

# TAILWIND

TRAVIS AFB, CALIF.

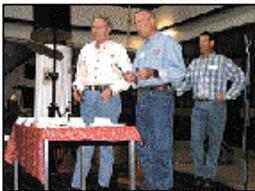
FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2002

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 33

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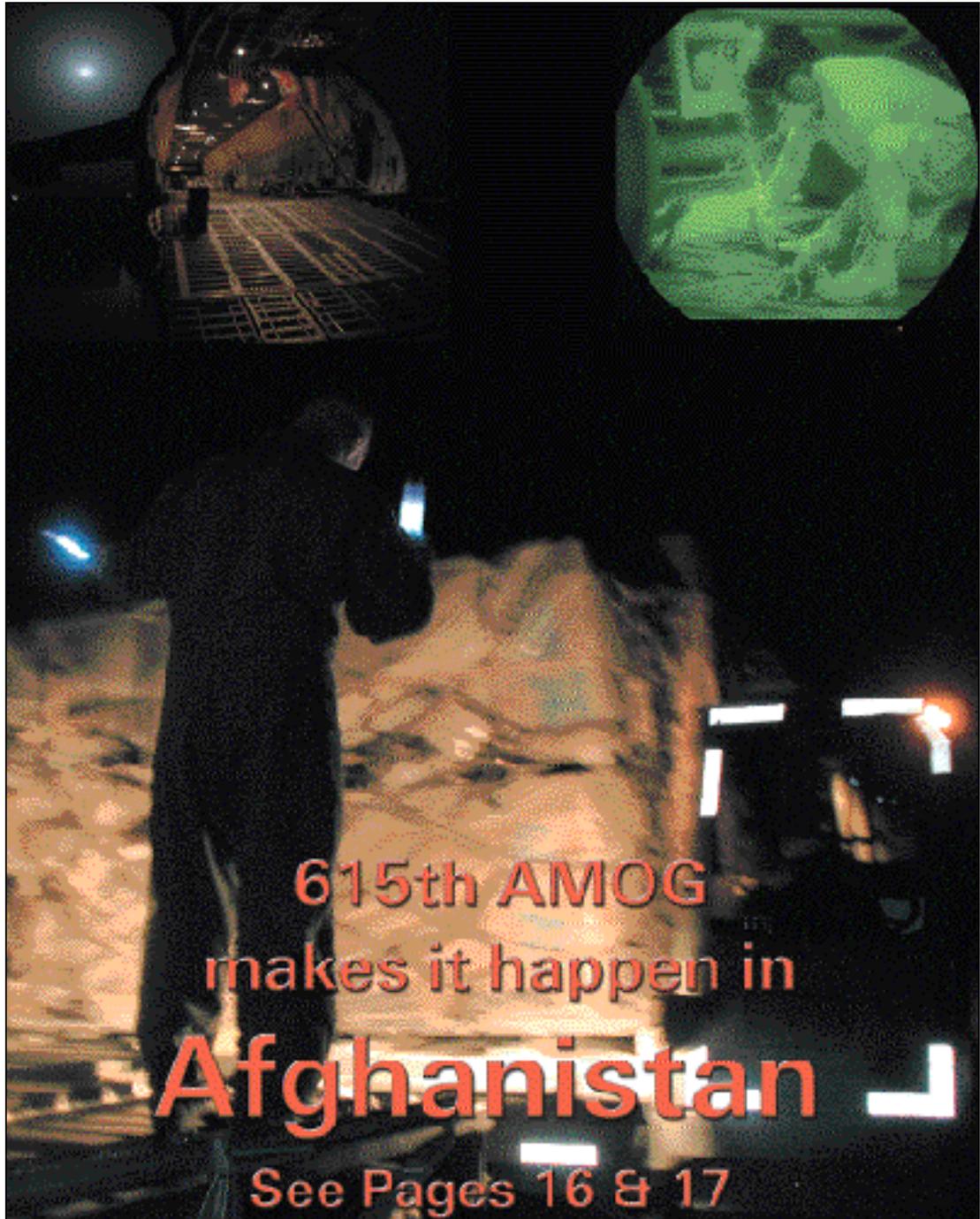
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93 up to date?



# Words from the top...

## 'Busy' is our new normal status

By Col. Dave Lefforge  
60th AMW commander

Thanks for another outstanding week! With the completion of our Crisis Look exercise last Sunday, we moved at a brisk pace into a very busy week with the visit by **General John W. Handy**, commander, U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command. It is an understatement to say he took notice of you, the Travis team ... and in his words, ours "is the most capable Air Mobility Wing in the entire Air Force." It is not hard to see why he'd feel that way.

### Crisis Look

If you ask anyone on base how they're doing these days ... the answer is usually simply stated and in one word, "busy." This is the new normal and is one that requires our vigilance to stay prepared for whatever may lay ahead, but also maintaining a focus on being safe - at home, work and on the road.

During our recent exercise Crisis Look, safety was one of the areas on which we focused heavily. The effort was a success in end results ... we deployed more than 800 people and 490 tons of associated cargo without incident. At every step, we took extra care to ensure our processes and people are as safe as they can be.

We discovered some areas for improvement in terms of procedure ... indications that this particular exercise did exactly what it was intended to do. Not only did we review our checklist compliance, but this event provided an environment to bring forward some of our younger folks to help them learn the mechanics of how we provide a quick, initial response to a crisis situ-

ation ... which is critical in this post Cold War world, where those situations are fairly commonplace.

### People First

Many of you are veterans of any number of these real world contingencies, whether they are Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Northern Watch, or many others of recent years. You have ensured our capability to take care of these missions ... the nation's business. You bring your honor, talent, commitment and ingenuity to work everyday and continue to accomplish more with less. I've encouraged our leadership to ensure you get the individual, family or group maintenance time to recharge ... I believe it's important that we take care of everyone ... at all levels.

One group of people I'd like to recognize are those who made the exercise effort come together ... the wing plans and exercise evaluation teams. I wish I could recognize everyone but at the very least I'd like to acknowledge those key members who were involved in the planning for several months. Key among these warriors are **Maj. Steve Lipscomb, Ms. Cheryl Brown, Maj. John Paulson, Tech Sgt. Nate Middleton, 1st Lt. Sarah Blanding, Senior Airman Kara Harlamour and Tech Sgt. Linda Drummond**, they did a good job under the leadership of **Lt. Col. Vic Jones**, and enabled our ability to show our fellow mobility warriors Travis' combat compliance and capability.

### September 11

I mentioned some weeks ago in my column that we'll be "busy" for a while ... and that bears out as we take a look at Septem-



Col. Dave Lefforge

ber, which is right around the corner.

At Travis, we'll honor the fallen of September 11 with a ceremony that will start at 6:45 a.m. at the Wing Headquarters flagpole. I encourage everyone to volunteer, to be part of this event ... and to come show respects during our 30-minute tribute. That single day has come to define a new era ... one that has by extension come to reshape our military and Air Force — a service born in the aftermath of war on Sept. 18, 1947 - around the time that Travis came into being.

You're doing a magnificent job of staying focused and prepared ... you ARE THE BEST!

## Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.  
60th Air Mobility Wing

Col. Dave Lefforge  
60th Air Mobility Wing commander

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## ACTION LINE

### TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

Call the Action Line at 424-3333



#### SSN concerns

I recently lost my military identification card and had it replaced with the new card. I am really surprised that they are still printing our social security numbers on them. I feel this is very dangerous considering all the scams people pull these days. Is there a way they can design the military ID card similar to the flight-line badges we are issued and print only the last four digits of our social security numbers?



A Current DoD policy dictates that full social security numbers be used on all

military service ID cards. DoD is aware of the growing risk of identity theft and has proposed a study to consider the following: Cost versus risk, impact on DoD and Service modifications of every computer system, every document (past and present) for millions of people, transition procedures, impact on other departments and commercial financial institutions such as Health and Human Services, Social Security Administration, Veteran Affairs and the Internal Revenue Service. Until a study is conducted and new directives are established the Air Force will continue to use the full social security number as the personal identifier within our records system per DoD directives.



#### Loud car stereos

I am the first sergeant at the 70th Air Refueling Squadron and have noticed an increase in the cars on base with loud music coming from them. While in uniform, I have asked people to turn their music down. The only answer I get is, "it's my car" and then the people drive off fast. Is there any briefing that can be given to the base populace regarding this matter?



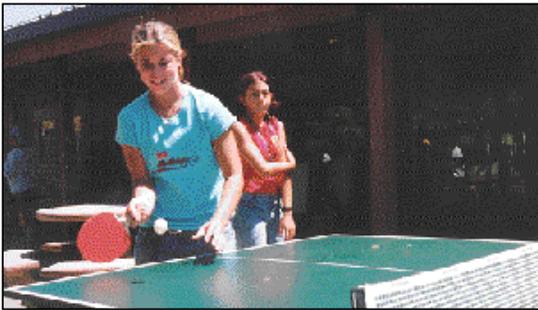
We appreciate your concern. The behavior you describe does not credit the image of the Air Force. In itself, this should be a reminder to all that customs and courtesies do not end when the duty day is over or when outside of your respective work section. Regarding loud music: it is a violation of California Vehicle Code 27007 for any driver to operate, or permit the operation of, any sound amplification system that can be heard outside a vehicle from more than 50 feet when the vehicle is being operated upon a highway. A highway is defined as a way or place of whatever nature, publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel. We would appreciate the support of the Travis community by reporting traffic violations through our Traffic Complaint Program. Citizens may call Security Forces Control Center at 424-2800 with the vehicle license plate state and number, description of the vehicle and occupant and also the location of the incident. Security Forces will obtain the owner's information through the California Law Enforcement Terminal System and in turn, notify the respective first sergeant for action.



SSgt. Jim Verchio / 60th AMW Public Affairs

**On the cover:** Members of the 615th Air Mobility Operations Group were instrumental to the success in Afghanistan. See pages 16 and 17 for the full story.

# Youth Camp



(Top right) Staff Sgt. Lee Lewis, camp counselor, gets attacked by Kai, a Travis military working dog, during a K-9 demonstration. (Above) Shayna Verchio, 13, gets ready to serve during a game of ping pong. (Right) Staff Sgt. Atisha Hunt, camp director, leads the staff and children as they recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



Photos by 1st Lt. Angela Arredondo/60th AMW Public Affairs

## DEFY teaches youth through positive role modeling

By 1st Lt. Angela Arredondo  
60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

Travis hosted a one-week Drug Education For Youth camp Aug. 5 to 9 for 58 children at Camp Walker Creek Ranch near Petaluma.

DEFY is a scientifically based program originally created by the Drug Demand Reduction Task Force. Local commanders throughout the Department of Defense sponsor the program, which is exclusively for children from military families.

"Our goal is to have our kids lead healthy, drug-free lives and become productive citizens through mentoring and positive influences," said Jane White, Travis DEFY program director.

The program begins with either a five-day residential program or an eight-day non-residential camp program in the summer. The demanding, yet fun-filled

week is followed by a year of mentoring. Participating children range from 9 to 12 years old. Camp counselors include active duty enlisted members, officers and government civilians. Each counselor is assigned to a group of about five to eight boys or girls.

DEFY focuses on building an awareness of the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs and the dangerous effects of peer pressure to join gangs. The program emphasizes positive youth organizations, building a strong self-image and developing interpersonal relationships, leadership skills and team building. It also offers education, skill building and positive experiences so that participants can choose healthy alternatives rather than substance abuse and gang involvement.

"I had a good time. Camp was a good opportunity for the kids to meet each other and learn about drug education. The kids really liked the security forces

presentation," said Staff Sgt. Albert DeLaOsa, camp counselor.

Camp activities included relay races, sea kayaking, singing, acting, nature hikes, games and classroom sessions. For example, the children made flags to represent the values and diversity of their groups. During some classroom sessions, the camp participants learned about team building and relationships through hands-on activities.

"I learned how to make new friends. I liked the shaving cream and water balloon fights too," said Steffany Furst, 12.

"I liked the camp fires and music and beach party and my counselors," said Jessica Johnson, 9. "My counselor Mo [Barrett] is really funny. When she walks into the room everyone smiles. My counselor Jen [Galgano] is good at telling us what to do for pranks and she helped me when I got sad."

The 60th Security Forces Squadron also sent representatives to perform a K-

9 demonstration Aug. 8. Kai, a Travis military working dog, and his handlers showed the children proper explosive detection techniques and law enforcement maneuvers.

The DEFY leadership hope participants gain numerous, constructive experiences through the program, ranging from creating lasting friendships to goal setting to physical fitness. Ultimately, they want the program to help military youth become better leaders and strengthen military communities.

Several upcoming DEFY activities are being planned. These include a homework club, making Easter baskets and a visit to a local prison.

"I look forward to getting together with the kids throughout the year," DeLaOsa said. "We would like to meet at least once a month to keep these kids busy and doing fun things. We want to educate them about poor choices and help them out if they get in trouble."

NEWS NOTES

**MPF closure**

Due to the 60th Mission Support Squadron Picnic the Military Personnel Flight will be closed today. ID cards will be issued by the 349th Air Mobility Wing customer service section Bldg. 239. The base education center will close at 11 a.m. and the First Term Airman Center will be closed at noon.

**Finance closure**

The 60th Comptroller Squadron will close at 11 a.m. today for a squadron function. Customers will have to return the following week for financial needs.

**Sept. 11 ceremony**

Travis will be paying respect and courtesy on the anniversary of Sep 11 by having a remembrance ceremony at the 60th AMW flagpole at 6:45 a.m. There will be a 21-gun salute and the Travis Honor Guard will perform reveille. All Travis personnel and families are encouraged to attend.

**Auditions**

Auditions will be held for the Travis youth Center's Russian style ballet's Christmas performance Monday. The times for the auditions are 6 p.m. for ages three to seven, 7 p.m. for ages seven and up, and 8 p.m. for jazz dancers. To be eligible to audition, you must be enrolled in the ballet program at the Youth Center. For more information, call Jenny Doyle at 437-1374.

**ANG opportunities**

The Hayward Air National Guard Station is looking to fill some critical career fields. The career fields needed are: engineering assistant, electronic computer and switching systems, ground radio, satcom and wideband and services. Those leaving active duty who are interested should call Staff Sgt. Vic Dumlaao at (510) 264-5603.

**Proper courtesy**

Remember the proper customs and courtesies when out and about at Travis. One item in particular is rendering the proper hand salute when staff vehicles pass that are marked with the insignia of an O-6 or above.

# General Handy thanks Travis for hard work, dedication



Gen. John W. Handy, Air Mobility Command commander, far left, and Chief Master Sgt. Mike Kerver, AMC command chief, center, act as judges for a cook-off contest at an ice breaker held at the Logistics Group building Monday.

Airman 1st Class Alice Moore / 60th AMW Public Affairs

## Questions and answers from AMC commander-in-chief

**1st Lt. Angela Arredondo**  
60th AMW Public Affairs

*As an integral part of U.S. Transportation Command, Travis AFB has stepped up to the challenges of contributing to the command's incredible mission — to provide air, land and sea transportation for the Department of Defense, both in time of peace and war. Gen. John W. Handy, Commander in Chief, U.S. Transportation Command, and Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., visited Travis this week and the Tailwind had a chance to meet with him. Here are excerpts from the interview:*

**Q:** USTRANSCOM is a unified command composed of the Army Military Traffic Management Command, Navy Military Sealift Command and Air Force Air Mobility Command. Each has been heavily relied upon since Sept. 11. What is AMC's role in the USTRANSCOM Operation Enduring Freedom mission?

**A:** We look at all of the warfighter transportation requirements for deployment, redeployment and sustainment of forces. As we get those requirements, we have to consider priority, urgency and what is the best way to get something anywhere in the world. We make a balanced decision. The piece AMC sees is whatever requires air. We divert a lot to sealift other ways. There is an awful lot of work that AMC doesn't see which goes that way but the work that does come to AMC is distributed. Moving everything anywhere around the world is an awesome task.

**Q:** Overall, how does Travis compare with other AMC bases?

**A:** I am impressed by the attitude, teamwork, professionalism and appearance here. Everything I have seen here at

Travis is truly remarkable. This is the only wing where you can see the capability of an incredible aircraft like the C-5 and KC-10 sitting together. This is probably the most capable air mobility wing in the whole Air Force. It's no wonder that the people of Travis — because of this tremendous capability — are working hard as part of the air mobility team. It's one of the reasons why I came out here so soon in my unit visits so I could visit both 15th Air Force and the wing. I also spent a lot of time with the 615th Air Mobility Operations Group, which is another component of this business and extraordinary contributor to the war fight.

**Q:** As a result of the war against terrorism, the operations tempo has increased. How is Air Mobility Command dealing with the increase and is any relief coming soon?

**A:** As I look to the future I don't think anything is going to change. We have hit a "steady surge state." We will see some peaks over time. For the most part, this "marathon" that we are in is going to last as far as I can see into the future. We as leaders, commanders, directors, superintendents and supervisors have to look at — even though we are in a "marathon" — how do we find ways to rest our people, look at work schedules, mitigate the challenges, and help families. We have to look at how do we pull together as a team to make sure we are not overstressing any one piece of the team or any one person. We are going to be tasked in a war on terrorism for a long time to come and we are learning as we go. People everywhere are dealing with this question but the answer is the most difficult part.

**Q:** OPSTEMPO is just one facet of quality of life. What is AMC's focus on improving other quality of life areas?

**A:** I am concerned about people, in par-

ticular their families. We want to continue to improve quality of life. We are looking at military family housing, to the functioning of the child development center at Travis, to the base exchange and commissary, to the extraordinary fitness center. It's a total team looking at the things that we need to consider. That's what I am taking back to Scott AFB. The nation is blessed to have Travis and the people who work here.

**Q:** You have met a broad range of Travis people during your visit this week. Is there anything else you would like to say to the men and women of Travis AFB, especially to those who were not able to meet you?

**A:** I want to express my deep appreciation to all of the people of Travis — from both wings of the 60th and 349th, all of the civilians, military and the families — which make up the whole team. "Thanks" almost sounds too easy or short and sweet but this is really an all-encompassing "Thank you." Thanks for your dedication, support, professionalism and eagerness to step up when the crunch comes and do well.

I feel a sense of pride as I watch the accomplishments of Air Mobility Command, which are certainly manifested by the people here at Travis. It's an amazing bit of work to see the C-5 and KC-10 and all that they represent coming together for the mission here. It's a huge source of pride. I know, because I've been there, how hard it is to make it happen. It looks easy, but you know that people are really working hard. They have long days and lots of deployment time.

Air Force senior leadership and staff are working hard on the issues we deal with. We are constantly working on operations tempo, housing, quality of life and all of those things our people face. These are major issues for our Air Force and we are constantly working to make life better.



Airmen 1st Class Alice Moore / 60th AAWM Public Affairs

**Exercise, exercise:** (From left) Airman Amanda Simonsen, an engineering apprentice assigned to the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron, (facing) 1st Lt. Josh Tyler, commander's action team representative assigned to the 60th Support Group and Master Sgt. Robert Griffin, commander's action team representative work in the Unit Control Center at the Support Group during the wing's exercise last week.

## CCAF offers FAA certification for engine maintainers

By Carl Bergquist  
Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFP) — After four years in development, a new certification program offered by the Community College of the Air Force could replace the title "aircraft mechanic" with "Federal Aviation Administration-certified aviation maintenance technician" for airmen working on military aircraft.

The Joint Service Aviation Maintenance Technician Certification Council, chartered by the Department of Defense, recently developed and implemented an FAA-approved airframe and power plant training and certification program for airmen in the aircraft maintenance field, said Master Sgt. J. R. Breeding, CCAF's chief of aviation technical degree programs.

"For the Air Force, CCAF will manage and administer the program," Breeding said. "The primary goal of the Air Force was to develop a voluntary A&P certification program with tangible benefits for both the Air Force and the individual, and that has been accomplished."

The program standardizes and streamlines the eligibility process for aircraft maintenance troops in obtaining FAA A&P certification, he said. More than 1,700 airmen are currently enrolled in the program.

Benefits of the program are impressive, Breeding said, including 30 semester hours of college credit awarded by CCAF toward its Aviation Maintenance Technology Associate in Applied Science degree and an agenda, that makes the airman a more diverse and well-rounded technician.

"It's been a long time coming and took a lot of work," said Tech Sgt. Gregory Doss, non-commissioned officer in charge of the FAA certification program for CCAF. "It promises to be a great program, and what we hear from supporters is, 'It's about time.'"

While it is an excellent recruitment and retention tool, more importantly, it helps the Air Force take care of our air-

craft maintenance troops, Breeding said.

On-the-job and computer-based training and distance learning courses help mechanics obtain a certification that provides experience with and exposure to a broad range of aircraft systems, he said. Certification also can help the person get closer to earning a college degree.

"I feel troops will view the program as a valuable resource for developing critical skills for their Air Force careers and will also consider the program very beneficial for future civilian employment," Breeding said.

The commercial airline industry has expressed its approval of the program because of a projected 106,000 mechanic shortage by 2010, and retiring or separating service-members with the FAA certification will help fill that gap, said Tech. Sgt. Jason Munn, program manager.

For "cream of the crop" mechanics, who have a 7-skill level and extensive aircraft maintenance experience, the program fine-tunes their abilities, Breeding said.

"If you have a technical degree from CCAF and an FAA certification, you are highly marketable in the aviation industry following retirement or separation," he said.

By charter, one voting member each from the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard comprise the certification council. FAA and industry advisors and technical representatives from various disciplines round out the team.

The council meets annually to address issues of importance regarding all aspects of an aircraft maintenance technicians training and experience, and any military aviation technician may submit topics for consideration to the council through council members, the chairperson or a military service point of contact.

"Having CCAF involved from day one really sold the FAA on this program," Breeding said. "We have a professional relationship with the FAA. The administration know and value CCAF's institutional integrity."



**Conquer the world of words.**

Read a book at the base library.

**Seatbelts are hugs from your car!**

# AF extends 14k mobilized Guard, Reserve members

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force will be extending the mobilization of more than 14,000 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members into a second year because of the continuing requirements of operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

The plan is to keep these people mobilized just long enough for the active force to realign manpower so that requirements created by the war against terror can be supported by a more predictable steady state process, said John C. Truesdell, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Reserve Affairs at the Pentagon.

Despite these tour extensions, Air Force leaders are committed to demobilizing these people as soon as possible, Truesdell said.

There are several initiatives currently underway to transform the active duty force structure to alleviate its stressed career fields and tailor it to meet the new 21st century requirements. These initiatives seek to free up active duty air-

men from nonmilitary-essential tasks and use those assets in stressed specialties such as security forces.

Nearly 67 percent of the air reserve component members who are having their tours extended are filling security forces requirements, Truesdell said.

The Air Force has not been able to meet the increased security forces requirements from within the active duty force and the continued support of the Guard and Reserve is crucial to protecting the force.

"Senior Air Force leaders understand the concerns this announcement may create among extended air reserve component members and one action they are taking is to seek legislative relief in two bills introduced to Congress," Truesdell said.

"The first bill seeks congressional approval to authorize the Air Force to contract out certain administrative security forces functions to reduce the number of positions that must be filled by active duty or reserve security forces," he said. "The companion amendment, if passed, would allow active Guard and Reserve tours from the Air Force Reserve to be used for

security forces functions."

These two bills aren't a cure-all, Truesdell said, but combined with ongoing initiatives, they will help bring down the number of people who must be extended through their second year and, hopefully, return some predictability back to Guard and Reserve members.

"This predictability is important if we hope to retain our people, their families and the employers," Truesdell said.

"We are working hard to constantly improve our communication with the many audiences involved with this war effort, especially our people, their families, employers and every member of Congress. The operative word here is 'retention.' We want our whole team to know that we really appreciate all that they've done for us already but that we still need their continued support to finish the job.

"We want to retain our Guard and Reserve members and must give them the predictability in their lives they deserve. We know they are patriotic and want to serve the country but we also understand that reality rears its ugly head and they have to pay a mortgage or return to their roles in the civilian sector."

## Flexibility enables Reserve to support AEF

Air Force Print News

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — The war on terrorism now requires that the Air Force review the construct of the Air and Space Expeditionary Force in order to meet new wartime commitments.

AEF, the blueprint for deploying expeditionary forces, designed in part to provide greater stability and predictability for the men and women of the Air Force, has been strained but not broken by the war. As much as possible during the war, the Air Force wants to ensure its promise of deployment predictability and stability for its members and their families.

To address recent concerns, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Robert Foglesong established a new office, special assistant to the chief of staff for AEF Matters, to operate for at least one year to review, clarify and publish AEF policy and guidance. In addition, every other month, major command vice commanders, a group of Air Staff lieutenant generals and representatives of the AEF Center will meet with the vice chief of staff as the "AEF Forum" to review and refine the AEF structure.

"As the dynamic of war fighting changes, the Air Force must change. That is the strength of the Air Force," said Maj. Gen. Wallace W. Whaley, director of operations at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. "The AEF structure will help balance the forces, and we can then provide a high degree of predictability for our people who are deploying. We have historically taken care of

our people when we go through these kinds of changes."

AFRC must continue to reorganize in order to meet the new demands of war, the general said. In doing so, it may require training and restructuring in numbers of unit type codes and pieces of units. UTCs are five-character, alphanumeric codes that identify each type of military skill.

Whaley acknowledged that one concern facing the Air Force in the war on terrorism is that certain specialty codes, such as security forces and fire fighters, are stressed.

"Every time we fight, we learn new lessons, and we should," he said. "That is the dynamic of the changing Air Force because we don't know where we will fight next. One lesson we've learned is the flexibility of the AEF construct to fight this type of war."

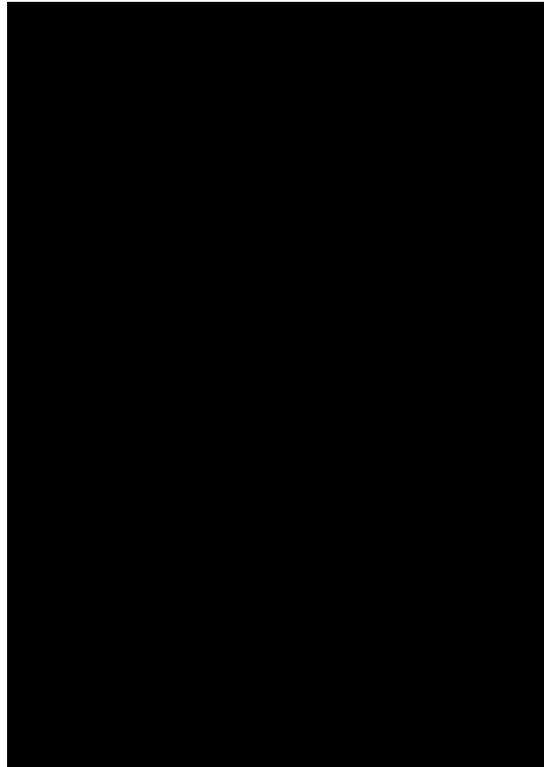
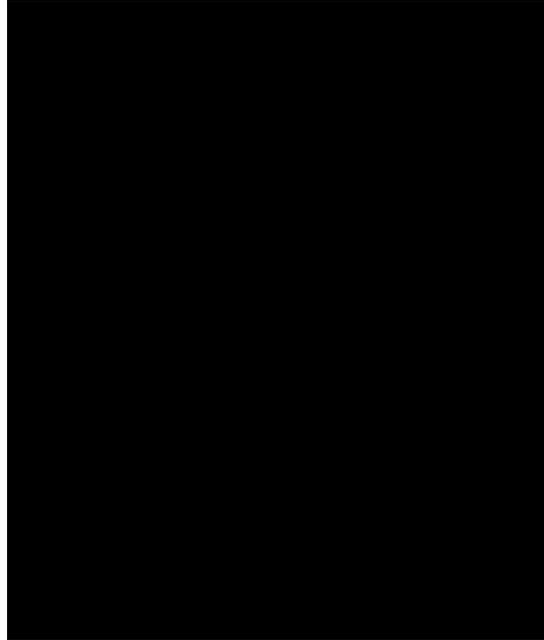
Despite the shakeup of war, up to 90 percent of forces can still count on returning home at their scheduled time. Replacements should continue to receive up to 120-day notices before deploying. One reason for the high percentage of timely tours can be attributed to the large number of reservists volunteering for deployments.

"In my 34 years of service, I have never seen volunteerism like it is now, and that has kept the mobilization numbers relatively calm," Whaley said.

"We have always prided ourselves in the Reserve as being deployable," Whaley said. "When this command says it is going to do something, we do it and we do it right."

### Are you ready?

TDY's, deployments, family emergencies, remote assignments? Call the Family Support Center at 424-2486 and receive a free Air Force Readiness Packet.



**HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASES**

Fill out the Department of Defense Form 2266 and bring it in to the Public Affairs Office in Bldg. 51, Room 232.

# All in the family



**Airman 1st Class Tarkan Dospil** / 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

*Master Sgt. Carol Schnichels, from the 379th Expeditionary Services Squadron, serves a to-go box to her son, Airman 1st Class Casey Schnichels, at a forward-deployed location. Both are deployed from Grand Forks AFB, N.D.*

## Mom, son fight war on terrorism together

**By Airman 1st Class Tarkan Dospil**  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM** — The Schnichels family has done a great job of sticking together.

Not only are three of them bearing the same last name stationed together at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., but two are fighting the war on terrorism at the same forward-deployed location in the Arabian Gulf region.

Master Sgt. Carol Schnichels, a food service supervisor for the 379th Expeditionary Services Squadron, and her son, Airman 1st Class Casey Schnichels, a crew chief for the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, arrived here within three weeks of each other.

"It happened totally by chance," Carol said.

Her son, Casey, was originally going to deploy to another forward location, but was instead sent here. Fate was with them, Casey said.

"We knew within a couple of days that he was going to be coming here," she said. "I'm not sure if he was excited about it, but I know probably half of the camp knew after I found out."

The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing here is one of the largest units in the region, supported by KC-10 Extenders and KC-135 Stratotankers. The wing has delivered more than 250 million pounds of fuel in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I didn't really mind being deployed with her," 20-year-old Casey said. "We're stationed together back at Grand Forks, so it wasn't too big of a deal."

The family seems to be inseparable. Casey's father, David, is a master sergeant and aircraft maintenance superintendent at Grand Forks. Casey is a crew chief in the same squadron.

Togetherness is a concept the Schnichels embrace, according to Casey, who said that his family has always been close and he enjoys his parents' company.

"I've never had a problem with my family," he said. "I like being with them."

Unfortunately, Carol and Casey do not get to see each other here as much as they would like. They work different shifts and usually have different days off. They consider the moments they have seen each other as quality time.

"When he first arrived, we had coffee and chatted," Carol said. "That's when I really realized, 'Wow, he's really here with me.'"

Having a family member deployed at the same location could be considered a dream come true for many warfighters. Some only have contact with their family through a phone call, letter or e-mail. Carol is lucky enough to experience a family member in the same tent city.

"It's great. It makes the time here so much easier because I know I'm not alone," she said.

Carol said she will not have the opportunity to deploy with her husband, as this is her last trip before she retires soon at Grand Forks. He deployed in March and will probably deploy again sometime soon, she said.

But being with her son is a perfect way to close a 21-year Air Force career, she said.

"You can't get enough of your children," she said. "If I could, I would have brought all three with me."

# Child safety directly related to use of child safety seats

60th Air Mobility Wing Safety Office

"We're only going to the grocery store."  
"He'll stop crying if I hold him on my lap."  
"She thinks she's too old."

Does any of this sound familiar? They're all common reasons parents give for not putting their children in appropriate child safety seats or safety belts.

Unfortunately, unrestrained or improperly restrained children are far more likely to be injured, to suffer more severe injuries, and to die in the event of a vehicle accident.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death. According to the Department of Transportation in 1999, 1,684 child occupants ages 14 and under died in motor vehicle crashes, and in 2000 an estimated 248,000 were injured.

Even if you're a careful driver, you can't control other drivers' behavior or eliminate the possibility of a crash. However, you can greatly reduce the risk that your children will be seriously injured or killed.

The bottom line is that how your child rides in your car may be just as important as external factors such as vehicle speed and road conditions. According to National studies riding unrestrained is the single greatest risk factor for death and injury among child motor vehicle occupants.

If your child is one of the approximately 29 percent of children ages 4 and under who ride unrestrained, he is at twice the risk of death and injury as those who are restrained in vehicles.

The single most important thing you can do to protect your children is to buckle them up properly, every time. It works: it's estimated that more than 300 children ages 4 and under were saved as a result of child restraint use in 1999.

Child safety seats, when correctly installed and used, reduce the risk of death by up to 71 percent. They also reduce the need for hospitalization by 69 percent for children ages 4 and under. But finding the right seat can be confusing. It's important to use a seat that is appropriate for your child's age and size, and that fits properly in your vehicle. Here are some guidelines that can help:

▶ All children ages 12 and under should ride in the back seat.

▶ Infants should be in rear-facing child safety seats until at least 20 pounds and at least 1 year old. Never put a rear-facing infant or convertible safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle with an active passenger air bag.

▶ Children over 1 year old and between 20 and 40 pounds can be in forward-facing child safety seats, or in rear-facing convertible seats if the child has not reached the maximum rear-facing weight.

▶ Children ages 4 to 8 (about 40 to 80 pounds) should be in a booster seat and restrained with lap and shoulder belts every time they ride. Adult safety belts alone do not adequately protect children this size from injury in a crash.

▶ You can also call the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Auto Safety Hotline, (888) 327-4236, or check this Web site for updated product recall information.

The 660th Aircraft Generation Squadron, along with USAA Educational Foundation, will be sponsoring a Child Safety Seat Inspection in the Base Exchange parking lot on Aug. 27, from 2 to 5 p.m.. The public is invited.

For more information, contact Senior Airman Kevin Davis at 424-7286.

Story submissions to the Tailwind are due by 4:30 p.m. the Friday prior to publication to Bldg. 51, Room 231. Include the author's name, title and duty phone.

## Take steps to avoid becoming a casualty of the weather

By Master Sgt. Walter Sanders  
60th Civil Engineer Squadron

Knowing what to do during inclement weather is the best way to ensure the safety of you and your family no matter where you are.

There are steps you can take to prevent becoming a casualty of the weather. In extremely hot weather, drink plenty of fluids and take frequent breaks when working outside. Wear a hat to keep the sun off of your head. If possible, try to get most of your work done early before the afternoon sun becomes too intense.

Carolyn Morgan of the 60th Air Mobility Wing Safety Office said everyone working outdoors in hot weather needs to pace themselves, keep

### When it's hot, play it cool.

hydrated, take rest breaks, and keep an eye on their buddy for signs of heat related illness.

She said, When it's hot, play it cool.

The following safety tips will help Travis people survive the heat:

- 1) Slow down. Strenuous activities should be reduced, eliminated or rescheduled to the coolest time of the day.
- 2) Drink plenty of water or other non-alcoholic fluids. Your body needs water to keep

cool. Drink fluids even if you don't feel thirsty. People who have epilepsy or heart, kidney or liver disease, or are on fluid restrictive diets, or have problems with fluid retention, should consult a physician before increasing their consumption of fluids.

3) Do not drink alcoholic beverages in extreme hot weather and limit beverages containing caffeine.

4) Stay in the coolest available place, not necessarily indoors.

5) Don't get too much sun, and use sunscreen. A sunburn makes the job of heat dissipation much more difficult.

6) Never leave children or pets unattended for any length of time in a car. A closed car can quickly heat up to well over 100 degrees.

# Pets & Us



Courtesy photo

Owner, Christine Kennedy, calms 12-week-old Bailey during his puppy check-up with Travis Veterinarian, Stan Cliff.

## Army keeps Travis pets healthy

By Linda Mann  
60th Services Squadron

Pet owners know how important the health and happiness of their pet is to the entire family. Often, a loved dog or cat is considered as much a part of the family as the children. The Air Force understands this and provides quality health care for those furry family members through the Travis Veterinary Clinic.

The primary mission of the veterinary treatment facility, located across the street from Burger King, is preventative medicine. This involves procedures such as vaccination, heartworm testing and prevention and treatment for internal and external parasites. They also implant ID microchips in cats and dogs so owners can be found more quickly.

"We also provide limited sick call for minor medical problems, such as ear and skin infections, but we are not able to provide urgent, emergency or extended treatment. We encourage clients to establish a relationship with a local civilian veterinary hospital," said Stan Cliff, Travis veterinarian.

Cliff says the best way to find a good veterinarian is by asking friends for their recommendations.

There have been many improvements in the quality of

veterinary care in the last ten years.

"There have been dramatic improvements in external parasite treatment—flea and tick control products," Cliff said. "We have seen more use of microchip ID systems, better medications for a wide variety of problems such as arthritis, more utilization of pet health insurance and greater utilization of and access to board certified veterinarians in specialties such as ophthalmology, surgery and oncology."

The clinic makes use of new products and procedures and sells many quality products and medications to pet owners.

In addition to preventative care, the veterinary clinic can make sure pets are ready to travel when military members receive a permanent change of duty station.

"We help facilitate the interstate and international movement of pets by issuing health certificates and helping people comply with travel requirements. We strongly recommend that people contact us regarding international movement of pets as long before their PCS as possible," Cliff said.

Taking care of family pets is only one of the rolls of the clinic. Army Maj. Abbie Whitehead is the base veterinarian in charge of the care of the military working dogs at Travis.

"The Army Veterinary Corps

provides the medical care for military working dogs and privately owned animals of all branches of the military. At Travis, the veterinary clinic is operated by the Army Veterinary Corps in alliance with both the 60th Services Squadron and the David Grant Medical Center," Cliff explained.

Cliff and Whitehead have both been veterinarians since 1990. Whitehead has only been stationed at Travis since last year, but Cliff has been part of the Travis community since 1997 when the clinic was completely remodeled. He also appreciates the convenience of the new upgraded computer system that came online in 2001.

To honor the 10th anniversary of the Air Mobility Command, the Travis Veterinary clinic will be giving out ATWIND game pieces and ATWIND Passport stamps to all who stop by the clinic from Aug. 19 to 23. There will also be selected pet products on sale for 10 percent off.

The clinic is open to pets of owners who qualify for David Grant Medical Center. Travis Veterinary Services, located at 411 Lane St., Bldg. 243, is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. on Monday through Friday. All services are by appointment only. To make an appointment, call 424-3010 during office hours.

# SQUADRON SPOTLIGHT

## 9th Air Refueling Squadron

### TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

**Commander**

Lt. Col. Bruce VanSkiver

**First Sergeant**

Master Sgt. Debra Capps

**Mission**

The 9th Air Refueling Squadron mobilizes and deploys 12 KC-10 aircraft with more than 140 combat-ready personnel and equipment to worldwide forward operating locations. The squadron ensures global reach for America by generating 24-hour-a-day strategic airlift and aerial-refueling sorties supporting U.S. and allied forces during contingency operations. They provide training for 24 aircrews tasked to support Joint Chiefs of Staff - directed missions and executes an 8,000-plus flying hour program and a \$580,000 budget. The world's "peerless" air refuelers off-loaded over 70 million pounds of fuel on 1420-plus sorties last year flying strategic airlift for the Travis Team effort and delivery of more than 64,000 tons of critical cargo and passengers.

**Capabilities & Recent Significant Events**

The 9th ARS was one of the first units

to respond to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. During the past year, the 9th ARS has been extremely busy with the high operations tempo demanded by the Operation Enduring Freedom deployments as well as regularly scheduled missions. The members of the 9th played key roles in accomplishing 2,374 KC-10 OEF sorties, off-loading more than 22,000,000 pounds of fuel and fulfilling 109 percent of air tasking order requirements. They also planned and executed 82 global Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployments and 47 Presidential sorties. In the past year, the 9th has flown former President Clinton, Alan Greenspan, Jay Leno, Senator McCain, Senator Leiberman and members of a NASCAR team, among others.

**Unit Recognition**

60th Air Mobility Wing Commander's Trophy, Second Quarter  
 Fifteenth Air Force nominee for General Doolittle Award, General Spaatz Award, General Hoyt Award, General Hap Arnold Award  
 Best Air Refueling Squadron in Fifteenth



Capt. Kim Garbett / 60th AMW Public Affairs

Members of the 9th Air Refueling Squadron inspect a panel inside one of Travis' KC-10 Extenders.

**Air Force (ASEV)**

**Individual Recognition**

Fifteenth Air Force nominee for the Carlton Award for Valor: Maj. Joeseeph DeMraco  
 60th Operations Group Junior Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Katrina Gieselman  
 60th OG Junior CGO/First Quarter:

**Capt. Sean Lee**

60th OG Airman /Second Quarter and below-the-zone recipient: Senior Airman Kimberly VeraCruz  
 60th OG Aircrew of the Month (March): Capt. Thom Adkins, Capt. Phil Smith, Staff Sgt. E. J. Abalos, Technical Sgt. Al Leaton  
 Below-the-Zone Recipient: Senior Airman Jamie Morton

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Not everybody looks  
out for motorcycles.

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For more information, call the  
Tailwind at 424-2011.*



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Ride program. Telephone  
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taxi companies are:

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446-1144

**Yellow Cab of Sacramento:**  
916-442-4696

Air Force considers  
Expeditionary Combat  
Support training

**By Cynthia Bauer**  
*Air Mobility Command Public Affairs*

**SCOTT AIR FORCE**  
BASE, Ill. (AFP) — As the  
Air Force continues to adopt  
an Air and Space Expedi-  
tionary Force mindset, Air  
Mobility Command seeks to  
help by creating Expedi-  
tionary Combat Support  
training.

"The Air Force chief of  
staff is very focused on Expe-  
ditionary Combat Support,"  
said Lt. Gen. John R. Baker,  
AMC vice-commander. "ECS  
represents the essential  
capabilities, functions, activi-  
ties and tasks necessary to  
quickly deploy anywhere in  
the world to set up and sus-  
tain aviation and ground  
combat operations in any  
environment, from a major  
existing base to bare-base  
locations like the ones that  
we found in Afghanistan.  
They were in pretty sad  
shape before we made them  
operational. To do that, you  
need to create an expedi-  
tionary mindset, and a train-  
ing environment where we  
can synchronize the training  
of all the right ECS special-  
ties.

"Right now the training  
for all that exists, but it's in  
different places and segre-  
gated by specialty," said  
Baker.

Air Force leaders are  
exploring the option to cre-  
ate a center for excellence for  
ECS contingency training.

AMC's primary contin-  
gency training, Phoenix  
Readiness, is one possibility.  
This program brings togeth-  
er more than 20 Air Force  
specialties from all com-

mands, with a focus on the  
expeditionary nature of the  
Air Force. The Air Mobility  
Warfare Center at Fort Dix,  
N.J., near McGuire AFB,  
conducts the training.

"You could think of it as  
the 'Red Flag' of Expedi-  
tionary Combat Support  
with Air Mobility Command  
as the host," said Baker.

The training would also  
support the chief of staff's  
AEF vision to deploy units  
as a flight, squadron or  
wing.

Plans are for the AMWC  
to expand and consolidate  
core training, so that not  
only the deploying leader-  
ship, but also mid-level  
supervisors, officers and non-  
commissioned officers, have  
the opportunity to learn  
about each other's capabili-  
ties and limitations and how  
they work together.

Baker said the training  
would allow airmen from dif-  
ferent ECS specialties to  
learn how to deploy as cohe-  
sive expeditionary flights,  
squadrons or wings, then  
together, build, augment or  
sustain a forward operating  
location.

"We want to have the  
capability to tailor a force  
with the right kind of leader-  
ship and understand how  
they mesh together," Baker  
said. "If they're going to an  
airfield that already has a  
military presence, you don't  
need as many people. If  
you're going to a place that's  
been bombed and its build-  
ings are all blown up, and  
the communication infra-  
structure is a chocolate  
mess, you're going to need a  
lot of different people."



**Reuse**  
**Reduce**  
**Recycle**  
**at Travis**

# Checklist ensures Team Travis safety

## 60th AMW Wing Plans

More than 1,175 people and about 800 short tons of cargo were involved in a dry run Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspections Initial Response exercise conducted here last week. Exercise Evaluation Team members checked for several safety items during a dry run exercise conducted last week here. Exercise participants should implement the safety checklist listed below during another dry run exercise scheduled Sept. 26 through 29 and for the official EORI Initial Response set for Oct. 15 through 23.

▶ Hand protection — Leather gloves should be worn during activities where there is a hand hazard. Examples include pushing pallets, loading boxes, material handling, connecting and disconnecting tow bars and using sharp objects.

▶ Shoes — Safety-toe shoes are mandatory for anyone handling materials where objects could be dropped on feet.

▶ Glasses and goggles — Safety glasses or goggles are required if loose debris may fall in the worker's face and eyes.

▶ Seatbelts — All Travis motorists and passengers should wear seatbelts at all times.

▶ Flightline traffic — Flightline traffic flow must follow the yellow lines. The driver's door

should always be closest to the aircraft. If the driver's seat is not occupied, the vehicle must be placed in park or neutral, reverse for manual transmission. Set the parking brake, leave keys in the ignitions and chock the vehicle if there is no parking break. Preposition chocks between the vehicle and aircraft when within 10 feet of the aircraft.

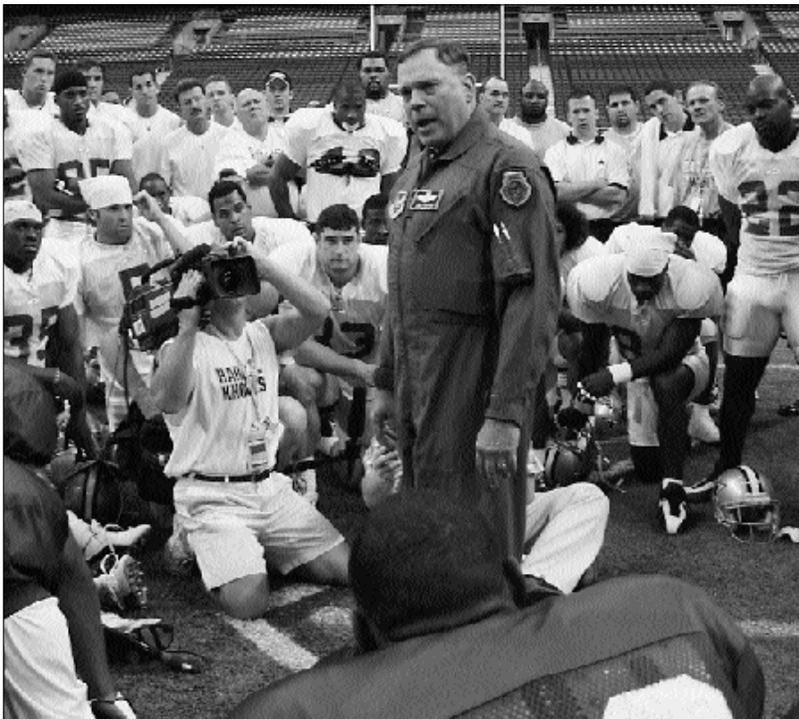
▶ Flightline speed limits — 15 miles per hour for general purpose vehicles, 5 mph within 25 feet of an aircraft, 10 mph limit for forklifts, 5 mph within 25 feet of an aircraft, 10 mph when towing one stand or equipment, 5 mph when towing two or more. Use a safety pin in latches on pintle hook when equipment is being towed.

▶ Reflective belts — Use them during hours of darkness or low light.

▶ Hearing protection — Use for hazardous noise areas such as when blocking aircraft in or out, during engine runs or when near loud equipment.

▶ Explosives — Flare-loaded aircraft require explosive signs at the front and rear of the aircraft. Aircraft being loaded on the H-13 and H-14 require explosive placard for the class of explosive.

▶ Rings — People engaged in maintenance activities cannot wear finger rings.



Master Sgt. Michael Briggs / AFPN

**America's Team:** Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper talks with members of the Dallas Cowboys at the Alamodome Monday. Jumper's visit was part of Air Force Day sponsored by the Dallas Cowboys during their summer training camp being held here.

# Drug policy expands testing

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is continuing its anti-drug efforts with a new policy that involves more frequent random testing of active duty military, reservists and civilian employees.

Signed by Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz July 31, the new policy reflects the reality that the nation is at war, Andre Hollis, deputy assistant secretary of defense for counternarcotics, said Aug. 13.

"It's even more critical during war that our service members are mentally alert and physically fit. Drug use is inconsistent with that," he emphasized. "I'm sure that's the message you'll hear from the NCOs all the way up to the secretary of defense."

Hollis said he was tasked to do a bottom-up review of DoD's drug policy after assuming his job in August last year. The new policy is a result of that review, he noted. The primary purpose of the policy is to reduce demand for and the use of illegal drugs within DoD.

"We're going to increase our testing across all the services — active, National Guard and Reserve," he said. "That's very important, because all of our men and women in uniform and civilian members of DoD are involved in this war effort. It's critical that we all give 100 percent and that we're drug-free and able to

## DoD initiates tougher standards to weed out offenders

help the secretary and the president in this war on terror."

Hollis said the new policy also calls for minimum, across-the-board consequences for anyone in DoD — military or civilian — caught using drugs. He said that he noticed during his review that rules varied across the services regarding drug use.

For example, he explained, in the past service members of different branches found using drugs under the same circumstances might have received different punishments. DoD is working closely with the services to come up with minimum uniformity to improve not only the sense of fairness, but also the clarity of the message, he said.

Hollis noted that message is simple: Drug use is incompatible with military service or civilian employment at DoD.

"Drug use is not going to be tolerated. There are

going to be consequences," he emphasized. "We will not tolerate it." Abusers, he said, could be subject to dishonorable discharges, dismissals, prison time, fines and criminal records.

Responding to some media reports that allege a great increase in illegal drug use within the military, Hollis asserted, "Not so."

Recent DoD statistics bear out his contention there is no drug epidemic in the ranks. There is, however, a modest increase in the overall percentage of active duty troops testing positive for so-called club drugs during the past three years, he noted.

For example, in fiscal 1999, 1.11 percent of the 1.1 million active duty service members tested were positive for illegal drugs. The positive rate for those tested in fiscal 2000 was 1.32 percent, and in fiscal 2001, 1.45 percent.

Hollis explained the increase by noting that more random testing by the services in recent years has been catching more drug users. Under the new policy, he asserted, random drug testing will become even more frequent.

Second, the services have significantly increased their ability to test for club drugs increasingly favored by younger people, he said. Upgraded laboratory technology also enables testers to detect a subject's drug

■ SEE **TESTING** ON PAGE 14



David Grant Medical Center

**TRICARE**

presents

The annual Health Fair today  
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the  
main entrance to the hospital



For more information,  
call 423-7300

**TESTING** / From Page 13

use further back in time than was previously possible, he added.

In fact, more service members are indeed being busted these days for having the club drug ecstasy in their systems. DoD statistics show 495 ecstasy abusers among the 12,264 active duty service members found abusing illegal drugs in fiscal 1999. With more stringent drug screening standards in place, Ecstasy users totaled 1,744 out of the 16,759 abusers caught in fiscal 2001.

Those numbers hardly represent an ecstasy epidemic, Hollis pointed out. DoD statistics show the fiscal 1999 and 2001 active duty populations to be steady at roughly 1.3 million. The test pools

were 1.105 million active duty members sampled in fiscal 1999 and 1.157 million in fiscal 2001.

Hollis noted that marijuana continues to be active service members' illegal drug of choice — used by 70% of the 16,759 drug abusers caught in fiscal 2001, down a few percentage points from 2000. The other drugs in the top three most

abused by service members are cocaine and methamphetamine (speed). Ecstasy is a close fourth.

Drug abuse degrades performance, Hollis continued, and it may also cause well-documented adverse health effects. DoD medical experts point to recent studies that show users can suffer permanent brain damage from even one small dose of ecstasy.

Hollis said the new DoD policy will simultaneously encourage and educate service members to avoid drug use. DoD's zero tolerance stance on drug use will also be made clear to potential recruits, he added.

"We don't want people who are going to take drugs," Hollis said. "We want the 'best and brightest.' If you're going to take drugs, go somewhere else."

Service members in particular, he pointed out, should recognize that today's world is a dangerous place. "You may be called upon to defend the country. You can't do that if you're 'high,'" he said.

"We want to make sure our policies are clear and that the consequences for breaking those policies are also clear," Hollis concluded.

**"We're going to increase our testing across all the services — active, National Guard and Reserve."**

— Andre Hollis

Deputy assistant secretary of defense for counternarcotics

**Announcements**

**Wedding special**

The Frame Shop is offering a Wedding Special for all custom framing of wedding memorabilia until the end of October. All newlyweds (married less than one year) get 10 percent off their order and all other couples get 5 percent off. Frame a wedding invitation and a picture of the bride and groom, a collage of wedding pictures or a shadow box including the bridal bouquet. With the lowest prices in town, your imagination is your only limitation. Call The Frame Shop at 424-2929 for more information.

**Pizza party**

All youth participants of the Mitchell Memorial Library's 2002 summer reading programs are invited to an end of the summer pizza party at Travis Pizzeria from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 31. Call 424-3279 for details.

**Santa Maria BBQ**

Stop by the Travis Sailing Center at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 14 for a Santa Maria barbecue — complete with a beef or chicken entrée and all the trimmings. There will also be entertainment and dancing. The cost will be between \$12 and \$15. Guests are welcome to come early to sail on San Francisco Bay in their own boat or to rent a boat and skipper from the Sailing Center by calling (415) 332-2319. E-mail Marci Stern at Romar918@aol.com or call the Sailing Center to make reservations for the event.

**Services**

**Today**

▲ The Hawaiian Luau at the Delta Breeze Club includes dinner and entertainment from the Asian Pacific Islands beginning at 6 p.m. Adult members pay \$19.95, children 6 to 12 are \$8.95 and non-members are \$22.95. Call the DBC at 437-3711 for tickets.

**Saturday**

▲ Traditions dining at the DBC is closed for a special event, but the causal menu is available in the lounges.  
 ▲ Visit San Francisco's Chinatown with Outdoor Recreation from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Transportation is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children. Call 424-0970 for details.

**Monday**

▲ Monday Night Football at 5 p.m. at the DBC is for the

entire family. Enjoy free snacks and drink specials while watching the game on the big screen TV. Sign up for a chance to win electronic and entertainment prizes each week from Complete Connections.

**Tuesday**

▲ Preschool story time at the Mitchell Memorial Library is from 9:30 to 10 a.m.

**Wednesday**

▲ It's "1992 Days" at the Fitness Center to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Air Mobility Command with 10 percent off all smoothies at Smoothie Island and a free ATWIND game piece and passport stamp.

**Thursday**

The last day to enter the 13-mile half marathon scheduled for Sept 14 is today at the Fitness Center. Call 424-2008 for more information.

**Family Support**

**Monday**

▲ Spouse employment orientation is 9 to 10 a.m. at the Family Support Center for newly arriving spouses, spouses returning to work or spouses wishing to explore new career opportunities. Tap into career focus networking, look at hundreds of job opportunities and learn about the career development classes at the FSC. Call 424-2486.

▲ Individuals who are separating or retiring can get information about veterans benefits at the FSC Veterans Administration briefing from 10 a.m. to noon. For information, call 424-2486.

**Tuesday**

▲ Employment Interviewing Skills I is at the FSC from 8 a.m. to noon. Learn interviewing techniques, answering difficult questions and more. Call 424-2486.

**Wednesday**

▲ The salary and benefits negotiation workshop is at the FSC from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Call 424-2486.

**Thursday**

▲ The informed decisions class is from 8 a.m. to noon and is a mandatory seminar for all first- and second-term enlisted personnel within 15 months of date of separation. Topics include Air Force benefits, retraining, TRICARE plus Guard and Reserve opportunities. Call 424-2486.



The Hightower / Youth Center Photo Club student

**Shutter bugs:** Members of the newly-formed Travis Youth Center Photo Club met Aug. 16 to discuss upcoming ideas for the Tailwind's Community page. The members of the photo club will practice their craft by taking pictures of community events for the 60th Services Squadron and the Tailwind. Call the Youth Center at 424-5392 to sign up for the Photo Club. Members pictured from left to right are 8-year-olds Robert Ferdarko, Tyler Wilson and Nate Gibbins. Jasmine Mazyck looks on from behind.

**Weekly**

▲ To attend the "Franklin Covey 7 Habits for Highly Effective Air Force Families," call 424-2486 for reservations. The material has been tailored to specifically address four adaptive issues identified by the Air Force: family issues, financial issues, relocation and separations.

▲ The Air Force Aid Society and Family Advocacy work together to help families who are eligible for respite care. Following an assessment to determine eligibility, funds are made available to families to hire someone for short periods of time to look after those in their care. For more information, contact the Exceptional Family Member Program manager at David Grant Medical Center at 423-5168.

**Family Advocacy**

**NPSP service**

The New Parent Support Program offers support, referral services, education and information on subjects such as pregnancy, childbirth, fatherhood, newborn care, mother baby care, growth and development, playgroups, breast/bottle feeding, nursing mom's program and parenting. Participants also receive home or office vis-

its, free books, tapes and CDs. This class is held Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Family Advocacy clinic at David Grant Medical Center. Call 423-5168.

**New dads boot camp**

This is a program in which veterans (new fathers) show rookies (fathers-to-be) the ropes of fatherhood. The program is for men only and is currently recruiting dads with babies 3 months old or younger and soon-to-be dads. For more information, call 423-5168.

**Family wellness**

Family Wellness class is held Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Topics include parents and children in healthy families, couples in healthy families, changes in children as they grow, solving family problems and passing on family values. Call FA to register at 423-5168.

**Chapel**

**Catholic services**

▲ Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m., communion service or Mass, Chapel Center.  
 ▲ Thursday, noon, Catholic communion service, DGMC Chapel.  
 ▲ Saturday, 4 to 4:45 p.m., confessions, Chapel One.  
 ▲ Saturday Mass, 5 p.m.,

Chapel One.  
 ▲ Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Chapel One.  
 ▲ Sunday, 9 a.m., children's liturgy of the word, Chapel One.  
 ▲ Sunday Mass, 12:30 p.m., Chapel Center.

**Protestant services**

▲ Friday, noon, 30-minute worship service, DGMC Chapel.  
 ▲ Sunday, 8 a.m., community, praise and worship service, Chapel Center.  
 ▲ Sunday, 10:30 a.m., community worship service, Chapel Center. Nursery class for kids 3 months to 3 years.  
 ▲ Sunday, 11 a.m., community Gospel service, Chapel One.

**Jewish services**

First Fridays, 7 p.m., Sabbath services and third Saturdays, 10 a.m. Sabbath services are temporarily meeting off-base. Call 424-3217 for locations.

**Contemporary**

Sundays, 5 p.m., Inside Out, Chapel Center. Children's program provided. For more information, contact Chaplain (Capt.) Herb Shao at 424-3943.

**Wicca classes**

Classes are at various locations and times due to deployments. E-mail Beltane@prodigy.net for current information.

# Zeroing out the budget

By Airman 1st Class Alice Moore  
60th AMW Public Affairs

With the end of the fiscal year approaching, members of the 60th Comptroller Squadron and the 60th Contracting Squadron are ensuring Travis' monetary needs are met.

From endless meetings with various agencies to scheduling weekly activities, many hours are being spent in order to make sure the wing's budget of close to \$500 million is properly executed.

During the course of this fiscal year, many have benefited from the wing's budget. The budget has been used to fund everything from the new fitness center and the grass in front of it to the fuel and temporary duty expenses in support of KC-10 and C-5 missions, said Capt. Ray Reynosa, 60th CPTS budget flight chief.

"On August 15, the CPTS initiated its annual takeover of funds control. From the start of the takeover, until the end of the fiscal year, the financial analysis office must first approve any purchase. The approval is based on whether items are mission critical or essential, based on Financial Management Board approved fallout lists," Reynosa said.

Jo Cobb, 60th CONS contracting officer says once contracting reviews a customer's request for a purchase, the paperwork goes to finance. After finance reviews the request, both contracting and finance meet to go over the wing commander's top priorities in regards to purchase order.

After items are prioritized, contract-

ing conducts market surveys. The surveys determine the best possible vendor, Cobb said.

However, Reynosa adds approving purchases is not the only factor in the end of the fiscal year budget closeout. The flight began preparations for closeout in July.

The budget flight made certain every agency was made aware that finance would be taking over accounts. Depending on the status of each account, the flight also works to make sure each organization's accounts have their obligations correctly posted and their commitments are either dissolved or the paperwork is posted to move them to the obligation stage of accounting.

Along with keeping existing accounts in tact, finance and contractors work up until the very end of each fiscal year to ensure the base's "fallout" money is exhausted.

"It's definitely a crazy time here during the last week," said Master Sgt. Len Mitchell, 60th CPTS budget analyst.

"The last night before Oct. 1, we're here well up until 1 a.m. or even 2 a.m. We do stop buying at midnight. However, there's also many things that need to be done afterwards," Cobb said.

Reynosa says although closeout preparation begins in July, the real crunch begins within the last week prior to closeout. Much of the work done during this time is to ensure items are ready to purchase within minutes of Air Mobility Command allocating any additional funding for the base's bottom line balance.

To ensure the organizations are ready



Airman 1st Class Alice Moore / 60th AMW Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Chrissy Grkovic, a finance specialist assigned to the 60th Comptroller Squadron, prepares some documents prior to assisting a customer. The CPTS has been working with several agencies in order to zero out the budget for this fiscal year.

to spend the money if called upon, each organization is required to submit "Ready to Execute" packages. A RTE package contains all of the things necessary to make a purchase such as: Air Force Form 9's, sole source letters, price quotes and AF Form 321s for computer items.

All of the packages are reviewed by contracting and finance to ensure everything is in order well before it's time to make a purchase.

"Whenever we approach the end of

the fiscal year, the last couple of days are a little long," Reynosa said. "It's really everyone's dedication and teamwork throughout the fiscal year beginning at the squadron level that makes everything roll smoothly at the end of any fiscal year," he said.

When all is said and done, the efforts made by the finance, contracting and individual IMPAC card holders ensures money is spent, tracked and executed to benefit the base without going over the budget.

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# Air Force women sweep armed forces softball tourney

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Jones

Naval Air Station Jacksonville Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR STATION JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AFPN) — The overcast skies and occasional sprinkles couldn't dampen the spirits of the military women's softball teams when they met here Aug. 7-9 for the 2002 Armed Forces Women's Softball Championship.

The Air Force team dominated the field, sweeping the series 9-0 and taking first place from the defending champion Army squad.

Led by head coach Master Sgt. William Hardy of Keesler AFB, Miss., and his assistant, Master Sgt. Mark Asbury, Eglin AFB, Fla., the team snared the lead in a 26-13 win over Navy in Game 1. Thanks to a coordinated outfield, and several homers by Senior Airman Monica Everett, Moody AFB, Ga., the group remained undefeated in the tournament.

The Army team, led by head coach Gerald Corcoran, York, Pa., took second place overall at 4-5. The Marine Corps team, coached by Master Gunnery Sgt. Dave Heald of Camp Lejeune, N.C., went 3-6 and Navy, behind Master Chief Petty Officer Jim Butters, Afloat Training Group, Naval Station Mayport, Miss., rounded out the field at 2-7.

"Our hitting has kept us in the game.



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Clay / AFPN  
Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Sara Nolen, Naval Air Station Key West, Fla., slides safely into 2nd base as Air Force Airman 1st Class Autumn Brown catches the ball during the 2002 Armed Forces Women's Softball Championship Tournament at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla. Aug. 7 - 9.

It's made the difference," said Tech. Sgt. Rhonda Hayes, Tyndall AFB, Fla. "We played well as a team. We have excellent talent."

The chance to compete against members of the other services made the event worthwhile, said Marine Lance Cpl. Miranda Hamby of Camp Geiger, N.C.

"No matter what the outcome, we've worked really hard. We get along really well. It was a great experience."

"We played awesome," remarked Navy Petty Officer 2nd class Ashley Camp, USS Ronald Reagan. "We'll all keep in touch."

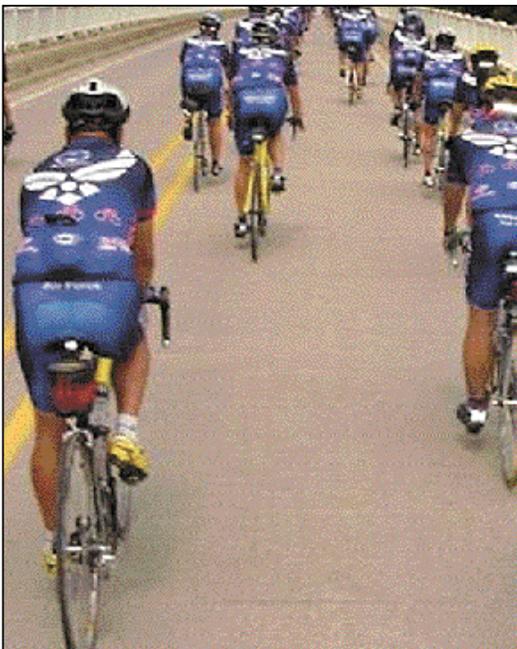
Chosen for the all-tournament team

in each position were pitcher, Staff Sgt. Laurie Doughty, Fort Bragg, N.C.; catcher, Army Sgt. 1st Class Lucy Geidner, Alexandria, Va.; first base, Tschache; second base, Airman 1st Class Autumn Brown, Kirtland AFB, N.M.; third base, Carr; and shortstop, Senior Master Sgt. Cheryl Trapnell, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Outfielders chosen were Watkins; Staff Sgt. Karrie Warren, Tyndall AFB; Everett; and Senior Airman Toni Owens, McChord AFB, Wash. Capt. Marcy May of MacDill AFB, Fla. was named as an extra hitter.

Service representatives picked 15 of the players to an armed forces team that competed Aug. 15 to 18 at the National Women's Championships in Tifton, Ga.

Members of the armed forces softball team are Doughty, Geidner, Brown, Carr, Trapnell, Owens, Watkins, Bomer and May; Army Sgt. Michelle Saunders, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Airman 1st Class Virginia Gowin, Hurlburt Field; Army 2nd Lt. Kendra Allen, Camp Carroll, South Korea; Army Sgt. Michelle Murga, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Army Staff Sgt. Charisa Jordan, Kaiserslautern, Germany; and Army 1st Lt. Angie Diebal, Fort Hood, Texas. Corcoran was named head coach and Asbury, the assistant coach.



Staff Sgt. Richard Whinnell / AFPN

**Off we go:** BELLEVUE, Iowa — The Air Force's Team Air High, in formation, rides into Bellevue, Iowa, during the 2002 Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa, known as RAGBRAI. This year some 100 riders traveled the 480 miles as part of Team Air High. An estimated 10,000 riders participated in the event.

## Team retains Eco-Challenge championship title

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AFPN) — The Alaska Air National Guard's "Team Speedy Brats" shared its first-place championship with the Army's "Team Allied Spirit" following this year's Armed Forces Eco-Challenge.

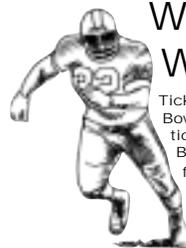
This is the second year that the race has been run in the Alaskan wilderness and the second time that the Alaska Air Guard team finished in the first position. Last year, the team went on to compete in the World Eco-Challenge in New Zealand.

The 2002 armed forces event is a 250-mile adventure race through the Alaskan wilderness and was more challenging, tougher and longer by 100 miles than the first AFEC a year ago, said race officials.

Twenty-three four-member, mixed-gender teams representing America's military services begin the around-the-clock expedition race on Aug. 12. At the conclusion, nine of the 23 teams completed the event.

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