

DISCOVER

MSG 'heroes' forum offers deployment insight on warriors' sacrifices

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Their tales are no different from those experienced by warriors from past generations, but for the dozen-plus 311th Mission Support Group members who recently returned from life-enhancing deployments their stories truly hit close to home.

Inspired by them, 311th MSG commander Col. John Bowley hosted a first-of-its-kind informal 'heroes' luncheon here March 25. The gathering gave MSG members a forum in which to share the unfiltered truth about American warfighters' sacrifices with the Brooks community.

"These wonderful people who just came back have important experiences to share with all of us," said Colonel Bowley. The impetus for the event was part tribute and part informational briefing. Panel participants shared their observations as deployed members of the Air Expeditionary Force. Common to all was their collective appreciation for the contributions and teamwork exhibited by service members from other branches of America's Armed Forces.

Deployed to northern Iraq to provide communications support, Capt. Ed Reder said about the mortar attacks, "We had 30 Alarm Reds while I was



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Col. John Bowley, 311th Mission Support Group commander, right, shakes the hands of warfighters who have recently returned from deployments during a 'heroes' forum March 25.

there. The security forces got into (many) firefights. They knew what they were doing. They were well-trained to protect us."

Capt. Jim Turner, assigned to a United Arab Emirates air base, said, "I learned about the real Air Force mission and what our aviators and maintainers have to do." He said their commitment and preparedness was top notch.

Master Sgt. Thomas Williams and Senior Airman Anthony Meadows, assigned to the same base as

Captain Turner, praised support personnel teamwork. "It helped us stay focused when reporting casualties," Sergeant Williams said. He also credited base services for helping keep troop morale high. "Even though we had chicken every day, we were still glad to have it," he said.

Tech. Sgt. Richard Stevens and Staff Sgt. Willie Rogers spent many 'intense' days at a Kuwaiti air base prior to the Iraq invasion. Both were comforted by the teamwork and camaraderie exhibited there. "We had one Alarm Red that scared me to death," Sergeant Rogers said. "It got so dead silent you could hear a cricket. It made me think that we were not as safe as we thought we were. I started to reflect on my life. I wondered if I would go back home alive. I realized that it (situation) was for real, that we were there to serve a mission."

Sergeant Stevens remembers being stirred from a fitful rest during his first night there by a sound that comforted him. "I was awakened by the sound of A-10s and F-16s taking off. It really made me feel safe and protected," he said.

For Airman First Class Melissa Harwell, a first-term enlistee whose first duty assignment to Brooks was interrupted by deployment to Qatar, the experience underscored her appreciation for warriors' sacrifices.

"I was there for a reason. I replaced some folks who had been there for seven to eight months," she said.

She also noted that her relief of others, who had provided theater communications security, allowed them a well-deserved trip back home.

"Shock and awe" sums up the deprivations experienced by 311th Security Forces Squadron's Se-

Heroes, Page 5

Air Force announces new SRB list

WASHINGTON — Bluesuiters will see significant changes in the newly released selective re-enlistment bonus list resulting from solid retention rates, Pentagon officials said.

Following the selective re-enlistment review board, the Air Force has published the latest SRB list which contains 62 Air Force specialties.

"The SRB program is a retention tool the Air Force uses as an incentive to help keep the right people in the right jobs to accomplish our mission," said Senior Master Sgt. Maria Cornelia, chief of retention and bonus programs at Air Force headquarters.

"During this period of improved retention, it is prudent to make adjustments," she said. "Airmen should remember that SRBs are not an entitlement and must be adjusted to meet Air Force needs."

All enlisted skills were reviewed, including reporting and special-duty identifiers, officials said. The criteria used for determining which enlisted skills will receive an SRB include current and pro-

jected manning levels, re-enlistment trends, career-field force structure changes and inputs from individual career-field managers. SRBs are authorized in 0.5 increments, or multiples, and in three re-enlistment zones for people with between 17 months and 14 years of service. Zone A, which applies to Airmen re-enlisting between 17 months and six years of service, incurred nine increases, 19 reductions and 86 removals. Zone B, which applies to Airmen re-enlisting between six and 10 years of service, had eight increases, 18 reductions and 80 removals. Zone C, which applies to Airmen re-enlisting between 10 and 14 years of service, saw one increase, four decreases and 32 removals. Additions and multiple increases were effective March 30. The decreases and deletions are effective April 30.

The new list is posted at: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

More information is available through the military personnel flight.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Standing tall

A group of 311th Mission Support Group personnel who recently returned from deployments were recognized by the Brooks community during an informal luncheon here last week. The warfighters shared their experiences and stories with guests and fellow service members. The luncheon served as an opportunity to recognize the contributions of those who have deployed and returned home, as well as a training opportunity for others who will deploy.

Inside this issue:

Local news	3
Briefs	11
Crossword	13
Chapel schedule	13
Sports	18



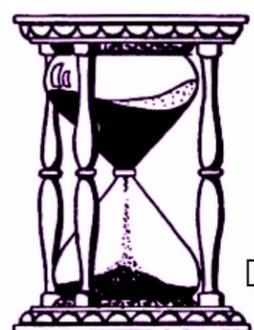
Vice President visits AFMC, praises efforts

Page 8



'Strongest man at Brooks' faces challenges

Page 18



Spring forward
April 4

Daylight Savings Time



D I S C O V E R Y

The *Discovery* is published by *Prime Time Inc.*, a private firm in no way connected with the United States Air Force, under exclusive contract with Brooks City-Base, Texas.

This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the *Discovery* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the United States Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or *Prime Time Corp.* of the products or services advertised.

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 or to: Discovery@brooks.af.mil.

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

Discovery advertising

Deadline for display advertising is noon the Friday preceding the publication date. To advertise in the *Discovery*, call 675-4500 or send advertising copy to *Prime Time Military Newspapers*, P.O. Box 27040, San Antonio, Texas 78227.

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 VanWert
Photography
Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder
Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.
Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart
Airman First Class Samantha Shieh

Discovery logo by Arlene Schirmer



Sylvia Black, Publisher
Pia Goodman, Prod. Mgr.
Pat McCain, Classified Mgr.
Diane Bohl, Sales Manager
Sherry Snoga, Account Exec.
Brandy Davis, Account Exec.
Gabriel Lira, Account Exec.
Henry Perez, Account Exec.
Cindy Stratouly, Account Exec.

Advertising
(210) 675-4500
FAX:
(210) 675-4577
E-mail:
sblack@txdirect.net



William A. Johnson
President
Robert L. Jones II
Chief Operating Officer
Gregg R. Rosenfield
Senior Vice President Sales and Marketing

Community Newspapers:

North San Antonio Times — *Northside Recorder*
Bulverde Community News — *Southside Reporter*
The Herald

Military Newspapers:

Fort Sam Houston News Leader
Lackland Talespinner — *Kelly USA Observer*
Medical Patriot — *Randolph Wingspread*
Brooks Discovery

Specialty Publications:

Daily Commercial Recorder — *Que Pasa!*
S.A. Kids

Graphics & Printing Services:
Prime Time Graphics
Christopher Press (Web printing)

The *Discovery* is online.
Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.

Airman with a capital "A"

By Gen. John Jumper
Air Force chief of staff

I am an Airman.

Note that's with a capital "A." It's just one letter at the beginning of the word, but it signifies a great deal. The reason it is capitalized is simple: Airmen in the United States Air Force are the heart and soul of our unique fighting force, and should be identified by a proper noun.

As young children, when we began to read, we learned a capital letter at the front of a word signified something special or important — like our own name, our hometown, and our country. And this was reinforced through our education and professional life. When we see a capital letter, our minds automatically emphasize that word, and we bestow an increased importance on that person, place, or thing. It is time to formally add our profession to that list of important and special nouns.

You may have seen or heard something about my guidance to capitalize the word "Airman." It is appropriate to do so, in recognition of our rich history, and to emphasize our unparalleled role in the defense of America.

Our Air Force is the finest air and space force in the world because of the generations of professional Airmen that have devoted their lives to dominating the skies. Capitalizing the word "Airman" recognizes their historic achievements and signifies our unique contributions to fighting and winning America's wars. It shows we've earned the respect a proper



Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

name imparts.

For 38 years of my life, I've been proud to wear the uniform of the United States Air Force. And, whether you've worn it as long as I have or just recently joined our team, I know we all feel the same sense of pride.

Regardless of the uniform we wear, the specialty we hold, the badge over our pocket, and whether we are active duty, guard, reserve, or civilian, first and foremost, we are Airmen.

We are one Air Force and we are Airmen.

AEF is the heart of Air Force organizational transformation

By Lt. Col. Timothy Fay
65th Operations Support Squadron commander

LAJES FIELD, Azores (AFPN) — AEF. These three letters represent the heart of the organizational transformation of our Air Force, yet somehow this ever-growing and evolving Air and Space Expeditionary Force construct is misunderstood by many of our Air Force's air and space power warriors.

With another AEF rotation approaching, this is a great time to review the fundamentals of the AEF concept and what it means to us as Air Force warriors. Perhaps the best summary of the AEF concept I have seen is the Air Force's Transformation Flight Plan.

It describes the AEF as a wealth of capabilities. This "bucket" is how the Air Force presents its forces to combatant commanders. Comparing it to a sister service, the Navy has long presented its forces in carrier battle groups. Every commander in every service understood that each carrier battle group could steam so far, so fast and put "X" many weapons on target over "Y" many days. It was a known quantity of capabilities.

We have done the same with the AEF. Each force package is composed of roughly the same capability of air and space power for combatant commanders to call on to help win our nation's wars.

Each AEF is a combination of combat air forces, mobility air forces, expeditionary combat support, and low density/high demand assets. Together, this synergistic basket of capabilities is wrapped into one AEF package.

Right now, our Air Force is divided into 10 AEFs. We pair two of these AEFs together, so in total we have five AEF rotations. This means that if things are steady in the world, each expeditionary Airman must be ready to deploy during his or her regular AEF vulnerability window for 90 days during every 15-month period.

This means all of your readiness ducks must be in a row. This ranges from medical to training readiness, to personal and family readiness issues. Each unit has a readiness officer or NCO who ensures we all remain prepared, but each one of us is ultimately responsible for keeping ourselves as ready as possible at all times.

Of course, when we have a major operation like Iraqi Freedom, the Air Force must do what is needed. The regular rotation schedule may be modified or extended to win the war.

Why do we do things this way? The Air Force chief of staff wants to make our lives better. If we know when our AEF turn is coming and how long it will last, then we can plan our personal and professional lives and prepare to fight.

It adds stability to our lives and predictability to our deployments. The AEF also helps solve our Air Force's problem of how to prepare to fight in a chaotic world.

We no longer know from whom or from where in the world the challenges to freedom will come, so we must be ready to go anywhere, anytime, and be ready to fight and win.

The AEF rotation gets and keeps us ready.

This, then, is our Air Force's Air and Space Expeditionary Force — the way we are now organized to fight and win.



Families with high school seniors may get to stay in place

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Some Air Force families with a child entering his or her senior year of high school may get to stay longer at their current duty stations thanks to a new policy.

"In today's environment of deployments and high operations tempo, it's important that we alleviate stress on families wherever we can," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray. "This initiative is designed to do that."

"This is a policy we think increases the quality of life for Air Force families," said Roger Blanchard, Air Force assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel. "The intent is to decrease turbulence and increase stability for military families."

The High School Seniors Assignment Deferment Program allows senior master sergeants and below, and officers up through the rank of lieutenant colonel, to apply for a one-year assignment deferment. Back-to-back deferments may be possible, and dual-military couples may also apply. Even with the changes, officials said the mission comes first and will be the overriding factor in granting deferments.

"Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis," said Col. Kathleen Grabowski, chief of assignment programs and procedures at the Air Force Personnel Center. "The goal is to approve as many requests as mission needs allow without being unfair, but the reality is that some requests won't be possible due to Air Force needs. We'll work with people as

// *In today's environment of deployments and high operations tempo, it's important that we alleviate stress on families wherever we can.* **//**

Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Murray
Air Force Chief Master Sergeant

we always have," she said.

To be eligible, the senior in high school must be a dependent of and living with the Airman requesting the deferment, and he or she must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System, she said.

Officers will need to apply before being put on assignment while enlisted people will not apply until after being matched to an assignment, said Master Sgt. Letty Inabinet, superintendent of assignment procedures. Applications are available from military personnel flights and commander support staffs.

Officials estimate that annually 20 to 25 percent of officers and senior noncommissioned officers have children entering their senior year of high school and perhaps one third of those could be eligible for assignment in a given year, officials said.

"It's a benefit to families if teenagers can attend the senior prom and graduate with their established friends," Mr. Blanchard said.

The policy makes official what was already being done informally whenever possible in the past, said Colonel Grabowski. In some cases assignments teams were already successfully working with Airmen to allow families stability when children were preparing to graduate, she said.

The Air Force Contact Center offers information about this and other personnel programs by calling toll free (800) 616-3775 or online at: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

Air Force Association kicks off membership drive

The Alamo Chapter of the Air Force Association's membership drive runs through April 30 at Brooks.

The AFA is a group of men and women who believe strongly in national defense, the importance of air power to that defense, and want to support their beliefs in an organized way.

The AFA's heritage is rooted in the legacy of Billy Mitchell who understood the importance of air power and the need for a strong national defense. General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold was also a strong advocate for an independent civilian organization to argue the case for military preparedness and the importance of aerospace power. The AFA was incorporated in 1946 and is still going strong. They are dedicated to the cause of the Air Force community.

"The opportunity to participate in AFA, like other professional military organizations, is a personal choice, but it's important to receive information about AFA. It is appropriate for every-

one to support our volunteers during this membership drive," said Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander.

There are many benefits of joining the AFA, including a subscription to the Air Force Magazine, eligibility for several low-cost group insurance programs, resume preparation and critique, AFA MasterCard, car rental discounts, and numerous opportunities to work with the Air Force family.

Anyone interested in joining this motivated group of people or who would like to learn more about what AFA has to offer should contact the keyworker for their organization.

Staff Sgt. Kathryn King, vice president for the Alamo Chapter AFA, can be reached at 536-3132. Other keyworkers to contact include Senior Airman David King at 536-3326, Senior Airman Shana Slater at 536-3060, Rosi Micklor at 536-3158 and Staff Sgt. Stephen Rivers at 536-2542.

ROTC instructor duty now includes NCOs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFPN) — Air Force ROTC officials have expanded instructor duty opportunities to include enlisted Airmen from diverse career fields. The secretary of the Air Force has approved a test program designed to incorporate enlisted perspectives into the curriculum.

The addition of enlisted instructional staff, known as instructor leaders, is an effort to highlight the dynamic and complementary relationship between officers and enlisted Airmen. Technical and master sergeants will mentor cadets and facilitate a

newly developed course, designed to provide insight into officer and enlisted professional relationships, enlisted professional development and military customs and courtesies.

Air Force officials will test the program for three years at 10 detachments, but expect to implement the program at each of the 145 detachments nationwide by 2007.

"NCOs in most Air Force specialty codes will be considered, but those with recent experience in an operational or support unit are highly desired to fill this role," Colonel Thompson said.

People interested in this opportunity have until April 10 to apply and should review specific qualifications on the Air Force Personnel Center's assignment management system Web site at: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.



Earth Day project to help save trees

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks Development Authority, in partnership with the 311th Human Systems Wing, plans to inaugurate a tree recovery project April 21 as part of Earth Day observances. Planners hope this project will lead to the development of a Brooks City-Base park.

The joint project, which will span several years, was initiated by the BDA and the City of San Antonio to relocate trees and other vegetation from an area on base where commercial development is anticipated, said Rhonda Hilla, Earth Day volunteer coordinator with the 311th Human Systems Wing Civil Engineers.

"Our goal is to relocate as many

trees as possible, as well as shrubs and bushes, located in the vicinity of the water tank near the main gate," Ms. Hilla said. She said the unearthed trees and vegetation will be replanted near the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence building in a greenbelt area that eventually will be developed into a park.

"Every year on Earth Day some improvements are planned for the park area," Ms. Hilla said, explaining that the relocation of more than 1,000 trees will take several years. Contract crews have been hired to dig up and replant trees, bushes and shrubs.

Also planned that day is an official tree planting ceremony at 10 a.m. in front of the old base exchange building, new home for the environmental company EarthTech, said Lani Cabico, a BDA Environmental Office spokeswoman.

During the tree planting ceremony, BDA officials will also reveal the winner of an Earth Day poster contest.

"Our goal is to relocate as many trees as possible, as well as shrubs and bushes, located in the vicinity of the water tank near the main gate."

Rhonda Hilla
Earth Day volunteer coordinator

"The poster contest theme this year is 'Save Our World — Recycle, Renew and Replenish.' Seventeen children, ages 5-11, from the Brooks Youth Center participated in the poster contest," Ms. Hill said.

In celebration of Earth Week, April 19-24, Brooks City-Base is sponsoring a "Save Our World" contest to improve landscaped areas around office buildings. Brooks workers are encouraged to participate in the contest to beautify office exteriors in Earth-friendly displays using trees provided by the

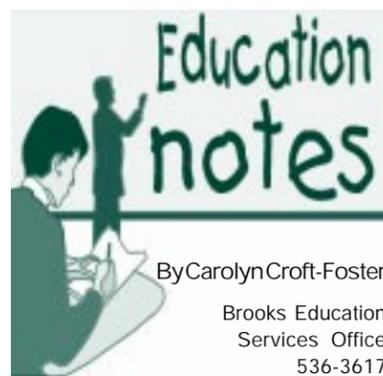


TREE CITY USA

city, Ms. Cabico explained. The winner will receive a commemorative plaque.

To register for the contest contact Keith Muhlestein, BDA Environmental Office, at 536-9801 or e-mail him at Keith.muhlestein@brookscity-base.com.

The contest and tree order deadline is April 7. Contest judging is scheduled for 1 p.m., April 23.



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 retest on exams previously administered. Unfunded civilians 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 on-line programs are also available. For program details, visit the Web site at: 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. Call 536-3618 to schedule an appointment.



Heroes

Continued from Page 1

nior Airman Colby Benjamin and Staff Sgt. Ermond Gates in Baghdad, Iraq. Referring to enemy mortar attacks at their radar site, Airman Benjamin said, "We got hit all the time with mortars. As they came in closer, I could hear my heart pounding. I could never get used to it." Both men praised Army security forces for their calm and professionalism under fire. "I thank God for the Army. I worked night shifts and watched them get into firefights every night," said Sergeant Gates.

"I didn't appreciate what the Army does until I got there," said Staff Sgt. Cortney Edwards about his tour at an Iraqi air base. He said the Army took

the brunt of casualties primarily caused by improvised explosive devices, which are makeshift bombs planted along roadsides. "A mortar killed two and wounded eight (of them) in a holding area," he said.

"You don't have time to get to your bunker. You just drop down," Staff Sgt. Steve Alderman said about mortar attacks. The Brooks Chapel worker served in Baghdad as a base chapel NCOIC.

"We came together as a family. There was a lot of camaraderie and fellowship," he said, explaining that they shared a special bond in the wake

of many casualties.

The panel participants collectively said they were surprised by the deep affection and appreciation they developed for members of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. They also said their support of America's worldwide war on terrorism was validated by their experiences.

Referring to his contacts with Iraqi citizens, Sergeant Edwards said, "Everybody over there doesn't hate America."

Staff Sgt. John Walls, who was assigned to the American Embassy in Bahrain, said, "I saw Bahraini citizens clapping while watching on TV Ameri-

can soldiers pulling down a statue of Saddam Hussein."

"We answered every letter we received from Pittsburgh children. They were having a hard time dealing with the war on TV," said Airman Harwell. "We thanked and assured them that we were okay."

Colonel Bowley gave participants commander's coins and Family Support Center plaques that read "Freedom - A state of mind and a way of life."

"We have war heroes in our midst. You were in mortal danger. You were protecting our way of life in a very dangerous environment. I'm very proud of these MSG warriors," Colonel Bowley said.



Suicide prevention program prompts action

Leaders get new tools to help people in distress

By Master Sgt. Michael Briggs

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Leaders throughout the Air Force are receiving a new tool this spring they can use to recognize and respond to people in distressing situations.

Every squadron commander and first sergeant will get a CD copy of the Leader's Guide to Managing Personnel in Distress, an interactive product that provides general information, summaries of policy and checklists on 35 topics relating to distress.

More than 100 people, including commanders, first sergeants and health experts, spent two years developing the comprehensive guide to help improve the overall fitness, readiness and performance of the force, according to Air Force medical officials.

"It's the only product of its kind," said Lt. Col. Rick Campise, chief of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program. He oversees the program from Air Force Medical Service headquarters at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C. "It identifies issues relevant to a particular life problem area, signs and behaviors for how the person is dealing with the problem, and resources for helping them manage the difficulty."

The idea for the commander's guide came from an Air Force Suicide Prevention Program working group that convened in 2002 to develop a guide for mental health clinicians. The group decided to build a second guide all Air Force leaders could use for any situation where people experience distress, Colonel Campise said.

"The truth is, everything is suicide prevention," he said of the guide's development beyond the field of mental health. "Anything you do to address quality of life issues is suicide prevention, regardless of whether that is romantic relations, finances, substance use, family violence, (or) spiritual well-being."

The 35 topics addressed in the guide include common distress-causing events, but list several not-so-common topics such as coping with car accidents, burglaries and unintentional injuries. The guide breaks the topics down into the categories of topics in distress, specific life challenges and resilience, interventions and community resources, deployment-related topics, and information for unit members.

Each topic has one half to three pages of information also condensed to a checklist to give leaders a quick reference source, Colonel Campise said.

"A condensed version was added for commanders who receive calls that in five minutes someone will be showing up with that issue, resulting in a need to quickly review what to look for and how to help," he said.

// *The performance of even our best members can be impacted at times by life's difficulties and unit leaders must be diligent in providing an environment of support.*

//

Lt. Gen. Richard Brown III
Acting Air Force vice chief of staff

While the guide is not intended to act as a replacement for mental health, legal or other professional advice, it provides readily accessible and practical guidance to leaders in helping them make decisions, Colonel Campise said.

"The performance of even our best members can be impacted at times by life's difficulties and unit leaders must be diligent in providing an environment of support," wrote Lt. Gen. Richard E. Brown III, acting vice chief of staff of the Air Force, wrote in a memo accompanying the CDs. "This tool ... provides leaders with specific actions and agencies they may want to enlist in support of their unit members."

People who are not squadron commanders or first sergeants can access the Leader's Guide to Managing Personnel in Distress on the Web at <https://www.afms.mil/afsp/products/default.htm>.

Colonel Campise said everyone can benefit from the guide and suggests people get familiar with it and refer to it whenever they have concerns about themselves or others.

"Read it before you need it," he said.



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

Sponsor training

April 6, 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537—

In accordance with Air Force Instruction, sponsor training is mandatory for all first-time sponsors and those who haven't sponsored within a year. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

Bundles for Babies, expectant parents session

April 8, 8 a.m.-noon, Bldg. 537—

Active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or who are expecting a child should plan to attending this Air Force Aid Society-sponsored class. Learn about budgeting, basic baby care, infant development, effective parenting, car seat regulations and more.

Smooth Move

April 13, 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537—
PCSing? Hear briefings from transportation,

legal, the medical clinic, finance, housing and the Family Support Center and get answers to your questions. The class is open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses.

PCS Overseas

April 12, 3 - 4:15 p.m. Bldg. 537—

Any move can be stressful but an overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by attending the Smooth Move Seminar and staying after for this class.

Car buying strategies

April 14, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Find out how to do research, obtain free information, budget, compare financing versus leasing, and negotiate the best deal when buying a car.

Credit repair workshop

April 21, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Are you one of the millions of consumers refused credit? If you are, you need to know why. A bad credit record can make a difference to get a loan, find a job and much more. Find out how to rebuild your credit.

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.



Vice president applauds military, civilian efforts in war on terror

By Tech Sgt. Carl Norman
AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) - America's vice president told nearly 1,500 people here March 26 that their work is essential to victories in the war on terror and America is grateful for their service.

With a giant American flag and more than 30 base military and civilian workers in the background, Vice President Dick Cheney spoke to Airmen, Air Force civilians, contractors and family members in a hangar during a 10 a.m. ceremony. He joked, following nearly a full minute of welcoming applause, that "I was never treated that well when I was the secretary of defense."

Getting to more serious topics, the vice president said when the nation counts on the men and women at Wright-Patterson and in the Air Force Materiel Command, both military and civilian, "you have always come through for us."

He said AFMC people play a critical role in defending the United States and, "I'm here to express the gratitude of your fellow citizens and your commander-in-chief, President George W. Bush," which drew the first of several rounds of applause.

The vice president cited AFMC-developed Global Hawk and Predator technologies as absolutely essential to locating and defeating the enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan. And when quick improvements were needed with the F-15 Strike Eagle and C-17, "you got the job done in record time,"

he said. "You are the reason we are winning the war on terror with the finest Air Force in the world."

He also applauded Wright-Patterson and Air Force doctors and specialists who are caring for the wounded, pilots and crews from the 445th Airlift Wing who carried out medical evacuation missions, C-141 crews who brought troops and equipment to the Afghanistan and Iraqi theaters and Wright-Patterson-supported B-1 bombers for helping bring down the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Following another long applause, the vice president said, "Today's military is fighting the first war of the 21st century, a war that began on Sept. 11, 2001 when enemies touched the United States and murdered thousands of our fellow citizens. Terrorists hate our country, they hate our freedom and they hate everything we stand for in the world.

"They seek even deadlier weapons and they will use them against us. In the face of this danger, we face only one out; we're taking the fight to the enemy. We're bracing ourselves; we're staying on offense, chasing al-Qaida around the world."

He said America's campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq have been central victories in the war on terror and the men and women of Wright-Patterson and AFMC helped liberate more than 50 million people from regimes that brutalized them.

"As a former secretary of defense, I've been honored to know and work with the men and women of the armed forces. I've seen first hand your devotion to duty, your charac-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Carl Norman

ter, your regard for one another and your commitment to this great country of ours," Vice President Cheney said. "In this time of crisis, we've asked a lot of you. I want you to know, on behalf of the president and all of your fellow Americans, this nation has confidence in your abilities, we celebrate your success and we're grateful for your service to the United States of America."

With those words said, the vice president took a short tour for shaking hands with those attending and departed, but not without leaving an impression on those listening. One of those was 1st Lt. Alex Gapas, an aeronautical engineer with the F-16 systems program office.

"I felt inspired by what our country is doing for other countries in the world," Lieutenant Gapas said.

Robert Orth, an Air Force civilian telephone installer for the 88th Com-

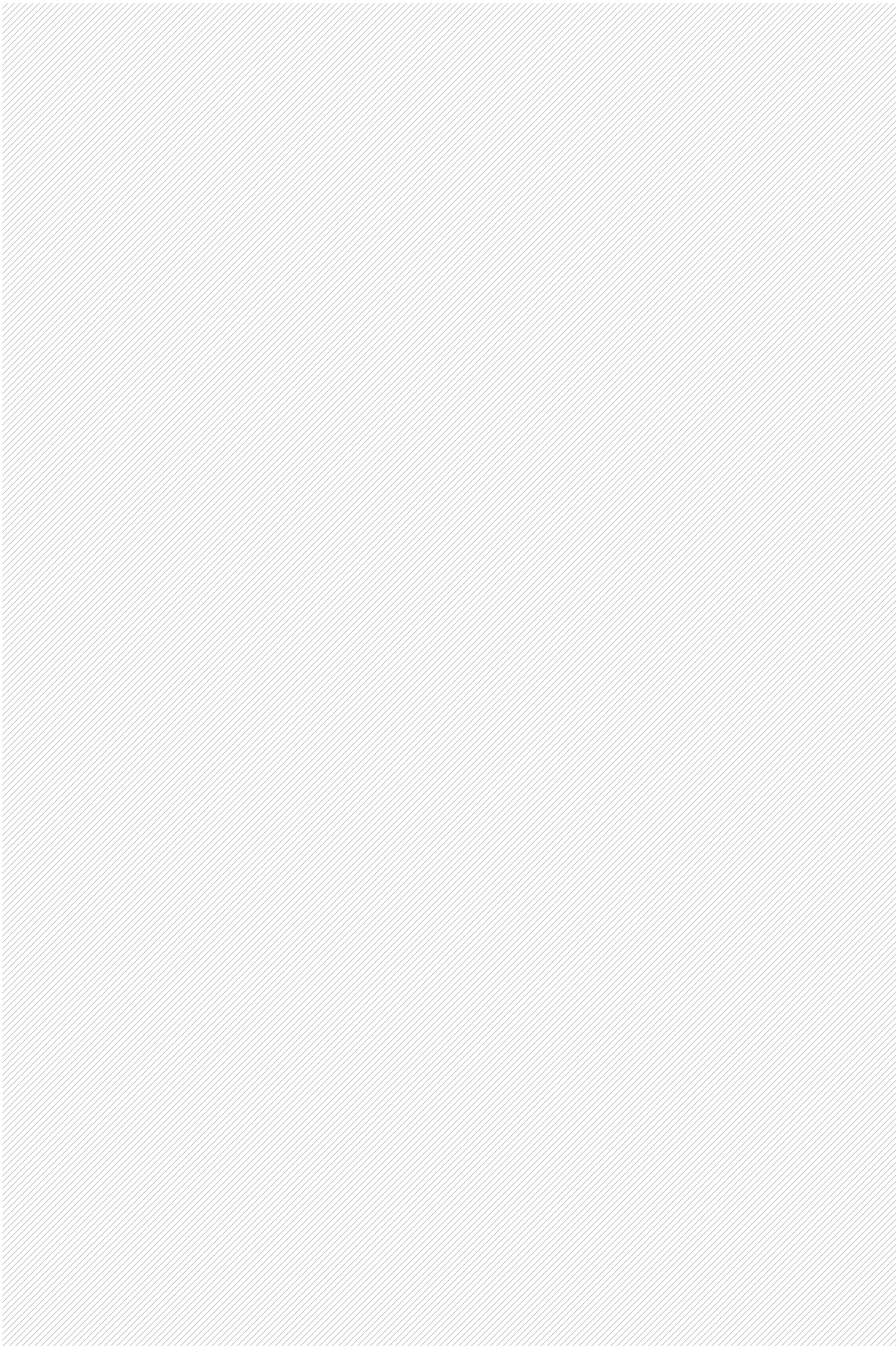
munications Squadron, said he was impressed with the vice president's actions.

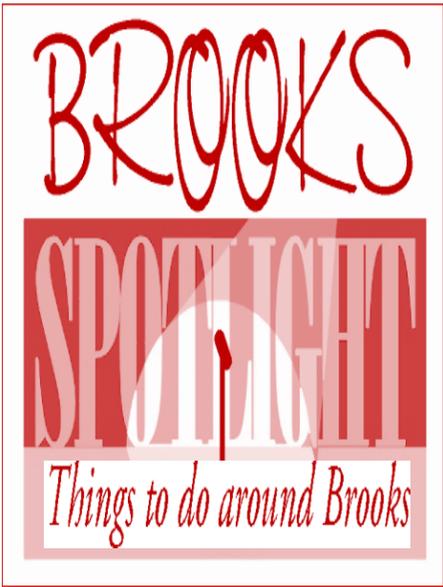
"I've supported everything he and the president have done since 9-11," Mr. Orth said. "It's inspiring to me what he said and just that he was here with us."

Chief Master Sgt. Dane Wetz from the Springfield, Ohio Air National Guard's 178th Fighter Wing best summed up the effects the vice president's words had.

"It was great hearing the appreciation for the work everyone does," he said. "It relays that the military needs to be supported regardless of the political party that's in power."

"There are a lot of people out there doing hard and dangerous work, but so much of it goes unappreciated. A few words from the right person can go a long way toward keeping morale up."





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

Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter bunny is on his way to Brooks! Bring the entire family to the area next to the Youth Center April 10. The hunt starts at 2 p.m. There will be specific areas for the following age groups: 1-3 years, 4-5 years, 6-8 years and 9-12 years. Children must bring their own baskets. Prizes will be awarded for "special" eggs. Photos with the Easter Bunny will be available following the hunt. Youth can also pick up sheets and enter the Easter Coloring Contest sponsored by the center. Stop by and ask a staff member for more details.

Summer Day Camp registration continues through April 16 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 April 16 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Child Development Center. Pre-school-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.

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.



NEWS briefs

Sleep study volunteers

The Air Force Research Laboratory's Fatigue Countermeasures Branch at Brooks needs volunteers 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 requirements.

Supplemental board

The senior noncommissioned officer supplemental board convenes May 10-14. The second board is scheduled for Aug. 23-27. Packages should be submitted to the Military Personnel Flight, Career Enhancement Element, no later than June 15 to allow adequate time for processing to meet the Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center deadline. The results of the first board are due to be released in mid-June, and the second results are tentatively scheduled for release in late Sept.

Call 536-6978 for details.

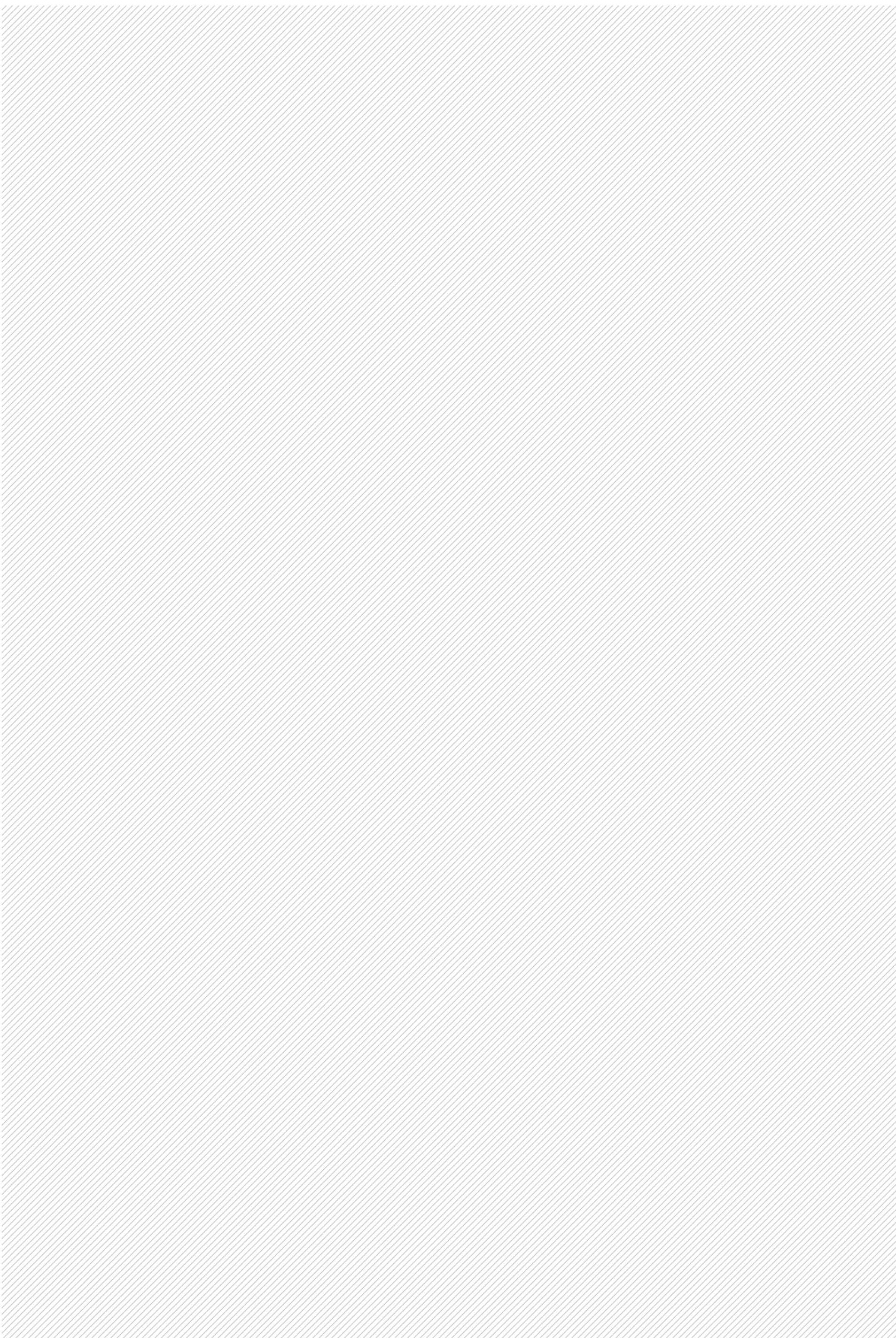
Air Force seeks former Lowry employees

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@afarpa.pentagon.af.mil.

Drop-in dental screenings

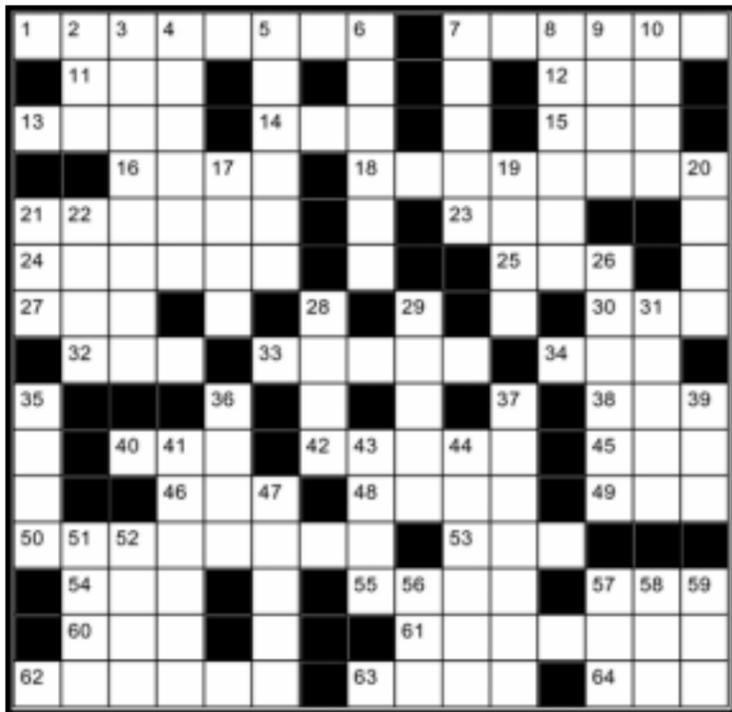
The Pediatric Dental Department at Lackland Air Force Base is providing drop-in dental screenings for all eligible military medical beneficiaries. One morning each month pediatric dentists will see children 14 years of age or younger at the Sky Lark Community Center, Bldg. 6576. Screenings will be done from 8-11 a.m. in the Longhorn Room on the first floor. No appointment is necessary. Children will receive an exam and appropriate treatment recommendations or alternatives. The next clinic is scheduled for April 14. Call 671-4072 for more information.





SECAF history (85-present)

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs



Solutions, Page 19

ACROSS

- 1. SECAF 4/8/86-12/16/88
- 7. SECAF 11/1/97-1/20/01
- 11. Former org. concerned with Johnson's 'War on Poverty' (abbrev.)
- 12. Former White House spokesman Fleischer
- 13. Language in Pakistan
- 14. New
- 15. Pen brand
- 16. Russian river
- 18. Actress Turner
- 21. Kennedy's wife
- 23. Behold
- 24. Blood carrier?
- 25. Cash machine
- 27. Tiny
- 30. Corporate head? (abbrev.)
- 32. Compute
- 33. SECAF 6/1/01-present
- 34. Mock
- 38. Make a mistake
- 40. YA-1 aircraft (abbrev.)
- 42. Spiny plants
- 45. USAF org. concerned with intel.
- 46. Untested
- 48. Timber
- 49. Legend (as in map)
- 50. SECAF 12/16/88-4/29/89 (acting)
- 53. NYSE symbol for Fannie Mae
- 54. Deployed USAF wing (abbrev.)
- 55. Treaty governing US forces overseas (abbrev.)
- 57. Terminate
- 60. British equivalent to Special Forces
- 61. SECAF 1/21/01-5/31/01 (acting)
- 62. Separate grain

- 63. Part of the foot
- 64. Golf prop

DOWN

- 2. Military punishment (abbrev.)
- 3. Took away
- 4. SECAF 12/1/85-4/7/86
- 5. SECAF 1/20/93-7/13/93 (acting)
- 6. Conjured up
- 7. Trousers
- 8. Pill
- 9. Great Lake
- 10. SECAF 5/1/89-1/20/93
- 17. Broadcasts
- 19. Entropy, in a way
- 20. Emperor who let Rome burn?
- 21. Mandible
- 22. Region
- 26. SECAF 7/14/93-8/5/93 (acting)
- 28. Military commissioning source
- 29. 70s TV show ____ and the Man
- 31. Scary
- 35. Military living area
- 36. Member of ethnic group in the Balkans
- 37. SECAF 8/6/93-10/31/97
- 39. Type of fish in the shark family
- 41. Skim
- 43. Plant bristles
- 44. Chewy candy
- 47. SECAF 4/29/89-5/21/89 (acting)
- 51. Currency
- 52. Equipment
- 56. Lyrical poem
- 57. Tolkien character
- 58. Formerly
- 59. Stain



Holy Week schedule Catholic:

- April 4, 9 a.m. — Palm Sunday mass
- April 8, 11:30 a.m. — Holy mass
- April 9, 11:30 a.m. — Christian Good Friday service, holy communion
- April 11, 9 a.m. — Easter Sunday mass

Protestant:

- April 4, 10:30 a.m. — Palm Sunday service
- 6 p.m. — Palm Sunday praise and worship
- April 9, 11:30 a.m. — Christian Good Friday service
- April 11, 7 a.m. — Easter Sunday outdoor service, Chapel courtyard, will move indoors if raining
- April 11, 10:30 a.m. — Christ's resurrection celebration
- April 11, 6 p.m. — Praise and worship

Lifemaker's series

The Lifemaker's Lunchtime Series is held Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Contact the Chapel staff for additional information.



Feature



Brooks
Personality
PROFILE



Schrantz



FULL NAME:

David Myron Schrantz

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Chief, Manpower and Organization

WHAT IS MY JOB?:

I lead a group of manpower analysts in achieving effective and economic management of resources for the wing. I work with each organization in the wing to ensure they have necessary authorizations to accomplish the mission.

BIRTHDAY:

Nov. 14, 1946

HOMETOWN:

Helena, Ark.

FAMILY STATUS:

Married 34 years. Two sons, one married, lives in Cibola; one single, lives in Austin, works for Dell Computers. I have one grandchild. I also have two cats and a dog who would be upset if I excluded them.

PERSONAL MOTTO:

CREATE— I have a large stone on my desk with that word. Try to be creative and come up with solutions not readily apparent, think outside the box.

PET PEEVE:

People who exaggerate

INSPIRATIONS:

Robert F. Kennedy, Gandhi and my parents

HOBBIES:

Golf, tennis, staying fit, church activities and donating blood

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE:

Anything by Tom Clancy and newspapers I haven't read

I JOINED CIVIL SERVICE BECAUSE:

I'd recently left the Army and was looking for a career within DoD with a similar structure.

FIVE YEAR GOAL:

is to retire from civil service. I'll be 62 then and should be able to manage with my retirement income.

ULTIMATE GOAL:

is to be able to spend time on charitable activities and with grandchildren.

IF I WON THE LOTTERY:

I'd give 50 percent to charity, quit work in the next 2-3 years and travel.

FAVORITE MUSIC:

50s, 60s, 80s rock; big band/swing; jazz, most types, and classical — so I guess it's eclectic

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION IS:

a videotape of my 95-year-old father chronicling his earliest years up to 1937

By Steve VanWert

Staff writer

Things are going great guns for Brooks' new chief of manpower, Dave Schrantz. But things seem to have been "booming" for him, one way or another, for years.

Mr. Schrantz was born in Helena, Ark., graduated from high school there and went on to graduate from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in zoology. During his college years, it wasn't his booming serves in tennis or the starting gun firing during track and field competition that he remembers. It's the roar of the crowd during Razorback football and basketball games. Mr. Schrantz is such a fan that he's been active ever since in the Arkansas Alumni Association. He was president of the local branch from 1987 to 1988.

"We form watch groups," he said, "so we can get a number of us together at one time to watch the games on television. Some of the larger alumni groups even award scholarships and raise money to help needy student pay their tuition."

Are there really enough Razorback fans in the area to form a club? You bet. "There are a couple of hundred of us in San Antonio," he said. "There's really a large number around the Austin area, as well. We're everywhere!"

During his military career, Mr. Schrantz experienced more than his share of booms, as well. After gaining his commission in the medical service corps in the Army in 1969, he went on to Fort Bragg, N.C., as a first aid range training officer, then to Vietnam for a year from 1970 to 1971, where he worked as an operations and intelligence officer at a M.A.S.H. hospital.

It was at the Raven Room at Fort Sam Houston in 1969, not long before going to Fort Bragg, that he met his wife. "There were four of us young officers at one table and four Southwest Texas State girls at another nearby," he said. "One by one, everyone left but two guys and two girls, so we flipped a coin to see who danced with who." It was a lucky flip. They married three months later.

Once his two-year commitment was up, he was ready to change his lifestyle completely and go to work for the San Antonio Zoo, but found that his new position placed him at the end of a rake handle, mucking up after elephants and other animals. Not surprisingly, he decided to stay in the Army and was assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Training Center at Fort Sam Houston. From there, he went on to Nuremberg, Germany in 1976 as an intelligence and operations officer; then back to Fort Sam as the executive officer at the Area Dental lab. In 1983, he completed his master's degree in health administration and left the Army, hoping to

become a hospital administrator in San Antonio.

However, his Army field and operations background didn't qualify him for the hospital job he wanted. His father-in-law, who worked at Kelly Air Force Base, recommended civil service and, boom, he was an item manager for C-5 parts. During a later assignment at Tinker AFB, Okla., he worked as a resource management branch chief, a job that ultimately qualified him for his present position at Brooks.

It was while at Kelly, and during a temporary assignment to Tinker AFB about three years after the Oklahoma City bombing, when his career, and briefcase, really began exploding. It was a simple oversight that resulted in a new nickname.

"We were there for a week, attending meetings and briefings," he said. "By the fifth day, everyone was tired, and I made the mistake of leaving my briefcase propped up on the wall behind my seat. I didn't think about it until the phone rang in my room that evening."

It was one of the host liaison team members who found Mr. Schrantz' briefcase. He agreed to drop the case off at the front desk at Mr. Schrantz' hotel that evening. That's where things began to unravel.

"The whole group of us went out to dinner that night," he said. "The case wasn't at the front desk when we left, so I figured I'd just pick it up when we got back."

After a long meal, a couple of cocktails and good company, he forgot about it. "We all went up to our rooms and watched a game on TV," he said. "Then, after everyone left, I went to bed."

What he didn't know was that the night clerk at the hotel had been receiving bomb threats during the couple of days leading up to this. When no one claimed the suspicious case, the hotel called the police. At 2:45 a.m., they knocked on his door, wanting to know if the case was his.

"I said it was, but they wanted to know what was in it," he said. "Their bomb dog had alerted on it and when they x-rayed it, they saw a battery in there. I tried to tell them the battery was just for my calculator, but they didn't believe me."

Instead, the police evacuated the hotel. "There were about 150 of us standing outside in our bedclothes," Mr. Schrantz said. "The temperature was in the mid-40s and there were a lot of angry people around me."

The police carefully placed the potentially lethal briefcase in a bomb squad trailer. "I offered to open the

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart



case for them," Mr. Schrantz said, "but they weren't about to let me do that. They didn't know if I was a mad bomber or what. I even offered to take the case across the street into a big field and open it there, but they wouldn't let me."

Around 5 a.m., Mr. Schrantz heard someone say, "Fire in the hole!"

"I heard a 'woosh' sound and turned around just in time to see parts of my briefcase come flying out of the vent holes in the bomb trailer. They blew it up."

The next morning, the experience was plastered on the front page of the newspaper. From then on, a nickname was born: Dave "Boom Boom" Schrantz.

Not all of his interests are quite so exciting. He's active in area charities through his church, St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Alamo Heights. Over the years, he's been involved in helping man local San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry shelters for the homeless.

He's also a blood donor and believes that everyone should be. "I'm a 10-gallon donor," he said. "It's so important."

Mr. Schrantz also finds time to mentor fourth, fifth and sixth grade students. "It only takes about 45 minutes to an hour with each student," he said. "These kids need an adult to serve as a role model, someone to help them on an individual basis. I get so much more from it than the effort it takes to do it."

And, of course, there's time for his job at Brooks, as well. Mr. Schrantz has been here for about seven months, and he's noticed important things about his new surroundings.

"These are really good folks at Brooks," he said. "They're quality people and very knowledgeable. They've been especially helpful in teaching me the ins and outs of my new position. This is my first time at Brooks, and I love it. And my granddaughter loves the park."

Family is important to Mr. Schrantz. He's currently working closely with his 95-year-old father on creating a videotape history of his life. "So far, we've covered the years up to 1937," Mr. Schrantz said. "He has had such an interesting life. He was born in India in 1908, went back and practiced dentistry there in the late 1930s, and was in Europe during World War II as a major in the U.S. Army Dental Corps. We should get to the point in his life history when he first meets my mother, hopefully in April, and we'll go from there."

His own history has been a blast too.



PROFILES IN TIME

A Centennial of Flight series

'Flying Tiger' Chennault a modern air power visionary

(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 paying tribute to an Air Force legend and Brooks Field aviation pioneer whose controversial, but visionary ideas had a profound impact on air power modernization)

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Old Leatherface, as he would be called in later years, was an aviation giant who did not let frequent and belittling criticism of his visionary ideas stand in the way of improving the effectiveness of combat air power. Fiercely independent and self-reliant, Lt. Col. Claire Lee Chennault relied on his principles and convictions to navigate through the always turbulent times of war and peace.

Describing himself in his memoirs, "Way of the Fighter," as an overachiever "with an insatiable urge to win," General Chennault's unwavering confidence, buoyed by an incomparable intellect, served him faithfully in training and leading men. However, those same qualities often put him at odds with superiors who, regrettably, became an impediment to General Chennault's revolutionary ideas in the evolution of air power.

Powered flight did not exist when General Chennault was born in Commerce, Texas on Sept. 6, 1893, the son of parents who were descendants from 18th Century French Huguenots. His ancestors had immigrated to America to serve with the Marquis de Lafayette during the Revolutionary War.

General Chennault grew up in the Louisiana backwater community of Gilbert. His early leadership qualities became apparent to many who were not aware of his family genealogy. He was paternally related to Confederate General Robert E. Lee and maternally linked to Texas legend Sam Houston.

General Chennault relied not on

" The Signal Corps rejected me for flight training three times, but taking advantage of the general confusion around Kelly (Field), I found a few genial instructors who were willing to explain the fundamentals of flying from the rear cockpit of a Jenny. "

Claire Chennault
Aviation legend

his pedigree, but rather on his wits and determination to advance in rural society. After graduating from Louisiana State Normal College, he taught school until World War I prompted him to enlist in 1917. Later commissioned an Army Infantry Reserve second lieutenant through Officer Candidate School, General Chennault's request to transfer to the Signal Corps' Aviation Section proved challenging. "The Signal Corps rejected me for flight training three times, but taking advantage of the general confusion around Kelly (Field), I found a few genial instructors who were willing to explain the fundamentals of flying from the rear cockpit of a Jenny," wrote General Chennault.

The general earned his wings at Kelly Field in 1919. As a member of the newly formed Army Air Service, he was assigned in 1920 to Brooks Field as a flight instructor. "Flying Cadet" Charles Lindbergh became one of his students.

Between Brooks assignments, General Chennault initiated many new ideas for military air power tactics while commanding the 19th Pursuit Squadron at Hickam Field, Hawaii. He did not subscribe to what he characterized as "medieval jousting in dogfights." General Chennault believed that aerial combat success required aviator teamwork that relied on the proven principle of war: "concentration of force." In the early 1930s, he formed at Maxwell Field the Army Air Corps' first aerobatic team called "Three Men On a Flying Trapeze." He successfully demonstrated that three pilots could execute with precision combat maneuvers in formation. "He had radical ideas about the role of pursuit aircraft, which he pitched to the American military leadership. He was rebuffed by (Gen.) Hap Arnold and Gen. (George) Marshall," said "Flying Tiger" legend, retired Brig. Gen. Leroy "Tex" Hill.

While director of primary training at Brooks from 1928 to 1930, General Chennault helped develop parachute tactics. "Benjamin Chidlaw, later a Wright Field engineering expert; (Master) Sergeant (Erwin) Nichols, who was a pioneer parachutist, and myself began experimenting with paratrooper techniques," General Chennault wrote, crediting Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell for the idea of a mass parachute training exercise that led to the first successful airborne demonstration in American

military history.

General Chennault wrote, "We finally evolved a V formation of DeHavilland two-seaters, each carrying one paratrooper in the rear cockpit. I flew a Ford trimotor transport in the center of the V, loaded with equipment. As we flew over an objective, the troopers bailed out, and ammunition, machine guns, water and food were parachuted from the Ford so they fell inside the circle of paratroopers on the ground. We polished this technique until the paratroopers were opening fire with machine guns in less than a minute after they landed." Maj. Gen. Charles Summerall, Army Chief of Staff who witnessed the demonstration, commented to a subordinate, "Some more of this damned aviation nonsense."

By the mid-1930s General Chennault's pioneering advocacy for using fighter escorts to protect heavy bombers further alienated him among Army leaders who viewed his ideas as useless. Air Corps leaders also dismissed his idea for giving fighters more firepower. "In 1936, engineers ridiculed my suggestion that four 30-caliber guns could be synchronized to fire through a propeller. They said it was impossible. But the next year I saw a Russian plane with synchronized guns in action against the Japanese in China," Genreal Chennault said.

Angry and frustrated by his adversaries' lack of vision that led to the fighter tactics course General Chennault developed being dropped

at Air University, he 'retired' from the Army in 1937. The next day, He accepted Madame Chiang Kai-shek's invitation to help build a Chinese air force in anticipation of a Japanese invasion.

General Chennault effectively taught Chinese fighter pilots the formation techniques he had pioneered with his Flying Trapeze aerobatic team. However, he realized that these pilots were no match for the Japanese.

General Hill recalled, "The Chinese came up with the idea for Flying Tigers in early 1941. The tiger means 'strength' in Chinese culture. They needed an instant air force." The American Volunteer Group was initially formed with 87 American pilots equipped with 100 P-40 Tomahawks.

"Chennault's philosophy of pursuit was to use the best advantages of our equipment against the weakest part of theirs," Hill said. The 88-year-old triple fighter ace said he admired General Chennault's courage and vision. "He read everything just right. If he had received more support, we'd have shortened the war," he said.

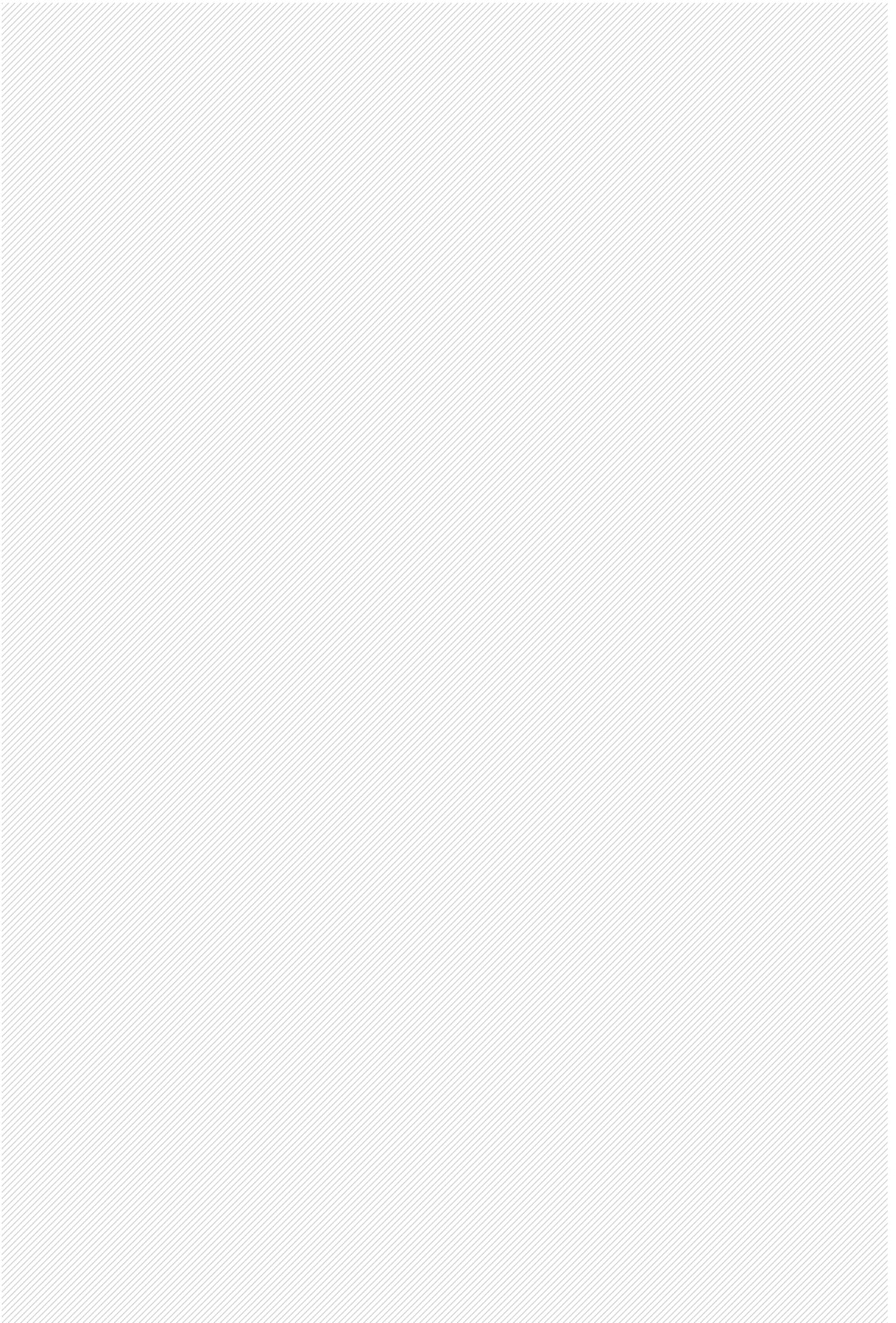
That support, or rather an appreciation of his ideas, came much too late. Succumbing to cancer on July 27, 1958, General Chennault was posthumously promoted to lieutenant general. In death, his legacy lives.

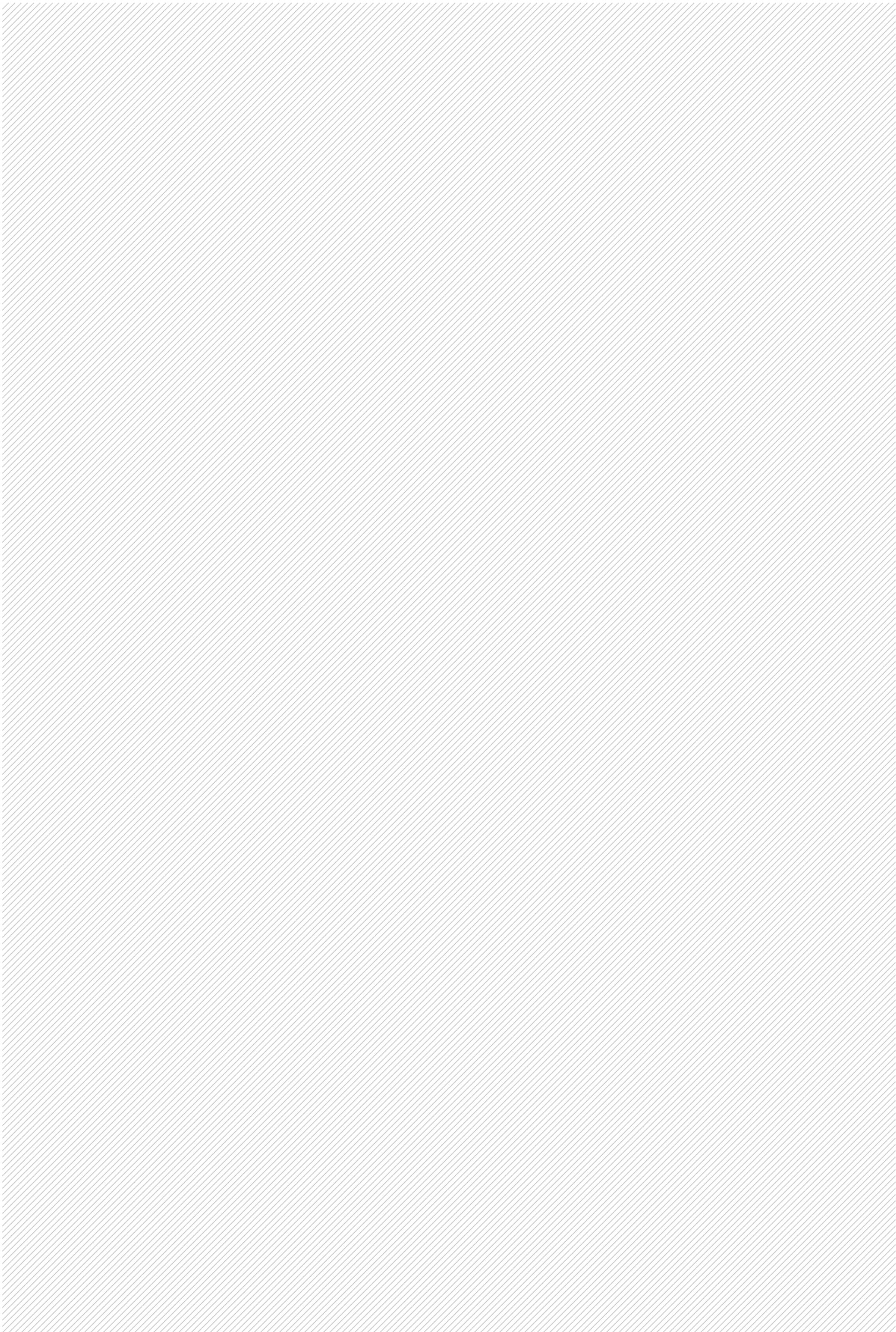
Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Lt. Gen. Claire Chennault, fourth from left, was one of Brooks Field Flying Cadet Charles Lindbergh's, third from left, primary flying instructors in 1924.

Courtesy photo







'Strongest man at Brooks' overcame obstacles, now faces toughest test

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The man Dennis Abernathy has become no longer relies on his incredible physical strength to fulfill personal goals. His life has so dramatically changed now that he grapples with challenges by relying on his considerable inner strength.

Once the reigning state powerlifting champion in the bench press, Mr. Abernathy is facing his toughest test as a husband and father: caring for 20-month-old twins while his wife Laura serves in Iraq.

"My wife deployed to Iraq on Feb. 21. She will be there for 18 months," said Mr. Abernathy, the base test control officer for the 311th Mission Support Group's Military Personnel Flight. As an avionics technician for the U.S. Army Apache attack helicopter, Laura Abernathy had no choice but to fulfill her Army National Guard commitment while leaving the couple's twin girl and boy at home with dad.

"My whole life has changed," Mr. Abernathy said about his family responsibilities. Besides the twins, he provides parental guidance to son Dalton, a talented 12-year-old athlete, and moral support to 22-year-old son Brandon who is a Lackland Air Force Base basic trainee.

Living with a significant amount of physical pain from work-related injuries, Mr. Abernathy no longer competes in the sport he once dominated. While he periodically serves as a state-certified judge for USA Powerlifting, Mr. Abernathy's focus now is work and family. However, the sport he adopted late in life has contributed, like so many other obstacles he had to overcome, to personal growth.

Not too long after he was born July 8, 1957, in Richmond, Va., Mr. Abernathy and his younger brother Daniel began living in a series of foster homes. He admits having been traumatized by some of his experiences.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Dennis Abernathy, "the strongest man at Brooks" in the bench press, earned this trophy when he became the state champion in the powerlifting bench press event.

"My brother and I were adopted by Lt. Col. George Abernathy and his wife," he said. His adoptive father was an Air Force C-130 pilot who, after retiring in 1963, became a high school teacher. His adoptive mother was a homemaker. Both now deceased, they were strict disciplinarians who tried to keep the brothers in line.

Mr. Abernathy grew up in Texas, his adoptive parents' home state. A natural athlete, he lettered in football, baseball, track and tennis at Lockhart High School. "I never knew what free weights were in high school," he said.

His life and physique gradually changed in 1983 while pursuing an Air Force civil service career in civil engineering at Lackland AFB. While waiting at an airport enroute to a softball tournament, he was inspired by reading a body building magazine article about Franco Columbo, a colleague of Arnold Schwarzenegger and a big-time powerlifter. "I was a big old country boy with natural strength. I started to lift weights in the (softball) off-season to stay in shape," he said.

After transferring to Brooks in 1991, his fitness center workouts evolved into powerlifting training sessions sparked by powerlifter Willie Mastin and his trainer, Joe Langendorfer. "Joe saw my potential when I bench pressed 300 pounds," he

" I was a big old country boy with natural strength. I started to lift weights in the off-season to stay in shape. "

Dennis Abernathy
Bench press state champion

remembers. Mr. Langendorfer, a powerlifter with an eye for talent, challenged Mr. Abernathy to pursue the sport only if he was serious about making a commitment to the demanding training it required.

"Joe is a visionary and a mentor. He took me under his wing like a big brother. I didn't want to let him down. It motivated me," Mr. Abernathy said, noting that he had to overcome back problems. He decided to concentrate on just one of powerlifting's three events: bench press. "When I squated (lifted) 225 pounds, my back would go out," he said, explaining that jackhammering and loading concrete had taken its toll: two herniated disks, one of which bulged, causing excruciating pain. "At times, I'd wrap a backbrace around me. I was use to the pain. I loved the sport of bench press. I wanted to compete."

Mr. Abernathy competed in his first meet at Brooks in 1993. He lifted 345 pounds, good for second place. He would never again finish second to anyone in bench press competition.

"I never got into a contest unless I was going to attempt a personal record. I'm not a trophy hunter," he said, crediting his mentor, "Joe taught me that my competition was me. That's what made me go as far as I did." Mr. Abernathy quickly became a star athlete on the Brooks Powerlifting Team. At 6'1, he competed in the 242-pound weight class. He won his first meet in 1994, the Alamo Classic in San Antonio, bench pressing 410 pounds to take first in novice. At a sanctioned meet at Brooks in December 1994, Mr. Abernathy set an open class state record by bench pressing 485 pounds. He became the state champ in the bench press in 1994 and 1995. At age 36, he had also become one of the top powerlifters in the nation. "I never did it for the glory, but for self-fulfillment," he said.

His personal fulfillment now comes through his devotion to his family. The burden of caring for twins while his wife is away may be more daunting than trying to lift 400-plus pounds. Yet his focus to meet the challenge is the same: determination, commitment and a little help from his friends.



Brooks 'greens keeper' begins search for greener pastures

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

If goofball greens keeper Bill Murray had Brooks' persnickety golf course superintendent as his supervisor, the actor would not have had any trouble dealing with a disrespectful gopher in the movie comedy "Caddy Shack."

Earning the respect of varmints and golfers alike, the no-nonsense, but jovial, Brooks Golf Course superintendent Edwin "Bubba" Bretzke bid farewell March 27 to a place he has called home for the past 12 years.

"Now I'll have more time to take mamma fishing," said Mr. Bretzke during the retirement party highlighted by a tournament that attracted friends from as far away as Nebraska and Minnesota. His 93-year-old mother Adeline Pharris nodded affirmatively of her son's plan to seek greener pastures near their favorite fishing hole.

Since February 1992, Mr. Bretzke has spent most of his waking life taking care of nine holes spread across 135-plus acres at Brooks. During that time, he has kept the greens, fairways and tee boxes in pristine condition with

enough water to float a dozen Noah's Arks. He has weathered drought, storm damage and occasional golfer tempests, knowing that these and a score of other problems associated with golf course maintenance comes with the territory.

"It's a lot of work. It's not easy. The last two years, it has been just the two of us," Mr. Bretzke said, referring to coworker Rick Cone. From dawn to dusk the pair have worked tirelessly to ensure the course is playable. While golf course pond denizens, including snakes and ducks, don't give them trouble, occasionally the constant mowing gets 'a bit rough.'

"He (Bubba) was doing a collar (circular cut) with a (riding) mower around the green at the ninth hole when he swung around too close to the edge," Mr. Cone said. "He and the mower got stuck in the sand pit. I had to pull him out with a tractor."

The pitfalls of golf course care, however, are nothing compared to what Mr. Bretzke had previously experienced as a Vietnam War veteran, PGA professional and gridiron star.

Born March 3, 1938 in La Vernia,

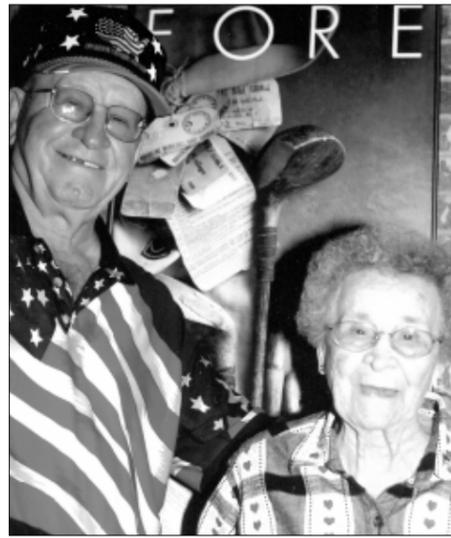


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Edwin "Bubba" Bretzke, retiring Brooks Golf Course Superintendent, and his 93-year-old mother, Adeline, plan to take more time to go fishing after his retirement.

Texas, Mr. Bretzke became a two-time All-State middle linebacker and guard at San Antonio's Brackenridge High School. Upon graduation in 1955, he joined the Air Force as an aircraft mechanic. Operating out of Da Nang, South Vietnam, he flew many combat missions aboard AC-47 gunships from 1965 to 1967.

During his 22-and-a-half-year Air Force career, Mr. Bretzke excelled in football and softball. He made the All-Air Force Football Team for five years

and helped the All-Air Force Softball Team to an international championship in 1976. His Air Force football prowess led him to take a break in service to seek a professional career in the NFL. "I tried out for the Minnesota Vikings in 1961. I had a chance to make the team, but decided I had a better career opportunity in the service," he said. He reenlisted in the Air Force, retiring at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. in 1977. It was at Holloman where a local golf pro convinced him to join the PGA apprenticeship program. He subsequently became a pro golfer on the PGA's Sun County tour for 10 years. "I won tournaments in Oklahoma City and Phoenix. My total winnings was \$65,000," Mr. Bretzke said.

He moved to San Antonio in 1982 where he initially worked as a Bexar County deputy and security officer. From 1986 to 1992 he served as the Pecan Valley Golf Course superintendent.

Mr. Bretzke admits having gotten a few golfers a bit 'teed off' by some mistakes he has made. Nevertheless, supporters came to praise, not bury him at his retirement ceremony. Among those who sent letters of appreciation and special awards were Maj. Gen. James Roudebush, Air Force Deputy Surgeon General; Texas Governor Rick Perry and San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza.

SECAF history solutions



from Page 13

SPORTS SHORTS

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. Participate four times and receive a Commanders' Fitness Club T-shirt. Additional prizes are offered for other sessions. 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 and an attitude to begin the ride of their life. Stop by the Fitness Center or contact the staff at 536-2188 for additional information.