

# DISCOVER

## Brooks honors airmen killed in traffic accident

By Rudy Purificato  
*311th Human Systems Wing*

The Brooks community bid farewell to one of its own this week during chapel memorial services held here in honor of Airman First Class Christopher Pedroley, a member of the 311th Communications Squadron who was killed Jan. 31. He was buried Thursday with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Pedroley, a communications cable maintenance apprentice, was also honored the day before his death by Brooks senior leaders during a promotion ceremony at the Brooks Club.

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, and 311th HSW Command Chief Master Sergeant Rich Hollins symbolically pinned senior airman stripes on Pedroley in anticipation of his Feb. 18 promotion date.

"He just got married about three months ago. This really hits close to home," said Pedroley's co-worker Master Sgt. Robert Sullivan, the 311th Communications Squadron's Network Control Center superintendent.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Airman First Class Christopher Pedroley, center, and his wife Elizabeth, hold his symbolic senior airman stripes during a Jan. 30 promotion ceremony at the Brooks Club. Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, left, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Hollins, right, presented the stripes in honor of Pedroley's Feb. 18 promotion date. Pedroley was killed in a car accident the following day.

Pedroley and his wife, the former Airman First Class Elizabeth Brock, were victims of a motor vehicle accident near Loop 410 and Space Center Drive in north San Antonio.

The San Antonio Police Department reported the vehicle the Pedroleys were riding in as back seat

Accident, Page 4

## 'Force Shaping' means some can leave active duty early

By Maj. John Thomas  
*Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs*

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — There is good news for thousands of airmen considering leaving active duty who thought they couldn't because of existing service obligations.

An effort dubbed "force shaping" is opening the exit doors to officers and enlisted servicemembers in select career fields and year groups by waiving some active-duty service commitments previously incurred for events like government-funded education, permanent changes of station and promotion.

Force shaping includes opportunities to transition to the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard, and can relieve some people of their active-duty service commitments.

Rules for leaving active duty early will be the least restrictive for anyone wanting to transfer to the Guard or Reserve through the Palace Chase

program.

Some bonus payback requirements may also be waived, officials said.

Applications for any of the force-shaping early release programs must be made through local military personnel flights by March 12.

More than 16,000 additional people — 12,700 enlisted and 3,900 officers — currently projected to leave will be allowed out to help the service return to its authorized active-duty force size by Sept. 30, 2005. The goal is to get within authorized end strength while avoiding "extreme measures" that "wreak havoc" with mission and morale, officials said.

Active-duty airmen wanting to transfer to the Reserve or Guard can apply for a waiver of their active-duty service commitment incurring a 2-for-1 service commitment (not less than 1 year or greater than 6 years).

Shaping, Page 8



Photo by Rudy Purificato

### A look inside

Lt. Gen. George "Peach" Taylor, the Air Force Surgeon General, visits with Brooks Clinic personnel during his first City-Base tour Jan. 22-23. In addition to the Clinic, General Taylor visited other organizations on base, including the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, Air Force Research Laboratory facilities, the 311th Human Systems Program Office and the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

### Inside this issue:

Local news	4
Crossword	10
Briefs	10
Chapel schedule	13
Sports	19



Portable hyperbaric device saves lives

Page 12



Centennial of Flight: A look back at the legends, Ocker

Page 15



February 2004



**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](mailto:Cerise.Shapiro@brooks.af.mil) or to: [Discovery@brooks.af.mil](mailto:Discovery@brooks.af.mil).

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

*Discovery* advertising

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](mailto: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.  
John Randall, 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](mailto: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>.

# Who is the Warfighter?

By Lt. Gen. William Looney

*Aeronautical Systems Center Commander*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Since I relinquished command of an operational fighter wing in 1996, I've heard a phrase over and over again that has truly left me confused - "support to the warfighter."

Not that the phrase is confusing - on the contrary, it's straight forward and meaningful, especially to warfighters! What's confusing is the types of people using the phrase, and the fact they consider themselves "support to the warfighter."

From my perspective, "support to the warfighter" is provided by the American people and the United States Congress.

The American people provide the national will and funds for the military to wage war when required, and the Congress provides authorization for war and the expenditure of funds to support the military. To me, this is a clear and concise definition of "support to the warfighter."

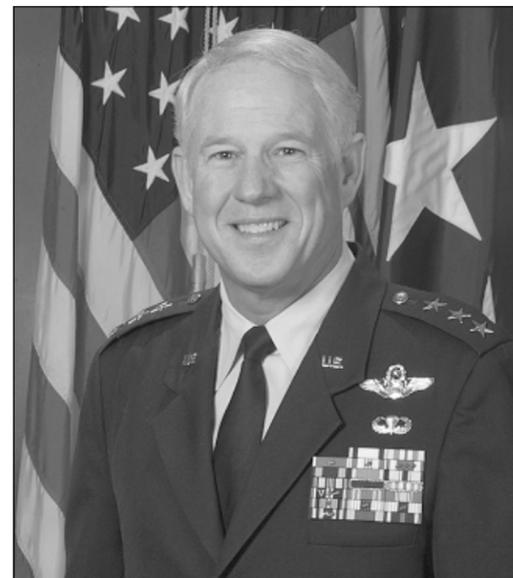
I become confused when individuals I consider warfighters classify themselves as "support to the warfighter." I believe that if you belong to an organization that's in the warfighting business, you must be a warfighter — it's not a term just reserved for those in the heat of battle!

Trust me, I appreciate our warriors in harm's way, but without capabilities such as stealth, precision attack, command and control, UAVs, etc, our victories would take much longer and our losses would be much higher. The capabilities Air Force Materiel Command acquirers put into the hands of our operators are crucial to all our warfighting operations' success.

Some may consider this a small point or an over reaction to a harmless phrase. However, I believe words are important and what we identify with is just as important.

America's warfighting team is made up of operators, acquirers, scientists, contractors and industry partners — uniformed and civilian. And together we are the most powerful, potent force the world has ever seen!

In these difficult times, the forces of terror



Lt. Gen. William Looney

**"** *America's warfighting team is made up of operators, acquirers, scientists, contractors and industry partners — uniformed and civilian. And together we are the most powerful, potent force the world has ever seen!*

**"**

challenge our values and beliefs as never before. Our nation has turned to its warfighting team to meet that challenge. The American people and Congress will provide the support — then they'll look to us to bring home the victory.

I titled this article with a question — Who is the Warfighter? Hopefully I've made it clear that regardless of your role in AFMC, you too are a critical part of America's warfighting team.

Our contribution to our country in this challenging time is HUGE and you should be very proud of what you do and who you are — an American Warfighter!

# Why are self inspections important?

## A word of advice from the inspector general

By Master Sgt. Karl Joseph  
*311 HSWIG*

A sound, written self-inspection program is a critical management tool that, if done effectively, will enhance an organization mission by identifying discrepancies in programs or procedures. Folks, you have to document it.

A good self-inspection program also prevents the panic that occurs right before our MAJCOM comes for the ultimate inspection, whether it's an Operational Readiness Inspection or a Unit Compliance Inspection.

Through March, the wing will be conducting its' annual self-inspection, in accordance with

**"** *Remember, you can write it up now or the inspectors can write it up later. It's your choice.*

**"**

Air Force Inspection 90-201 and Air Force Materiel Command Inspection 90-202, which mandates this program.

When conducting your written self-inspection, take your time and take it seriously. Go through your checklists and note any discrepancies. If you note discrepancies, ensure you take corrective action. Get your supervisors and division/branch chiefs involved if you have problems getting things fixed.

Take the time and use this important management tool and see how your organization is meeting its' mission requirements.

Remember, you can write it up now or the inspectors can write it up later. It's your choice.



## Camera phones pose security risk

By Master Sgt. Darrell Lewis  
Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center Public  
Affairs

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFPN) — Carrying the latest “have-to-have” electronic gadget may mean big trouble for the person who brings it into unauthorized locations.

Officials from the National Security Agency said in an advisory that new cellular phones with integral digital cameras pose an unacceptable security risk to homeland security.

This type of phone is not authorized for use or possession within any Air Force facility processing classified information without written authorization from the designated approval authority.

“Communications are getting faster and easier,” said Jane Guidicini, Air Force Communications Agency certified emission security technical authority. “While that does help speed communications, it can also unfortunately allow classified information to get out of a classified area inadvertently or otherwise.”

“We realize occasionally the restrictions might seem overly-strict when the new technologies come out, but it’s better to be overly cautious than to have an incident,” Ms. Guidicini said.

“It takes just a little common sense to realize that if you have a cell phone with a camera, you should leave it home if you work in a classified area,” said Tech. Sgt. Shon Kloepping, 72nd Security Forces Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of physical security.

If someone in a restricted area has one of the phones with a cam-

*“We realize occasionally the restrictions seem overly-strict when new technologies come out, but it’s better to be overly cautious that to have an incident.”*

Jane Guidicini  
Air Force Communications Agency

era capability and a security forces troop discovers it, he or she would be forced to confiscate the camera for review of unlawful images, Sergeant Kloepping said.

Additionally, civilian employees could face federal charges and military members could face federal charges and Uniform Code of Military Justice actions, he said.

But it is not just a good idea to limit their use in “secure rooms” where classified information is being processed, said Peter Bryant, Air Force Materiel Command security forces directorate information security chief.

“You should watch how you use and carry those anywhere you’re dealing with sensitive or proprietary information,” he said.

If people see someone using any unauthorized camera without coordinating with base agencies, contact the base security forces squadron, Mr. Bryant said.

“It all comes down to being aware,” Sergeant Kloepping said.

## Helpline gives airmen vital info

By Master Sgt. Eddie Riley  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force expanded efforts to take care of its own Feb. 1 with the 24-hour-a day “Air Force One Source” live helpline for airmen and their families.

The “beyond-the-gate” support and referral service is intended to help address personal and family support needs for active-duty airmen, reservists and Guardsmen. Some airmen are not always near agencies that offer support with child care, finances, legal matters, deployment and other related issues. Certified counselors will be available year-round to answer questions, provide information or guide airmen and their family members to the appropriate resources.

The intent is to ensure all airmen and their families have the right resources they need, said Linda Smith, chief of Air Force family matters at the Pentagon.

“Air Force One Source gives them access to support at all times by telephone, the Internet and e-mail,” Ms. Smith said.

Most base family-support resources

are only staffed to help the 20 percent of the population who typically require assistance at a given time, Ms. Smith said. The Air Force One Source staff will provide access to these kinds of resources to those serving remotely, while augmenting the traditional on-base services, she said.

The Air Force One Source staff, contracted through Titan/Ceridian Corp., has nearly 30 years of experience handling geographically dispersed employee calls from Fortune 100 companies. Counselors with licensed clinical social work and employee-assistance certifications, as well as advanced counseling degrees, will respond to Air Force One Source users.

“All (airmen and their families) with an (identification) card can use (the helpline) to get help with a range of concerns,” Ms. Smith said.

Some concerns that may be addressed include making plans to deploy or coming home from a deployment, resolving personal problems, or coping with challenges that come up during the course of a day, she said.

Air Force One Source will be available anytime by phone in the United States at (800) 707-5784, internationally at (800) 7075-7844, internationally collect at (484) 530-5913 or at [www.airforceonesource.com](http://www.airforceonesource.com). The Web site will require customers to log on by using “airforce” as the user ID and “ready” as the password.



# Brooks Club member wins \$1,000 trip

By Steve VanWert  
Staff Writer

Lt. Col. Darrell Criswell, assigned to the Air Force Research Laboratory, is going on vacation this year, courtesy of the Brooks Club. And he didn't even have to enter the contest. All he had to be was a member of the club.

The Travel The World On Us Air Force Membership Campaign, run by Air Force Services, automatically chose 16 prize winners per major command in 2003. Colonel Criswell won in the existing member category.

"This is the first time I can remember anyone from Brooks being a winner in this contest," said Vida Marsh, director of marketing and commercial sponsorship for 311th Mission Support Group Services. "I'm really excited about this."

So was the colonel. While accepting his travel certificate from Capt. Jon Rumbley, deputy services chief, he said, "I'm going somewhere with this — maybe Alaska — but it's going to be somewhere great!"



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

From left, Lt. Col. Darrell Criswell, assigned to the Air Force Research Laboratory, and 311th Mission Support Group's Capt. Jon Rumbley look over the \$1,000 prize Colonel Criswell won in the annual 'Travel the World On Us' Air Force Membership Campaign.

Prizes were awarded in two categories: new member and current member. One \$5,000 grand prize was given per command. Colonel Criswell won a certificate redeemable at Tickets and Tours for up to \$1,000 in vacation benefits.

The Travel The World On Us contest is an annual event, aimed at increasing membership in Air Force clubs and awareness of what Air Force clubs offer both active duty and retired people. The 2004 contest will begin sometime in late summer.

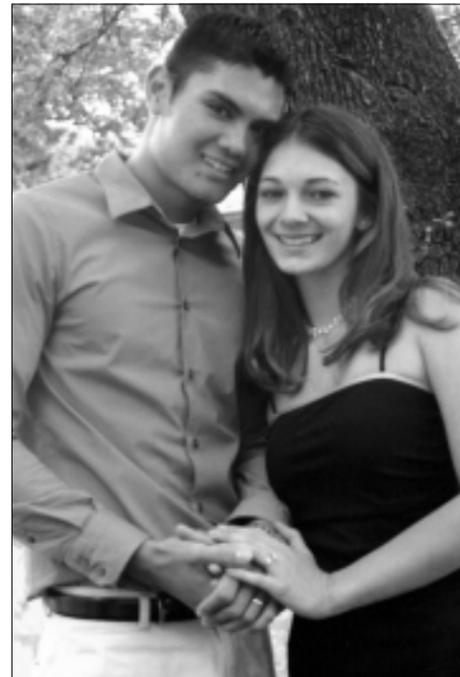
## Accident

Continued from Page 1

**//** *I consider him a quiet professional. He was an inspiration to us all. He was a leader by example.*

**//**

Maj. Ian Sablad  
311th Communications Squadron  
commander



Christopher and Elizabeth Pedroley superintendent.

passengers had been hit by one of two cars allegedly involved in a drag racing incident.

Airman Pedroley was the only accident victim who died. His wife, the driver and another passenger received non-life threatening injuries.

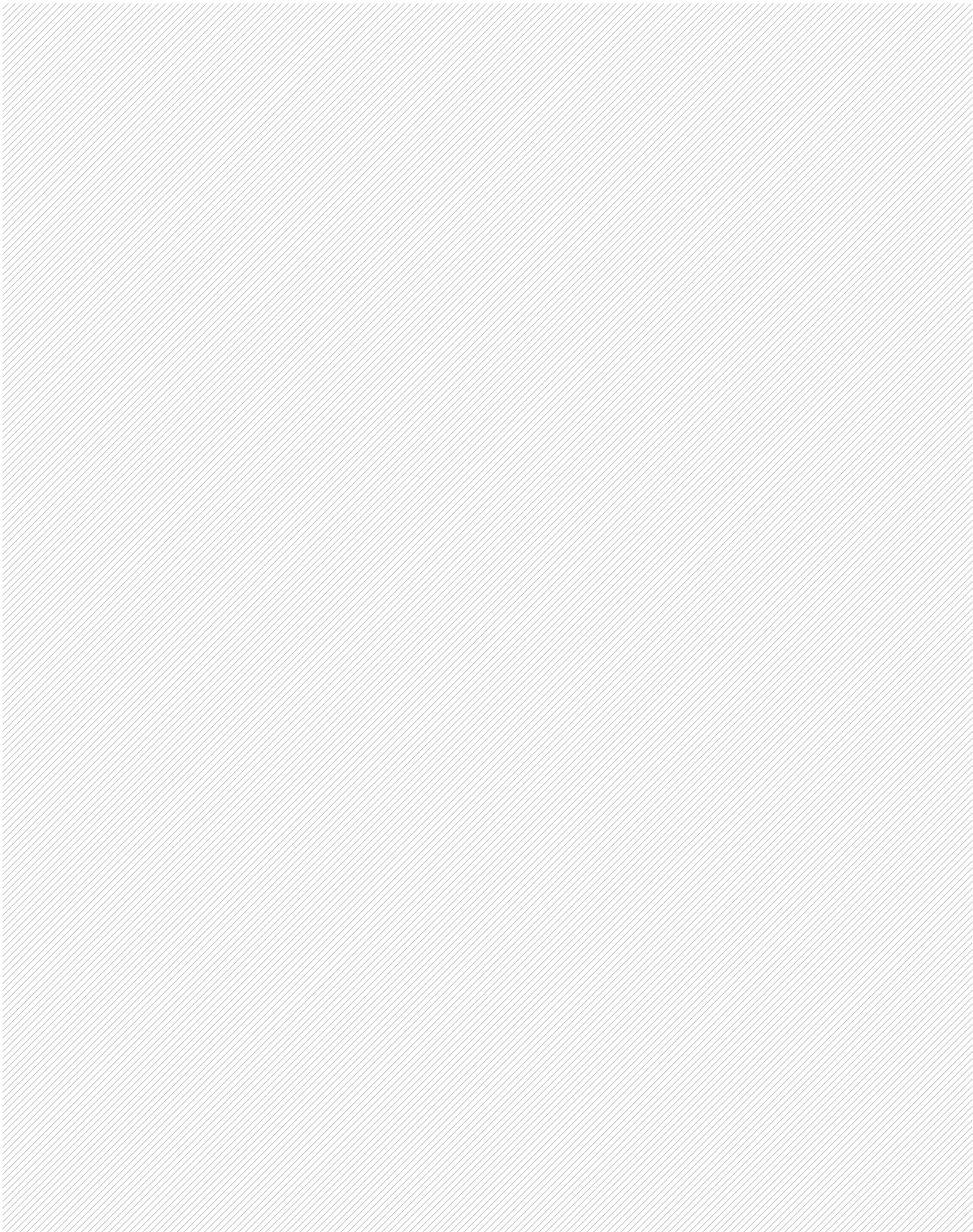
Airman Pedroley, who turned 21 Jan. 18, was a popular member of his squadron. He was his unit's starting point guard in basketball intramurals and was a member of the cable maintenance team that was honored by Colonel Travis as quarterly recipients of the Commander's Award in 2003.

"I consider him a quiet professional. He was an inspiration to us all. He was a leader by example," said Maj. Ian Sablad, 311th Communications Squadron commander.

"He was respectful and very much a gentleman," recalls Chief Master Sgt. Donna Williams, 311th CS

Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Gibson, a co-worker, said, "He was an outstanding airman. You couldn't have asked for a better performer. He was liked and respected by everyone."

Born in Rapid City, S.D., Airman Pedroley was the son of Joseph and Criselda Pedroley. He began his first Air Force assignment at Brooks in June 2002. He married his wife, a 311th Communications Squadron computer systems apprentice, in late 2003.





*Courtesy photo*

### Making a difference

The Brooks NCO Council adopted a stretch of road off Loop 410 on the city's southside. The trash pick-up, Jan. 23, was the NCO council's first official event of the year. Contact Tech. Sgt. Robb Gudgel at 536-3731, Staff Sgt. Rosemary Roe at 536-5850 or any member of the Brooks NCO Council for information on council membership or future planned events.



# 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
BX Market.....	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

### Grant applications accepted

The General Henry R. Arnold Education Grant program awards \$1,500 grants to dependent sons and daughters of:

— Active duty, Title 10 Air National Guard/Reserve personnel on extended active duty, and Title 32 Guard/Reserve performing full-time active duty.

— Members who retired due to length of active duty service or disability, or retired Guard/Reserve with 20-plus qualifying years creditable for retired pay.

— Servicemembers deceased while on active duty or in retired status.

Spouses of active duty and Title 10 Guard/Reservists on extended duty stationed stateside, and surviving spouses of Air Force members who died while on active duty or in retired status are also eligible.

The grant will be awarded to a high school graduate enrolled or accepted as a full-time

undergraduate student in the 2004-2005 academic year. Use of fund is limited to tuition, books and fees, or other direct educational expenses. Contact the Family Support Center for details, or visit the Web site at: [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org). Application deadline is March 12.

### Smooth move

**Feb. 10, 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537—**

PCSing? Hear briefings from travel, 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

**Feb. 10, 3:15 - 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 for this class.

### Sponsor training

**Feb. 12, 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.

### Resume workshop

**Feb. 26, 11 a.m. - noon, Bldg. 537—**

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



## Shaping

Continued from Page 1

regardless of their career field.

"We're a total force, and for our active-duty airmen who would like to separate early and still retain a connection to their Air Force, the Palace Chase program provides the perfect vehicle to preserve operational capability while reducing active-duty end strength," said Maj. Gen. John Speigel, the Air Force's director of personnel policy at the Pentagon.

"We're focusing a big part of our efforts there because it keeps (servicemembers) and their expertise in the total force, while allowing them increased stability and a chance to continue working toward a military retirement," the general said.

Some applications may not be approved. Because of manning shortages, 29 officer and 38 enlisted specialties will not qualify for many of the waivers. Among those are pilots, navigators, air battle managers, aerial gunners, fuels specialists, nurses and first sergeants. The complete list of "stressed" career fields that are excluded from many of the waivers is posted at: [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape/).

"We don't want to break any career fields during our force-shaping efforts or create problems in future years similar to the ones caused by the downsizing in the early 1990s," said General Speigel.

"Approval authority for miscella-

neous enlisted separations will rest at the personnel center, to centrally review applications and ensure compliance with manning needs," said Maj. Dawn Keasley, chief of retirement and separation policy at the Air Staff.

Examples of efforts to "shape" the force go beyond waivers. They include procedures where those who fail to complete technical schools only will be allowed to leave the Air Force or to reclassify into short-manned career fields. In addition, high-year-of-tenure extensions will only be granted to those in specific shortage career fields or for personal hardship reasons.

Program highlights include:

— The chance to transfer to the Guard and Reserve for those with at least 24 months time in service, incurring a 2-for-1 service commitment (not less than 1 or greater than 6 years).

— Enlisted waivers of active-duty service commitments associated with technical training and bootstrap programs.

— Potential service commitment waivers of up to 18 months for permanent-change-of-station moves.

— Potential service commitment waivers for officers of up to 24 months for Air Force Institute of Technology doctoral education and Education With Industry.

— Up to 12-month waiver of intermediate and senior developmental education commitments for officers.

— Possibility of ROTC commission-

ing directly into the Reserve or Guard.

— Aviator Continuation Pay, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences scholarships, and AFIT fellowship, scholarship, and grant commitments will not be waived.

According to officials, force shaping is designed to return the Air Force to its authorized uniformed population, or "end strength," while shifting some airmen to positions in specialties that need more people of their rank.

The Air Force brought in thousands of people since the late '90s to build up to end strength, with limited consideration for the skill mix, officials said. But more people came into the service and fewer than expected left, leaving the force with more people than are authorized to be on active duty.

To reduce the total number of active-duty people in uniform, the Air Force is continuing efforts like retraining people into careers where they are needed more, outsourcing jobs to private industry, and converting some jobs from military people to Air Force civilian workers.

However, these new force-shaping tools are being offered because still more needs to be done, officials said.

Details and career counseling are available from unit career assistance advisors at each base. People can also call the Air Force Contact Center at DSN 665-5000 or toll-free at 800-616-3775 for more information.

## Certificate of Creditable Coverage automatically issued

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFPN)—DoD Military Health System officials are now automatically issuing a Certificate of Creditable Coverage to any former uniformed services sponsor or family member who loses eligibility for health-care benefits under TRICARE. The service began Feb. 1.

Eligibility for TRICARE may end as a result of a sponsor's separation from active-duty status, divorce, demobilization if the sponsor is a guardsman or reservist or when a dependent child reaches age 21, or 23 for full-time students. For people no longer eligible for TRICARE, the certificate serves as proof of previous health-care coverage. It limits the time another health-care plan may exclude them from participating in a health-care plan because of a preexisting medical condition.

The Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office will mail a certificate for the sponsor or family member within five to 10 days after eligibility is lost. As long as a current address is on file in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, people may expect to receive the certificate within 30 days.

Sponsors or family members who have questions regarding the certificate, or need fax and mailing information for expedited certificates, may contact the DSO at 800-538-9552. Additional information is also available on the TRICARE Web site at: [www.tricare.osd.mil/certificate/index.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/certificate/index.cfm).



## NEWS briefs

### *Aerospace Career Day volunteers needed*

Several volunteer opportunities are available for Aerospace Career Day 2004. The event, scheduled for March 2-4, contributes to mentoring approximately 1,800 local high school students. Each day nearly 600 students attend various events including a science magic show.

Escorts, lunch workers and logistical support are among the volunteer opportunities. If you would like to be a part of this important aerospace educational service opportunity, respond by email to: [alexander.pierce@brooks.af.mil](mailto:alexander.pierce@brooks.af.mil) or call 536-1481. Visit the Brooks Web page at: [www.brooks.af.mil/ACD2004](http://www.brooks.af.mil/ACD2004) to see highlights from last year and details.

### *Civilian awards breakfast*

The Civilian of the fourth quarter and year awards breakfast is sched-

uled for Feb. 19 at 7:30 a.m. at the Brooks Club.

### *New clinic hours*

The Brooks clinic is now 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).

### *Scholarship luncheon scheduled*

The Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Luncheon is scheduled for 11:15 a.m., Feb. 25 at the Brooks Club. The scholarship fund supports college-bound seniors or full- and part-time college students in the San Antonio military, civilian or family member community. The scholarships range from \$500-\$1,000. For additional information or specific details, call 1st Lt. Lorrie Carter 536-4896 or Capt. Goldie

Boone at 536-6727.

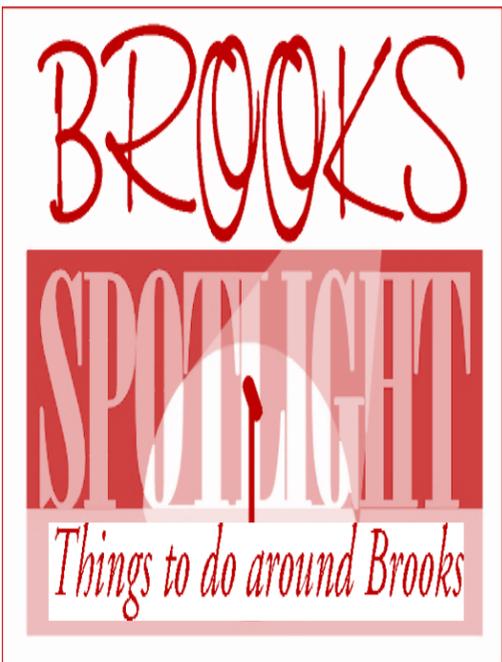
### *Interviewing series concludes*

The Brooks Black Employment Program Committee will conclude its Interviewing Workshop Series at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Bldg. 775, room 135, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 12.

Don Blue, Chief Executive Officer, Leadership Concepts of San Antonio, is the featured guest speaker and will provide invaluable tips for marketing yourself and landing a job.

The workshop is considered official training and is open to all military and civilian employees and their dependents.

To register or obtain more information call any of the following committee members: Josie Swindell at 536-6312; Mary Urey, 536-4348; Jeri Peterson, 536-6962 or Juanita Jasper at 536-5440.



By Jan McMahon  
Brooks Services Marketing Office

### Premiere Designs

**Bldg. 705, 536-2120**

If you are searching for a place to print newsletters or flyers stop by Premiere Designs Monday through Thursday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and talk to Becky.

Are you tired of the same old wood plaques? Let Premiere Designs help you design a new concept that is both attractive and cost effective. Be innovative and creative.

### Fitness Center

**Bldg. 940, 536-2188**

Power Cycling is now offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. 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 your life. Contact the staff for more details.

Other classes offered by the center include:

Circuit Training, Mondays and Fridays at 5 p.m. This is a challenging combination of cardio aerobics and strength exercises.

Kickboxing/step, an intense cardio endurance workout that includes boxing and martial arts, starts at 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays.

Step, a workout utilizing basic step and creative combinations on an adjustable platform is offered Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

Hi/Low Plus, intense cardio movements on the floor using combinations and stretches topped off with Salsa-style movements, is offered Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

The classes last for an hour. Certified instructors are provided.

### Summer Bash 2004

Family Affair 2004, Bringing Families and Community Together, is scheduled for June 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the base picnic grounds. The event, formerly called the Brooks Base Picnic, incorporates Summer Bash and the picnic into one fun-filled day. Organizations interested in having food, beverage or game booths this year should contact Tech. Sgt. Alphonso Smith at 536-2077 or Jan McMahon at 536-5475. The day will include great music, entertainment, games and a wide variety of foods.

### Sidney's

**Bldg. 714, 536-5987**

Breakfast tacos are available from 7:30-8:30 a.m. For \$1 you can enjoy a potato and egg, bacon and egg, sausage and egg, ham and egg or bean and cheese. Each additional item is 25 cents. If you're not hungry for a taco today try the breakfast sandwich for only \$1.50 or two sausage biscuits for \$1. Call 536-5987 to place a to-go order.

Stop by Sidney's Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and sample the sandwich menu. Try ham, turkey, beef or pastrami served with baked beans, potato salad and soda for \$4.95 or a sandwich for \$3.50.

### Outdoor Recreation

**Bldg. 1154, 536-2881**

Rent an indoor storage unit and store the items you want to save. Brooks has 48 units on the flightline across from Outdoor Recreation. A 6' x 12' unit rents for \$35 per month and a 12' x 12' \$60 per month. Call 536-2881 or stop by for more information.

### Golf course

**Bldg. 821, 536-2636**

The Brooks Golf Course now has cappuccino. Stop by seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. until dusk. Select from French Vanilla, Almond Amaretto or Butternut Co-coa.

Purchase a 12-ounce cup for 75 cents, 16-ounce cup for 85 cents or a 20-ounce cup for 95 cents.

### Brooks Club

**Bldg. 204, 536-3782**

A Soul Food buffet is back by popular demand. Mark Feb. 18 on your calendar and bring the entire office to lunch at the club. The menu consists of barbecued ribs and brisket, fried chicken, chicken and dumplings, collard greens, pinto beans, black-eyed peas, potato salad, pasta salad, white rice with gravy, candied yams, cabbage with ham hocks, cornbread, peach cobbler and banana pudding. For club members, the buffet is \$5.50 and nonmembers pay \$6.50.

Congratulations to the Air Force Research Laboratory's Lt. Col. Darrell Criswell. He was a \$1,000 winner in the "Travel the World On Us" Air Force Club Membership Campaign.

### Base Library

**Bldg. 705, 536-2634**

The library has some really great paperback books for a "one for one" trade. If you don't have a paperback book to trade, take a free one to get started. The library also takes paperback donations.

Your library is continuously striving to bring you new books. Stop by for a list of the newest books available.

The library doesn't just have books. Gale Group is a database collection available online in the library. Gale Group includes the following databases: InfoTrac Custom Military and Intelligence; InfoTrac Custom Literature; InfoTrac Custom Vocational Technical Careers; InfoTrac OneFile; Student Resource Center; Literature Resource Center; What Do I Read Next?; Business and Company Profiles; Expanded Academic ASAP; and General Reference Center. Other available databases include Social Issues Resources Series; EBSCO Publishing Databases; Jane's Information Group; and OCLC First Search. Ask a member of the library staff for additional information.

Visit Crafted With Care, located in the library lobby and select a Valentine's Day gift for a special someone or the entire office.

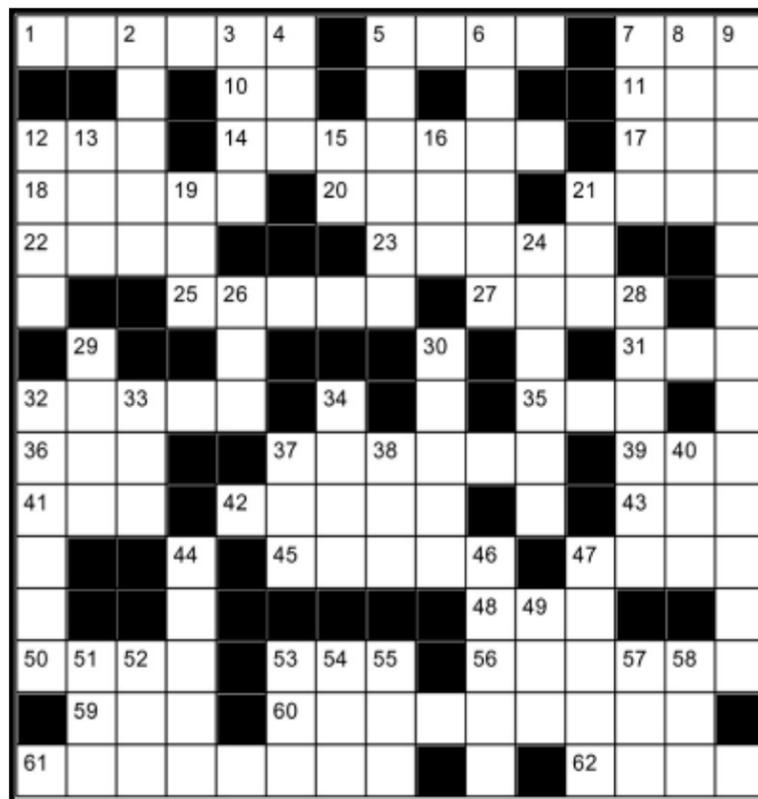
### Youth Center

**Bldg. 470, 536-2515**

Parent's Night Out and a Valentine's Day Dance are scheduled for Feb. 13. The evening includes dinner, a DJ to provide music for the dance, games, free play and a movie. Bring your children, ages 6 to 12 years, to the center to participate in a fun-filled evening from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child.

## Black History Month

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman  
Alaskan Command Public Affairs



Solutions, Page 16

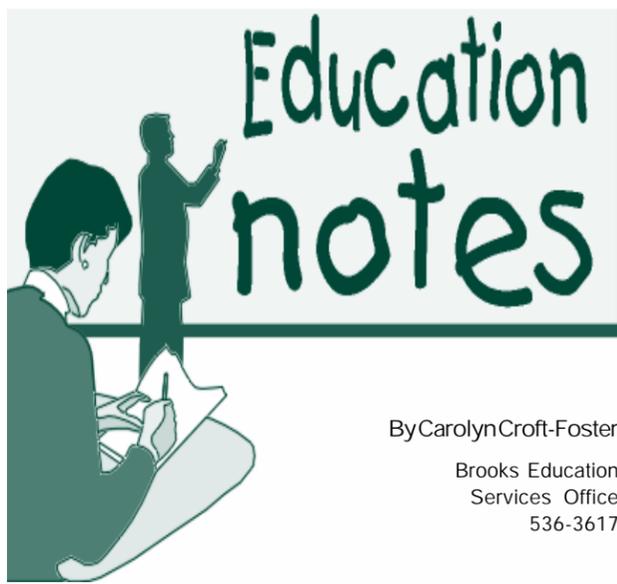
#### ACROSS

1. First African-American U.S. Surgeon General
5. Competition
7. Mon.
10. Article 86-UCMJ topic (abbrev.)
11. \_\_\_ Paulo, Brazil
12. African-American prize fighter considered to be "The Greatest"
14. First African-American astronaut in space
17. Center
18. Roots African-American author
20. Balkans person
21. Soccer star
22. Capital of Norway
23. Construct
25. Halts
27. Authentic
31. CIA precursor
32. African-American inventor of Synchronous Multiplex Railway Telegraph
35. Debt
36. Sick
37. African-American civil rights activist, NAACP founding member
39. Actress Lupino
41. 60-70s African-American film, theater star Carl
42. Mustang, Explorer, Escort...
43. Title for a knight
45. Famous African-American woman who traveled to speak against slavery
47. Char
48. DoD 5-digit code used to uniquely identify a "typeunit"
50. Spaghetti sauce maker
53. Greek letter
56. Greek island
59. Military phone lines (abbrev.)
60. Youngest, first African-American nominated for Oscar Best Director
61. African-American abolitionist, author, orator
62. Dick Tracy's lady

#### DOWN

2. Bore
3. Precious stone
4. Actor Mineo
5. Firearms
6. African-American innovator in agriculture
7. First African-American to win Wimbledon
8. \_\_\_ Cuffe; 1800s African-American civil rights champion
9. First African-American woman to serve in presidential cabinet
12. Ship to shore call
13. \_\_\_ Vegas
15. America, briefly
16. Paddle
19. Greek goddess of dawn
21. School grp.
24. Vivid purplish-red
26. \_\_\_ the season to be jolly
28. Rosa \_\_\_ Parks; called "Mother of Civil Rights"
29. Staff
30. The Road Not Taken poet
32. Little House on the Prairie writer
33. Bullfight cheer
34. Vice President dueler
37. Fleck
38. Military work clothes (abbrev.)
40. Military org. concerned with foreign military intel
44. First African-American ambassador to the United Nations
46. Tosses
47. African-American slave who waged freedom legal battle
49. Article
51. Commotion
52. Military unit not attached to a MOB (abbrev.)
53. Civil war opponent to the Union (abbrev.)
54. Towel marker?
55. Former org. concerned with immigrations
57. Female deer
58. Navy 0-1 (abbrev.)

United States Air Force



By Carolyn Croft-Foster  
Brooks Education  
Services Office  
536-3617

### **CCAF Spring graduation deadline**

The deadline for nominations for the Community College of the Air Force Spring 2004 graduation is Feb. 27. All nominations must be received by CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., by that date. Students who believe they are degree candidates need to contact Education Services at 536-3618 to ensure their nominations have been submitted.

### **National Graduate School**

The National Graduate School will provide lunch to those who attend their introductory briefing Feb. 11 at 11 a.m. NGS offers a program to finish a bachelor's degree in one year and then to complete a masters degree in an additional year. The representative visits Brooks Wednesday mornings from 9-11 a.m. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment or visit the NGS Web site at: [www.NGS.edu](http://www.NGS.edu).

### **Discover Program online**

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new ca-

reer. This program can be used by military, civilians and family members. For more information, call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment to review the Web site and get started.

### **Upper Iowa University degrees**

The Upper Iowa University Center coordinator's office at Brooks is open for appointments Monday through Friday. Visit the Web site: [www.uiu.edu](http://www.uiu.edu), call 536-4033 or e-mail [brooks@uiu.edu](mailto:brooks@uiu.edu) for more information.

### **VA benefits**

Personnel who would like information on their VA benefits account or would like to speak with an education case manager about VA education can call the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at 1-888-442-455, (1-888-GIBILL1), visit the website at: [www.va.gov/education](http://www.va.gov/education), or stop by the local VA field office at 3601 Bluemel in San Antonio. Veteran's benefit information is also available on the Brooks home page and at the Brooks Education and Training Center in Bldg. 558.

### **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 area. For additional information or to schedule a counseling appointment, call 536-3618.

### **Montgomery GI Bill benefits**

Active duty personnel, currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, have the opportunity to in-

crease Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5,400, from \$23,400 to \$28,800, for a maximum contribution of \$600. This payment increases the full-time monthly rate one dollar for every four dollars contributed. The minimum payment is \$20 per month. Contributions can be started and stopped at any time while participants are on active duty. This is not a pay reduction, therefore, there is not a tax savings.

This benefit is only open to personnel who first entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985, and elected to participate in the GI Bill. This feature is not open to Vietnam-Era Chapter 30/34 or VEAP Converttees. For additional information, call 536-3618.

### **Air Force Virtual Education Center**

The Virtual Education Center is now online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can order CCAF transcripts from this site. There are also practice tests available for CLEP exams on this site.

To access the AFVEC go to the following Web site and establish an account: [www.afvec.langley.af.mil](http://www.afvec.langley.af.mil). For more information call 536-3617.

### **CLEP testing**

The College Board retired the majority of paper-based CLEP exams last year. All remaining paper-based exams will be made unavailable March 31. Computer-based CLEP exams are available at National Test Centers, but servicemembers cannot currently request reimbursement for these tests.

The fee for DANTES transcripts increased last year for military members. The new fee is \$20. Also the cost of DSST exams for civilians increased to \$45.

The Brooks Education Services Office offers CLEP testing on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays at 8 a.m. Call 536-3617 for additional information on CLEP or DANTES testing, or to reserve a seat.



# Portable Brooks-tested hyperbaric device saves lives

By Rudy Purificato  
*311th Human Systems Wing*

A portable hyperbaric device that Brooks scientists tested and developed a training program for is having a positive impact on Air Force aeromedical evacuation operations as well as bolstering Defense and Homeland Security Departments' capability to rapidly and safely transport victims of decompression sickness.

Called the Emergency Evacuation Hyperbaric Stretcher, this portable, single-patient hyperbaric chamber is being used by the aeromedical evacuation community from all branches of America's Armed Services. In a recent case, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine-trained EEHS operators helped save the life of a 66-year-old civilian diver victimized by decompression sickness during a Pacific Ocean incident.

"It was developed in response to needs expressed in 1997 by the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, NASA, the U-2 community and Special Forces," said Col. (Dr.) James Wright, former Clinical Investigation Branch chief for USAFSAM's Davis Hyperbaric Laboratory. He explained that their need was primarily based on finding a transitional treatment protocol while transporting victims of decompression sickness to fixed hyperbaric facilities.

"The sooner a victim is treated for decompression sickness, the less severe the (medical) condition will become and the more likely the patient will have favorable results," Dr. Wright said.

Decompression sickness is potentially fatal. It can lead to a host of debilitating injuries that can

require prolonged treatment. For aviators, this can result in a significant loss of flying time.

While decompression sickness is not pervasive within the Armed Forces, it claims dozens of victims annually.

"We average 45 cases a year," said Dr. Wright, referring to those that are reported. Historically, aviators have been reluctant to report suspected cases of decompression sickness.

"In past studies, 80 percent of decompression sickness in U-2 pilots went unreported. They didn't want to be grounded," said Dr. Wright.

During World War II, 17 victims of decompression sickness died out of approximately 17,000 cases that were reported. Since WWII, an estimated 3,000 cases of decompression sickness worldwide have been reported in the Air Force.

In a joint initiative by the Air Force and Navy, the development and fielding of the EEHS has had an effect on the flying and diving communities. "We've developed a treatment protocol (through EEHS) that encourages them to report cases of decompression sickness," Dr. Wright noted.

The device that federal organizations have been using since 2000 is the Hyperlite, commercially developed by the London, England-based SOS Limited. Selected through a foreign comparative testing program, the Hyperlite was tested for air worthiness by USAFSAM that led to the device's certification in 2000.

Costing \$70,000 per unit, the collapsible and pressurized EEHS is ideally suited for use aboard C-17 aircraft. Its C-17 use has allowed aircrews to fly at normal altitudes, saving time and fuel.

Before the advent of the EEHS, C-17s transporting decompression sickness patients had to fly at much lower altitudes to prevent these victims from suffering medical complications, explained Dr. Wright.

The EEHS uses oxygen generated by the same molecular sieve technology employed by military aircraft's On Board Oxygen Generating Systems, commonly known as OBOGS. A minimum of two trained professionals can operate an EEHS, usually a flight surgeon and physiologist/physiology technician.

"We've trained about 50 people in EEHS operations," said Dr. Wright, referring to USAFSAM training that has been conducted at Air Force and Navy installations where EEHS units are in operation, including Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.; Beale AFB, Calif.; Hickam Field, Hawaii and Johnston Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

The Navy owns the bulk of EEHS units, with Air Combat Command having the majority of Air Force units. USAFSAM, Air Force Special Operations Command and Pacific Air Force Command are among other Air Force organizations that have EEHS units. "The Coast Guard was the first (military organization) to get the EEHS five years ago," said Dr. Wright, noting that even the U.S. Army has one.

Besides decompression sickness, EEHS units also can be used to treat arterial gas embolism, acute blood loss, crush injuries, burns and bacterial infection. The Air Force can use the EEHS to support a variety of missions including high altitude operations, mass casualty response, special operations and chemical, biological and nuclear warfare response.



## Computer-based training offers continuing education alternatives to Air Force personnel

By Senior Master Sgt. Mike Walljasper  
*Brooks Career Assistance Advisor*

Is your schedule too hectic to take structured classes? Computer-based training may be the right answer for your continuing education. The Air Force has partnered with SkillSoft, an e-learning provider, to offer a myriad of computer-based training courses for Air Force military and civilian personnel — and it's free.

Some of the courses offered include:

— 1,200 IT courses; includes Microsoft, Cisco, Java, Unix, Networking and Security; and

— 200 Business skill courses; includes Leadership, Team-Building, Budgeting, Customer Relations

Support provided includes:

— Seven-day 24-hour access to content subject matter experts; and

— On-line reference-ware to more than 90 unabridged IT publications.

Certifications preparation:

— Test preparation material for more than 40 commercial IT verifications.

The site offers tools to browse courses by interest and track individual progress. It also features discussion forums and meeting rooms with workshops and seminars.

The Web site is accessible from any computer with internet access. Full access to courseware is granted to active duty Air Force, Reserve, and Guard personnel and Department of the Air Force civilian personnel.

Limited access is available for all others accessing an Air Force network to carry out their official duties. This will only provide access to specified Air Force developed courses. All personnel other than those listed above, such as military services and contractors, fall into this category, according to the Web site.

Visit <http://usaf.smartforce.com>, register and begin learning today. Registration is required but is easy to complete. Contact Senior Master Sgt. Mike Walljasper at 536-5528 for more information.



### *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.

### *Lifebuilder's series*

The Lifebuilder's Lunchtime Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Throughout Feb. the series recognizes Black History Month.

Contact the Chapel staff for more information.

### *Chapel schedule*

#### **Weekdays:**

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

#### **Wednesdays:**

Noon — Lifebuilders 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



Brooks  
Personality  
PROFILE



Cushing

Q&A

FULL NAME:

Master Sgt. Susan Cushing

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

Superintendent,  
Career Enhancements,  
311th Mission Support Group

WHAT IS MY JOB?:

I manage the Military Personnel Flight office, which handles awards and decorations, reenlistments, enlisted and officer evaluations and promotions.

BIRTHDAY:

Oct. 23, 1977

HOMETOWN:

Durant, Okla.

FAMILY STATUS:

Engaged to be married

NICKNAME I CALL MYSELF:

"Renaë"

PERSONAL MOTTO:

"Treat others the way you would want to be treated."

PET PEEVE:

Being late for anything

INSPIRATIONS:

I've had too many to name just one

HOBBIES:

Motorcycle riding, hockey,  
reading and hiking

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE:

Psychology Today, good suspense novel

I JOINED THE MILITARY:

because at age 27 I had no real direction. I took a chance on the military and it was the smartest decision I've ever made.

FIVE YEAR GOAL:

get married, invest, get promoted, buy a house and be happy.

ULTIMATE GOAL:

Live long, laugh often and love much

IF I WON THE LOTTERY:

I'd share some with family, take a trip and invest the rest.

FAVORITE MUSIC:

It's a toss-up between classic rock and farm tunes (country).

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IS:

earning my Master's degree.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION IS:

none. I place a higher value on relationships.

# 'Headed in the right direction'

By Steve VanWert  
Staff writer

As a 27-year-old college graduate, Renaë Cushing was unable to find that "perfect job." The Durant, Okla., native had taken her sociology degree and moved to Dallas to pursue what she thought would be a "wonderful job." Instead, the only job she found was working in a halfway house for male prisoners. She couldn't see herself in that environment, so she worked several jobs before eventually moving to Colorado. But she still had no real direction. Without a focus, she found herself considering the military as an alternative.

"It was the smartest decision I ever made," she said. Enlisting in 1987 because there were no officer openings in her degree, she's never looked back. "I love the enlisted corps. I've found my place."

The last seven years have given now-Master Sgt. Cushing the opportunity to see both the personnel and operational sides of the Air Force, and use her sociology background, as well. Her first assignment was in the Consolidated Base Personnel Office, the predecessor to the military personnel flight at Royal Air Force Base Alconbury, United Kingdom. She worked outbound assignments, where one day her office was host to a staff assignment visit from the training folks at U.S. Air Forces in Europe headquarters. They were impressed with her and Sergeant Cushing soon found herself with an assignment to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

The next four years saw her working officer assignments at major command level. "It was exciting," she said. "I saw what is now the Air Force Management System develop from cradle to grave. I saw it evolve from manual systems into the present computer-based programs. I was there when it moved into the 20th century."

While at Ramstein, Sergeant Cushing got to work in the Mission Support Squadron orderly room and then on a short tour to Lajes Field, Azores, where she witnessed firsthand the operational side of the Air Force. "It was most rewarding," she said. "I ran the Commander's Support Staff and my office sat right on the flight line. I was there during the September 11 bombings, during 911. Just seeing the air traffic flying in and out on its way to the desert was incredible. Just seeing the F-15s lined up on the runway was a great experience."

While at Lajes, she spent most of

her off-duty time in the gym. "I basically lived there," she said.

In October 2002, Sergeant Cushing's life changed direction again — she received orders to report to Brooks City-Base, her first stateside assignment in 15 years.

"The past year has been spent learning all the different jobs we do in the personnel career field," she said. And supervising five airmen. "I feel a responsibility to help young troops make good decisions. I'm interested in people and how they react. I guess it's a holdover from my sociology degree."

While here at Brooks, in addition to her regular job, she's been acting first sergeant, giving her the chance to help other airmen besides the five she supervises. In other words, Sergeant Cushing found her direction in life. Now she's helping others find theirs. She found the First Sergeants Council a "cohesive group and very supportive." Being an acting first sergeant helped her "to see things from a different perspective. It's been great for both personal and professional growth."

"The people here have been the difference," she said. "I've been allowed to do my job the way I like to do it - hands-on, insisting on high standards. I preach the team concept and try to balance my demanding side with my compassionate side. I want to thank the members of my team for supporting me as their leader."

"I've got great people working for me," she said. "First, there's Airman Gladys Class. She's only been in the Air Force for a year, but she's dedicated and has amazing potential. Senior Airman David King recently took over a new position and had to learn a lot quickly because we have some people on deployment. He's stepped up and done everything I've asked of him. Senior Airman Sakari Archuleta came to us from the orderly room. She's applied herself and done an outstanding job. Senior Airman Anthony Meadows is currently deployed, but he's worked reenlistments and decorations. He's



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

eager and dependable. Staff Sgt. Kimberly A.C. Parks, also deployed, is my noncommissioned officer in charge. She keeps everything moving. I lean on her to get the projects done."

Secure in the knowledge that her military life is successful and fulfilling, the sergeant finds her personal life exciting, as well. She's an avid ice hockey fan, having adopted the San Antonio Rampage. She goes to numerous games and really enjoys it. "I love to hear the sticks hit the puck," she said. "I hate to watch the game on television, but it's exciting to be at the stadium."

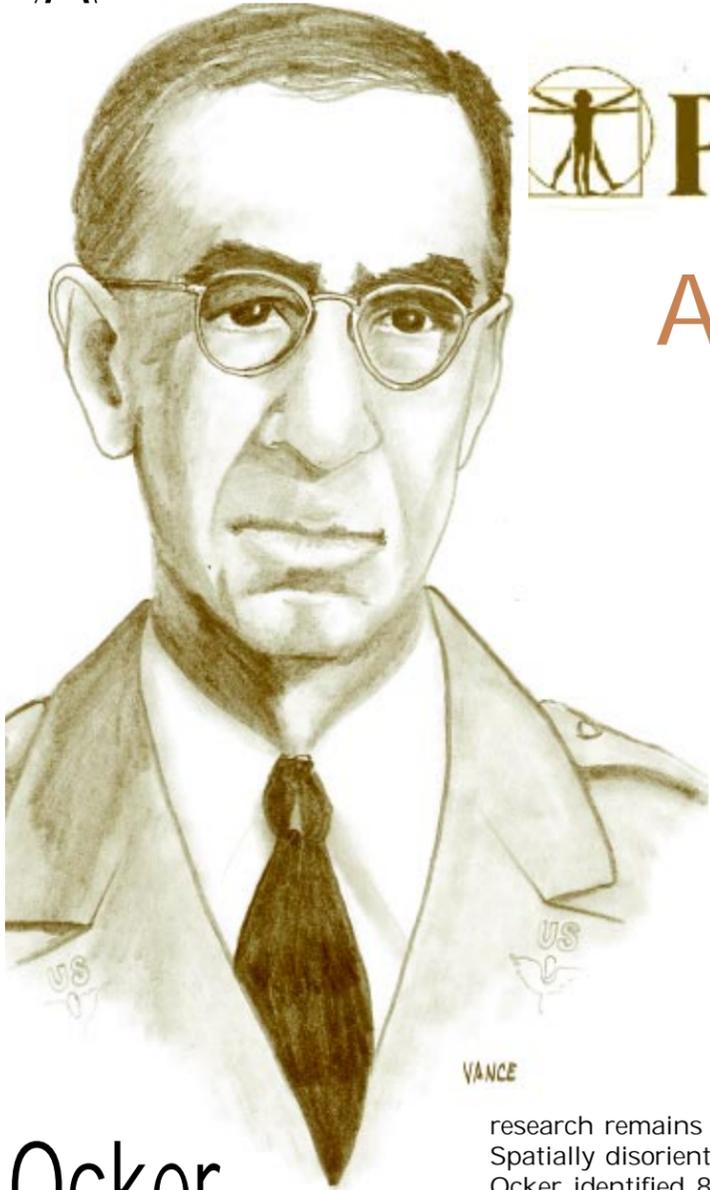
She's also becoming a "motorcycle mama," although slowly. Her fiancé rides a Harley. She thought it didn't look too tough, so she took a course. "I thought I'd just take a little class, buy a Harley and ride on my own," she said. "Instead, I fell three times. It gave me new respect for cycles. I've decided I need more practice, but I still plan on getting one for my own someday."

She will probably be a married woman when that happens. She and her fiancé, a master sergeant assigned at Lackland Air Force Base, haven't set a definite date, but "it'll be soon." They're really just waiting for their wedding rings to arrive from Ireland. He's scheduled to leave on a temporary duty assignment to Korea sometime in February. They hope to tie the knot before he leaves. Her husband-soon-to-be is up for a permanent change of station assignment soon, so she plans on putting in for a join-spouse assignment so they can go together.

Ultimately she knows the day will come when she's ready to retire from active duty. But she sees it as just another direction in her life.

"When I retire, I want to use my degree and get into social programs," she said. "I guess I'm looking at the future through rose-colored glasses, but I'm just going to take one day at a time and let life unfold. Most of all, though, I want to be happy."

Steve.VanWert@brooks.af.mil



# PROFILES IN TIME

## A Centennial of Flight series

“ Except for Maj. Ocker’s great zeal as a missionary, I doubt whether the course in blind flying would be a requirement in the Army today. I believe that his campaign of education has had more influence in bringing about the use of instruments than that of any other person.

”

Orville Wright  
Aviation legend

## Ocker, pioneer of 'blind flying'

research remains an issue today. Spatially disorienting illusions that Ocker identified 80 years earlier were among those the National Transportation Safety Board said contributed to the 1999 aircraft accident that claimed the life of John F. Kennedy, Jr.

To a visionary pilot like Ocker, relying solely on instincts and visual cues during adverse flying conditions invited inevitable problems that led to mishaps, injury and death.

Writing in the October 1930 *Aero Digest*, Ocker said, “The removal of the limitations imposed by weather is dependent upon two principal factors — the development of suitable instruments for flying during conditions of low or obscured visibility, when the pilot cannot refer to terrestrial objects to keep his ship level; and the education of the pilot in the use of proper instruments.”

The concept of “blind flying” or instrument flight that Ocker pioneered, however, did not exist when he was born in 1880.

One of seven children of German immigrants, the poor-sighted, bow-legged Philadelphia native had enough vision to see that aviation was his true calling. Nevertheless, the age of powered flight was five years away when Ocker enlisted in the Army as an artilleryman. The Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection combat veteran subsequently made a career move after he had guarded a Wright flier at Fort Myer, Va. Receiving approval from Capt. “Billy” Mitchell, his company commander, Ocker transferred to the Army Signal Corps Aviation Section in 1912. By 1914, he had earned his wings. Three years later he was commissioned, which led to a series of flying training assignments.

Ocker’s journey as a tireless flight instrument advocate began in 1918 during a period in American aviation history when navigational devices were both rudimentary and optional. He flight tested in clouds a ‘bank and turn indicator’ that Dr. Elmer Sperry had invented that was based on an earlier design for a maritime gyro-

scope. By 1926, Ocker had developed a solution to counter the effects of vertigo, a disorienting spatial illusion, by adapting the bank and turn device for use with his “Ocker Box.”

His invention, attached to the revolving early “flight simulator” called the Jones-Barany chair, became the world’s first blind flying trainer.

Ocker’s aviation disorientation research also led him to invent a ‘hooded’ pilot cockpit seat that was used in blind flying instruction to teach aviators to rely on flight instruments rather than on their senses.

Dramatically demonstrating his unwavering belief in blind flying, Ocker successfully made the world’s first “instrument-only” cross-country trip in history June 24, 1930, a nearly 900-mile journey from Brooks Field to Scott Field, Ill.

Ocker also found a kindred spirit in Col. Carl Crane, a Brooks Field instrument flight pioneer. Their partnership resulted in the invention of the Pre-Flight Reflex Trainer, a navigational aid called the Flight Integrator, and their co-authorship in 1932 of the book classic *Blind Flight in Theory and Practice*.

Despite Ocker’s contributions to pilot training and aviation safety, Army Air Corps leaders did not fully embrace his ideas until after his death.

Ocker remained steadfast in the legitimacy of his training ideas while suffering the humiliation of an

Air Corps report issued at Duncan Field, Texas which stated, “Blind flying is not necessary under normal conditions, and is extremely dangerous under abnormal conditions with the instruments we now have. It is strongly recommended that blind flying be not included in any phase of training at the Air Corps Training Center.” Ocker’s reputation, however, prevailed. Flight instrument training was first introduced in 1930 to Advanced Flying School students at Kelly Field. Additionally, the Mexican Division of Pan American Airways at Brownsville was the first commercial aviation organization to adopt Ocker’s “hooded” cockpit blind flying training.

Among aviation legends who appreciated Ocker’s contributions were Eddie Rickenbacker, Jimmy Doolittle and Billy Mitchell who called his work “second to none in our service.”

Ocker’s most famous tribute came from his greatest supporter, Orville Wright, who wrote in 1934, “Except for Maj. Ocker’s great zeal as a missionary, I doubt whether the course in blind flying would be a requirement in the Army today. I believe that his campaign of education has had more influence in bringing about the use of instruments than that of any other person.”

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

(Editor’s note: Since the Wright Brothers launched the age of powered flight, countless aviators have greatly contributed to humanity’s progress. Discovery pays tribute to several Brooks Field and U.S. Air Force aviation pioneers in this multi-part series that commemorates the first century of flight. Part II examines the contributions of a Brooks Field visionary whose insight about in-flight spatial illusions led to the development of aviation flight instruments.)

Known as the “The Father of Instrument Flying,” Col. William Charles Ocker’s pioneering experiments and patented training and navigational devices have had a profound and lasting impact on aviation safety. More importantly, this Brooks Field legend’s work led to a monumental leap forward in flying efficiency and mission effectiveness.

His crusade to educate pilots about the efficacy for using flight instruments as critically important navigational tools was initially met with resistance, ridicule and accusations that he was insane. To his era’s aviation community, flight disorientation was part of a rite of passage for pilots who favored “flying by the seat of their pants.” Yet while the years since his death in 1942 have been filled with great aviation technology advances, the principal problem of pilot disorientation effecting flight control that motivated Ocker’s

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Courtesy photo

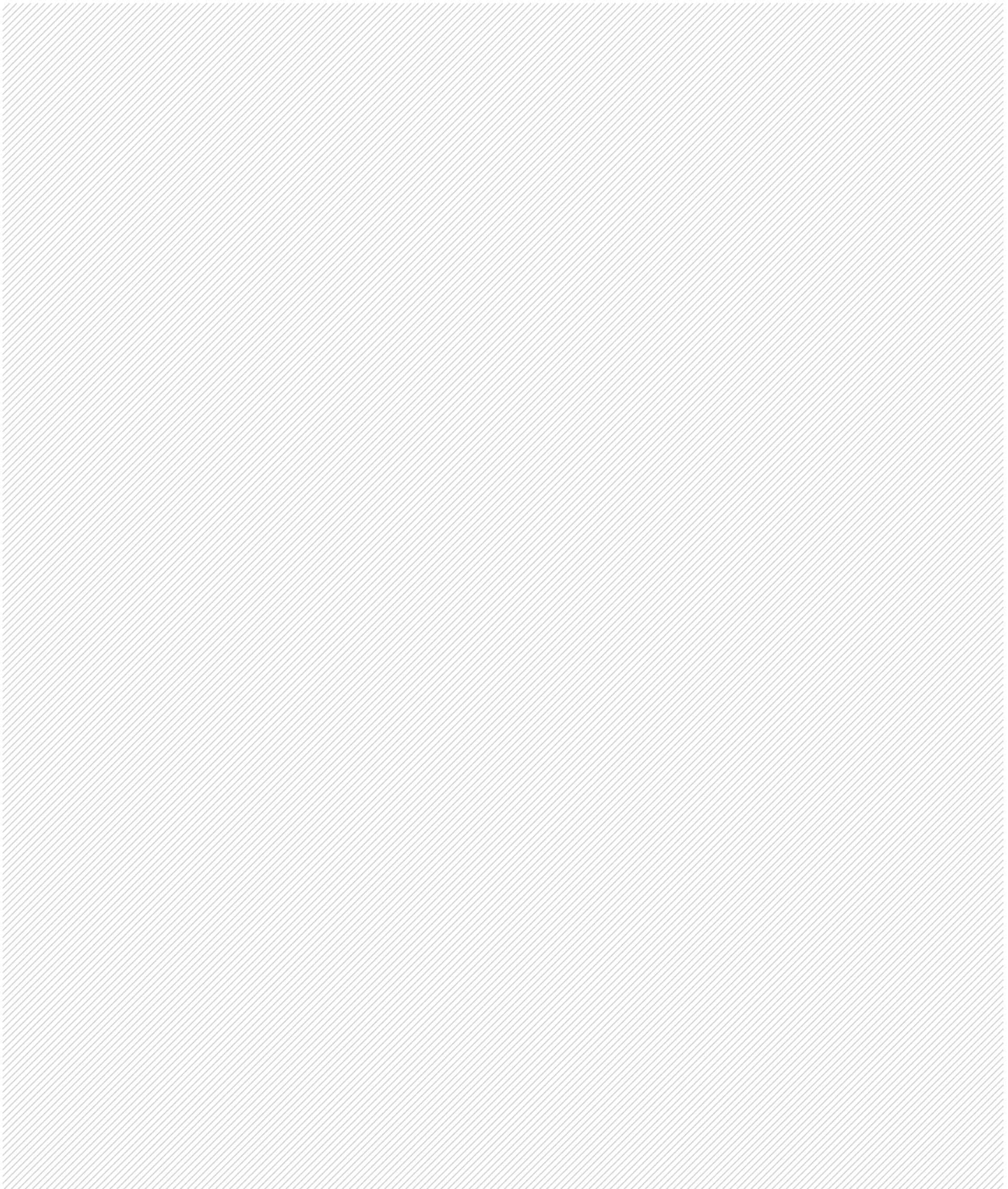
Col. William Ocker, a flight instruments pioneer, pilots a P-12 aircraft over Kelly Field, circa 1920s.

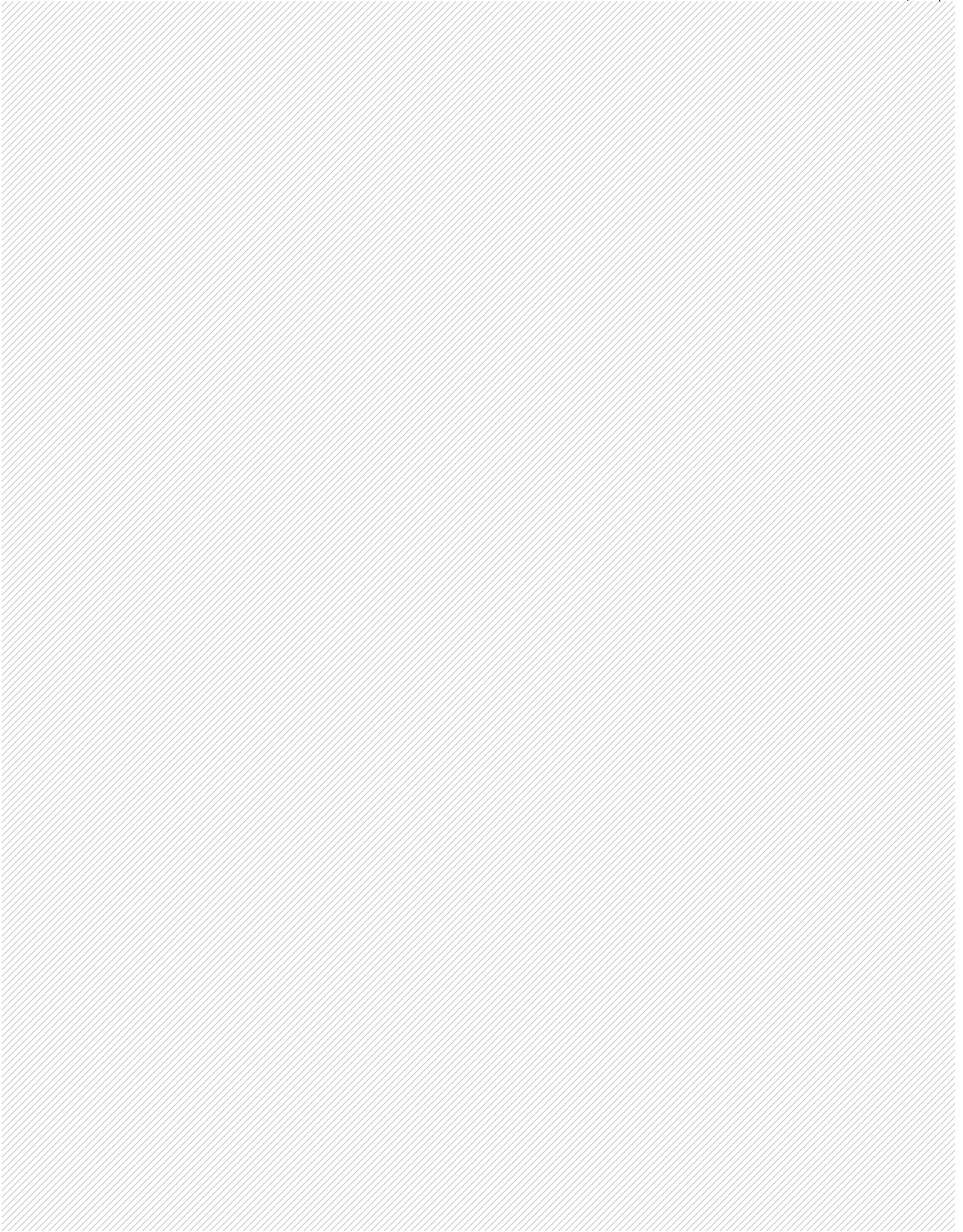


## Black History Month solutions

E	L	D	E	R	S		R	A	C	E		A	P	R	
		R		U	A		I		A			S	A	O	
A	L	I		B	L	U	F	O	R	D		H	U	B	
H	A	L	E	Y		S	L	A	V		P	E	L	E	
O	S	L	O				E	R	E	C	T			R	
Y			S	T	O	P	S		R	E	A	L		T	
	P			I				F		R		O	S	S	
W	O	O	D	S		B		R		I	O	U		H	
I	L	L				D	U	B	O	I	S		I	D	A
L	E	E			F	O	R	D	S		E		S	I	R
D			Y			T	R	U	T	H		S	E	A	R
E			O							U	T	C			I
R	A	G	U			C	H	I		R	H	O	D	E	S
	D	S	N			S	I	N	G	L	E	T	O	N	
D	O	U	G	L	A	S	S		S			T	E	S	S

from Page 10







# Youth star shy about his success

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

A shy but talented 13-year-old athlete, who has forged a memorable career at Brooks, believes he is prepared to meet the challenges of a new sports home thanks to the coaching he has received here.

Jordan Edwards, the oldest son of 311th Security Forces Squadron's Tech. Sgt. Dexter Edwards and his wife Valencia, grew up in Brooks sports starting at age five. Now the multi-sports star hopes to continue his maturation as an athlete after his family moves to Barksdale Air Force Base, La., in May.

"I prefer football. It's fun. I just like it," says Jordan prior to his Saturday afternoon Brooks youth basketball game at the fitness center gym where he later dazzled the crowd with his quickness as a point guard. Then smiling widely at his adoring mother, a former high school track star from San Augustine, Texas, Jordan admitted the real reason for his football passion.

"I like hitting," he says matter-of-factly.

The full contact that Jordan, the running back and safety, enjoys pales in comparison to his need for speed. To say that he "runs like the wind" would be an overstatement. However, over a short distance, Jordan can keep up with many of the youth league's best sprinters.

He demonstrated his running ability in dramatic fashion by helping the Brooks senior Eagles tackle football team win the Texas Youth Football Association championship in 2003.

Playing against the undefeated Randolph Renegades for the gridiron title at Harlandale Memorial Stadium, the Eagles were behind 18-7 at the half. The Brooks squad's come-from-behind victory, however, hinged on Jordan's pivotal second half play.



Youth hoop point guard Jordan Edwards drives past a defender during a contest at the Brooks Fitness Center.



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Brooks Youth Sports star Jordan Edwards, left, with his teammates and coaches.



Youth hoop phenomenon Jordan Edwards fires a shot during pre-game practice at the Brooks Fitness Center.

The youngster thwarted Randolph's attempt to regain momentum when he stopped them from scoring by tackling a Renegade player who was racing toward the end zone.

"When Jordan made that tackle, it took the wind out of their (Randolph's) sails," said Larry Flores, Brooks youth sports director.

Mr. Flores, a longtime fan of Edwards, said the youngster has repeatedly demonstrated that he possesses a much valued quality that many athletes don't have: the heart of a true champion.

Combined with his desire to win, Mr. Flores says, is the boy's tenacity.

"He doesn't quit," Mr. Flores explained, referring to obstacles that would be overwhelming to others.

"He is a good manager of the team on the floor," said one of

"I'm going into the ninth grade. I plan to try out for high school sports. I'm prepared,

Jordan Edwards  
Youth sports legend

Jordan's hoop coaches, Trey Doby, a program manager for the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence. Mr. Doby, cousin to the late Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Larry Doby, knows a thing or two about evaluating talent.

"He has a nice jump shot, is an excellent ballhandler and has really good vision on the floor," Mr. Doby noted.

More important to Mr. Doby is the youngster's dedication to team sports.

"He is definitely a team player and a team leader," he said of Jordan, who he characterized as a highly motivated, always-punctual and polite youngster.

Yet for those who have played against him, Jordan's mild demeanor and good manners belies the fact that he is fiercely competitive. Jordan's mother says her son's competitiveness has been shaped by his many football, baseball and basketball coaches.

Born Aug. 28, 1990 at Dyess AFB in Abilene, Texas, Jordan first started playing flag football and T-ball at Brooks.

Encouraged by his athlete parents, Jordan's talent started to bloom at around age seven or eight.

"I learned teamwork," Jordan said, crediting one of his mentors, Brooks youth sports coaching legend Rey Lopez. His parents, however, have taught Jordan and his 10-year-old athlete brother Jalow a fundamentally important aspect of team sports: play your best, win or lose, and in losing learn from the experience.

Now Jordan is poised to advance to the next level.

"I'm going into the ninth grade. I plan to try out for high school sports. I'm prepared," Jordan said, explaining that his Brooks experience has given him the confidence to show what he can do as a freshman basketball and football player.

Someday, perhaps, Edwards may become as appreciated for his athletic ability as his basketball legend namesake — Michael Jordan.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



# Brooks youth teams eye annual hoop jamboree

By Rudy Purificato  
*311th Human Systems Wing*

Brooks youth basketball players and coaches plan to continue their tradition of competing against some of the top teams in the city and state at the 21st Annual Youth Basketball Jamboree scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 28 at the SBC Center.

Co-sponsored by the Kids Sports Network and the San Antonio Spurs, the event is staged as a pre-game activity prior to the Spurs contest with the Denver Nuggets.

"We participate in it every year," said Larry Flores, youth sports director, referring to Brooks past involvement the last six years.

KSN's Frank Martin founded the jamboree in 1983 as a non-school sports activity for students ages 3-18. Mr. Flores said ten-member teams compete in a pair of two-minute

games on mini-courts.

Last year, the competition was moved from the Alamodome to the Spurs' new home at the SBC Center.

According to the event founder's wife Maxine Martin, KSN office manager, the jamboree annually attracts about 50 teams, mainly from San Antonio. However, squads from throughout Texas have also participated.

A 'FANFiesta' is held in conjunction with the jamboree where players are involved in a series of interactive basketball fun games, Martin explained.

The jamboree is part of a series of programs sponsored by KSN. Among the organization's other high profile event is its management of the Spurs' Drug-Free Basketball League.

The jamboree registration deadline is Feb.13. For more information call KSN at (210) 654-4707 or e-mail them: [ksntexas@ksnusa.org](mailto:ksntexas@ksnusa.org). You can also visit their website at [www.ksnusa.org](http://www.ksnusa.org).



## Commanders' Fitness Club

The Brooks Commanders' Fitness Club now meets at the Health and Fitness Center every Wednesday at 7 a.m. for a run/walk. Military and civilian personnel are encouraged to participate. Participants receive a Commanders' Fitness Club T-shirt after participating four times. Additional prizes are offered for other sessions. Sign up at the Fitness Center. Call 536-2188 for more information.

## 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 your life. Contact the Fitness Center staff at 536-2188 for more details.

---

Fitness is the key to health