

# DISCOVER

## Final retreat ceremony held at F-100 display

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

The American flag was lowered for the last time Oct. 1 at Schriever Heritage Park during a final retreat ceremony where an aircraft used during Air Force space research studies has been prominently showcased near the base's main gate for nearly two decades.

The event was held prior to the relocation of the historic F-100F Supersabre to the grounds of the Challenger Learning Center of San Antonio near Hangar 9. The static display is being moved because of the planned commercial development at the site.

Col. Laura Alvarado, 311th Human Systems Wing deputy commander, officiated at the retreat ceremony. She briefly recounted the historical significance of the park that was dedicated in 1986 to honor General Bernard A. Schriever, considered "The Father of the U.S. Air Force Space Program." The general's Brooks legacy involves his leadership as director of the Air Force Manned Orbiting Laboratory program. U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine scientists played a major role in the development of the MOL program, predecessor of America's first space station.

The park's centerpiece monument features a replica of the "Weightless 2" aircraft that USAFSAM scientists used to conduct a series of space science experiments during the 1950s. Data from these weightlessness, space suit and space food studies supported America's early manned space flight program.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Samantha Shieh

The American flag was lowered for the last time Oct. 1 at Schriever Heritage Park during a final retreat ceremony. Col. Laura Alvarado, vice commander of the 311th Human Systems Wing, officiated at the ceremony.

## New deputy director brings experience, preparation to job

By Steve VanWert  
Discovery staff writer

Eric Stephens, new deputy director of the 311th Human Systems Wing, first came to Brooks in 1993 as director of environmental management. In the 11 years since, he's gained invaluable insight into what goes on in the wing.



Dr. Eric Stephens

The wing commander, of course, is the final decision-maker and responsible for successfully meeting mission requirements. The vice commander has responsibility for all military personnel issues, including UCMJ, readiness and disciplinary functions.

Mr. Stephens, as deputy director, has responsibility

"I'm very fortunate," Mr. Stephens, a member of the senior executive service, said. "My time here, especially the last few years as director of the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, has given me the opportunity to understand the workings of AFIOH, YA and the school. More importantly, it's given me the chance to work closely with Brig. Gen. (Tom) Travis and Col. (Laura) Alvarado. We trust and respect each other. We've created a professional relationship that continues to evolve."

Mr. Stephens sees the wing commander, vice commander and deputy directors positions as "Three acting as one," although each has its differences.

for civilian issues, including personnel issues, and sometimes civilian readiness. He is also responsible for Brooks City-Base issues, working closely with the Brooks Development Authority.

All three work resource issues, including manpower, funding, facilities and equipment. Both attend meetings as primary and alternate representatives, having to have enough job knowledge to sit in for each other when temporary duty, illness or schedules dictate.

"The most important part of our job, though," he said, "is supporting the wing commander in making sure the mission is carried through successfully and our people are taken care of."

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## Project CHEER to create more activities for Brooks personnel

By Kendahl Johnson  
Discovery Editor

Brooks City-Base community will soon begin a new initiative designed to create more activities for Airmen, permanent-party personnel and members of the base community. The effort is known as Project CHEER - Creating a Healthy Environment of Energy and Enthusiasm and will provide weekly activities designed to increase interaction and provide more activities for the students and Airmen of Brooks.

Project CHEER was spearheaded by Command Chief Master Sgt. Reggie Williams, who was introduced to the concept while at Aviano Air Base in Italy. He wanted to bring the project to Brooks in an effort to create high-energy events for base personnel, especially students and Airmen.

He asked Lucy Belles of the Family Support Center to be the team leader in getting the initiative off the ground. A committee was formed and the project went from an idea to an actuality.

"Our goal is to create many different activities for Airmen and students," Mrs. Belles said.

As part of the initiative, there will be two

separate activities each week, with a non-profit base organization or base unit sponsoring each activity. One of the events will be exclusive to the students of the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, while the other will be open to the entire base community.

Several organizations have already committed to sponsoring events, including the Airman's Council. Airman 1st Class Jonathan Lanning, the president of

See Project CHEER/7



Photo by Airman 1st Class Samantha Shieh

Two U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine students compete in a game of pool at the Student Activity Center. Many of the Project CHEER activities will take place at the SAC.

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# DISCOVERY

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## In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue

By Steve VanWert  
Discovery Staff Writer

It was a warm evening in October 1492. In the waters of the Bahamas, natives on the island of Guanahani, later named San Salvador, built fires on the beach to keep fleas out of their huts. Out on the ocean, three ships were drawing closer and closer to land. Earlier that day, sailors on those small vessels had seen signs of land in the water: reeds and a tree branch with berries. Later in the day, they saw birds that normally nested on land flying by. Just after dusk, they sighted dim, quivering lights in the distance.

The Admiral wrote that they were "like little wax candles rising and falling." Around 2 a.m., the lookout on the Pinta saw white cliffs in the moonlight and signaled to the flagship, the Santa Maria. Suddenly, the world changed forever.

On Monday, we celebrate Columbus Day, a holiday in honor of the man who discovered America. But did he? Anecdotal history, the little things that make historical events seem real, raises some interesting questions about Christopher Columbus. Here are some myths, along with the truth.

### 1. Columbus was trying to prove the world was round.

False. By the end of the 15th century, almost everyone knew the earth was a sphere. What they didn't know was the size of the earth. Columbus underestimated the circumference by one-fourth. His original "short run" from the Canary Islands was supposed to take about two weeks. It actually took more than two months.

### 2. Queen Isabella sold the crown jewels to finance the trip.

False, again. Her financial advisers assured her there were other ways to raise the money. The largest source was to make the Spanish city of Palos pay back a debt to the crown by providing two of the ships. The crown actually put up very little money from the treasury.

3. The original voyage from Spain to the new world was plagued by bad weather and lack of food, causing several sailors to die along the way.

False. Actually, the first voyage was a walk in the park, so to speak. There was enough food for a year. The weather was great and no one died. The trip back, though, featured an encounter with a hurricane that almost destroyed the remaining two ships, the Nina and Pinta. The Santa Maria had been ditched Christmas Day, 1492.

### 4. Columbus discovered America.

False; he never saw North America. His first landing was in the Bahamas. Later, he sailed to the northeastern tip of South America and the eastern coast of Central America, but never saw North America. As a matter of fact, he never claimed to have discovered a new continent.

### 5. Columbus died a pauper in a Spanish prison.

False. It's true he returned from his third voyage in chains, but the King and Queen apologized for the misunderstanding and had them removed. He was actually a relatively rich man and died at age 55 in his own apartment in Valladolid, Spain, surrounded by family and friends.

### 6. The District of Columbia was named after Columbus.

This is true, but the interesting part of the story is that in 1792 there was a serious movement in the United States to rename the whole country and call it "Columbia." As a compromise, the nation's capital was given the name "District of Columbia," King's College in New York was renamed "Columbia University" and several cities across the United States were renamed either "Columbus" or "Columbia."

### 7. Columbus took Monday off.

False, but you can. Have a great time on this Columbus Day holiday.

## Enthusiasm: definitely a force multiplier

By Lt. Col. John Schaeufele  
100th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Mildenhall, England

The single most important ingredient to any successful organization or operation is pure enthusiasm that comes from within the people of winning teams. Some refer to it as passion, while others call it attitude. But it all starts with one person within a group who believes in a goal and a vision. That person's contagious spirit sparks a reaction within the organization and soon everyone believes. Then great achievement and success are inevitable.

I sometimes refer to a simple formula for success that I've used for many years. "Time, plus tools, plus training, plus attitude equal success." I attribute this formula to retired Gen. Wilbur L. "Bill" Creech.

The point I see in this formula is the Air Force owes its people time, tools and training. Yet everything leadership does to ensure success is fruitless unless we are passionate about what we're doing and have that winning mental attitude so vital to success.

Passion is about beliefs. It is manifested within our minds and given action by our bodies to be carried out in our spirits that attract others to our feelings, ideas and values. So how do we spark the passion within ourselves and those with whom we associate?

We start by getting to know ourselves and those closest to us.

Have you ever watched as a team of star athletes fails to win because they didn't perform well together? The reason is that while each athlete knew his or her

personal strengths, they failed to understand how a unit performing together is greater than the individual strengths of its members.

Supervisors should know what they are good at and what they are not good at. They also need to constantly assess their teammates to focus on the strengths and encourage a winning attitude.

By doing so, they uncover the passion within the team. Remember, enthusiasm is contagious, and having an attitude of "one wins, we all win" will produce organizations that perform greater than single units or individuals.

Unleashing passion brings success. Also true is that excessive criticism demoralizes a team. Child physiologists teach that children become what we tell them they are. Encouragement and praise raise self esteem; focusing on individuals' weaknesses lowers it.

The lesson here is "don't spend time focusing on your faults or the faults of others." Recognize strengths and encourage them.

A great team is a unit where members know the weakness of their mates but provide support and encouragement that build up every member and raise the overall level of team performance.

Our Air Force leaders, as in every successful organization, are looking for ways to gain a decisive advantage and give us the time, tools and training necessary to gain success in battle today and in our vast future. It is up to each of us to find within ourselves and our teammates the passion, that positive winning attitude. That will guarantee success.



# Gate closing forces changes at Brooks

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Enhanced security measures, including I.D. and registration checks, will begin Oct. 11, when the Brooks main gate will close and the west and Hill gates open for traffic, according to Brig. Gen. Thomas Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander. General Travis outlined the changes during his recent commander's call.

The biggest changes affecting the Brooks community and visitors to the base will occur during after-duty hours and on weekends at the west gate, the new main entrance that will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

During 100 percent positive I.D. checks, everyone entering the base through the west gate will have their driver's license and vehicle license plate number recorded as well as the motorist's name, time and date of entry and destination on base.

Mike Nemicic, site security manager for United Building Security that provides Brooks City-Base security, said failure to comply with 100 percent I.D. check requirements will result in motorists being denied entry to the base. Entering the base without complying with these requirements is a criminal trespass violation because the base is a privately-owned business and tech-



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Security officer Lee Simos checks a visitor's photo identification at the Brooks main gate. One hundred percent I.D. checks during off-duty hours is just one of the security enhancements due to the closing of the main gate and the opening of the west gate.

nology park, Mr. Nemicic said.

"We'll have other types of gate inspections," he said "During 100 percent I.D. inspections, we check everyone's valid photo identification regardless whether they have a DoD or civilian motor vehicle decal."

These checks will occur at the west gate from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Brooks employees with valid vehicle decals will not be required to produce a photo identification from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, considered normal operating hours. Access to the HSW gate will be limited to employees who work at the Hill Complex.

On weekends and holidays the HSW gate will be closed and 100 percent I.D. checks will be conducted at the west gate, regard-

less of the time, Mr. Nemicic said. General Travis requests that Brooks employees access the west gate from South Presa Street by way of Southeast Military Drive from the IH-37 interchange. The HSW commander does not want Brooks employees to use Pecan Valley to access Southeast Military Drive because that route includes a school zone.

"I also don't recommend that motorists access the west gate by turning left from Southeast Military Drive onto the Old Corpus Christi Highway," Mr. Nemicic said.

He explained that the main flow of traffic to the west gate will be from South Presa. "There's a stop sign on the Old Corpus Christi Highway at the west gate entrance. You'll be delayed if you try making a left into the west gate," he said.

Additional security enhancements have been implemented. A roving patrol will be monitoring traffic to ensure that motorists abide by the 30 mph speed limit and the housing area's 15 mph speed limit.

"Normally, we allow motorists to stop on their own. We don't chase them. If we see a speeder, we remind them of the speed limit. We call it a safety reminder check," said Mr. Nemicic. Security patrols record the names and license plates numbers of motorists who speed at Brooks.

There is a penalty for failure to take heed. A person caught three times in violation of Brooks

traffic rules is reported to the BDA. They can revoke driving privileges on base. Mr. Nemicic said speeding is the most frequent traffic violation on base, primarily committed on Sidney Brooks, through housing and on the old flight line. "We monitor the flight line using radar," he said, noting that they observe the most speeding there.

The site security manager encourages Brooks motorists to heed the right-of-way when they see a security patrol vehicle's amber light flashing.

"Our vehicles do not have sirens or blue flashing lights. The amber light is on only when we're responding to an incident. We ask the public to assist us by allowing our security vehicles the right-of-way," Mr. Nemicic said. These incidents usually involve responding to a building or fire alarm.

"Our job is to provide armed response to security and housing alarms. We also are chartered to provide response to fire alarms. We do (nearly) everything the Brooks Fire Department and Security Forces used to do," he said.

## GATE HOURS

HSW GATE (at the Hill Complex off Military Drive)		
Hours (limited)	Allowable Personnel	Validation
6:30 a.m. – 8 a.m.	Employees of the Hill Complex	Valid DoD or Brooks City-Base decal
3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Employees of the Hill Complex	Valid DoD or Brooks City-Base decal
Weekends & Holidays	Closed	
WEST GATE (off South Presa)		
Hours (24/7)	Allowable Personnel	Validation
6 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Open	Valid DoD, BCB decal, or valid photo ID
8 p.m. – 6 a.m.	BCB employees & approved visitors	Valid photo ID
Weekends & Holidays	BCB employees & approved visitors	Valid photo ID

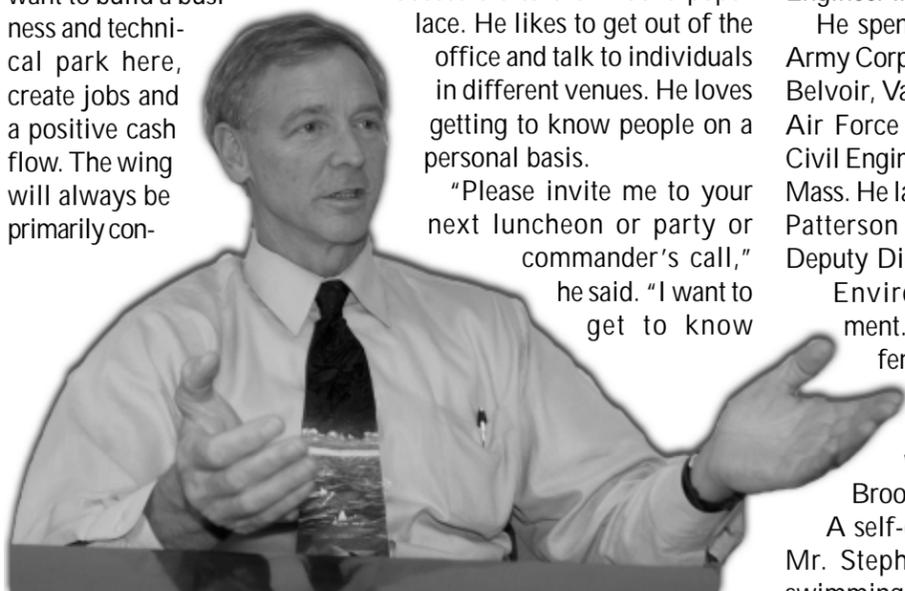


## Deputy director works to enhance mission of Brooks

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Handling the ever-changing landscape that is City-Base, however, is one of Brooks', and Mr. Stephens', biggest challenges.

"The future of Brooks City-Base is bright," he said. "I'm optimistic. My role is to enhance the mission through partnerships and maintain the quality of life for our folks. If that creates economic growth, so be it, but it's not our main focus. Our focus is still mission and people. The BDA and others are concerned with economic growth. They want to build a business and technical park here, create jobs and a positive cash flow. The wing will always be primarily con-



cerned with meeting mission requirements."

As a manager, the 56-year-old deputy director considers himself a team-builder, facilitator and even "a cheerleader" at times. "I'm a supporter of people, an extrovert who enjoys working with people. I trust our staff, my peers and the professionals around me," he said.

Mr. Stephens recalls an old saying that still rings true: "God gave us two ears and one mouth," he said. "We should listen twice as much as we speak."

He goes out of his way to be accessible to the Brooks populace. He likes to get out of the office and talk to individuals in different venues. He loves getting to know people on a personal basis.

"Please invite me to your next luncheon or party or commander's call," he said. "I want to get to know

you and understand how you think."

Mr. Stephens spent more than 25 years in the Air Force Reserve, as well. He served primarily as a civil engineer staff officer at Air Force Materiel Command with his last job assigned as the Air Combat Command Civil Engineer responsible for the readiness of 350 reservists, retiring in 2001 as a colonel. His civil service career began in 1975 as chief of Construction Management at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., where he attained the position of Deputy Base Civil Engineer in 1977.

He spent two years with the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Belvoir, Va., and returned to the Air Force as the Deputy Base Civil Engineer at Hanscom AFB, Mass. He later moved to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, as the Deputy Director of Acquisition Environmental Management. After attending Defense Systems Management College in 1991, Mr. Stephens was assigned to Brooks.

A self-described "gym rat," Mr. Stephens loves running, swimming and biking. Is it any

wonder that he gravitated to the triathlon, where he can do all three? In August, he competed in the Heart of Texas Triathlon at Fort Sam Houston, where competitors swam for 400 meters, biked for 14 miles and ran four miles. He came in second in his age group.

"I think everyone should take some time for physical fitness," he said. "If I see you in the gym, I'll be the first to give you a high five and ask how your training is going."

Mr. Stephens is also actively involved in the Boy Scouts of America, one of his greatest loves. He attained the rank of Eagle Scout when he was 15 years old, in 1963, a feat duplicated by his son two years ago.

"We both, interestingly enough, choose landscaping projects as our Eagle projects," he said. "I built a garden with hedges at my local church. My son built a similar area at one of the local churches in San Antonio, with an outdoor clearing with seating for quiet reflection. He still maintains it every Sunday."

Mr. Stephens's association with Scouting involves more than just becoming Eagle and

helping his son do the same. He's been an adult scout leader and currently serves as Scoutmaster for Troop 515. He and the 90-some boys of Troop 515 go camping every month, sometimes in the Hill Country, sometimes in the Rockport, Texas, area.

"I really enjoy working with the kids," he said. "Scouting has some great things to teach our young people. The Scout Oath is good to live by. It begins 'On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country.' Isn't that what we try to do every day?"

Mr. Stephens' personal motto is also the Scout motto: Be Prepared.

"It's a motto for all of us," he said. "Be prepared. Be prepared for meetings, for briefings, for everything you do. If you're prepared, you'll be successful."

Mr. Stephens' personal goals are basic ones shared by many of us.

"I want to live life to the fullest and have fun every day," he said. "When work stops being fun, it's time to move on. My top priority has always been my wife and son, a junior in high school. My personal goal is to be the best husband and father I can be."



# Brooks reaches out to community through volunteer programs

By Senior Master Sgt. Mike Walljasper  
311th Human Systems Wing/CCEA

Approximately 50 volunteers from Brooks ventured out into the San Antonio community to lend a helping hand during the United Way's annual Days of Caring.

Days of Caring is an outreach program for non-profit organizations throughout the San Antonio area. Each year, United Way sets aside several days where teams of volunteers are mobilized to help non-profit organizations paint, landscape, clean and serve the community.

Brooks members took on five of the 50 projects that United Way sanctioned this year. The Company Grade Officer Council headed to the Christian Assistance Ministry and assisted in sorting donations in their large warehouse. In addition to sorting and bagging donations, they were the

muscle in loading up delivery trucks.

The Senior NCO Council converged on the San Antonio Kid Exchange and gave both the inside and outside of their facility an "extreme makeover." Painting walls, cleaning playground equipment and toys hanging ceiling fans were just a few of the tasks performed.

"By the end of the day, all of our customers were exclaiming their delight with the new look," one participant said.

The NCO Council, not to be outdone, decided one project wasn't enough and took on an additional project. Their first project was at the Animal Defense League. During the course of the day, they constructed six picnic tables from a pile of lumber.

However, not all of our NCOs were hip on testing their carpentry skills, and instead elected to take some of the dogs for walks throughout the day. Judging by the extreme barking, that was an appreciated venture.

During their second project, they sold candy in the WalMart parking lot with all proceeds going to Alamo Children's Advocacy Center.

Finally, the Airman's Council worked with children at the Brighton School.

They performed a play for the children with a strong message about talking to strangers and were well received throughout the day by smiling children.

Most of the children wore some type of camouflage in their honor and were very excited about meeting their new friends from Brooks.

"Overall, the few days were hugely successful and made a great impact on the community that supports Brooks and our military so well."

Members of the Airman's Council visit with a few of the young Brighton School students.



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Michael Walljasper

Chief Master Sgt. Reggie Williams of the 311th Human systems Wing, takes time to visit with a future Airman at Brighton School as part of the Days of Caring outreach program.

## Brooks FSC offers car care services

By Lawanda Roper  
Family Support Center

The Brooks City-Base Family Support Center, in cooperation with Lackland Auto Skills Center and the Randolph Air Force Base Service Station, is offering car care services for spouses of deployed active duty Air Force members and first-term Airmen.

The focus of the "Car Care Because We Care" program is to keep the primary family vehicle of active duty Air Force members in good running condition by providing preventive vehicle maintenance. This maintenance includes oil and filter change and lubrication on a grant basis.

When performing this routine maintenance, additional repairs or services may be identified by the mechanic as urgent safety issues. In these cases, families are encouraged to return to the Family Support Center to discuss an interest free loan from the Air Force Aid Society. The goals are to identify and repair problems before they become

serious and more costly to repair and to introduce the recipient of the certificate to the FSC and its programs.

The program is designed for:

— Spouses of active duty Air Force members deployed for more than 30 days away from their duty station. This includes TDY assignments to schools. Service is limited to once per deployment.

— Spouses of active duty Air Force members assigned to a remote tour. Members must be assigned to a one-year remote tour with the family remaining stateside. Spouses must be actively participating in a base level Hearts Apart program provided by the FSC. Service limited to two times per calendar year for the duration of the tour.

— First-term Airmen assigned to their 1st duty station as a one time assist.

In all cases, service should be performed on the primary family vehicle only. The recipient will pick up the voucher from the Brooks City-Base FSC and redeem for services at a participating facility.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Drop-in dental screenings

The Pediatric Dental Department at Lackland Air Force Base is providing drop-in dental screenings for all eligible military medical beneficiaries. Children younger than 14 years of age can be seen by the pediatric dentist at the Lackland AFB Sky Lark Community Center, first floor, Longhorn Room, Oct. 13. No appointment is necessary.

Children will receive a dental screening exam, an opinion about the child's dental condition, and appropriate treatment recommendations or alternatives. Parents should bring a copy of their child's treatment plan or referral letter from their private dentist. For further information, contact Col. Jeff Mabry at 292-3327.

### Performance-based roadshow

A team from Air Force Materiel Command's Services Contracting Division will be presenting a Performance-Based Services Acquisition roadshow at Brooks City-Base, Oct. 19. The two-hour training will cover basic information about PBSA, define "services" and review the seven-step process of PBSA. Anyone involved in writing Statements of Work or Statements of Objectives for service contracts are encouraged to attend, including program managers, acquisition personnel, engineers and other technical professionals.

After the general session, acquisition teams can meet privately by appointment with the roadshow trainers to review specific objectives

in their contracts. The roadshow will be in the large auditorium in Bldg. 775. The general session is from 8 to 10 a.m., with individual team meetings afterwards by appointment only in 90 minute increments.

Go to [https://libra.brooks.af.mil/\\_PK/2004RoadShow/signup.asp](https://libra.brooks.af.mil/_PK/2004RoadShow/signup.asp) to sign up. Two APDP Continuous Learning Points will be granted. For more information, contact Sharon Earley at 536-6345.

### PA looking for ambassadors

Public Affairs is taking applications through Oct. 20 for people interested in representing Brooks City-Base as an ambassador in 2005. Applicants who complete the registration package will serve as ambassadors, supporting the numerous science fair judge requests, career day speaker requests, base tours and community parades. Also, appli-

cants will compete to become the 2005 Brooks Fiesta Ambassadors, which will be selected by a five-person panel.

Fiesta ambassadors will have events to attend from January through April 2005, including the 10-day, city-wide, fun-filled, multi-cultural, family-oriented Fiesta San Antonio celebration. For more information or to request an ambassador application package, contact Ed Shannon at 536-5140.

### Military comptroller luncheon

The Alamo Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers invites all members and non-members to attend August's luncheon hosted by AFCEE. Guest speaker is Todd Schaffer, Director, Workforce Management Office and Capt. Jason Corrothers, Officer Assignments at the Air Force Person-

nel Center. The topic will be workforce transformation initiative. Join the group in the Brooks Club Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Wayne Wanner at 221-7029 for more information.

### Stock show and rodeo

The San Antonio stock show and rodeo, Feb. 4 through Feb. 20, is offering advance ticket sales through the Rodeo Ticket Sales Committee. The RTSC sells season tickets, group tickets, charity group sales and carnival vouchers. This committee is comprised of all volunteers, with profits from ticket sales benefiting children through scholarships, grants, endowments and other educational programs. For more information or to purchase tickets and/or carnival vouchers please call Mary Urey at 684-6619 or 865-5492.



BRIG GEN. 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 Group –		Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Safety.....	536-2111	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	BXMarket.....	533-9079
Housing Office.....	533-5905	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base Marketing and	
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Development Office.....	536-5366

## Project CHEER aims to boost morale

Continued from page 1

the Airman's Council, is excited to be a part of Project CHEER.

He said the project is especially essential for Brooks since it is a smaller base and doesn't have all the facilities that a larger base has.

"We want to get the students out of their dorms and have some fun things for them to do," Airman Lanning said. "We don't have a bowling alley, a movie theater or a large recreation center, so this provides the Airmen and the students more of an opportunity to be more involved. It will also provide the Airmen a chance to experience more of what the Air Force is all about."

Airman Lanning feels that Project CHEER will be beneficial for the people on base and will help boost morale and increase base camaraderie. "I am looking forward to seeing a lot of people involved and having a great time. This project will provide a way for members of the base community to get involved with each other and feel like more of a family."

Project CHEER will especially benefit the students, as half the planned activities are for the Brooks' student population only. Staff Sgt. Jason McCormack, who sits on the Project CHEER committee and represents the student population, is excited about the project and feels it was long overdue.

"We've been trying to create more activities for the students for a long time," Sergeant McCormack said. "Project CHEER will help morale. It will give the students an opportunity to interact with NCOs and leadership as well as provide a chance for the students to get to know one another better and have fun together."

The sergeant said that one of the keys to success with Airmen is to keep them busy, active and involved and Project CHEER will give them more positive things to do. "The Airmen are excited about this. They are looking forward to the activities," he said.

Project CHEER officially kicks off with a grand event Oct. 15. All the organizations and units involved in the ongoing project have joined together to sponsor a "super activity" that is free to the entire base community. It will take place at Sidney's and the surrounding area, and will include many different events, like card games, dominos, Sumo wrestling, softball and Karaoke. There will also be music, free food and a raffle.

The calendar of events has not been finalized, but some of the other activities planned over the next few months include an ice cream social, a talent show, a pasta cook off and a family appreciation night.

Organizations that wish to sponsor an activity or help with Project CHEER can contact assistant team leaders Tech. Sgt. Leslie Pratt at 536-3473 or Master Sgt. Aaron Sinclair at 536-8600.

Excitement for Project Cheer remains extremely high by everyone involved. Chief Williams is particularly grateful to see the idea that he envisioned so quickly becoming a reality.

"We need to thank all the non-profit organizations and various units, Brooks City-Base and the Brooks Development Authority staff for joining hands to make this a successful, win-win situation for our most valuable resource – our people," Chief Williams said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

As part of Project CHEER, and in celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, the Airman's Council sponsored a 5K Fun Run Oct. 1. Runners above were participants in a 5K run earlier this year.



# Art of Possible Summit showcases Brooks, Air Force

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

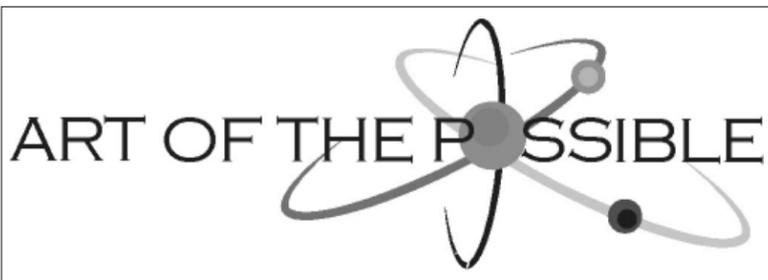
Contributing to a vision shared by the Air Force and San Antonio leaders, the Art of the Possible Summit is being held at Brooks this week as a technology-showcasing initiative that also provides potential Brooks City-Base partners with networking opportunities.

Hosted by the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, the two-day event that concludes today is the first of its kind for Brooks.

"It's actually the third for our chamber," said Cindy Taylor, South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce president. She explained that the model for this summit was two previous southside economic development initiatives – the Kelly and

Avenidas del Rio Business Corridors.

"As (Brigadier) General (Tom) Travis has said, 'it's all about op-



portunities,'" Ms. Taylor said, referring to the 311th Human Systems Wing commander who supports exploiting opportunities that are beneficial to the Air Force.

She said the summit is an excellent opportunity for the San Antonio leadership to develop new partnerships that could help the local economy.

An estimated 150 leaders from industry, government,

academia and the military are participating in the summit that is designed to showcase Brooks City-Base assets while creating what

Ms. Taylor describes as a "cynergistic environment" conducive to the formation of new collaborations.

Among Brooks City-Base assets that the summit is showcasing are joint military partners. They include Air Force participants addressing "Military Advances in Science & Technology at Brooks," featuring chief scientists from the 311th HSW and

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, and senior leaders from the Air Force Research Laboratory's Human Effectiveness Directorate and the Air Force Institute for Operational Health.

Other major participants include summit co-sponsors: the San Antonio Technology Accelerator Initiative, San Antonio Economic Development Foundation, City of San Antonio and the Brooks Development Authority.

"It is a different marketing approach to give potential partners a chance to see and learn about Brooks City-Base," said Eric Stephens, 311th HSW deputy director.

He believes the summit is part of a larger strategy that is contributing to the city's plan to further develop San Antonio into a biotechnology center.



BASE CHAPEL  
536-3824

## SCHEDULE

### Weekdays:

Mon. - Wed. — Eucharist  
11:30 a.m. — Thursday Mass

### Wednesdays:

5:30 p.m. — Protestant choir rehearsal

6:30 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

### Sundays:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass

10:30 a.m. — Interdenominational worship

9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School

10:30 a.m. — Catholic Religious Education



## Brooks Base Service Center celebrates disability employment awareness month

The San Antonio Lighthouse Brooks Base Service Center will celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act program in October.

This year's theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month is "You're Hired! Success Knows No Limitations!" Through the JWOD program, disabled individuals earn wages and benefits that help them lead more independent lives and reduce their need for other government benefits.

The JWOD Program provides job training and employment for people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. Nationwide, the program provides job skills and training to nearly 42,000 Americans with disabilities in more than 600 community-based non-profit agencies.

In 1938, Congress passed the Wagner-O'Day Act, establishing a federal market for products made by Americans who are blind. In 1971, the Act was amended by Senator Jacob Javits to include products and services provided by Americans with a wide range of severe disabilities and became known as the JWOD Act.

The JWOD Program is a coordinated effort that has allowed people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life. Through the JWOD Program, people with disabilities enjoy full participation in their community and can market their skills into other public and private sector jobs.

The Brooks Base Service Center provides a cost effective system of

delivering "off the shelf" individual equipment items to military personnel, on base and offering "customer driven" quality service.

The San Antonio Lighthouse creates opportunities for individual independence by providing rehabilitation programs and employment opportunities that measurably improve the lives of blind and visually impaired individuals.

SAL is dedicated to the belief that each person, regardless of disability, has potential, and blindness should not prevent anyone from being an independent and productive member of the community.

The San Antonio Lighthouse, founded in 1933, is a not-for-profit organization. Rehabilitation programs and services provided at the Lighthouse are made possible in part from the generosity of individuals, civic groups, corporations and foundations.



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Bridgette Pullam of the Human Effective Directorate is promoted from staff sergeant under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. Each year, the Air Force releases a limited number of slots for a STEP promotion to recognize outstanding individuals. Col. Sean Scully, the Detachment 5 Commander/HED, presents Sergeant Pullam with a certificate.



*Things to do around Brooks*

**SERVICES DIVISION**  
by Jan McMahon

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
536-2637, Bldg. 502

In order to support Project CHEER, beginning Oct. 15, the Child Development Center will remain open until 6:30 p.m. on Fridays. The normal hourly rate will be reduced for everyone from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. All children who are eligible to go to either the Youth Center or the Child Development Center will be accepted. For more details contact the Child Development Center staff.

**TEEN CENTER**  
536-3160, Bldg. 641

The Family and Teen Talent Competition is scheduled for 6 p.m. Nov. 12 in the Brooks Club. The Teen Center invites moms, dads, brothers and sisters to sing, dance and perform together in the family-oriented evening. Contestants can enter in one of 15 categories: parent and child team; husband and wife team; children (ages 3-5); children (ages 6-8); preteen solo (ages 9-12); preteen group (ages 9-12); teen solo (ages 13-15); teen group (ages 13-15); teen solo (ages 16-18); teen group (ages 16-18); and family. Videotapes or DVDs of base winners will be submitted for an Air Force-level contest.

Those interested can call the Teen Center at 536-3160 for more information. The first meeting will be held at Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Teen Center.

**FITNESS CENTER**  
536-2188, Bldg. 940

The Basketball Court will be closed Oct. 11-19 for refinishing. Call the staff for more details.

Aerobics are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. and Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. Aerobics is a series of rhythmic exercises performed to music. The purpose is to stimulate the aerobic capacity of the heart and lungs and to burn fat through a strenuous workout.

Spin Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 and 5 p.m. Instructors plan a ride set to music that lasts approximately 45 minutes. The class achieves a faster weight loss than any other indoor exercise program.

Circuit Training is held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 7 a.m. A session of training consists of 18 work stations set to funk music which contains a full body workout, including aerobics, agility, cardio and strength.

**YOUTH PROGRAM CENTER**  
536-2515, Bldg. 470

**Operation Halloween**  
Operation Halloween is just around the corner. The fun starts Oct. 31 at 5:30 p.m. at the Youth Center with a costume contest. This event will be held on the tennis courts across the street from the center. Prizes will be awarded to winners of each of the five separate age groups judged. Trick-Or-Treat through base housing will be from 6 to 8 p.m., followed by a Haunted House, games and refreshments at the center.

The annual Count the Corn contest will be held during the month of October and the winner will be announced on Halloween. Prizes will be awarded to the first-place adult and child winners. Stop by the center and guess how many candy corns are in the container.

Youth can pick up an entry for the coloring contest. There will be four separate age

groups: 5-6 years, 7-9 years, 10-12 years and 13-15 years. Deadline for submitting a completed entry form is Oct. 25. Winners will be announced on Oct. 26 and entries will be displayed Oct. 26-29.

**School Age Program**

The Brooks City-Base School Age Program contributes to readiness by helping active duty military personnel and DoD civilians perform their duties more effectively with less concern for the well-being of their children, ages five through 12. The School Age Program is dedicated to initiating programs that provide children opportunities for leadership, enjoyment, friendship, develop their physical, social, emotional and cognitive abilities and experience achievement.

The School Age Program is committed to a philosophy that encourages children to grow as a unique and capable individual in a supportive safe environment, including homework assistance, field trips, cooking activities, arts and crafts, full-day camps and guest speakers. The Youth Program Center is taking registrations for the 2004-2005 School Age Program. Parents can register their children Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Lights On After-School!**

A Lights on After-School! rally will be held Oct. 14 at the center from 4 to 5:30 p.m. There will be guest speakers, crafts, refreshments, door prizes and the Brooks cheerleaders will make an appearance. Lights On After-school! is the only nationwide event calling attention to after-school programs and their important role in the lives of children their families and communities. After-school programs keep children safe, help working families and improve academic achievement.

**SYDNEY'S**  
536-2077, Bldg. 714

Sidney's breakfast hours have been extended to 8:30 a.m. every Wednesday. This gives base personnel time to participate in the Commander's Fitness Club Run every Wednesday at 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast at Sidney's.

**FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER**

**CAR BUYING STRATEGIES**

Oct. 13 – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Find out how to research, obtain free information, budget, compare financing versus leasing, and negotiating the best deal. Register in advance.

**BUNDLES FOR BABIES**

Oct. 14 – 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Bldg. 537

Active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or expecting a child should plan on attending this Air Force Aid Society sponsored class. Obtain information about budgeting, basic baby care, infant development, effective parenting, car seat regulations and much more.

**SPONSOR TRAINING**

Oct. 19 – 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537

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

**SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT**

Oct. 27 – 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are pre-separation, Veterans Benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE, and Financial Planning for Transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

**TRANSITION ASSISTANCE SEMINAR**

Nov. 16-18 – 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

Making the transition from the military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve those separating and retiring members and their spouses. Topics include job search preparation resume writing, interviewing skills to include appropriate dress, veteran's benefits, and much more. One should attend at least 180 days prior to retirement/separation.

**For more information,  
Call 536-2444**

**SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTORY**

**BASE LIBRARY**  
Bldg. 705, 536-2634

**FAMILY CHILD CARE**  
Bldg. 1154, 536-2041

**BROOKS CLUB**  
Bldg. 204, 536-3782

**OUTDOOR RECREATION**  
Bldg. 1154, 536-2188

**SYDNEY'S**  
Bldg. 714, 536-2077

Sidney's is open for brunch on Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Weekday hours:  
Breakfast: 5:45 to 7:30 a.m.  
Lunch: 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Dinner: 4 to 6 p.m.



## Brooks kicks off Combined Federal Campaign

Brooks City-Base unofficially started their 2004 Combined Federal Campaign with a breakfast at the Brooks Club on Oct. 1. This year's speaker was Jack Downey, executive director of The Children's Shelter.

Mr. Downey brought tears to many in the audience as he talked about the needs of abused and neglected children in

San Antonio. The shelter, in operation since 1901, provides emergency shelter services, basic and therapeutic foster care, special needs adoption, teen parenting services, and abuse prevention programs.

The Combined Federal Campaign was established by President Kennedy in 1961 as a once-a-year, in-the-workplace appeal for federal employees, including military, civilian and U.S. Postal Service personnel.

The CFC was established because employees requested a convenient way to give and wanted to end year-round multiple charity appeals in the workplace. Nationwide, the CFC is the largest single fundraising effort in the world. In 2002, the cam-



Photo by Airman First Class Samantha Shieh

Brooks senior leadership Col. Laura Alvarado (left), Brig. Gen. Thomas Travis and Chief Master Sgt. Reggie Williams sign their Combined Federal Campaign pledge cards. This year's CFC began in October and runs through Nov. 17.

campaign raised in excess of \$250 million.

The theme for this year's campaign is "make a difference" and the Brooks City-Base key workers, led by Capt. Jose Tolentino of the 68th Information Operation Squadron and Master Sgt. Vince Iapchino of the Air Force Institute of Operational Health, plan on making a difference by giving Brooks's personnel more information on all of the ways that CFC agencies in the San Antonio area are making a difference.

The plan to share CFC information has several aspects. Speakers will be invited to come to meetings in workplaces at Brooks. Brooks groups will have opportunities to visit agencies in

the local area or to participate, for example by delivering meals to the disabled elderly. Finally, stories will appear in the paper on Brooks people the agencies have supported.

Other CFC activities include a dodgeball tournament and BBQ Nov. 5.

"We'd like every employee at Brooks to take this season to learn more about their community and how dollars and volunteer time help the community and effect at least one in four federal employees or their dependents," said Col. John Garland.

The campaign will last until Nov. 15. To learn more about helping make a difference, contact your Captain Tolentino at 536-2995, or your unit CFC worker.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

As part of the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs to Oct. 15, several volunteers spent time at the Child Development Center reading to the youth. Second Lt. Ethel Seabrook-Hennessy (top photo) and 2nd Lt. Olga Brandt, both of the 311th Human Systems Wing, are just two of the volunteer readers. The base will wrap up its Hispanic Heritage celebration Oct. 14 with a trivia contest and Keynote Luncheon at the Brooks Club.



## Wilford Hall offers alternative non-surgical procedures

By Ernestine Sykes

759th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron

Wilford Hall Medical Center is now offering the Air Force's first interventional neuro-radiology service. Neurointerventional radiologists use minimally invasive techniques to treat brain aneurysms, strokes, blood vessel blockage, fractures of the spine and tumors of the head and neck.

Working within the blood vessels, known as endovascular procedures, the neuroradiologist makes a small nick in the skin to insert a catheter—a thin, hollow tube—into a patient's artery. No surgical incision is required. Usually the catheter is inserted near the groin area using a local anesthetic. Under x-ray guidance, the catheter is directed through the blood vessels of the body to the site of the cerebral aneurysm or clogged artery.

Neuroradiologists use tiny instruments, such as coils, balloons or stents, to treat a variety of conditions such as opening clogged arteries or treating brain aneurysms. These are very delicate procedures that require intense concentration.

Endovascular procedures require several hours to perform. After the procedure, patients are usually admitted to the hospital for one to several days for monitoring before returning home.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) David White, the only Air Force neurointerventionalist, is now assigned to Wilford Hall and heads this new department. He performed the first endovascular aneurysm coil occlusion at Wilford Hall on Sept. 21.

This therapy treats a brain aneurysm by threading miniature platinum coils through arteries to block off the aneurysm. This is the first time this procedure has been performed by an Air Force doctor in any Air Force medical center.

"Our neurosurgeons, stroke neurologists, neuroanesthesiologists and neurointerventionalist teams work together here at Wilford Hall," Colonel White said. "We are dedicated to a neuroscience team approach for providing the best quality care to our patients."

Wilford Hall will soon begin construction on a new biplane angiography suite. The suite will provide state-of-the-art imaging capabilities, including three-dimen-



Photo by Sue Campbell

Lt. Col. (Dr.) David White, a neurointerventionalist in the 759th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, visits with Nancy Works before performing a biopsy on her spine. Colonel White leads a team of doctors who provide non-surgical neuroradiology service to patients.

sional visualization of blood vessels. The suite should be operational early in 2005.

"With our current system, we can only offer limited services," Colonel White said. "Once we get this new equipment in place we will be able to offer the full spectrum of treatment options."

311th Medical Squadron seeks feedback following clinic visits

The 311th Medical Squadron at Brooks City-Base is implementing a new process for obtaining timely feedback from patients about their outpatient visit. An authorized individual will be contacting patients of the Brooks Clinic to obtain feedback on the quality of the service they received related to their appointment beginning Oct. 19.

Within a few days after their visit, selected patients will be contacted between the hours of 5 to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday excluding holidays, and asked six to seven simple questions. The caller does not have access to any personal medical information nor will patients be requested to provide that information.

To ensure patient's needs and expectations are met, each patient's participation and feedback in this customer service initiative are encouraged. If you have any questions concerning this program, please contact Capt. Warren Craig Gaskin at 536-2288 or email at [warren.gaskin@brooks.af.mil](mailto:warren.gaskin@brooks.af.mil).



## Youth center program designed to give parents some 'free time'

By Lawanda Roper  
Family Support Center

The Air Force Aid Society recognizes that Air Force families are subject to unique stresses due to the nature of military life – deployments, remote tours of duty and extended working hours to name a few. Families are often separated from spouses as well as from extended family members who might otherwise offer support.

In an effort to help these families, the AFAS and Family Support Center, in cooperation with the Youth Center, has agreed to provide funding for childcare under a program called, "Give Parents A Break."

The program is designed to offer eligible parents a few hours break from the stressors of parenting. The program will be held at the Youth Center and maintain by the Youth Center di-

rector and staff members. The AFAS pays the cost of opening the Youth Center once a month for families referred to the program. Families using the center will not be charged for the care.

Those eligible to use the "Give Parents a Break" program include parents whose spouse is deployed or on an extended TDY, who have been experiencing a family crisis such as birth of a new baby, serious illness of family member, death in family or extended illness of family member, whose child is special needs, whose spouse has been required to work extensive extended shifts, and single parents that the command feels is experiencing various stressors and need a break.

To be eligible for the program, families must be referred by one of the following base

officials: Squadron commander or first sergeant, chaplain, doctor or other medical professional, family advocacy personnel, FSC personnel, Child Development Center personnel or Youth Center personnel.

A referral certificate must be issued and signed by the person making the referral. Reservations will be made as directed by your local Youth Center. Eligibility will be verified by the Youth Center when reservations are made.

This program should not be looked on as free childcare, but rather as a program for commanders, first sergeants and other base officials to use to provide help for families who need a break.

The Youth Center will set up the sessions and schedule employees to provide services to eligible families.

Dates for the program are Oct. 15, Nov. 5 and Dec. 10 from 5 to 9 p.m. For more information contact the Youth Center at 536-2515.

## JAG steps down amid investigation

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's top lawyer was granted a request to be relieved from his duties until an inspector general investigation about certain activities is resolved.

On Sept. 22, Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and the Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper approved a request by Air Force Judge Advocate General Maj. Gen. Thomas Fiscus to be temporarily relieved from his duties pending resolution of the ongoing Air Force inspector general investigation.

"The Air Force inspector general's office is working diligently to complete the investigation," said Air Force spokesman Col. Dewey Ford.

"A thorough investigation will be conducted, reviewed for legal sufficiency, and then forwarded to the Air Force secretary and chief of staff for appropriate action. In the interim,

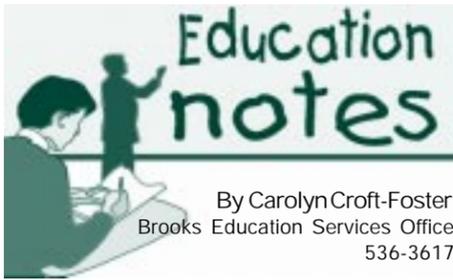
no details of the ongoing investigation will be disclosed to avoid compromising the investigation," Colonel Ford said.

During the absence of General Fiscus, the deputy judge advocate general, Maj. Gen. Jack L. Rives, will perform the duties of the judge advocate general.

"The inspector general is working to complete the investigation as quickly and thoroughly as possible, while respecting the rights of the parties involved," General Rives said.

"One of our great strengths as a corps is our commitment to do the right thing," General Rives said. "The right thing to do now is to give time-tested and fair processes an opportunity to work a resolution."

While the investigation continues, General Fiscus will perform duties as assigned by the Air Force chief of staff.



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

#### Spouses to Teachers Program

The Department of Defense tasked DANTES to develop and manage a new pilot program to help spouses begin careers as teachers. The Spouses to Teachers Program has just been launched in six states with a large military population and a need for public school teachers.

These states are California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Virginia. Based on interest and activity, additional states may be added in the future. All eligible spouses who wish to become teachers in the pilot states may receive assistance from the Spouses to Teachers Program. This includes spouses who have already earned a baccalaureate degree or higher, as well as spouses who are at the undergraduate level. Degreed spouses will be counseled on their options for achieving certification and information on potential funding sources and employment opportunities.

Non-degree holders will receive help in identifying degree completion programs, as well as information about possible financial assistance, both state and federal, and the potential for finding employment as teacher's aides or other positions in public schools. To take advantage of this pilot program in Texas, spouses may contact the Texas pilot office toll free at 1-800-815-5484.

**Palo Alto College on base registration**  
Registration is underway for the Alamo Community College District Fall flex 2 term. On base courses include speech and art appreciation. The ACCD representative will be at Brooks on Tuesdays to register students. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

#### Dantes announces fee increase

The fee for civilians to take the Dantes Standardized Skills Tests has increased to \$60 effective Oct. 1. Payment must be made by money order or credit card. The fee for CLEP Testing on base for civilians attending on-base programs continues to be \$120. The fee for CLEP exams at local colleges and universities is \$75. To locate a school that offers testing visit the College Board website at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

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

#### Texas State University

Texas State University offers a bachelor of applied arts and sciences. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences.

Students pursuing this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by busi-

ness, 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.

#### 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.

#### Funding of CLEP exams 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](http://www.collegeboard.com/clep) for listings off

all San Antonio schools and other areas. For more information, call 536-3617.

#### National graduate school

The National Graduate School is now accepting applications for the new Spring class to start March 2005. Class will be held one night a week from 6 to 10 p.m. at Fort Sam Houston. Students will earn a master's degree in quality system management by replacing a project with a thesis. The institution is regionally accredited and VA/TA approved.

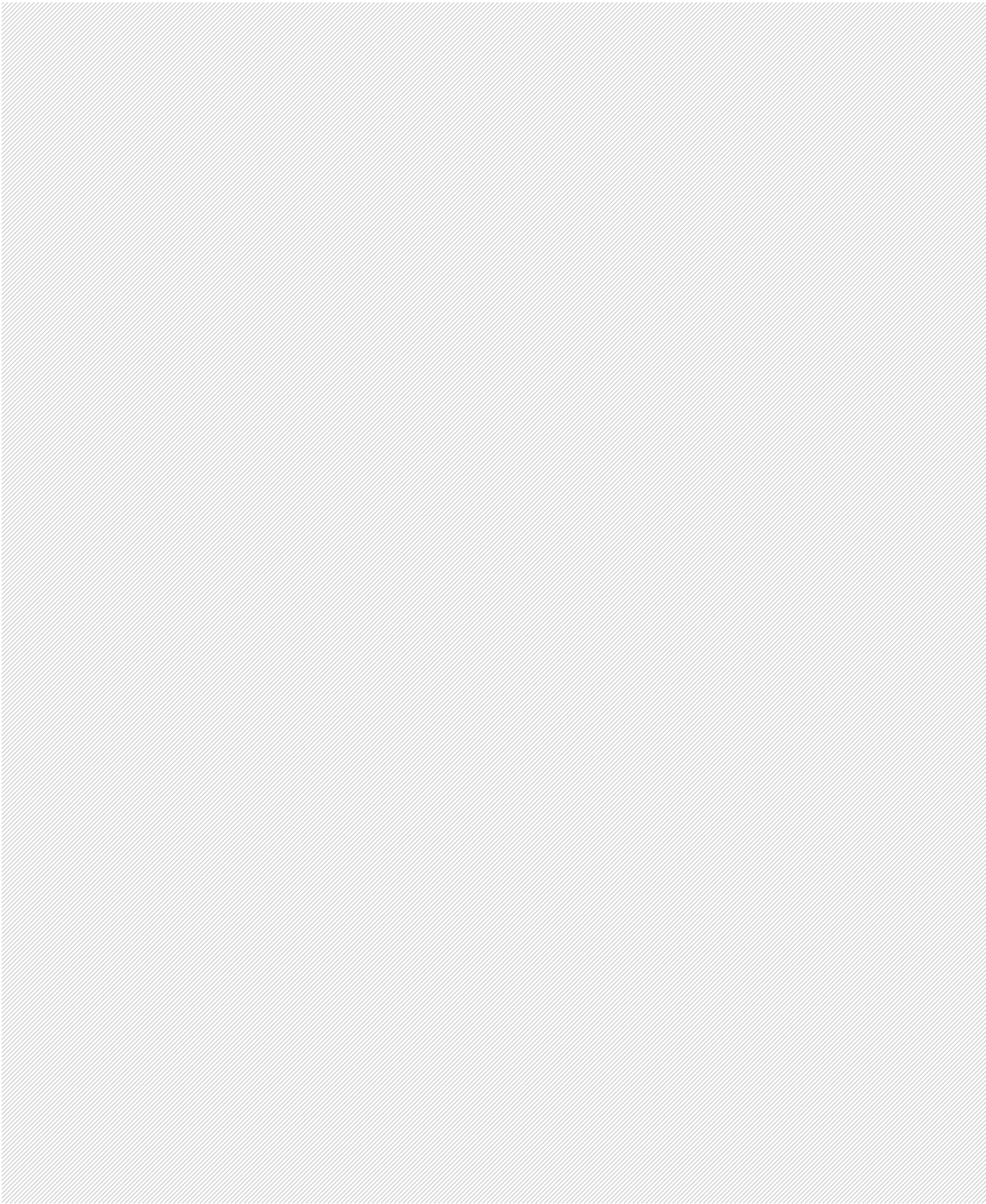
For more information about the program and to learn about the Homeland Security programs, visit [www.ngs.edu](http://www.ngs.edu) or call for a personal interview. A counselor is available at Brooks Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### Upper Iowa on base and online

Register now for Upper Iowa University — Distance Learning. Courses are available in business and public administration. Online and correspondence courses are also available in 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.uiu.edu](http://www.uiu.edu), stop by the Brooks office, Bldg. 558, or call 536-4033.

#### Air Force Virtual Education Center

The Virtual Education Center is now online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force 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 [afvec.langley.af.mil](http://afvec.langley.af.mil) and establish an account. For more information call 536-3617.





Brooks  
Personality  
PROFILE

# Feature

## Traveling man



FULCHER

By Steve VanWert  
Discovery Staff Writer

"Join the Air Force and see the world!" If you don't believe it, just ask Tech. Sgt. Kevin Fulcher. Since his initial enlistment in 1986, he's been to Colorado, England, Scotland, Germany, Russia, Kiev, Kuwait, Portugal, Canada and others. He's worked for the White House and represented Brooks City-Base as one of the 2004 Ambassadors. Not surprisingly, he sums up his Air Force career as "just going great."

With an emphasis on "going."

The career started, however, in typical small town America. Born and raised in Magee, Miss., Sergeant Fulcher graduated, along with about 100 others, from Magee High School in 1984.

In his summers, he worked in the fields and after graduation took a job at a natural gas company, digging ditches. He did that for a year and a half, working for his father, who was regional vice president of the company. But he wanted more. He wanted to continue his education and he wanted, more than anything else, to travel.

The military beckoned. Sergeant Fulcher checked out each of the services and chose the Air Force. In March 1986 he graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and continued on to Lowry AFB, Colo., to technical school. After graduating as a photographer, and specifically, as a photo processing specialist, he was assigned to Mildenhall Royal Air Base, England, where he worked on SR-71 imaging.

He loved England so much he extended his two-year tour twice, staying for four years. While there, he traveled all over Europe. It was in Edinburgh, in the shadows of castles and ghosts of Kings, that he was married to the daughter of his acting first sergeant.

"I loved England," he said. "We went exploring all over, to Cambridge, to Stratford-On-Avon, to castles and bridges and historical places. But it was the people I loved the most. They're so friendly. They live a slower pace of life than we do. We had a ball there."

After four years, the SR-71 program was deactivated and Sergeant Fulcher and wife moved to Wiesbaden, Germany. At about the same time, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and Sergeant Fulcher's work schedule became incredibly busy. There wasn't much time for sightseeing. After a year and a half in Germany, he returned to England, this time to Alconbury RAB.

After three years, he was assigned to Brooks and from January 1995 to January 1997 worked at the Brooks photo lab as assistant and then NCOIC. While at Brooks, his wife gave birth to their middle son, who was born with cerebral palsy. It was an event that literally changed their lives.

"I can't say enough about how the base and the Air Force in general have

supported us," he said. "Everyone was, and still are, really understanding of what our special problems are. This all happened before the new Tricare Prime program, so we had extensive co-pays. It was a financial challenge we couldn't have met alone. It was a tough time."

Sergeant Fulcher was a staff sergeant at the time and his wife couldn't work because she was needed as a full-time caregiver for their son. The bills piled up. The Brooks community embraced them, donating food and gift certificates at area restaurants so they could get out on their own every now and then.

"The Air Force became part of our family," he said.

A phone call from the White House Communications Office signaled another change in their lives and another chance to travel, this time to Bolling AFB, D.C. He worked in the White House photo lab and became one of the official White House photographers, accompanying Presidents Clinton and Bush on numerous overseas trips, as well as taking official photos of both first families. He recorded for posterity peace talks at Camp David and Sheppardstown, W.V., traveled to Russia, Kiev, Kuwait and Portugal with President Clinton and to Quebec City with President Bush.

"I loved it," he said. "It was supremely challenging and absolutely wonderful. I met the most interesting people and gained a real understanding of how our government works."

While in D.C., they became a spokes family for the Combined Federal Campaign. He spoke at Constitution Hall and several bases in the D.C. area and briefed the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. They appeared in a United Way Campaign video and filmed a United Way commercial with then-Washington Redskins quarterback Brad Johnson. Their son threw out the first ball in one of President Bush's T-ball games on the White House lawn.

During their time in D.C., their son's condition improved and he is now "doing great." He has a manual single-wheel-driven wheelchair so he can keep up with his siblings. "He's such a happy child," Sergeant Fulcher said. "He's an inspiration to everyone who meets him. He keeps me grounded."

In January 2003, the Fulchers returned to Brooks, this time to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. Later that year, Sergeant Fulcher read an announcement in the Brooks Discovery that volunteers were being

sought to become Brooks Ambassadors.

"It sounded interesting," he said. "I decided I couldn't pass up the opportunity, so I applied."

With his background, he was a shoe-in, although he had to meet a board and compete against about a dozen other volunteers. Upon learning that he had been accepted, he was "surprised, but excited."

During this hectic year as Brooks Ambassador, Sergeant Fulcher has spoken at area school career days, visited elementary schools and retirement homes, rode along on the Brooks float in the San Antonio Labor Day parade and took part in the hectic week that is known as Fiesta, riding in the River Parade and attending Fiesta parties.

"I especially enjoyed visiting with school children and the elderly," he said. "It really meant something to me. The kids were genuinely excited to see us and I felt I really was able to make them happy. I was equally awed by the time I spent in area retirement homes. They were so happy to have us visit."

"I loved being an Ambassador. All eyes are on you. You're a direct influence on how the public perceives us, you're the walking image of the Air Force."

Now that his Ambassador year is over, Sergeant Fulcher looks to the future. He was selected for promotion to master sergeant and will put on the stripe in February or March 2005. He and his wife had always planned for him to retire after putting in his 20 years, but their plans have changed.

"Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Reed, who has been my supervisor on-and-off at USAFSAM, has given me a lot of good advice," Sergeant Fulcher said. "He's encouraged me to stay in the Air Force a while longer."

The sergeant now looks to retire at 30 years of service, hopefully as a chief master sergeant. After that, he hasn't made plans.

"But, hopefully, wherever we go, we'll get to travel and see more of this great world," he said. Once an Ambassador, always as ambassador.

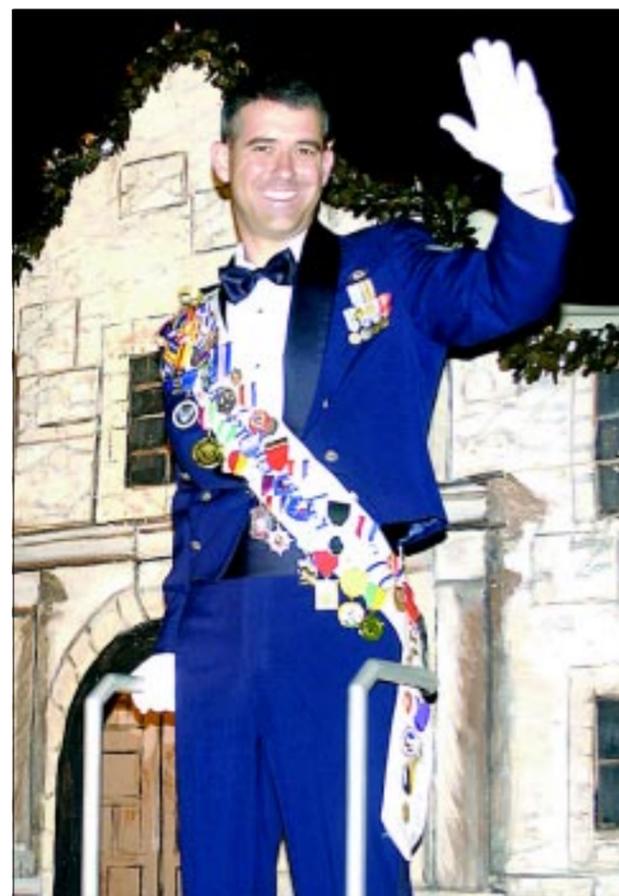


Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

# Q&A

**NAME/RANK:**

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Fulcher

**DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:**

NCOIC Advanced Distributed Learning, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

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

Assist in converting in-residence USAFSAM courses to web/computer based training

**BIRTHDAY:**

Sept. 22, 1966

**HOMETOWN:**

Magee, Mississippi

**FAMILY STATUS:**

Married with three children

**PERSONAL MOTTO:**

Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.

**PET PEEVE:**

Black olives on pizza

**HOBBIES:**

Photography, working in the yard, playing softball

**INSPIRATIONS:**

My children

**BOOK AT BEDSIDE:**

Sports Illustrated

**I JOINED THE MILITARY BECAUSE:**

Mainly for the travel. Educational opportunities also played a part.

**FIVE-YEAR GOAL:**

Make senior master sergeant and finish my bachelor's degree

**ULTIMATE GOAL:**

Make chief master sergeant

**MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:**

Surviving a 5-year assignment at the White House without getting fired

**MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:**

My family

**IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:**

Purchase the Houston Astros

 **PROFILES IN TIME** 

## A Centennial of Flight series

# Craigie advanced air power as first American jet pilot

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// Every 90 years we're going to do this. You're all invited in 2082. I'll make all the arrangements with St. Peter! //

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Gen. L.C. Craigie  
First American jet pilot

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(Editor's note: Since the Wright Brothers launched the age of powered flight, countless aviators have greatly contributed to humanity's progress. Discovery continues this multi-part series by paying tribute to another Air Force legend and Brooks Field innovator whose willingness to experiment with radically different ideas relating to flight led to advances in aviation science.)

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

A close friend of Orville Wright, the Massachusetts farm boy who preferred to be called "Bill" was just one year old when the Wright Brothers launched the age of powered flight. This Concord, N.H. native would not only become an Air Force legend as the first American military pilot to fly a jet aircraft, but he was instrumental in getting Orville Wright to see the latter's first flight of a jet propelled plane, the YP-80, flown by future Air Force legend and World War II ace – Capt. Chuck Yeager.

Born on Jan. 26, 1902, Laurence Carbee Craigie validated his belief that superstition was nonsense when he began his military career on Friday the 13th in June 1919 at the U.S. Military Academy. The West Point graduate launched his Army Air Service career at Brooks Field on Sept. 15, 1923 as a second lieutenant assigned to primary flight training. After earning his wings in 1924, Lieutenant Craigie served as a flight instructor at Brooks and Kelly Field until 1928. He would subsequently serve as flight commander at Brooks and Randolph Field from 1931-1934.

Many of his contributions to aviation occurred while he was assigned to Wright Field, Ohio. During the 13 years he spent there, this aviation engineer helped change the course of air travel. His research and development work contributed to the evolution of aircraft and aircraft engines. He was involved in the development of retractable landing gears, controllable pitch propellers, metal aircraft frames, turbo superchargers and the jet propelled engine.

As Project Officer for Training and Transport Aircraft at Wright Field, the future Air Force lieutenant general was responsible for the procurement of the first Stearman primary trainers used by the Army Air Corps and U.S. Navy. A total of 10,000 Stearman trainers were procured for the Army and Navy from 1936-1942.

General Craigie, however, would be forever remembered in Air Force and aviation history for his pioneering work at Wright Field's Experimental Aircraft Projects Section. The year before then Col. Craigie's historic flight, General Hap Arnold had initiated American research and development of rocket and jet propulsion based on German scientific work in the field. Enlisting the aid of the British government, Bell Aircraft and the General Electric Company, the Bell XP-59A Airacomet Jet Propulsion Fighter was produced. On Oct. 1, 1942, after civilian pilot Robert Stanley flew the experimental plane twice, Colonel Craigie made history at Air Materiel Command's Flight Test Base (now Edwards

AFB) when he became the first military officer to fly a jet over Muroc Dry Lake, Calif. However, American jet engine research, now declassified, was kept secret during World War II.

Mechanics disguised the Airacomet as a conventional aircraft using a dummy propeller when it was not in flight.

In 1947, General Craigie became Director of Air

Force Research and Development. During this tour, he was involved in experimental work to test the feasibility of scientist Nikola Tesla's theories on particle beam weapon systems. Known as "Project Nick," this pioneering work is believed to have influenced later projects involving charged-particle beams initiated in 1958 by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

General Craigie's most important contributions to Air Force research, however, involved the development of the Bell Aircraft X-1. On Oct. 14, 1947, Captain Yeager made aviation history by breaking the sound barrier while piloting the X-1.

Nearly 40 years after he retired from the Air Force, General Craigie made aviation history again when, at the age of 90, he helped pilot a vintage P-51 Mustang in leading a four-ship formation over March AFB, Calif. In a January 1992 newspaper interview, the fearless Air Force legend said, "Every 90 years we're going to do this. You're all invited in 2082. I'll make all the arrangements with St. Peter!"

General Craigie died at age 92 on Feb. 27, 1994 in Riverside, Calif. He was posthumously inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 2000.



Second Lt. L.C. Craigie, pictured here as a Brooks Field flight instructor (circa 1924).



## VOTER REGISTRATION

The general election in November 2004 is quickly approaching. The Air Force Voting Program is designed to make it easy for military members and their voting age family members to take part in that election and other elections held throughout the year. If you or your family members would like assistance with registering to vote or requesting an absentee ballot, call the Brooks City-Base Voting Hotline at 536-2666. You can also contact Major Rob O'Connor at 536-3849 or 1st Lt. Alex Pierce 536-1481, or contact your unit voting assistance counselor. Both the registration and ballot request can be completed with one, simple, half-page form.



## Brooks cyclists make 143-mile trek

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

While they all hit the road to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis, Brooks cyclists who participated in the H.E.B. MS 150 Oct. 2-3 learned something about themselves that will last longer than the aches, pains and sprains they sustained on the "Bike to the Beach" Tour.

Five members of the Brooks community braved driving rain, gusting headwinds, sauna-like humidity and a few bumps in the road during a 143-mile bike ride that helped raised \$1.3 million for the Lone Star Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. They were among an estimated 3,000 cyclists who began their long journey from the old flight line at Brooks City-Base. The 15th annual bike tour concluded at the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi.

"It was a life-changing experience for me. About 50 miles into it, I wanted to quit many times, but I pushed myself. I learned a lot about myself. I learned that I'm not a quitter," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Reynolds, NCOIC of Mission Support Readiness for the 68th Information Operations Squadron.

Sergeant Reynolds admitted that he was not ready, in terms of training, for what turned out to be the ride of his life. "I had never cycled more than five miles before. It was the first time I sat on a bike since I was a kid," he said.

What motivated him, like so many others who endured physical discomfort for the sake of others less mobile, was supporting an event that hit close to home. "We have some (unit) members affected by multiple sclerosis. A family friend was recently diagnosed with MS," said the 31-year-old Sherman, Texas native.

Despite re-aggravating a knee that had had recent surgery, Sergeant Reynolds prevailed during

a hellacious endurance ride for a novice cyclist. "It rained all the way to Beeville. A lot of people dropped out. I was on the bike for 10 hours and was probably one of the last 10 riders to make it to Beeville," he said, referring to the leg of the first leg of the event that featured an overnight stay at Coastal Bend College.

The second day was dry, but gruelling as he peddled against a strong headwind while approaching the Texas coast. Suffering from a windburn that masqueraded as sunburn, Sergeant Reynolds pushed himself across the finish line.

"I had a huge feeling of accomplishment," he said, explaining that he knew he had it in him to complete the feat. "Once I put something in my mind to do, I have to do it."

For him, the reward of helping others less fortunate than himself was underscored by having shared his achievement with his wife and five sons who greeted him at the finish line.

For 70-year-old Vince Elequin, his third MS 150 wasn't necessarily 'the charm.'

"Two minutes before the (starting) gun went off, a wave of wind hit us first. Ten minutes later we were drenched. It rained two thirds of the way there. Then the heat and humidity made it feel like a sauna. But it was still fun," said the San Diego, Calif. native who is the Air Force Research Laboratory's Air Force Health Studies deputy chief.

Like so many other cyclists, Mr. Elequin is a converted runner. "I'd much rather run marathons than ride a bike. It takes five miles on a bike to equal the cardiovascular effects of run-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Brooks employees Vince Eloquin (right) and Arthur Forral braved the poor weather and bike from the City-Base to Corpus Christi as part of an effort to raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

ning one mile," he explained, noting that he became a cyclist three years ago because of a neurologically damaged left leg. "You can't coast when running," he said, noting that his cycling buddy, Arthur Forral, didn't fare so well during his second MS 150 ride.

Mr. Forral, a fellow San Diego native who works as a Brooks contractor for the 311th Human Systems Program Office, injured himself during the ride. The 44-year-old converted runner plowed into a cyclist who had stopped on the side of the road to fix a flat. "He didn't see him in time," Mr. Elequin said, noting that the stopped cyclist had breached bike tour protocol by being too close to the road.

Both men completed the ride, a little worse for wear. "I used to run until my knee gave out. Cycling is less stressful on the joints. It's kind of neat as an engineer to learn the technical aspects of cycling," Mr. Forral said prior to the ride, not knowing his collision with a stalled cyclist would become stressful for him.

Other Brooks cyclists whose participation helped raise money for medical research and treatment were Ken Runner, Jr., a contractor with the Air Force Medical Support Agency, and Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Smith who works at Sidney's.

## Men's varsity basketball boasts new-look team



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Players on the Brooks men's varsity basketball team brush up on fundamentals during a recent practice at the Fitness Center gym.

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

From new blue and white uniforms to a dramatically transformed roster, the 2004-2005 edition of the Brooks men's varsity basketball team is looking for a new conclusion to a season that begins this month – a championship.

Under new management with first-year head coach Damian Byrd, the squad hopes to reach new heights by becoming the first Brooks men's varsity hoop team to win a basketball crown.

"We have some big changes, but they're exciting changes. We're going to be a vastly improved team," said Coach Byrd, who played for the club last year primarily as a reserve.

The new-look Brooks squad is certainly that. Its biggest star, power forward Rob Taylor, who has work and school commitments that are preventing him from returning.

"The loss of Rob Taylor is a huge blow," said the new coach about an impact player whose competitiveness had been the heart and soul of past Brooks teams.

Besides Taylor, the team has also lost starting point guard "Bad, Bad" Leroy Brown and forward David King, both of who have PCSed.

To compensate for the losses, Coach Byrd will rely on a core of quicker, more athletic players who he believes will be legitimate stars within the Southwest Military Basketball League that Brooks has competed in since 2003.

Leading the pack of newcomers is Staff Sergeant Roderick Bryant, an impact player with experience who is a point guard with great shooting ability.

"He played college ball and played on the Altus AFB varsity team last year," said Coach Byrd, referring to the 311th Mission Support Group athlete.

Bryant will be assisted in the backcourt by Capt. Torrez Grace, an experienced point guard from the 311th Communications Squadron, and Airman First Class Wilman Dean, who the coach described as "cat quick" and "explosive."

"He has silky smooth shooting," Coach Byrd said of his

See Veterans/21



Courtesy photo

Sidney's employee Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Smith was one of five Brooks employees to participate in the bike trek.

## Byrd plans to soar as new men's hoops coach

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

He is appropriately named, for the new Brooks men's varsity basketball team head coach believes there is strength in a flock of high achievers.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity. It's a big challenge," said 2nd Lt. Damion Byrd, a 311th Human Systems Program Office athlete who has assumed the enormous task of re-building a team and re-shaping its destiny.

Taking over a varsity basketball program devoid of championships, Coach Byrd already has made a significant change that he hopes will lead to a winning season.

The new head coach is tackling his new responsibilities by relying on past experiences. "I'm a throwback to the old coaching philosophy of passing the ball more and trusting in your teammates. I'm a perfectionist on defense. We must have an attacking, aggressive defense," he said.

Born in Toledo, Ohio on Jan. 31, 1974, Coach Byrd is the oldest of three siblings. He is the only member of his family to pursue an amateur sports career. He played varsity basketball for the the AAA-level Scott High School team in Toledo.

After graduating in 1992, he enlisted in the Air Force as a fitness center specialist at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

See Byrd/21

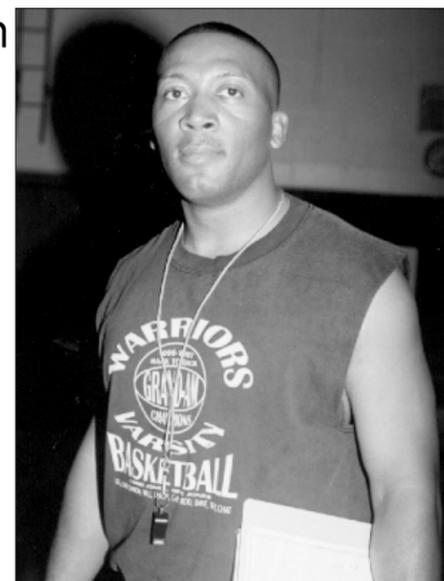


Photo by Rudy Purificato

2nd Lt. Damion Byrd is the new men's varsity basketball coach.



## 68th IOS wins first Brooks City-Base team triathlon



The 68th Information Operation Squadron captured first place in team competition at the Brooks triathlon.

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

The 68th Information Operations Squadron added to its growing number of athletic awards when this emerging Brooks sports dynasty captured the first Brooks City-Base "End of Summer" Team Triathlon on Sept. 24. They bested a field of six 10-member teams.



The first group of 60 participants in the running phase of the triathlon begin their 1.5 mile run.

The U.S. Army team finished second, followed by the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, 311th Human Systems Program Office, Air Force Institute for Operational Health and the combined Air Force Research Laboratory/311th Mission Support Group MPF team.

A total of 60 athletes competed in this modified triathlon that featured 15 min-

utes on a stationary bike, 1.5 mile run and two laps in the base pool.

Individual awards were presented to the 68th IOS's Airman Robert Brotz and the Air Force Institute for Operational Health's Capt. Fe Lobo-Menendez for being the top male and female triathletes, respectively.

Runners-up for individual awards are Capt. Michael Garza with the 311th Human Systems Program Office and Lt. Col. Cheryl DiCarlo with the U.S. Army.

"I think it was fantastic. We'll do it again next year, possibly around Memorial Day," said Services director John Robinette Jr. He credited the Brooks fitness center staff and 2nd Lt. Erica Lindstrand, event coordinator from YA, for conducting a successful sporting event that could become a Brooks sports tradition.

"I really wanted to get people together to have a good time and build Esprit de Corps within their units," said Lieutenant Lindstrand, who conceived the idea for the triathlon. Her previous exposure to triathlons

was as a college intern at the Everett Naval Fitness Center in Washington.



Photos by Rudy Purificato



TOP: Capt. Fe Lobo-Menendez, from the Air Force Institute of Operational Health, accepts the Brooks triathlon female champion award. BOTTOM: Airman Basic Robert Brotz, from the 68th Information Operation Squadron, was the base male overall champion. Services director John Robinette presented the awards.



## Falcons defeated by Navy

by Tech. Sgt. James Rush  
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Air Force Academy's chances to regain the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy got booted Sept. 30 when a Navy field goal handed the Falcons a 24-21 loss.

Midshipman place-kicker Geoff Blumenfeld was 0-for-4 on field goal attempts this year, but Blumenfeld booted a 30-yard shot with four seconds left to give Navy the win.

Air Force gave Blumenfeld lots of time to think about the play, twice calling timeout just as he lined up to kick. But the tactic failed, and the senior split the uprights, leaped over an Air Force defender and pumped his fist as he ran toward the sideline.

Both teams are known for their rushing attacks, which rank among the nation's best each year. Despite this, the game came down to key passing plays by the Falcons' Shaun Carney and Navy's Aaron Polanco.

Led by Carney's passing, the Falcons tied the game at 21 apiece on his 12-yard pass to J.P. Waller, followed by a point-after kick with 2:21 left.

Navy got the ball back at its own 25-yard line and

quickly moved down the field. Polanco broke off a 32-yard run up the middle to the Air Force 29, then Eric Roberts went off left tackle for 13 more.

After three runs up the middle, out trotted Blumenfeld, who picked an opportune time to kick his first field goal of the season.

The victory eliminates Air Force from CINC Trophy competition. Even with an Air Force win over Army, coupled with a Navy loss to West Point, Navy would keep the trophy.

Air Force (2-3) is mired in its worst start since 1994 when it began 0-3.



Photo by Matthew Staver

Falcons' Nelson Mitchell tackles Navy's quarterback Aaron Polanco.

## Veterans and new players highlight hoops team

Continued from page 19

shooting guard/small forward from the 68th Information Operations Squadron.

Included in the new mix of shooting guards/small forwards is 2nd Lt. Michael Pena from the 311th Communications Squadron who had previously played for the Air Force Academy. YA's 2nd Lt. Marcus Butler, a rookie defensive specialist, will contribute as a small forward, while 6-foot-5 rookie 2nd Lt. La Deris Harper from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine will be the starting center.

Returning veterans include Capt. Demetrius Stewart, a lightning-quick point guard from YA; Airman First Class Armond "Slim" Bailey, a small forward from the 311th MSG; Staff Sgt. Desmond Fahie, a forward from the 68th IOS; and Tech Sgt. Warren Benge, a 6'4" center from the Air Force Research Laboratory.

"We're going to use a quick attacking, up-tempo style. We have a lot more quickness than last year's team. We're going to generate a lot of offense through fastbreaks and we're going to employ a pressure style defense," the head coach noted.

The team features five players who are legitimate threats from the three-point range.

"We're loaded on the perimeter. We'll also use our conditioning, speed and athleticism to our advantage," he said.

What the new coach hopes to also change is the Brooks community's perception of the team. He believes fans will begin flocking to the fitness center gym to watch them play once they begin to win and dominate its league division, consisting of Goodfellow, Laughlin and

Lackland AFBs and Fort Sam Houston.

"We've nicknamed ourselves the Lions for this season. Our home court will be known as the Lion's Den," Coach Byrd said.

It remains to be seen whether these new Lions will have a formidable presence as kings of the hardwood jungle, or be like other previous Brooks squads that had high hopes but became like "the mouse that roared."

## Byrd to focus on defense

Continued from page 19

He was the starting point guard for the Grand Folks AFB varsity hoop team that included teammate Roderick Bryant, who now plays for Brooks.

Coach Byrd separated from the Air Force in 2001 to earn a bachelor of science degree in finance from the University of Toledo. He was commissioned in August 2003 and was subsequently assigned to Brooks.

"Toward the end of the (2003-2004) season, I helped Hosea by serving in an administrative role for the team," he said of his support to the previous Brooks men's varsity head coach Hosea Talbert.

Coach Byrd will be sharing the coaching duties with Lt. Col. Ric Peterson, a coaching part-

ner who has a distinguished basketball pedigree. The Air Force Research Laboratory scientist-athlete is a former player and the son of Montana basketball coach Don Peterson.

Coach Byrd is a firm believer in the sports philosophy "that defense wins." "Our biggest chance of being successful is to force other teams to play our game," he said.

He will rely on a style of play characterized as "aggressive offense and defense," featuring fast breaks and faster rebounding.

For a team that has high hopes and higher expectations, being led by a coach named Byrd may perhaps convince them that "the sky is the limit" when it comes to achieving their goals.