

# DISCOVER



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 28, No. 8 - Friday, April 16, 2004 -- Brooks City-Base, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

## Brooks partners form research alliance

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

The 311th Human Systems Wing, Air Force Research Laboratory and Brooks Development Foundation signed an important collaborative agreement April 12 that formed a research alliance committed to leveraging resources and assets that could have a significant impact on Air Force readiness and San Antonio economic development.

Called a Partnership Intermediary Agreement, the document creates a three-way partnership that will focus on collaborations mutually beneficial to the Air Force, academia and business community. Similar agreements the Air Force has forged in recent years include partnerships with the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and the Wright Brothers Institute, Inc.

"This is an important agreement. It's a vehicle for us to reach out and utilize our partnerships to enhance the Air Force mission," said Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander.

He explained that such an agreement allows Air Force assets at Brooks to continue concentrating on force protection issues while its partners work to advance complementary technologies in bio-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, center, Dr. Hank Ruck, director of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Human Effectiveness Division, left, and Brooks Development Foundation president Dick Grant, sign a "Partnership Intermediary Agreement" April 12 at Brooks.

science, aerospace medicine and human performance.

Dick Grant, Brooks Development Foundation president, said, "This agreement provides the Foundation a bridge between Brooks, academia and industry to leverage Air Force and Department of De-

fense assets. Part of what we hope to do is promote research within a research alliance."

Mr. Grant, who is also a Brooks Development Authority board member, said the mutual collaborative agreement is designed to facilitate the formation of new partnerships with business, government and academia as they collectively work toward creating new markets through technology transfer, commercialization and dual-use technologies. He said the partnership will enhance Air Force and DoD mission capabilities while also helping develop San Antonio-based high-tech science, engineering, medical and educational initiatives.

"This partnership will allow the pursuit of common interests that will leverage resources to make our organizations stronger. This is sure to be a partnership that will build the life sciences capability for all of San Antonio and will help develop new businesses at Brooks City-Base," said Dr. Hank Ruck, director of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Human Effectiveness Directorate.

Dr. Ruck said AFRL assets at Brooks are directly linked to the city's growing life sciences industry and the future development of university programs, including the South Texas Life Sciences Institute that is shared by the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Mr. Grant said the agreement allows the Brooks Development Foundation, which was incorporated as a non-profit organization in July 2003, to assist the city's Brooks Development Authority in the pro-

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## Fiesta activities to highlight Brooks ambassadors

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks Ambassadors take center stage for several key public events during San Antonio's 114th Annual Fiesta celebration that begins April 16.

Capt. Melissa Mouchette and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Fulcher will represent the Brooks community at an estimated 50 events during the 10-day-long Fiesta celebration.

The Brooks community is welcome to join our ambassadors in celebrating Fort Sam Houston's Fiesta series of events, Sunday, April 18. The public will be treated to several free events at the MacArthur Parade Field beginning at 4:30 p.m. with the Army's "Golden Knights" parachute team demonstration. From 8-9 p.m., a concert precedes the traditional 20-



Courtesy photo

311th Human Systems Wing Commander Col. Tom Travis and other local installation commanders participated in the Fiesta 2003 kickoff events in downtown San Antonio. This year's Fiesta celebration begins today.

minute-long fireworks display that is staged to synchronized music.

On Monday, April 19, the Brooks community can join our ambassadors in celebrating "The Air Force at the Alamo," from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Alamo Plaza. This event features a concert by an Air Force band, performances by the Air Force Honor Guard and Air Force Academy "Falcon" team, and a military working dog demonstration. At 4 p.m. that day, the

Brooks Ambassadors are scheduled to participate in the silent procession called "Pilgrimage to the Alamo," which begins at Municipal Auditorium and ends at the Alamo. That night, they will join 12 other military ambassadors as featured participants in the annual Texas Cavalier's River Parade that begins at 7:30 p.m. The parade's theme is "Luces Del Rio," or Lights of the River.

The Brooks ambassadors will rep-

resent the base at the Lackland Air Force Base Fiesta Military Parade at the base parade grounds from 9:30-10:15 a.m., Wednesday, April 21. The event is held on the anniversary of the "Battle of San Jacinto" that gained Texas independence from Mexico and sparked the first Fiesta celebration in 1891.

A Brooks Ambassador will also participate in Fiesta's oldest event, "The Battle of Flowers," Friday, April 23. The parade vanguard begins at 11:50 a.m., with the actual parade starting at 12:45 p.m. The parade's theme is "Kaleidoscope of Texas."

One of the Brooks ambassadors will participate in the annual "Fiesta Flambeau" parade, beginning at dusk Saturday, April 24. The parade theme is "Heroes Across America," dedicated to the late Robert Reed, 2002 Fiesta Commission president and husband of San Antonio District Attorney Susan Reed.

The Brooks Ambassadors conclude their Fiesta schedule Sunday, April 25, by placing a bouquet of flowers at the Vietnam Memorial at Municipal Plaza at 1 p.m. during the annual Veterans' Memorial Service.

Tickets for the parades and other events can be purchased through the Fiesta Commission.

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### Celebrate Earth Week

April 19-25



TREE CITY USA



**D I S C O V E R Y**

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Everything in this publication is edited, prepared and provided by the 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Office of Brooks City-Base. Material for the *Discovery* should be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted to 311HSW/PA, 2510 Kennedy Circle, Brooks City-Base, TX 78235-5115 by noon the Wednesday prior to the week of publication. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Articles may also be submitted by fax by calling 536-3235 or by e-mail.

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to: [Cerise.Shapiro@brooks.af.mil](mailto:Cerise.Shapiro@brooks.af.mil) or to: [Discovery@brooks.af.mil](mailto:Discovery@brooks.af.mil).

The *Discovery* is published every other week on Friday. Contact the editor at 536-5141 for more information.

*Discovery* advertising

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# Air Force Safety... the goal is zero mishaps!

Gen. John Jumper

*Air Force Chief of Staff*

Over the past 10 years, we have prevailed in combat in Kosovo, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. We have toppled dictators, provided opportunities for democracy to flourish, and destroyed terrorist networks. We have demonstrated time and time again that we are the greatest Air Force in the world.

I am very proud of our record in combat and in securing our nation's safety. But we aren't doing enough to keep our Airmen safe.

During those same 10 years, the Air Force has lost more than 1,000 Airmen in accidents that shouldn't have happened and could have been prevented.

People are our most important resource and our greatest investment. We have to protect them. It is tragic to lose a fellow Airman and every time we do we also lose a piece of our combat capability. We can do better.

I have rarely heard of an accident that couldn't have been prevented and I'm asking for your help in reducing our mishap rate by at least 50 percent over the next two years.

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld shares this goal, and he established the DoD Safety Oversight Council to review our safety practices DoD-wide.

But real change has to start with each of us individually. Commanders and supervisors are accountable for safety practices and performance and must take action to reduce mishap rates.

Leaders have to make sure risks are balanced against mission requirements and mitigate the risks or stop operations when those risks become too great. Most important, we all have to get rid of the idea that safety is a concern only when "on-duty."

Safety has to be part of every Airman's daily life — in combat, on the commute

to and from work, at home, and on vacation — anywhere you might be.

Our ultimate goal is "zero mishaps." Some people may think "zero" is simply too hard to be a realistic goal.

To my way of thinking, however, any goal other than zero implies that some mishaps are acceptable. But no mishap is. The moment we stop pressing forward we start falling back.

Over the past decade, despite some excellent safety programs, we haven't made much progress in making the Air Force safer. Instead, we've been moving in the wrong direction. Another program, procedure, or lecture won't help. Each of us paying attention will.

The right attitude about safety in peacetime is no different than how we feel about surviving in war. The difference is that any loss of people or equipment in peacetime means that they will never get to the war.

We know that the mission always comes first and our environment will always be "high-risk." Plus, the Air Force cannot become so risk averse that we jeopardize the mission. But we cannot fall into the trap of accepting accidents as a cost of doing business, and almost all accidents are preventable.

First, we have to turn around the trend in motor vehicle collisions. Off-duty private motor vehicle accidents have steadily risen since fiscal 1998 and remain the number one killer of our people.

We're taking action to raise motorcycle safety awareness and skill level, but success depends on our people embracing and then practicing safe riding habits. We also have to decrease the rate of aviation accidents — midair collisions, controlled flight into terrain, and engine failures consistently drive mishap rates. We'll do our part to ensure that you get the training and the technology, but you have to put it into practice. Seat belts don't work if you don't buckle them; helmets don't save lives if you don't wear them. Motor vehicle and aviation accidents drive the statistics, but accidents occur everywhere, like in the workplace and on the sports field.

I have established the Air Force Operational Safety Council, chaired by the Vice Chief of Staff, to oversee safety matters. The AFOSC will monitor safety performance, examine new or emerging technologies from both the operational and safety perspectives, and direct required changes in Air Force policy, programs, and investment. But all the oversight in the world won't help if our Airmen don't take each other's safety — their survival — seriously.

I need your help — let's get it right on safety.

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# Brooks competes for AFMC Gold Key Award

By Steve VanWert  
Discovery staff writer

Rain clouds rolled apart and the sun shone through for a few hours, illuminating Brooks and the 311th Human Systems Wing Services lodging facility. It was apropos, because the Air Force Materiel Command Gold Key Award Evaluation Team was here April 5-6, evaluating the base's lodging operations. Brooks and Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., are finalists for the command award in the "small operation" (less than 286 beds) category. Robins AFB, Ga., and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, are competing in the "large operation" category. Each winner will go on and compete in the Air Force-wide Innkeeper competition, which recognizes the best lodging operations in the Air Force.

This is the second consecutive year Brooks has been in the competition at command level.

The three-person evaluation team, which consisted of Keith Stowers, deputy director of services at AFMC; Charlotte Dodson, community support branch chief at AFMC; and Master Sgt. Bill Hunnewell, community lodging and food services superintendent at AFMC, evaluated Brooks on all aspects of the lodging operation, including financial condition, budget program, personnel training, customer services, condition of quarters, esprit de corps, base support of the program and more. They used a 500-plus-question checklist. It's the same one the base filled out prior to

the inspection. One of the evaluation areas was the checklist itself. Each base is competing for a maximum of 1,430 points, a higher figure than last year.

The team reviewed customer surveys to see how those who stayed at Brooks lodging felt about the experience. The made a random check of rooms, looked behind refrigerators and in closet corners. They found housekeeping to be superb.

"Pride of ownership is evident throughout the whole organization," said Sergeant Hunnewell.

"We were especially interested in how management reacts to concerns," said Ms. Dodson.

"Quality involves not only how clean the rooms are, but also how well the staff reacts to customers complaints, and how quickly they fix what needs fixing. The Brooks staff is genuinely concerned about their guests' comfort," she said.

The team also looked at what they called "best practices." The Brooks lodging facility has set up procedures for encouraging error-free scheduling, recognizing those clerks who improve, and periodic review of the front desk clerk efficiency. That's one best practice. Another is that all employees are trained in using a defibrillator machine, which is located behind the front desk.

"I believe this is one of only a handful of lodging staffs to fully train all their people on the defib," said Ms. Dodson.

Constant improvement of facilities is another best practice noted by the team. Brooks is preparing to completely redesign the front entryway and lodging office.

"For a small staff, they accomplish an incredible amount of work," said Ms. Dodson.

Financial planning is another important item. "The Brooks financial forecast is a benchmark for the entire command," said Mr. Stowers, "At

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**“**Quality involves not only how clean the rooms are, but also how well the staff reacts to customers complaints, and how quickly they fix what needs fixing. The Brooks staff is genuinely concerned about their guests' comfort.**”**

Charlotte Dodson  
AFMC Community Support Branch chief

one point, their forecast for the upcoming month was only off by \$200. That's phenomenal, considering the forecast was made six months earlier."

"Enthusiasm and customer service of the lodging staff is outstanding," he said.

"We always take these types of visits from our MAJCOM counterparts as a positive, because it keeps us on our toes," said Donna Harp, Brooks lodging manager.

"The evaluators often provide us with innovative ideas they have picked up elsewhere, and also pass on those things that are noteworthy at Brooks to our sister operations."

"The main point we stress to our staff is this is an evaluation, not an inspection," said Richard Robinette, Services chief. "The difference being that we have already been identified as one of the best in the command. The evaluators are just here to determine how good we really are. If selected as the AFMC Gold Key Award winner, we are looking forward to the next level of competition, and hopefully one day returning the Innkeeper Trophy to Brooks."

Brooks was the inaugural winner of the Air Force Innkeeper Trophy in 1981.

## Software helps track fitness

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force recently released a tool to help Airmen keep track of their fitness efforts.

The Air Force Fitness Management System is available through the Air Force Portal. The system provides a history of their fitness scores and allows unit fitness managers to enter new scores.

"The purpose of the (system) is to track fitness-assessment results and provide data to commanders," said Maj. Maureen Harback, the system's program coordinator. The system is for active-duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen.

The system keeps a history of each Airman's fitness scores. The data is not stored on paper in an Airman's record or even on a computer at the installation, but rather in an Air Force-wide database. This allows fitness scores to travel with Airmen automatically as they change stations. The universal availability of the data helps Airmen stay current on their fitness assessments the major said.

"If an Airman transfers to another base and is not current on their fitness assessment, they will show up as not current in the (system)," Major Harback said. "Unit fitness program managers and commanders will then need to take action on those members."

Many units are still doing monthly practice assessments so Airmen can get themselves into shape for an official assessment. The system does not record practice assessments, but it does include a calculator allowing Airmen to enter in numbers from their practice assessments to see how they would score, Major Harback said.

This fall, commanders will be able to generate reports to track an Airman's progress through education and intervention programs, Major Harback said.



## 'Hi-tech' High planned for Brooks

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks Development Foundation is leading an effort to establish what has been characterized as a "high tech" high school at Brooks, which could become a science and engineering career incubator potentially beneficial to the Air Force and San Antonio's emerging bio-technology industry.

The BDF's initiative was officially revealed April 12 during the Partnership Intermediary Agreement signing ceremony here by BDF president Dick Grant. Last month, Brooks Development Authority board members pitched the proposal to the Brooks community during an informational forum held at Hangar 9.

"The Foundation applied for a Charter High School with the Texas Education Agency. We'll know by Sept. 4 if it's approved," announced Mr. Grant, explaining that if TEA approves the application, the first classes would begin in August 2005.

The school's planned initial enrollment would be 400 students, he said.

Dr. Janet Black, Texas A&M University System Program Development coordinator for South Texas, said the impetus for such a venture is part of an educational reform movement led by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Mr. Gates, founder of Microsoft, is helping fund the creation of several science and technology high schools throughout the United States, said Dr. Black, who is a BDA board member.

"Bill Gates is supporting the development of a new form of high school around the country that is small in scope, but is related to the interests of the community in which they would be located. He wants to address a population of students who have the potential to go to college," Dr. Black said.

**“** *Bill Gates is supporting the development of a new form of high school around the country that is small in scope, but is related to the interests of the community in which they would be located. He wants to address a population of students who have the potential to go to college.*

**”**

Dr. Janet Black  
Texas A&M University Systems Program  
Development coordinator

These schools would be modeled after the one established in San Diego, Calif., Dr. Black noted, which features a curriculum that reflects a working world driven by technology. The San Diego school is also designed differently, with students working in cubicles and conference room settings that mimic a working environment. She said such a school at Brooks City-Base would be a perfect fit in this developing technology and business park. Dr. Black noted that the BDF felt a high tech high school here would flourish within a science and technology environment conducive to learning.

Funding for the school would come from several sources, she said, with the lion's share provided by the Gates Foundation. Other potential financial contributors include the Dell Foundation and La Raza.

Dr. Black said initial funding would be used for the high school program. Currently, there is no money for the construction of facilities. If such a school is approved for Brooks, it would be the first of its kind in Texas, Dr. Black said.

## Dickenson named Area VI council representative

By Steve VanWert  
Discovery staff writer

As director of the Brooks Retiree Activities Office, retired Chief Master Sgt. Fred Dickinson has provided advisory service to about 10,000 retirees, family members and survivors from San Antonio to the Texas Coast to Brownsville and on to Laredo. As of July 1, his area grows considerably.

Chief Dickinson has been selected as the Area VI representative on the Air Force Retiree Council. For the next four years, he will be represent approximately 80,000 to 100,000 people, and will supervise 10 RAOs located throughout the state.

As Area VI representative, Chief Dickinson will become part of a 15-member council that meets annually at Randolph Air Force Base.

The council is co-chaired by retired Lt. Col. Donald Peterson, former deputy chief of staff for personnel, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., and retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch.

Council members keep abreast of programs, policies, benefits and quality of life issues that affect the retiree community. Members visit each retiree activities office and satellite retiree office in their area at least once a year to monitor programs and make certain base support is adequate.

"I'll sit down and speak personally with each wing commander and vice commander to ensure proper support," said the Chief. "Top cover is vital."

An important duty of each council member is to obtain topics on retiree



Dickinson

issues to be used as suggested agenda items for the annual council meeting.

"I've received a large number of agenda items to be considered by the council this May," he said, "including Medicare Part B, TRICARE, long-term care, the Survivor's Benefit Plan offset, and others."

A final report is made, with recommendations, and sent to the Air Force Chief of Staff and other interested agencies for consideration and resolution where required.

Chief Dickinson was nominated as a volunteer for this position by Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander.

After a 32-year Air Force career and a 6-year civil service career, the chief volunteered and was appointed director of the RAO at Kelly AFB in November 1993. The Kelly and Brooks RAOs merged in July 2000 and Chief Dickinson became director of both. He also manages a satellite RAO in Harlingen, Texas.

In addition to his duties as Area VI representative, he will remain as the Brooks RAO director.



## Alliance

Continued from Page 1

motion of economic development initiatives.

Among those Mr. Grant cited were the National Human Performance Testing and Research Facility for Fatigue and Countermeasures Initiative and the joint Air Force, Army and Navy human performance research initiatives at the Brooks-based Tri-Service research facility. He said the new research alliance formed by the agreement will benefit other organizations, specifically the San Antonio Accelerator Initiative.

SATAI is working to integrate five San Antonio homeland security initiatives that are part of San Antonio

Mayor Ed Garza's Southwest Enterprise for Regional Preparedness. That organization is involved in forging new collaborations to help enhance the development of the city's new Emergency Operations Center planned for Brooks.

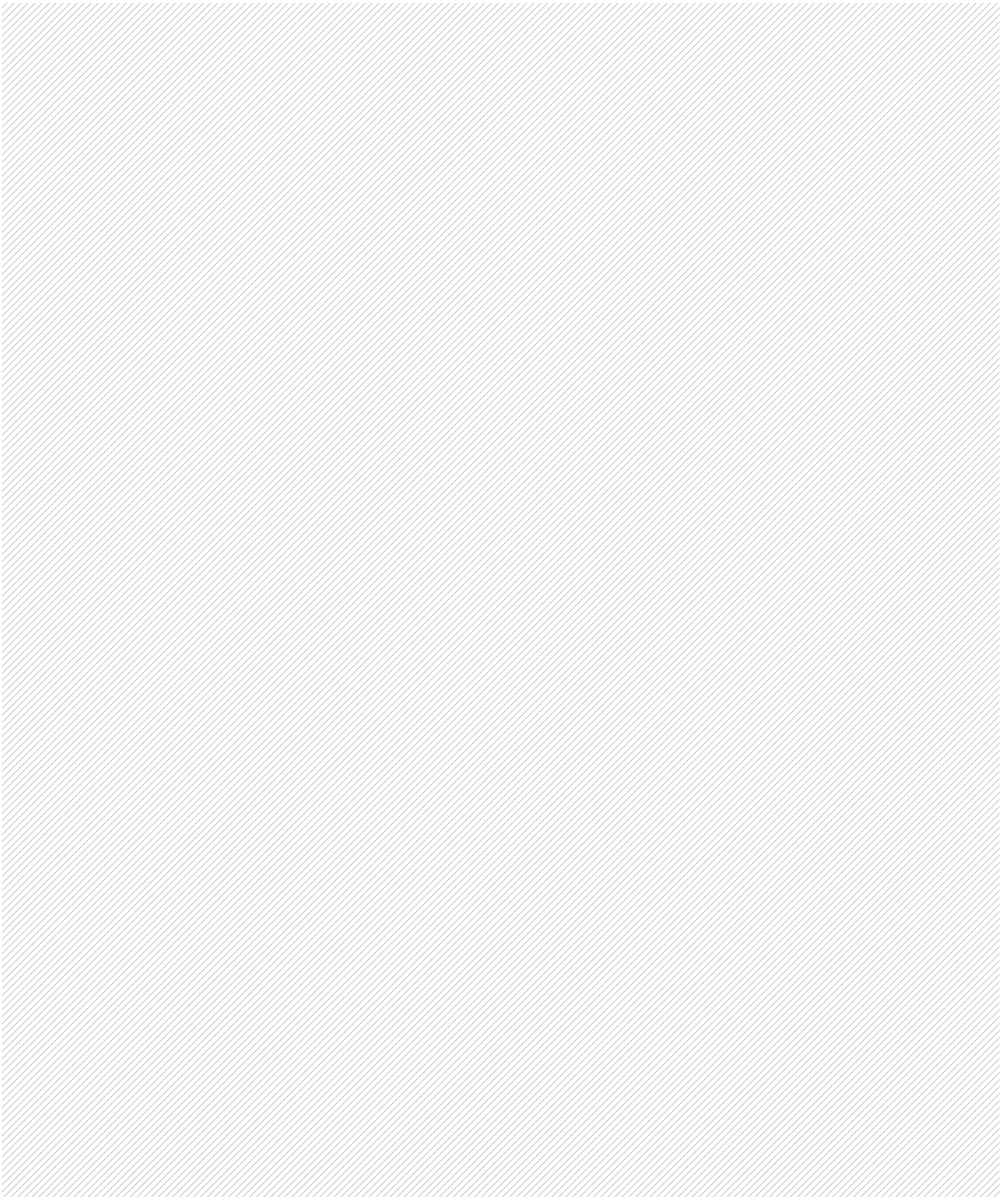
"The Partnership Intermediary Agreement with the Brooks Development Foundation is the link that will bring the San Antonio community together with the Air Force to pursue technologies that will help defend our nation, allow Brooks City-Base to flourish and create a future for young scientists and engineers coming out of the San Antonio university system," Dr. Ruck said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

### Building relationships

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, signs an agreement enabling the wing to perform modernization functions for Air Force Medical Service. Col. Peter Demitry, Assistant Surgeon General for Modernization, looks on.





# ACTION LINE

## 536-2222



Col. Tom Travis  
311th Human Systems  
Wing commander

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

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

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

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900
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

### Credit repair workshop

April 21, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537—  
Bad credit can make a difference in getting a loan or finding a job. Find out how to rebuild your credit.

### Sponsor training

May 4, 10 - 11 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 in the past year. Others are more than welcome to attend and learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

### Separation and retirement

May 12, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537—  
This is a mandatory class for active duty personnel who are retiring or separating

within 120 days. Topics include pre-separation, veteran's benefits, Survivors' Benefit Plans, TRICARE and financial planning for transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

### Smooth move

June 8, 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537—  
PCSing? Hear briefings from Traffic Management Office, legal, the clinic, finance, housing and the Family Support Center and ask your questions. The seminar is open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses.

### PCS overseas

June 8, 3 - 4:15 p.m., Bldg. 537—  
Any move can be stressful, but an overseas move has its own set of challenges. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by attending the Smooth Move seminar and staying after for this class.

### Transition assistance

June 22-24, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537—  
Making the transition from the military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve separating and retiring members and their spouses. Topics include job search preparation, resume writing, interviewing skills, appropriate dress, veteran's benefits and more. Members should attend at least 180 days prior to retirement or separation. Spouses are welcome to attend.

To register for class or for more information, call the Family Support Center at 536-2444 or toll free number 877-747-5938.



# First parachute jump an 'awesome' experience for AFCEE analyst

By Gil Dominguez  
AFCEE Public Affairs

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! No, that was a mild-mannered AFCEE management analyst jumping out of a perfectly good airplane in her first tandem skydive from about 14,000 feet in the air.

Although her family questioned her sanity, Lucy Mehlen, an employee in the Financial Management and Support Directorate, recently drove up to San Marcos, Texas, about fifty miles north of San Antonio, to make her maiden parachute jump.

"It was something I always wanted to do," she said, although she is afraid of heights.

Her husband and two daughters, all of whom opposed the idea, suddenly were too busy that weekend to travel with Mehlen to watch her soar through the bright blue Texas sky.

"No one wanted to see me," Mehlen said with a sarcastic laugh. "They had reasons - excuses - why they couldn't attend. They just didn't want to be there if something went wrong."

But the petite first-timer wasn't alone. A group of members from her church were there, too — not only to encourage her but to take the plunge themselves. It was actually they who had asked her to join them on their San Marcos adventure.

After Mehlen agreed to take part, however, she started to waver as fear and what she called the 'what-ifs' set in. "What if I pass out? What if the chute doesn't open?" she worried.

Despite this temporary bout with doubt, however, she said that "backing out was never an option."

She was reassured, also, by the fact that Skydive San Marcos, the school that runs the program, has an excellent safety record — she checked, just in case. In fact, no one has ever been hurt in a Skydive San Marcos jump.

Also, a certified instructor would be with her all the time. In a tandem jump the student is attached



*Courtesy photo*

AFCEE management analyst Lucy Mehlen and her instructor rolled out of the DC-3 on her first parachute jump, which included a one-minute freefall followed by a five-minute parachute ride to the ground.

to the front of the instructor by a special harness, and they dive together. The instructor keeps up a conversation with the student throughout the jump.

When Mehlen got to San Marcos she picked out her jump suit and then had to sign documents releasing the skydiving school from all liability. Every page she signed had a statement in bold letters reminding her that skydiving is a dangerous sport that can cause serious injury. Still, she was determined to go.

Training for the jump is minimal, consisting of only brief instruction on how students should maneuver their arms and legs during the different phases of the dive.

Mehlen was with 15 other persons aboard the DC-3 when it made its ascent.

"We were sitting on the plane with the doors wide open, flying through the clouds," she said. "It was just an awesome experience. By this point I was getting excited."

So by the time it was Mehlen's turn to jump, her only thought when she got to the door was "let's just do it."

After listening to the sound of the noisy plane engine for several minutes, she said she was surprised by how serenely quiet it got all of a sudden as she and the instructor finally stepped out into the

empty air. The only sounds were the wind brushing briskly across her face and the voice of her instructor talking behind her ear.

"I couldn't see anything, and I started feeling all kinds of different emotions," Mehlen said about the one-minute freefall. "But it was never fear. I can't describe the mix of emotions I felt. It's something you have to experience for yourself."

Mehlen's jump was being photographed and taped, but she said that in all the excitement she forgot about the photographer and wondered who that man in front of her was and why he was reaching out for her. Actually, he was trying to grab her hand so he could pull nearer to her for some close-up shots and video. The photographer's still camera was attached to the top of his helmet.

When the instructor pulled the ripcord to begin the five-minute parachute ride, Mehlen said she forgot that first-timers are supposed to wrap their ankles around the instructor's legs so as to anchor their bodies when the chute opens and jerks the divers upward.

"Otherwise you go all over the place," she explained. "I didn't do what I was supposed to do, but at that point it didn't matter. I was having a great time up there."

The ride down went smoothly and too soon Mehlen found herself back on the ground where she was enthusiastically congratulated on her first jump by the school staff.

Mehlen said she enjoyed the dive so much she might do it again sometime. She also would like her family to experience the thrill of skydiving and has offered to give a dive to one of her daughters as a birthday present.

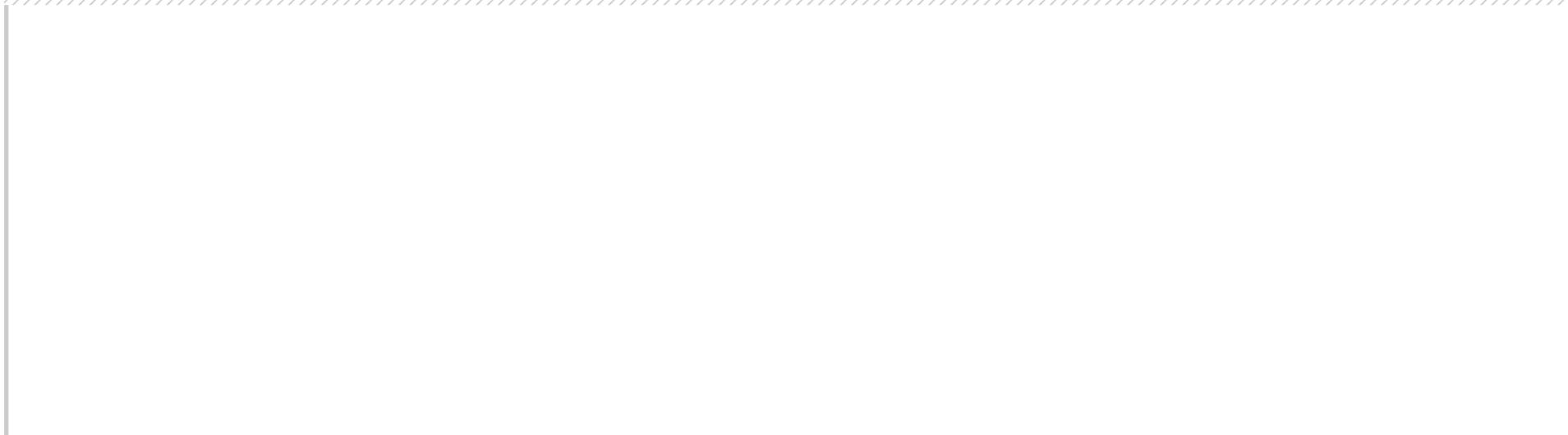
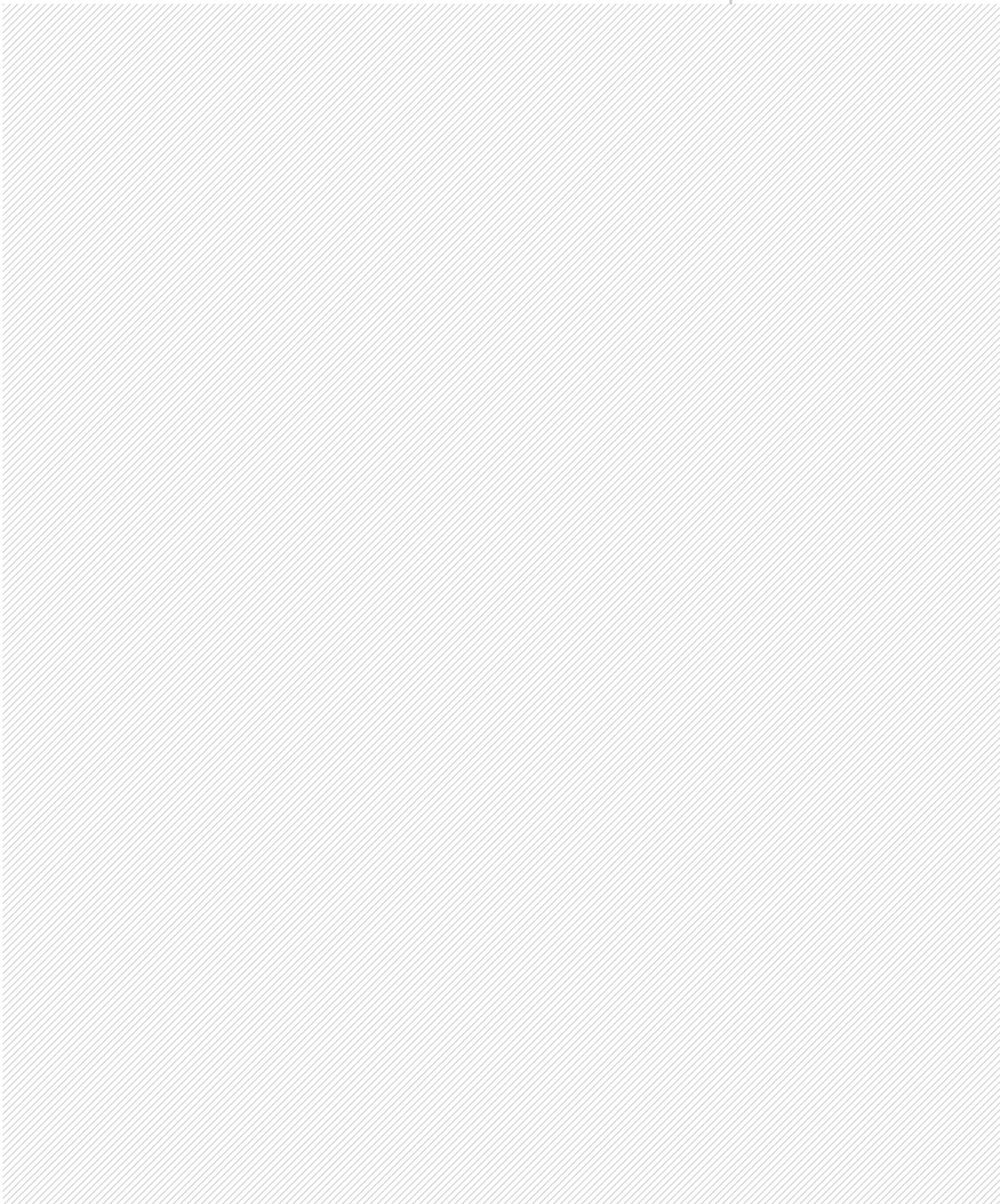
"When they see the video they say they want to do it, too, but not one of them has committed to doing it," said Mehlen, adding mischievously, "I guess you could say it's still up in the air."

Her family, meanwhile, still wonders why she went through with the jump. Mehlen said they think she's just going through a midlife crisis.

"If this is what a midlife crisis is, I'm having a good time," she said happily. "I didn't know that a midlife crisis was supposed to feel this good."

But her real reasons are more profound. Part of the answer is that she wanted to set an example for her children, to show them that they have to face their fears as a way to overcome them.

And then there is the spiritual component that motivated her: "Fear was never in God's plan for us," she said. "We were not created to be fearful of anything."





## NEWS briefs

### *Construction project*

San Antonio Water System will begin installation of a 12" water main next week. The project will mainly affect the West end of the base, around the headquarters building, and will involve trenching on Josue Sanchez Street, Kennedy Circle and Dave Erwin Drive. One lane of each affected street will remain open for traffic during construction. Construction is expected to last for about two months.

### *Notice of death*

The commander of Brooks City-Base regrets the death of Senior Airman Christopher Pedroley, 311 Communications Squadron. Any person or persons having claim for or against the estate of Senior Airman Christopher Pedroley should contact the Summary Court Officer, Lt. Jeff Wuethrich at 536-3091.

### *Sleep study volunteers*

Volunteers are needed at Brooks to participate in a research study on 12-hour biological rhythms. Volunteers must be between the ages of 18 and 62 years. The study requires two brief training sessions and one 12-hour testing day. Pending supervisory approval, civilian and military personnel may be able to log this as a duty day. Participants will not be paid but food is provided. Contact Amy McCrory at 536-3616 for additional information and specific details.

### *Air Force seeks former Lowry employees*

The Air Force Real Property Agency wants to interview people who were employed or stationed at the former Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colo.

The AFRPA is conducting the interviews to ensure all environmental conditions on the base have been investigated.

If you worked at Lowry and want to volunteer call 1-800-725-7617 or e-mail the AFRPA public affairs officer at: doug.karas@afropa.pentagon.af.mil.

### *Courts martials*

Two special courts-martial and one general court-martial were recently convened at Brooks. The trials were held at the legal office courtroom in Bldg. 628. In January, a captain was tried at a general court-martial for violating article 134 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, assault, and article 92, UCMJ, failure to obey a lawful order. The captain chose to be tried before a military judge alone. Later that month the judge found the captain was not guilty of assault and guilty of failure to obey a lawful order, in accordance with his plea of guilty to violating his commander's no contact orders on various occasions. The captain was sentenced to be dismissed from the Air Force.

Also in Jan., an airman first class was tried at a special court-martial

for violating Article 85, UCMJ, desertion. The airman chose to be tried before a military judge alone and pled guilty to desertion. The airman received a sentence of a bad conduct discharge, reduction to E-1, and 45 days confinement.

In December, a master sergeant was tried at a special court-martial for violating Article 92, UCMJ, failure to obey a lawful order. The sergeant chose to be tried before a military judge alone and pled guilty to violating his commander's order. The sergeant received a sentence of reduction to E-5 and 100 days confinement.

### *Drop-in dental screenings available*

The Pediatric Dental Department at Lackland Air Force Base is providing drop-in dental screenings for all eligible military medical beneficiaries. One morning each month pediatric dentists will see children 14 years of age or younger at the Sky Lark Community Center, Bldg. 6576. Screenings will be done from 8-11 a.m. in the Longhorn Room on the first floor. No appointment is necessary.

Children will receive a dental screening exam, an opinion about your child's dental condition and appropriate treatment recommendations or alternatives.

Parents should bring a copy of their child's treatment plan, or referral letter from their private dentist.

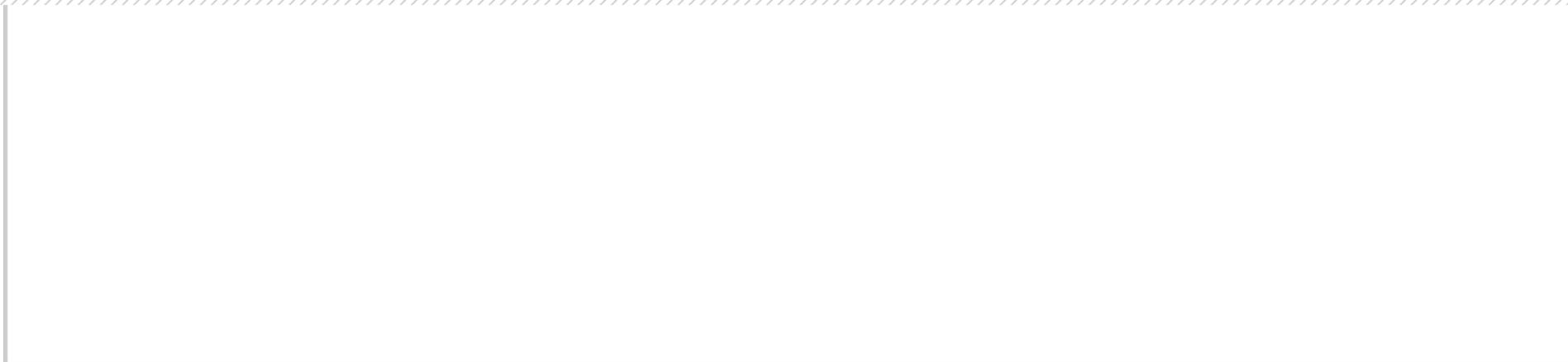
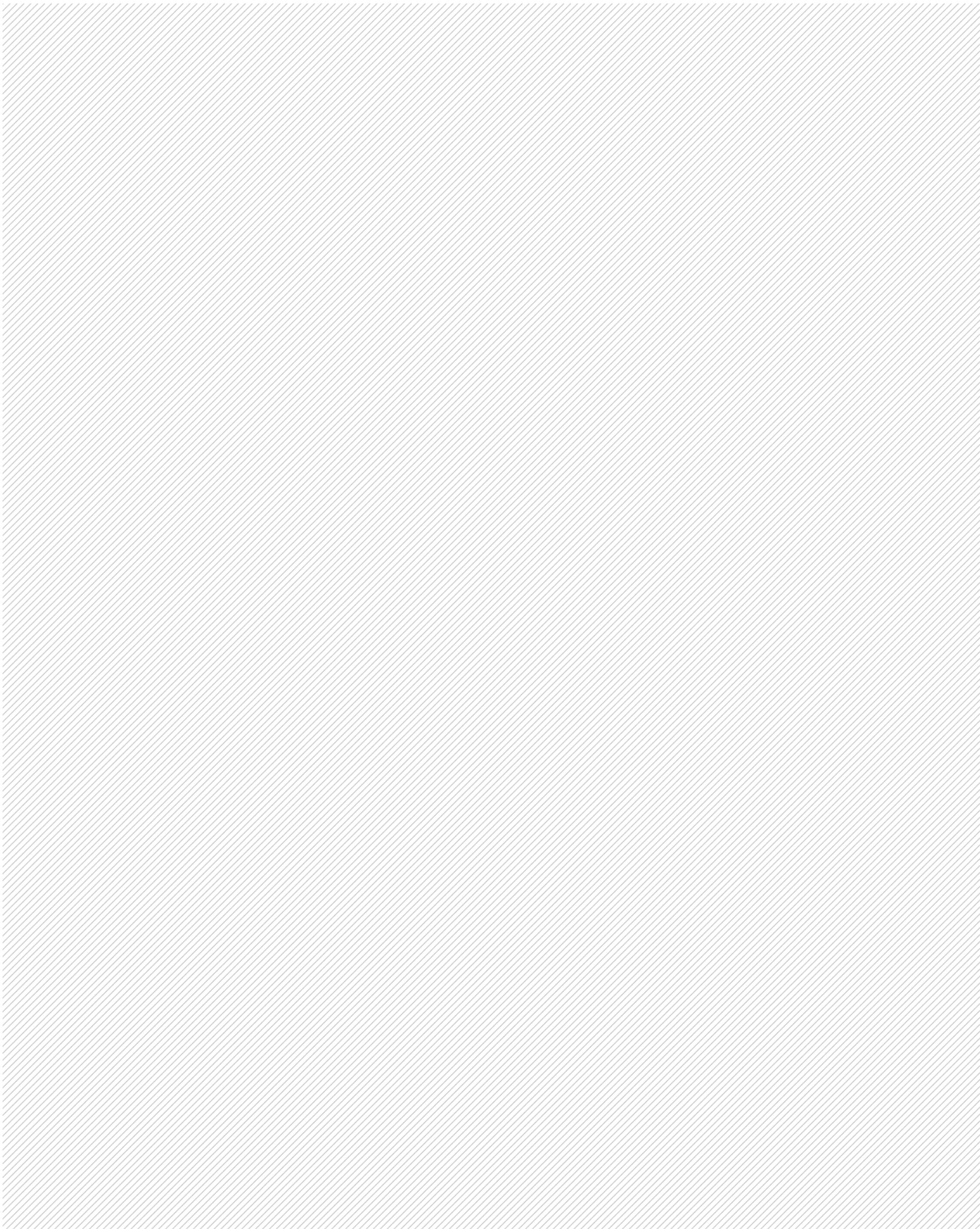
The next drop-in screening clinic is March 10. Contact Col. Jeff Mabry at 292-3327, or Staff Sgt. Shannon Hale at 292-4072, for more information.

### *Clinic hours*

The Brooks clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily to better accommodate patients. Call 536-1847 for an appointment or 536-2087 for more information.

### *Wings of Change cookbook*

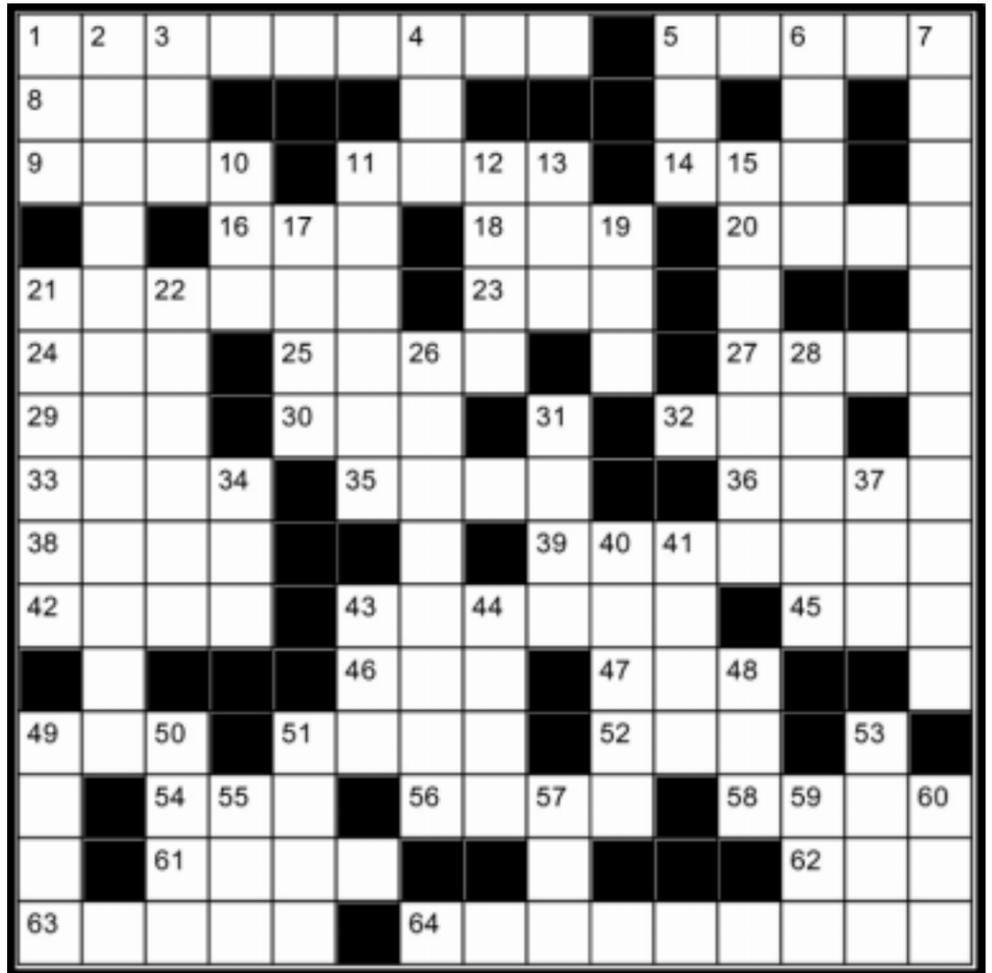
Despite an overwhelming response, copies of the new Wings of Change cookbook, published by the Brooks Heritage Foundation, are still available for purchase at the BHF Gift Shop. The new book features recipes from First Lady Laura Bush, Governor Rick Perry, Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, as well as many local restaurant chefs. It also contains a substantial collection of recipes from people at Brooks and in the San Antonio community. The book is a vinyl, three-ring binder, featuring the Sidney Brooks Memorial eagle on the cover. The cookbook is \$18 plus tax. BHF Gift Shop is located in the Aero-medical Evacuation Annex, adjacent to Hangar 9. Gift Shop hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 10 a.m. 4:30 p.m. Friday. For more information, call 531-9767 or e-mail bhf@satx.rr.com.





# Mother Earth Friendly

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman  
Alaskan Command Public Affairs



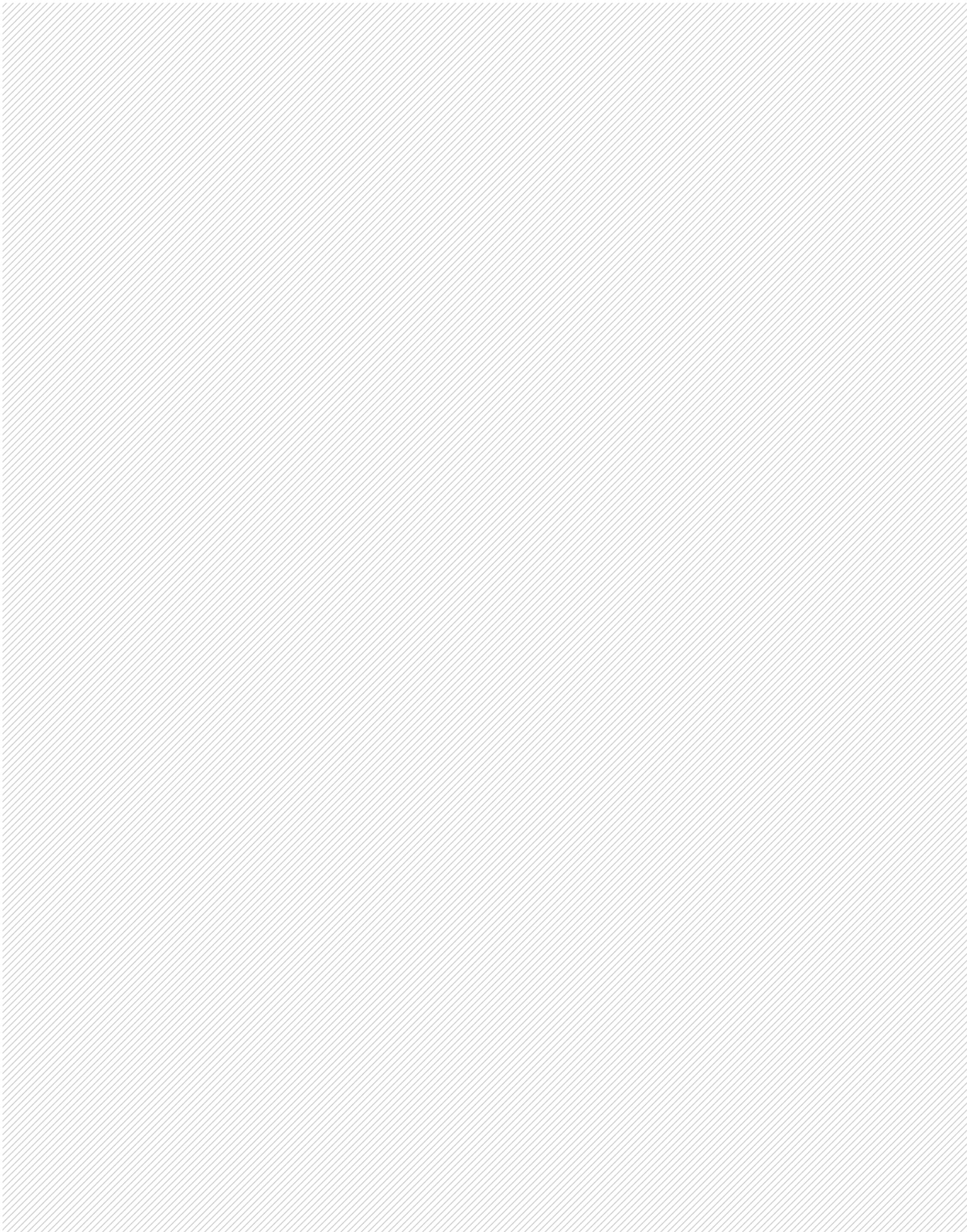
Solutions, Page 20

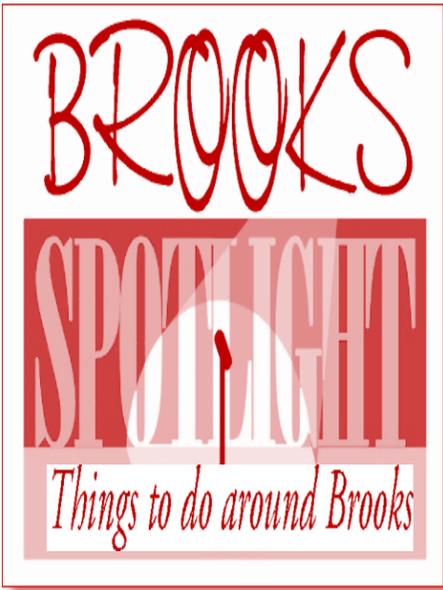
## ACROSS

1. Earth Day founder
5. Part two of the 2 DOWN triangle
8. Fish eggs
9. Stuck up person
11. Bring in
14. Write
16. Military ID
18. Swine
20. Columbian river
21. Part one of the 2 DOWN triangle
23. Airport abbreviation
24. Bruins great Bobby
25. Killer whale
27. Late night host
29. SE hydroelectric power company
30. Person who works on 55 DOWN
32. In favor of
33. Domesticated
35. Christmas log
36. Site home to 13th Air Force
38. More of the same, briefly
39. Part three of the 2 DOWN triangle
42. In law, take effect at a specified date
43. The world of living things; outdoors
45. X
46. Military edu. center person
47. German city
49. Finish
51. Part of a sentence
52. Arafat's org.
54. Bullfight cheer
56. Transmitted
58. Hereditary title
61. Coffee
62. 70-80s band \_\_\_\_ Speedwagon
63. Air pollution concern
64. Contamination of 7 DOWN

## DOWN

1. Lady title
2. Goal of Earth Day
3. Company head, briefly
4. Fd. agency concerned with 7 DOWN
5. Music genre
6. Arm bone
7. Natural world
10. Letterman school (abbrev.)
11. Source of waste/concern
12. TV show host Caroline
13. Indicating "no"
15. Study of relationship between organisms
17. Barge
19. Talk
21. Spoiled
22. Plays
26. Region between Black and Caspian seas
28. Spew
31. Inca country
34. Inventor Whitney
37. Pub drink
40. Burst
41. Cubicle
43. New movement
44. Value or pitch
48. One of the Stooges
49. Tickle me toy
50. Martial arts school
51. Actress Campbell
53. Cookie type
55. Computer connection
57. Zero
59. Former White House spokesman Fleischer
60. "Man of a thousand faces" Chaney





By Jan McMahon  
Brooks Services Marketing Office

### Base Library

**Bldg. 705, 536-2634**  
National Library Week, a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country, is April 18-24. It celebrates the contributions of libraries and librarians and promotes library use and support. In celebration of National Library Week, the base library staff presents the following free programs:

**April 18, 10:30 a.m. - Surfing the Web** — An introduction for beginners

on how to use the Web for research and e-mail. The class is limited to six people. Call 536-2634 to reserve a seat.

**April 20, 4 p.m.** — Story time for children age 10 and younger.

**April 2, 2 - 3 p.m.** — Open house with refreshments and a library tour.

New books arrive monthly in the library so stop by and check out the latest additions.

### Premiere Designs

**Bldg. 705, 536-2120**  
There's no need to go off base to have flyers, brochures or newsletters printed. Premiere Designs can do it here. Contact the staff for details and pricing information. Premiere Designs is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Youth Center

**Bldg. 470, 536-2515**  
Summer Day Camp registration continues through today for active duty military members. Registration for DoD civilians, NAF employees, contractors and Reservists on active duty at Brooks begins April 19. Applications will be accepted until all slots are filled and others will then go on a waiting list.

Feletia McLaurin recently became the new Youth Center director. Congratulations.

**Youth baseball registration**  
Baseball registrations are still being accepted for youth ages 5 through

17 years. Leagues include t-ball, coach pitch, mustang, bronco, pony and palomino. Boys and girls will learn the fundamentals of baseball playing regulation games. The cost is \$35 for Youth Center members and \$50 for non-members. Contact Larry Flores at 536-8130 for more details.

### Family Child Care

**Bldg. 1154, 536-2041**  
An important decision many parents face today is where to find reliable, convenient and affordable quality child care. The Brooks Family Child Care Program offers that to the Brooks community, including military, DoD civilians, NAF employees and contractors. Family child care offers in-home care for up to six children.

The home parents choose should meet their child's emotional and educational needs. Before parents enroll their children, it's important to arrange an interview with the provider to observe interaction, environment and dietary programs.

For information on other factors to consider, a list of interview questions, more information about Brooks providers or how to become a provider, contact Jeanie Smith, the Family Child Care coordinator.

### Child Development Center

**Bldg. 502, 536-2736**  
The annual Children's Fair is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. today at the Child Development Center. Preschool-age

children will present a singing program. Parents and children can visit with a clown, win a cake in the Cake Walk, play in the moonwalk, create bubbles, have their face painted or make projects together. Refreshments will be served.

Call the center for more information.

### Family Affair 2004 -

"Bringing Families and Community Together"

Mark June 11 on the calendar and bring the entire family to the annual base picnic. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the picnic grounds. There will be food, beverages and games for all ages.

Organizations who want to have a booth at the event should contact Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Smith at 536-2077 for information.

### Air Force Club

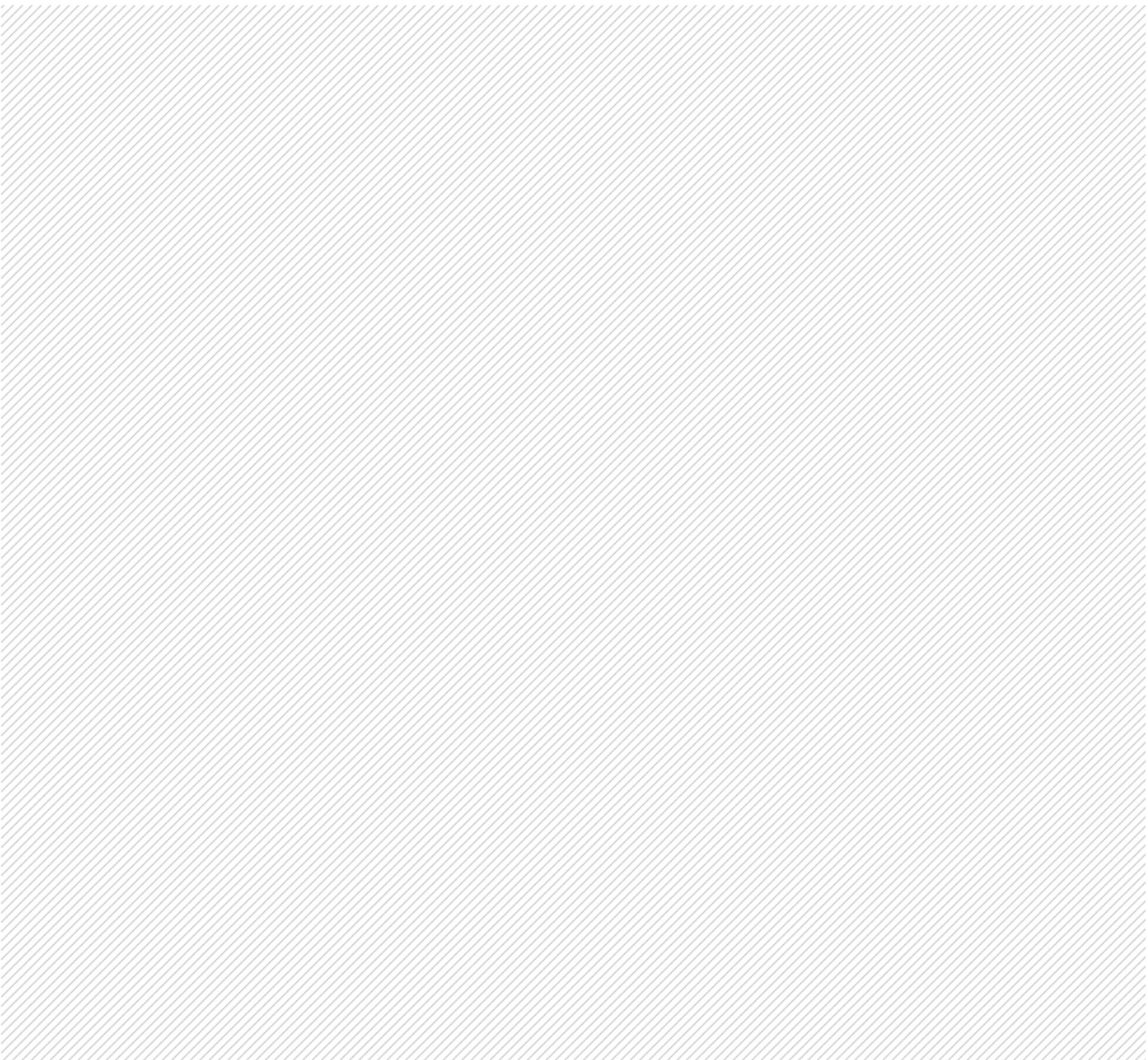
#### Membership Scholarship

For the eighth year, Air Force Club membership is helping members and their families combat the costs of higher education. Six individuals will be selected to receive a total of \$25,000 in scholarship money.

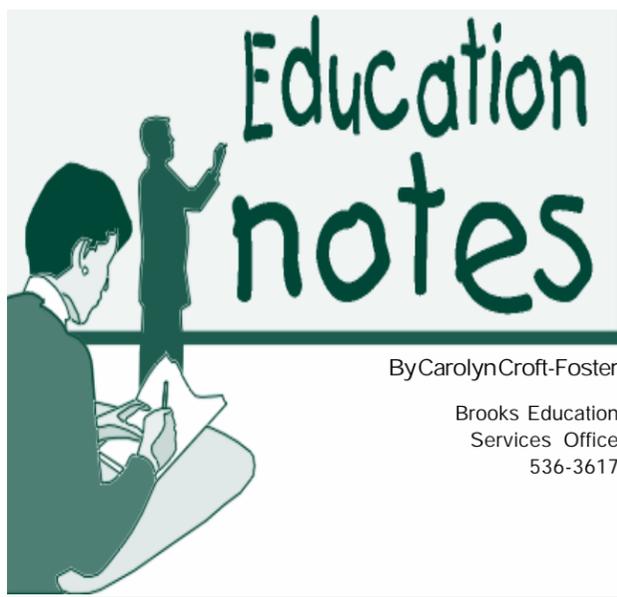
To enter, write and submit an essay of 500 words or less on this year's topic, "What freedom means to me."

Pick up a brochure with the rules and eligibility requirements from the Brooks Club, Bldg. 204, or Sidney's.

Information is also available on the Air Force Services Web site at: [www.p.afsv.af.mil/clubs](http://www.p.afsv.af.mil/clubs).



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By Carolyn Croft-Foster

Brooks Education  
Services Office  
536-3617

### *CLEP testing on base*

In April, CLEP will introduce, at DANTEs Test Centers only, a limited number of paper-based examinations developed from the same questions used in the CLEP electronic computer-based test examination. These exams include the following titles: General English, Social Sciences and History, Natural Sciences, Humanities, College Mathematics, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, History of the U.S. I, History of the U.S. II, Information Systems and Computer Applications, Introductory Psychology, Introductory Sociology and Principles of Management. Examinees must wait 180 days to retake on exams previously administered. Unfunded civil-

ians enrolled in on-base programs are authorized space-available testing at DANTEs Test Centers.

### *ACCD on-base classes*

Registration is underway for Alamo Community College District Maymester classes. The three-week course begins May 10. Classes meet every night from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. On-base classes include Speech and Art Appreciation. The representative visits Brooks Tuesdays.

### *Funding of recalled CLEP exams*

DANTEs now provides up-front funding of the CLEP electronic computer-based test examination fee at identified National Test Centers. DANTEs funds the \$50 test fee for eligible military and civilian examinees on campus. Examinees are responsible for the non-refundable registration fee charged by some test centers. Students may test only at "military friendly" or "open" schools, including Northwest Vista, St. Mary's University, San Antonio College, University of Texas at San Antonio, Our Lady of the Lake and the University of the Incarnate Word. Call 536-3617 for information.

### *Upper Iowa University*

Books are now included in the cost of tuition at Upper Iowa University for military members. UIU offers on-base Public Administration, Business, Social Science and Human Service bachelor's degrees and will include the cost of books in the tuition for on-base classes. Courses are also available online. Call 536-4033 for more information.

### *St. Mary's programs*

St. Mary's University offers a variety of programs in San Antonio: Master of Business Administration, MS in Computer Information Systems and Engineering Systems, and teacher certification classes. Community Counseling and International Relations online programs are also available. For program details, visit the Web site at: [www.stmarytx.edu](http://www.stmarytx.edu). St. Mary's Graduate School awards a tuition grant to active duty and retired military, DoD employees and their spouses, resulting in tuition of \$255 per semester hour. The St. Mary's representative is at Brooks Wednesdays. Call 536-3617 for details.

### *Texas State University*

Texas State University offers a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences. Students pursuing this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by business, industry and military. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos areas.

### *Air Force Virtual Education Center*

The Virtual Education Center is online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and Community College of the Air Force. CLEP practice tests are also available. Visit the Web site at: [www.afvec.langley.af.mil](http://www.afvec.langley.af.mil). or call 536-3617 for details.



Lee



**FULL NAME:**

*Tech. Sgt. Kenton D. Lee*

**DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:**

*Noncommissioned officer in charge,  
Wing administration*

**WHAT IS MY JOB?:**

*I deliver "customer focused" administrative support and executive services to the wing and command staff.*

**BIRTHDAY:**

*March 23, 1968*

**HOMETOWN:**

*Hillsdale, Mich.*

**FAMILY STATUS:**

*Married for almost 10 years. No children but my wife and I share the responsibilities and love of four basset hounds; Trudy, Tigger, Austin and Sarah*

**PET PEEVE:**

*People who eat, smoke, read and talk on the cell phone, while driving.*

**INSPIRATIONS:**

*CW-4 Richard Koehnen, my father-in-law; and retired senior Master Sgt. Audrey Magnuson and my brother*

**HOBBIES:**

*Running, swimming, writing, gardening, yoga, theater, antiques*

**BOOKS AT BEDSIDE:**

*"Life of Lincoln, Vol. 2," "Relax," and "What I Need to Know About Living I Learned From My Dogs"*

**I JOINED THE MILITARY BECAUSE:**

*my ambitions and sites for the future were set rather high. Little did I know I would become so successful at something I know very little about.*

**FIVE YEAR GOAL:**

*Obtain senior NCO status and complete my Bachelor of Science degree in human resource management*

**ULTIMATE GOAL:**

*Observe the launch of the space shuttle and run the Boston Marathon*

**IF I WON THE LOTTERY:**

*I'd provide the ability and means for my in-laws and my parents to become financially secure. Then my wife and I would open a basset hound rescue.*

**FAVORITE MUSIC:**

*Classical, jazz, country, rock*

**MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IS:**

*graduating from the U.S. Army Airborne Parachutist Course.*

**MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION IS:**

*my spirit.*

# 'Hounded' at home; well-rounded at work



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

By Steve VanWert  
Staff writer

**T**ech. Sgt. Kenton Lee is a well-rounded man. The 311th Human Systems Wing administration NCOIC is an aerospace physiology craftsman, an admin guy, parachutist, marathon runner, husband, basset hound lover, and self-described "team player." And all at the same time.

Sergeant Lee was born in Hillsdale, Michigan in 1968 and graduated from nearby Pittsford High School in 1986. Coming from a rural background, his ambitions were more expansive than a farming community could provide. Bagging groceries and waiting on tables didn't seem much of a step to the future, but enlisting in the Air Force seemed a good answer.

He entered Air Force basic training in February 1987, and soon had his first encounter with Brooks Air Force Base. He attended aerospace physiology technical school at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine and soon found himself at Fairchild AFB, Wash., where he stayed until 1996. Although nine years at one base seems like a long time, the sergeant didn't spend all his time there. Not by a long shot.

"One of the really great things about aerospace medicine is that I got to see other aspects of the military during my stay at Fairchild," he said. He did that by attending the Arctic Survival School at Eielson AFB, Alaska; the water survival school at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., and parachute school at Fort Benning, Ga. It was jumping that gave him the biggest thrill.

"My godfather is a Vietnam vet," Sergeant Lee said, "and was an Army Ranger. My father-in-law is a helicopter pilot with the U.S. Army National Guard. So it meant something extra to me to experience some of what they did. It taught me that we're all one big team working for the defense of our country." He made five jumps during the 3-week course, the highest from about 1,500 feet.

While at Fairchild, he found himself with his head in the clouds once again. He met his wife-to-be there.

"I was just leaving the dorm with a friend of mine, who had just told me that her new roommate was arriving soon," he said. Suddenly, the new roommate walked in. "I saw her and said to myself 'This is it, this is her.' And we've been together ever since."

In 1996, the sergeant's feet finally came back firmly on the ground. His wife was accepted to an Air Force commissioning program in the physician assistant career field; she attended officer training in San Antonio and was assigned to Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland AFB. An assignment for him to USAFSAM at Brooks followed. In November 2003, he was asked to become a member of the commander's staff — this winter and water survival and trained parachutist suddenly had to contend with one of the scariest scenarios he'd ever encountered: administration.

"It's a great opportunity for me," he said. "It's a new beginning. Working in admin has taught me that you should never be too comfortable in just what you know."

Two people in particular helped him become established in his new job. "Capt. James Culver, who's the chief of information systems at the wing, and Capt. Karey Dufour, who is the commander's executive officer, are both extremely professional officers whom I've relied upon for their wealth of knowledge. I've learned under their wings. They motivated me. Without them, my transition couldn't have been so successful."

During 2001, Sergeant Lee was one of four Brooks Ambassadors, representing Brooks and the Air Force to the public. As an ambassador, he visited elementary schools and veteran's hospitals, and rode in Fiesta parades.

"It was a great experience," he said. "I got to show our civilian public how great our Air Force is."

Though happy at work, he's "hounded" at home - basset hounded, that is. He and his wife own four of

the squat, baleful-eyed hounds: Trudy, Tigger, Austin and Sarah. They don't have children of their own yet, though that will "happen when it happens," he said. Their animals are their extended family and take up a lot of time.

When not running with the hounds, he's running. Sergeant Lee has competed in two marathons, finishing in a little more than 3 hours in each. He's also completed a couple Triathlons, both charity events, where he ran for 10 kilometers, swam a mile and bicycled for 15 miles.

"My ambition is to run in the Boston Marathon some day," he said. "And also to enter the Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson."

Two people he considers inspirations are retired Senior Master Sgt. Audrey Magnuson, who was superintendent, Flight Nursing, at USAFSAM, and his brother.

"Sergeant Magnuson taught me a lot about what it takes to be a good NCO," he said. "She was a mentor in leadership and human resources, and above all, she taught me to look out for our people. On one level, I already knew that was important, but she reinforced the idea in me. I've made that my first priority ever since."

His brother brings out a deep sense of pride in him. "He's my younger brother, and we didn't have much when we were growing up," he said. "When I left to go to the service, I felt I was going to be unable to help him when he needed it most, but he's grown into such a successful person. He's a great father to my two nephews. He allows me to remember our past, where we were and how far we've come."

"The last 17 years have been really good to me," he said. "I've learned never to take anything for granted and to take time to reflect on the past. I've learned that teaching is an important part of my life. I try to instill in our young Airmen that they will carry on the traditions. They're our next leaders, the future of our Air Force."



# PROFILES IN TIME

## A Centennial of Flight series

### Hangar 9 'savior' became the real 'Father of Flight Simulators'

(Editor's note: Since the Wright Brothers launched the age of powered flight, countless aviators have greatly contributed to humanity's progress. Discovery continues this multi-part series by honoring the legacy of a Brooks aviation giant whose ideas about simulated flight and instrumentation significantly contributed to pilot training, safety and survival.)

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

He cast a giant shadow over Brooks and Air Force aviation history, yet no street signs, statues or memorials exist anywhere in the vicinity of his flight path to immortality. Those kind of tributes were not nearly as important to Col. Carl Crane as the reward of knowing he had contributed to the safety and survival of fellow aviators.

He would earn countless accolades and awards for his work as an aviation pioneer, inventor and benefactor, yet the man who grew into a patriarch of the Texas skies likely would have wanted to be remembered primarily for his vision of helping create innovative, effective pilot training.

Born in San Antonio in 1900, the future aviation legend was just 10 years old when he glimpsed his future from the front porch of his East Commerce Street home.

"I lived just a few blocks from Fort Sam Houston where I witnessed the first flight of an Army airplane by the late General (Benjamin) Foulois," recalled Colonel Crane during an oral history interview a year before his death in 1981. Foulois' 1910 solo flight in a plane designed by the Wright Brothers inspired Colonel Crane to take wing.

Following graduation in 1924 from the University of Dayton in Ohio where he earned an Army commission through ROTC, Lieutenant Crane was subsequently assigned to Brooks Field for primary flight training. He earned his wings in 1925 at Kelly Field.

Shortly thereafter, a near-fatal flying experience piqued his inter-

*"So this was my introduction to flying in obscure visibility. There were no answers. Nobody knew what the answer was. We had no instruments to fly with through weather. And that was my introduction, you might say, to a life-long study on my part to find better ways to do it."*

||

Carl Crane  
Aviation legend

est in the concept of instrument flight. He said, "This interest in instrument flying began in a very serious manner just two months after I reported for duty at Selfridge Field (Detroit, Mich.) in October 1925. Each one of us had to make a flight on what was known as the Army's Model Airways, an experimental scheduled air transport system they were using at that time. We flew (on those routes) a two-place deHaviland DH-4 Liberty engine airplane. My mission on my flight was to take a Congressman's (17-year-old) son to Washington to visit his father."

Trouble came when he flew into a cloud bank at 8,000 feet. "Our airplanes had no instruments for blind flying, except a magnetic compass, which was useless to try to fly an airplane with. And in a short time, I was losing altitude. I had gotten into a spiral dive. Half-way down I looked around at my boy in the back and he was enjoying the flight to no end. He was shaking his hands and grinning and I was slowing dying because I knew we were going to crash."

Colonel Crane finally dipped below the clouds, missed hitting the top of the Statler Hotel roof and through the rain leveled off over the Detroit River, eventually landing shaken but safe in Toledo.

The eye-popping experience became Colonel Crane's aviation epiphany.

"So this was my introduction to flying in obscure visibility. There were no answers. Nobody knew what the answer was. We had no instruments to fly with through weather. And that was my introduction, you might say, to a life-long study on my part to find better ways to do it," he said.

In 1927, Colonel Crane was assigned to Brooks Field as an instructor. It was here where he experimented with ideas to counter the scourge of aviators: spatial disorientation. By 1929, he had come up with an answer to train pilots to rely on instruments by convincing Brooks leaders to allow him to install a hood over a cockpit to test blind flying techniques.

That same year, flight instrument pioneer William Ocker arrived at Brooks. He found in Colonel Crane a kindred spirit and

eventual collaborator to develop ideas he had about in-flight disorientation countermeasures. Their work to develop flight training devices and a training curriculum for blind flying led in 1932 to their co-authorship of the classic book "Blind Flight in Theory and Practice."

During his work with Ocker, Colonel Crane redesigned the antiquated Ruggles Orientator the Army had been using to demonstrate to pilots some disorienting physiological effects. Adapting bank, turn and course indicators to this rudimentary device, Colonel Crane converted it into the world's first flight simulator.

Unfortunately, Colonel Crane would never be known as "The Father of Flight Simulators," despite the fact that the U.S. Patent Office validated his invention with a patent in 1934.

Edward Link, forever linked to simulator development for his "Link Trainer," took out a license on Colonel Crane's patent and paid the inventor royalties. While the "Link Trainer" became the standard for World War II flight simulators, it was Colonel Crane's vision that led to the evolution of pilot training devices that helped aviators fly safely and accurately.

Despite his aversion for recognition, then Captain Crane and Capt. George Holloman received aviation's highest honor in 1937, the Mackay Trophy. They made aviation history near Wright Field, Ohio, for their successful development and demonstration of the world's first automated landing system. The fielding of the world's first military auto pilots followed.

Holder of many patents for his flight instrument and simulator inventions, Colonel Crane also became a tireless advocate for preserving American aviation history. He led a successful fundraising campaign to save and restore America's last remaining WWI-era wooden aircraft hangar at Brooks - the irreplaceable Hangar 9.



Courtesy photo

A 1929 Brooks Field student drew this caricature of the Lt. Col. Carl Crane.



## Travel cardholders have online-payment option

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON — Airmen with government travel cards can now make payments to their accounts online.

The "MyEasyPayment" system allows Airmen with government travel cards to pay off residual or unexpected charges not covered by split-disbursement payments, said Josephine Davis, the Air Force banking liaison officer.

"Split-disbursement of travel card payments is mandatory for military members and by default for civilians, but there are unavoidable situations when the split-disbursed amount does not cover your total charges," Ms. Davis said.

Airmen are required to use their government cards for airline tickets, hotels and rental cars for military travel. They may also use their cards to purchase meals and to get cash for incidental expenses.

When Airmen return from travel, they file a voucher so they can be reimbursed for their expenses. That payment, or disbursement, is split between the Airmen's personal-checking account and their travel-card account. Airmen are responsible for indicating how much money should be sent to the travel-card account. If there is a miscalculation of the amount owed on the travel card, there can be residual or unexpected charges still owed.

An example of an unexpected or re-

sidual charge is when an Airman makes a purchase overseas and the exchange rate changes before the merchant processes the charge, Ms. Davis said.

"There could be additional money owed there," she said. "Instead of the transaction costing \$50, it may now cost \$52.

Another example is when Airmen lose receipts and forget about charges on their cards.

Despite those types of errors, Ms. Davis said Airmen are still responsible for paying off their accounts in full.

"Just like with any other credit card, it is our responsibility to know what we owe," Ms. Davis said. "Sometimes you need to call the bank and find out what you need to pay. This system gives you the opportunity to make those payments."

Airmen with questions about being reimbursed for unexpected or residual charges on their accounts should contact their military travel pay office, Ms. Davis said. Travelers may need to file an amended travel voucher if they feel they are owed money.

The payment system is available at: [www.myeasypayment.com](http://www.myeasypayment.com). To use the system, cardholders need to know the amount they want to pay on the card, the card's account number and security code, and their checking account and bank routing numbers.

Ms. Davis said cardholders can check their account balance by calling the toll-free number on the back of the card.

## Two new medals recognize units

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche approved two new medals recognizing units for outstanding heroism in combat and for achievement or service in direct support of combat operations.

The Gallant Unit Citation and the Meritorious Unit Award can be awarded to Air Force active-duty, Reserve and Guard units for actions or service while directly supporting combat operations.

The Gallant Unit Citation is awarded to units for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States. The action must be while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

This ribbon is worn immediately before the Joint Meritorious Unit Award. Subsequent awards will be denoted by oak leaf clusters.

"The unit must have performed with marked distinction under difficult and hazardous conditions in accomplishing its mission so as to set it apart from

other units participating in the same conflict," said Tech. Sgt. Jeff Simmons, awards and decorations branch superintendent at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Silver Star which is awarded for gallantry and heroism of high degrees, including risk of life in action."

Meritorious Unit Awards are awarded to units for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding achievement or service directly supporting combat operations for at least 90 continuous days. The military operations must be against an armed enemy of the United States on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

"The degree of achievement required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Legion of Merit," Sergeant Simmons said. "Service in a combat zone is not required, but service must be directly related to the combat effort."

This ribbon is worn immediately before the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Subsequent awards will be denoted by oak leaf clusters.

Both medals are currently in the design phase, which may take several months before they are ready for wear, AFPC officials said.

Buckle up for safety!

Give the gift of life,  
donate blood.

Contact the nearest blood donation center, the American Red Cross or visit [www.bloodtissue.org](http://www.bloodtissue.org) for additional information.



# Air Force announces Thrift Savings Plan open season

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the open season April 15 to June 30.

"TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan which everyone should consider," said Senior Master Sgt. Felipe Ortiz, superintendent of the Air Force Personnel Center contact center here. "It's a great supplement to military- and civilian-retirement plans.

"It's also important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks," Sergeant Ortiz said. "People can choose safer government securities as well."

This open season applies only to regular contributions. It does not include catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons, said Janet Thomas, of AFPC's civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

The plan offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

"Eligible employees can take out loans and make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts," Ms. Thomas said. "And you can keep your account, even if you leave military or federal civilian service."

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck "so you never have to think about it," Sergeant Ortiz said. "That makes it easy to 'pay yourself first' while only investing what you deem appropriate."

The plan's five funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

"As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better," Ms. Thomas said.

Contribution elections/changes made between April 15 and June 12 take effect June 13, for both military and civilian people. Changes made on or after June 13 become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military.

Some of the specifics of the program for military members include:

— Airmen can contribute up to 9 percent of their base pay, as long as the annual total of tax-deferred investment does not exceed \$13,000 for 2004. Airmen also have the ability to invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.

— Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$41,000 in annual contributions.

— Airmen can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at: [www.dfas.mil/emss/](http://www.dfas.mil/emss/). They can also enroll by filling out a form TSP-U-1 at local military personnel flights, finance offices and family support centers.

— Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds) can be made by calling the automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the Web at: [www.tsp.gov/](http://www.tsp.gov/). For general questions, call the Air Force contact center at (800) 616-3775.

— Specific TSP information is available for Airmen at: [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift\\_savings\\_plan.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm).

For civilians, contribution limits are based on which retirement system an employee has. For the current open season, the following contribution rates apply:

— Federal Employees' Retirement System employees may contribute up to 14 percent of basic pay each pay period. Once eligible, the government provides matching funds of up to 4 percent as well as an automatic 1 percent each pay period, whether the employee contributes or not, making the government's contribution 5 percent.

— Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement

System may contribute up to 9 percent of basic pay, but they do not receive any agency contributions.

— The percentage civilian employees may contribute will be restricted by the Internal Revenue Service's annual limit of \$13,000 this year, Ms. Thomas said.

— Specific information is available for civilian employees on the TSP Web site at: [www.tsp.gov/](http://www.tsp.gov/) or the BEST home page at: [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm)

— All Air Force civilian employees can make their TSP contribution elections or changes through the BEST automated phone system at (800) 616-3775 or the Employee Benefits Information System Web application at: [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST\\_GRB/EBIS.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm). Hearing impaired employees can contact BEST by calling TDD (800) 382-0893 or commercial 565-2276 within San Antonio. Overseas employees enter the direct-access number for the country they are calling from and then enter 800-997-2378. Counselors are available weekdays 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CDT.

— Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds) are made by calling the automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site.

Thrift Savings Plan officials have announced several changes to the loan program effective July 1. They are:

— A \$50 fee will be deducted from the amount of each new loan.

— Participants will no longer be able to have two general-purpose loans at the same time; however, participants will still be able to have one general-purpose and one residential loan.

— When participants pay off one loan, they will not be eligible to apply for another loan for 60 days.

More information about TSP can be found in the booklet "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan" on the TSP home page under civilian or uniformed services TSP Forms and Publications.

## Drinking and driving don't mix!



## Mother Earth Friendly solutions



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### 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.

### Lifemaker's series

The Lifemaker's Luncheon Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Contact the Chapel staff for information on the subjects featured this month.

### Chapel schedule

#### Weekdays:

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

#### Wednesdays:

Noon — Lifemakers luncheon

6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

#### Thursdays:

7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

#### Sundays:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass

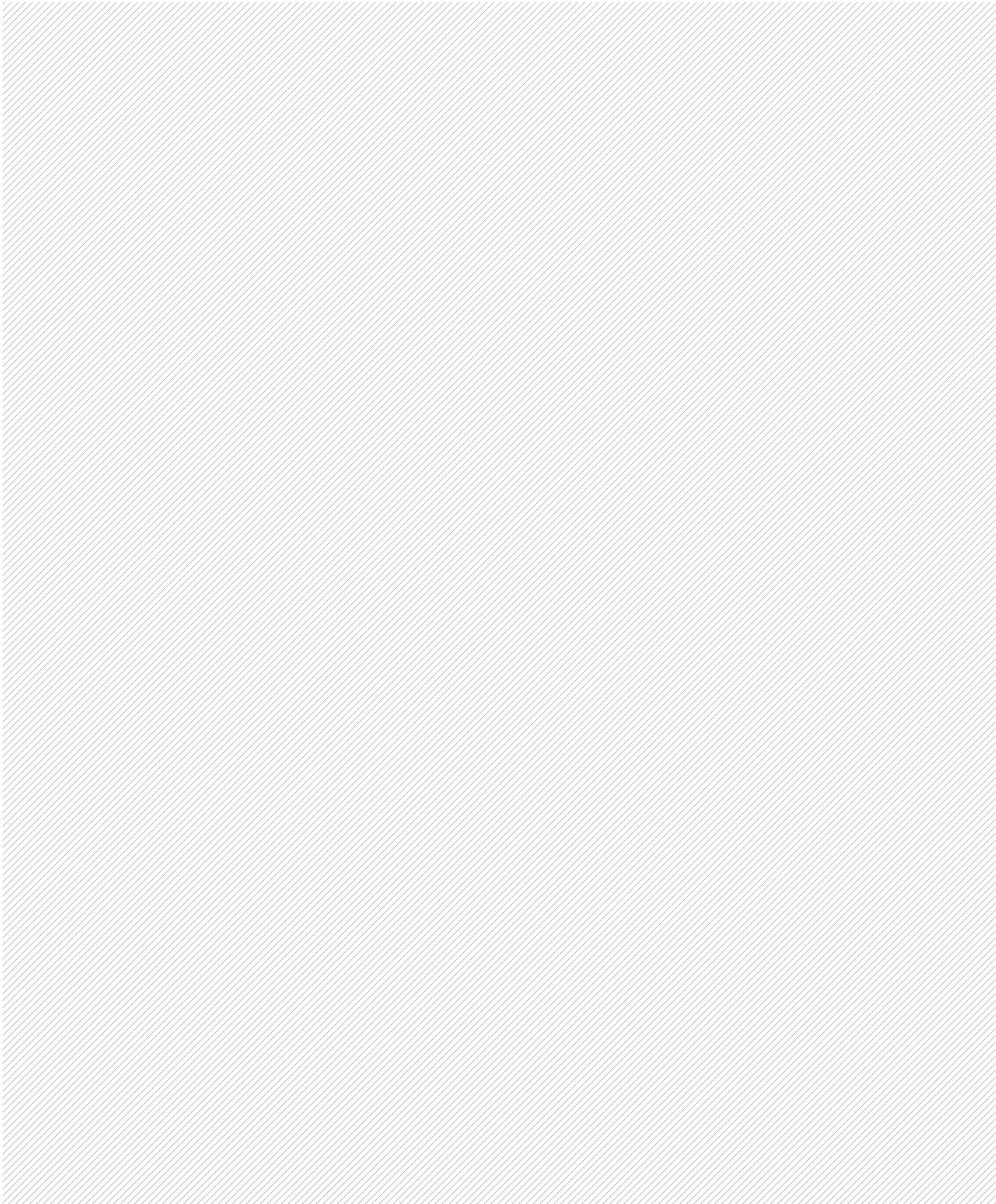
10:30 a.m. — Catholic religious education

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

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

6 p.m. — Protestant Praise and Worship service

Buckle up for Safety —  
it's Texas law





# Brooks sports bids farewell to biggest supporter

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Unlike the goofy high school principal in the movie "Grease," Lt. Col. Craston Artis knows the difference between being known as an avid sports supporter as opposed to being only a jock as "an athletic supporter."

For nearly two years until his Air Force retirement March 31, Colonel Artis infused a special kind of energy and enthusiasm into his volunteer role as Brooks Sports Advisory Council chairman. The players, coaches and fans of Brooks sports knew that in him they had a man passionately devoted to nurturing athletic competition, be it in early morning hardcourt contests with the over-40 crowd to the basketball tournament named in his honor.

"I wanted to generate more interest in the intramural program (here), specifically for the troops who live in the dorms. A big part of living on base is having a viable intramural program," the colonel said.

Through his advocacy, lunchtime hoop pickup games became a full-fledged, officiated noon league. Its popularity further enhanced his reputation as a leader who cared. Fitness center appreciation for his tireless efforts on behalf of Brooks athletes was tangibly expressed last fall when a new Brooks-sponsored inter-military base basketball tournament was named the "L.C. Artis Tipoff Classic." The initials "L.C.," fitness center specialists shared, stand for "Lieutenant Colonel."

"I tried to attend as many varsity, intramural and tournament games as I could," he said, explaining that he wanted to encourage fair play and sportsmanship.

During timeouts and other breaks during basketball games, fans usually could see Colonel Artis near the players' bench offering advice and encouragement. When he was not serving as the Brooks City-Base Office financial management liaison, this "hands on" sports council chairman was usually at a base sports venue. In fact, this 50-something athlete spent workday mornings, before the rooster crowed, shooting hoops and trying to block shots during regularly scheduled over-40 contests.

## Brooks youth wins top AF bowling honors

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks youth Ryan Bennett became the Air Force's top bowler, rolling a 425 high series during the worldwide 4th Annual Bowl By Mail Tournament. Eight-year-old Bennett also rolled a high game 160 for his Brooks team in the competition as the top scorer in his age category within Air Force Materiel Command.

Bennett was one of 20 Brooks youngsters who participated for the second consecutive year in the Air Force tournament that was established to encourage youth to participate in more lifetime sports.

"We have a high obesity rate among youth. This program gets them involved in more physical activity," said Feletia McLaurin, Brooks youth sports director.

The tournament was established as a worldwide event for youth eligible to

use Air Force base services.

Bennett is the youngest of four sons of 68th Information Operations Squadron's Tech. Sgt. Tom Bennett and his wife. The other Bennett children recently earned honors at the 21st Annual San Antonio City Championships in February. They contributed to their team, "Lord of the Balls," finishing first in the city tournament with the highest scratch score in their division.

Ms. McLaurin said the Brooks youth team that competed in the Bowl By Mail tournament participated in the program by rolling a series of games at the Ponderosa Bowl.

"There were several categories they competed in. The top three scores for high game or series in both the boys' and girls' categories were forwarded to AFMC," said Ms. McLaurin.

Besides Bennett, other team members who tossed high games in the 5-8 year-old boys category were Kaleb Abbt with a 91 and Vaughn Brown with an 89.

The top three Brooks girls in the 5-8 year-old category were Clarimar Maldonado, 114; Alle Wolfer, 98; and Lauren Borland, 93.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Lt. Col. Cranston Artis, Brooks Sports Advisory Council chairman, displays some of the hardware presented to him earlier this month for his contributions to Brooks sports.

"My goal was to support airmen. Intramurals to me is so important to the training of the whole person," he said.

The colonel's philosophy has been shared by many leaders, including a former cadet from another era named Douglas MacArthur who learned about life and how to lead men on the playing fields of West Point.

Sports to Colonel Artis was a welcomed diversion from laboring in the fields while growing up in rural North Carolina. "My parents were tenant farmers. They raised tobacco, hogs, corn and a little cotton. I worked in the tobacco fields," said the colonel, who was born June 10, 1950, in Freemont, N.C. He was the sixth of seven siblings. Money was in short supply. However, there was no shortage of interest among the Artis clan to play sports, so long as the crops and hogs were cared for.

"My dad played city league baseball. He became a (Class) 'A' level (minor league) pitcher. My Uncle Marvin Ray pitched Triple-A ball in the Washington Senators farm system," he remembers.

A naturally gifted athlete himself, the future Air Force officer lettered in high school baseball and basketball. Major League Baseball scouts were interested in him; however, he admits his lack of confidence led him to pursue a non-sports career. "I had the talent and skills, but I was timid," he said.

He attended North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, married his college sweetheart in 1972 and

enlisted in the Air Force on Valentine's Day 1973. He initially became a Morse Code operator in San Vito, Italy.

"I played tackle football for the base team at San Vito as well as varsity fast-pitch softball, two sports I had never played in high school," he said.

He put his Air Force sports career on hold while participating in the Bootstrap Commissioning Program. He was commissioned in 1978 after earning a bachelor's degree in business administration. He subsequently became a budget analyst at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where he resumed playing basketball on the base varsity team.

While his competitive playing days are behind him, Colonel Artis believes his contributions to Brooks sports have been a career highlight.

"The gym staff took me under their wing and treated me like royalty. I am certainly appreciative of their help and admire their professionalism," Colonel Artis said. A hint of emotion could be heard in his voice when he added, "All the guys, the players, made me feel like I was one of them. They respected my position and rank, but were able to joke with me, calling me 'Chump sir' on the court."

He said he'll never forget their kindness and camaraderie, a feeling that many who knew him can only fully appreciate.

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## Health & fitness

### Commanders' Fitness Club

The Brooks Commanders' Fitness Club 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 or call 536-2188 for details.

### Power Cycling

Power cycling is offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Fitness Center. Classes are free but limited seating is available for the first 12 participants to sign up for each class. Participants must bring bottled water, a towel a "can-do" attitude to begin the ride of your life. Contact the Fitness Center at 536-2188 or stop by and talk to a staff member for more information.

Fitness is the key to health



## 'March Madness' strikes defending base hoop champ

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

In what can only be described as a "Beware the Ides of March" intramural basketball episode, the 68th Information Operations Squadron's one-year reign as defending base champs ended. During a two-game "March Madness" version of a Roman tragedy, the 68th IOS lost March 30 to the combined Air Force Institute for Operational Health/Air Force Research Laboratory team.

The large 68th IOS fan following, that packed the fitness center gym in anticipation of yet another hoop crown, watched in stunned silence as their undefeated championship team was picked apart by a relentless AFIOH/AFRL squad, defeating them 45-35 in the title game to force a second championship showdown.

The 68th IOS beat AFIOH/AFRL in an earlier round of the double elimination tournament, forcing the second championship game.

The 68th IOS had control of its own destiny. It was seeded number one as league champs and earned a semi-finals bye after defeating earlier play-off opponents.

Nevertheless, that destiny, and the team's hope to preserve a hoop dynasty, began to slip away in the first title game. They had previously played well enough to beat the AFIOH/AFRL, a squad whose starting five featured three base varsity team starters. Sparked by the 'do-or-die' play of 'Bad, Bad' Leroy Brown, who had a game-high 14 points, the AFIOH/AFRL team rallied from the brink of elimination to hand the 68th IOS team its first hoop loss in 2004.

The eventual champs, however, saved their best play for last when it counted the most. They dominated the boards and forced many 68th IOS turnovers. Rob Taylor, AFIOH/AFRL's star power forward, contributed a game-high 15 points and guard Gary Wright chipped in three three-pointers as their squad won 43-38 and bragging rights as the best team on base.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The 68th Information Operations Squadron battled the combined AFIOH/AFRL team twice during the base intramural championships. The defending 68th IOS lost its base crown.

Drinking and driving don't mix!