

DISCOVERY

BROOKS
CITY-BASE
A Technology and Business Center

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 28, No. 15 - Friday, July 23, 2004 -- Brooks City-Base, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Brooks research helped pave way for first moon landing



Nasa Photo

Brooks scientists from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine developed the gold helmet visors for the Apollo Moon missions, depicted here with Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

On July 20, 1969, when astronaut Neil Armstrong proclaimed "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Dr. Thomas Tredici and other Brooks scientists had a much deeper understanding of that historic message than the millions of people who watched the monumental event on television.

Dr. Tredici, and his Air Force scientific colleagues and predecessors here and elsewhere, were largely responsible for contributing to NASA's Apollo 11 lunar mission success 35 years ago. They laid the foundation for manned space flight through aerospace and space studies research long before the inauguration of America's space agency in 1958.

Their pioneering work began in 1949 when Maj. Gen. Harry Armstrong, later to become Air Force Surgeon General, suc-

ceeded in creating the world's first Department of Space Medicine at the U.S. Air Force School of Aviation Medicine. That same year USAFSAM scientists Drs. Fritz and Heinz Haber conceived the idea of using jet airplanes to create weightlessness.

By 1955, their colleagues were conducting weightlessness flights to explore microgravity's physiological and psychological effects. Ultimately, NASA incorporated data from these Air Force experiments into its astronaut weightlessness training program.

Three years before the weightlessness experiments began, USAFSAM had launched the first space cabin simulator experiments. The world's first simulated trip to the moon was conducted by USAFSAM scientists in 1958 when 23-year-old Airman First Class Donald Farrell spent 168 hours in a 3 foot by 5 foot space cabin simulator. This early simula-

tor, nothing more than a small pressurized altitude chamber, is now on display at the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. The Farrell experiment showcased Air Force scientific vision and ingenuity on which NASA built its manned space flight program.

NASA relied heavily on Air Force space studies research during its early years. In 1959, NASA contracted with Brooks Air Force Base for a series of experiments that would later play a pivotal role in helping astronauts survive in space.

Dr. Billy Welch, then Department of Space Medicine's Space Ecology Branch chief at USAFSAM, said the primary purpose of the space cabin simulator experiments was to study human reaction to varying gaseous environments. He said NASA wanted to design the most survivable space cabin atmosphere for its Gemini and Apollo programs.

Some of the earliest space hardware used by NASA was designed and produced at Brooks. As early as 1957, USAFSAM scientists and engineers had developed life support and monitoring equipment used during Air Force atmospheric experiments that analyzed human survival in space. Two years later, USAFSAM scientists created devices NASA needed for Project Mercury, America's first series of manned orbital missions. The school's fabrication shops in Bldg. 130 became a major space apparatus-manufacturing site. America's first space primates survived their flights using life support equipment built at Brooks.

USAFSAM also pioneered space food development. Its space nutrition studies had evolved from the aircrew in-flight feeding program inaugurated by the Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio in 1952.

See NASA Anniversary/3

Brooks colonel works to keep deployed soldiers healthy

By Staff Sgt. Martin Jackson
386th Air Expeditionary Wing PA

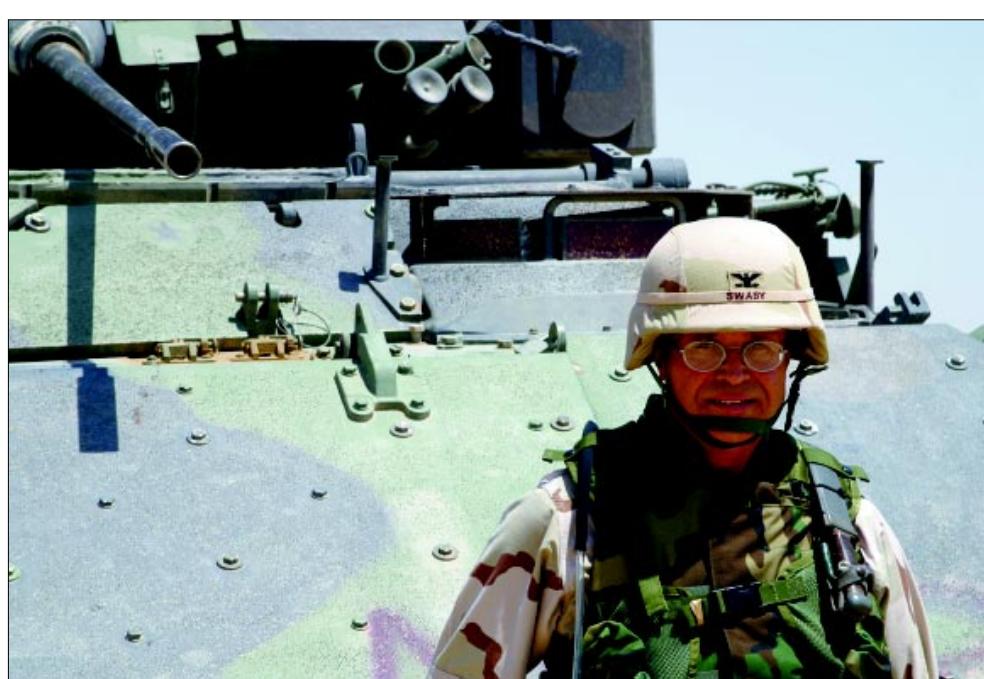
SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — Being responsible for the healthy living environment of 60,000 Soldiers at eight different camps is no small job, but that is exactly what Airmen of the 2nd Preventive Medicine Team Air Force have been doing since mid-March.

The team of nine enlisted and two officers has conducted more than 2,000 inspections, providing a full spectrum of preventive-medicine support ranging from base camp and health-risk assessments to occupational- and environmental-health surveillance.

One of the team's major responsibilities is testing the water for contaminants, said Col. James Swaby, the team's commander.

"With the extreme weather conditions we have seen, these Soldiers could be drinking up to (three gallons) of water a day," he said. "During our three-month deployment here, we have ensured the safe usability of more than 53 million gallons of water."

Besides the heat, the Airmen have prevailed through many challenges including losing a water system and a sewer line breakdown that threatened a dining facility.



Courtesy Photo

Col. James Swaby, Technical Director for the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, deployed to Iraq in March and was the commander of a team that was responsible for the healthy living environment of more than 60,000 soldiers.

Yet through it all, under the Airmen's watch, there were no major food, water or insect-born disease outbreaks in any of the eight camps.

"When we first arrived here, there were these warehouses housing 1,700 Soldiers in each of them," Colonel Swaby said.

See Colonel Swaby/12

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE



Brooks tests barriers — Page 3



Combat Dining-In — Page 10



Women's softball — Page 10



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: Kendahl.Johnson@brooks.af.mil or to: Discovery@brooks.af.mil.

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

Discovery advertising

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

Discovery Editorial Staff:
311th Human Systems Wing Commander
Col. Tom Travis
Director of Public Affairs
Larry Farlow
Editor
Kendahl Johnson
(kendahl.johnson@brooks.af.mil)
Staff Writer
Steve VanWert
Photography
Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder
Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.
Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart
Senior Airman Samantha Shieh

Discovery logo by Arlene Schirmer



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

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



William A. Johnson
President
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>.



Uniform survey ushers new chapter into AF storybook

By Capt. Jason Medina
Air Force PA National Media Outreach Office

Future Air Force historians could easily label 2004 as the Year of Decision.

We have taken this year by the horns and renewed our vows to physical fitness, paved a road toward transformation, and set aggressive force-shaping goals to get back to our "fighting weight," and we continue to make tough choices about what America's Air Force will look like in the future.

Enter the proposed new utility uniform. For the past year, more than 620 Airmen at 30-plus locations have been experimenting with a replacement to our battle dress uniform. A popular, though unlikely, alternative would have been to authorize "any black undershirt" and make the so-called "blouse" optional within the workplace. This ensemble, though fashionable, would be hardly standardized and it certainly wouldn't be distinguished.

Airmen deserve an Air Force-unique uniform. I still cringe at having to list the nuanced differences between Air Force- and Army-style BDUs to curious bystand-

ers, and I look forward to a new uniform that all Airmen, whether in a military personnel flight or a munitions maintenance shop, wear with pride every day.

Currently, our senior leaders are soliciting our feedback through an online survey, the results of which will help determine the next Air Force "look." Since we generally don't get to cast votes for Air Force policy, it is notable that we're being asked to provide input into what we wear to work every day. And it is a decision we shouldn't take lightly, because the stakes are high.

A uniform tells a story: Bright orange jumpsuits will forever identify the incarcerated, tuxedos identify the celebrated and square, tasseled caps are reserved for the educated. For almost 57 years of aiming high and crossing into the blue, Air Force utility uniforms have identified us predominantly by our Army-based heritage.

It is time to write the next chapter of the Air Force Story, and our inputs are important in the decision-making process. Let's do our part and complete the online survey to help ensure our new utility uniform identifies us not by where we came from, but for where the Air Force is going.

Our future identity depends on it.

FROM THE COMMANDER'S LOG:

I spent a portion of the July 4th holiday weekend in Provo, Utah, with a group of great Americans participating in an annual celebration aptly called America's Freedom Festival. This experience highlighted a couple very important thoughts I'd like you all to consider and, if you're a supervisor, talk to our people about.

First, it's well documented that the American people rate our military as the most trusted institution in the country and therefore, our military members and DoD civilians as the most trusted individuals. I saw proof of that during America's Freedom Festival — and experienced it firsthand.

I served in Europe during the last four Independence Day holidays, and while the Europeans respect and honor Memorial Day throughout Western Europe, my family and I were somewhat isolated from our nation's outpouring of support for our military and our values as reflected in many 4th of July celebrations. My wife and I saw it in vivid red, white and blue this year.

Second, and most importantly, with that trust from the American people comes an awesome responsibility.

Americans hold us to a higher standard and we must live up to that higher standard in everything we do: the way we look in uniform, the way we handle ourselves on the job and in our local communities, the way we obey the laws of our country, the way we participate in the processes of our democracy and in our personal standards, professionalism, discipline and integrity.

I know that 99.9 percent of our people serve as models to America in all the areas I mentioned. But I also know it only takes one incident to begin to breach the trust. I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the high esteem our fellow Americans feel for each of you, Air Force civilian and military members, and for what you do every day in the cause of freedom.

We are the world's most respected Air and Space Force because of your contributions day in and day out. Your performance makes the difference for the Air Force, and certainly for Air Force Material Command. I'm proud of you. I'm inspired by you. I'm committed to achieving our vision for every member of our Command — To be a valued team member of the world's most respected Air and Space Force.

— Gen. Greg Martin, AFMC Commander



COL. TOM TRAVIS
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

ACTION LINE

536-2222

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	Military Personnel.....	536-1845
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861	Military Pay.....	536-5778
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
311th Mission Support — Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Safety.....	536-2111	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Housing Office.....	533-5905	BXMarket.....	533-9079
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Brooks Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks-tested barrier technology may enhance force protection

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

New anti-ram barrier technology tested at Brooks City-Base in June may greatly enhance federal agencies' capabilities to protect personnel from vehicle bombs used during terrorist attacks.

The USAF Force Protection Battlelab at Lackland Air Force Base coordinated the Brooks tests in support of its program called BRACE, which stands for Barriers for Reduced-debris and Counter-mobility Effects. Applied Research Associates, a barrier developer, contracted with Southwest Research Institute to conduct the tests at the old flight line.

The Hesco Bastion Container, Lightweight Polymer-Coated Concrete Barrier and a steel gate system tested here represent the latest generation of anti-ram barrier technology designed primarily to reduce fragmentary debris caused by a large exploding vehicle.

"The blast environment from past tests has produced fragmentary debris that has traveled about 6,000 feet from the impact site," said Capt. L. Robert Moriarty, USAF Force Protection Battlelab civil engineering



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez

A 15,000-pound truck traveling between 30 to 50 m.p.h. impacted various barriers to test anti-ram barrier technology

officer who coordinated the recent tests.

During the Brooks tests, a 15,000-pound truck traveling between 30 and 50 mph impacted the various barriers. Joe Mayer, SWRI Test Coordinator Engineer, said they wanted to determine if modifications made to the counter-mobility barriers would reduce both penetration and debris.

The Hesco system consists of steel-welded wire mesh that is lined with a geotextile insert and filled with soil. "It was developed in the early 1990s and used during the first Gulf War," Captain Moriarty said.

Lightweight polymer technology, that has been adapted for concrete Jersey barriers, was originally developed in the 1950s for ship building. Steel cables are

used to link the barriers and anchor them to a concrete roadway. Each barrier weighs about 1,400 pounds.

The new steel gate system is designed to meet new State Department standards. "Last year, the State Department changed its standards from only three feet of (vehicle) penetration at the steel gate entry point to between 50 and 100 feet," Captain Moriarty said.

"The whole point of this is to support the troops in the field. We want to design barrier systems that are cheap (to produce), easy to deploy, reduce maintenance costs and enhance mission capability," Captain Moriarty said.

Federal customers interested in these new barriers include the Defense, Homeland Security, Energy, and State Departments.

NASA Anniversary

Continued from page 1

By 1960, NASA had tasked the Air Force with developing space food for Project Mercury. The program's success led to innovative astronaut feeding techniques that were subsequently used during the Gemini and Apollo programs.

"We also did a lot of work on decompression sickness," said Dr. Welch, former Armstrong Laboratory director. "We knew about the impact elevated carbon dioxide exposure has on normal physiological functions during our simulator studies. The carbon dioxide issues we experienced were similar to those encountered on Apollo 13."

While the majority of spacesuit experiments were conducted at Wright-Patterson AFB, Brooks researchers contributed to NASA studies involving astronaut survival in damaged spacesuits.

During NASA's early manned orbital flights, Brooks scientists assisted the space agency by providing medical personal to monitor astronauts. This tradition began when six of the first seven astronauts visited Brooks for vision checkups.

Dr. Tredici helped check Project Mercury astronauts' vision. However, his most significant contribution to America's space program is forever linked

to the first manned mission to the moon.

"At the time, we were just doing our jobs. Now, I am very happy to have contributed, in a small way, to that glorious adventure," Dr. Tredici said.

He explained that decades before Apollo 11's epic voyage, Air Force and NASA scientists knew about the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation outside of Earth's atmosphere.

In 1968, NASA contracted with USAFSAM scientists for an ultraviolet effect on vision study. Principal investigators Dr. Tredici and Dr. Donald Pitts fulfilled the study's objectives. Their research provided NASA with data used to develop the EVA Apollo helmet visor.

"Our department had developed a one percent gold transmitting visor for B-47 and B-52 pilots to protect them from flash blindness caused by a thermal nuclear weapon," Dr. Tredici said.

Gold transmitting helmet visors helped protect the vision of 12 American astronauts who walked on the moon. More importantly, their survival in space validated the importance of Air Force research that continues to have an impact on America's space program.



NASA continues to rely on Brooks, Air Force support

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Thirty five years after man first walked on the moon, Brooks and Air Force scientists continue their legacy of support to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration that is contributing to current and future missions in space.

When 76-year-old astronaut John Glenn prepared for his historic shuttle voyage here in 1998 during an Air Force Research Laboratory centrifuge ride, the event represented a small fraction of Brooks support to America's space program.

Since the end of America's manned lunar missions, Air Force scientists at Brooks have been periodic contributors to NASA projects. Their most notable

contributions have been made during the past ten years in support of the space shuttle program and the International Space Station.

Recently, a contract scientist at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Biodynamics and Protection Division was honored by NASA for his support of an on-going joint program to investigate the causes and potential cures of decompression sickness from exposure to low ambient pressures. Jim Webb, a Wyle Laboratories lead scientist on contract with AFRL's Human Effectiveness Directorate, received NASA Astronauts' prestigious Personal Achievement Award called the "Silver Snoopy" for developing and transitioning exercise-en-

hanced pre-oxygenation techniques. NASA has successfully incorporated these AFRL directorate-developed techniques into International Space Station procedures to more effectively prepare astronauts for extravehicular activity, commonly known as space walks.

Astronaut health and performance has been the focus of several Brooks studies for NASA. Among them is an AFRL investigation involving the effects of hyperbaric oxygen and gravity on programmed cell death. An AFRL experiment on board a shuttle mission revealed programmed cell death, called apoptosis, may be partly responsible for cellular atrophy in astronauts. Hyperbaric oxygen research

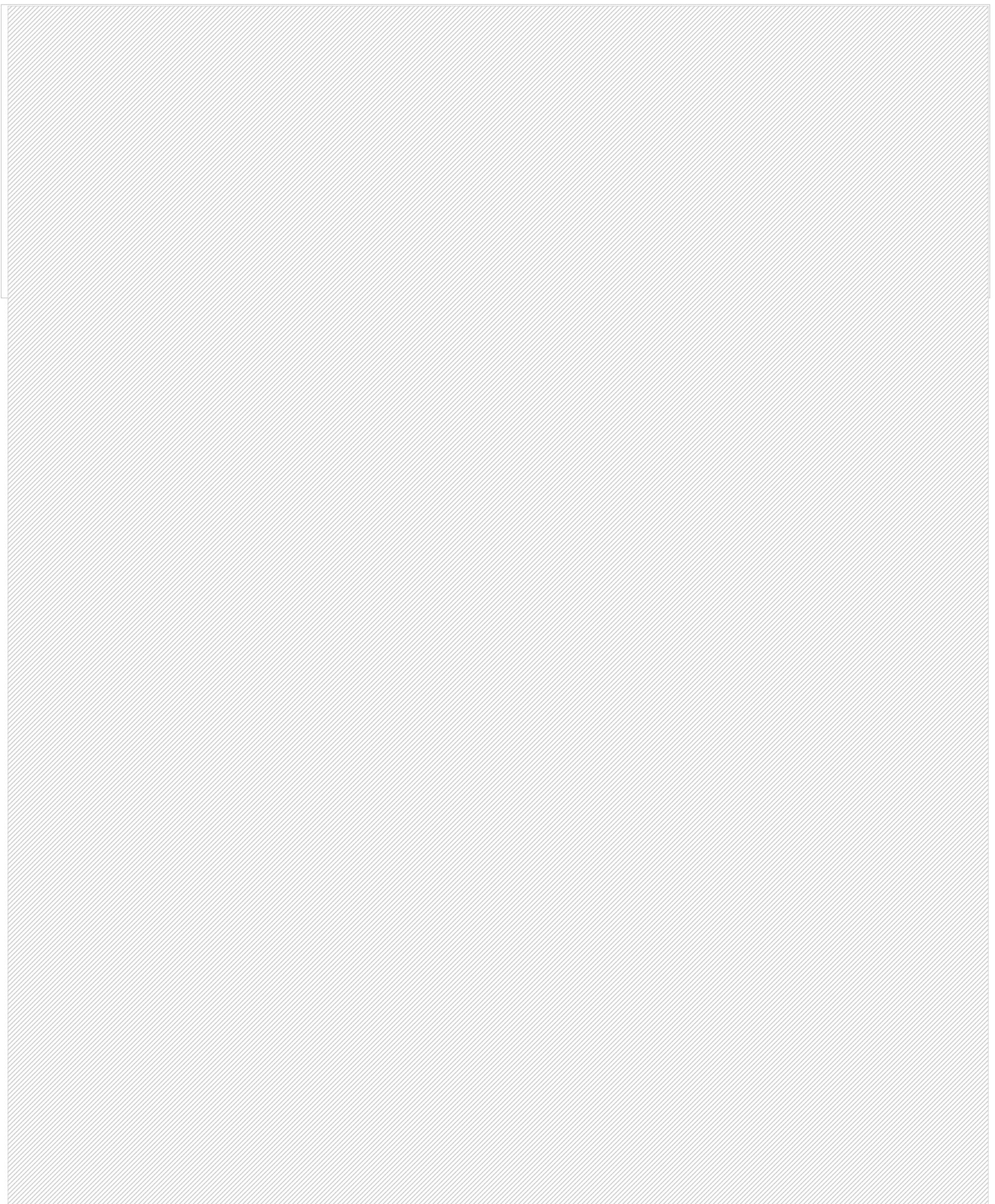
continues here to determine the role of apoptosis in cellular atrophy associated with long term space flight.

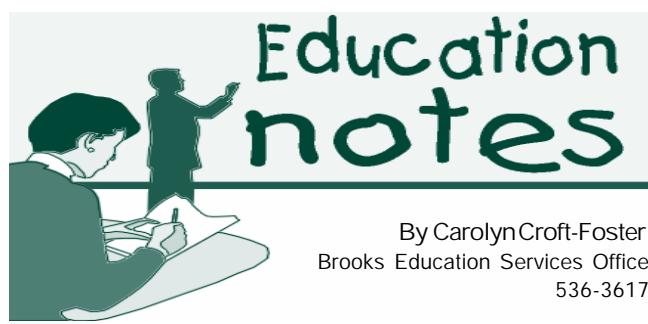
AFRL scientists are also involved in cancer research in space. This work primarily focuses on growing human leukocytes, or stem cells, in microgravity for use in transplantation procedures.

Other AFRL research supporting NASA includes studies involving the effects of microgravity on astronaut fatigue, cognitive and visual performance; long-duration microgravity exposure effecting the human cardiovascular system; and an anti-G suit test to increase astronaut protection during space shuttle re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.



Nasa Photo





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

AWC Nonresident Seminar

Recruiting for the Academic Year 2005 Air War College Nonresident Seminar Program is underway. Seminar meetings will be held weekly starting in early August and run until mid-June 2005. The AWC Nonresident Studies Seminar Program is open to active duty, National Guard and Reserve colonels, lieutenant colonels and lieutenant colonel-selectees (or their equivalents) of any component of the U.S. Armed Forces and civilian employees (GS/GM-13 or above). Students with term credit from other editions may also enroll and should check with an AWC faculty advisor for details.

For those students who cannot take advantage of the seminar program, the correspondence program is also available for enrollment. Correspondence students have six months to complete each term in the three-term core program with the required elective completed sometime during this 18-month period.

Applications are available at www.maxwell.af.mil/au/awc/ns/ns-enroll.htm. Bring a copy of the completed application to Bldg. 558. Call 536-3618 for more information.

ACSC Nonresident Seminar

The Education and Training Center is now seeking eligible candidates (major, major-selectees, GS-11, and above) for the ACSC Nonresident Seminar Program. Nonresident seminars meet for 11 months each week from August 2004 until June 2005. The course grants Phase 1 Joint PME credit, Intermediate Service School credit, up to 27 semester hours of graduate course work, and Reserve Points as determined by Air Force Personnel Center. Seminars need eight enrollments per site. To register, visit Education Services in Bldg. 558 to complete an ACSC Application or call 536-3618 for more information.

Upper Iowa on base and online

Register now for Upper Iowa University – Distance Learning. Students may register for correspondence courses at any time. Courses are available in business, public administration, criminal justice and other majors. The Upper Iowa University office in the Brooks Education Center is open Monday through Friday. For more information, visit the website at www.uui.edu, stop by the Brooks office in Bldg. 558 or call 536-4033.

Air Force Virtual Education Center

The Virtual Education Center is now online. Servicemembers can view information about AF Education Centers and CCAF. 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 <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> and establish an account. For more information call 536-3617.

CLEP exams funded at National Test Centers

DANTES is now providing up-front funding of the CLEP eCBT examination fee at identified National Test Centers. DANTES will fund the current \$50 test fee for eligible military and civilian examinees on-campus. Examinees are responsible for paying the non-refundable, advance registration fee charged by the test center. In some cases, this registration fee, usually \$20, is reimbursable. Students may test only at schools identified as "Military Friendly" or "Open". San Antonio area schools include Northwest Vista, St. Mary's, San Antonio College, UTSA and others. Visit the website at www.collegeboard.com/clep for listings off all San Antonio schools and other areas. For more information call 536-3617.

St. Mary's University Teacher Certification

St. Mary's offers initial teacher certification at all levels—early childhood-grade 4, grades 4-8 and grades 8-12. St. Mary's uses graduate programs as vehicles for certification. St. Mary's Education Department advisors will be glad to answer questions at an informational briefing July 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bldg. 208, Room 32. Individuals interested in a transcript review should bring transcripts to the meeting. To reserve a seat, call 658-4852.

Discover Program On-Line

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 or to schedule an appointment to review the website and get started, call 536-3617.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Officer Promotion Board announcement

This month's ceremony will be held July 30 at 3 p.m. in the Base Club. The board will be recognizing promotees from the month of July.

Sleep study subjects needed

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers to participate in a number of ongoing sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet the necessary qualifications are eligible to receive compensation starting at \$10 an hour. Contact Laura Sanchez at 536-3616 for additional information, or visit the website at www.ntiinc.com and link to 'studies'.

CIEE looking for host families

CIEE, a worldwide leader of international education and student exchanges, is looking for families to open their hearts and homes and welcome an international exchange student into their community for the 2004-05 school year. These students hail from all over the globe and are eager to learn about the United States and to become a member of an American family, community and school.

This program also provides an opportunity for families to form lifelong relationships and unforgettable memories. Host families can be traditional or nontraditional, single parents or couples. Families provide students with a bed, a place to study, two meals a day, and loving support. If you are unable to host a student for the school year, we are also looking for families that can host students for four to eight weeks while we look for permanent host families.

To participate or to request more information on this rewarding intercultural experience, contact Karl Pover at 682-2336 or karlpover@msn.com.

AFCEE readies for inspection

The Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence is gearing up for a visit by a team from the Air Force Inspection Agency in Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., which will conduct a compliance inspection.

The purpose of the inspection is to ensure that AFCEE is in compliance with all Air Force policies and programs.

AFCEE officials said the inspectors will be looking at such areas as safety, information management, financial management and resource protection.

Additionally, the team will examine the Center's compliance with programs in the "by-law" category, which include the Transition Assistance Program, sexual harassment education and prevention, homosexual conduct policy and the Voting Assistance Program.

AFCEE, which was organized in 1991, is the Air Force's primary environmental service center and military and family housing center of expertise.

World Wrestling storms SBC

Catch all the action and excitement of World Wrestling Entertainment when Monday Night RAW storms into the SBC Center Aug. 2. Military personnel in uniform will receive free admission. To redeem this offer, present yourself in uniform at the Southeast Box Office of the SBC Center. Military may also purchase up to eight tickets at a discounted rate. Discounts available while supplies last. Not valid with any other special.

Montgomery GI Bill participants can increase 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 the participant is 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 MGIB. This feature is not open to Vietnam-Era or VEAP convertees. For more information, call 536-3618.

Brooks Family Support Center Activities

SMOOTH MOVE

Aug. 3 – 12:30-3:15 p.m.

PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask your questions. The briefing is open to all active duty members, DoD civilians, and spouses.

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

RESUME WORKSHOP

Aug. 10 – 10 a.m. - Noon, Bldg. 537

Are you looking for a job? Learn the different resume styles and how to write and use them effectively to open career opportunities. Learn the dos and don'ts of resume development. Also, as an added bonus, learn how to develop impressive cover and thank you letters.

SINGLE PARENTS GROUP

3rd Tuesday – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Chapel Annex

For a great morale booster, stop by and join the group for a free lunch. Meet other single parents for open discussions or outings. The Chapel, Life Skills Support Center, and the Family

Support Center are sponsoring this class. For more information, contact LaWanda Roper at 536-2444 or Sandra Cervantes at 546-5301. To register, contact the Family Support Center at 536-2444.

SPONSOR TRAINING

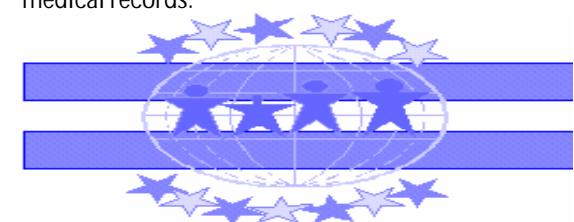
Aug. 17 – 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537

Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors. In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend.

VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Wednesdays – 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records, or one-on-one consultations. VA representative on site! Please bring a copy of your medical records.





Rules restrict political activity for Department of Defense employees

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

With election activity steadily picking up, defense officials remind servicemembers and Defense Department civilians that they are subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

Gone are the days when the military posted troops at the polls after the Civil War, an act that Steve Epstein, director of the DOD's general counsel's standards of conduct office, said intimidated many southerners into not voting.

Mr. Epstein said two sets of rules help protect the integrity of the political process: a DOD directive for active-duty servicemembers and the Hatch Act for federal civilians. These rules keep the military out of partisan politics and ensure that the workplace remains politically neutral, he said.

That is not to imply that they cannot participate in politics. Mr. Epstein said DOD encourages both groups to register to vote and vote as they choose, and to urge others to vote. Both groups can sign

nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues—but only if they do not do so as representatives of the armed forces. Also, all federal employees can make contributions to political organizations or candidates.

Beyond that, the list of restrictions differs widely, depending on whether the employee is an active-duty servicemember, a rank-and-file civil service employee, a political appointee or a member of the career senior executive service, Mr. Epstein said.

Of all DOD employees, uniformed service members have the most restrictions regarding political activity, he explained. A 1993 revision to the Hatch Act freed most civil service employees to engage in political activities outside the workplace that were once forbidden, although many restrictions still apply.

For example, servicemembers as well as government civilians can attend political meetings or rallies. Servicemembers can attend only as spectators and not in uniform.

They are not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups, or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

On the other hand, civilian employees governed by the Hatch Act may be active in and speak before political gatherings or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups. They also are permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

Servicemembers generally are not permitted to campaign for a political office. Civilian employees are, as long as it is a non-partisan election.

While the restrictions concerning political activity may vary, Mr. Epstein said the basic rules hold true for all DOD workers. They cannot use their position to influence or interfere with an election. And they can never engage in political activity on the job, in a government vehicle or while wearing an official uniform.

More details about restrictions are posted on the DOD Web site.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Airman First Class Patrick Etheridge (left) and Senior Airman Sean Weins of the Logistics Support Flight, visit with a vendor at the Brooks City-Base Technology Expo. The Expo was held July 14 at the Brooks Club and featured nearly 20 exhibitors demonstrating the latest in the world of technology.

Colonel Swaby from page 1

"We quickly realized the importance of our team to these soldiers, and the potential for disease if we weren't thorough in our work," he said.

The team comprises technicians from five career fields including bioenvironmental engineering, public health and pest management. The amount of work they did helped them learn each other's jobs to complete the tasks.

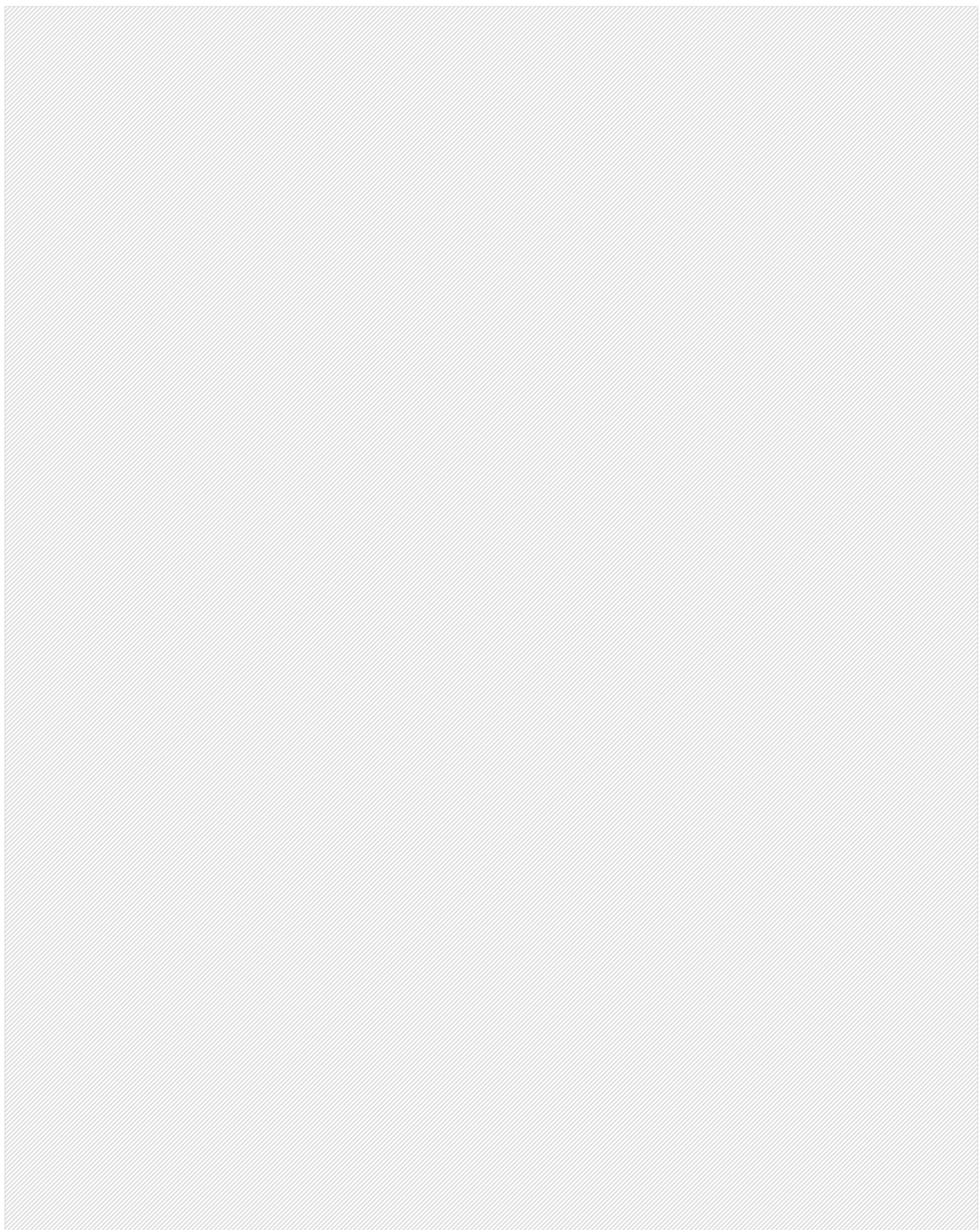
"There was so much work (that) we had to pull together as a team, each of us learning how to do inspections not associated with our individual career fields," said Staff Sgt. Sean Hasty, a preventive medicine technician. "For

example, our bioenvironmental technicians learned how to conduct public-health inspections and vice versa."

The Airmen said their unique assignment had them travel to a host nation naval base to collect water samples from U.S. Army ships before they left port.

"I knew I was deploying to a unique environment, as an Airman working with the Army, but before I left I never pictured myself collecting water samples, let alone on an Army ship," said Tech. Sgt. Daniel Pacheco, a pest-management technician. "I didn't even know the Army had ships."

"Our team has come together to get the job done by keeping the environment healthy and these soldiers fit to fight," Colonel Swaby said.





Combat Dining-In



Participants at the 2004 Combat Dining-In enjoyed an evening of food, fun and festivity. The event was a success, as approximately 100 enlisted personnel met at the Brooks City-Base Picnic Grounds for the fifth annual Dining-In. The Combat Dining-In is the newest in dining-in traditions. The format is built around the traditional, formal Dining-In social events, but the function has a less formal atmosphere and combat dress requirements. The primary purpose of the Dining-In is to enhance morale and unity. The function enhances 'esprit de corps', lightens the load of day-to-day work and enables members of all grades to create better working relations through an atmosphere of good comradeship. The Air Force Dining-In began in the 1930s and is rooted in antiquity, a proud tradition honoring military victories and achievements from pre-Christian Roman legions and second century Viking warlords to King Arthur's knights in the sixth century.

THE MAJOR PLAYERS

Chairperson of the Committee:
Senior Airman Samantha Shieh
Mister Vice:
Senior Airman Brian Herty
Madam Vice:
Senior Airman Alex Stapelkamp
Sergeant at Arms:
Staff Sgt. Shellie Black
Advisor to the Airman's Council:
Senior Master Sgt. Brian Danahey
President of the Mess
Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Akers



ABOVE: Master Sgt. Darrell Smith, the first sergeant of the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, takes a refreshing dip in the pool.

LEFT: Airman Aja Bowser (right) and Master Sergeant Desmond Fahie kick off the Dining-In by singing the National Anthem.



Chief Master Sergeant and Interim Command Chief Stephen Akers addresses the troops. Chief Akers was 'President of the Mess' at the 2004 Combat Dining-In.



Master Sergeant Angela Bland of the Air Force Research Laboratory barely escapes with her life as she slides through the Gauntlet of Water.



Master Sergeant Tracey Wilkinsin (left) and Senior Airman Davesus Omonsun of the 311 Medical Squadron enjoy a dip in the toilet bowl for some grog.

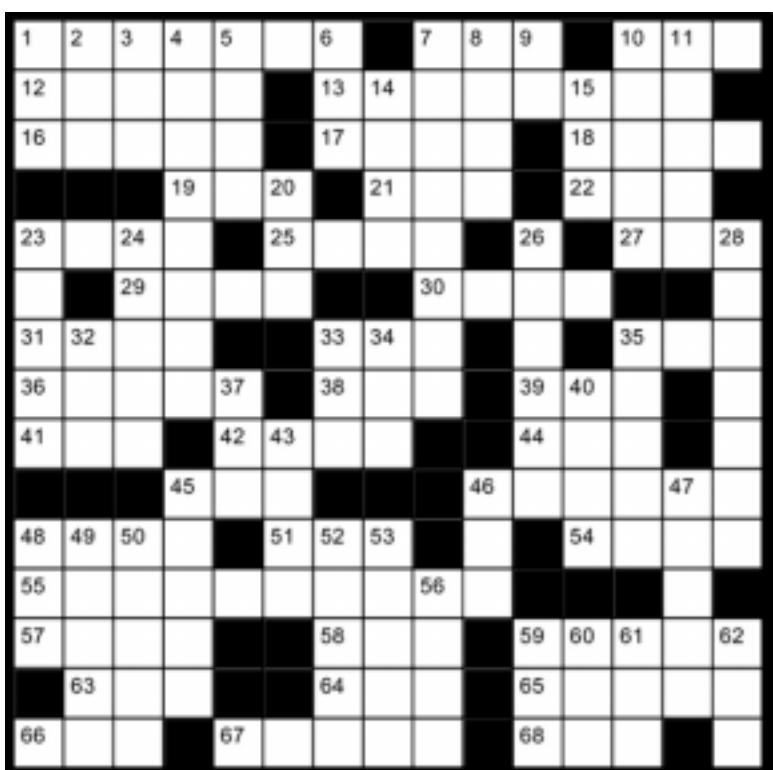


The cup on the head to signify the cup's emptiness is a time honored tradition.



Space, The Final Frontier

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs



ACROSS

1. 2,000 lbs.
5. Nickname for astronaut Virgil Grissom
7. To be sick
9. Space program that took US to moon
12. Retired person's org.
14. Indian transporters?
15. Foundry
16. Bother
18. Conjunction
19. Leave
21. Actress ___-Margaret
22. Ionized particle
23. Coat-of-___
24. Miss Piggy's reference for herself
27. Actor Mineo
28. Oklahoma town
31. Exclamation of surprise
33. Ado
35. Program that put first Americans in space
36. Actor Stephen of The Crying Game
37. Start of American naval vessels
39. Play
40. Basic monetary unit of Peru
41. Zero
42. La ___ Nostra
43. Current federal org. for space exploration
45. First US spacecraft launched and reused
50. Goes under, as in business
53. Lennon's wife
54. Crock
55. Accepted
56. Fall mon.
57. American poet Pound
58. "The Greatest"
59. First name of first man to walk on moon
60. Destroy suddenly
61. Editorial

DOWN

1. One precursor to ACC
2. 56 ACROSS birthstone
3. Persona ___ gratis
4. First US man to orbit Earth
5. Follow-up space program to 35 ACROSS
6. Navy coastal bombardment shot
7. Capital of Western Samoa
8. Body of water
10. Mortgages
11. SECDEF's office symbol
13. First name of first US man in space
17. Path, in short
20. Rocket that powered US to the moon
21. Dishonest
22. Earthlink competitor
24. Planet explored by Viking I space probe
25. Recycled, as in launch vehicles
26. '70s US space station
27. First king of the Hebrews
28. Hoard
29. Operates military commissaries
30. Fauvism or Dada
32. Greek god of love
34. Architect I.M. ___
38. Walter M. of the first 7 US astronauts
44. Lunar module that first landed on moon
45. Type of cap worn by Daniel Boone?
46. Story opener
47. French novelist who wrote Pecheur d'Islande
48. Nickname of astronaut who landed on moon
49. Quick sleep (two words)
50. Federal org. concerned with flight safety
51. Part of the eye
52. Actress Ward



Solution



DIMO course promotes global healthcare management

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Supporting a growing trend within the Department of Defense for joint service initiatives that foster global collaboration and understanding, the Defense Institute for Medical Operations hosted its first Executive Healthcare Resource Management Course here in June. Ten medical professionals from four foreign nations participated in the two-week EHRM course to learn about American healthcare 'best practices' and trends.

Previously held at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., this course was conducted at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine as a consequence of an organizational merger, said Chief Hospital Corpsman George Adams, DIMO's Leading Chief Petty Officer for Healthcare Management. DIMO was created in October 2002 from the merger of the U.S. Air Force Institute for Global Health and the U.S. Navy's Defense Healthcare Management Institute.

"We give them exposure to a new way of thinking," said Chief Adams about this year's class participants from Lebanon, Indonesia, Bulgaria and Mauritius.

The course is designed for senior military and civilian medical professionals, such as the Lebanese Army chief of surgery, who can make an impact in their country from what they learned here.

The EHRM course is one of 16 that DIMO conducts as part of its healthcare education and training mission to foreign military and civilian healthcare professionals. Chief Adams said EHRM course ob-



Photo courtesy of Chief Petty Officer George Adams

DIMO course participants: Front row — Col. Kerry Lindberg, Elaine Lloyd-Wright, Dr. Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Col. Faycal Fares Ziade, Motichand Seebah and Lt. Commander Kimberley Marshall. Second row — Sanjiv Kumar Babooa, Narainduth Namah, Lt. Col. Noratus Horas, Lt. Col. Krum Sotirov Katzarov, Lt. Col. Joseph Achraoui, Gowtum Seetloo, Raghavendra Rao Appanah and Chief Petty Officer George Adams.

jectives include helping foreign countries resolve healthcare management challenges by providing graduate level education that helps facilitate the development of military healthcare practices. The course increases participant awareness of the impact of healthcare services on force health protection for military and civilian personnel.

Exposure to uniquely American Armed Forces systems such as TRICARE was truly an "eye opener" for course participants, particularly those from Mauritius, the Indian Ocean island nation with no military force, Chief Adams said.

The course, jointly conducted by subject matter experts from the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force, featured 23 subjects. Among them were health services delivery, resource management, healthcare technology, patients' rights, safety, health law and ethics.

Observation field trips included visits to the Audie Murphy Memorial Veterans Administration Hospital, Wilford Hall Medical Center and the Brooks Medical Clinic.

"We plan to conduct the course (here) annually, while also increasing the number of participants to a maximum of 40," Chief Adams said.



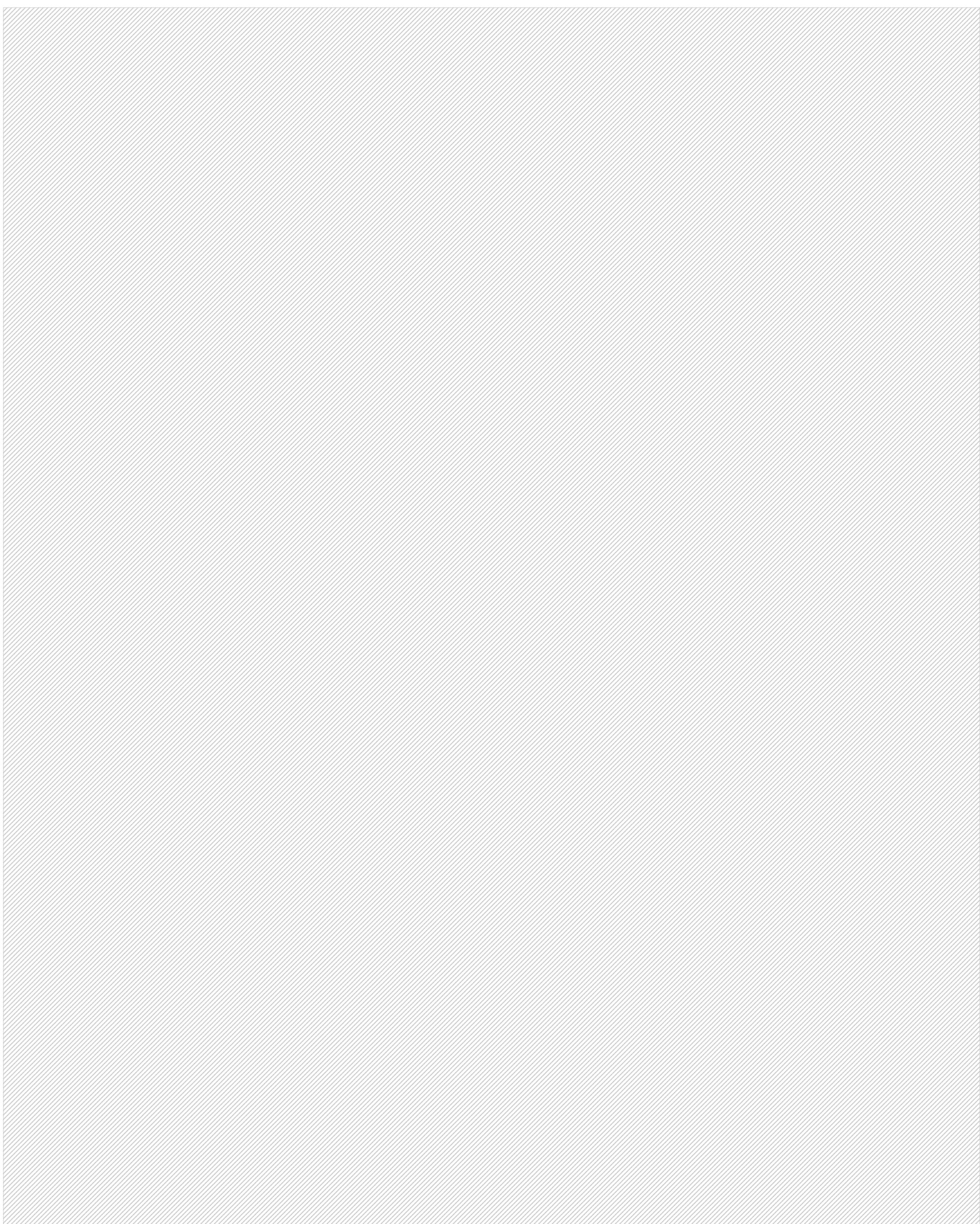
CHAPEL NOTES

Vacation Bible School

The chapel is hosting a Vacation Bible School Aug. 2-6. Current plans welcome students who will enter kindergarten this fall to students who will enter 5th grade. Additional volunteers are still desired to help with the school. Teachers and helpers need not be active in the chapel, but can be recommended by their area congregations.

With permission of their commander/supervisors, military members are eligible to receive permissive TDY to support this chapel event for the base community. Persons who have taught the Lava Lava Island curriculum in their own congregations are especially welcomed, but other Christians who wish to join together and conduct the school at the chapel are asked to call Jo Ann Lujan at 679-0796 or 380-6462.

Registration has begun and will continue as space is available until July 30. Advance registration is essential and registration will be limited by the number of available teachers and helpers.





ROBERTS

Q&A

FULL NAME:
Master Sgt. Matt Roberts

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills Enlisted Program Manager/Sourcing Manager, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

IN SIMPLE TERMS, WHAT DO I DO?:

Place Air Force medical personnel in civilian trauma centers to provide training and exposure to real life trauma patients in an effort to create Air Force "Ready Medics."

BIRTHDAY:
Halloween

HOMETOWN:
Ottumwa, Iowa

FAMILY STATUS:
Married with one big baby (Romeo the spoiled Rottweiler)

PERSONAL MOTTO:
"Always anticipate"

PET PEEVE:
People in the fast lane going slow

INSPIRATION:
Lt. Col. (Dr.) William Beninati

HOBBIES:
Guitar, music and computers

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE:
"Inside the CIA"

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:
Give a million each to every family member, invest a big chunk, buy a big home on the beach in Hawaii, buy a home in California and Colorado and then sit back and make the Corona commercials a reality.

FAVORITE MUSIC:
Monte Montgomery, Joe Satriani

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
18 years, 10 months in the Air Force

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
My Paul Reed Smith CE-24 electric guitar



Feature

Seeing stars

By Steve VanWert
Discovery staff writer

Little did Master Sgt. Matt Roberts know, while attending high school in Ottumwa, Iowa, that his future would be full of trauma and he'd love every minute of it.

Sergeant Roberts, Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills enlisted program manager at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, was just one of 500 graduating seniors from Ottumwa High School in 1985. He'd grown up in a small town and didn't have a clue what to do with his future. But he knew what he didn't want to do.

"I was just a young kid," he said, "who didn't want to go to college, but wanted to do something besides pumping gas or bagging groceries at the local market. I wanted a job with a future, one that would help me be employed for a long time. I thought that anything in the medical field would have a future, so I enlisted in the Air Force as a med tech."

He left for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in October 1985, just months after high school. After completing basic, he attended technical school at Sheppard AFB, Texas. His first assignment was back in San Antonio, at Wilford Hall Medical Center on Lackland AFB. He was right about one thing — he stayed employed. He remained at Lackland for 11 years, six of which he spent working in the emergency room. In addition, he attended paramedic school at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He'd found something that really inspired him — emergency trauma medicine.

"It (paramedicine) inspired me to go on for further schooling," he said. "I got all my prerequisites out of the way at Palo Alto, San Antonio College and St. Philips. I was on my way to earning a nursing degree, with plans to become an emergency room nurse."

While at Lackland, he had the opportunity to volunteer for hyperbaric medicine. He was accepted into the program and attended hyperbaric training at Brooks, with an assignment to Travis AFB, Calif., immediately after. At Travis, his new supervisor, Master Sgt. Kevin Callaghan, inspired him even further.

"Actually, he kicked me in the butt," said Sergeant Roberts. "He was my mentor and woke me up to what I had to do to be successful in the Air Force. He pushed me to study my PFE. He showed me what it takes to get promoted."

And it worked. Sergeant Roberts was promoted to technical sergeant the next test cycle and to master sergeant the first time he tested. At the end of 1996, he was a staff sergeant and eligible to rent a house off base. It was a momentous moment. The woman who would become his wife moved into the rental house next door.

"She took over where Kevin Callaghan left off," he said. "She pushed me to study and be successful. It's thanks to both of them that my Air Force career has been so great."

They married in 1997 and honeymooned in Hawaii. Soon after, he returned to attending class, this time at California's Pacific Union College, where he became a registered nurse.

"I couldn't have stuck it out without her," he said. "She put me on a straight course. She's awesome."



Photo by Senior Airman Samantha Shieh

It was difficult finding time for work and school, especially when fitting in a gig or two. Sergeant Roberts had been playing guitar since he was 6 years old, and at Travis he played in a popular local band.

"It was two solid years of attending classes, studying, working all day and playing music," he said. "I was lucky if I had one day off a year, especially after I passed my exams and began working part-time at a county trauma center."

But things were about to change again. He was about to see stars, CSTARS, that is.

"My adviser, Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl Carter, came up to me one day and asked, 'Have you seen this job announcement? This job is you all the way.'"

The announcement was for someone to be the enlisted program manager at the new CSTARS center at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center, in Baltimore, Md., working directly for the Air Force Surgeon General. The manager would set up trauma and critical care training for Air Force personnel. He applied, was accepted and became the first enlisted person at the center.

"What an experience," he said. "Our Air Force people worked on about 7,000 trauma admissions the first year alone. It made Wilford Hall's ER look like a clinic. It was amazing."

After two years, the CSTARS program was so successful there were three centers, one in Baltimore, one in St. Louis, Mo., and one in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Surgeon General's office decided there needed to be one central office to oversee the program. They stood up the Air Force Expeditionary Medical Skills Institute and Sergeant Roberts was the first person chosen to begin start-up. AFEMSI was moved to Brooks in 2003 and he followed. Now he works directly with major command representatives to get those who need to go to CSTARS to one of the three centers. It involves manpower, resources and money.

Brooks Personality PROFILE



Davy Crockett's ancestor 'remembers' the Alamo

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

(Editor's note: This feature is the 11th in a continuing series showcasing members of the Brooks community who are related to famous people)

Aside from the coonskin cap and buckskins she wore during a Halloween 2001 Brooks Clinic commemoration of the fall of The Alamo, there was no mistaking Staff Sergeant Linda Weaver's family resemblance to her ancestor Davy Crockett.

Having proudly portrayed the Texas Revolution's most famous hero, Sergeant Weaver's Brooks tribute to him was in keeping with family tradition of remembering not only The Alamo, but also her kin's contributions to American history and folklore.

"He's always fascinated me," said Sergeant Weaver, who is NCOIC of Medical Readiness for the 311th Medical Squadron. She recalled childhood memories of her family celebrating their heritage. "It was a family affair watching on Friday nights the old (Disney) television (re-runs) of the Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier series that starred Fess Parker. Mom would make popcorn and we'd sing the show's theme song."

Born in Concord, N.H., the 31-year-old Brooks Clinic NCO is related to Davy Crockett through her paternal grandmother Marion Crockett who married Grovener Nudd. The sergeant's father, David Crockett Nudd, is a direct descendant.

Sergeant Weaver's parents visited The Alamo for the first time last week during their first Texas trip to see their daughter. "It's an eerie, but good feeling (being) here. I'm learning more about my past," said Mr. Nudd, a self-employed electrician who lives in New Hampshire's capital. His genealogical search here led to an informal meeting with Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library archivist Warren Stricker.

"I have a leather-bound book dictated by him (Davy Crockett). It contains his signature in pencil. I want to donate the book either to the library here or the

Smithsonian," Mr. Nudd said. The autobiography, first printed in 1833 in New York, is titled *Sketches and Eccentricities*. "He talks about his experiences before he comes to Texas. In one of his stories, he describes climbing up a tree during a cold night and then sliding down to get warm from the friction," Mr. Nudd said.

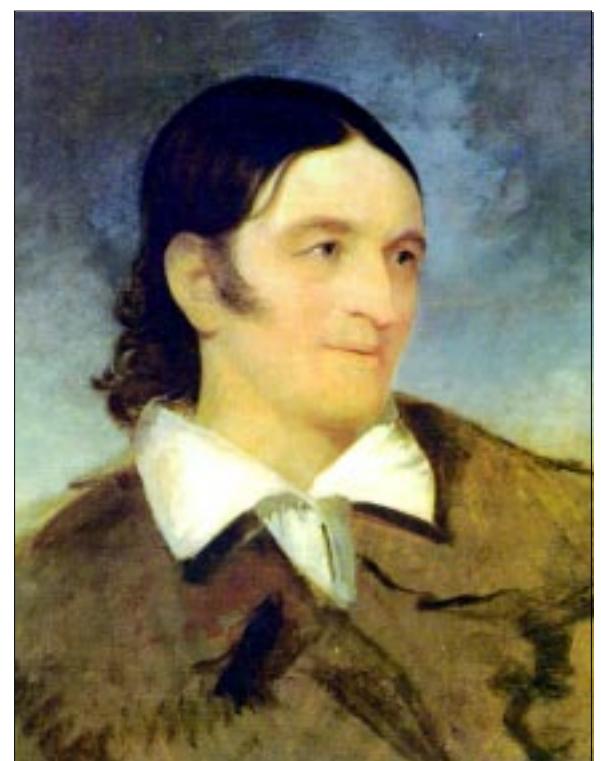
His ancestor was the fifth of nine children born to John and Rebecca Hawkins Crockett on August 17, 1786 in a small cabin near Limestone, Tenn. Considered an eccentric backwoodsman, Crockett established a reputation as an expert marksman. At age 20, his first marriage to Mary 'Polly' Finlay in 1806 later produced two sons, John Wesley and William. After Polly died in 1815, he married widow Elizabeth Patton.

His fame as a leader and fearless warrior was established during the Creek Indian War in 1813-1814 while fighting with the Tennessee Volunteer Militia. His political career began in 1821 when he won election to the Tennessee state house where he served two terms. His reputation as a folk hero and storyteller helped earn him election to the U.S. Congress in 1827. After his re-election for a fourth term failed in 1835, the 49-year-old Crockett went to Texas where he died on March 6, 1836 defending The Alamo. The bodies of the Alamo defenders were burned and buried in a mass grave. Sergeant Weaver and her parents visited the Alamo defenders' gravesite, located at San Fernando Cathedral where 168 years ago Mexican General Antonio de Lopez de Santa Anna signaled his intention to attack The Alamo.

"I've learned more about him since I've been in Texas," said Sergeant Weaver, who joined the Air Force in 1997. Since her arrival at Brooks in 2001, her interest in her famous relative has been rekindled.

During her first year here she conducted historical research about Crockett's life to fulfill a Community College of the Air Force speech class requirement. "My speech was titled *The Man vs. The Legend*. He informally told stories that contained a lot of untruths, such as the one about him killing a bear at the age of three," Sergeant Weaver said. While she is very proud of her family connection to the frontiersman, her research validated an underlying admiration for him. "As I studied him, I discovered he was a regular person who led an exciting life because of his travels," she said.

Her father also discovered during his San Antonio trip something about his relative that he didn't know. "He was a justice of the peace, and so am I," Mr. Nudd said.



Courtesy Portrait from the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Collection

DAVY CROCKETT

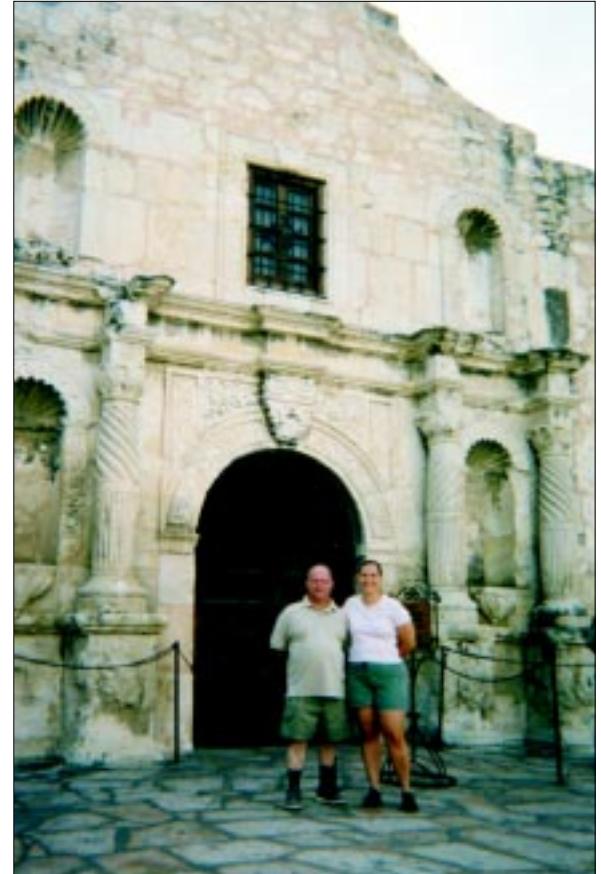


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Staff Sgt. Linda Weaver (right) stands with her father David Crockett Nudd at The Alamo.



David Crockett (center) defends the south wall gate in Robert Onderdonk's classic painting "Fall of the Alamo."

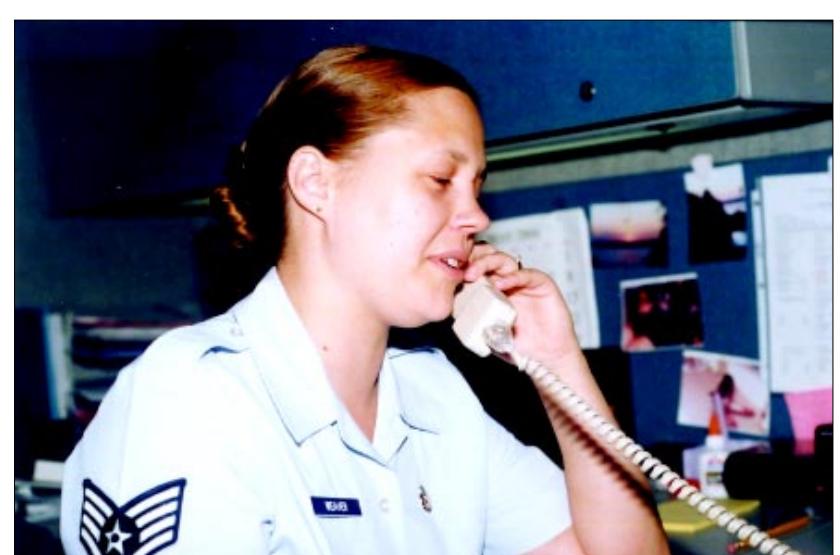


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Staff Sgt. Linda Weaver at the Brooks Clinic is a direct descendent of Davy Crockett.

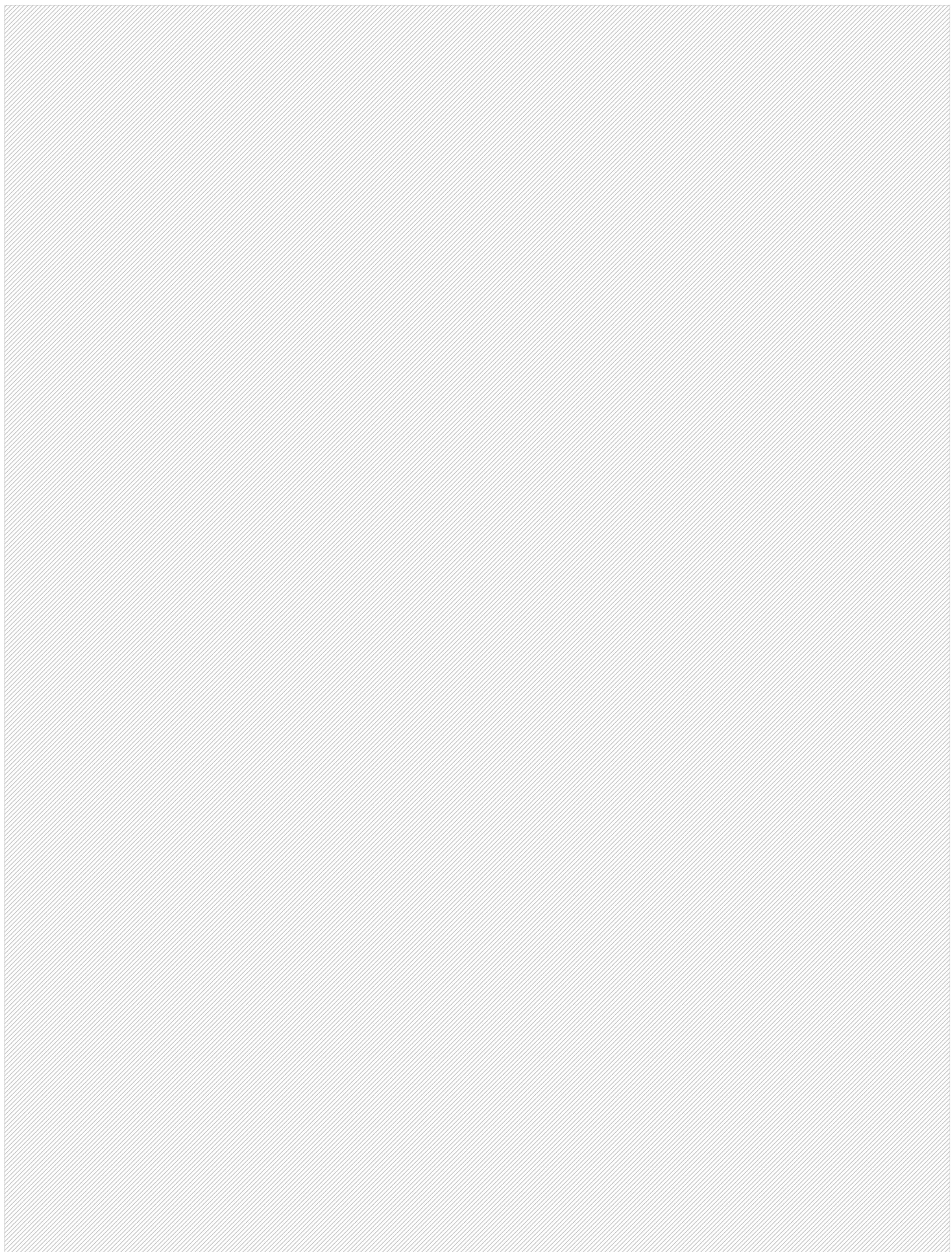




Photo by Eric Pike

The Summer Day Camp children from Brooks City-Base Youth Programs experienced a lesson in archery. Ms. Ginger Hopwood from Discover Archery contracted with Brooks Youth Programs and spent a week working with 17 children. The children worked on positioning the bow and arrow, having a steady hand and improving eye-hand coordination. "It was fun getting to do something I had never done before," said Ymanni Taylor, age 11. "We should have it again next year."

Small claims courts useful in resolving legal disputes

By Capt. Michael Felsen
311th Human Systems Wing/JA

The primary purpose of small claims courts is to resolve small monetary disputes, normally between \$3,000 and \$7,500. In a few states, however, small claims courts may also rule on a limited range of other types of legal disputes, such as evictions or requests for the return of an item of property.

You cannot use small claims court to file a divorce, guardianship, name change or bankruptcy, or to ask for emergency relief. When it comes to disputes involving money, you can usually file in small claims court based on any legal theory that would be allowed in any other court — for example, breach of contract, personal injury, intentional harm or breach of warranty. A few states do, however, limit or prohibit small claims suits based on libel, slander, false arrest and a few other legal theories.

States establish rules called "statutes of limitations" that dictate how long you may wait to initiate a lawsuit. You'll almost always have at least one year to sue and often, you'll have much longer. Only after your initial timely complaint is denied are you eligible to file in small claims court. If some time has passed since the incident giving rise to your lawsuit occurred, you may need to do a little research to determine whether you can still file your claim.

If you want what's owed to you, but you don't want to take on the trouble of bringing a lawsuit, you have a couple of options to consider. First, even if you've been rudely turned down in the past, ask for your money at least once more. This time, make your demand in the form of a straightforward letter, concluding with the statement that you'll file in small claims court in ten days unless payment is promptly received.

Because many individuals and small business people have a strong aversion to the idea of a public trial, making it clear you are prepared to file a lawsuit can be an effective catalyst to getting the other party to talk settlement. In addition, many states offer, and a few require, community- or court-based mediation designed to help the parties arrive at their own compromise settlement with the help of a neutral third party.

Mediation works best where the parties have an interest in staying on good terms, as is generally the case with neighbors, family members or small business people who have done business together for many years. This type of dispute resolution can be remarkably successful. In Maine, for example, where mediation is required before a small claims suit may be brought, over half of the cases are settled voluntarily, without a court fight.



SPORTS

Brooks women's softball coach has reputation for aggressiveness

by Rudy Purificato
311 Human Systems Wing

Tech. Sgt. Trish Esquivel is known for her aggressiveness at the plate. Now, from the dugout, she hopes to earn something much more important to her than a reputation by helping guide the Brooks women's varsity softball team to its first postseason championship.

Having already earned the players' respect and confidence as the squad's first-year head coach, Sergeant Esquivel characteristically strives to develop something that is intrinsically fundamental to sports competition: a winning attitude and teamwork.

"At the beginning of the season I gave the team a goal, to play in the (Armed Forces) World Championships," said Sergeant Esquivel, a Force Health Protection Branch instructor at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. The team has steadily progressed, knowing that their mentor and coach is committed to their success as a team.

That commitment to teamwork began quite early in the coach's life as the youngest of five children born to Harry and Georgia Esquivel in Austin, Texas on Jan. 17, 1969. She was the only sibling to excel in sports, following in her mother's footsteps as an athlete.

"When I was about seven years old, my mom got me involved in softball," she said, adding that she played in an all-girls Little League. At Austin High School, the future Air Force star hitter made a name for herself as a varsity fast-pitch softball pitcher who was the rotation's leader. In her senior year, she helped her team win the 5-A District championship.

Sergeant Esquivel began her Air Force sports career in 1987 after she enlisted as a bioenvironmental engineering technician. She wasted no time in making an impact on the sport that she describes as "being in her blood." Starting in 1988, she played on the Military Airlift Command varsity team as a third baseman. She played four years on that squad, helping them win three championships while also earning for herself All-Tourney honors for three years.

A natural athlete, Sergeant Esquivel credits her Ramstein Air Base, Germany, varsity coach for helping her become one of the Air Force's top hitters. "(The late) Coach Dan Coleman took me under his wing. He's the one who actually got me to mentally understand the game," she said.

Her coach taught her patience at the plate. She learned to hit the ball where it was pitched instead of trying to pull it. Consequently, Sergeant Esquivel became a proficient opposite field hitter. "He was



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Tech. Sgt. Trish Esquivel (far right), first-year coach for the Brooks varsity women's softball team, prepares her players to compete in the Armed Forces World Championships. It will be the first-ever appearance for the team.

a very disciplined coach. He wouldn't hesitate to pull you out of the game if you weren't performing. It was there (Germany) where I matured as a player," she says.

She grew quickly into a force to be reckoned with. The diminutive 5-foot-2 athlete blossomed into a legitimate star competing at U.S. Air Force - Europe tournaments where she earned All-Tourney honors three years and was named tourney Most Valuable Player in 1994.

When she arrived at Brooks in 1995, she immediately joined the base varsity team. "We actually had a really good team," she said. While the team never won a command title, Sergeant Esquivel earned Air Force Materiel Command All-Tourney honors from 1996 through 1998. During that time, Brooks varsity coach Jim Foster had converted her into an outfielder. "He wanted speed in the outfield. I actually prefer it now," she said of her development.

The Brooks women's varsity softball program ended after the 1998 season, only

to be resurrected in 2000 for one glorious season as a combined team with Kelly Air Force Base, Texas. That year, Sergeant Esquivel was one of three Brooks players who helped earn the squad a bittersweet AFMC championship. It was Kelly's last title before that base closed, and the first and only championship for Brooks before the women's varsity softball program faded into dormancy.

During her Brooks playing days, Sergeant Esquivel earned a boatload of awards and honors. They ranged from Brooks "Female Athlete of the Year" in 1999 to starting roles on the Air Force, All-Tourney Interservice and Armed Forces teams. Playing for a San Antonio civilian team called "The Unknowns," she won the women's softball batting title during a tournament in Houston last year. She also earned the "Defensive Player of the Tournament Award" in 2003.

Now she has her sights set on yet another achievement: helping the Brooks squad become champions. For a true champion, that would be her greatest reward.

Softball team sets sights on title

By Rudy Purificato
311 Human Systems Wing

While they've gone through the regular season with a losing record, the Brooks women's varsity softball team is on the verge of beginning a winning streak. For them, it couldn't happen at a better time as they mentally and physically ready themselves for the team's greatest challenge in 2004: participating in the Armed Forces World Championship Tournament in Garland, Texas next month.

Making history, as the first Brooks women's varsity squad to compete in the military's version of the World Series, is not the underlying motivation for this team. Their motivation is simply to win a championship.

To most observers this appears to be a Mount Everest-like impossible dream. However, the players are convinced they can compete at a higher level based on the squad's confidence that is nearing its peak under first-year coach, Tech. Sgt. Trish Esquivel.

"The girls are coming together (as a team)," says Coach Esquivel about squad cohesion mixed with enthusiasm and confidence. She observes, "They have a willingness to learn, and they're not quitting on me."

According to the coach's scorecard, her squad is superior on defense and tentative on offense. "Our defense is great. It keeps us in games. Batting is the problem," she said. Mechanics and lack of plate discipline are the root causes for a punchless offense. "They're hitting the ball hard, but directly at somebody. They're not finding the holes. I hope to get them to hit it to the gaps," she says.

Situational hitting is a key strategy that Coach Esquivel plans to instill in a team of mostly inexperienced players. She is stressing hitting fundamentals in practice, but admits that hitting off a tee is not going to expose her players to tournament-level pitching.

"We're working toward getting better. We've made progress," she said, explaining some changes have been made to the roster.

"We found a utility player in Maj. Carol Fields from the 311 Human Systems Wing. We also found out that she can pitch," Coach Esquivel said. When not pitching, Major Fields plays first base. The team's former first baseman, Jane Lankford, has been moved to shortstop replacing Capt. Kary Dufour. Unfortunately, reserve catcher Grace Swider was lost for the remainder of the season as a result of an injury she sustained in a traffic accident.

Coach Esquivel expects to carry a 12-player roster into the post season, knowing that this may be the "last hurrah" for Brooks women's varsity softball. "We're going to lose quite a few players after the season through retirements and PCSes. I'm PCSing to Guam in October," she said.

Whatever happens next month, she believes the experience will be mostly positive. "I've been able to get my feet wet. It (coaching for the first time) is not over my head," she said, noting that there were no high expectations for the team that was resurrected after a four year hiatus. Nevertheless, her passion for softball remains as strong as ever as she continues a Brooks sports legacy that hopefully may soon include a post season title.



Head coach Trish Esquivel hits batting practice to her team in preparation for postseason play.

Lieutenant earns spot on Olympic track team

by Tech. Sgt. J.C. Woodring
Air Force Print News

First Lt. James Parker, an Air Force world-class athlete from Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic track and field team July 12 with a hammer throw of 254.5 feet.

"I came into the Air Force to serve my country," said Lieutenant Parker, who has been throwing the hammer for 10 years. "To represent the Air Force and the country on the athletic side is ... the biggest honor of my life."

In the preliminaries of the U.S. Olympic track and field trials in Sacramento, Calif., on July 10, each of the 24 competitors was allowed three throws to determine advancement to the finals. People who throw farther than 236-3 are automatically qualified for the finals.

Lieutenant Parker said he had a "mental edge" on the other athletes going into the competition because he had farther marks than the others and was favored to make the team.

He said he also felt a lot of pressure because he witnessed several other favored athletes not make the team.

"On the day, you never know what will happen," Lieutenant Parker said. "It really was a nerve-racking situation."

As the last competitor to throw in the first round, Lieutenant Parker stepped into the circle and tossed a 240-3, the longest



First Lt. James Parker



BROOKS SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office

YOUTH SERVICES CENTER Bldg. 470, 536-2515

National Night Out Against Crime is a strong, annual showing of solidarity, community pride and civic responsibility. It is a great way for all Americans to join with friends and family to demonstrate that crime does not rule the night and that criminals have no haven in the growing shadows.

Join the center staff on August 3, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Youth Center and help support our annual Night Out Against Crime. Meet McGruff the Crime Dog and have a photo ID card created for your child. Children can enjoy the 10-cent carnival games and the moonwalk plus finger painting. Take advantage of the hot dogs, chips and beverages.

Join the center staff for Movie Night Aug. 6 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Enjoy the movie, popcorn and a drink for \$3. The center is also hosting a Back to School dance Aug. 25 from 7-10 p.m. There will be food, drinks and door prizes.

BASE LIBRARY Bldg. 705, 536-2634

Is there something that you are just dying to tell? Do you want to blab to everyone on Brooks City-Base? Can you no longer contain yourself? Visit the Base Library and post your news on the Community Bulletin Board. You must first clear your notice with the librarian, Joanna Hansen.

BROOKS CLUB Bldg. 204, 536-3782

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

SIDNEY'S Bldg. 714, 536-2077

Lunch Buffets are served daily from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone is sure to find a favorite in the wide selections offered each week. Enjoy the following buffets: Mondays — American Buffet; Tuesdays — Italian Buffet; Wednesdays — Oriental Buffet; Thursdays — Mexican Buffet; Fridays — Seafood and Country Buffet.

A sandwich bar is offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lounge area. Create your own sandwich using ham, turkey, pastrami or roast beef on your choice of bread.

The July Grill Special is a chef salad offered Monday through Friday from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. This salad includes greens, veggies, egg, meat and all the trimmings.

SWIMMING POOL Bldg. 710, 536-3744

Purchase your annual pool pass today and enjoy the cool, refreshing water on these hot, sunny Texas days. Season passes are \$10 per pass and the daily user fee is \$1.50 per person. Passes may be purchased from the Health and Fitness Center or at the pool.

Registration is also continuing for beginning, intermediate and toddler swim lessons. The fee is \$18 for a two-week session. The final session is Aug. 9-19.

OUTDOOR RECREATION Bldg. 1154, 536-2188

The Recreational Vehicle/Auto Storage lot is a large 176 slot, asphalt top, double storage lot that is capable of storing up to a 45 foot RV. Your antique cruiser, "Pops" old truck or even the family ski boat that is taking up space in the garage can be stored in the lot. Monthly fees are \$15 per slot per month and you can pay for up to one year in advance.

The Outdoor Recreation Office offers four party pavilions in three different locations on base for your party needs. Whether it's a family reunion or just a small baby shower, we have a place for you. Two pavilions, (\$30 or \$35 per day) are located in the park with a children's playground area, a basketball court and volleyball court. Pavilion No. 1 has a large BBQ pit for those large once-a-year barbecues. Pavilion No. 3 (\$25), is located next to the base swimming pool where pool parties can be booked from June to August for a nominal fee. Pavilion No. 4 (\$45) is located on the south end of the Family Camp and is a favored location for parties. There is an upstairs loft where guests can sit and visit in air conditioning.