



Cadets receive orientation flight at Edwards



Photos by Linda KC Reynolds

Above left: Lockheed Martin FA-22 Raptor Test Pilot Jim "JB" Brown briefs Air Force Cadet Alex Volesky before his F-16 orientation flight.
Above center: Air Force Cadet Alex Volesky suits up with assistance from Test Pilots Steve Rainey and Jim Brown.
Above right: Air Force Cadet Callie Brown is briefed by Test Pilot Steve (Hooter) Rainey before Brown's F-16 orientation flight.

By Linda KC Reynolds
staff writer

Air Force Cadet Callie Brown, 18, received an orientation flight in an F-16 with Boeing FA-22 test pilot, Steve "Hooter" Rainey, while Cadet Alex Volesky, 19, received his orientation flight with Lockheed Martin FA-22 test pilot, Jim

"JB" Brown, recently at the Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base.

Cadets Brown and Volesky are sophomores at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

Cadet Brown and Test pilot Brown are father and daughter.

"It was amazing to see my dad in action, flying next to him was so cool," said Brown.

"We did aerobatics, air refueling — Amazing."

Test Pilot Rainey's take off was straight up with afterburner up to 20,000 feet and eventually reaching mach 1.4.

"Following my dad around in the contrails his jet was making, was so beautiful," Brown added.

Brown is declaring a Foreign

Area Studies for her major, and plans to focus on Latin America.

While in high school, she was a foreign exchange student in Argentina for two months.

"I've always been interested in the Spanish language and culture and now politics and history," said Brown.

Cadet Volesky is interested in

becoming a pilot or engineer.

His brother Captain Robert Volesky is an engineer for the FA-22 Raptor program.

"This flight was by far the coolest thing I have ever done in my life," Volesky said after his flight. "It definitely made me more interested in becoming a pilot."



Photo by Brad White

An A-10 from the 75th Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., sits on Runway 22 after making an emergency landing here on March 25. The A-10 landed at Edwards with its landing gear in the up position after declaring an in-flight emergency.

Moody A-10 lands at Edwards wheels-up

By 95th Air Base Wing staff
Public Affairs

An Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II made an emergency landing here without its landing gear at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

The aircraft was participating in a Green Flag sortie out of Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The plane, which had one person aboard, was assigned to the 75th Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

The pilot safely exited the aircraft unharmed and was evaluated by flight surgeons here before being released.

"Edwards is uniquely suited to handle these kinds of in-flight emergencies," said base officials. "Not only do we have first responders who are well-prepared and equipped to work these incidents, Edwards has the benefit of an enormous lakebed, which can provide a soft landing for any aircraft in distress."

Although a lakebed landing was an option, the A-10 performed a landing on the base's primary landing strip, Runway 22, officials said.

A board of officers will investigate the incident.

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Who is on your team?

Commentary by Lt. Col. Ched Beam
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Safety Office

SOUTHWEST ASIA — “Individual commitment to a group effort — that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work,” said Vince Lombardi, the National Football League Hall of Fame coach for the Green Bay Packers and Washington Redskins.

Today, Airmen are deployed worldwide and many units are stretched thin. We have more on our “to do” list than we seemingly have people to accomplish them. We’re all impacted by the high operations tempo. Teamwork not only enables commanders, supervisors and wingmen alike to accomplish the mission, but also it is a necessity.

You may have heard the expression, “A chain is only as strong as its weakest link,” but have you truly pondered what the word team means to you and how it impacts you?

A successful team depends on everyone — you, your peers, sound leadership and your family.

A team begins with solid teammates — your peers and co-workers.

“No kidding,” you may reply. One of my first lasting lessons in teamwork came as a high school sophomore. Our freshman football team had completed the previous season with a dismal 0-6 record. We had only scored one touchdown all year. We were plagued by injuries, players quitting the team and just plain lack of teamwork. I still remember the words our high school coach

told us on day No. 1 the next year.

“You will give 100 percent in practice and on each and every down in games,” he said. “And we will win one game this year!”

That year, there were no superstars, just teamwork. With nearly the same players from the previous year, our sophomore team finished with a conference championship and a 9-1 record. Our only loss was by less than a touchdown to a team with much more raw talent and size than us.

Teamwork — every player counts and everyone is needed to make a difference.

Another factor of a great team is visible and inspiring leadership that molds the team. How do you ensure that everyone “plays” and works as a team when you have a group of superstars and outstanding performers?

From 1997 to 1999, I was a mid-level captain in a very talent-rich squadron. No less than 13 individuals from that squadron became a squadron commander to date and still counting. Many of those young Airmen are now master sergeants and above. A true Air Force leader and C-130 Hercules warrior, the squadron commander found a place for everyone. He motivated, inspired and ensured all were working toward the same goal.

Most Airmen think about their loved ones each time an anniversary, birthday or holiday approaches, which brings me to my third and final point of what makes a good team.

Last fall, my wife departed for a trip to France. I stayed home to play “Mr. Mom” for 11 days and attempted to work normal hours and



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ashley Wood

Master Sgts. Chris Crafton and Paige Crafton and their two children Zackary and Taylor embrace each other after Paige's return from a long deployment Jan. 15 at Aviano Air Base, Italy.

juggle the children's school, soccer, gymnastics, scouting and everything else. I quickly realized that without my best teammate, just staying afloat with the daily routine was difficult. Your family team is not only your spouse and children, but also extends to mom, dad, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins and the list goes on.

As more and more Airmen throughout the Air Force transition from the typical four-month deployment cycle to a six- to 12-month rotation or longer, everyone should allot themselves time to support one another and keep in touch with their family and friends, even if it is only a

phone call every now and then. Make sure you take the time during this deployment to stay in contact with loved ones through letters, phone calls and e-mail.

Time is short and it's crucial that teams develop and bond quickly. You don't want to look back 20 years from now, after your Air Force career is finished, and say to yourself, “I wish I would have done things differently as a leader or supervisor, or I wish I would have spent more time with my family.”

Who is on your team?

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



AFMC command chief visits Edwards

By Senior Airman Stacy Sanchez
95th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Air Force Materiel Command's top enlisted Airman visited Edwards March 17 and 18 for the first time to observe the base's mission.

As part of his two-day visit, Chief Master Sgt. William Gurney, AFMC command chief, visited several organizations around base to speak to Edwards Airmen.

"Interacting with Team Edwards Airmen gives Chief Gurney valuable insight into the issues affecting our Airmen and provides him the opportunity to share his vision with the installation," said Chief Master Sgt. Juan Lewis, 95th Air Base Wing command chief. "Chief Gurney, as the commands' senior enlisted leader, has his finger on the pulse of the Air Force."

One of the places he visited included the Edwards Airman Leadership School, where he spoke to senior airmen about the important role the base and the rest of AFMC play in the Air Force's mission.

"We have this stigma that (AFMC) is not apart of the fight, and that we are not doing important things to help the effort in Iraq and Afghanistan, but nothing can be farther from the truth," Chief Gurney said. "We are deploying people directly to the fight. I want to get the message down to our Airmen that they make a difference each and everyday regardless of

what career field they are in."

Through his many stops, Chief Gurney said he noticed that Team Edwards was energetic and engaged.

"The professional organizations on Edwards are very involved, which is very important for any base with a tight-knit community," Chief Gurney said. "You almost get the feeling that this is an overseas base located in the continental United States because of how Edwards is so isolated."

After meeting with several Airmen in the maintenance groups here, Chief Gurney said he has a better appreciation for the flight test mission.

"I received the opportunity to get out into the hangars and have airmen explain to me what the Edwards mission was all about," Chief Gurney said. "That truly helped me understand and appreciate what is being done."

Chief Lewis said it was an absolute honor to host Chief Gurney.

"We were able to show the chief all the mission-critical work Team Edwards heroes are doing every day to support and enhance our warfighter capabilities," he said.

Chief Gurney said the Airmen here are working on game-changing technology that is making a difference today and 10 years from now.

"Keep doing your absolute best," the AFMC command chief said. "It's important that Airmen, from all ranks, stay involved with the base. Everyone is doing a great job."



Photo by Master Sgt. Eric M. Gill

Chief Master Sgt. William Gurney, Air Force Materiel Command command chief, speaks during Edwards' senior noncommissioned officers group physical training session at the Rosburg Fitness Center here March 18.



Photo by Senior Airman Julius Delos Reyes

Staff Sgt. Jason Buffell, 412th Maintenance Group aircraft armament specialist, shows Chief Master Sgt. William Gurney, Air Force Materiel Command command chief, a weapons display during the command chief's visit to Edwards on March 17 and 18. Chief Gurney visited many of Edwards maintenance shops as well as participated in a fitness run and met with Airmen attending the local Airmen's Leadership School.



Photo by Senior Airman Stacy Sanchez

Chief Master Sgt. William Gurney, Air Force Materiel Command command chief, speaks to Edwards Airman Leadership School students about the important role they play in the Air Force's mission to fly, fight and win. Chief Gurney visited Edwards March 17 and 18 to observe the base's mission.

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Photo by Airman 1st Class Liliana Moreno

A traveling tribute to fallen heroes

Veteran Rudy Garcia stops at a spot on the traveling Vietnam Wall March 15 to remember and honor the memories of his friends who gave their lives during the Vietnam War. The Wall was on display in Clovis, N.M., home of Cannon Air Force Base, from March 14 to 18.

Briefs

Team Edwards Enlisted Promotion Ceremony is Monday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Club Muroc. If you have any questions please contact Master Sgt. Teresa T. Huertas at 277-8244.

Mandatory Tortoise Training is April 16 at noon in building 2650A, Conference Room 3. For off-road vehicle and off-road bicycle enthusiasts, this training is mandatory for anyone wanting to use the off-road vehicle areas on base. For more information contact Jennifer Beich at 275-2435 or Environmental Management at 277-1401.

A retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. Eric Gilliland is April 18, at noon in the Conference Center's Galaxy Room. For more information contact Capt. Ashton Hainge at 275-0043. A

lunch reception in the Looking Glass Room will follow the ceremony.

Static aircraft display at Barstow VA Home. The Air Force Sergeants Association needs volunteers for a committee to determine if a static aircraft display request can be accommodated at the VA home. For information contact Master Sgt. Thomas Wimmer at 277-6438.

Palace Chase briefings are conducted on the second and third Tuesday of the month, by appointment only. The Palace Chase program allows active-duty Airmen to voluntarily transfer from active military service to the Air Force Reserve. Palace Front briefings are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., by appointment only. For more information contact Tech. Sgt. Randy Brewer at 277-3582.

Change of Command ceremony

Lt. Col. Chris L. Wheeler will relinquish command of the 412th Operations Support Squadron to Lt. Col. Jeffrey C. Wharton on April 17, at 9 a.m., in building 1202. A reception will follow. Reservations must be made no later than April 4. Military dress is uniform of the day, civilian dress is casual. For more information call 277-4331 or 277-7464.



B-1B achieves first supersonic flight using synthetic fuel blend

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates
Air Force News Agency

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — A B-1B Lancer from the 9th Bomb Squadron here became the first Air Force aircraft to fly at supersonic speed using an alternate fuel March 19 in a flight over Texas and New Mexico.

The fuel, a 50/50 blend of synthetic and petroleum gases, is being tested as part of an ongoing Air Force program to help the environment and to use a fuel produced domestically.

Air Force officials are in the process of evaluating and certifying this alternative fuel, which is derived from natural gas using the Fischer-Tropsch process, for use in all Air Force aircraft.

"The goal is to have every aircraft using synthetic fuel blends by 2011," said Maj. Don Rhymer, assigned to the Air Force Alternative Fuels Certification Office. "By 2016 we hope at least 50 percent of this fuel will be produced domestically."

Air Force officials previously have tested the fuel blend in the B-52 Stratofortress, the first aircraft to use the fuel, and the C-17 Globemaster III.

The supersonic flight by the B-1B occurred over the White Sands Missile Range airspace in south-central New Mexico, but the flight took off from Dyess Air Force Base.

Within the federal government, the Air Force is the single largest user of aviation fuel, using an estimated 3 billion gallons per year.

Each time the price of oil goes up \$10 per barrel, it costs the Air Force an additional \$600 million for fuel. The FT process gives the Air Force a cleaner, more cost-efficient fuel source.

Synthetic fuel created using the FT process costs an estimated \$30 to \$50 less per barrel than its petroleum counterpart.

Still, saving money is not the only reason the Air Force is looking to use synthetic fuel.

"A lot of people are quick to point to the cost-efficiency of alternative fuel," Major Rhymer said. "But this innovative domestically-produced fuel will also help alleviate our dependence on foreign energy sources."

Alternative fuels can be produced from domestically available hydrocarbon products like natural gas, coal and shale, and then gasified and

converted into any number of liquid fuel products.

These fuels are also proven to burn cleaner, reducing combustion-related emissions and particulates in the air — all without compromising performance.

"There was no noticeable difference flying with this fuel," said Capt. Rick Fournier, the B-1B synthetic

fuel flight mission commander. "I would have no problem flying an aircraft using this fuel in peacetime or combat."

It's great to be part of an Air Force initiative that is also helping the environment, Captain Fournier said. "Using a fuel that is cheaper and cleaner ... what could be better?"

(Courtesy Air force Print News)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo

Senior Airman Hector Gonzalez and Airman 1st Class Jeffery Pollitt conduct an operational check on a B-1B Lancer March 19 at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. A B-1B from Dyess Air Force Base became the first aircraft to fly supersonic speeds using a 50/50 blend of synthetic and petroleum fuel.

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**Airmen
Against
Drunk
Driving**



Arcata photographer shares a snapshot of her life

By **Linda KC Reynolds**
staff writer

Arcata Associates still photographer, Carla Thomas knew she wanted to be a photographer when she was a freshman in high school.

"Academically I worked to be a B student but when I was in my photo class the f-stops, exposure and depth of field, clicked and came naturally for me when other A students were struggling."

As a junior in high school, she began working for a small mom and pop photography studio, and soon after graduating attended Sam Houston State University, earning a Bachelor degree in Photography with a minor in Business in 1983.

Upon graduation, she moved to Denver, Colorado and began "life after college."

After six months of odd jobs painting and remodeling homes she decided to go to work in the professional photo lab business in order to stay near her career.

After several years of networking, she began working in aerospace for Lockheed Engineering and Sciences Corporation at NASA White Sands Test Facility in Las Cruces, N.M.

"I worked as an industrial photographer primarily using high-speed motion picture and 4x5 view cameras to document testing of flight articles that go onto the Space Shuttle and International Space Station," said Thomas. "It was exciting documenting a Shuttle tile being shot by a hypervelocity

gun one day and an exploding fuel control valve the next."

Upon leaving White Sands, she moved to Los Angeles, Calif., and worked in the movie industry for about six months.

Finding herself needing to fill a void, she once again returned to the duties of industrial photography.

Since the beginning of her employment at Dryden Flight Research Center in 1991, her daily duties include photographic documentation of flight research programs, including aerial photography from helicopters, high performance and propeller driven aircraft.

"Some days are spent in the studio and some are spent in the cockpit," she said.

"I have been privileged to work on one of a kind programs and experimental airplanes that only exist here at Dryden," said Thomas. "The uniqueness of the programs, plus the daily variety of my job, are what make my job one of the most exciting at Dryden."

Thomas has been photographing Space Shuttle landings at Edwards Air Force Base for over sixteen years, since STS-44.

She has logged over 400 flights and 550 hours in high performance aircraft and refueling tankers.

Thomas has flown in aircraft such as the F-18, T-38, T-34, F-15, F-16, KC-135, UH-1, Augusta, and Astar helicopters since her arrival at Dryden Flight Research Center.

"Every day is a different challenge," said Thomas.

Over the last few years she has been working on implementing the migration from



Photo by Tony Landis

Carla Thomas, Arcata Associates still photographer, has been involved with photography for the majority of her life. She has documented various flight tests, shuttle landings and other test applications at Edwards Air Force Base.

film to digital acquisition as well as digital asset management of images of the Dryden photo lab.

This includes researching and proposing new technology, including digital cameras and accompanying hardware and software, as well as Macintosh computers, to aid in the digital imaging process.

Growing up, she was involved in band and sports including softball, she also spent

many hours in the great outdoors camping, fishing and exploring.

Thomas still enjoys playing softball on her team, Sandlot.

"The pace is much slower in slow pitch but I don't think any of us could play fast pitch any more," said Thomas.

When she isn't rescuing cats, dogs and tortoises, she spends time at her vacation or retirement home in the Monterey Bay area.

Airman gives all for families

By Capt. Toni Tones
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — A Bagram Air Base Airman is making a difference for servicemembers and their families as she has one of the most difficult jobs in the area of responsibility.

Senior Airman Sekina Moye, a services journeyman assigned to the 755th Air Expeditionary Group, is filling a six-month in-lieu-of tasking with Bagram's Mortuary Affairs. She is the only Air Force member of the five-person Army team who processes the remains of U.S. and coalition fallen heroes.

"I was scared. I had never done this aspect of services," said Airman Moye, who is deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. "This is my first deployment and I came alone without any team members. But once I got here, the Army made me comfortable and part of the family."

Less than three weeks on the ground, Airman Moye processed her first fallen service-member.

"These heroes give the ultimate sacrifice for their country," Airman Moye said. "I take pride in my job from start to finish. We spend hours making sure the draping of the flag (on the transfer case) is perfect for their journey home to their family. It's all about the families."

Airman Moye has briefed high-level visitors on the mortuary process, history, and the new flag drape "tuck" procedure which

was developed here and being implemented theaterwide.

"Airman Moye is a great asset to the team," said Army Staff Sgt. Jimmy Arthur, the Bagram Air Base Mortuary Affairs NCO in charge. "I couldn't have asked for a better Airman, she's met every challenge head on, her dedication is off the charts and she never fails at the mission."

The nature and sensitivity of the job requires not only Airman Moye, but the entire team to be perfectionists.

"We can't afford to have flaws in our daily duties," Sergeant Arthur said. "If we falter or fail, the family suffers the ultimate consequence. I tell my team we don't work for the government; we work for the family."

"People are often surprised that an Airman is here," Sergeant Arthur said. "The work she's done here has given her invaluable knowledge on an aspect of this field that many won't get to experience, now she can train others on what she's learned."

What she's learned has impacted the way she views herself and her future.

"Compared to where I was five months ago, I've come a long way," said Airman Moye. "I was scared, but now I know I can do this and anything else brought my way. The experiences have been life changing. I'm a better Airman because I've made a difference for the families of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice."

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Photo by Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester

Senior Airman Sekina Moye re-arranges coalition flags in the mortuary affairs section at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, March 17. Airman Moye, a fitness specialist from the 435th Services Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, is deployed to the 755th Air Expeditionary Group and was recently selected as Bagram's Warrior of the Week for her outstanding work ethic as the only Air Force mortuary affairs technician at Bagram.



Edwards focuses Operational Readiness Exercise on combat skills training

**By Senior Airman
Julius Delos Reyes
95th Air Base Wing Public Affairs**

Team Edwards performed an Operational Readiness Exercise March 10 to 14.

During the weeklong exercise, Edwards was evaluated on deployment line processing of Airmen, known as Phase I, and then deployment operations at Camp Corum, or Phase II.

This is the first time Edwards incorporated expeditionary combat skills training and evaluation into the Phase II exercise. Previously, Phase II exercises evaluated Edwards Airmen's ability to survive and operate in a deployed location and their knowledge of the Air Force Manual 10-100.

"The intent of this whole exercise was to

prepare our (Air Expeditionary Force) troops for deployment," said David Bookrum, 95th Air Base Wing Plans and Programs emergency management director and exercise program manager. "Through this, we can assure our commanders that our troops are ready to deploy."

Edwards Airmen received the expeditionary combat skills training from 95th Security Forces Squadron individual mobilization augmentees, said Pierre Poudevigne, 95th ABW XP senior exercise planner. They were trained on explosive ordnance, fighting positions, challenging, rifle fighting and reactions to direct and indirect fire, as well as moving through the obstacles and weapon drills. Aside from the combat skills training, the Airmen also performed self-aid and buddy care, as well as demonstrated use of force and rules of engagements knowledge.

"Considering they haven't done (an ORE) in a while, our Airmen did well," Poudevigne said. "Their attitude was very good, and the Airmen showed their sense of urgency."

During this exercise, Edwards separated the emergency management exercises out of the ORE to focus on Phase I and II procedures and because there are not as many military members stationed at Edwards.

"By separating the EME, we are able to have enough players at Camp Corum," Poudevigne said. "With this, we are not burdening our people. This also gives us an opportunity to put on a better ORE, instead of incorporating everything."

The next emergency management exercise is scheduled in May. The next Phase I and II exercises are scheduled for June.

Top left and right: Edwards Airmen go through an obstacle course during the base's Phase II portion of the Operational Readiness Exercise at Camp Corum here March 12. Edwards performed the ORE March 10 to 14 to test the base's ability to deploy Airmen downrange and then the Airmen's ability to survive and operate in a deployed location.

Above left: Senior Airman Jemar Battle, 95th Force Support Squadron assistant sports coordinator, aims his M-16 assault rifle March 12 while at Camp Corum during the ORE.

Below left: An Edwards Airman aims an M-16 assault rifle from a bunker during the base's exercises at Camp Corum here.

Below right: Edwards Airmen carry a litter March 12 at Camp Corum during the base's Phase II portion of the Operational Readiness Exercise.

Photos by Mike Cassidy



Program helps Airmen stay 'Fit to Fight'

By Airman 1st Class William O'Brien
95th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

To withstand the rigor of deployment and combat, Team Edwards provides Airmen with the essentials to stay "fit to fight."

The Fit to Fight program helps Airmen maintain physical fitness for deployment.

To help maintain a warrior ethos, Edwards has two primary facilities available for Airmen — the Rosburg Fitness Center and the Health and Wellness Center.

The HAWC conducts informational lectures intended to keep Airmen informed on how to stay in fighting form for deployments, while the fitness center offers a variety of exercise equipment and fitness facilities to allow Airmen to perform physical training regularly.

"It's important to stay fit for mission readiness, if Airmen are in better shape, they'll perform better when deployed," said Todd Amon, 95th Aerospace Medicine Squadron information system manager.

Amon said Team Edwards has been on track in keeping its Airmen fit to fight proven by the 91.5 percent of Airmen who passed their fitness test.

Edwards was also one of only two bases

last year in the Air Force Materiel Command that lowered tobacco use and decreased average body mass index, Amon said.

There are many ways to improve one's fitness, said Amy Nelms, 95th AMDS dietitian. The United States department of agriculture suggested performing a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity, including cardiovascular conditioning and resistance exercise five times weekly.

"In order to benefit from cardiovascular conditioning, people need to achieve at least a 65-percent target heart rate," Nelms said.

According to the USDA, people should maintain proper hydration by drinking two to four liters of non-alcoholic, non-carbonated, non-caffeinated fluids throughout the day, Nelms said. These fluids include, water, milk, 100-percent juice, diet drinks, broth and energy drinks.

"Keeping your body properly fed and hydrated as well as engaging in a regular PT regimen are the fundamental keys to maintaining good health and being ready for a deployment," Amon said. "We are trying to give servicemembers an opportunity to improve their physical fitness and prepare themselves for deployment."

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Bellow is a male grey striped cat. He is 9 months-old.

Community Events & Announcements

Upcoming and ongoing

2008 Miss Edwards Pageants is tomorrow, at 2 p.m., in the Oasis Community Center. Eight contestants (KiKi Broadnax, Tyais McBride, Alexis Baiza, Sydney Pfeiffer, Ivanna Taylor, Ciana Ferl, Ana Hernandez, and Erica Thomas) will compete for the title of Miss, Junior, or Little Miss Edwards. For more information e-mail jdaam@roadrunner.com.

Desert High and Edwards Middle School PTA meeting is April 2, at 11:30 a.m., in the Club Muroc Glenn Edwards Room. Parents are encouraged to attend this meeting. For more information visit www.muroc.k12.ca/schools/deserths/ or edwardsms@gmail.com or e-mail jdaam@roadrunner.com.

Kern County Child Support Services representative will be available April 7, at 2 p.m., to answer questions regarding child support issues in the Legal Office, building 1. The next session will be May 5, same time and location. For more information please contact Capt. Seth Deam at 277-4310.

American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure 2008 is April 19, at Mira Costa College, Cardiff Campus in San Diego, Calif. For more information contact Dr. Steven Chambrea at 951-529-1057 or Tech Sgt. Stacy Dent at 275-2529 or call 888-DIABETES. To join the Edwards team, go to: http://main.diabetes.org/site/TR/TourdeCure/TDC551018030?px=3290493&pg=personal&fr_id=5059.

Air Force Sergeants Association is offering \$500 to an active member for either books or tuition. All members are encouraged to apply at www.afsa1328edwards.org/education.htm#scholarship. Applications can be given to any member of the executive committee or brought to the monthly general membership meeting. Applications are due by April 10 and will be reviewed by April 15, notification in May. For more information refer to the AFSA Web site or contact Tech Sgt. Casey Schoetmer at 277-3487 or e-mail at casey.schoetmer@edwards.af.mil.

2008 Desert High School Scholarship is offered by the DHS and Edwards Middle School PTA. Applications are available to 2008 graduating seniors. Deadline is April 4. For applications go to www.muroc.k12.ca.us/schools/deserths/index.cfm?section=menu&menu_id=462 or contact the counseling office. For more information contact Roberta Ross at 277-2094.

2008 Scholarships for Military Children Program is available to children of active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired service members. This is a Defense Commissary Agency and Fisher House Foundation Scholars scholarship funded through outside contributions annually for each commissary operated by DeCA. For more information contact Edna Hoogewind at 804-734-8410.

Edwards Officers' Spouses' Club Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m., with consignments from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with consignments from 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more information call 277-4294 during store hours.

Edwards Enlisted Spouses Club invites all active duty or retired spouses to the next meeting on April 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Guest speaker will discuss nutrition and fitness. Social potluck begins at 6 p.m. For more information contact Heather Urban at 258-9225.

Created Treasures gift shop has new extended hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The shop is located at 1000 Kinchloe, building 7210, in the Shoppette Mall and is run by the Enlisted Spouses Club. New managers are Cindy Ramsey and Shannan Davies. Military ID not required to shop or sell crafts. For more information contact Aimee Anthonio at 277-9399.

Airman's Attic is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for E-1 through E-6. Thursdays, the attic is open to all ranks, retirees and civilians from 6 to 8 p.m. In addition, the Airman's Attic is looking for volunteers. Donations are accepted during business hours. For more information call 277-2246.

On-base activities & news

Airman and Family Readiness

550 S. Bailey Ave., Bldg. 7020, 275-0723

Women's, Infants & Children (WIC) nutrition program is Mondays, 9:40 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information or to register call toll free 866-327-3074.

Edwards Play Group is Mondays at 9 a.m. Mothers and children of all ages are welcome. For more information contact Christine Lane at 258-4954.

Pre-separation Counseling is Tuesdays, 9 a.m. or Thursdays at 1 p.m. This counseling is required by law for all separating and retiring military members. Spouses are welcome to attend, but must sign up. Call the A&FRC at 277-0723.

Post-Deployment Group is Tuesdays at 3 to 4:30 p.m., in the A&FRC, and is open and ongoing for members returning from deployment or extended TDY. For more information call 277-0723.

Pre-Deployment briefings are Wednesdays at 11 a.m., in the A&FRC. Mandatory for all those members deploying or leaving on extended TDY. Call the center to sign up.

Anger management class is Thursdays, 3 p.m., in the A&FRC.

Deployed Spouses luncheon is the second Saturday of every month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information contact Tech Sgt. David Ah Sing at 277-2419.

Spouses Welcome is Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Includes key base briefings, a tour of surrounding communities and a free lunch.

Mental Health Flight

30 Nightingale Road., 277-5291 or 5292

Family Advocacy program serves in the identification, assessment, intervention and treatment of family violence. Family Advocacy also offers a wide range of prevention services, information, and referrals. They are a liaison with other base and community agencies and offer programs such as:

- * Individual, marital, family and group counseling
- * Spousal and spousal abuse assessment, intervention
- * Risk and safety assessments
- * Pre and post deployment counseling
- * Stress and anger management
- * Parenting classes (MAGIC 1-2-3)
- * New dad's class (DAD's 101)

For more information call 277-5292.

New Parent Support program is designed to provide information and education to new and expectant parents. Participation is voluntary. Services offered are:

- * Home visits by registered nurse
- * Education on pregnancy and baby or toddler care
- * Information and referral to community resources

For more information call 277-5292.

Special Needs Coordination Process is an Air Force mandated program for all active duty Air Force members who have a family member with a special need (i.e., requires specialized medical, emotional and/or educational services). This process is designed to minimize hardships by providing the following:

- * Relocation clearances of family members (screening process for medical, dental, mental health) to ensure that services are available at the gaining medical base
- * Information and referral
- * Assistance with special needs reassignment or deferment application

For more information call 277-5291.

Mental Health Clinic provides comprehensive mental health services for adults. Currently, services are available for active-duty only. Family members and retirees are seen on case-by-case basis. Services available include:

- * Medication management
- * Psychological testing
- * Individual and marital counseling

For more information call 277-5291.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program (ADAPT) provides commanders, senior enlisted advisors, first sergeants, and other senior personnel with information regarding substance abuse prevention and intervention education. Active-duty members, dependents, and retirees are eligible for counseling and treatment following TRICARE guidelines for access. Services include:

- * Substance abuse assessment
- * Substance abuse education and prevention class
- * Outpatient treatment and aftercare programs
- * Transitional counseling.

For more information call 277-5291.

Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP), a military and civilian drug testing program, also provides prevention and deterrence activities through Squadron Alcohol Skills Intervention Curriculum (SASIC), Leadership Substance Abuse Course (LSAC), and Drug Education for Youth (DEFY). For more information call 277-1354.

Behavioral Health Services are open to all active-duty, dependents, and retirees. The service is available in the primary care or family practice clinic as part of your comprehensive health care and offers help with stress, worry, lifestyle changes, or emotional concerns about physical or other life problems that interfere with your daily life. For more information contact your Primary Care Manager at the 95th MDG.

Chapels

Chapel 1: 15 N. Popson Ave.
Chapel 2: 10 Park Drive, 277-2110.

Church Services:

Protestant worship services are Saturdays, 6 p.m., in Chapel 2 for contemporary; Sundays, 8 a.m., in Chapel 1 for gospel and 11 a.m., in Chapel 2 for traditional.

Catholic weekend masses are Sundays, 9 a.m., in Chapel 2 and 5 p.m., in Chapel 1.

Catholic religious education classes are Sundays, 10:45 a.m., in the Chapel 2 classrooms. Classes are available for children ages 4 and older.

Confessions and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is Sundays, 4:15 to 4:45 p.m., in Chapel 1. They are also available during the week by calling for an appointment.

Catholic weekday masses are Mondays through Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., in Chapel 2.

Muslim prayer services are Mondays through Fridays, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m., in Chapel 1. For Friday prayers, sermon begins at 12:15 p.m. For more information contact 1st Lt. Taubid Albar at 275-2257.

Buddhist, Jewish, Islamic and other denominations can call the Chapel at 277-2110 for more information on services in the local area.

Mothers of Pre-Schoolers meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 9 to 11:30 a.m., in the Chapel 2 Annex. MOPS is also looking for loving individuals to help care for children during our meetings. We cannot pay an hourly wage, but will compensate for time. Contact Angela Eilers for more information at 258-7311.

Monthly Spouses luncheons are the 2nd Saturday of each month. Spouses and their children are invited. Luncheon will be in the Chapel 2 Annex from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information contact Chaplain Hank Thomas at 277-5080 or e-mail at henry.thomas@edwards.af.mil, or contact Sheila Lopez at 277-2110 or e-mail at sheila.lopez@edwards.af.mil.

Christian prayer group meetings are Wednesdays at 11 a.m., at Crazy Otto's. For more information contact Michael Moore at 661-816-4576.

Arts and Crafts Center

200 Methusa Rd., 275-ARTS

Course 1-Wilton Cake Decorating class is April 7, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 per student, plus supplies. Learn how to use cake decorating tools, work icing, base coating, and writing. Minimum of 4 students required for this class to begin.

Stained Glass 101 class will be throughout the month of March from 4 to 6 p.m. Learn the basic fundamentals and how to cut glass correctly. Cost is \$25 per student.

Free Wood Safety class is monthly. Have a special project to make or finish. For more information, to see what is available or to take a tour of the facility call 275-ARTS.

Knitting classes, if interested in classes call 275-ARTS.

Arts and Crafts Center is always looking for instructors and volunteers to teach different and exciting crafts and art forms. For more information contact Sandra Davis at 275-ARTS.

Auto Hobby, we perform basic vehicle maintenance while you are at work or while you wait, we do alignments, A/C services, brake services, oil changes etc. Please call 275-AUTO for pricing or additional information.

Child Development Center (CDC)

1208 W. Fitzgerald Blvd., Bldg. 6457 275-8687

Make And Fitz Workshop is April 7, from 6:15 to 8 p.m., at the Oasis Community Center. Parents are invited to join care gives in learning fun activities to do with young children.

Club Muroc

275 Manzanita Way, 275-CLUB

Come and enjoy our new menu features:

Family Night buffet is Tuesdays from 5 to 8 p.m. \$7.95 per buffet. Members receive \$2 discount per buffet. With the purchase of an adult meal up to two children can have a free meal from the children's buffet (kids 10 and under only). Buffet served in dining room only, no other menu items available. Tuesday is Santa Maria Buffet, April 8 is Mexican Buffet, April 15 is Southern Buffet, April 22 is Lots of Pasta and April 29 is Santa Maria BBQ.

Steak and Shrimp Night is Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. An 8 ounce juicy sirloin and four sautéed jumbo shrimp served with garlic mashed potatoes, vegetables and a trip to the salad bar. \$17 per plate, members receive \$2 discount. Dining room menu available. Steak and shrimp not available on April 25.

Curb Side to Go is Tuesdays through Saturdays 5 to 8 p.m. Order appetizers, sandwiches, entrees and desserts. Call Club Muroc at 275-2582 to place your order. Check out the Muroc menu on line at www.edwardservices.com.

See ANNOUNCEMENTS, Page 11

Announcements

From ANNOUNCEMENTS, Page 10

Fitness and Sports Center

210 W. Popson Ave., 275-GYM1

5 K Poker Run is Monday, registration begins at 11:45 a.m., at the Rosburg Fitness Center. The winner is not the first to cross the finish line, but runner with best poker hand at the finish.

Total Body Conditioning is Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. Learn how to tone your physique and get fit. For more information contact Pete Smith at 275-GYM1.

Tae Kwon Do for ages 13 and above, classes are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Rosburg Fitness Center from 5:30 to 7 p.m., \$65 per month. For ages 5 to 12, classes are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Family Fitness Center from 3 to 4 p.m., or 4 to 5 p.m., \$60 per month. Classes taught by Master Kumye Moore.

Boot Camp Body Training is Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. For more information call 275-GYM1

Massage Therapy is Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. By appointment only. Gift certificates available. Contact Brittany Albechta at 661-317-2139 or at the fitness center 275-GYM1.

Esthetician Facials, cost is \$40 per 30 minutes or \$60 per hour. Contact Nicole to schedule an appointment at 661-932-4181.

Personal Trainer, cost is \$35 per 1 hour session. Contact Ron Kusek to schedule an appointment at 760-902-9721.

Family Child Care

311 14th St., Bldg. 7175, 275-5437

Family Child Care Program is looking for qualified individuals to work from home, people to offer alternate hours to accommodate evening, swing, and weekend duty hours and providers to care for children with special needs. If you are interested in any of these rewarding careers or becoming a FCC provider, orientation classes start soon. For more information call 275-4322.

High Desert Lanes Bowling Center

205 Fitzgerald, 275-BOWL

Ladies 9 Pin No-Tap Tournament is Saturday, at 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person. This is a single elimination scratch tournament. At the end of three games, money prizes will be given for the top three to five high series bowlers.

Information, Tickets and Travel

205 W. Popson Ave., 275-TRIP

Book with AF Travel online. Try aftravelonline.com and find great deals on all inclusive vacations, cruises, hotels, airline tickets and rental cars.

IT Tips & Travel, our e-newsletter has the latest information. To receive the newsletter send an e-mail to 95msg/svyr@edwards.af.mil. Include full name, phone number, e-mail address, and travel interest.

ITT pricelist and other events: To see the current ITT price list and information on other events and discounted tickets, just go to www.edwardservices.com/itt.html.

Muroc Lake Golf Course

111 Crest Dr., 275-PUTT

March Sandbagger Grill Specials:

Lodging customers are welcome the whole month of March. Show your keys and receive a 10 percent discount.

Junior Golf Lessons every Saturday in April at noon. Cost is \$30 per child for the month. On April 26 there will be a drive, pitch and putt contest for the attendees. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. Sign up at the golf course or call 275-7888.

Free Ladies Clinic is Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Class will focus on grip, stance and temp. Even more experienced golfers can take advantage of this free clinic.

Oasis Community Center

205 W. Popson Ave., 275-CNTR

I'm A Star Family Night is Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. Spotlight, stage and a microphone makes a perfect setting for your child to participate in a Family Karaoke Night.

Oasis Community Center will be closed to the public Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights from 8 p.m. to midnight, for Club 1830. Active-duty military, 18 to 30 years old welcome.

Outdoor Recreation (ODR)

1100 Kincheloe Ave., 275-CAMP

Climbing Wall Certification classes are Tuesday and April 22, at the Oasis Aquatic Center Climbing Wall. Cost is \$15. You must pre register at ODR for this class.

Land sailing is Saturday and April 22, Cost is \$25. A day

of land sailing on El Mirage dry lake. Transportation and basic safety equipment provided. Bring drinking water, sun screen, eye protection, and a lunch or snacks. Sign up at ODR, group size is limited.

Youth Programs

24 Lathrop Dr., 275-5437

Summer Camp Registration at the School Age Annex starts April 7. Camp is for children who have completed kindergarten through grade 6. Children will be placed using the DOD priority placement policy. For more information call 277-8290 or 275-7525.

Air Force Services Teen Aviation Camp is now accepting applications for the 2008 summer session. For more information please contact Terry Sanchez at 275-5437.

Children's Library

1100 Kincheloe Ave., Bldg. 7210, 275-READ

Food For Thought reading program is today to April 19, sponsored by In and Out Burger.

Story Time at the Children's Library is Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. Followed by appropriate crafts reinforcing the story's theme.

New collection of reference materials from Eyewitness Books covering everything from NASCAR to Science Projects to Animals. Experience learning through these exciting and informative resources.

Main Library

5 W. Yeager Blvd. Bldg. 2665, 275-BOOK

Over Drive Audio Book Program is an online service providing digital media (audio books) to library customers. Download audio books to PC, MP3 player, or burn to CD.

Information Awareness Program at the Main Library is continuing to update its current collection by adding titles weekly. As an alternative to getting an e-mail of all new items, they will now be organized by specific subject. If interested send an e-mail to 95msss.a1bl@edwards.af.mil, with your first name, e-mail address, and the item type you would like.

CRM learning classes, which provide training for supervisors in the workplace are now being offered at the Main Library.

On-base movies of the week

Fools Gold

Playing: Today and Sunday

Rating: PG-13

Run Time: 112 min.

Cast: Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson, Roger Sciberras, Donald Sutherland, Ewen Bremner

Summary: Ben "Finn" Finnegan (played by Matthew McConaughey) is an affable, modern-day treasure hunter who is obsessed with finding the legendary 18th century Queen's Dowry, 40 chests of priceless treasure that was lost at sea in 1715. Finn has sunk everything he has into this quest, including his marriage to Tess Finnegan (played by Kate Hudson). Tess has begun to rebuild her life, working aboard a mega-yacht owned by billionaire Nigel Honeycutt (played by Donald Sutherland). Finn discovers a clue to the treasure's whereabouts and using his roguish charm, he convinces the tycoon to join him in the pursuit of the treasure. But they are not the only ones after the prize.



Definitely, Maybe

Playing: Saturday

Rating: PG-13

Run Time: 111 min.

Cast: Ryan Reynolds, Abigail Breslin, Derek Luke, Isla Fisher, Elizabeth Banks

Summary: Will Hayes, a thirtysomething Manhattan dad (played by Ryan Reynolds) is in the midst of a divorce when his 10-year-old daughter, Maya, (played by Abigail Breslin) starts to question him about his life before marriage. Maya wants to know everything about how her parents met and fell in love. For Maya, Will relives his past and recounts the history of his relationships with three very different women. As Maya puts together the pieces of her dad's romantic puzzle, she begins to understand that love is not so simple or easy and Will, with Maya's help, begins to understand that it is definitely never too late to go back and maybe even possible to find a happy ending.



Step Up 2: The Streets

Playing: Thursday

Rating: PG-13

Run Time: 97 min.

Cast: Briana Evigan, Adam G. Sevani, Mari Koda, Cassie, Telisha Shaw

Summary: The follow-up to "Step Up," which was released in August 2006. A rebellious street dancer Andie (played by Briana Evigan) winds up at the elite Maryland School of the Arts. She may show great promise as a dancer, but she just can't seem to let go of her old life and get a fresh start. She joins forces with the school's hottest dancer Chase (played by Robert Hoffman) and they form a crew with the help of a few classmate outcasts. They practice and work hard to compete in Baltimore's underground dance battle called "The Streets." Andie ultimately finds a way to live her dream while building a bridge between her two separate worlds.



Schedule submitted by AAFES and is subject to change.

The base theater is located on the corner of Yeager Boulevard and South Muroc Drive. Movies begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children unless otherwise stated. For movie information, call 275-SHOW.

This week on Channel 6



• Jackie Cochran—First Lady of flight

Produced by Global Science Productions, 2001. Hosted and narrated by Suzy Amis (Titanic). Filmed in part at Edwards, this documentary focuses on the flying career of Jackie Cochran.

(Run time 50 min.)

Airs daily at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Check Your 6

Daily look for Dateline Edwards News Briefs and other programming at the top of each hour. Nightly: see the Pentagon Channel from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Send comments to Channel.6@edwards.af.mil.

Word of the Week

Repine

• \rih-PINE\ • intransitive verb,
To feel or express discontent.



Use

One may repine over the ineffectiveness of policies.

Quotable Quotes

"Our flag is a source of great pride and inspiration. It reminds us of the sacrifices made throughout our history, in the defense of freedom and liberty."

— 407th Air Expeditionary Group Commander Col. Matthew Dorschel



The Gem State's base

By Capt. Tony Wickman
71st Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

ACROSS

1. Raiders of the Lost ___
4. USAF commissioning source
7. Little devil or demon; an evil spirit
10. Gen. Curtis Lemay's org.
13. Air Force 366 FW is assigned (Roman numerals)
14. Actress West
15. Lost actor Daniel ___ Kim
16. Epoch
17. Long time
18. ___ High; onetime USAF slogan
19. Picnic pest
20. Butterfly catching tool
21. Nickname for the 366 FW
25. Thin, cushion like masses of soft material



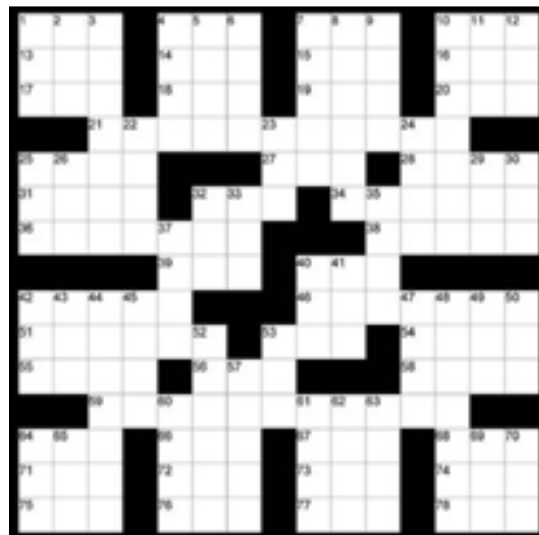
March 21 solutions

27. Neither's partner
28. Three per inning
31. Greek god of love
32. Kwik-E-Mart owner/operator
34. Eritrean capital
36. Exerts strict control over; supervises closely
38. Col. Mark ___; current 366 FW vice commander
39. ___ tai; cocktail of rum, curaçao, lemon and pineapple juice
40. USAF inspection
42. Thicket of small trees or bushes; a small wood
46. ___ Mountains; Mountain Home AFB is located nearby
51. Col. James ___; current 366 FW commander
53. Lyrical poem
54. Peruvian empire
55. Baseball slugger known as "Slammin' Sammy"
56. Mil. phone system
58. Actors Jason and Bruce
59. F-15E; planes assigned to 366 FW
64. Mock
66. Japanese sash
67. By a route that touches or passes through; by way of
68. USAF auxiliary
71. Greek goddess of the dawn
72. Ancient
73. Ugandan strongman Amin
74. MAJCOM the 366 FW is assigned
75. Director Craven

76. ___ Moines
77. Permit
78. Zip

DOWN

1. Terminate
2. ___ Grande
3. The ___; 2007 Jamie Foxx movie
4. Sultanate of the southeast Arabian Peninsula
5. Western Saudi Arabia city to the east of Mecca
6. Big rig
7. The Gem State; home to Mountain Home AFB
8. Sacred verbal formula repeated in prayer or meditation
9. Tennis great Sampras
10. Arousing or exciting the senses or appetites
11. We ___ Marshall
12. Feline
22. Former USA enemy
23. African oxlike antelopes
24. Italian capital
25. Each
26. Notre Dame coach Parseghian
29. MTV show
30. Speak
32. Oklahoma town
33. 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
35. External covering or integument of an animal body
37. Phenomenon supposed to portend good or evil; prophetic sign
40. Weird
41. Norma ___
42. NBC competitor



43. Rio d' ___
44. Own
45. Specialized police unit
47. Ft. ___; Oklahoma Army post
48. Leg joint
49. Frozen water
50. USN equivalent to AFB
52. Fit to be eaten as food; eatable; esculent
53. Single unit
57. Slips
60. Cross as used in crucifixion
61. Wickedness
62. ___-de-camp; subordinate officer to a general
63. Manner of walking, stepping, or running
64. USAF forward deployed unit
65. Edgar Allen ___
69. Pilot with 5+ aerial kills
70. Hallucinogenic drug popular in the 1970s

Air Force wins 2-1 duel

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Alex Truesdale and Michael Ruvolo combined to hold Charleston Southern to six hits as Air Force won a 2-1 pitchers duel March 24 at Buccaneer Field in Charleston, S.C. The Falcons are 8-12 on the season while the Buccaneers drop to 9-13.

In his most impressive outing as a Falcon, Truesdale (1-5) picked up his first-career win, holding the Bucs to five hits and one run in eight innings. Ruvolo picked up his fourth save on the season with a scoreless ninth.

Air Force went ahead 1-0 in the third inning as Jon McMahon scored on a sacrifice fly by Chay Derbigny. McMahon led off the inning by reaching on an error and got to second on a ground out by Nathan Carter. McMahon then reached third on a single by K.J. Randhawa and eventually scored on Derbigny's fly out.

The Falcons pushed across their second run by piecing together three consecutive hits in the fifth. With two outs, Randhawa and Derbigny both singled through the right side and then Addison Gentry continued his hot hitting by lacing a single up the middle to score Randhawa.

Gentry has driven in a run in six consecutive games now and has 14 RBIs over that span.

Mark Perry had the Buccaneers' lone RBI, grounding out to second to score junior Jake Cox, who drew two walks on the day as the only player to reach base twice for the Bucs.

The Falcons had eight hits on the day and did not commit an error. Derbigny went 3-for-4 and Randhawa 2-for-4 to pace AFA.

In just 20 games, Air Force has matched the 2007 team's total for wins. The 2007 team took 43 games to get to eight wins and finished the season 8-44.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

'Hoop dreams' come true for Airman

By Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe
440th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. — For the fourth year in a row a Reserve Command member has been tapped to play on the All Air Force basketball team.

Capt. Kurtis Darden, the only reservist on the team, will play in the Armed Forces Basketball Tournament to be held March 23 to 28 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

"This year I'm shooting for a 'three-peat,'" said Captain Darden. "The past two years we (the Air Force team) won the gold in the tournament."

Unlike the stars of the NBA, Captain Darden works a full-time "day-job" as a district manager for a North Carolina company.

One weekend a month he drills with the 440th Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

The other three weekends a month he hits the local gym, shooting hoops to keep sharp.

"It's not a complex practice session," he said. "I simply play pick-up ball on Saturday mornings for three hours, and I try to practice early in the mornings during the week before work."

Growing up, Captain Darden spent a lot of time with his father at the gym shooting hoops.

In college, he played "guard" at Pfeiffer University in Misenhiener, N.C.

In addition to playing on the All Air Force team four years in a row, he's served as team captain the last two years, and both times the Air Force won a gold.

His years of basketball practice and games has paid off, Captain Darden's said.

He hopes the pre-tournament training camp will lead to another gold and a spot on the All Armed Forces Basketball team that competes internationally.

"This year we're having training camp early," he said. "The Conseil International Du Sport Militaire is being held in the U.S.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Capt. Kurtis Darden, 440th Airlift Wing, is captain for the All Air Force basketball team. The Reservist from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., is shooting for a "three-peat" in the Armed Forces Basketball Tournament March 23-28, and is hoping the Air Force team wins its third gold.

at Lackland Air Force Base and is hosted by the Air Force."

With his eye on a three-peat, the reservist credits his father for inspiring him.

Silas Darden is a retired Army command sergeant major who still plays basketball and goes to the gym.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Federal Aviation Administration lauds Air Force synthetic fuel team

By Mike Wallace

88th ABW Skywrighter staff

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio

— The U.S. Air Force team that has developed a blend of petroleum and synthetic fuel for the B-52 Bomber received the Federal Aviation Administration's 2007 Excellence in Aviation Research Award at a ceremony March 14 in the Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate.

Barry Scott, director of the FAA Research and Technology Development Office, presented the award trophy to Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Bedke, AFRL commander, and Jon Ogg, director of Engineering and Technical Management for the Air Force Materiel Command, who accepted

on behalf of the U.S. Air Force B-52 Aircraft Fischer-Tropsch Fuels Research Team.

"The Excellence in Aviation Award is given for research that results in more efficient or safer flying operations. We give this award annually, and in the 10 years we've given it, this was the first unanimous choice," Scott said.

The FAA based its award on the team's overall effort to certify the B-52 Stratofortress for use of the 50/50 fuel blend of JP-8 and a synthetic fuel, or synfuel, derived from natural gas by the Fischer-Tropsch process.

The B-52 effort resulted in the certification of more than 60 different materials, and supports the near-term certification of additional aircraft, including the C-17 Globemaster III,

F-22 Raptor, and B-1B Lancer.

AB-1B on Wednesday, March 19, became the Air Force's first aircraft to fly at supersonic speed using a 50/50 blend of synthetic and petroleum fuel. The flight occurred over the White Sands Missile Range airspace in south-central New Mexico but took off from Dyess Air Force Base, Abilene, Texas.

The certification process so far has detected no significant differences in performance, flight safety, durability, ground handling or storage between synfuel and conventional JP-8.

Development of synfuel is a significant effort in the Air Force's quest to find a source of domestically produced, assured fuels, which would be sufficient for the Air Force to perform its national defense mission if current,

overseas petroleum sources are threatened. Other motivations include fuel prices and environmental concerns.

In addition, the B-52 certification supports the commercial aviation industry's Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative through information sharing and integration of commercial and military efforts.

The Air Force B-52 aircraft FT fuels research team includes members of AFRL; Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.; Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.; Arnold Engineering Development Center, Tenn.; Air Force Petroleum Agency at Ft. Belvoir, Va.; Headquarters AFMC at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Headquarters Air Force, including the Assistant

Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition; and the University of Dayton Research Institute, Ohio.

In accepting the award, Ogg said, "This is a great day ultimately for the nation. It's historic in a sense, and a springboard for synthetic fuel. It opens doors for further certification."

"We are accepting for a heck of a lot of people — there are an awful lot of you, unnamed but not unappreciated," said Bedke. He also gave much credit to Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne, whom he said remarked early on, "Let's do it."

Bedke said the team not only "did it," but also now has the goal of certifying "every single plane in the inventory by 2011."

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Air Force activates 711th Human Performance Wing

By John Schutte

Human Effectiveness Directorate

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Research Laboratory officially activated the 711th Human Performance Wing during a ceremony at the Air Force Institute of Technology's Kenney Hall here March 25.

The new wing combines AFRL's Human Effectiveness Directorate with elements transitioning to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base from the 311th Human Systems Wing at Brooks City-Base, Texas — the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, and the 311th Performance Enhancement Directorate.

Thomas S. Wells, a member of the senior executive service who was named director of the new wing Feb. 29, officially accepted command during a traditional military flag exchange.

Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Bedke, AFRL commander, was among those who spoke about the activation.

"We have a rare opportunity to consolidate, reorganize, and revitalize one of the finest labs in the world for human performance research and aerospace medicine," General Bedke said. "Working together, I know we will do just that."

"Fortunately for us, we found the right guy to be the first wing director in Tom Wells," General Bedke told a crowd of about 350. The general added that "integrating science and technology with medically oriented functions seems like a daunting task, but I know that the men and women of AFRL are ready to handle any challenges we encounter."

The Department of Defense 2005 Base Realignment and Closure mandated that the 311th HSW functions

from Brooks City-Base relocate to Wright-Patterson. Also under BRAC law, the Human Effectiveness Directorate Warfighter Readiness Research Division from Mesa, Ariz., will join other Human Effectiveness Directorate divisions at Wright-Patterson by 2011.

The 711th HPW is an organizational structure related to BRAC but not required by law. In conjunction with the Navy Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory — which is relocating to Wright-Patterson from Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. — and surrounding universities and medical institutions, the 711th HPW will function as a joint Department of Defense center of excellence for human performance, operating in a university model of education and training, research and development, and clinical evaluation and consultation.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley had formally approved the plan Jan. 20, capping the preparation phase of a three-phase Human Performance Wing implementation process.

AFRL officials held concurrent ceremonies March 25 at Wright-Patterson and Mesa to commemorate the event. A separate ceremony is scheduled for March 28 at Brooks City-Base. Under the new structure, the Air Force Institute for Operational Health at Brooks City-Base will deactivate and its functions be absorbed into the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, and the Performance Enhancement Directorate will be renamed Human Systems Integration.

The 311th HSW will remain active at Brooks City-Base until the Air Force missions there have been relocated.

On a historical note, the Air Force re-designated the inactive Harry G. Armstrong Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, or AAMRL, as the 711th HPW and activated



Photo by Chris Gulliford

Major Gen. Curtis M. Bedke, Air Force Research Laboratory commander (left), and Thomas S. Wells, 711th HPW director, stand at attention for the reading of the official order to activate the 711th HPW. The ceremony was held at Wright-Patterson, Air Force Base, Ohio, March 25.

it as one of 10 entities now within AFRL. The new wing's emblem is the AAMRL patch with wording revised to reflect the merger of the Human Effectiveness Directorate science and technology mission with the aerospace medical and human systems integration missions.

The 711th HPW could eventually bring an additional 500 military, 350 civilian, and a corresponding number of contractor jobs to Wright-Patterson and the Dayton, Ohio area. In addition, the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine will cycle more than 5,000 aerospace medicine students to the Dayton region yearly.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Program takes occupational health, safety to next level

WASHINGTON — Occupational Safety and Health Administration officials continue to focus on developing and caring for the safety of Airmen, civilians and their families to build a culture of safety with the Voluntary Protection Program, senior Air Force leaders said here recently.

"The Air Force implemented VPP (a few years ago) because first and foremost, it is our people who make us the world's most dominant air, space and cyberspace force," said Bill Anderson, the assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics.

Building a culture of safety is not just a quality-of-life issue. An Airman or worker sidelined by preventable injuries and illnesses costs the Air Force money.

In 2007, the civilian injury rate was 2.78 per 100 people, meaning there were 4,417 injuries and illnesses and 2,327 of those that resulted in lost time. There were more than 2,200 active duty injuries, which amounted to about 30,000 lost duty days.

The VPP takes occupational safety and health from a compliance-based program to a participation-based program, Anderson said.

It drives partnership between management and labor.

Program elements include management leadership and employee involvement, work-site analysis, hazard prevention and control, safety and health training, according to the OSHA's Web site.

Under VPP, employees from civilian companies who have achieved the highest levels of health and safety performance, called VPP Star sites, mentor employees at other locations, including the Air Force, to improve safety and occupational health performance.

Statistics have shown that VPP sites have 30 percent less injuries than non-VPP sites, Anderson said.

"The culture of safety must be embedded in every aspect of our professional and personal lives. In the air, on the ground, at work and at home, we want to take our safety and health programs to a higher level," said Maj. Gen. Wendell L. Griffin, the Air Force chief of safety at the Pentagon and commander of the Air Force Safety Center at Kirkland Air Force Base, N.M.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)