

TAILWIND

TRAVIS AFB, CALIF.

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2002

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 27

AEF CYCLES

AMC committed to keeping AEF rotations consistent

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COMMUNICATION

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DRIVING SUCCESS

Transportation transformation complete, running smooth

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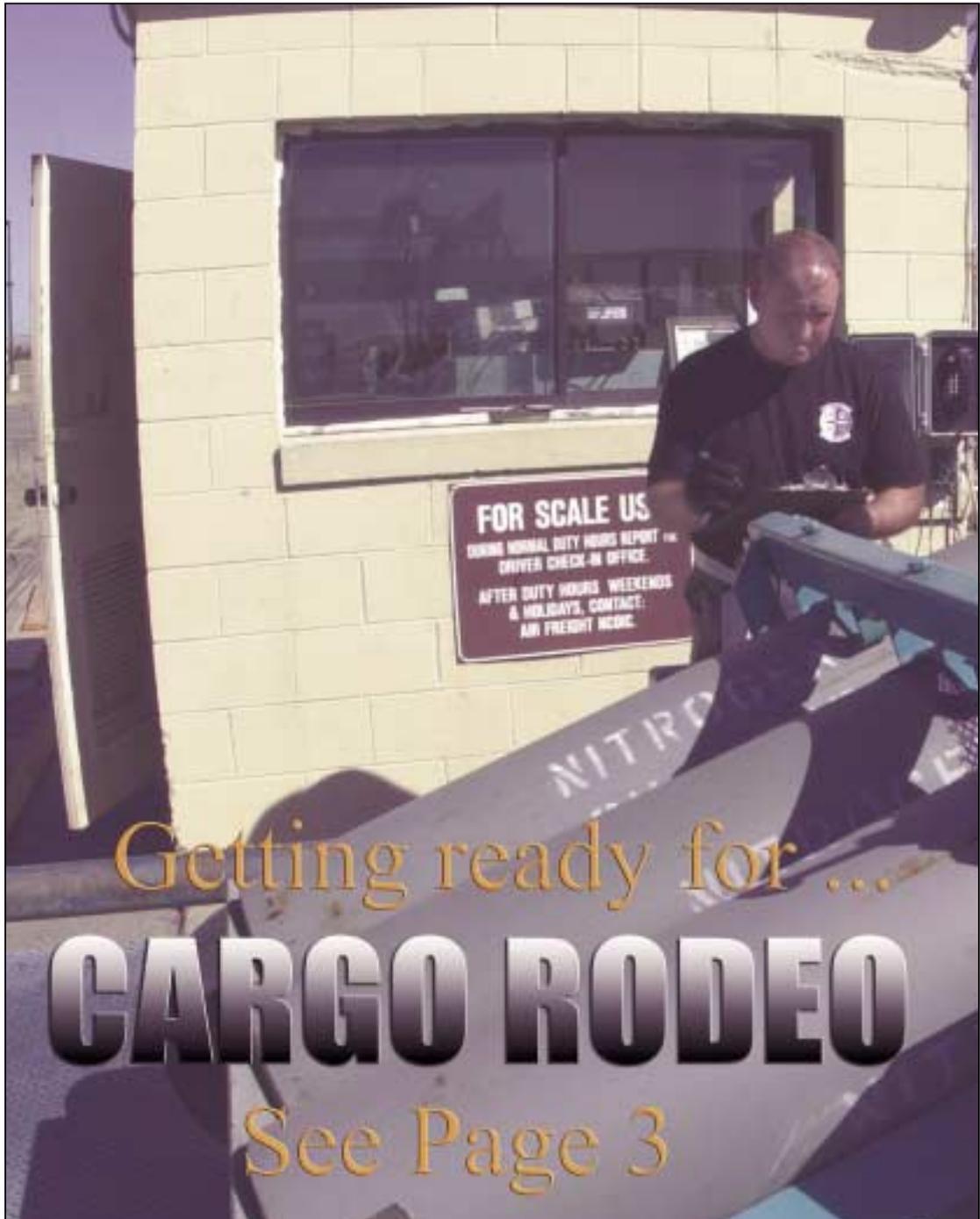
READY ANYTIME

Aero Repair shop stands ready if needed

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Is your shot record up to date?



Where we are, where we're heading

Projecting national commitment as 'America's First Choice'

By Col. Dave Lefforge
60th AMW Commander

We are mid-way through this year... so it's a good time to take a look at where we are and where we're headed for the remainder of 2002.

On reflection ... and a sad note, Travis lost a very dear friend this week. Our hearts go out to **Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Art Homer** for the passage of his wife **Sharon**, an absolute pillar in the Travis community and Protestant congregation. She passed away after bravely battling cancer for more than a year ... her strength in fighting the disease was an inspiration ... and she remained dedicated to helping so many despite her own illness. I and my family, along with so many others, will miss her deeply.

The fighting, warrior spirit lives on at Travis, and it shows every single day in the work you do and the way you do it. We don't just talk about what needs to be done ... we get it done since we're the team called upon to accomplish some of the nation's toughest jobs as "America's First Choice"

It's because of you — the Travis team, that we have been able to project the nation's commitment and capabilities when and wherever they are required. I have no doubt your dedication to excellence will maintain our level of success in the months ahead ... as we gear up for our wing's reorganization and the **Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection-Initial Response** in October.

This is a time of preparation and transformation ... putting the right capabilities in the right organizations so we can maximize our people and assets to fulfill Air Force core competencies of rapid global mobility and agile combat support. Change is a necessary part of meeting the demands of this new era, war and defense requirements. We are up to the biggest challenges there are ... our leaders have recognized it too ... and that's why we were picked to take on a new role with the C-17.

New organization for a new era

In an effort to streamline the way we maintain and support our fleet of aircraft, and in step with the rest of the Air Force, the **60th Logistics and Support Groups** will become part of our proud history, while the **60th Maintenance Group** and the **60th Mission Support Group** will emerge, configured to meet the mission requirements of a great new future.

Maintainers ensure the reliability and survivability of our aircraft ... and their organization will be focused solely on those responsibilities — equipped for maximum efficiency. Our support team will continue to turn the crank that makes the biggest wing in Air Mobility Command run, but will expand in terms of operations, scope and impact with the addition of aerial port, contracting, supply and transportation responsibilities. **This change becomes effective Oct. 1.**

Also in October, the AMC inspector general team will conduct the **EORI-IR** at Travis. Our preparation for the inspection is about reviewing procedures and polishing techniques. It will be an inspection focused on how we mobilize ... our effectiveness in recall, mobility processing, palletizing, crisis response and sense of urgency. Most importantly, it's about doing the fantastic work you already do every day — and I have no doubt you will stand out as "the best of the best" in the command.

As we ramp up for the fall, it's also a time to saying



Nan Wylie / Visual Information

Col. Dave Lefforge, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, salutes the flag Wednesday at the fitness center during a change of command ceremony. Col. Scott Streifert, commander of the 60th Support Group, relinquished command to Col. Leonard Patrick.

farewell to some of our top leaders and welcome the new ones. One of our tireless warriors, **Col. Scott Streifert** retired Thursday after more than 22 years of magnificent service. **Col. Leonard Patrick** is now the commander of the 60th Support Group, and we welcome him and his family into the Travis team. In a few weeks, our Medical Group commander, **Col. Jim Young**, will relinquish command to **Col. Jim Collier**, who comes to us from Kadena AB, Japan. **Col. Mark Correll** relinquished command of the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron to **Lt. Col. Patrick Smith** earlier this week. Colonel Correll and his family depart shortly for Yokota AB, Japan, to become the Support Group commander. Another wing leader, our Director of Staff **Lt. Col. Jeffery Leknes** passed the torch to **Col. Dennis McCarthy** this week, while **Col. Bill Orr**, our Staff Judge Advocate, and one of my closest advisors, passes the gavel to **Col. Andrea Andersen**.

We have a visionary group of leaders to go along with the superior performers throughout the ranks of the 60th AMW. As one of eight Air Force NCOs selected to attend graduate school through the Air Force Institute of Technology, **Master Sgt. Brad Kuntzelman** of the 60th Communications Squadron is at the top of his class ... along with **Tech Sgt. Virginia Storm** of the 60th Component Maintenance Squadron who earned the 60th AMW Lance P. Sijan USAF Leadership Award. Other high achievers on base include 60th AMW Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Military Award winners: **Capt Emily Smith** of the 60th Aircraft Generation Squadron; **Senior Master Sgt. Peggy Miller** of the 60th Logistics Support Squadron and **Tech. Sgt. Terry Malvo**, of the 60th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. Congratulations ... our hats are off to you all.

Family recognition

Your professionalism is one our greatest strengths ... and it's bolstered by our community and family networks. I, and we all, just can't thank our families enough for the weight they bear at home while military spouses are serving in the world's best air and space force.

We do a great job of maintaining our aircraft, vehicles, equipment and aging infrastructure. However, "Family Maintenance" is a top priority during these busy times, and I highly encourage everyone to attend today's **ATWIND Picnic** and barbeque between 7 - 11 a.m. There's going to be a heck of a lot of fun, so show up at the grassy area next to the Fitness Center. Whether you like to fish, there's bass fishing at the Duck Pond beginning at 7 a.m., bowl or other sports ... there'll be something for everyone to enjoy. We sure know how to work hard ... so let's do the same and play hard. I look forward to seeing you there!

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

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60th Air Mobility Wing commander

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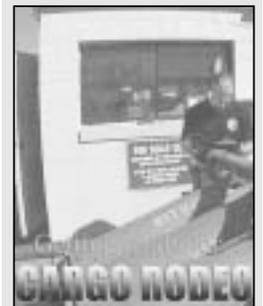
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Staff Sgt. Jim Verchio / 60th AMW Public Affairs

On the cover: Tech. Sgt. Michael Bird, combat readiness craftsman, 60th Aerial Port Squadron, inspects a nitrogen cart during the Cargo Rodeo Tuesday. For more, see Page 3,j3

Travis saddles up for...

Cargo Rodeo

By 1st Lt. Angela Arredondo

60th AMW Public Affairs

A cargo preparation exercise kicked off here Monday to get ready for a larger inspection scheduled for later this year. The exercise, called Cargo Rodeo, involves all major Travis groups and units, including the 615th Air Mobility Operations Group and the 349th Air Mobility Wing. Each organization will practice arranging and moving several of their mobility pallets in the 60th Aerial Port Squadron area. The cargo-prep exercise ends July 31. This month's exercise is one of a series leading up to a major Expeditionary Operation Readiness Inspection Initial Response inspection that will take place here Oct. 15 to 20.

Travis groups and units are scheduled to rotate through Cargo Rodeo every week. The first organization going through this week is the 60th Logistics Group. The 60th Operations Group and 615th AMOG are set to go next week, the 60th Support Group and 60th Medical Group go July 22 to 26 and wing staff agencies go July 29 to 31.

"The rodeo is an excellent opportunity for training," said Master Sgt. Annveta Barnett, combat readiness and resources manager, 60th APS. "The purpose is to identify a unit's cargo and documentation discrepancies and aid them in properly preparing for air-worthiness. The 60th APS will also take this opportunity to focus on getting our processes perfected."

About 800 short tons, which equals 1.6 million pounds, of cargo will be used during the EORI Initial Response exercise in October.

"The 60th APS will be training the wing and its tenant units to deploy. We will document all discrepancies and ensure the units have the directions needed to correct their discrepancies," Barnett said.

The 60th LG had to overcome several challenges as

the first large group to participate in the Cargo Rodeo. The unit has been preparing for several weeks in advance.

"This week, 60th LG personnel prepared 80 short tons of equipment or cargo for deployment by assembling it in the 60th APS yard," said Brock McMahon, chief of programs and mobility, 60th Logistics Support Squadron. "The equipment or cargo was then delivered to the staging area for processing and joint inspection, which is the final inspection by the owning unit, a cargo terminal representative and a load planner before it is accepted for aircraft loading. If the equipment or cargo fails any of the inspection criteria, then it is 'frustrated' and cannot be loaded until the discrepancies are corrected. Frustration times are critical since they can delay the entire wing deployment."

The Cargo Rodeo is demanding for the 60th APS because the unit currently has more than 150 deployed members, which contributes to manning shortages and inexperience. Additionally, construction is currently underway in the deployment yard. However, the exercise is running efficiently and is helping units identify problems.

"This is a great opportunity for all of us to pull together and make this work," Barnett said. "The Cargo Rodeo is the time for mistakes. This is when you want to know that your pallets are no good, that your paperwork has not been properly filled in and that the people you normally depend on are not here."

"60th LG members have definitely worked hard and got back to basics, ensuring the readiness of our personnel and equipment for the upcoming IR," McMahon said.

Additional dry run exercises are scheduled to take place Aug. 15 to 18 and Sept. 19 to 22.

Unit deployment managers can contact Tech. Sgt. Michael Bird or Staff Sgt. Nancy Madrid at 424-3941 if



Staff Sgt. Jim Verchio / 60th AMW Public Affairs

60th Aerial Port Squadron personnel inspect a nitrogen cart Tuesday during the Cargo Rodeo. Squadrons bring cargo to the port for inspection to make sure the equipment is within standards for loading.

they need additional training in cargo preparation or pallet buildup. Classes are held every first and third Tuesday each month.

AMC plays key role in refining AEF

By Cynthia Bauer

Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AMCNS) — Air Mobility Command has joined all Air Force major commands in a commitment to the Air and Space Expeditionary Force process.

"AMC is committed to ensuring the Air Force meets its ongoing deployment requirements and the new requirements posed by the Global War on Terrorism," said Lt. Gen. John Baker, AMC vice commander. "We are also committed to the AEF concept which is to provide greater stability for our airmen and their families, which is vital to Air Force quality of life."

The general said it's no secret the deployment system has been stressed since Sep 11 as the Air Force increased sup-

port to combatant commanders in the war on terrorism. This new challenge has strained, but not broken, the expeditionary plan. The AEF structure helped in developing a cyclic rotation plan that recognized the Air Force could be involved in a major effort such as the global war on terrorism. The structure also helped to objectively identify stressed career fields that need the most attention. The result of this new global challenge has been felt by airmen in these stressed career fields in several ways, their AEF pair has been deployed sooner than planned, or in some cases those deployed have had to stay longer.

Baker said he and other major command vice commanders met last month with Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Robert Foglesong. He said the vice chief of staff, the CSAF,

and the SECAF are concerned about several issues facing AEF, including those career fields stressed by the global war on terrorism which has effected, rotation policy, structure and the presentation of forces to the commander in chiefs we've been tasked to support.

To address those concerns, the chief of staff has established a new office, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff for AEF Matters, 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 Foglesong as the "AEF Forum" to review and refine the AEF structure.

Baker said an important concern for airmen and their families has been advance notice for

deployments. "The amount of advance notice is directly related to how volatile operations are in theater. Our goal during stabilized operations is to give our deploying airmen 120-day notices, right now we don't know when world events will become more stabilized," he said.

He advised airmen to know which AEF they are assigned to and to follow deployment developments, because the on-call AEF-pair will be the first the Air Force will go to for new or last minute requirements.

Another issue facing airmen is the length of deployments. Baker said the goal for the AEF is still three-month deployments followed by 12 months at home. Certain stressed career fields involved in expeditionary combat support have been and will for some time in the near future end up deploying for

either 135-day or 179-day tours.

"This is basically a function of increased requirements and a limited manpower pool in the AEF libraries to choose from. The Air Force is already increasing the number of airmen available in the AEF libraries to increase that pool, which will provide some relief," he said.

"The key ingredient for AEF success is readiness, and readiness is one of the top AMC priorities," the general said. "It's extremely important for every airman at every rank to be ready to deploy. Commanders must ensure their people are trained and equipped, and each airman must take personal responsibility to ensure records are updated and plans are in place to take care of our families."

NEWS NOTES

Changes of Command

Lt. Col. Christopher Mardis, commander of the 60th Equipment Maintenance Squadron will relinquish command to Maj. Steven Hardy, in a change of command ceremony scheduled for today at 2 p.m. at Bldg. P-14. There will be a reception immediately following the ceremony. Dress for the ceremony will be uniform of the day. For more information, call 424-5639.

Lt. Col. Keith Moncrief, commander of the 60th Aerial Port Squadron will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Tracy Hardwick, in a change of command ceremony scheduled for today at 10:30 a.m. at Bldg. 977. There will be a reception following the ceremony. Dress for the ceremony is uniform of the day. For more information, call 424-4471.

Assistant needed

The 60th Air Mobility Wing Command Chief is seeking a highly motivated and outstanding staff sergeant or senior airman to fill a one-year special duty position as assistant to the 60th AMW Command Chief Master Sergeant. This is an extremely demanding and visible position within the wing and local community. As such, the members personal bearing and dress and appearance must be above reproach. The selected individual must be computer functional (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), a self-starter and be able to manage multiple highly-visible projects at the same time.

Applicants should submit packages no later than July 19 to 60 AMW/CCC, Bldg 51. Room 213. Applicants will be interviewed in late July or early August for a start date of approximately Sept. 15. Any questions concerning this position can be directed to Command Chief Master Sgt. Dan Johnson or Staff Sgt. Jason Lowery at 424-5005.

Blood drive

A blood drive will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., July 19 at Bldg. 31 in the 60th Logistics Group headquarters atrium. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Ed Hale at 424-5565.

Air Force Reserves

For more information about joining the Air Force Reserves after separating from active-duty contact Master Sgt. Christina Morales at 424-1919.

Schedule of events for ATWIND Family Fun Day

7 - 10 a.m.

» Fishing Derby at the Duck Pond. Each participant gets a Sprint frisbee and one ticket to the ATWIND store. Top three finishers in each of the four age categories (ages 3 to 15) receive a medal and even more tickets to the ATWIND store (15 for first, 10 for second and 5 for third)

10 a.m.

» ATWIND Picnic opens in grassy area between Westwind Inn, Fitness Center and Delta Breeze Club.
 » "National Anthem" and "God Bless America" sung by Senior Airman Ronicle Ellison, 9th Air Refueling Squadron

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

» Bowler Appreciation Day at the Travis Bowl. All eligible patrons get three free lines of open bowling.

10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

» Ongoing Activities
 ▲ Park and ride with Green Valley Ford-test drive the Focus or Ranger
 ▲ Free Snapple samples given away
 ▲ Climbing Wall
 ▲ Putting green and golf tips from the Pro
 ▲ Horse rides for children
 ▲ Arts & Crafts and face painting
 ▲ Jumpers for the children
 ▲ Sparky the fire dog
 ▲ Sailboat on display
 ▲ Penny-in-the-frame toss
 ▲ 101 Critical Days of Summer display

10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

» Ongoing Competitions
 ▲ All participants get an ATWIND Passport stamp and either a ticket for the prize drawing or a ticket to the ATWIND Store. Winners in each competition receive additional tickets: 15 for first place, 10 for second place, 5 for third place.
 ▲ Ski races in the sand
 ▲ Chicken wing eating contest
 ▲ Human bowling ball competition
 ▲ Balloon toss
 ▲ Education Center Greek Event-tricycle race
 ▲ Family Support Center obstacle course
 ▲ Chapel cooking contests—salsa and cookies
 ▲ Turn in entries by 10 a.m., judging at 11 a.m., tasting after 11:30 a.m.

10:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

» Scottish American games and entertainment. Watch the athletes demonstrate some of the most popular events from the Scottish Highland Games such as the caber toss, putting the stone and the hammer throw. Adults and youth will have an opportunity to attempt the Herculean events.
 A bagpiper and highland dancers will perform traditional numbers during the picnic.

10:30 to 11 a.m.

» Story time

10:30 a.m. - noon

» Bicycle safety inspection and races. Medals awarded to top three win-

ners in each age group

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

» ATWIND Store is open for children to redeem tickets for prizes

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

» Free barbecue including hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken wings, chips, soda and cookies.

11 a.m.

» K-9 military working dogs and Security Forces demonstration

Noon - 12:45 p.m.

» Galaxy Band on stage

1:30 - 2 p.m.

» Story time

1:30 - 2:15 p.m.

» Galaxy Band on stage

3 - 6 p.m.

» DJ, The Jazz Master, kicks off the ATWIND Jazz Festival in front of the Delta Breeze Club

4 p.m.

» Prize drawing

6 - 10 p.m.

» Live jazz in front of the DBC and in the Gold Rush Lounge with Alvon and the Allstars and Ken Stout's Jazz Express— Free admission
 » Outdoor barbecue by the DBC, full meals starting at \$5.95.

Air Force pioneer dies

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Elliott
 Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the Air Force's first black general, died July 4 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here of Alzheimer's disease at age 89.

Davis, promoted to the rank of general by President Bill Clinton Dec. 9, 1998, is recognized for his role in breaking the color barriers in both the Army and Air Force. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery Wednesday.

Born Dec. 18, 1912, in Washington, Davis was the son of an Army cavalry officer. At age 14, after a flight with a barnstorming pilot at Bolling Field, he decided he wanted to fly.

Davis' long battle with military racial segregation began in 1932 when he became only the eighth black person to enroll at West Point. In an attempt to force him to quit, upperclassmen ordered other cadets to give him the silent treatment.

When President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the creation of a flight training program for blacks at Tuskegee, then-Capt. Davis was selected to lead the first class of 13 student pilots — thereby becoming the first Tuskegee Airman.

In the years following desegregation, Davis ultimately rose to the rank of lieutenant general, retiring from active duty Feb. 1, 1970.



President Bill Clinton (left) and Elnora Davis McLendon (right) pin the fourth star on the epaulets of retired Gen. Benjamin O. Davis during a White House ceremony Dec. 9, 1998.

Helene Stickel / AFPN

Getting enough sleep?

View Point

2nd Lt. Jason Perez
Electronic Systems Center Safety Office

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. (AFP) — According to the National Sleep Foundation, only about one-third of American adults say they get at least the recommended eight hours or more of sleep per night during the week.

Most people don't see a lack of sleep as a safety issue, but since so many people commute to work, perhaps it is an issue worth discussing.

Possibly you do get the proper amount of sleep. However, since the NSF also says about half of people interviewed reported that they have driven while drowsy, maybe it's not worth honking at the person who's slowing up traffic on the

way to work because this person may not be conscious enough to hear you.

According to the Spring 2002 edition of the Air Force Journal of Occupational, Recreational and Driving Safety, you might be sleepy if:

- ▶ Your eyes close or go out of focus
- ▶ You have trouble keeping your head up
- ▶ You can't stop yawning
- ▶ You have wandering, disconnected thoughts
- ▶ You keep jerking the car back into the lane
- ▶ You have drifted off the road and narrowly missed crashes

Chewing gum, rolling down your windows and turning up highly annoying music won't save you. The average adult needs eight hours of sleep a night. Not only does it affect your work, but it's unsafe on the road so, get plenty of sleep.

State of the art

Travis command post receives upgrade

By **Tech. Sgt. Scott King**
60th AMW Public Affairs

A new, state-of-the-art, message processing center known as an Emergency Actions Cab was recently constructed for the 60th Air Mobility Wing Consolidated Command Post.

The new facility will be utilized by operations controllers to receive, decode and transmit emergency actions messages. Its completion allows the Travis command post to better serve Air Mobility Command in its role as the alternate emergency center for AMC. It also provides the operations controllers with a secure environment in which

to perform their required duties and thereby makes the command post even more effective, efficient and capable of providing the necessary time critical information to the 60th. AMW

The Travis command post is the busiest in all of AMC. Aside from performing regular duties, it monitors and coordinates the loading, launching, tracking and recovery of more AMC missions than any other in the Air Force, as well as being the alternate Emergency Actions Cell for AMC.

The Travis command post is called 'consolidated' because it is a team comprised of the Air Terminal Operations Center, Maintenance Airlift Con-

trol Center and the Operations Controllers. ATOC controllers manage the loading and unloading of all passengers and cargo moving through Travis. MACC controllers coordinate, schedule and control all aspects of maintaining the aircraft. Operations controllers coordinate and disseminate information from higher headquarters to Wing level agencies along with arranging and monitoring flight information for all aircraft transiting through Travis. Together, all of these agencies in the consolidated post ensure the effective operation of the base on a twenty-four hour, 365-day basis.

Military Personnel and Immediate Family

To reach members of your family in times of emergency need, call the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service Center toll-free at 1-877-272-7337.



American Red Cross

SQUADRON SPOTLIGHT

60th Operations Support Squadron

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

Commander

Lt. Col. Joe Herron

First Sergeant

Senior Master Sgt. Michael DeStefano

Mission:

Provides operational support to the 60th and 349th Air Mobility Wings. Responsible for more than 335 personnel and in excess of \$400 million in assets. Responsibilities include airfield management, air traffic control, life support services, flight records management, weather and intelligence support, mission scheduling, KC - 10 Combat Crew Training School and aircrew tactics.

Capabilities and recent significant events:

The 60th OSS was one of the first units to respond to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. During the past year, the eight flights that

comprise OSS have been extremely busy. The 60th OSS is responsible for AMC's largest and busiest airfield, which has supported more than 175,000 aircraft operations in the San Francisco Bay area airspace. A \$6.5 million tower project was completed this year, in addition to funding a new radar approach control. The flights of the 60th OSS were key players in President Bush's visit to Travis in October 2001, and have been instrumental to the beddown of the F-16 homeland defense mission at Travis. Current operations highlights include a 99.1 percent FY 01 end of year flying program and the weather flight has supported more than 780 KC-10 and 1,560 C-5 sorties.

Unit Recognition:

AMC Airfield Operations Flight Complex of the year 2001 (Also won for 2000.)

Individual Recognition:

▶ Air Force Awards
Air Force Airfield Management Airman Of The Year: Senior Airman Sandra Spoon
Air Force Airfield Management Civilian Journeyman/Technician of the year: David Machovec
▶ AMC Awards
Col. Derrell Dempsey Officer of the year: Capt Edward Lambrecht
Air Traffic Controller of the year: Senior Airman Lena Bates
Airfield Management Airman of the year: Senior Airman Sandra Spoon
Airfield Management Civilian Journeyman/Technician of the year: David Machovec
AMC Flying Instructor Of The Year (Boom): Airman 1st Class Cameron Kehler, and Staff Tech. Sgt. Mark Redden.

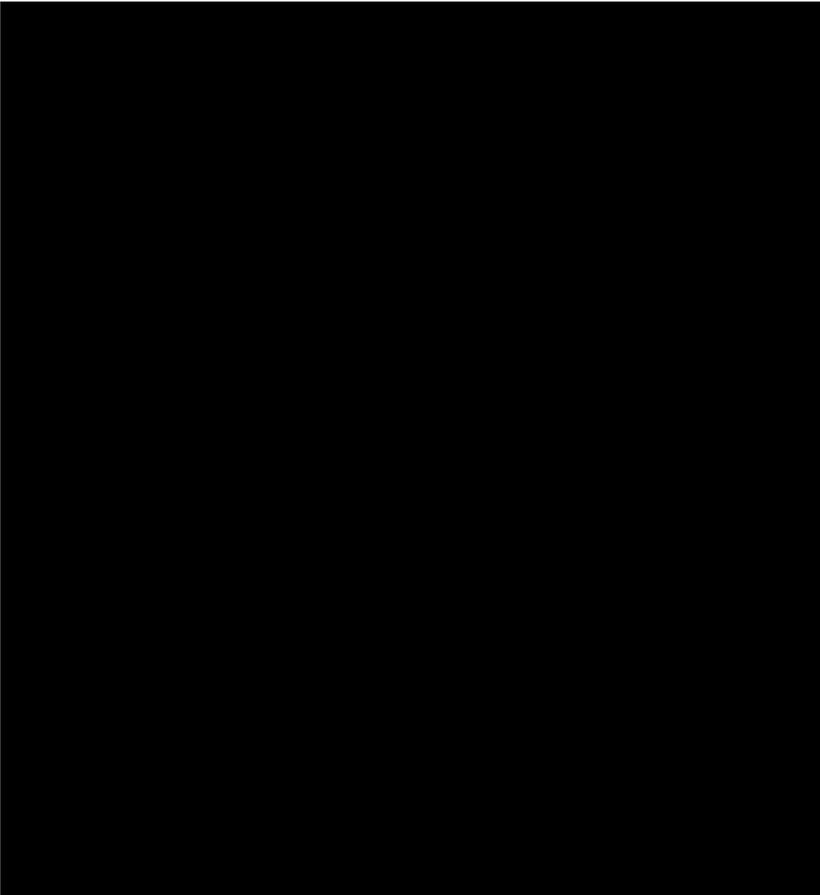
Compiled by Capt. Kim Garbett / 60th AMW Public Affairs



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

Airman 1st Class Cameron Kehler, and Staff Sgt. Terry Prime, weather specialists with the 60th OSS Weather flight, make observations of the recent heat wave to give aircrews current information.

Classified Ads work. Call the Daily Republic at 425-4646.



Public Affairs keeps on, off base communities in the know



Archive photo

By Staff Sgt. Jim Verchio
60th AMW Public Affairs

Stepping up to the camera, the commander takes a deep breath and begins fielding questions from an anxious television reporter. World events have put the Air Force in the spotlight, and America needs to know what's going to happen to its sons and daughters.

Armed with the facts, the colonel informs the journalist of the base's next move.

Scenes like these play out every day at Air Force bases around the world. From making sure the commander is ready for any question fired in his direction to informing the base population about quality-of-life initiatives on the horizon is the responsibility of the men and women who work in the base's public affairs office.

America's military leaders learned a valuable lesson after Vietnam. Keeping the public informed is almost as important as the mission itself. In fact, Abraham Lincoln may have said it best when he stated, "Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed."

Public affairs' mission can be broken down into three main areas: internal information, media relations and community relations. Through these programs, public affairs specialists communicate the Air Force story.

Keeping the Travis community informed

Probably the biggest and most visible mission of public affairs is the base newspaper. The *Tailwind*, which has a press run of more than 10,500 copies, is put together every week by the editorial staff. The newspaper is a means for commanders to keep in touch with their airmen. The goal of the newspaper is to keep the Travis community informed while at the same time building morale and esprit de corps.

"The newspaper is very important for many reasons," said Airman 1st Class Alice Moore, staff writer for the *Tailwind*. "Many airmen never get the opportunity to talk to the wing commander. By reading the base newspaper, they get a chance to read his thoughts every week."

Although the base newspaper plays a crucial role in keeping the community informed, it's not the only source people can turn to for up to date information.

The public affairs staff recently upgraded their commander's access channel equipment enabling them to provide the base real-time information on the base's cable system on channel 15. Agencies can submit their PowerPoint slides to the public affairs staff to air on the channel. The equipment is also capable of run-

A camera man from a local television station films an aircraft that is participating in a medical evacuation exercise. Whether it's a local story or a story of national interest, Public Affairs is on hand helping to communicate the Air Force story.

ning videos on a scheduled format. There are some rules regarding what can be aired on the commander's access channel, and the public affairs staff is ready to assist organizations with any questions.

Out in the community

Like Abraham Lincoln said, public sentiment is very important. That's where the community relations staff earns its bread and butter. The community relations staff acts as a liaison between the base and its surrounding communities. Command-sponsored civic leader tours bring key officials face to face with Travis' mission. Through open lines of communication, civic leaders learn what the base does on a daily basis.

"Positive community relations helps maintain Travis' reputation as a respected professional organization entrusted with the responsibility of upholding national security and defense," said 1st Lt. Angela Arredondo, a public affairs officer assigned to the 60th Air Mobility Wing. "Proactive community relations enables the Air Force to enhance morale, readiness, public trust and civil support because it increases awareness and understanding of our mission and policies."

By building this strong rapport, the community's admiration goes a long way in supporting the mission. Additionally, community relations is a powerful recruiting tool that encourages young people to enter military service.

Under the media microscope

Since Operation Desert Storm, television media has viewed the military as an important news source. Public affairs' responsibility is to make sure the media has the truth, while not compromising the safety of those who may be deploying into a hostile area.

"Media relations serves two purposes," said Staff Sgt. Mark Diamond, public affairs craftsman assigned to 60th AMW public affairs. "Since it has the widest dissemination, it's a great way for us to tell the Air Force story. However, the most important reason for a solid media relations programs is it's another means for the Air Force to gather public support."

Today's message that the Air Force is equipped and well-trained has never been more important than right now. Whether it's informing American citizens on where their tax dollars are being spent, or telling Airman Jones about his housing allowance increase, public affairs is ready to communicate that no one comes close to America's Air Force.

Cypress Lakes, a slice of leisure

By Linda Mann
60th Services Squadron

Peaceful exercise may seem like a contradiction in terms, but spend the day walking 18 holes of golf and you'll understand. Begin the day at the putting green, warm up, practice driving on the driving range and then walk the par-72 course — more than 6,796 yards of green grass.

Of course Cypress Lakes Golf Course has carts for rent, but the 11 lakes and numerous sand traps help to make it one of the most challenging courses in Northern California.

Built in 1961, Cypress Lakes has stood the test of time. The 60th Services Squadron has invested time and money in renovation, construction and upkeep during the last decade to make Cypress Lakes one of the nicest courses around.

Many renovations have been done for customer convenience and comfort: paving the parking lot, renovating the locker rooms, preventing swallows from nesting above the patio, building a bathroom by the 15th hole, repaving the cart path and completing a \$2.3 million irrigation project.

"The irrigation project included modifying the driving range with better drainage and adding a sprinkler system which now

allows us full year playability," said Scott Gerhart, 60th SVS business operations flight chief. "Before, during the winter months, water would pool and make it impossible to take our vehicle out to retrieve range balls."

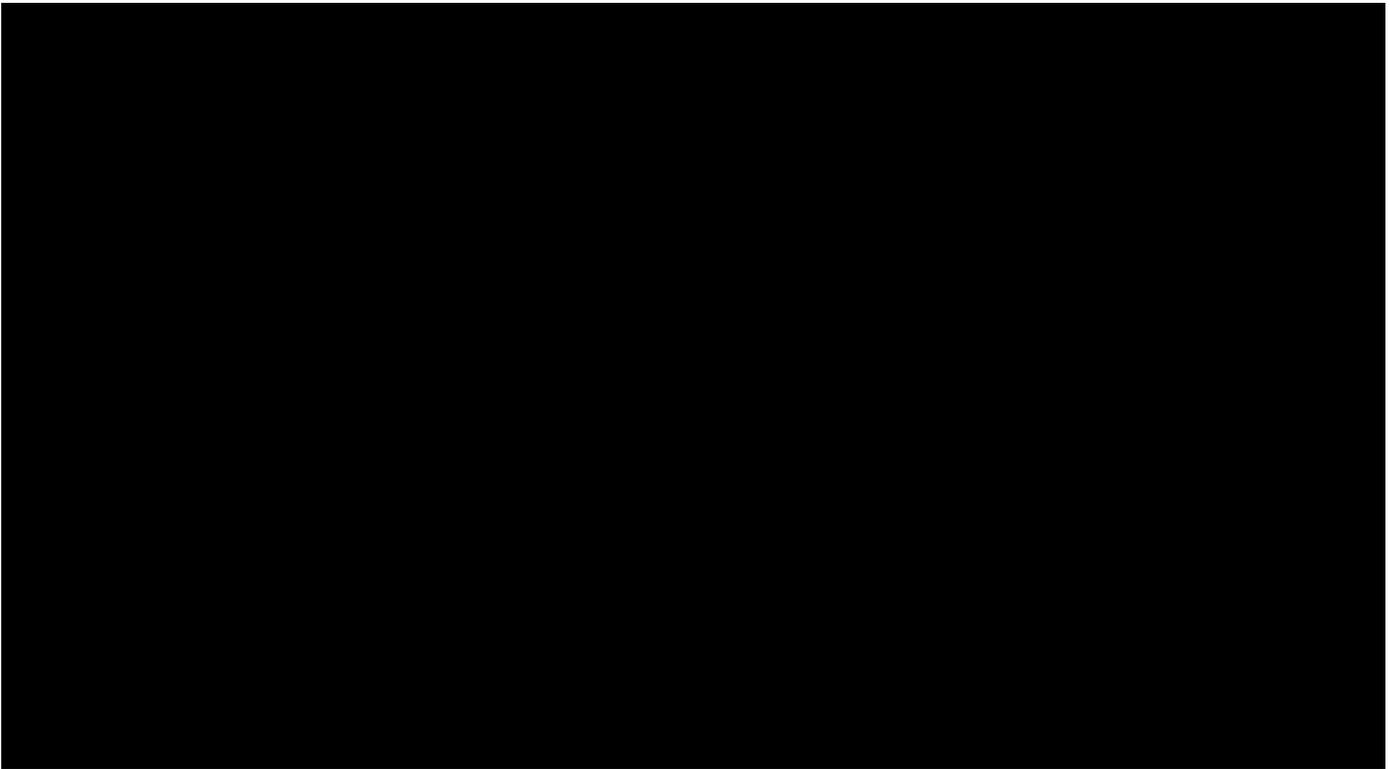
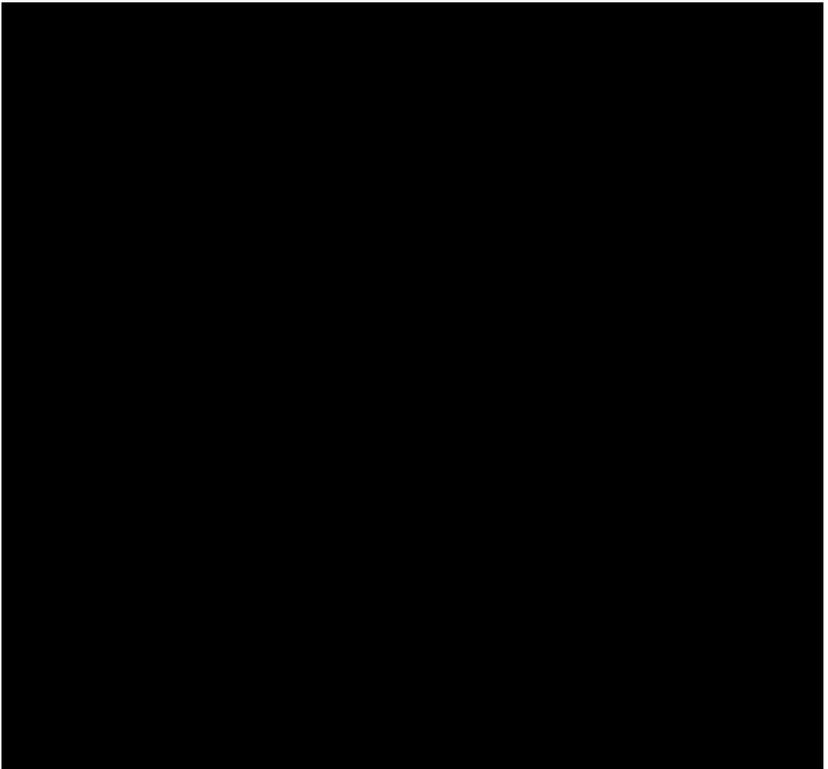
The Gatsby's Grill snack bar was remodeled in 2000, the Pro Shop was renovated and two sheds were built for the 75-cart fleet purchased in 1996. The carts are due to be replaced in 2003 at a cost of about \$190,000.

All this time and money would be hard to rationalize if the golf course hadn't proved to be such a good investment.

"Cypress Lakes is the only profitable Air Mobility Command golf course in the West, thanks to Debbie Joyce, the manager, and Joe Goldbronn, the superintendent," said Gerhart.

Since 1993, when she became a member of the Professional Golfers Association of America, Joyce has worked as an assistant manager, golf pro and eventually head pro and general manager at Sunkist Country Club in Biloxi, Miss.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of AMC, authorized users may rent a golf cart and play 18-holes Tuesday for \$19.92. For more information about the rates, hours and events at Cypress Lakes, call 424-5797.



From appliances to combustible material to electrical devices, your home is a

Haven for Hazards

By Tech. Sgt. Gary W. Hilton
60th Logistics Group

"Home Safety" is a broad subject that covers everything from running unattended appliances to electrical safety to proper storage of household chemicals.

To cover all of the subjects that pertain to home safety would take up an entire newspaper; however, three main areas of concern are appliance care and operation, combustible appliances and electrical safety.

For more information about home safety, visit www.safewithin.com, www.fema.gov or www.epa.gov.

or even kill. Additionally, unvented or improperly vented appliances can add large amounts of moisture into the air, potentially resulting in both biological growth and damage to the house.

Proper sizing, installation, inspection and maintenance of combustion appliances is extremely important. It is also important that people don't store flammable chemicals of any kind, like gasoline, kerosene, motor oil, aerosol cans and enamel paint near combustible appliances.

Before storing chemicals, people should take time to read the label to verify how the contents should be stored. This simple tip could help prevent a volatile situation.

Appliance care and operation

According to information on the Environmental Protection Agency Web site on home safety, all homes are equipped with combustion appliances — appliances that use electricity, oil, gas, coal or wood for fuel. Examples of combustion appliances are space heaters, ranges, furnaces, fireplaces, water heaters and clothes dryers.

Back some years ago at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., an airman put a load of wet clothes in the dryer (on the high heat setting) just before going to bed. At approximately 3 a.m., the airman was abruptly awakened by his wife who was screaming that the laundry room was on fire.

Fortunately, everyone escaped from the house before it went up in flames. The subsequent investigation revealed the dryer hose caught fire from a combination of heat and lint buildup in the dryer exhaust hose.

Combustible appliances

Combustible appliances are usually safe, but under certain conditions, these appliances can produce and release into the home, combustible pollutants that can damage health



Want to meet new people?
Have a few drinks and get behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Drinking and Driving... Don't do it!

Electrical safety

The Travis Fire Department Web site provides three simple tips for maintaining electrical safety in the home. They are:

1. Flickering lights — If the lights flicker or dim every time you turn on an appliance, that circuit is overloaded or has a loose connection.

2. Sparks — If sparks appear when you insert or remove a plug, it could be a sign of loose connections.

3. Warm electrical cord — If a cord is warm to the touch, it could be a sign that the cord is underrated or defective.

Will residents eliminate all accidents from taking place in their homes?

No, but greater awareness and associated actions will help residents increase the safety margin within their home, reduce the number of mishaps, and decrease the severity of accidents.



Check out Air Force
online news at
www.af.mil.

Reaching out Homeless vets get reprieve

By Tech. Sgt. Scott King
60th AMW Public Affairs

In times of war, exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover are removed from the field to a place of relative safety and security. The military term, Stand Down, is used for such an action allowing a unit a rehabilitative stay.

Homeless veterans in this country are not unlike soldiers in combat living in the field, often surviving by their wits with limited food under extreme conditions. Life on the streets is both dangerous and debilitating. Every day a veteran on the streets continues to "do battle."

Travis, in partnership with the local community is conducting such a Stand Down for the homeless veterans in Solano, Napa and Yolo Counties on Thursday at the Dixon May Fair, in Dixon. This Stand Down is an outreach program that focuses on providing long-term solutions for assisting homeless veterans in our community.

"Family means never leaving anyone behind," said Master Sgt. Mark Stevenson, first sergeant, 22nd Airlift Squadron. "This is most fitting for our July 18 Veterans Stand Down. There will be veterans who served in the Marines, Army, Navy and Air Force — our extended family — meaning they don't get left behind. These veterans have served faithfully in our armed services and should be recognized accordingly. They deserve to be treated as heroes."

It is estimated that 250,000 to 275,000 veterans are homeless on any given night in the U.S., and twice that number experience homelessness over the course of a year. Approximately one-third of the country's homeless have served in the armed forces. An estimated 55 to 60 percent from Vietnam, 5 percent from World War II, 14 percent from the Korean War and cold war and 25 percent from the post-Vietnam era, including Desert Storm, which makes up the fastest-growing segment of the home-

less veterans population.

Challenges of the homeless include lack of safe shelter, unemployment, physical and emotional disabilities, substance abuse and hopelessness. For many veterans, these challenges create a self-generating cycle, which leads to complete isolation from mainstream American society. Overall, limited resources have been allocated to address the unique needs of homeless veterans.

"What is needed is an integrated system of services, which will allow homeless veterans access to existent and planned programs in an effective and timely manner," Stevenson said.

The focus is to provide medical and dental exams, facilities for a hot meal and a shower, court services to clear any outstanding legal issues preventing veterans from receiving their VA benefits and possible employment opportunities. Most importantly, a process will be provided to assist veterans with VA applications for benefits they have earned but never received. The goal is to bring federal, state and local service providers together to work as a team to solve a social problem of homelessness in the community.

"This is Travis' opportunity to say 'thank you' for taking care of our country and our force until we came along to replace you," Stevenson said. "This Stand Down will truly be a program where 'Veterans are Helping Veterans' and is more than just a theme — it will be a reality. Approximately four out of every 10 homeless veterans who participate in community-based programs such as Stand Down end up no longer being homeless."

Anyone interested in volunteering a few hours Thursday to provide hands-on services in direct support of these veterans, can call Master Sgt. Stevenson at 424-5151 or e-mail at mark.stevenson@travis.af.mil.

The Tailwind does not accept faxes or e-mails for Swap Ads. Ads must be turned in by noon Mondays to Bldg. 51, Room 231.

Congress reviews recommendations

DoD backs changes to law protecting former military spouses

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON— DoD has sent a report to Congress with several recommended amendments to the controversial Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act.

Veterans and former-spouse advocacy groups have battled for years over the 1982 law. As part of the fiscal 1998 defense authorization act, Congress directed DoD to study the issue and make recommendations.

In the week before Sept. 11, 2001, DoD reported its findings and recommendations to Congress. "To date, Congress has not included any of these recommendations in pending legislation," said Army Lt. Col. Tom Emswiler, a military attorney in the Pentagon and one of the report authors. Congress also hasn't scheduled hearings on any of the issues addressed in the report, he added.

One major change that veterans groups have sought is for divorce courts to compute payments to the former spouse based on the date of separation or divorce rather than retirement. DoD felt the proposal had merit and recommended Congress amend the law appropriately, Emswiler said.

Currently, he explained, if an officer divorces as a captain with 10 years of service and then goes on to make colonel and retires with 25 years of service, the ex-spouse would be awarded a percentage of the officer's retired pay at career's end. The ex-spouse benefits from the officer's successful post-divorce career.

"That is inconsistent with the way state courts divide other assets," Emswiler said. "They typically draw a line at the time the parties separate or divorce depending on the state laws. In this case, we thought it not appropriate that the ex-spouse would benefit from promotions received after divorce."

Another DoD change would end the so-called 10/10/10 rule that governs when the Defense Finance and Accounting Service pays former spouses their portion of retired pay directly. Direct payments are allowed if the member served at least 10 years, the marriage lasted at

least 10 years, and 10 years of the marriage coincided with the member's service on active duty.

The DoD report recommends former spouses receive direct payments from DFAS whenever they're awarded any portion of retired pay. Among other things, Emswiler said, ending the rule would help ensure that income tax reporting is done correctly.

Common misconceptions among military folks are that the 10/10/10 rule determines whether a former spouse is entitled to a share of retired pay and the formula courts use to compute that share. Not so, he said, adding the rule only determines who makes the divvy — DFAS or the retiree.

The report proposed changes to the Survivor Benefit Plan as well. Military members at retirement can elect to pay for SBP coverage every month and, upon their death, their beneficiary would continue receiving a percentage of the deceased member's retired pay.

Under current law, members can elect the SBP for only one spouse, current or former. A clause in many divorces requires military members to elect the SBP on their former spouse's behalf upon retirement. The first former spouse who obtains such a clause in a settlement freezes out any subsequent spouse and family the member might have.

Emswiler said the DoD report team researched SBP and decided current practice is unfair to the member and subsequent spouses.

"You might have a former spouse who was awarded 10 percent of the member's retired pay, yet when the member dies that former spouse will receive 100 percent of the member's SBP," he said. "Members remarry also, so we thought it was appropriate that SBP benefits should be divisible among multiple spouses."

He said the report recommends that SBP benefits be assigned based on the share of retired pay former spouses receive. "There ought to be a presumption that the former spouses' share of SBP payments is consistent with the share of retired pay they

receive," Emswiler said.

A little-known rule in the current law gives former spouses one year from the date of divorce to file the court order with DFAS. After that year, former spouses' only recourse is to go back to court if they didn't file and the retiree defaults on SBP premiums.

The DoD report recommended no changes on two issues — retired pay sharing when a former spouse remarries and the division of disability payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Currently, the law says nothing about ending the sharing of retired pay with former spouses who remarry. Emswiler said the report recommends no change because the law allows courts to award the share of retired pay as property, not as alimony or support payments. Typically, no one returns property they've been awarded just because they remarry, he noted.

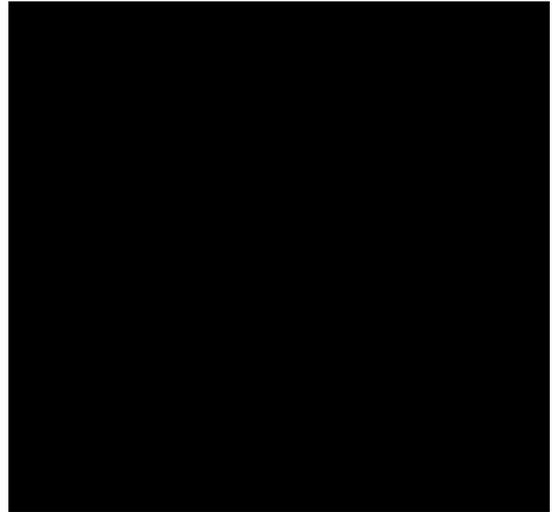
"We did not think it appropriate to put some sort of restriction in the act that says payments stop if the former spouse remarries," he said.

The DoD report did not make a recommendation on the division of VA disability payments, Emswiler said. Former spouses want the law changed to give them a portion of such payments.

Under current law, he explained, military members awarded VA disability payments forfeit an equal amount from their retired pay. The member benefits because disability payments are tax-free.

However, members awarded 100 percent disability forfeit all their retired pay. Former spouses awarded a share of retired pay would receive a share of zero. Military members argue that disability payments are for medical issues they shoulder alone, and so ex-spouses aren't entitled to share.

"We decided that's a matter that should be settled between VA and Congress," Emswiler said. "We said it isn't appropriate for DoD to get involved in how VA disability compensation should be handled."



Announcements

Blood drives

▲ The Travis blood bank is holding a blood drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the David Grant Medical Center blood donor center on the second floor. ATWIND tickets will be given to everyone who donates. For information, call the blood bank at 423-5342.

▲ The 60th Logistics Group is holding a blood drive from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. July 19 at Bldg. 31 in the headquarters atrium. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Ed Hale at 424-5565.

Teen day on the Bay

Youth ages 14 to 17 are invited to spend a day at the Travis Sailing Center July 15. The bus leaves the Teen Zone at 6 a.m. for breakfast at the Sailing Center. The teens will attend an orientation and go sailing on San Francisco Bay. The bus will return to the Teen Zone after lunch. The event is free and spaces are limited. Call the Youth Center at 424-5392 or the Teen Zone at 424-3131 to sign up.

Dormitory Fest

The dorm council and the 60th Services Squadron have teamed up to bring a car show, battle of the bands and barbeque to the Beat the Heat Dormfest July 20. The event will be held in the Sierra Inn parking lot by the Grab-N-Go beginning at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend the car show and concert, but only those authorized to use the dining facilities may attend the barbeque. Call Airman Brent Berends at 424-5951 for more information or to enter a car in the car show.

Skate camp

The Travis Skating Center will hold a week-long summer skate camp from 9 a.m. to noon July 22 through 26. The camp is for children ages 6 to 13 and includes skating lessons, arts and crafts, outdoor activities and field trips. The cost is \$45 for the week. Call the Youth Center at 424-5392 for more information.

Services

Today

▲ Family Fun Day activities run throughout the day.

Saturday

▲ Spend the day riding horses, picnicking and fishing at Four Acres Ranch in Winters.

The bus leaves the Youth Center at 8 a.m. and will return about 2 p.m. The \$25 per person includes transportation. Call 424-5392 for more information.

▲ Visit an old-growth forest with trees over 200 feet tall in Muir Woods. The bus leaves Outdoor Recreation at 8 a.m. and returns at 7 p.m. The \$15 fee includes transportation. Call 424-5240 for details.

Monday

▲ It's the last day to sign up for the Travis Triathlon scheduled for July 20. Call the Fitness Center at 424-2008 for details.

Tuesday

▲ Cypress Lakes Golf Course is holding their "1992 Days," a round of golf and cart rental for \$19.92.

Wednesday

▲ Youth 13 to 18 are invited to shadow employees at the Old Navy in Vacaville with the Teen Center from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 424-3131 or 424-5392 to register.

Thursday

▲ It's the last day for 6-person teams to sign up for the officers' club CRUD tournament, to be held July 25 at 6 p.m. in the Brew Haus at the DBC. Call Mark Dias at 799-3052 or e-mail him at mark.dias@60mdg.travis.af.mil for details.

Family Support

Monday

▲ Spouse employment orientation is Monday from 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 career development classes at the FSC. Call 424-2486.

Tuesday

▲ Resume writing skills is taught from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn to write resumes that get interviews. Fundamentals include effective formats, cover letters and marketing plans. Individual resume review sessions are available by appointment.

▲ The Uniformed Services Thrift Savings Plan briefing is from 9 to 10 a.m. Learn about this savings and investment retirement plan available to all military personnel. Call 424-2486.



Courtesy photo

Strike out: Human Bowling is just one of the events today at the ATWIND Family Fun Day picnic from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the grassy area next to the Fitness Center. Participants may also bowl three free games at the Travis Bowl today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during Bowler Appreciation Day.

Wednesday

▲ WIC representatives are at the FSC from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Call 435-2200.

Thursday

▲ Career/life change management class is from 8 a.m. to noon. Learn coping skills for career changes, lifestyle changes, relocating to a new base or job changes. Call 424-2486.

▲ WIC representatives are at the FSC from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Call 435-2200.

▲ A car buying seminar is from 9 to 11 a.m. at the FSC. Call 424-2486.

▲ Sponsorship training is from 9 to 9:30 a.m. at the FSC. Call 424-2486.

Friday

▲ The Spouses Trained and Ready registration is from 9 to 11 a.m.

Weekly

▲ Obtain emergency financial assistance from the Air Force Aid Society if you are an active or retired military member or a family member. AFAS is the official Air Force charity that provides assistance primarily as interest-free loans. Occasionally grants or combination loan/grants may be given for extreme emergencies and other unexpected costs. The AFAS office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in the FSC. To expedite service, call 424-4349 first.

▲ Air Force Crossroads, www.afcrossroads.com, pools Web resources from across the

Air Force and Department of Defense into a single location and provides a virtual community atmosphere where visitors can participate in bulletin board discussions, chat rooms, post resumes online or search for information on a variety of topics such as education, employment, military installations, family separation, readiness, finance, leisure, medical, dental, parenting and relocation. For more details, call the FSC at 424-2486.

▲ E-5s and below may obtain donated items such as clothes, furniture and household goods from the Airmen's Attic. An E-5 may select from clothing items only. An E-4 or below who is married, or a single parent, may select from all available items. Single E-4s and below are eligible for clothing only. The items are available at no cost. The attic is located in the FSC. The hours are Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donations of usable items are accepted Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 424-4346.

Family Advocacy

Playgroups

Playgroups for parents and their children are held at the Chapel One Annex on First Street. The Toddlers playgroup is held Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. for children 18 months to 3 years of age. Tuesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. is the Time For Us playgroup for children 3 to 5 years of age. Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. is the Rattles To Raspberries playgroup for infants to 18 months old. Registration is not neces-

sary. For more information, call 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. For more information, contact Chaplain Herb Shao at 424-3943.

Warriors First & foremost

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

A special "Year of the Warrior Spirit" award program is currently underway here to recognize outstanding Travis airmen and promote Air Mobility Command's theme for fiscal 2002.

"The warrior award program was developed by AMC as a new way to recognize outstanding performers who may not necessarily be competitive for the other quarterly awards programs. It identifies and recognizes personnel who most embody the concept: 'Warriors - First and Foremost,'" said Capt. Geof Nieboer, Travis YOWS project officer.

The program promotes competition, esprit de corps and heritage by recognizing an exceptional Travis member as the Warrior of the Month. A group commander can nominate an individual to the wing commander for the award. Each group is assigned a month on a rotating basis, and the winners are presented an exclusive warrior award coin at the weekly wing standup meeting. Only 35 of these coins were given to the wing commander for this year.

"There are three areas AMC presented for possible winners that require contribution in one or more of the following: significant recognition and promotion of mobility heritage, enhancement of unit

camaraderie and cohesion, and significant demonstration of, or improvement in, individual or unit warfighter skills and knowledge," Nieboer said.

Travis winners have included Capt. Deanna Steeby, 60th Medical Group, Capt. Rosalyn Whyte, 60th Support Group, Airman 1st Class Lonya Foy, 60th Logistics Group and Senior Master Sgt. Pete DuChene, 60th Operations Group.

"Warrior spirit means being conscientious, honest and learning from your mistakes," said DuChene, chief flight engineer and a C-5 instructor flight engineer from the 22nd Airlift Squadron and the most recent Warrior of the Month recipient. "It also means leaning forward when necessary, even when you're tired and would rather not. More recently, it means putting our best foot forward in spite of, and due to, the combat-oriented operations tempo."

"Warrior spirit also means, that in the spirit of the long-term effort we are faced with, we must continue with our lives. To me, that means family, fun, school and professional development. If we lose sight of the things, the bad guys have won the battle," DuChene said.

For more information about the Warrior of the Month program contact Capt. Geof Nieboer at 424-4215.

Military Personnel and Immediate Family

To reach members of your family in times of emergency need, call the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service Center toll-free at (877) 272-7337.



**American
Red Cross**

Transportation completes transformation

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

An all-civilian organization took over all ground transportation operations here April 1 as part of the Most Efficient Organization contract. The 85 civilian members of Logistics Group Transportation may not wear a uniform, but they are just as prepared to handle the mission-essential requirements their military counterparts provided before the transition.

"We stood up and took total control of all transportation functions for Travis while all of the military stood down and the unit was inactivated," said Nick Clark, chief of transportation here. "We still have the same basic requirements that the military had. We have to undergo the same inspections and meet the same standards."

LG Transportation has 40 percent less people than the previous unit, yet they are responsible for the largest vehicle fleet in Air Mobility Command. They maintain almost 1,000 vehicles, manage a budget of almost \$1 million and have assumed duties such as aircrew transportation, management of the "U-drive-it" fleet, taxi service, distinguished visitor and protocol movement, some equipment and resource hauling, tour group support and transportation for the Band of the Golden West.

"We are a no-frills, mission-oriented operation. The Air Force wanted to function more like a business operation to be more efficient. When you cut

manning by 40 percent, you have to have clear vision and focus on the mission," Clark said.

The MEO process for transportation operations began here in 1998 when the Air Force determined several functions throughout the service qualified for conversion to all-civilian workforces. These procedures became known as A-76 cost comparison studies and were part of the Air Force's Competitive Sourcing and Privatization plan. The plan tasked all major commands to find opportunities that cut costs and saved money by allowing private-sector organizations to compete for on-base responsibilities.

Travis conducted an intensive, three-year A-76 study of transportation operations here and built a Performance Work Standard that outlined the specific requirements an organization needed to provide.

"An A-76 study is used by the federal government to determine the most cost-effective way of doing business. The competition was between the Air Force employees on base and a large private corporation," said Gerald Gorley, LG Transportation chief of vehicle maintenance.

LG Transportation, which is the civil-service MEO, won the bid and transition took place from November 2001 through April 2002.

"A couple of factors that helped the in-house employees win the bid were the lower cost of doing business and the

knowledge to properly maintain the specialized equipment that is unique to the Air Force.

Although we are an all-civilian organization, we are still government employees and we consider ourselves as part of Team Travis and will continue to do so," Gorley said.

Clark and several members in charge of LG Transportation are very familiar with running the unit according to military standards since many are retired active duty military personnel. Clark's last assignment was as the Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 92nd Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild AFB. He has a background in aircraft maintenance and transportation. He also went into private industry before returning to the Air Force.

"The camaraderie in and around military operations is at a higher degree than in the civilian sector. Money is the driving factor in private industry and you typically don't have a problem with business ethics around a military organization," Clark said.

LG Transportation has run smoothly and efficiently in the weeks following the transition from a military to an all-civilian unit and they are exceeding several AMC transportation goals. For example, the vehicle-in-commission rate goal for AMC is 90 percent. LG Transportation's rate is 93.6 percent. The unit averages around five minutes for aircrew response time, surpassing the AMC goal of 10 minutes. AMC also sets a goal of 10 minutes for providing



Photos by 1Lt. Angela Arredondo, 60th AMW Public Affairs
Kamal Hamdy, a maintenance repair technician, works on protective tubing that surrounds electrical wires.

base taxi response for people in an official capacity. LG Transportation arrives within four to five minutes.

Even though the name of LG Transportation will change to Travis Transportation Oct. 1, concurring with the Air Force's reorganization of all wing units, they will continue to provide the same mission-essential support.

"The Travis vehicle fleet is an old one with more than 50 percent being eligible for replace-

ment. Because of this, and having the largest fleet in AMC, it's no small feat to keep the vehicles in good working order," Clark said. "Our transporters are highly trained and experienced and are focused on providing Travis with the best service in AMC. 'We deliver and maintain' has been the motto for the 60th Transportation Squadron for nearly 20 years. We have adopted this motto as a connection to the past and promise to live up to it."



(Left) Sharon Hammond, a motor vehicle operator at Travis, makes her rounds picking up people in need of transportation.

(Top) Larry Pacheco, a motor vehicle operator, attaches a license plate to a vehicle

Ready at a Moment's Notice

Aero Repair is there in times of trouble

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

Cruising at a comfortable altitude in the air, a C-5 is on its way to deliver cargo in support of our nation's defense. Suddenly, the plane starts to shake and its apparent that in order to ensure the crew's safety, the plane must land right away. With a little communication from the pilots and the nearest airstrip ground crew, the plane makes a safe landing. Minutes later, various ground crew members arrive and take action in order to get the plane up and running again.

For the 42 crewmembers assigned to the Aero Repair Flight of the 60th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, a case like this is all too common when your duties include maintenance recovery for C-5 and KC-10 aircrafts. Despite many challenges and triumphs, the crew stands ready in support of the Air Mobility Command mission.

"Our mission is primarily heavy aircraft maintenance," said Tech. Sgt. Charles Dyer, section chief for the Aero Repair Flight, 60th EMS. "We handle problems with anything from the aircraft gears, doors and primary and secondary flight contingency systems."

Along with having to maintain anything from aircraft gears to flight contingency systems, the Aero Repair Flight also maintains a wheel and tire shop, said Dyer. The crewmembers build up and tear down tires for the C-5 and KC-10 aircrafts here and in other locations. Under some new guidelines, the flight has increased the number of tires produced from 10 to 40 a week.

"It's definitely hard work, said Senior Airman Spencer O'Keffe, aero repair technician, 60th EMS. "However, I enjoy my job because the interaction I have with the different members of my flight."

O'Keffe like many of the technicians at his shop go through months of initial training before being allowed to perform procedures such as troubleshooting on his own. Some time is spent in Isochronal Phased Inspection Training and Field Training Detachment School. Dyer says it usually takes about a year and a half before the trainees receive their five levels.

"Once anyone here receive their

five level, we expect them to be able to do quite a bit on their own," said Dyer.

Dyer adds the job in his shop is definitely complex at times because not only are the technicians performing jobs on C-5s they also have to be knowledgeable about KC-10s.

"We really have to count on experience levels here," he said. "It usually takes a long time to have some general knowledge about both aircrafts. The majority of the things we do here are considered critical tasks. You need the high level of expertise. You can work on a C-5 one night then the next minute, there is a problem with a KC-10," Dyer said.

Along with the shop's regular duties for both aircrafts, they support Air Expeditionary Force rotations, said Dyer. Since Sept. 11 the shop has always had at least two bodies out in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In the initial stages of OEF, close to half of Dyer's flight was deployed, he said.

However, Dyer says his team's dedication and teamwork paid off during their OEF endeavors when the 60th Air Expeditionary Group completed their 2,000 successful sorties since the start of OEF.

In support of their maintenance recovery, Dyer says the flight has recently changed the criteria of their crash recovery truck. The crewmembers now utilize a quick response truck verses a larger tractor-trailer they've been accustomed to.

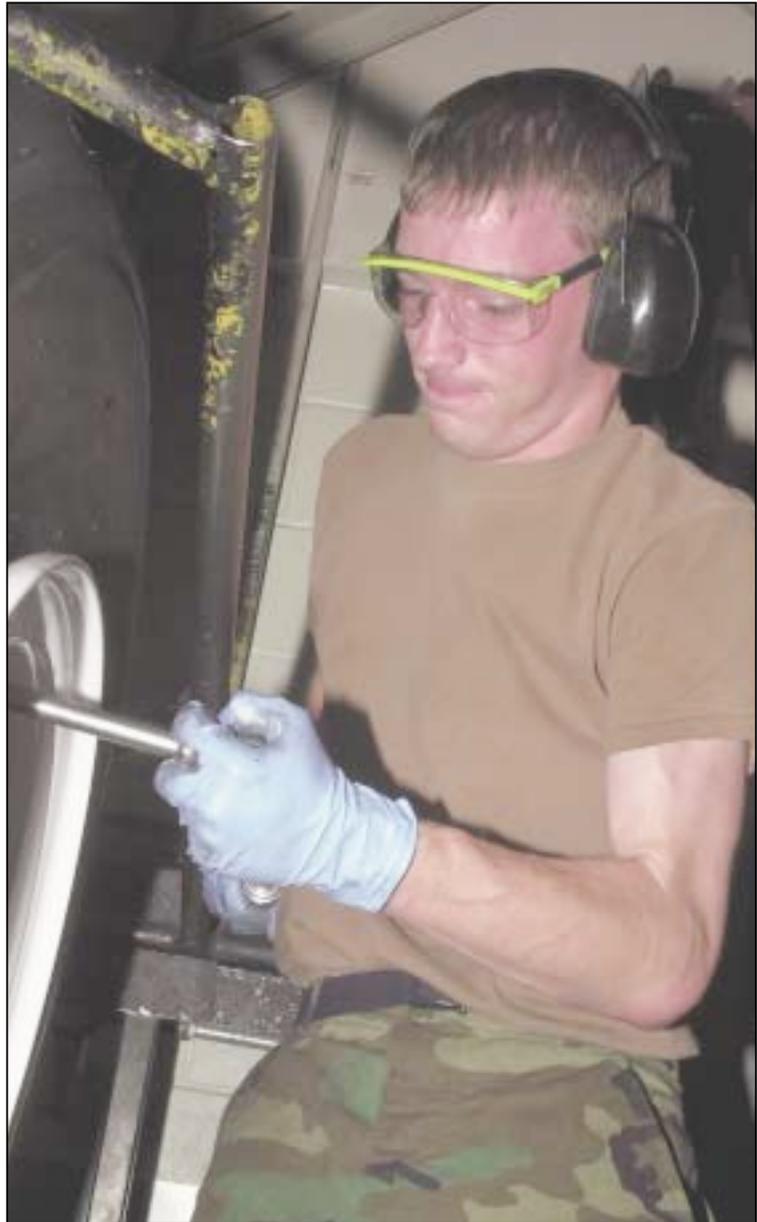
"We've seen the need to respond to areas as far away as Beale AFB at a moments notice, this new trailer allows us to do so," said Dyer. "This trailer can also be deployed to a location if needed."

Dyer adds his team has definitely experienced first-hand the need to be alerted and ready very quickly.

"We have been involved with several crash recoveries for the year. We also recovered over 20 aircraft off-station," said Dyer.

Although the job may seem tough, the team has enjoyed the satisfaction of completing the mission as well as being the recipients of two 60th Logistics Group of the quarter awards, said Dyer.

"It's a big responsibility to have the capability to lift the planes off the ground and get them running, we all take this responsibility seriously," Dyer said.



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



(Above) Airman 1st Class Douglas Myers, Aero Repair Technician, 60th EMS puts the finishing touches to a tire. (Left) The Aero Repair flight uses the tires constructed in the tire shop by technicians such as Myers on various C-5 and KC-10 aircrafts. One of the flight's primary duties is maintenance recovery.

Brittini Fuller jumped 6 feet, 4 inches in the standing long jump, taking first place in the Regional Youth Authority Heptathlon. Fuller, Brytini Houston and Kyle James go on to the National competition in August.



Courtesy photos

Travis youth jump into national finals

Brittini Fuller, Brytini Houston, Kyle James win regional competition

By Linda Mann
60th Services Squadron

Physical fitness is part of the Air Force way of life — even for the children. Seven youth from the Travis Boys and Girls Club competed in a regional fitness competition and three qualified for the national decathlon.

The regional 2002 Fitness Authority Heptathlon was held June 28 at Point Loma Nazarene College in San Diego. "We had more kids competing in the regionals than any other area," said Teen Center director Larry Williams. "They impressed us. It was exciting to see the kids rise to the occasion."

The Travis competitors were: girls 10 to 11 — Brittini Fuller, Sadio Payton and Allison Guimond; boys 10 to 11 — Eric Whaley; boys 12 to 13 — Kyle James; girls 14 to 15 — Brytini Houston; and boys 16 to 18 — Bradley Tinch.

Three of the Travis competitors, Brittini Fuller, Brytini Houston and Kyle James, won the regional competition in their age groups and will now go on to the national decathlon Aug. 9 to 11 at the University of Miami in Florida.

"The parent support was awesome," said Williams. "They yelled for Team Travis and cheered on all the kids not just singling out one or another. I want to thank the parents for coming out and supporting the kids. Especially Jacqueline Fuller who was the girls' chaperone."

The regional event included a day at the San Diego Zoo and a chance to meet former world record holder Willie

Banks who set the triple jump record at 58 feet, 11.5 inches. Banks demonstrated for the children just how far that is and then talked about how important it was not to put pressure on yourself or let anyone else put pressure on you.

"He told them to just do what you do in practice — you've done it before, just do the same thing," Williams said.

Chris Carter from the Minnesota Vikings will be the guest speaker at the nationals.

The competition, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and Sports Authority sporting goods, begins with a pentathlon on the local level. Youth ages 10 to 18 compete in five events: standing long jump, lateral hops, push-ups, sit-ups and jump rope. Scores are sent to the Boys and Girls Clubs headquarters and the highest scoring individuals continue on to the regional competition.

Each stage is more difficult than the last. The regional competition is a heptathlon, seven events, including the pentathlon events plus the 100-yard dash and a half-mile run.

The national decathlon adds chin-ups, squat-thrusts and a shuttle run to the competition.

"We will take a week off and next week start up strong," Williams said. "The way you compete for the event is to practice the events over and over."

Travis Boys and Girls Club will be representing the Pacific Region against youth from the Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, Midwest and Overseas regions.



(Left) Brytini Houston takes first place in the 800-yard dash at the Regional Youth Authority Heptathlon with a time of 2:53. Chris Carter, Brittini Fuller and Kyle James go on to the National competition in August. (Below) Kyle James, right, took first place by running the 100-yard dash in 11.9 seconds in the Regional Youth Authority Heptathlon.

