil for more information.

Ambassador applications

Today is the last day to turn in 2004 Brooks Ambassador applications to the Public Affairs Office. Military members and DoD civilian employee are eligible to represent the base through this Wing Commander's Community Outreach Program. Ambassadors support requests for speaking opportunities, career days, parades, and science fairs. Interested applicants compete for the highly coveted title of Brooks Fiesta Ambassador. Training is provided. For more information, call Ed Shannon at 536-5140.

Motorcycle Riders' Club

The Brooks City-Base Motorcycle Riders' Club is looking for interested motorcycle enthusiasts to join. Contact Staff Sgt. Caeser Velez at 536-

8490 for more information or by email at: ceaser.velez@brooks.af.mil.

Altitude subjects

Altitude subjects are needed to 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. Subjects 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 information. The Air Force Research Laboratory Biodynamics and Protection Division needs active duty volunteers, ages of 18 and 50 years who are able to pass the equivalent of a flying class

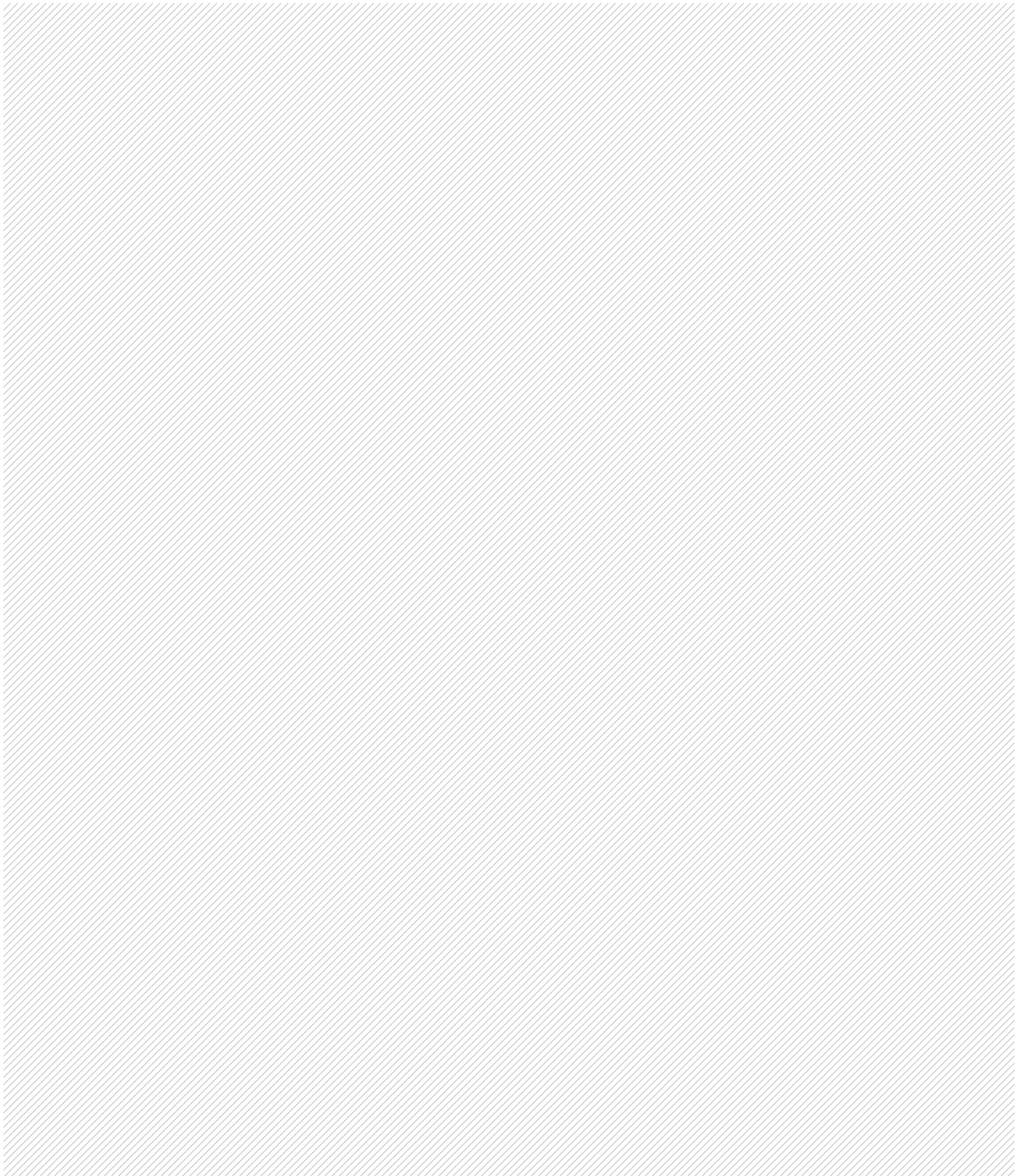
exam. Volunteers participate in several studies to aid in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for aircrew in war and peace-time environments. Subjects may earn \$150 hazardous duty pay per month. Call Suzanne DeLaCruz at 536-6258.

Toastmasters

Hangar 9 Toastmasters meets Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 in Bldg. 559, classroom 3. Toastmasters provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment to develop communication and leadership skills, which foster confidence and personal growth. Toastmasters is open to all Brooks personnel. Call 2nd Lt. Laura Chavez at 536-2086 for details.

Sleep subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers for a number of sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet qualifications are eligible for compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Katy Ramsey at 536-3616 for information.





It won't hurt, ma'am

Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Col. Laura Alvarado, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander, receives her flu shot from Staff Sgt. Maurice Wilson of the Brooks Clinic. Wilson has contacted first sergeants to set up immunization schedules for each organization. Civilians will have the opportunity to receive their flu shots at a later date.

Native American History Month solutions



from Page 13



Youth sports legend more than a coach

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

His photo may not yet illustrate the dictionary phrase "big brother," but to hundreds of Brooks Youth Sports players who this legendary coach has positively influenced he is easily recognizable as having no peer.

To troubled youth or those who lack confidence Rey Lopez is like Boys Town founder Father Edward Flanagan, for he can be trusted to do or say the right thing.

"It's not championships that I care about. It's the kids participating. I encourage them to believe in themselves, both in their heart and in their mind," says the 43-year-old coach who admits having struggled for acceptance as a youth.

The youngest of 10 children, and a twin, Lopez grew up in Crystal City, Texas, where he had to motivate himself to succeed.

"I was the kid that everyone picked last," he recalls, referring to the childhood practice of "choosing sides" for sporting events. His family life was not much better. He suffered rejection from a father who never really took time to know or counsel him.

These things had a profound affect on Lopez, who as a youngster made a commitment to himself to rise above any obstacle in becoming not only a better person, but a role model.

"As a kid, I pushed myself to be better. It's what drives me," admits a man who follows the philosophy, "Kids come first."

He laid the foundation for his future coaching career as an always-striving athlete who eventually made a name for himself. Lopez followed a similar path to success that a once puny and sickly Theodore Roosevelt had done to overcame physical limitations while becoming a robust sportsman.

Lopez built himself up physically, worked hard to enhance his athletic skills and tested himself against op-



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Coach Rey Lopez gives the Brooks Eagles youth tackle football team advice before their homecoming game at the Eagle's Nest. For years, Lopez has served as head coach of the team.



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Rey Lopez

Youth tackle football head coach

ponents eager and willing "to knock his block off." He became Crystal City's

first Golden Gloves boxing champion. As a light welterweight, he never lost a bout in a seven-year career, going 57-0. As a black belt in Taekwondo, he never lost a match in ten years. In high school football and track, he was a force to be reckoned with.

"I helped my brother David coach a local boxing club," Lopez recalls about his early amateur coaching career. He and his brother helped develop Crystal City's boxing program that has since produced 40 Golden Gloves champions.

His influence on Brooks youth sports began in 1991 when he responded to a newspaper article recruiting players and coaches. He initially enrolled his too-heavy-for-Pop Warner football son Elijah on the Brooks Eagles gridiron team for 11-12 year-olds, while becoming the squad's offensive coordinator.

Since 1992 he has been the team's head coach, building a winning program in his inaugural year by leading the Eagles to a 10-0 record. He also has coached multiple Brooks youth football, baseball and basketball teams for various age groups, and also has served as basketball, football and baseball commissioner.

Lopez learned early that attitudes had to change if the Brooks youth sports program was to succeed in his goal of building future citizens rather than collecting championships.

Before he arrived, Lopez felt the was

a 'win at all costs' attitude in the program. He changed that in part by relying on constant encouragement and a caring teaching style to coax the best out of players.

Lopez uses every opportunity to teach the players valuable lessons about commitment, discipline and perseverance. This approach has reaped amazing rewards over time.

"During the 1994-95 football season for 12-13 year-olds, I had the best team with an 0-10 record. We didn't win any games, but what I accomplished was more important. I taught them how to play the game and made it fun," he said.

That losing team later produced a crop of future high school stars.

"Years later, eight of that team's defensive players and seven offensive players became starters in high school," he says, referring to schools such as Floresville, Brackenridge, Highlands, East Central and McCollum.

To Lopez, developing confidence and commitment along with talent is key to the success of any program. Keeping them interested is the first major hurdle, he says, for the national youth sports average for player dropouts after age 14 is 70 percent.

One of Lopez's most poignant successes involves a formerly gawky kid who couldn't keep his baggy pants from falling down, an embarrassing situation that ate at the boy's self-esteem. Lopez didn't give up on that kid, but admitted, "I didn't expect him to play again."

Years later, the boy had grown into a muscular athlete whose positive attitude and work ethic resulted in him becoming East Central's starting center.

"He came to me and apologized, saying, 'I was sorry when I played for you'. I told him, 'Son, you never gave up'."

It is these types of successes that Lopez lives for.

Lopez said he feels like a dad to the players.

"They call to invite me to their graduation or send letters telling me that they are serving in the military. That is my reward," said Lopez with a voice filled with the emotion of a man who truly cares.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

YA/PK wins base flag football crown

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

In a stunning upset of the defending league and base champ, the YA/PK intramural flag football squad won the base championship Oct. 21 with a convincing 16-8 victory over the 68th Information Operations Squadron.

Undefeated going into the base tournament, the 68th IOS lost its first gridiron game in two years to YA/PK on Oct. 16 in an 'if' game that set up the teams' rematch for the title.

"We got beat by a good team. I don't mind that so much," yelled 68th IOS wide receiver Dennis Davis who joined his teammates to congratulate YA/PK on their scrappy performance that earned the organization its first base flag football crown in years.

The YA/PK squad earned the respect of their rival throughout the contest, primarily based on an exceptional defense. The 68th IOS knew early they would have trouble scoring against YA/PK's defense when they were stopped by a terrific goal line stand during the opening minutes of the contest. A 50-

yard pass from quarterback Trent Switzer to Dennis Davis put the 68th IOS inside YA/PK's 15 yard line on their first possession of the game. YA/PK's defense, however, stopped the 68th IOS from scoring at the one yard line.

With less than a minute left to play in the first half, YA/PK broke a scoreless tie when quarterback Greg Sevening fired a touchdown pass to wide receiver Dave Mandel. The two-point conversion from Sevening to Mandel gave YA/PK an 8-0 lead at half-time.

The 68th IOS tied the game early in the second half on a Switzer TD pass to Davis, followed by a two-point conversion by wide receiver/lineman Paul Robinson.

YA/PK answered that tally by scoring what turned out to be the winning touchdown, set up by a 45-yard run by wide receiver and former Air Force Academy football star Ken Chandler. With first and goal at the five yard line, Sevening fired a TD pass to wide receiver Doug Ferrata, followed by a two-point conversion to Mandel. The 68th IOS mounted a furious comeback drive with 1:37 left on the clock,



The YA/PK flag football squad's goal line scoring antics were too much for the 68th Information Operations Squadron to overcome, as the underdog YA/PK team won the base intramural championship.

but it fell short thanks to YA/PK's stubborn defense.

"We went from good for nothing to winning it all," said player-coach Chris Saldana to his team moments after they had captured the title. Saldana said their upset win over the 68th a week earlier gave his team a lot of confidence. "Once we upset them last week, we made some adjustments," Saldana said, noting, "We're starting a new era here with the re-birth of a dynasty."



Despite setbacks, Brooks varsity hoop squad 'rebuilds'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

When star power forward and Air Force Materiel Command tourney all-star Rob Taylor suffered a non-basketball related injury last month, even his Brooks varsity coach didn't realize the magnitude of his loss to the team.

"It was huge," Hosea Talbert later admitted after he witnessed how much Taylor's teammates missed his dominating play, critically absent during the inaugural L.C. Artis Tipoff Classic. Without their top scorer and leading rebounder, Brooks was eliminated from their own tournament losing by wide margins to both Altus Air Force Base and the scrappy city league team called Armando.

"He is out indefinitely," said Talbert of Taylor. Taylor's value to the Brooks squad is not limited to game statistics, the veteran athlete has stepped up to challenges as a hardcourt leader.

"He has a way of elevating his game when the situation dictates," confesses Talbert. Taylor has consistently demonstrated a winning attitude and confidence in his abilities, especially during big game situations with his team behind. During the 2002 AFMC tourney, Taylor showcased his force of will and seemingly superhuman athletic skills to help catapult the Brooks team to their best post-season finish ever as runners-up. That performance also

earned Taylor yet another AFMC All-Tourney team honor.

With Taylor out nursing an injury, a new-look Brooks squad has to work toward re-building itself.

Making that challenge more difficult is the loss of veteran guards Robert Garcia and Colby Benjamin. Garcia, the lightning-swift point guard who worked brilliantly with Taylor on pick-and-rolls separated from the Air Force. Benjamin decided to not re-join the team, opting instead to pursue education.

The 2003-2004 Brooks varsity team features only a handful of returning veterans. This cast includes guard "Bad, Bad" Leroy Brown, power forwards Desmond Fahie and David King and reserve player George Clark, who also serves as assistant coach. Returning veteran Desmond "Slim" Bailey, a lanky small forward, will soon deploy overseas and is, as Talbert characterized, "lost for the season."

The team's season began last month with twin road losses at Altus AFB, Okla. The squad competes in the Southwest Military Basketball League's Eastern Division that includes rivals Lackland, Randolph and Dyess AFBs and Fort Sam Houston.

Unlike his first few years where some players resisted his coaching style, Talbert today enjoys the confidence of a team that wants to improve by building a winning program. Talbert recruited new players who he hopes will improve the team. They include Demetrius Stewart, with the 311th Human Systems Program Office; 6'4" forward/center Warren Benge, an Air Force Research Laboratory technician; and reserve player Ken Chandler, a former Air Force Academy varsity football player.

Lackland AFB wins first Brooks 'Tipoff' Classic

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Lackland Air Force Base varsity basketball team won the inaugural L.C. Artis Tipoff Classic at Brooks Oct. 24-26 with a dominating, undefeated performance in the double-elimination tournament.

The Warhawks defeated the city league team Diablos 102-60 in the title round for the championship. Lackland advanced to the championship game by winning all its previous contests. The Warhawks defeated the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station 91-80 in the opening round, and subsequently beat Randolph AFB 75-63 and the Diablos 105-89.

For the first time since the former Brooks AFB became a City-Base, civilian teams from San Antonio played here in a military hoop tournament. Host Brooks was eliminated early in the tourney with an opening round 82-61 loss to Altus AFB, followed by their final defeat at the hands of the other civilian tourney team, Armando 92-77.

The tournament provided rivals Lackland, Dyess and Randolph AFBs and Brooks an opportunity to compete in a venue that doesn't affect their regular season records. These teams compete in the Southwest Military



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Lt. Col. Craston Artis, Brooks Sports Advisory Council chairman, left, offers some hoop advice during the recent tournament named in his honor.

Basketball League's Eastern Division. A fifth rival, Fort Sam Houston, did not participate in the Brooks tournament.

"I think it's great we're able to support it," said Lt. Col. Craston Artis, Brooks Sports Advisory Council chairman. Artis said he was both honored that the Brooks fitness center staff named the tournament after him and relieved that the event's moniker didn't include "memorial." The former college point guard also said the integration of city league teams into a military basketball tournament further extends the concept of Brooks as a City-Base by providing opportunities to interested participants from both the military and civilian community.

Health and fitness notes

Commanders' Fitness Club

The Brooks Commanders' Fitness Club now meets at the Health and Fitness Center every Wednesday at 7 a.m. for a 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.