

DISCOVERY

Brooks aviators help celebrate Centennial of Flight

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

(Editor's note: Throughout 2004, the Discovery will commemorate the Centennial of Flight through a series of stories that recognize the contributions made by Brooks and Air Force aviation legends.)

A Brooks contingent of aviators joined fellow pilots Dec. 17 at Stinson Field to honor the legacy of Orville and Wilbur Wright by commemorating the 100th anniversary of powered flight.

Col. Thomas Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander and a fighter pilot; and Dr. Thomas Tredici, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's scientist-ophthalmologist and a former World War II B-17 pilot, were among Brooks representatives who participated in the centennial of flight celebration hosted by Flight No. 2 of the Order of the Daedalians.

The ceremony took place at the Stinson family memorial, a monument that was erected many years ago

through the efforts of a Brooks aviation legend and Daedalian — the late Col. Carl Crane. Col. Crane, an instrument flight pioneer who in 1926 served as a stunt pilot during the making of the motion picture "Wings" at Brooks and Kelly Fields, secured his place in Brooks and aviation history through his successful campaign to save and preserve Hangar 9.

The memorial, dedicated to the Stinson family of aviation pioneers, served as the backdrop for a four-ship formation of T-6A Texan II aircraft from the 558th Flying Training Squadron at Randolph Air Force Base. The flyover was made at the precise time, 11:01 a.m., when the Wright Brothers launched the age of flight at Kitty Hawk's Kill Devil Hill, N.C., in 1903.

"I visited Kitty Hawk earlier this year," said retired Brig. Gen. David Lee "Tex" Hill, who as an 89-year-old aviation legend never tires of talking about flying. Brig. Gen. Hill, who formed the 8707th Pilot Training Wing at Brooks in 1952, earlier earned World War II fame as a triple ace while a member of the American Volunteer Group "Flying Tigers" in China. Gen. Hill said he believes the moon landing was the most significant event during aviation's first one hundred years.

Recounting the early days of flight



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The recent Centennial of Flight celebration at Stinson Field drew participation from aviation pioneers and local commanders, including 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Col. Tom Travis. The Randolph Air Force Base Honor Guard kicked off the ceremony by posting the colors.

was ceremony keynote speaker retired Lt. Gen. Joseph Moore, an 89-year-old Air Force aviation legend who made history as one of the first American pilots to shoot down enemy Zeros during Japan's attacks of military targets at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and in the Philippines. Moore shot down two Japanese Zeros over Clark Air Base in the Philippines, for which he earned the Distinguished Flying

Cross. He earned a second DFC for flying critical supplies to the Allied defenders of Bataan and the island fortress of Corregidor by piloting a damaged Flying Duck amphibious aircraft.

The Stinson Field ceremony, which also featured a display of vintage aircraft, was supported by the 311th Communications Squadron, the Air Force Band of the West's "Gateway Brass," and the Randolph AFB Honor Guard.

AFRL, Det. 5, changes leaders

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Calling them unique leaders, Air Force Research Laboratory commander Maj. Gen. Paul Nielson helped usher in a new era for AFRL's Detachment 5 during a change of command ceremony held Wednesday at Hangar 9.

Col. Sean Scully became Detachment 5 commander, replacing Col. Thomas Cropper, who had also served as associate director of the Human Effectiveness Directorate.

"We're going from one unique leader to another," said Maj. Gen. Nielson, who praised both men who share a common vision - supporting the warfighter.

Col. Cropper, who served as Det. 5 commander for five and a half years, had presided over an organization that consistently fulfilled key Air Force requirements supporting America's warfighters and our nation's global war on terrorism, despite experiencing significant personnel reductions. Maj. Gen. Nielson said Col. Cropper played an important role in the organization's transition and helped foster the integration of science and technology development between various AFRL research sites.

"Our job is to do great science, and that's what we have focused on," said Col. Cropper, crediting the passion and commitment of those he had worked



Photo by Airman First Class Samantha Shieh

Col. Thomas Cropper, Air Force Research Laboratory, Det. 5, outgoing commander, right, turns over the flag to AFRL Commander Maj. Gen. Paul Nielson during a Jan. 7 change of command ceremony at Hangar 9. Col. Sean Scully assumed command of the detachment.

with during his Brooks tour. He said he was proud of how well the organization managed to fulfill its many missions during an AFRL reduction-in-force. Besides maintaining the same level of mission support, Col. Cropper explained, many Det. 5 members also earned accolades in the the form of top ratings from the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board.

Col. Scully, who had served his previous Brooks tour as the Armstrong Laboratory's Crew Technology Division chief for Research Chamber Operations, defined his leadership philosophy, saying, "Our mission is people."

Rumsfeld outlines DoD priorities

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The war on terrorism will remain the Defense Department's top priority in the new year, as officials continue to focus on improving and modernizing its programs, systems and forces to make them more responsive to 21st century requirements.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the department already has made "remarkable progress" and will continue its work to "strengthen, improve and transform our forces, modernize and restructure programs and commands ... and streamline DoD processes and procedures."

Secretary Rumsfeld laid out an ambitious list of initiatives, many already under way, that he said will help free the department of its Cold War-era trappings that no longer support current demands.

Among these initiatives is the effort to rebalance the active and reserve components throughout the services. Secretary Rumsfeld said the war on terror, with its heavy use of National Guard and Reserve troops, underscores the importance of the effort.

"Our experience thus far in the global war on

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Challenger Center prepares for Spanish missions

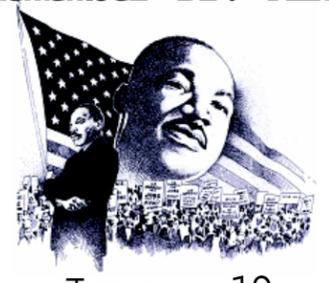
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Leaders encourage local youth robotics students

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Remember Dr. King



January 19



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.

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

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to: Cerise.Shapiro@brooks.af.mil or to: Discovery@brooks.af.mil.

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

Discovery advertising

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

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Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.

AFMC commander looks back on year's successes, ahead to 2004's challenges

By Gen. Greg Martin

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — In a flash, 2003 has come and gone, and with it the year's many challenges and successes.

Regardless of the situation, obstacle or challenge, our Air Force Materiel Command team came together and got the job done, keeping America's Air Force the premier power in the world. When you look at our military's ability to fight and the weapons and technology warfighters take to the battlefield, you can take pride in knowing you've made that happen.

You carried out the AFMC mission by delivering war-winning, expeditionary capabilities to the warfighter: war-winning technology; war-winning acquisition support; and war-winning sustainment.

America's overwhelming success in places like Afghanistan and Iraq came riding in on your backs. Don't ever underestimate your value to this command, the Air Force or our great nation.

We did a lot in 2003. AFMC logistics operations reduced non-mission capable hours due to supply problems by 37 percent from September 2002 to the same time in 2003. This, in turn, reduced the Air Force fleet average total not mission capable rate for supply from 10.2 percent in fiscal year 2002 to 9.2 percent in fiscal 2003.

Our air logistics centers and their contract partners did not exceed planned expense rates in 2003, resulting in no final bill to the corporate Air Force for the first time in half a decade.

Maintainers at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., shaved four months off individual C-5 Galaxy programmed depot maintenance time which allowed them to deliver an unprecedented 23 aircraft back to the warfighter this year; 17 had been the previous high mark. They're doing similar things with the C-130 aircraft, and cut 30 days off PDM time for four Air Force Special Operations Command aircraft.

Maintenance professionals at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., did their part in finding new efficiencies. Because of that, they have more net serviceable fighter aircraft engines on hand than required to meet the Air Force's warfighting needs, a first since the Gulf War.

And the list goes on. Two F-16 aircraft, deliberately approaching each other head on during a test at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., went into automated maneuvers to avoid collision via the Automatic Air Collision Avoidance System. The ACAS will help alleviate midair collisions and save lives and tax dollars.

Experts at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., developed a Miniature Air-Launched Decoy that will entice enemy forces to prematurely disclose their air defense locations, keeping pilots further out of harm's way. And as F-16s flying missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom were having problems delivering their munitions, experts at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Edwards and China Lake, Calif., worked together and found a fix an amazing 30 hours later. That's the kind of warfighter support our Air Force wants, needs and continues to get.

But 2004 is now waiting in the wings with a new set of challenges.

First among those is ensuring the programmed executive officer restructuring is successful. I think it has the potential for creating the most positive and important improvement in our acquisition capability



Challenges lie ahead in this new year, but we stand ready to overcome them all through teamwork and dedication.

since we established AFMC more than a decade ago.

Next, we have to make sure that, in the process of executing that restructure, we remain focused on developing Air Force capabilities. We've taken great strides in this area, but the programs and systems we develop should always be oriented toward the contributions they make toward enhanced capabilities. We'll be taking a good look at how we are structured to make sure we're as efficient in this area as we can and should be.

Thirdly, throughout this entire process, we have world-class science and technologies that will play into each of those systems. We have to make sure they are totally connected in every aspect of our weapon system development from concept to ultimate demilitarization.

To do that, we have to make sure that our people are continuing to develop and improve our expeditionary force structure. So, while we are restructuring to connect AFMC and our acquisition community better than ever before, and make sure they're focused on the capabilities in integrating technology, we're also putting them out in the field as part of our expeditionary deployments, which is very exciting for the people because they're connected with what the warfighters are doing operationally.

And the next logical step is to make sure we're doing everything we can to develop our people for the responsibilities we want them to assume as time goes on. We must understand the expeditionary nature, the S&T priorities and capabilities and ultimately manage the program development so all those aspects and characteristics are considered.

This is exciting and I'm thrilled to be a part of it. I've always been amazed at what our AFMC team can accomplish as evidenced in the successes from 2003. Challenges lie ahead in this new year, but we stand ready to overcome them all through teamwork and dedication.

I'm proud to be your commander and am looking forward to the great things you're going to do in 2004.

God bless you all, and God bless America.



Clinic welcomes New Year with new hours, updated facilities

By Steve VanWert
Staff Writer

The 311th Medical Squadron welcomed in 2004 with a New Year's Resolution Celebration Monday that also served as a grand re-opening of the Brooks Clinic. Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, officiated at the ribbon cutting ceremony, marking the clinic's greatly improved facilities and expanded hours.

"The clinic looks terrific," said Col. Travis. "The 311th Med Squadron is leading the Air Force in fitness attitude and is the heart and soul of the base."

According to Lt. Col. James Paukert, chief of dental services and deputy clinic commander, the process has been a long one, but well worth the effort.

"The planning for the upgrades began more than a year ago," he said. "Now that it's complete, we're really proud of the results. The clinic is easier to navigate, more attractive to the eye and able to provide maximum support to Brooks people."

Renovations included the installation of new vinyl tile in all the corridors, new wall coverings, fresh paint, and the addition of a wheelchair ramp and awning to the main entrance. The Public Health office moved to the clinic and the life skills center was relocated to the old command post building next to the clinic. The parking lot was enlarged and repaved. Changes not readily noticeable include an upgrade to the electrical and information sys-



Photo by Airman First Class Samantha Shieh

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, left, and 311th Mission Support Group commander Col. John Bowley cut the ceremonial ribbon at the Brooks Clinic's New Year celebration.

tems. These upgrades were done a little at a time, never forcing the clinic to close any of its activities.

"One of the biggest changes, though, is our new hours," said the colonel. Previously, the clinic was open different hours on different days and closed early on Wednesdays for training. The new hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. everyday, with training accomplished between 7 and 8 a.m., before the clinic opens.

"All these improvements are meant to make our clinic more easily accessible to our patients, and make their experience here as pleasant and efficient as it can be," said Col. Paukert.

Booths were set up in the clinic lobby, healthy refreshments were served and tours of the refurbished clinics were given during the grand New Year's Resolution Celebration. Information on exercise, diet, disease management and tips to establish a successful exercise program were handed out free of charge.

"The Brooks Clinic has stepped up proudly and taken the lead in supporting not only the base populace, but also the new Air Force Fitness Program," said Col. Travis. "They live up to their billing as the Best Little Clinic in Texas."

Challenger Learning Center launches first all-Spanish language missions

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

When it comes to conversing in an alien tongue, Challenger Learning Center mission participants for the first time will be given an opportunity to speak in a familiar language that is foreign only to the fictitious Klingons of "Star Trek" fame.

Beginning next week, Spanish language missions at this Brooks-based educational venue will be launched for youngsters who journey into simulated space.

"We have always known we would do Spanish language missions. It has been one of our goals," said Shelia Klein, executive director for the Brooks Heritage Foundation, Inc.

While a first for this center, the San Benito Challenger facility in Brownsville, Texas previously inaugurated missions conducted in Spanish, Klein noted.

"They (San Benito center) gave us some of their task cards in Spanish, but we completely revised them," Klein said, crediting flight directors Mary Sharp and Roland Ruvalcaba for the months-long work involving Spanish translations of the various mission tasks that students are required to fulfill.

Sharp, who has a masters degree in Spanish, and Ruvalcaba, a teacher on loan from the San Antonio Independent School District, were definitely challenged by the job of converting mission requirements into Spanish without losing anything in translation.

"They found that some words don't translate to Spanish, such as certain



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The Challenger Learning Center of San Antonio staff, with the help of Spanish-speaking translators and volunteers, are preparing for next week when they will conduct their first missions completely in Spanish.

scientific terms," Klein explained.

Students from the Northside Independent School District will be the first to conduct Challenger Center missions in Spanish.

"It's a great tool for language classes to get practice in the real world use of the language," Klein said.

Klein also said that providing Spanish language missions fulfills two other Brooks Aerospace Foundation goals: give youngsters with limited English proficiency an opportunity to participate in missions as ESL (English as a Second Language) students, while also offering educators south of the border an opportunity to use the facility as part of an expanded outreach program to Latin American neighbors.

For additional information or to schedule Spanish language Challenger Center missions call 534-8398 or 531-9767.



FDA issues consumer alert on ephedra

Officials caution AF personnel on use

By G.W. Pomeroy

Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Following an FDA alert, Air Force Medical Service officials are once again "strongly advising" airmen to contact their physicians or health-care providers before taking dietary supplements containing ma huang, ephedra or ephedra alkaloids.

Food and Drug Administration officials have issued a consumer alert on the safety of dietary supplements containing ephedra that calls for consumers to immediately stop buying and using ephedra products.

Besides issuing an alert, FDA officials are notifying manufacturers that they intend to publish a final rule stating dietary supplements containing ephedrine alkaloids present an unreasonable risk of illness or injury. The rule would have the effect of banning the sale of these products as soon as it becomes effective, 60 days after publication.

// *We are taking action today to notify Americans about the unreasonable risk of ephedra as currently marketed in dietary supplements.*

//
Dr. Mark McClellan
FDA commissioner

"FDA will publish a final rule as soon as possible that will formalize its conclusions that dietary supplements containing ephedrine alkaloids present unreasonable risks to those who take them for any reason," said Tommy Thompson, health and human services secretary.

"[The action] puts companies on notice of our intentions, and it tells consumers that the time to stop using ephedra products is now," Mr. Thompson said.

"We are taking action today to notify Americans about the unreasonable risk of ephedra as currently marketed in dietary supplements," said Dr. Mark McClellan, FDA commissioner. "Our action is based on diligent and thorough work by the agency as required by the challenging legal stan-

dard in the dietary supplement law.

"We worked hard to obtain and review all the available evidence about the risks and benefits of ephedra, including its pharmacology, studies of ephedra's safety and effectiveness, adverse event reports, and reviews by independent experts," Dr. McClellan said.

In February, a jury in Austin determined that ephedra use was at least 50 percent to blame for the death of 24-year-old Charles Bryant Scurlock II, of Round Rock, Texas. Mr. Scurlock collapsed and later died after a two-mile run for an Army National Guard physical fitness test in 1999. The jury awarded \$1 million to the plaintiffs.

In September 2002, the Air Force surgeon general issued a revised policy covering dietary supplements containing ephedra that strongly discouraged the use of such supplements and highlighted associated risk factors.

In November 2002, the Air Force's surgeon general issued a notice to airmen on the potential risks associated with dietary supplements containing ephedra, following the death of a young airman. These medical notices are released by the AFMS clinical quality management division to disseminate lessons learned from medical incident investigations and other pertinent events.

AAFES ensures beef quality, safety

DALLAS (AFPN) — As concerns over beef safety grow, Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials said they have not received beef from Washington, where the first apparent case of mad cow disease was discovered recently.

"(Officials are) working with franchise partners and suppliers to ensure all beef AAFES uses is procured from sources other than Washington," said Richard Sheff, food and theater vice president. "Food being served at AAFES facilities is purchased only from Department of Defense-approved sources."

AAFES staff veterinarian/food and drug safety office maintains communication with the DoD Veterinary Service/Army Surgeon General's Office to ensure procurement actions are based on the most current information available, officials said.

These efforts combined with other quality control measures "ensure AAFES' customers receive food products of the highest quality," Mr. Sheff said.

Defense Commissary Agency officials also said that no beef in any of the 275 commissaries worldwide has been involved in the USDA recall. Commissary customers can check the link at: www.commissaries.com.

Officials examine anthrax court decision

Vaccinations on hold until legal situation is resolved

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Defense Department will stop anthrax vaccinations until the legal situation around a recent court decision is resolved, Department of Defense officials said.

Defense officials and lawyers with the Justice Department are examining a decision handed down by a federal judge in Washington Dec. 22 that ordered the DoD to stop anthrax vaccinations for U.S. servicemembers without their consent, Pentagon officials said in Dec.

"The lawyers are examining it," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said during a recent Pentagon press conference. "And at the appropriate time, they will be making a recommendation as to the way forward."

DoD officials still consider anthrax vaccinations for servicemembers deploying to high-threat areas as crucial.

"We don't send soldiers into battle without helmets," said a defense official.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff also stressed the military need for the vaccinations.

"This drug that we're using, the vaccine has been around for 40 years," said Chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard Myers during a press conference. "It is not experimental. It's approved by the (Food and Drug Administration).

"And from a military standpoint, I think it's extremely important. As you know, when we went into Iraq, we had all the troops in their chemical protective gear, because we thought there was a very real threat of either chemical or biological weapons, and in particular, anthrax was a big worry."

Anthrax is still a worry in many parts of the world, Gen. Myers said.

"The one thing you can do to protect people is this vaccine," the chairman said. "From a military standpoint, I think it's very important we have this capability to protect our troops and enable them to do their job."

Dr. William Winkenwird, the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said the vaccines are needed to protect American troops. The FDA guides everything the department does, he said.

"We follow FDA regulations scrupulously in the use of the anthrax vaccine and all medically regulated products," Dr. Winkenwird said during an interview.

The FDA has licensed the product for all use, the doctor said. Other independent groups agree with the FDA assessment.

Dr. Winkenwird said the DoD was surprised about the decision. He said it was out of step with current science and out of keeping with the need for force protection.

The doctor said about 1 million American servicemembers have received the vaccinations

// *The one thing you can do to protect people is this vaccine. From a military standpoint, I think it's very important we have this capability to protect our troops and enable them to do their job.*

//
Gen. Richard Myers
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

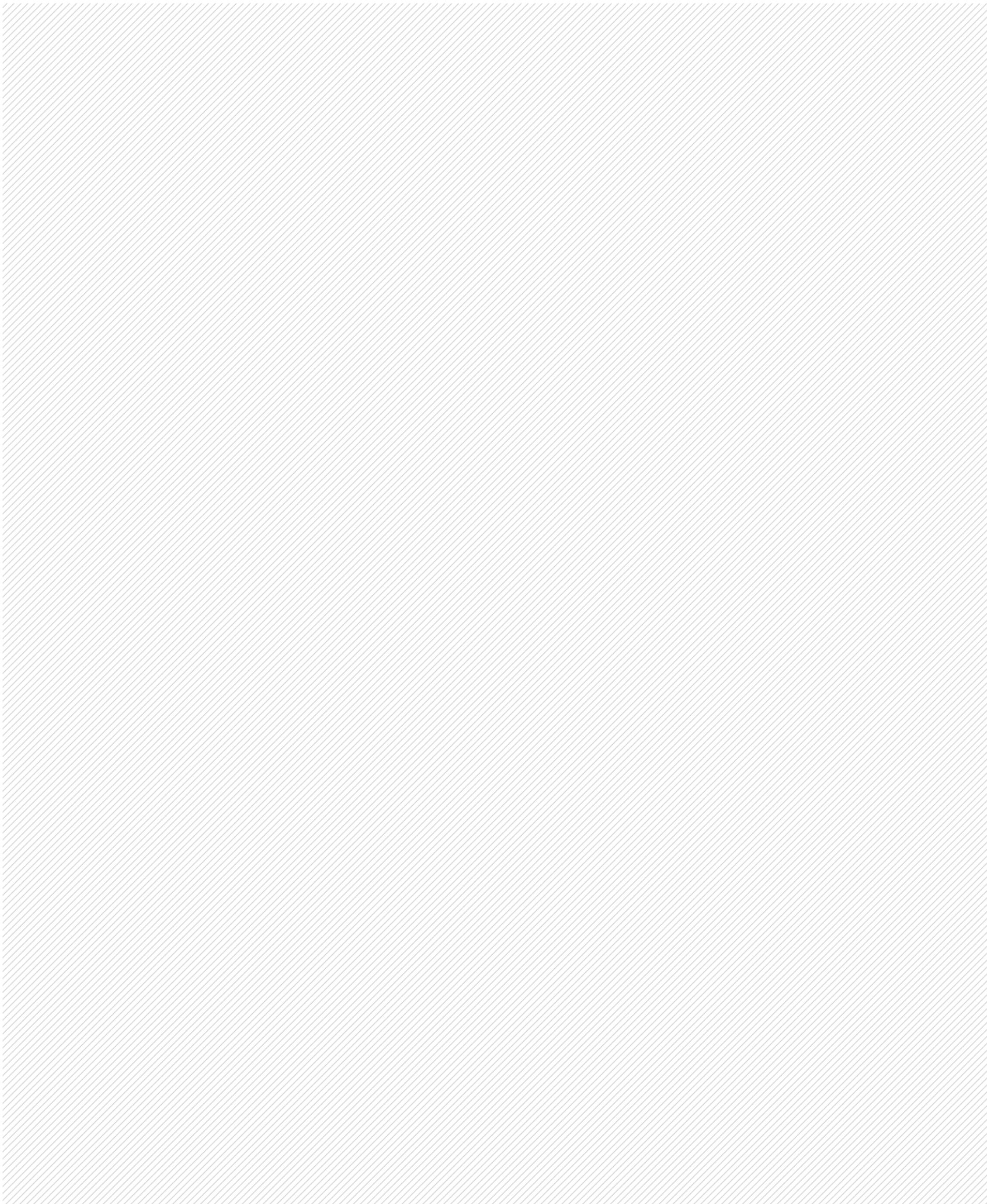
since the program started in 1998.

Some 650,000 servicemembers have received the six-shot series since June 2002. Of that number, only around 10 service members have refused to get the shots.

"Most people realize and appreciate the threat that we face and are persuaded by the scientific evidence regarding the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine," Dr. Winkenwird said.

The FDA approved the vaccine in 1970. The District Court decision questioned the FDA contention that the vaccine was effective against aerosolized anthrax — the most likely bioterror weapon. This judge's decision is counter to the FDA's own decisions, the opinion of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine and the judgment of the most eminent experts on this topic.

Dr. Winkenwird stressed that the department's paramount concern is for the safety of servicemembers. The vaccine has been put through the most rigorous testing, he said. The vaccine has very few side effects, similar to other vaccines, and these are mild and temporary, officials said.





Agenda

Continued from Page 1

terror, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan, has shown that we have somewhat of a Cold War mix of active and reserve forces remaining," Secretary Rumsfeld said. "And we really do need to adjust it to reflect the circumstances of the day."

Proposals being drafted by the services "will set a new balance between active and reserve that will fit the 21st century," Secretary Rumsfeld said.

Also high on the agenda for 2004 is implementation of the new National Security Personnel System that took effect with passage of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, Secretary Rumsfeld said. The new law gives DOD the authority to create a new framework of rules, regulations and processes that govern the way civilians are hired, paid, promoted and disciplined within the department. The new system will replace outdated and rigid civil service rules that many said hindered DoD's ability to carry out its national security mission.

"Executed properly, the new system ... can play a key role in relieving stress on the force," Secretary Rumsfeld said.

On a broader scope, Secretary Rumsfeld said the military will continue its efforts to adjust global posture during 2004.

This initiative involves re-examining the U.S. military "footprint" in the world — much of it the result of historic, Cold War threats that no longer exist — and to revise them to meet current demands.

Besides those people permanently stationed at its bases worldwide, the

U.S. military has thousands of servicemembers on deployments worldwide, said Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This includes roughly 125,000 in Iraq; 13,000 in Afghanistan; more than 2,000 at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and more than 1,000 participating in Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.

Meanwhile, nearly 3,500 servicemembers are conducting stabilization operations in the Balkans, and about 1,500 are performing counterdrug operations and other training in Central and South America, General Myers said.

Secretary Rumsfeld continued to list efforts and initiatives the department will pursue in 2004.

"Going forward, we will continue to aggressively pursue the global war on terrorism, strengthening joint warfighting capabilities, transforming the joint force, strengthening our intelligence capabilities (and) strengthening our ability to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," he said.

Secretary Rumsfeld said DoD also will focus on improving force planning through quality of life, infrastructure and other modifications, refining and improving the department's role in homeland security, and streamlining its budget, contingency and other departmental processes.

"We have a full agenda," Secretary Rumsfeld said. "It is what President Bush has asked of us. It is what the American people expect of us. And it is work that we intend to proceed with over the coming months of 2004."

**Buckle up for Safety —
it's Texas law**

Promotions

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

To technical sergeant:

Earl Morgan
Air Force Medical
Support Agency

To senior airman:

Desiree Matlock
U.S. Air Force School of
Aerospace Medicine

Armond Baile
311th Mission Support Group

Marshall Shambo
311th Medical Squadron

Shana Morris
68th Information
Operations Squadron

Grayson Gokee
68th IOS

To airman first class:

Heidi Belec
311th MDS

To airman:
Ronald Santon
68th IOS

Some tax statements now available online

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN) — Tax statements are now posted on myPay for Army, Navy and Air Force Reserve, Department of Defense and Department of Energy civilian employees, military annuitants and military retirees. The W-2 and 1099 statements

are available for these groups to view and print, allowing them to submit their tax returns. Air Force active-duty members will have their statements posted no earlier than Jan. 16, but no later than Jan. 26.

Employees can view their tax statements from myPay at: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

For assistance call myPay customer support toll-free at 800 390-2348.

Computer Accommodations Office visits Brooks

The Computer Accommodations Program Office from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, will visit Brooks Jan. 27 and 28 to offer briefings, demonstrate equipment that can be used in your work areas to prevent ergonomic injuries or help support people with disabilities.

The CAP is available to active duty military and civilians alike, with or without disabilities or injuries.

This opportunity is for anyone who is interested, but occupational therapists, physicians, and health promotion professionals are highly encouraged to attend.

The briefings, scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m. both days, will be held in rooms 162 and 163 at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Bldg. 775.

The CAP has also offered to visit workstations upon request after lunch on both days. They will offer suggestions to improve work environments and demonstrate the technology they have available.

If you would like to prebook an appointment or if you have any other questions concerning this program, please call Renee Albright at DSN 986-2919.



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:

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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

Grant applications accepted

The General Henry R. Arnold Education Grant program awards \$1500 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. Pick up an application at the Family Support Center in Bldg. 537, or call 536-2444 during duty hours for details. Application information is also available on the Web site at: www.afas.org. Application deadline is March 12.

Separation and retirement

Jan. 28, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

This class is mandatory for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics include pre-separation, veterans benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE and financial planning for transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

VA benefits assistance hours

Wednesdays, alternate Fridays, 9-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

The on-site VA representative at Brooks now has expanded hours to better accommodate base personnel. Schedule an appointment to receive claims assistance, screen medical records or have a one-on-one consultation.

Consumer credit counseling

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

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

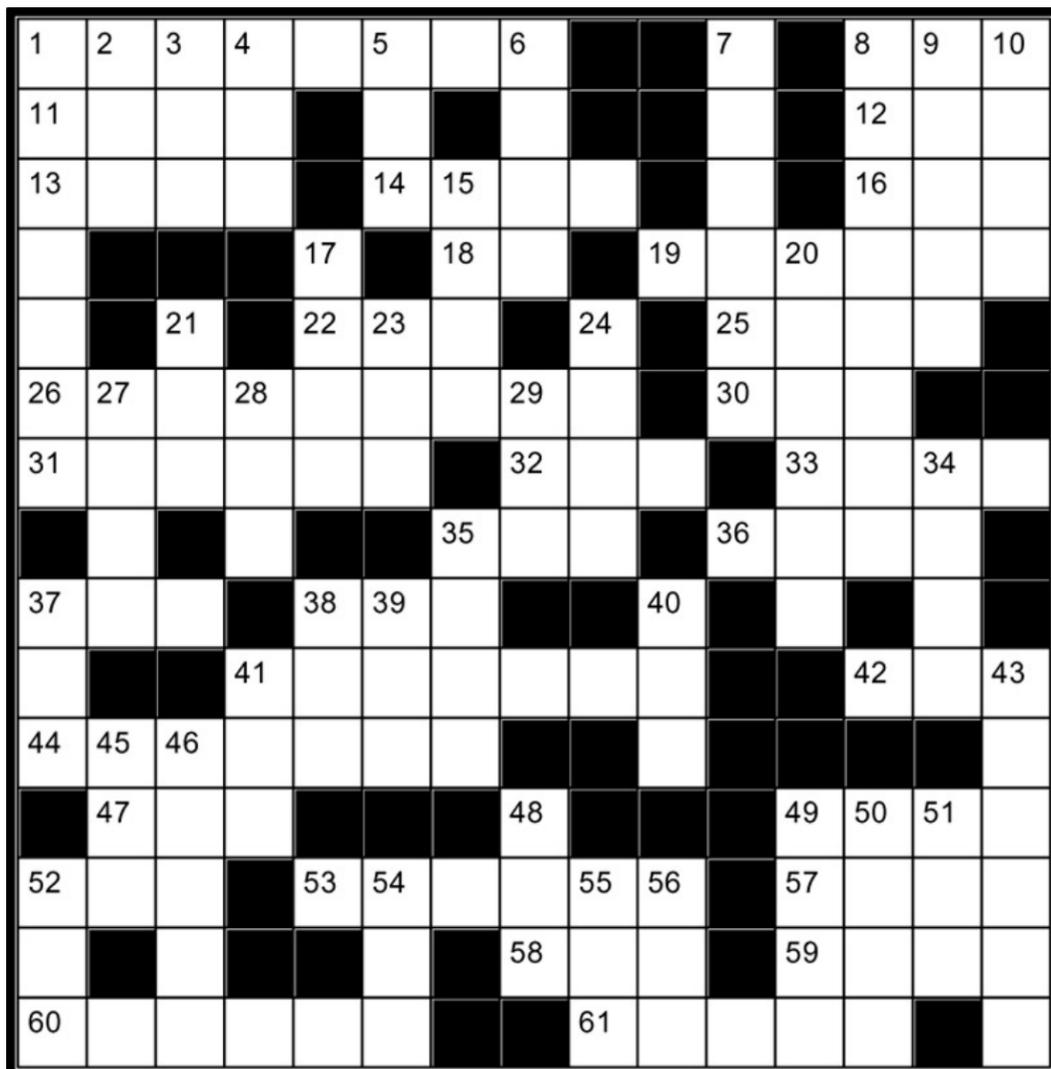
Call the Family Support Center at 536-2444, or toll free at 877-747-5938, to register for class, make an appointment or for more information.



Hometown U.S. Air Force

(Vol. 1)

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs



Solutions, Page 17

ACROSS

1. Texas AFB home to 37th TW; aircraft tail marking of LD
8. Hit
11. Church altar
12. Bar drink
13. German for no
14. Road tax?
16. Elevated part of the Earth (abbrev.)
18. Postal abbrev. for state home to 436th AW
19. Automotive maker
22. Former 70-80s band (abbrev.)
25. Dampens
26. South Dakota AFB home to 28th BW; a/c tail marking of EL
30. Lemon drink
31. Japan AB home to 374th AW; a/c tail marking of YJ
32. Head cover
33. Immerses
35. Cat call
36. Late night host
37. Zodiac sign
38. Meaning three
41. Conductor
42. Pod vegetable
44. California AFB home to 412th TW; a/c tail marking of ED
47. Age
49. Actress Laura of Jurassic Park
52. Babylonian measure of length
53. California AFB; home to 60th AMW
57. Snack food
58. Lord of the Rings character
59. Impress letter/design on a book cover
60. Nebraska AFB home to 55 WG; a/c tail marking of OF
61. Texas AFB home to 7th BW; a/c tail marking of DY

DOWN

1. Virginia AFB home to 1FW; a/c tail marking FF

2. Mock

3. CBS show
4. Barbie's mate
5. Model Carol
6. Fmr. Kansas senator
7. Japan AB home to 35th FW; a/c tail marking of WW
8. Germany AB home to 86th AW; a/c tail marking of RS
9. Oklahoma AFB home to 97th AMW
10. Actor Sean
15. Smell
17. Former Speaker of the House Gingrich
20. RAF marshal in North Africa (1941-43)
21. Largest member of deer family
23. Military appreciation paperwork (abbrev.)
24. South Carolina AFB home to 20th FW; a/c tail marking of SW
27. Ancient history
28. Roman sun god
29. Article
34. North Carolina AFB home to 23rd FG; a/c tail marking of FT
35. Little lady
37. Virginia Army fort
38. Road material
39. Color in light spectrum between orange and infrared
40. Male offspring
41. Homo sapien
43. Tennessee AFB home to AEDC
45. NBA coach ___ Harris
46. Who's Afraid of Virginia _____
48. Street equivalent (abbrev.)
49. Spots
50. Greek god of love
51. Truck manufacturer
52. Former name for Tokyo
54. Fink
55. State home to 181st FW; aircraft tail marking TH (abbrev.)
56. Pig's pen

United States Air Force



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance service scheduled

A Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Service is scheduled for Jan. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Brooks Chapel. Guest speaker at the service will be Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Sullivan of the 37th Training Wing at Lackland Air Force Base. The observance will commemorate Dr. King's life and his contributions to American society.

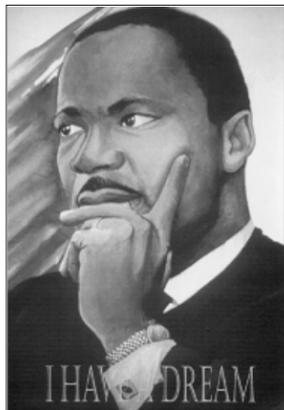
President Ronald Reagan signed congressional legislation in 1983, marking the third Monday in January as a national holiday recognizing

Reverend King's birth.

The civil rights leader was born Jan. 15, 1929.

The event is free and open to the public.

Contact Jeri Peterson at 536-1539 for more information.



National Prayer breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Feb. 5 at 7:30 a.m. in the Brooks Club. Former astronaut Charles Duke is scheduled as the guest speaker. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased through unit representatives or the Chapel office. The entire Brooks team is invited to participate in this event.

Contact the Chapel for additional 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.

Chapel schedule

Weekdays:

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

Wednesdays:

12 p.m. — Lifebuilders luncheon
6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Thursdays:

7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

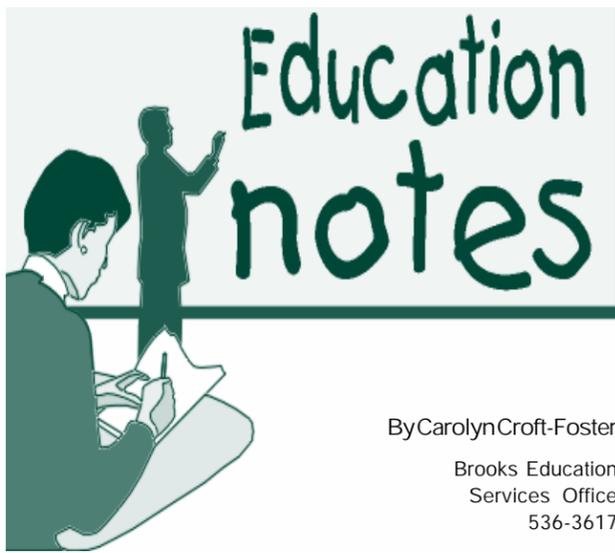
Sundays:

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

Lifebuilder's series

The Lifebuilder's Lunchtime Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex.

Contact the Chapel staff for more information.



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

CLEP Testing

The College Board is retiring paper based CLEP exams in fiscal 2004. The following exams will be recalled Jan. 31, 2004: Social Sciences and History, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, Psychology, and Principles of Management. All other remaining subject exams will be retired March 31. Computer Based CLEP Exams are available at National Test Centers, but servicemembers cannot request a reimbursement at the present time for these tests.

The fee for DANTES transcripts increased Oct. 1 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 to reserve a seat.

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 candidate need to contact Education Services at 536-3618 to ensure their nominations have been submitted.

St Mary's University

St. Mary's University offers graduate classes at Randolph Air Force Base in Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, and Engineering Systems Management. Registration for the Spring term was Jan. 7 and 8. Classes start Jan. 12. and late registration begins Monday. The late registration fee is \$150. For information regarding St. Mary's graduate programs, call 658-4852. A graduate school representative is at the Brooks Education Center Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m.

Upper Iowa University degrees

Upper Iowa University now has an office in the Brooks Education Center. UIU offers bachelor's degree completion programs in Public Administration and Business beginning this month. The Spring schedule for classes at Brooks includes Math 105, College Mathematics, acceptable as a math credit for the Community College of the Air Force, Business Law I and Public Administration 364. Term dates are Monday through March 5. Correspondence and online courses are also available. The UIU Center coordinator's office at Brooks is open for appointments Monday through Friday. Call 536-4033 or e-mail brooks@uiu.edu for more information.

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. For more information call 536-3617.

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 trans-

fer 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 more information or to schedule an appointment, call 536-3618.

Discover Program online

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

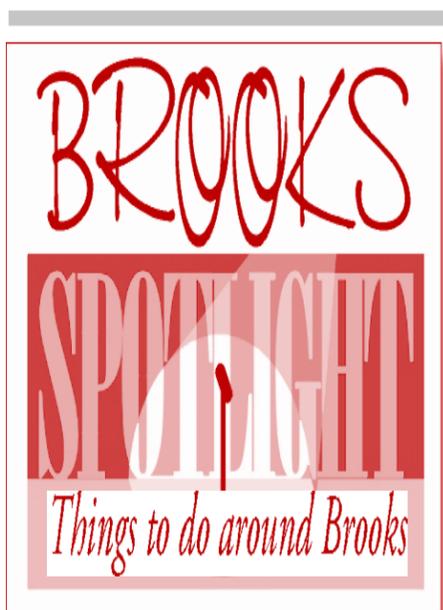
VA benefits

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, or stop by the local VA field office at 3601 Bluemel in San Antonio. Information is also available on the Brooks home page and at the Brooks Education and Training Center in Bldg. 558.

Montgomery GI Bill benefits

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



By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

If your New Year's resolution was to clean up the clutter and reorganize around the house and garage, 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 Bldg. 1154 for more information about storage units, the RV Storage Lot, Fam-

Camp, Lemon Lot or rental items. The The NAF Outlet Sale Store will auction one vehicle, a 6 cylinder, 1/2 ton 1990 Ford Econoline Van Jan. 16 in the back of Bldg. 1157. Contact the staff for details.

Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188

Power Cycling is now offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 am 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.

Sidney's

Bldg. 714, 536-3538

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 just a sandwich for \$3.50.

Youth Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

Air Force installations around the world are invited to participate in the 4th Annual "Bowl by Mail" event. Brooks Youth Services has taken up this challenge. The contest runs until Feb. 9, and is open to all youth, ages 5-18 years, who are authorized to use Services facilities. Youth do not have

to be members of the youth centers to participate. The objective of this program is to introduce youth to the lifetime sport of bowling, develop eye/motor coordination, provide positive motivation, and recognize personal achievements. The contest should be conducted for the spirit of personal growth and the enjoyment of physical challenge. Winners in each category will be sent a participation award.

Brooks Youth Services will hold a fundraiser Jan. 12-20. Krispy Kreme doughnuts are \$6 per dozen and will be delivered to the Youth Center Jan. 22 by 7:30 a.m. Proceeds support youth activities.

Golf course

Bldg. 821, 536-2636

The Brooks Golf Course now has cappuccino. Be one of the first to try the specialty coffees. Stop by seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. until dusk.

Select from French Vanilla, Almond Amaretto or Butternut Cocoa.

Purchase a 12-ounce cup for 75 cents, 16-ounce cup for 85 cents or a 20-ounce cup for 95 cents. Bring in the coupon and get any size for the price of a 12-ounce cup. Keep your eyes open for Krispy Kreme doughnuts, too.

Child Development Center

Bldg. 502, 536-2736

The Child Development Center Parent Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet Jan. 20 at 11:30 a.m. at the Base Chapel. The committee consists

of parents from the CDC, Family Child Care and Youth Services but anyone who has an interest in the youth programs at Brooks is welcome.

The Child Development Center has several full time slots available for children ages 12 months through 5 years of age. Children of parents at Brooks are eligible to enroll, including active duty military, DoD civilians, retirees, contractors and NAF personnel in any 311th Mission Support Group position or at AAFES. Until the vacancies are filled, hourly drop-in care may be available for \$3 per hour per child. Call Nita White for details.

The CDC renovation project is progressing as planned. The staff plans to host an open house in the spring in conjunction with the Children's Fair.

Base Library

Bldg. 705, 536-2634

The base library has added a number of new books to the library collection. Stop by and check them out today. Don't forget the library has a photocopier for your convenience. Cost is 10 cents per copy.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Bring the entire family to Family Night Buffet every Tuesday. Adults are \$4 and children, 6-10 years, are \$2. Children, 5 years and younger, eat for free. Free movies are shown during the evening so be sure to make plans to attend the buffet this Tuesday.



NEWS briefs

Interviewing workshops

If you are uncomfortable during an interview, the Brooks Black Employment Program provides an opportunity for you to enhance your interviewing skills with a series of workshops scheduled throughout January and February. The workshops include Tips/Techniques for Interviewees, Jan. 22, One-on-One Interviews, Jan. 29; Panel Interviews, Feb. 5 and Telephone Interviews, Feb. 12. Sessions run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Bldg. 775. Register at: <https://hswya2.brooks.af.mil/common>, or contact the following committee members for more information: Josie Swindell at 536-6312, LaWanda Roper at 536-2444, Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Davis at 536-6723, Mary Urey at 536-4348, or Juan Martinez at 536-6326. Registration deadline is Jan. 13.

The Black Employment Program Committee seeks several GS/GM-13 or lieutenant colonel and above volunteers to participate as interviewers for the workshops. Volunteers may participate for one or more sessions. Please call Josie Swindell or Juanita Jasper at 536-5440 for more information.

Scholarship applications accepted

Established in 1992, the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund supports college-bound seniors or full- and part-time college students in the San Antonio military, civilian or family member community. Independent evaluators judge 600-800 word essays.

Applications are available at Brooks, Kelly USA, Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases or Fort Sam Houston libraries, education offices, or family support centers. Applications may also be downloaded from www.brooks.af.mil/aaca/. Applications and essays are due at 1 p.m., Feb. 5. The scholarships range from \$500-\$1,000 and will be awarded at the

scholarship luncheon, scheduled for 11:15 a.m., Feb. 26, at Sidneys. For details, call 1st Lt. Lorrie Carter 536-4896 or 1st Lt. Goldie Boone at 536-6727.

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.

Toastmasters

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

Sleep subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers for a number of sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet qualifications are eligible for

compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Katy Ramsey at 536-3616 for information.

Altitude subjects

Altitude subjects are needed to help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Subjects must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for information.

The Air Force Research Laboratory Biodynamics and Protection Division needs active duty volunteers, ages of 18 and 50 years who are able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam to participate in several studies. Call Suzanne DeLaCruz at 536-6258 for more information.

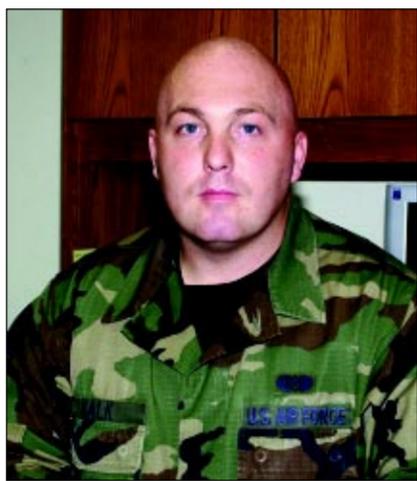
Technology expo

The Brooks technology exposition is scheduled for Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Brooks Club. More than 20 exhibitors will demonstrate the latest in knowledge management solutions, data warehousing, network operations services, information assurance/security, mobile/wireless computing, collaboration tools, hardware/software and more. Refreshments and free giveaways are available while supplies last.

Contact Terron Potor at (888) 603-8899 ext. 219 for more information.



Feature



Kalk

Q&A

FULL NAME:

Tech. Sgt. Michael Kalk

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

Law Office Manager, 311th Human Systems Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

WHAT IS MY JOB?:

I manage enlisted personnel and monitor the Judge Advocate's budget and resources.

BIRTHDAY:

Sept. 5, 1969

HOMETOWN:

Watertown, N.Y.

FAMILY STATUS:

Divorced, no children, unless dogs count

NICKNAME I CALL MYSELF:

"Kalkster"

PERSONAL MOTTO:

"Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder."

INSPIRATIONS:

My father

HOBBIES:

I enjoy a variety of activities ranging from weightlifting to all types of sports. I enjoy riding my Harley or cruising my '81 Vette.

PET PEEVE:

I'm a very easygoing guy, but if I had a pet peeve, it would be the drivers in the left lane doing 10 mph below the speed limit.

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE:

The Bible

I JOINED THE MILITARY:

because I'd just graduated from high school and was unsure what I wanted to do with my life, so my best friend talked me into joining the Air Force.

FIVE YEAR GOAL:

Retire from the Air Force and complete my bachelor's degree in criminal justice

ULTIMATE GOAL:

Settle down and have a few children

IF I WON THE LOTTERY:

Give my siblings and parents a good amount, probably buy a few more Harley's and give some money to charity.

FAVORITE MUSIC:

It depends on my mood. I like all kinds of music and don't limit myself to one type.

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:

is making master sergeant.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:

is my four Dachshund dogs.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Brooks Personality PROFILE

'Easy rider'

By Steve VanWert
Staff writer

Amidst the roaring of 1340 cc of Harley power, perched behind nearly four feet of extended "ape hangers" and custom fenders, Brooks version of "Easy Rider" roars down the road, a beige and black and blue blur, his 1999 soft tail custom bike eating up the blacktop. But wait, this isn't Dennis Hopper or Peter Fonda - it's "the Kalkster!"

Tech. Sgt. Todd Kalk, office manager for the 311th Human Systems Wing Staff Judge Advocates Office, lives a dual life. During the day, he manages the JA budget, resources and the enlisted airmen assigned to JA. He's a pleasant, straightforward guy, the one you come to for the answer to all the general questions that come up every day. But in the evening, he becomes the epitome of every young man's dreams, the cycle guy, the Corvette driver, and the daddy to Baby, Reno, Gino and Magic, four drooling, growling, hundred-pound Rottweillers.

Well, actually no. The four canines are really Dachshunds and they don't drool much, if any. But the rest is true. Sergeant Kalk has been riding motorcycles since age 16, but he started on a much smaller scale.

"My first bike was a Honda Hawk," he said. "It was 400 cc and not the best thing to look at, but it ran." His Honda putt-putted him all around the streets of Watertown, N.Y., where he grew up only 30 miles from the Canadian border. "But pretty soon, I got too big for a crotch rocket," he said.

The sergeant graduated from high school in Watertown and looked forward to starting his independent

life, but didn't know where. All he knew was that he wanted to go someplace warm.

"The snow is pretty at Christmas time, I guess," he said, "but it makes it hard to ride your bike.

"I was 18 years old and didn't have a clue," he said. "My best friend talked me into joining the Air Force with him. Four or five of us all went in together, but I'm the only one still on active duty." He wanted to be in law enforcement, so that's where he ended up. After tech school, it was off to his first assignment and immediate culture shock, at Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

"I enjoyed my first tour of duty," he said. "At least I was someplace warm."

But it soon became time to make a decision about his career in the Air Force. In 1997, the Air Force merged some of its security forces, law enforcement and JA forces. Sergeant Kalk took the opportunity to cross-train into JA and became a paralegal. He ended up at Brooks and sunny San Antonio, a place he considers close to heaven.

"The weather is so great here that a couple of my brothers moved down to live with me." And they all ride Harleys.

But even in sunny San Antonio, there are days you just can't ride a motorcycle. That's where the Corvette comes in. It's not a bad trade-off.

"I had a Mustang GT, but it was just too small," he said. "I like the Vette a lot better."

It's a 1981 model, black with a red interior, but just as he made changes to the Harley, he's got plans for the Vette.

"I'm planning on getting it re-

painted, maybe in a Harley orange," he said.

Sergeant Kalk, who was recently selected for promotion to master sergeant, has always had a love for sports, but his latest hobby is weightlifting, not for competition, but as a lifestyle change. "My dad had heart surgery recently," he said. "It made me rethink my life style. I decided to try to eat healthy, which isn't easy for someone who loves Mexican food." He got into weightlifting to build strength, not size. He works four days on, one day off and mixes in cardio work. "I do it for myself," he said. His weightlifting buddies gave him the nickname, "the Kalkster."

Sergeant Kalk considers himself fortunate to be working in the 311th JA office. "The people here will bend over backwards to help," he said. "It's a real cohesive unit." Col. Gregory Porter, the SJA, was a mentor when Sergeant Kalk cross-trained. "I wasn't concerned about the management end," the sergeant said, "but I was worried about handling the budget because I'd never done that before. Col. Porter gave me positive encouragement. He's the type of officer who will always be there to help and give advice."

Though much of his life would make the average Joe pretty jealous, he doesn't think of it that way. "I'm not a real materialistic guy," he said. "My dogs are my most prized possession. Some people don't understand the relationship with animals, but they're most important to me."

Future plans include finishing up both his Community College of the Air Force degree in business and his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. "I'd really like to retire in the San Antonio area," he said. "I love it here. It's warm."

And a long way from the Canadian border.

Steve.VanWert@brooks.af.mil



U.S. Air Force future workforce?

General Dynamics invests in local school's youth robotics program

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

None of them were even born when Rosie the Robot maid greeted TV cartoon family man George Jetson on the hit show "The Jetsons." They don't draw inspiration from science fiction or fantasy, but rather from the reality of today's world of evolving robotics technology, ranging from industry's reliance on machines with artificial intelligence to the robotic rovers exploring Mars.

To the students involved in the South San High School's award-winning robotics program, their motivation is experiencing the great fun and challenge associated with applying science and engineering principles to ideas nurtured by mentors who support one of the leading developers of robotics in America: the U.S. Air Force.

"The Air Force is the high-tech (military) service. In order for us to continue as the free nation that we are, we'll be relying on you to carry the nation forward in the next decades," said Dr. Brendan Godfrey, 311th Human Systems Wing executive director.

Dr. Godfrey encouraged the students to pursue their dreams at the invitation of General Dynamics officials. His remarks preceded the corporation's presentation of a \$4,000 check in December to help underwrite South San's robotics program.

For the past two years General Dynamics has donated a total of \$7,500 to the group while also providing mentors and technical assistance supporting robotics development.

"General Dynamics has in the past contributed to United Way. However, there is a new (corporation) thrust to shift (some) chari-

" *The Air Force is the high-tech service. In order for us to continue as the free nation that we are, we'll be relying on you to carry the nation forward in the next decades.*

"

Dr. Brendan Godfrey
311th HSW executive director

table contributions directly to groups such as this that will energize kids in (future) science and technology careers," said Charles Plummer Jr., Department Manager for General Dynamics' Information Support Programs.

"The next generation of employees for us, and for any high technology company, is now in secondary school," said Mike Bollinger, General Dynamics site manager at Brooks, who is both cheerleader and advocate for the South San program that has steadily progressed through corporate help.

In the five years since South San High School science teacher Mike Henry founded the program, the robotics group has attracted more than a dozen corporate sponsors. Among them are Lockheed Martin and the Valero Energy Corporation. Institutions of higher learning have also recognized the value of such a program. St. Philip's College Southwest Campus has formed an academic partnership with the group.

"I originally started a robotics class at Kazan Middle School where I taught for 16 years. When I became a science teacher at South San High School in 1999, the students I had in the eighth grade (at Kazan) asked me if I would start a group here," Henry explained.

Henry recruited local engineers to mentor the group. An original mentor is Joe Garrison, who is a General Dynamics engineer at Brooks. Garrison first began supporting the South San program when he worked for the Science Application International Corporation.

"The first robot I helped the group build was called "Fire Cat," a steam shovel design (device) that picked up playground balls and deposited them into a six-foot-high field goal," recalls Garrison.



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Dr. Brendan Godfrey, 311th Human Systems Wing executive director, encouraged members of the South San High School Robotics Team to continue their interest in science and engineering.

Garrison and SAIC colleague Steve Holt initially taught students the project development process. Eventually, group members learned how to design, improvise and re-design robot prototypes.

"They learned that it is better to have a robot perform one job extremely well than to have a mediocre robot do multiple things. They've learned specialization," Garrison noted.

The group also learned the dynamics of working with alliances by collaborating with other teams during robot competitions. They first competed in San Antonio's BEST, Boosting Engineering and Science Technology, in 1999.

"We're using a lot of the same components used by (advanced) robots that compete on television. The biggest difference between those robots and ours is the robots we build are designs used for performing tasks in an industrial setting," Mr. Garrison explained.

Such undertakings are costly. "We raise about \$30,000 a year," said Henry, whose original seed money that launched the group came from an unimagined source.

"We competed in San Antonio BEST with a robot called "Alien Escape," a little mechanism that picked up tennis balls," said Mr. Henry, recalling that their robot didn't perform well.

"About a week later I received a phone call from Lucien Junkin with the Johnson Space Center who wanted us to apply for a NASA grant to compete in U.S. FIRST," Mr. Henry said, referring to the "World Series" of robotics whose acronym represents For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

Nobody expected the South San

" *The Air Force is very involved in robotics development, especially technology that supports unmanned aircraft. The things you do now are right and good for the nation.*

"

Dr. Brendan Godfrey
311th HSW executive director

group to succeed against more seasoned robotics teams. Their seed money helped pay for the FIRST competition registration fee.

"We had to pay a \$5,000 entry fee, which includes the (cost of the robot) kit," said Jacob Rojas, one of the group's officers who has developed into the "Mario Andretti" of robot driving. Students use the kit to assemble a robot of their design, make it work and then try to fulfill the competition's requirements.

While their initial foray at the FIRST Lone Star Regionals in Houston wasn't successful, the team learned from their mistakes and won the competition the following year.

In April, the team plans to compete again as they take another step forward toward careers that may someday help industry, and possibly the Air Force.

"The Air Force is very involved in robotics development, especially technology that supports unmanned aircraft," Dr. Godfrey told the group, adding,

"The things you do now are right and good for the nation," he said.



Mike Bollinger, center, General Dynamics site manager at Brooks, presents a check for \$4,000 to the South San High School robotics team. It's the second consecutive year that General Dynamics has helped underwrite the school's award-winning program.

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We SALUTE you!

*Brooks Civilians of the
2nd Quarter
April 1 - June 30, 2003*



Category I Student Aide
Andrea Parrott
AFIOH/SD



Category II GS3-5
Hosea Talbert
311th MSG/SVMT



Category III GS 6-8
Patricia Woodward
USAFSAM

Congratulations!

Look for the remaining
2003 quarterly and the
annual award winners in
an upcoming Discovery.



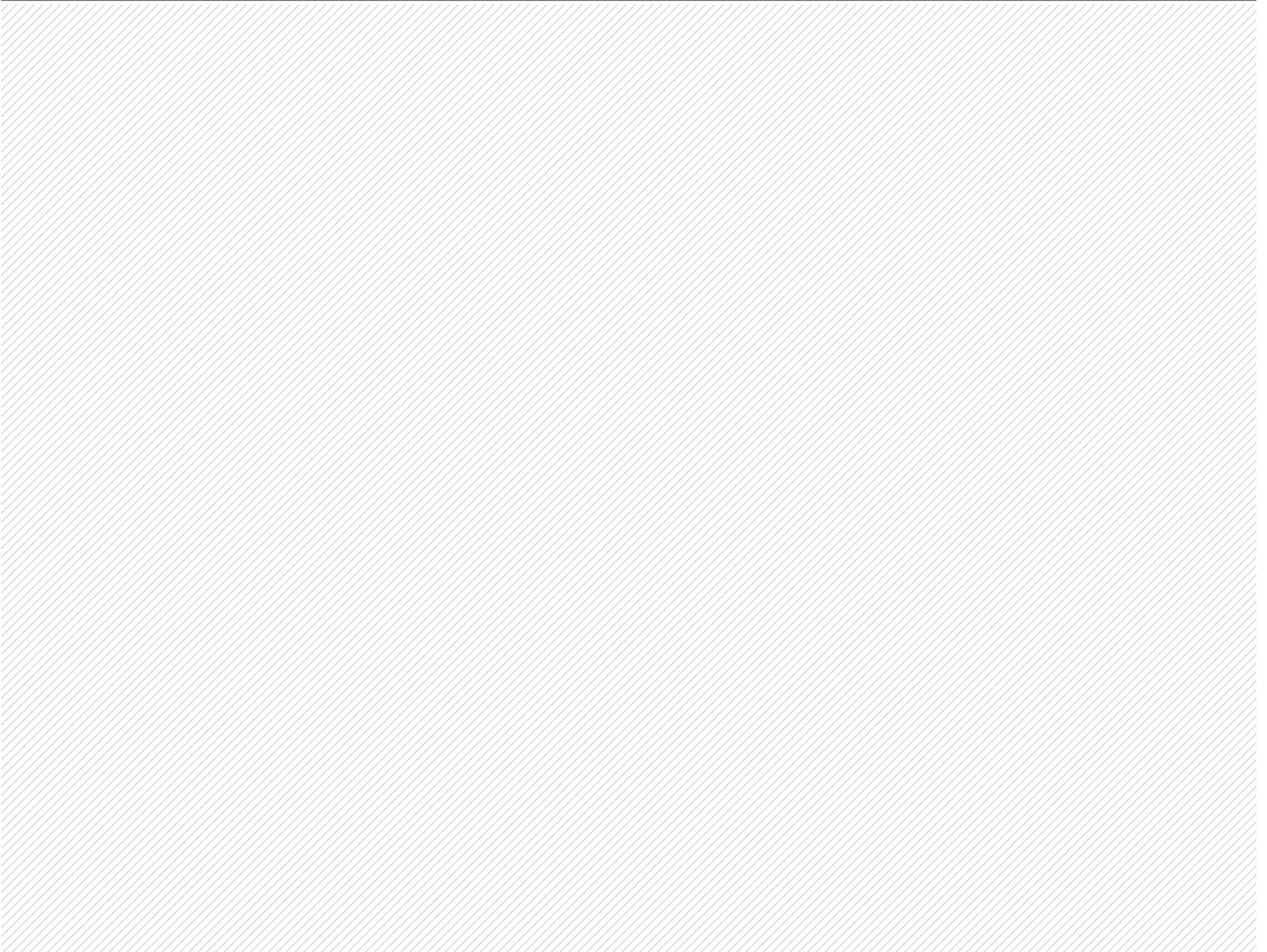
Category IV GS9-11
Catherine Taylor
311th YA



Category V GS12-13
David Carpenter
AFIOH/RS



Category VII (NAF)
Donna Harp
311th MSG/SVML





New MRE entrees coming this year

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Servicemembers in the field about to grab a Meal, Ready to Eat combat ration might want to choose the Jamaican pork chop, the pasta with alfredo sauce or the beef with mushrooms.

These entrees will soon be gone from the MRE inventory, and replaced by new dishes that food technologists at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center at Natick, Mass., said will be a bigger hit with servicemembers.

New this year to the MRE menu board are pot roast with vegetables, barbecue pork ribs and vegetable manicotti. New side dishes are hearty New England clam chowder and a carbohydrate-fortified applesauce.

Servicemembers with a sweet tooth will soon be able to bite into two new cookies: a vanilla waffle sandwich and a chocolate mint. They can also enjoy peanut butter and crispy versions of M&M candies, and almond poppy seed and pumpkin pound cakes.

The changes are designed to maintain variety while keeping pace with warfighters' taste preferences, said Janice Rosado, a food technologist for the DoD combat feeding program.

"People like what's new, and we get a lot of requests for more ethnic foods and for vegetarian meals," she said.

In recent years, new MRE entrees have reflected those preferences, with several Italian, Mexican and Oriental selections offered. New in 2004 is an entrée Rosado said she is convinced will be a big hit: Cajun rice with sausage. In addition, four of the 24 MRE

entrees are meatless, she said.

That does not mean that some of the perennial favorites, like spaghetti and beef stew, are going to go by the wayside, Rosado said. Both have remained on the MRE menu list since the pouched combat rations were first widely introduced in the early 1980s.

MREs undergo intensive shelf-life testing. Test items that do not survive several weeks of storage at 125 degrees are automatically pulled from consideration, Rosado said. Besides scorching heat and frigid cold, center testers expose potential MREs to impact tests to ensure they do not break open when airdropped and nutrition tests to make sure they meet prescribed requirements.

But no matter how well MRE items perform in these tests, Rosado said they never enter the military inventory until they survive one of the toughest tests of all: the troop taste test. Food scientists take all potential new MRE selections to the field, where warfighters conducting military exercises get the final say in whether they will make the cut. Based on successful field tests, Rosado said center officials plan to introduce three new entrees next year: Cajun rice with sausage, a veggie griller in barbecue sauce, and a jalapeño-laced Mexican macaroni and cheese. Also new in 2004 is a Kreamsicle cookie that tastes just like the ice cream bar, carrot cake and red-hot candies.

And because MREs generally take about two-and-a-half years to develop, test and get approved, Rosado said she already knows what is on the radar screen as far out as 2005. In 2005, she said to look for chicken fajitas with tortillas, a cheese omelet with vegetables, penne with spicy tomato sauce, and sloppy joes. Also to be introduced are hash browns with bacon and a blueberry-cherry cobbler that is full of fruit.

Paper CLEP tests coming online

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

The College Level Examination Program, a popular route for many servicemembers seeking degrees, introduces 14 new paper tests in April.

Since July 2001, more than 1,300 campus test centers offered electronic computer-based CLEP tests. The reintroduced paper-based exams are considered "high volume" exams, said Len Lipp, exam programs manager for the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support.

"They are the most popular, they have the best success rate, and they meet a majority of educational requirements of most degree programs that people use CLEP for," he said.

The new tests will replace some that will no longer be available, beginning in early 2004.

"These are aged exams," said Lipp, referring to the CLEP tests now used by DANTES. The current paper-based exams, after their withdrawal date, will no longer be considered valid examinations and will have to be pulled.

This is not uncommon in the testing world, according to Lipp.

Subjects such as social science, history, sociology, psychology, humanities, college algebra and mathematics will be reintroduced in paper form, according to the DANTES Web site. The test material will be based on computer versions of CLEP exams being administered at national test centers located on college and university campuses.

The hard-copy exams will be available because of the "recognized need for paper-based testing in the military," Lipp said.

He pointed to locations and environments in the Department of Defense where paper-based education is a good alternative — "where it would be very difficult to

deliver computer-based testing — for example, ships at sea and ... numerous remote locations, particularly in the Middle East and other areas."

CLEP tests offer servicemembers a chance to earn up to 30 semester hours' credit toward a bachelor's degree. The exams, widely accepted by colleges and universities, cover material taught in most college freshman and sophomore courses.

Of the three credit-by-exams programs recognized by colleges, CLEP by far is the most popular among the military, Lipp said. The program has been used extensively, particularly in the Air Force, which he said constitutes nearly 55 percent of the military testing volume, he said.

"Up until just recently, we were averaging in the neighborhood of about 70,000 to 75,000 exams a year," he said.

That number "far exceeded" the DANTES subject standardized tests program, which is the second largest with a volume that is around 55,000.

In the near future, CLEP tests might soon become even more popular and convenient for servicemembers, Lipp said.

DANTES and the College Board, the organization that provides college information, testing and financial-aid sources, are working to introduce a new Web-based CLEP program, hopefully by fiscal 2006, he said. That program will allow servicemembers to take CLEP tests online at military education centers.

For more information about CLEP tests and the nearest national test center, visit the Web site at: www.collegeboard.com/clep or www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/examinations/CLEP.htm, or contact the Brooks Education Center at 536-3617.



Brooks lunchtime soccer players to compete in Defender's Cup tourney

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Hoping to again shock the international soccer world with their "lightning-in-a-bottle" dedication to the sport, Brooks lunchtime soccer enthusiasts will try to contend for the 2nd Annual Defender's Cup tournament title at Lackland Air Force Base Jan. 16-18.

Last year, the Brooks team, formed from the most ardent of lunchtime soccer athletes, stunned the competition by winning their first three games of the World Cup format tournament. They advanced as group winners only to lose in the semi-finals, ending their inaugural tournament participation with a respectable 3-2 record.

"Our strategy this year is to combine youthful athleticism with cagey veteran experience," said Col. Chris Kleinsmith, who has volunteered to coach the Brooks squad. Kleinsmith, who played in the first Defender's Cup,



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Col. Chris Kleinsmith, left, moves the ball up field against fellow Brooks lunchtime soccer enthusiasts. The group, coached by Col. Kleinsmith, practiced this week in preparation for the Defender's Cup tourney at Lackland Air Force Base during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

said this year's Brooks tourney entry has more depth. "Our replacements (bench) were a bit thin last year. Key injuries in the early games hampered our ability to move the ball around the field," admits Col. Kleinsmith, who is department chair for the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's Expeditionary Education and Training Department.

The Defender's Cup attracted 14

teams in its inaugural year. The competition featured veteran soccer players from Air Force bases worldwide and foreign athletes from Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe. The 2003 Brooks team succeeded mainly on experience, rather than speed. Col. Kleinsmith said of this year's squad, "We're not going to out run them, but we can sure out-think them."

Among veteran players who will provide the team's mental edge with their knowledge of the sport and its nuances will again be striker (forward) and fitness center specialist Jose Murillo; star midfielder and defender Dave Stolarski, a Brooks contractor; his son Jacob, who is a New York University varsity soccer team player; striker 2nd Lt. James Thomas with the Air Force Research Laboratory; midfielder/defender Lt. Col. Vincent Fonseca with the Air Force Medical Operations Agency; and Sergeant First Class Ronald Dicks with the U.S. Army Medical Research Detachment.

The youthful athleticism to which Col. Kleinsmith referred will be provided by some exuberant newcomers, including AFRL's 1st Lt. Brian Mills.

Col. Kleinsmith and Mr. Murillo credit the team's past and future success in tourney play to the fitness center staff who has unceasingly provided them with support.

Col. Kleinsmith encourages the Brooks community to show team fan support by attending the tourney. A tourney schedule will be available at the fitness center front desk.

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'Second season' begins for Brooks varsity hoopsters

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Their annual mental adjustment to playing contending basketball has begun with what their coach characterized as "the second season." And like those birds that migrate every year to the promised land called Capistrano, the Brooks varsity hoop squad's winning ways may very well come home to roost.

With lost opportunities and lost games behind them, the 2003-2004 edition of the Brooks base team is refocusing its collective energy and talent for a very different kind of season without a command title as the ultimate goal.

"We had a big (team) meeting just before the holidays. I told them to think about something other than basketball for awhile. I think it was good for everybody," said third-year head coach Hosea Talbert.

Like his predecessors, Mr. Talbert has seen a familiar pattern displayed by base varsity hoop teams that has been described as an 'annual mental funk.'

Lack of team focus, concentration and direction has perennially led Brooks varsity squads to abysmal first-half hoop season performances. This season is no different. The team has lost all of its games played in two tournaments: the invitational tourney the squad hosted in October and the annual Joe B. Hall Tournament Dec. 6 at Lackland Air Force Base.

"Every year we don't get it together (mentally) as a team until we play in the Sheppard (AFB) tourney," admits Mr. Talbert, referring to their annual season turning point scheduled for Jan. 17-19 in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Last year at Sheppard, Brooks posted a 3-2 tourney record. Most of the teams that compete in this tournament are Air Force Materiel Command opponents. While AFMC no longer will hold command level tournaments, the Sheppard event is a tune-up for Brooks and other members of the Southwest Military Basketball League.

Mr. Talbert believes his squad will again shake its 'funk' and contend like it did last year as AFMC's "Cinderella team."

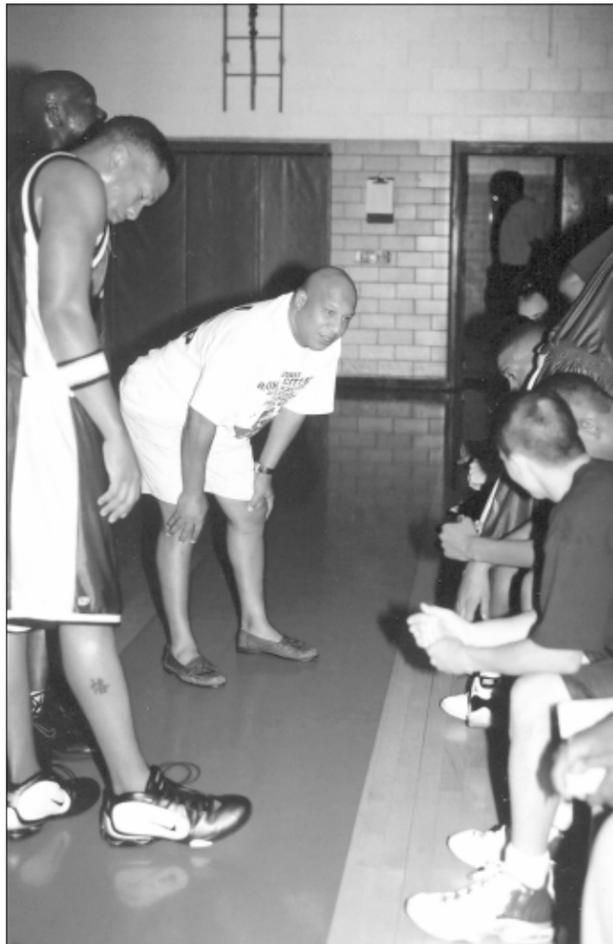


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Brooks varsity basketball coach Hosea Talbert goes over a play with his team during a tourney at Brooks in October.

With no AFMC championship to shoot for, Brooks will have to adjust its goal toward winning a SMBL title in the team's inaugural year in the league. Defending league champ Altus AFB defeated Brooks earlier this season. The SMBL championship tournament will be held at Altus AFB in Oklahoma City, Okla., March 18-22.

"I believe we will re-focus and re-dedicate ourselves," Mr. Talbert said, banking on the leadership of star power forward Rob Taylor, who did not play in the season's first half because of a quadriceps injury.

"I'm going to build everything around Rob Taylor," Mr. Talbert said, noting that it will be up to his star player to help his teammates feel they are a contributing part of what could become a championship team.

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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

Do you want to quit smoking?

The HAWC now offers Quit Smart™ smoking cessation classes and one-on-one appointments to help you stop smoking when you want to stop.

Please call 536-4292 for class dates and times or to schedule a one-on-one appointment.



Jacket, pullover require nametags

New regulation took effect in the new year

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE (AFPN) — The Air Force has established both the mandatory wear date and proper wear for the new metallic nametag on service dress uniforms and pullover sweaters.

Beginning Jan. 1, the nametag must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons, said Air Force Personnel Center officials at Randolph Air Force Base. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.

If a duty badge is worn on the wearer's right side, men will center the badge a half-inch below the new nametag; women will center the badge a half-inch above the new nametag.

An exception to the new policy is when a command insignia is

worn by either men or women. It is worn either a half-inch above or below the nametag. Then, the duty badge is worn either a half-inch above or below the command insignia, depending on whether the airman is a current or former commander.

When the maternity jumper is worn as the maternity service dress, the nametag should be centered on the right side and placed even to, or 1 1/2 inches higher or lower than, the first exposed button.

The nametag will also be worn on pullover sweaters on the wearer's right side with the bottom of the nametag level centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline. It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.

For more information, Brooks personnel can call the military personnel flight at 536-1845 or contact the installation commanders support staff.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Hometown U.S. Air Force solutions (Vol. 1)

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Buckle up for Safety!