

# DISCOVER



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

# Earth Tech opens Brooks office

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks Development Authority and the 311th Human Systems Wing welcomed the newest tenant to Brooks City-Base during Earth Tech Inc.'s grand opening on Tuesday.

The Long Beach, California-based company, founded in 1970, is a global provider of engineering, construction and consulting services. The company will initially have 63 employees working located in the old Base Exchange building, now converted to a new office complex. Company officials said it cost about \$400,000 to renovate the 27,000-square foot facility.

The move further strengthens Earth Tech's relationship with and support of Air Force missions. Company president Sandy Cuttino said Earth Tech has had a Brooks presence since 1985 when it was first contracted to support the Occupational and Environmental Health Laboratory, predecessor of the Air Force Institute for Environmental Health. One of Earth Tech's major Brooks clients is the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence.

San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza said the company's move to Brooks "continues the momentum" that Brooks City-Base is generating in making



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Cutting the ribbon to Earth Tech's new San Antonio Office at Brooks City-Base are, from left: City Councilman Richard Perez, District 4; City Councilman Ron Segovia, District 3; Mayor Ed Garza, South Chamber President Cindy Taylor, Earth Tech USA President Sandy Cuttino, Brooks Development Authority Board Member Dick Grant, Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, and Earth Tech San Antonio facility manager Olav Johanneson.

further progress in developing the technology and business park.

Part of Tyco Engineered Products and Services, Earth Tech employs

8,500 people in 17 countries. It specializes in waste water management and water systems, environmental remediation and compliance, emer-

gency response, occupational health and safety and transportation systems.

"The move by Earth tech epitomizes the sort of synergy we are working to achieve at City-Base between civilian and military entities," said Tom Rumora, BDA executive director.

Cuttino provided an example of this synergy when she said the company's Brooks presence will help supplement efforts by Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, Bexar County and the City of San Antonio to complete plans for the new Emergency Operations Center scheduled to be built here by 2007.

Earth Tech's San Antonio facility manager Olav Johanneson said, "Relocating to Brooks City-Base provides us with close proximity to the Air Force, one of our oldest and largest clients. But we were also attracted to Brooks City-Base because it gives us the opportunity to be part of a unique public-private sector initiative."

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, hailed the move as a demonstration of the progress being made at Brooks City-Base.

# VIVA FIESTA

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Fulcher and Capt. Melissa Mouchette, 2004 Brooks Fiesta ambassadors, attended more than 50 events during the 10-day Fiesta San Antonio celebration, April 16-25. Sergeant Fulcher took part in the 57th edition of the Fiesta Flambeau Parade, April 24. The parade's theme was "Heroes Across America." Captain Mouchette appeared in the Battle of Flowers parade, April 23. The theme for the parade was "A Kaleidoscope of Texas." See more Fiesta photos on page 15.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

## Take me out to the ball game



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Dixie Bonamo, recently retired Brooks Youth Director, throws out the first pitch to officially start the Brooks Youth League Baseball Season on April 17.

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Motorcycle safety is paramount this summer for the Air Force.

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YA's John Pierce added another trophy to his collection

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## Don't Forget



Mother's Day May 9



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## Commentary

# An Air Force Dining Out Enlisted Perspective

SMSgt Veronica Berry-Jones  
68th IOS/MSS

Years ago I sat at a desk I shared with two other Airmen. Our supervisor entered the office and announced the unit is having their annual dining out. He informed us that we must attend and wear our service dress.

That was my first exposure to attending a dining out. I was a little apprehensive about being told to attend something I knew nothing about. It was only after asking a dozen questions and conducting my own research I began to understand a little more about what a dining out was and why I should attend; other than it was mandatory. I learned a lot about dining outs and by the evening of the event I was actually excited about going.

How many of our young Airmen are treated just like this? They are given only the absolute minimum amount of information and told to act upon it without understanding what's going on. We all understand there are situations where there is no time to explain; just to act. This should not be one of those times especially if you want your attendees to have a positive attitude.

The dining out is a formal dinner for military and nonmilitary spouses, friends, and civilians. In comparison, a dining in is a formal military dinner that only military members can attend. Both events are rich in history and tradition, stemming from the Army Air Corps when General Henry "Hap" Arnold would hold his famous wing-dings.

These types of formal military dinners are a tradition in all branches of the United States Armed Services. In the Air Force and Navy, they are called dining outs, in the Army it is a Regimental Dinner and in the Marine Corps and Coast Guard it is referred to as Mess Night. The primary purpose for the dining out is to enhance unit morale and esprit de corps. Many commanders use this time to formally recognize awards, achievements or say farewell to out going personnel and welcome new personnel. It's also an opportunity to meet socially with subordinates and enables military members of all ranks to create bonds of friendship and better working relations through an atmosphere of good fellowship.

There are many traditions associated with the dining out. Since it is a formal military dinner you must wear your uni-

form. For enlisted members it's only a slight variation from your service dress; for men it is the shirt and ties that is different and for women it is the blouse. You must wear all your ribbons, no name tag and no hat; personally one of the best variations of this uniform. Enlisted members have the option to wear the mess dress but it is mandatory for officers. You must be willing to shell out quite a few dollars for this uniform and for the medals you wear with it. Civilians may wear formal evening attire, although retired military members may wear the appropriate uniform if they like.

The next thing you should probably be concerned with is the pomp and circumstance of the tradition and events throughout the evening. As I said earlier, dining outs are heavy in tradition, including a number of toasts, a POW ceremony and the grog, an aspect of the evening I will leave secret. The Rules of the Mess are always published in your program to help prevent you from having to report to the grog. The evening lasts about three hours including the social hour, guest speakers, toasts and the rest.

There are many times I've been reluctant to attend a dining out. It stemmed from selfish reasons such as not wanting to pay the ticket price, fear of the grog, poor attitude and other reasons I feel ashamed of now. Looking back, I am glad I attended because there was not a single unmemorable dining out. There was always something that made me feel proud to be a part of its rich heritage. The guest speaker's message, the POW ceremony or maybe just the formality and camaraderie felt when the toasts are made or Taps is played. It made me feel like a member of a big family and as in all families there is pain, joy and above all, a sense of belonging.

Whether or not you've ever attended a dining out, the next time you have an opportunity to be part of its rich military tradition, take advantage of it. You'll be glad you did.

The 311 HSW is sponsoring a dining out on April 30. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the Brooks Club. For more information, please contact any member of the Company Grade Officer's Council.

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# Purchase card mandate aims at saving time, money

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Looking to better leverage command-wide purchasing power while saving time and money, Air Force Materiel Command officials said everyone buying office supplies must use on-line vendors effective May 1.

AFMC government purchase card holders are free to choose from any of the thousands of vendors on Air Force Advantage, DoD Email or at <https://epc.wpafb.af.mil/mandate/egpc-access.html>, according to Tim Inman, AFMC eGPC program manager. The mandate is simply to help command officials know what AFMC people are getting for the dollars they spend, and to see if any larger agreements can be made to save time and money.

Mr. Inman said the Air Force spent \$1.7 billion in 3 million transactions last year; within AFMC it was \$339 million on 570,000 transactions.

"We can figure up how much money we spent with vendors who have the merchant category code for office supplies—stores like Office Depot and Staples. But is that dollar figure our office supply spending? No, because those stores also sell furniture, computers, printing services and the like," he said.

Also, many vendors who do not have the merchant category code for office supplies do sell them, like Wal-Mart and computer supply stores that sell paper, he said.

"And even if we knew how much cardholders spent, we don't know on what," he said. "If we knew how much paper we really bought, we could go to the major paper manufacturers, tell them a realistic projection of what our upcoming requirement was, and ask them to sharpen their pencils to give us the very best price. Today all we can do is say

that we buy a lot of paper, but what kind and how much of each is unknown."

He said with better knowledge of spending, command experts could go to office supply retailers and other interested firms with a reasonably accurate demand and likewise ask them, in a competitive environment, to give AFMC the best possible prices.

"Retailers are extremely interested in capturing all or a good share of the Air Force's office supply business, but in order to get the best prices and terms we need to know what we buy," Mr. Inman said. "This is true not only for office supplies but for many other commodity classes where cardholders buy as individuals, instead of taking advantage of the Air Force's huge buying strength. That's what we call strategic sourcing. We're starting with office supplies, but we're looking at strategic sourcing in a number of areas."

In addition to the "business intelligence" aspect, the on-line buying mandate also helps people save time, according to Mr. Inman. When cardholders across the command go downtown, they often pay full retail price and are away from their desks for extended periods. The mandate also helps fix that by allowing people to order directly from their desks and have their items delivered directly to their offices.

"We need to gather this business intelligence and leverage our buying power to negotiate better prices, generating big savings for the command," said Gen. Gregory S. Martin, AFMC commander, in a letter to field organizations. "We have negotiated Blanket Purchase Agreements with major office supply vendors (e.g. Office Depot and Corporate Express), resulting in a 3-5 percent discounts off their regular GSA schedule prices and are confident we can achieve even deeper discounts with other high-volume vendors if we have detailed spend data."

Mr. Inman encouraged everyone to make sure that unit office supplies are purchased through the prescribed on-line sites and recognized that a change in some habits will be required.

"We need to do a better job of planning ahead," he said. "You should recognize that you are getting low on supplies before you run out. There should be no office supply emergency purchases."

He said some people will initially be uncomfortable using the on-line purchasing systems, and that's understandable. There will also be some frustrations as people try out these sites, but he asks everyone to play with the AFMC team instead of against it.

"In the long run, AFMC will reap benefits from this mandate," he said. "Many of us were once uncomfortable using a computer at all; but with continued use, we will all learn to be more comfortable with new ways of doing business."

Most of the office supply vendors AFMC people regularly purchase from are already on-line at the approved Web sites, Mr. Inman said. Other small business vendors who are not on-line can work with individual base small business office experts to learn what it would take to get them there.

"If your organization has an existing alternate means to buy office supplies on-line, then you can request a waiver from the headquarters directorate of contracting," he said.

"This mandate is a small step, but an important one," General Martin said. "That's why I'm asking you to support this initiative."

"We need your purchase card information to understand what we buy. Using the purchase card and the approved Web sites will save our command time and money."



# Brooks says 'thanks' to volunteers

By Steve VanWert  
Discovery staff writer

The list of Brooks people who volunteered their time and efforts during 2003 contains more than 220 names. Of these, 70 were honored and four received Volunteer Excellence Awards during the first Brooks City-Base Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony April 22 in Hangar 9.

The ceremony was followed by a Volunteer Fair and picnic, where honorees received free lunches.

This event was held in conjunction with the 30th annual National Volunteer Week, which began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering.

Winners of the VEA were: Patricia Bennett, who has served as key spouse, fundraiser and director for the Kelly Wild Bunch Young Americans Bowling Alliance, has been volunteering for 10 years and was nominated by Capt. Jose Tolentino, Alex Sandez and Brenda Kelley; Sharon Earley, who has served as shelter support manager, public educator, key volunteer elf for the Elf Louise Christmas Project, San Antonio Red Cross volunteer, Initial Response Disaster Action Team member and friend of the San Antonio Library, has been volunteering for 20 years and was nominated by Terry Lazenby; James Jauchem, who has served as pet partners animal ambassador, cancer survivor network visitor, special projects volunteer, acting facilitator, support volunteer for chronic pain support group and participant for prostate cancer project, has been volunteering for five years and was nominated by Lt. Col. William Roach; and Deacon Eugene and Joyce Sekinger, who have supported the Brooks Base Chapel in various capacities from deacon to lay bible readers, office support and providing weekly newsletters and inspirational inserts, have been volunteering for 33 years and were nominated as a team by Chaplain Rodger Ericson.

The seven nominees all received a gift — women received an angel lapel pin and men received a Brooks coin. The VEA winners also received a special VEA certificate and pin from Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing Commander. All Brooks volunteers who attended the ceremony received a Family Support Center notebook.

"This is the first year we've had a formal Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. We wanted to express how much we appreciate our volunteers and what they do in the community," said Lucy Belles, Brooks Family Support Center director. "Without their selfless volunteering, many agencies in the Brooks and San Antonio area would be far less able to provide important services to our people. These people deserve our thanks."

Volunteer agencies that attended the Volunteer Fair included the American Red Cross, Brooks City-Base Student Mentoring Program, Family Services Association, Texas Department of Human Services and Big Brothers/



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, right, accepts an honorary check from Col. Albert Bowley, 311th Mission Support Group commander, on behalf of the Volunteer Resources Program in the amount of \$1,110,233.00.

Big Sisters. However, Brooks volunteers were active in dozens of other organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Antonio, Brooks City-Base Youth Services, Brooks Heritage Foundation, Challenger Learning Center of San Antonio, San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries, Life Builders, Habitat for Humanity, and many others.

Volunteerism is alive and well at Brooks. However, this isn't necessarily the case nationwide. "We expected our numbers to decrease due to deployments, reductions in force, increase in two-income families and many active duty members taking on after-duty employment. Instead volunteer hours increased; 64,586 hours were donated, a comparable value to the community of \$1,110,233.00," said Ms. Belles. "That's just another reason to honor those who found the time to volunteer."



## Enlisted heritage gaining new fans

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Stories about Brooks enlisted member contributions to Air Force scientific research have re-surfaced recently on a Brooks organization's website and are being shared and warehoused for future generations by a local group that is committed to preserving and promoting enlisted heritage.

Among historic vignettes that an Air Force Institute for Occupational Health enlisted team has placed on its website is Airman 1st Class Donald Farrell's historic 1958 simulated trip to the moon in support of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's first space cabin experiment, and MSgt. Erwin Nichols' contributions as a pioneer parachutist who helped conduct the first mass parachute drop in U.S. military history at Brooks in 1929.

"Me and my fellow airmen decided to tell the enlisted history at Brooks," said Senior Airman Michael Wilms, a network administrator for AFIOH's Information Systems Division. SrA Wilms and his team have searched Hangar 9 archives, conducted interviews and even scanned through countless Discovery issues from years past to find historical nuggets that convey the many contributions made by enlisted members at Brooks.

"We have done a lot of research together," said SrA Wilms, referring to colleagues who include A1C Christopher Schmitt, A1C Mark Brown and A1C Robert Zupko. "We've been doing it for the past three weeks. It's (stories) on a log-in banner," explained SrA Wilms.

In recent weeks they have showcased Brooks Clinic Pharmacy volunteer William Krebs who was among the first group of 'charter chiefs' when the Air Force introduced the new chief master sergeant rank in 1959. They also have featured the Air Force Radiation Assessment Team, composed mainly of enlisted members, who served as consultants for the Tom Clancy book-based motion picture "The Sum of All Fears."

Their work is independent, but complementary of, an earlier initiative launched by the Brooks Enlisted Heritage Committee that was formed in October 2003. The committee's chairman, TSgt. Robert Gudgil with USAFSAM, said CMSgt. James Cahill came up with the idea to develop a base repository for enlisted member contributions to Air Force scientific history.

"There was a perceived void (here) of recognizing enlisted contributions to Air Force scientific research and technology development," recalls TSgt. Gudgil. The group's long-term goal is to establish a permanent enlisted member exhibit at Hangar 9, a concept whose inspiration is borrowed from what has been done to showcase enlisted history at the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Museum at Maxwell AFB's Gunther Annex in Alabama.

"We have an opportunity to increase awareness by promoting enlisted heritage through articles and create a repository of stories and profiles," TSgt. Gudgil



Photo courtesy Hangar 9 historical collection

Airman First Class Donald Farrell sits in his simulated "space capsule" during the first "man-in-space" tests at Brooks in 1958. Farrell remained in the 3x5-foot space cabin simulator for 168 hours.

said. They hope to build this repository by seeking input from base units through a modified Air Force form 1206 (Nomination for Award) which has yet to be distributed. The form will include criteria for submitting enlisted nominees for inclusion in the repository based on significant contributions they made to science and research.



# Awareness Key to Two-Wheeled Summer Safety

Tech Sgt. Carl Norman  
AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE— Seven Air Force people have perished in motorcycle accidents in 2004, and with the two-wheeled season coming on command experts encourage everyone to be extra cautious to keep those numbers from rising.

From drivers being more aware of who is around them and on what to using proper protective gear, safety is everyone's responsibility, according to John Sheehan, Air Force Materiel Command ground safety chief.

"One fatality is too many and our hearts go out to all the families who lost loved ones," Sheehan said. But he said the reality is, "The Air Force, by regulation, requires people to wear a helmet and other protective equipment when riding a motorcycle and a seatbelt when driving a car; and despite the safety education, some continue to ignore that."

And ignoring the common sense, and more importantly the requirement for wearing protective gear when riding is "unacceptable," said Gen. Gregory S. Martin, AFMC commander, in a recent letter to field units.

"...using motorcycle safety equipment is required for all personnel — military, civilian or Defense Department contractor — driving on any Air Force installation," General Martin said. "These requirements extend to military personnel operating vehicles off-base, including off-duty time. They have been written in blood over the years and we have a wealth of knowledge that they save lives."

AFMC safety experts also offer some advice from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation who states that motorcycle riding is more popular now than ever before. And while novices and those who've been a little out of touch with riding take to the roadways, MSF experts said awareness is the key to survival.

Sharing the road is where motorists' awareness starts, foundation experts said. They urge all motor vehicle drivers to expect to see more motorcyclists riding in traffic and to respect that they rightfully enjoy the same access to the roads as other traffic.

Further, MSF reminds all motorcyclists to be responsible riders, which includes following three main safety guidelines:

**Get trained:** Whether you're a new rider or someone with years of experience, MSF experts said there's always room for skills improvement. More than 90 percent of all riders involved in crashes were either self-taught or taught by friends.

**Ride sober:** Recent data confirms that alcohol is involved in almost half of all single-vehicle motorcycle crashes. Don't drink and ride. And don't ride impaired, MSF experts urged. Drugs, prescription, over-the-counter or otherwise, diminish visual capabilities and affect judgment. "If you think you can't ride without taking a drink, please consider that alcohol dependency may be putting you at risk," foundation experts said.

**Ride responsibly:** Wear riding gear for both comfort and protection. This includes a helmet manufactured to meet Department of Transportation standards, eye protection, jacket, full-fingered gloves, long pants and over-the-ankle boots. Keep your bike well maintained. Use your "rider radar" to scan for hazards. And, most important, know your own skill level and ride within it.

"Motorists often don't look for motorcyclists on the road," said MSF President Tim Buche. "In fact, the most common type of collision occurs when a driver pulls out from an intersection directly in front of a motorcyclist.

"Afterward, they usually say they never even saw the bike. This is why it's so important for drivers to remember to expect to see motorcyclists on the road, no matter what time of year."

For more information, contact your base safety office.

Portions of this article provided courtesy of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation

## VEHICLE DECALS NEEDED TO ENTER BROOKS

Larry Farlow  
Office of Public Affairs

Effective May 17, all personnel working at Brooks City-Base will be required to have a DoD or Brooks City-Base identification decal on their vehicles to enter the gate without being stopped by gate security personnel.

Drivers without decals will be asked by the gate security to provide identification and a purpose for seeking entry. The guard will call the office or person being visited to confirm the visitor's appointment or meeting. Upon confirmation, the guard will fill out a temporary vehicle pass to be placed inside the vehicle windshield and the visitor can proceed.

This is a joint 311 Human Systems Wing and Brooks Development Authority requirement. DoD personnel, uniformed, civilian and contractor, should ensure that their vehicles have a valid decal before May 17. If a decal is needed personnel should visit the Military Personnel Flight Pass and Registration Office at building 570B, 3124 Sidney Brooks Drive to register their vehicle. They will need to talk a current driver's license, valid ID card, and proof of current insurance and current registration or title to the vehicle. The Pass and Registration Office is open from 7:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Wednesdays when the office closes at 3 p.m. for training.

Personnel who already have a current, valid DoD or BDA decal do not have to obtain a new one.

To lessen traffic during the morning rush hour, the HSW "Hill" gate will be open for exclusive entry of vehicles with DoD decals from 6:30 until 8 a.m. Monday-Friday. Personnel who do not have a DoD sticker on their vehicles should continue to enter through the main gate.

All motorists are cautioned to be prepared to stop when approaching the gates as the BDA begins implementation of this new procedure. Please contact Denise Martin, 536-3664 for more information.



# 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

### VA benefits assistance

Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537—  
Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records or one-on-one consultations.

### 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 the 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.



# New Korean Defense Service Medal

**AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER**— In February 2004, the Department of Defense approved the Korean Defense Service Medal for award to Air Force active duty, reserve and guard personnel as recognition for military service in the Republic of Korea and the surrounding waters after July 28, 1954 and ending on such a future date as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

Individuals are eligible if assigned, attached or mobilized to units operating or serving on all the land area of the Republic of Korea, and the continuous waters out to 12 nautical miles and all airspace above. To be eligible for award of the KDSM, personnel must have been physically present in the areas above for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days, or must meet one of the following:

- Be engaged in actual combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time in the areas of eligibility

- Killed, wounded or injured in the line of duty and required medical evacuation from the area of eligibility

- While participating as a regularly assigned aircrew member flying sorties into, out of, within or over the area of eligibility in support of military operations. Each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as 1 day toward the 30 or 60 day requirement

- Personnel who served in operations and exercises conducted in the areas of eligibility are considered eli-

gible for the KDSM as long as the basic time criteria are met. Due to extensive time period for KDSM eligibility, the nonconsecutive service period for eligibility remains cumulative throughout the entire period.

The KDSM is worn above the armed forces service medal. Only one award of the KDSM is authorized for any individual, regardless of the number of days over 30/60, tours, TDYs or deployments served in the areas of eligibility. The KDSM may be awarded posthumously.

Although the KDSM is a service medal, it does not preclude award of the overseas short or long tour ribbons. Additionally, it does not prevent or count against award or receipt of individual decorations, DoD/AF campaign or service medals. Award of the KDSM does not prevent award of other types of recognition normally associated with deployment or permanent change of assignment of station. The KDSM will not have any associated promotion points under the weighted Airman promotion system.

The initial KDSM will be issued to Air Force active duty, reserve and guard personnel by their servicing Military Personnel Flights upon availability. However, if desired, members may purchase the medal at their own expense through the Army Air Force Exchange Service. The KDSM will be available through AAFES within approximately 3 - 6 months.

The Air Force Personnel Center will perform a batch update in the Military Personnel Data System in fall

2004 in order to update the KDSM to Air Force active duty, reserve and guard personnel who have been credited with an overseas short tour to Korea. After the update has been completed by AFPC, the MPFs will advise their base populace and inform members to check their decorations. If a member believes they are entitled to the KDSM and it was not updated by AFPC, the customer should contact the Air Force Contact Center at DSN 665-5000 or 1-800-616-3775. The member must provide documentation such as TDY order and travel voucher, OPR, EPR, LOE or decoration citation showing location and duration of service in Korea to the Air Force Contact Center to verify eligibility for the KDSM.

After verifying eligibility, the contact center will update the award and notify the member to check their decorations through virtual MPF. The MilPDS update code for the KDSM is projected to be "KD" and is scheduled to be available in fall 2004.

If the batch update in MilPDS did not update the KDSM, these individuals must request update through the Air Force Contact Center, using the procedures identified in above.

Request for the KDSM must be submitted to the National Personnel Records Center at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov). NPRC's mailing address is 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO, 63132-5100. Requests should include documents clearly proving service and dates in Korea.

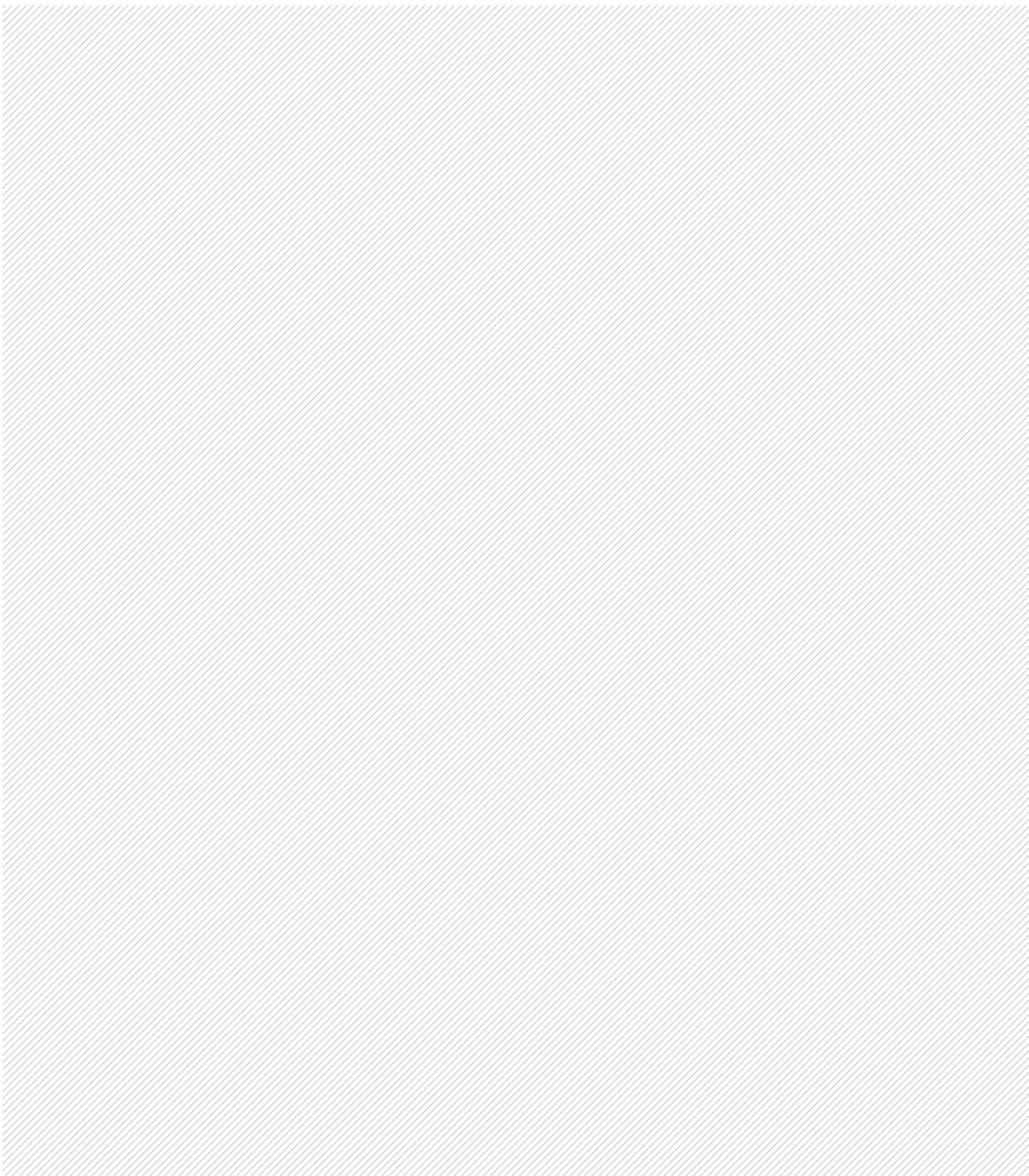
Request for the KDSM from reserve, guard and retiree veterans under the

age of 60 must be submitted to HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center, 6760 Irvington Place 4000, Denver, CO, 80280-4000.

Requests from reserve, guard and retiree veterans over the age of 60 and next-of-kin of deceased must be sent to the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis MO, 63132-5100. Requests should include documents, if available, clearly proving service and dates in Korea.

The NPRC will use documents such as TDY/PCS orders, performance reports, letter of evaluations, flight records, decoration citation, record review rips, medical documents or discharge form to verify individuals serviced in Korea. Once entitlement has been verified, NPRC will update the KDSM to the DD form 214, certificate of release or discharge from active duty.

Air Force active duty, reserve and guard personnel should address questions or comments to the contact center at DSN 665-5000 or 1-800-616-3775. Reserve, guard and retiree veterans under the age of 60 should address questions to HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center at 303-679-6134. Reserve, guard and retiree veterans over the age of 60 and next-of-kin of deceased should address questions to the National Personnel Records Center customer service center at 314-801-0800.





## NEWS briefs

### Blood donors needed

The Armed Services Blood Program is in immediate need of B Negative blood type donations for a female cancer patient at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base. Interested volunteers naac call 292-8145 for an appointment or contact Ernie Astorga at [luis.astorga@lackland.af.mil](mailto:luis.astorga@lackland.af.mil) for more information

### Enlisted promotion ceremony

The monthly enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for May 3 at 3 p.m. at the Brooks Club. The ceremony recognizes enlisted promotions for the month of April.

### Spouse Appreciation Day

"Pamper the Spouse." On May 14 from 12-5 p.m., the Family Support Center will host a fun-filled afternoon to honor our military and DoD spouses in the Brooks community. Vendors will provide makeovers, manicures, arts and crafts and much more. Best thing, it's all free. Deadline to register is close of business, Tuesday May 11. To sign up call the FSC at 4-2444 or email Linda Estrada at [linda.estrada@brooks.af.mil](mailto:linda.estrada@brooks.af.mil).

### Allergic to fire ants?

Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base seeks volunteers to participate in a research study evaluating a one-day fire ant allergy treatment plan. Call the Allergy-Immunology Clinic at 292-4278 for more information.

### NCO Council

The Noncommissioned Officer's Council meets every third Thursday at the Brooks Club, Bldg. 214. Contact Tech. Sgt. Rosemary Roe at 536.5850 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 Aeromedical 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](mailto:bhf@satx.rr.com).

### Dining Out

This year's Brooks Dining Out "The Eagle Has Landed...Footprints in

Time," sponsored by Brooks Company Grade Officers Council, is scheduled for tonight at the Brooks Club. Retired Maj. Gen. Robert Behler, a former SR71 pilot, is the guest speaker. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket for this event, please contact 2nd Lt. McMillan by phone 536-5621 or by email [walter.mcmillan@brooks.af.mil](mailto:walter.mcmillan@brooks.af.mil).

Ticket prices are as follows:

- GS 1-5 and E1-E4: \$13
- Retirees, GS 6-9 and E5-E6: \$16
- GS 10-12, E7-E8 and O1-O3: \$21
- GS 13 and up, E9, and O4 and up: \$23

### Public Notice

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of the 311th Medical Squadron, Brooks-City Base, Texas on May 3-7.

The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established joint Commission standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which, accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality-of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of the survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint

Commission no later than five working days before the survey. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to:

Division of Accreditation Operations  
Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations  
One Renaissance Boulevard  
Oak Terrace, IL 60181

The Joint Commission will acknowledge such requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time and place of the meeting.

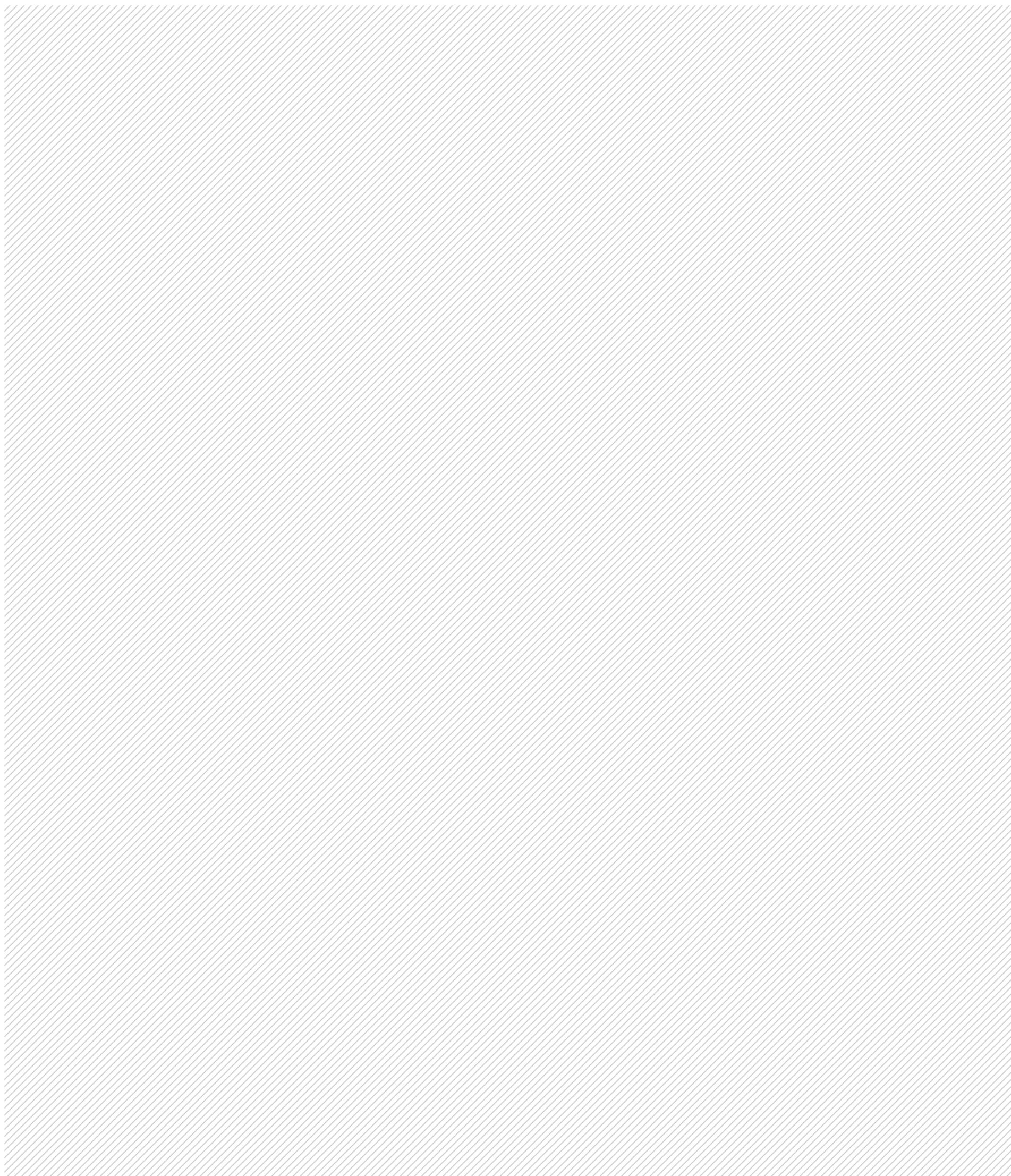
This notice is valid for 30 days from the published date.

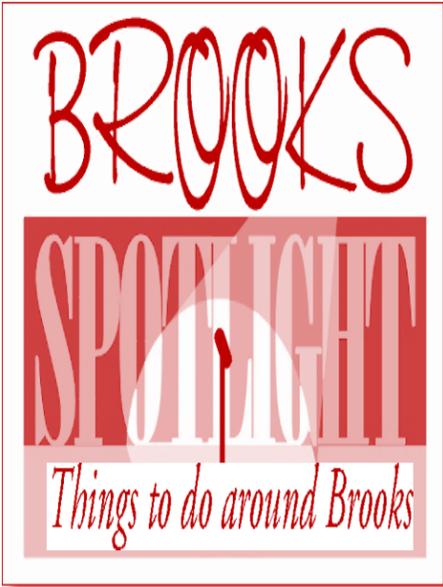
### Airman Appreciation Day

There are many vital missions occurring on Brooks-City Base. These vital missions vary from one organization to the next, but they all have one thing in common; reliance on the Air Force's youngest members, the Airmen. The Top 3 and the Noncommissioned Officer's Council would like to recognize and reward these professionals for the outstanding job they do day in and day out.

So on May 6, beginning around 11:30 a.m. at Pavilion 3, the Top 3 will host a picnic and sports competition. Events include softball, volleyball, 3 on 3 basketball and challenge horseshoes. They will be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch and door prizes, including a new TV will be given throughout the day.

All Brooks Airmen are invited and encouraged to attend. Come on out and let the leadership treat you to lunch and an enjoyable picnic.





By Jan McMahon  
Brooks Services Marketing Office

## Youth Services Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

Registration for swim lessons for toddlers through teens begins May 3. Classes will be in two week sessions, Monday - Thursday beginning in June. The cost is \$18 per session.

The Barracuda Swim Team is accepting registrations for girls and boys, ages 7-16. They wish to join the Palo Alto Summer League and the cost is \$35 for Youth Center members and \$50 for nonmembers.

An America's Kids Run will be held May 15 starting at 9 a.m. The America's Kids Run Event will provide children ages 5-13 an opportunity to participate in a fun run scheduled for military bases worldwide. The event helps to build their self-esteem and fitness in a fun, safe, and secure environment as part of Armed Forces Day celebrations and May Fitness Month promotions. The five and six year olds run one-half mile, the seven and eight year olds run one-mile, and the nine to thirteen year olds run two-miles, with a finish line reward and the cheers of their proud parents.

It's time for Summer Day Camp. Registrations will be accepted until all spaces are filled. Camp starts with a one day camp on May 28. Camp is open Monday-Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on all federal holidays. Children, age 5 who have completed kindergarten through 12 years of age, are eligible to attend.

## Health & Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188

Squadron Sports Day 14 brings members of Brooks together for a day of intense competition and fun. It develops a high level of esprit de corps and creates an annual opportunity to compete for the Squadron Sports Day trophy. Squadron Sports Day is scheduled for May 21 and is open to all Brooks squadron personnel, military and DoD/NAF civilians. Base contractors in direct support of the installations are also authorized to participate. Squadrons must submit an entry form

for each separate event. Squadrons may merge to form a team by submitting a letter to the Fitness Center.

Scheduled events are: 5K run, ping pong, volleyball, racquetball, tennis, 3 on 3 basketball and one-pitch softball. Teams will receive points in the following manner:

First place: 5 points, second place: 3 points and entry: 1 point. Awards are given to 1st and 2nd place participants. Due to the volume and time limit of events, we will not postpone games for teams or players competing in other events. Brackets will not be changed the day of competition. Each squadron sports representative should ensure maximum participation in every event by scheduling participants accordingly. Each squadron is limited to one team per event.

## Brooks Swimming Pool

The 2004 season starts May 29. Season passes are \$10 and the daily user fee is \$1.50 per person. Passes may be purchased from the Health & Fitness Center starting May 17. Once the pool opens they can be purchased at the pool. Pool parties can be scheduled through the head life guard.

Hours of operation will be:

- Sunrise Swim-Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 6:15-7:15 a.m.
- Adult Swim-Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Open Swim-Mondays-Fridays, 1-7 p.m.
- Open Swim-Saturdays and Sundays, 1-6 p.m. For more information contact the center staff at 536-2515.

## Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Steak lovers....mark your calendar for You "B" The Cook Steak Night. Try your hand at cooking your steak just the way you like it on June 9 and 23 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Lounge patio area. The cost is only \$7.50 per steak and this includes potatoes and veggies.

## Family Affair 2004

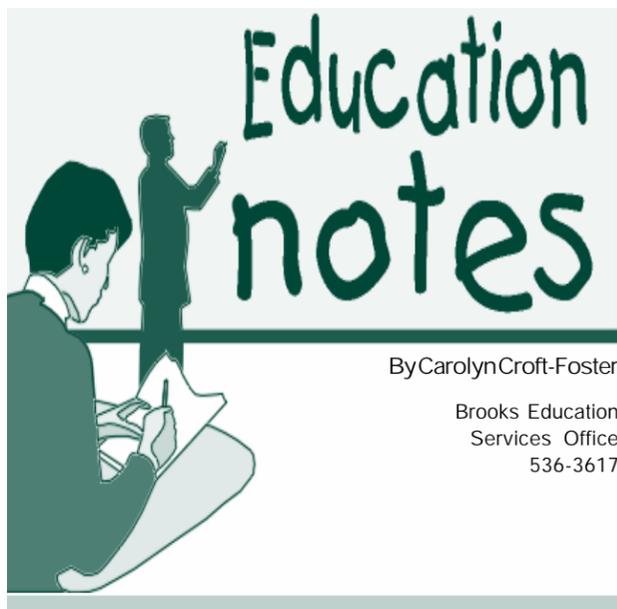
The annual base picnic will be held on June 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the base picnic grounds. Everyone is sure to find a favorite food or even several from the participating booths.

Chalupas, hot dogs, hamburgers, shish kabobs, chicken sandwiches, sausage in a tortilla wrap, candy, cake walk, toy walk, fruit cups, turkey legs, ice cream, frito pie, popcorn, nachos, sliced watermelon, fajitas, tacos, funnel cakes, veggie hoagies, beer biscuits, BBQ ribs, brisket, peanut brittle, BBQ beef ribs and more will be offered.

Beverages include bottled water, lemonade, sodas, iced tea, Gatorade and Koolade.

Games for the entire family include the dart game, dunking booth, mini train ride, football toss, gold fish game, face painting, moonwalk, water maze, obstacle course and other assorted children's games.

Additional feature are the petting zoo, pony rides, a magician, clowns, caricatures, an antique car display and the Buffalo Soldiers Mini Museum and Campsite



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.




Brooks  
Personality  
PROFILE



Weems

# A Kid at Heart



Photo by Senior Airman Samantha Shieh

## Q&A

**FULL NAME:**

Senior Airman Michael Weems Jr.

**DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:**

Information Management Apprentice, Air Force Research Laboratory

**IN SIMPLE TERMS, WHAT I DO?:**

I take care of leave issues and in-process new personnel

**BIRTHDAY:**

November 24, 1981

**HOMETOWN:**

Washington D.C.

**NICKNAME I CALL MYSELF:**

Mike

**FAMILY STATUS:**

Single with no children

**PERSONAL MOTTO:**

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:33-34

**PET PEEVES:**

Selfishness and lying

**INSPIRATIONS:**

All my loved ones

**HOBBIES:**

Taking long walks on the beach and watching the sunset...RIGHT.

**BOOKS AT BEDSIDE:**

The Holy Bible, Men Cry in the Dark, and A Purpose Driven Life

**ULTIMATE GOAL:**

To glorify God and to make it to Heaven

**FAVORITE MUSIC:**

Gospel, Hip hop, R&B

**MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IS:**

Giving my life to the Lord

**MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION IS:**

my salvation

By Steve VanWert  
Discovery staff writer

Senior Airman Mike Weems looks like a grown-up, works like a grown-up, lives a grown-up life dedicated to his country and his religion, but get him talking about sports or teenagers, and you realize he's just a kid at heart.

Airman Weems, an information manager with the Air Force Research Laboratory at Brooks, was born in November 1981 in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Crossland High School in Temple Hill, Md., a Washington suburb, in 1999. He played linebacker and tight end on his high school football team, which almost won it all during his sophomore year.

"We were one game away from the state finals," he said, "but lost 6-3. It was as close as we'd get while I was there."

The Crossland team, competing in Division 4-A, boasted another star player, Julian Peterson, who now plays for the San Francisco 49ers. But that's not enough connection to make Airman Weems a 49er fan. Not by a long shot.

"I'm a Redskins fan through and through," he said, "and the last few years under Coach Spurrier have been really terrible. But now Coach Gibbs is back and the glory days are coming!"

Airman Weems spent the bulk of last weekend watching the NFL Draft on ESPN. And he approves of what the new Redskins brain trust is accomplishing. "We picked up Sean Taylor, a safety," he said. "It was a great draft. I'm excited about the future."

He's also excited about seeing Quarterback Mark Brunell wearing the burgundy and gold. "Pat Ramsey is going to be a fine quarterback," he said, "but Brunell brings some veteran experience to the team. I think he's going to be the starter. We were only 5-11 last year, but I

think we're going to challenge the Eagles for the title this time."

After high school, Airman Weems worked for a year for a company that produced precision machine parts for other companies. In 2000, he decided to join the Air Force. He didn't know a lot about the military, but knew he wanted a way to get his college degree. "My dad was a Marine, but I didn't know him very well," Airman Weems said. "I grew up with my mother and eight brothers and sisters." Some were from his mother's first marriage and some from her second. "I was right in the middle, with four brothers and four sisters."

Airman Weems left the D.C. area and his beloved Redskins behind and, after completing basic training, attended technical training at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. "I loved Keesler," he said. "It was hot, but I loved the beaches."

From Keesler, he came to Brooks in October 2000, and has loved it here ever since, especially the weather. "I love the winters down here," he said. "It's like fall back home. You can still get out and do things when it's snowing and freezing back in D.C."

Sports are still an important part of his life, but at Brooks it's basketball, not football. He was starting small forward for the combined Air Force Institute for Environmental Health and AFRL team, which came back to take back-to-back games from the defending base champs, the 68th Information Operations Squadron, and win the base intramural championship. But it was a bittersweet win for him. He wasn't there.

"I had to attend a class that week and couldn't play. But my heart was with them," he said. It was the only two games he missed all year.

During his off-duty time, Airman Weems volunteers as a mentor for a 13-year-old boy. The program is through the Marantha Bible Church in Universal City, Texas. He feels

good about the time he spends with the boy. "He's a real good kid," Airman Weems said. "I'm only 22 years old, so I'm not that much older than he is. I still remember what it was like being a kid. I can relate to what he's going through, the peer pressure. He has someone to talk to who gives him a little different direction than his parents. Being a mentor is important. We talk on the phone almost every day and get together on weekends, watch sports on TV. It's important to him, but you know, I think I get more out of being with him than he does."

At work, Airman Weems puts his "grown-up" hat back on. "I really enjoy the Air Force," he said. "And I plan on staying until I retire. But I've only been on active duty for four years, so I've got a long way to go."

He thinks he's already come a long way. "I've grown up a lot in the Air Force," he said. "I've got responsibility now. I came in a boy, but now I'm a man."

Two people have been mentors for this mentor. Master Sgt. Lee Brooks, his supervisor, is one of them. "He's been a good friend. He was with me when I redirected my life to Christ. He's been a great influence on me during my military career," Airman Weems said.

First Lt. Leroy Brown, the commander's executive officer and squadron section commander, is another. "He does a great job of bringing out the best in me," Airman Weems said. "He never lets me settle for less than the best."

Airman Weems is currently working on his CCAF degree in business marketing. After all, that is why he enlisted. But don't worry, between spending time with his teenaged protégé, watching the Redskins on TV and pounding the pine for his intramural basketball team, he's sure to remain a kid at heart.

Steve.VanWert@brooks.af.mil



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, exchanges gifts with King Antonio LXXXI, Rob Eversberg, during the Brooks Fiesta reception, April 17.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Nearly 300 military and community leaders and Fiesta royalty attended the Brooks Fiesta reception April 17 at Hangar 9.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Capt. Melissa Mouchette and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Fulcher take time for a photo aboard the military ambassadors' barge at the Texas Cavaliers River Parade, April 19. This year's parade theme was "Luces del Rio," and included more than 40 festively decorated floats sponsored by local community organizations and military installations. The Air Force Band of the West's band, "Top Flight," performed on the military ambassadors' barge, entertaining enthusiastic spectators along the winding route.

# Fiesta 2004



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Capt. Melissa Mouchette appeared in the Battle of Flowers Parade, April 23, riding on the Joint Military Service float, along with ambassadors from Randolph and Lackland Air Force Bases, Air Intelligence Agency, and Fort Sam Houston.

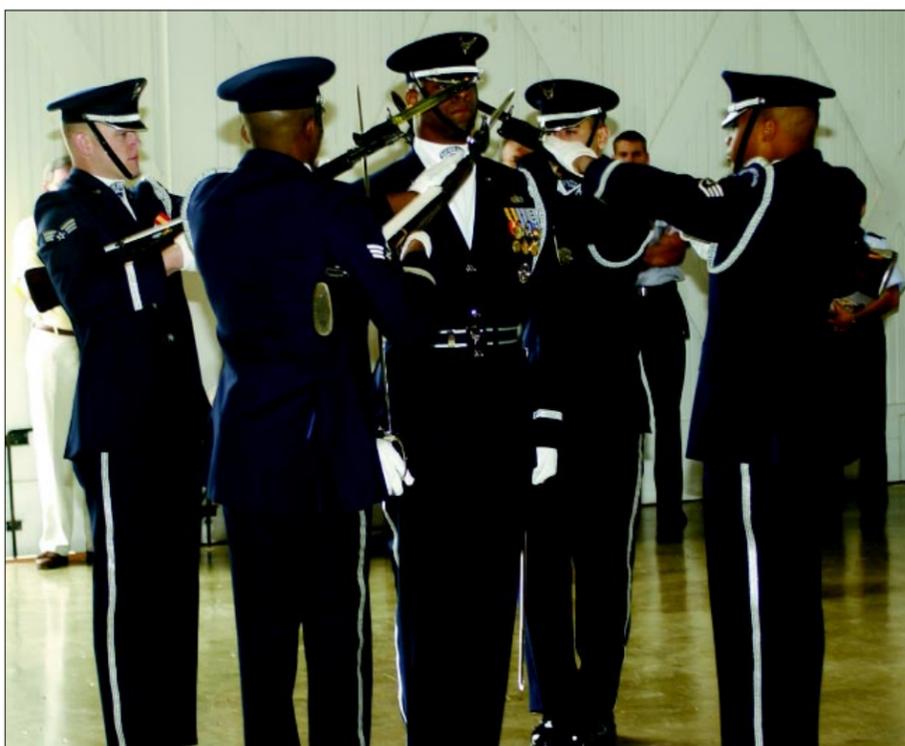


Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

The U.S. Air Force Presidential Honor Guard Drill Team demonstrates its flawless timing and exact precision at the Brooks Fiesta reception. The team uses fully operational M-1 Garand rifles with fixed bayonets weighing in excess of 13 pounds.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

The San Antonio Pipes and Drums band performs at the Brooks Fiesta reception in Hangar 9. The band has become somewhat of a tradition at the Brooks reception, entertaining guests for the last four years.



## Personnel services now available on AF Portal

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The days where people need to remember numerous user IDs and passwords for basic online personnel services are coming to an end, thanks to the Air Force Portal.

"The portal is a powerful tool," said Col. Gregory Touhill, director of personnel data systems at the Air Force Personnel Center. "We took the personnel applications our military and civilian employees use most often and made them accessible via the portal."

"Now, an airman deployed anywhere in the world has access to his or her personnel records through the portal," he said. "Especially with so many high-demand applications available, it's time everyone got an account."

By logging on to the Air Force Portal, users will have "reduced sign-on" access to 14 of the most used personnel Web services.

The Air Force Portal is located at: [www.my.af.mil](http://www.my.af.mil).

"Users won't have to remember several passwords and input them every time they want to get into a particular application anymore," Colonel Touhill said. "Instead, Airmen can log into the portal when they come to work and use the available applications all day long."

The military personnel-related areas now available include:

- Virtual military personnel flight
- Officer Qualification Test score
- Military Personnel Data System
- Password change utility
- Reserve Management Vacancy
- Retraining lists for the NCO re-training program

- Virtual out-processing
- Web-based testing

The civilian personnel-related areas now available include:

- Career brief
- Electronic official Personnel Folder
- Emergency Medical Data System
- Employment Benefits Information
- Employment
- Career Program registration

Having reduced sign-on access from desktop computers to personnel information saves people from having to wait in line at their local personnel flight, Colonel Touhill said. Now for many of those services, users will not have to remember separate passwords, he said.

The Air Force chief of staff has said he wants all airmen to establish a portal account by April. Establishing an account takes only a few minutes, officials said.

For more information about the portal or any of the online applications, call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

## Enlisted Promotions

The following Brooks enlisted personnel were selected for promotion to the next highest grade:

To senior master sergeant:

**Karl Joseph**  
311th Human Systems Wing  
Air Force Medical  
Support Agency

To technical sergeant:

**Shawn Bendixson**  
U.S. Air Force School of  
Aerospace Medicine

**Joseph Brown**  
311th Security Forces Squadron

**Christopher Burnett**  
311th Medical Squadron

**Anthony Francisco**  
Air Force Research Laboratory

**William McHale**  
311th SFS

**Jose Murillofierro**  
311th Mission Support Group

To staff sergeant:

**Michael Chacon**  
68th Information  
Operations Squadron

To senior airman:

**Darel Griffin**  
68th IOS

**Crystal Ray**  
311th Communications  
Squadron

**Sean Weins**  
68th IOS

**Melissa Harwell**  
311th CS

**Raymond Ruiz**  
311th CS

To airman first class:

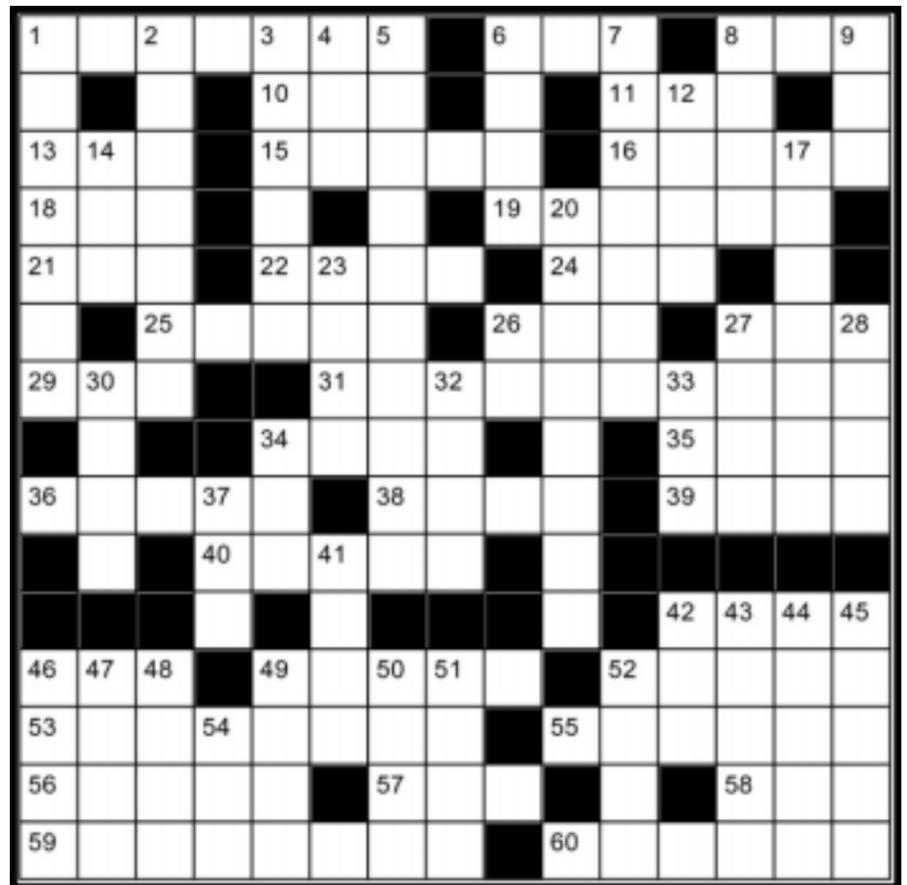
**Jennifer Fantony**  
311th Mission Support Group

**Carrie Coffey**  
311th MSG



# Hometown USAF

By 1st Tony Wickman  
Alaskan Command Public Affairs



Solutions, Page 19

## ACROSS

1. Washington D.C. base home to 11th WG
6. Alconbury or Croughton
8. Singer Cantrell
10. Neither's partner
11. Fire
13. Rule
15. Huckleberry Finn writer
16. Moslem prayer leaders
18. Computer laugh?
19. USAF forward operating location in Alaska
21. Mining goal
22. Shoe brand
24. Actor Diesel of XXX
25. Ledge
26. "Man of a Thousand Faces" Chaney
27. Shock
29. Emergency code
31. California AFB home to SMSC
34. Roseanne sitcom star Gilbert
35. Fur coat
36. Italy AB home to 831 MUNSS
38. Coast on Hawaii's 'Big Island'
39. Small island
40. Swathe
42. Treaty
46. Soak in liquid
49. Type of tides
52. French explorer Rene Robert Cavelier de La\_
53. Colorado AS home to NORAD (pt.1)
55. Alabama USAF annex to 17 DOWN
56. First CMSAF
57. Explosive
58. Hearing tool
59. Second part of 53 ACROSS
60. African country \_\_\_\_\_ Leone

## DOWN

1. Hawaii AFS
2. Actress Lucy of Xena
3. Place on jet aircraft where air is drawn in
4. Immediately
5. North Dakota AFB home to 319th ARW
6. Phone
7. Not make the grade
8. Legume
9. Beginning of American Navy vessels
12. Comic book superheroes
14. Commander's place of control
17. Alabama base home to Air University
20. Florida AS
23. Singer Fitzgerald
26. Tail marking for Barksdale AFB
27. Pub drinks
28. Spanish east
30. Hawaiian island home to Hickam AFB
32. Paulo and Roque
33. Prefix for close to
34. Knight's title
37. Pesticide
41. Tied
42. Bad review
43. Change
44. Alaska AFS
45. Surface area of the moon
46. Scheme
47. State home to Wright-Patterson AFB
48. Home to Machu Picchu
49. Belgian artist Bernard (1825-80)
50. Against
51. Fast Times at Ridgemont High actor Sean
52. 70s singer Quatro
54. Japanese currency



Photo by Rudy Purificato

YA's John Pierce recently won the San Antonio Men's Match Play Golf Tournament on April 18. Mr. Pierce won all six of his matches on route to his first place finish.

## YA's Pierce wins San Antonio golf tourney

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

John Pierce added yet another trophy to his growing collection of golf hardware when he captured the 2nd Annual San Antonio Men's Match Play Golf Tournament April 18 at the Cedar Creek Golf Course.

Mr. Pierce, 42, finished on top of a field of 64 players who qualified for the event sponsored by Golf San Antonio, sponsors of the Texas Open.

"It was originally going to be played April 2-4, but bad weather caused the tournament to be extended over several weeks," explained the 311th Human Systems Program Office production manager in the Aircrew Protection Branch.

Mr. Pierce, who transferred to Brooks in August 2003 from Warner Robins Air Force Base, Ga., won all six matches of the tournament. "It's the highest level tournament I've won," said Mr. Pierce, who graduated from San Antonio's John Marshall High School in 1979.

In match play, golfers' scores are based on each hole instead of a cumulative total of 18 holes. Winning a hole earns a player one point. Holes are halved in ties.

Mr. Pierce has played competitive golf since 1985. "I always played golf with my dad when I was a kid. I have a natural talent for hitting the ball well, but I didn't start to develop as a (good) golfer until the late 1980s and early 1990s," Mr. Pierce said. He pursued golf in earnest after his dreams of becoming a Major League baseball player went unfulfilled.

Since then, Mr. Pierce has won several tourneys including his first, the San Antonio Amateur Golf Tournament, and the Pecan Valley Amateur Golf Tourney in 1992.

"I've just qualified for the Texas State Amateur Golf Tournament to be held June 3-6 at the Carlton Woods Golf Course in Houston's 'The Woodlands'," Mr. Pierce said. He says he doesn't plan a pro career, noting, "As an amateur, I play for the love of the game."

## Varsity softball squad to host 'Brooks Classic'

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

In what its organizer hopes will become an annual softball tournament, the men's base varsity team is hosting the "Brooks Classic" April 30-May 1 that will pit many of the city's top civilian and military clubs.

Games to be played today in the round-robin event begin at 7 p.m. at fields 1 and 2. The Brooks team is scheduled to play today in an 8 p.m. contest. The tournament features teams from the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, the 343rd Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Randolph AFB, and three city teams: the Bandits, Roadrunners and Colts.

"We're hosting this tournament to get us ready for the (annual) Band Aid tournament that will be held in two weeks," said Dave Miles, Brooks varsity men's head coach who is assigned to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. Mr. Miles founded the Band Aid tournament in Colorado Springs, Colo. for Air Force medical teams several years ago when he was assigned to the Air Force Academy.

"This (tourney) will be a good tune-up for us. Randolph will (also) be competing in the Band Aid tournament," he said. Mr. Miles structured the Brooks Classic like the Band Aid tournament in which teams play a lot of games in a few days.

The Brooks Classic starts with a round-robin, followed by a single-elimination playoff. Today's schedule includes two games played simultaneously at 7 p.m., one contest played at 8 p.m., and two more simultaneous games played at 9 p.m. On Saturday, both fields will be used during the continuation of round-robin play which ends at 4 p.m. The playoffs begin at 5 p.m. with the championship game scheduled for 8 p.m.

## 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

## Brooks varsity squads to compete in new league

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

To help prepare them for upcoming tournaments, the Brooks men's and women's varsity softball teams will participate in the newly formed San Antonio Military Softball League.

The league, which includes men's and women's base teams from San Antonio's four military bases, will play games at 6 and 7 p.m. every Tuesday from May 4 through June 8.

"This league will help us prepare for the Armed Forces World Champion-

ships to be held in August," said Dave Miles, Brooks men's varsity team coach. Brooks will compete against teams they will have to face at the Armed Forces tournament, including Lackland and Randolph Air Force Base and Fort Sam Houston.

This early summer league is a continuation of the Brooks men's varsity team's regular season which began two months ago as participants in the city's Alva Joe Men's Competitive Softball League. That league, which features a total of 11 season games

played Thursday nights, ends in mid-May.

The new league will be governed by American Softball Association rules which include a 55-minute time limit. Brooks home games will be played on fields #1 or 2.

Non-existent for years, the Brooks women's varsity team is ably coached by Patricia Esquivel, a former Air Force Material Command All-Tourney star who in the 1990s was known as the "Female Ty Cobb."

The Brooks squads' home opener is May 4 against Randolph AFB. The women play at 6 p.m., followed by the men at 7 p.m. Other Brooks home games are scheduled for May 18 against Fort Sam Houston and June 1 against Lackland AFB.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Trish Esquivel, Brooks women's varsity softball coach, will help lead her squad in the newly formed San Antonio military softball league.



### 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 Lunchtime Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Contact the Chapel staff for information on the subjects featured this month.

### Protestant Worship

Interdenominational Christian Protestant worship for the military community takes place every Sunday at the Brooks chapel. The 10:30 a.m. congregation has a weekly children's sermon and children's ministry. The 6 p.m. congregation celebrates contemporary praise and worship, weekly communion and a fellowship meal afterwards.

### 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

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