

WINGS SPREAD

Randolph Air Force Base ♦ Texas

58th Year ♦ No. 35 ♦ September 10, 2004

Practice makes perfect



Randolph firefighters shoot a stream of water from the top of a base fire truck at a simulated aircraft fire during live fire training at the Randolph Fire Training Facility Sept. 3. The fire crew was able to conduct this training while base officials tested new gas valves that were recently installed at the fire pit. Firefighters use the fire pit for live training on a quarterly basis. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts)

POW/MIA day provides time to honor those held captive, missing

By Michael Briggs
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

"However long it takes, wherever it takes us, whatever the cost."

Those words reflect the pledge of the more than 600 people who work every day to locate and identify 88,000 American servicemembers still missing from World War II to present.

They are also apt words to describe the theme of the annual observance of the National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day that takes place Tuesday.

Usually held the third Friday in September, the observance takes place earlier in the week this year out of respect for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year holiday that runs from Wednesday to Sept. 17, according to information from the Department of Defense/Missing Personnel Office that oversees the accounting of POWs and MIAs at the national level.

Of the 600 people worldwide whose mission it is to account for missing servicemembers, 10 work here at Randolph in the Air Force Missing Persons Branch at the Air Force Personnel Center.

The 10 are responsible for overseeing the Air Force POW/MIA program that seeks an accounting for the more

**Grandmother
recalls time as
WWII POW
see page 4**



than 1,600 Airmen missing from the Korean War, Cold War and Vietnam War, said James Russell, chief of the Missing Persons Branch.

"Among all the other agencies working accounting issues, our role is to serve as the liaison to the families of Air Force members," he said. "When we have new information relative to a case, our job is to pass that information on to the family, to discuss it with them and to help them understand what the agency is doing on their behalf."

The branch corresponds on a regular basis with about 3,000 family members of unaccounted Airmen, he said.

Once a month at regional meetings around the United States and twice a year at national gatherings in Washington, D.C., for Korean War and Vietnam War POWs and MIAs, the Air Force Missing Persons Branch provides in-person updates to family members. The meetings provide general information about ongoing recovery operations, as well as

case-specific details about each family's missing member, Mr. Russell said.

POW/MIA Recognition Day helps support America's personnel accounting efforts in a couple of ways, he said.

"First, it is a day of reverence and reflection for the people who never came home in making the ultimate sacrifice for their nation," Mr. Russell said. "It's also a time to thank the POWs and MIAs who did return."

Secondly, the observance lets those in uniform today know of their nation's resolve, he added.

"It sends a message to our current day Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines that we are not going to forget them," Mr. Russell said. "We, as a nation, will do everything in our power to bring them home."

The missing persons program, with 14 recovery operations and field activities scheduled in 2004, provides closure for several families each year. So far this year, the remains of 12 Air Force members have been identified. During the past three years, 31 members were identified and returned to their families.

For more information about the branch and its operations, people can go online to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/powmia/. For details about the POW/MIA program at the national level, visit the Department of Defense/Missing Personnel Office Website at www.dtic.mil/dpmo.

12th FLYING TRAINING WING TRAINING TIMELINE

As of Monday Pilot Instructor Training		
Squadron	Senior Class	Overall
99th FTS	0	1.8
558th FTS	2.6	0.2
559th FTS	2.8	1.6
560th FTS	4.2	4.3

Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.

Navigator, EWO training		
	562nd FTS	563rd FTS
Air Force	2312 Undergraduate	51
Navy	68 International	0
International	4 EWC Course	0
NIFT	52 Fundamentals	0

Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of navigator students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.

Wing Sortie Scoreboard			
Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
T-1A	3,844	3,867	4,383
T-6A	8,280	8,975	9,103
T-37B	7,078	7,124	7,508
T-38C	2,629	2,958	3,612
T-43A	1,060	1,156	1,160

The required and flown numbers reflect sorties since Oct. 1, 2003. The annual numbers are the current fiscal year target.



September 14



**AIR AND SPACE
EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE**

As of Monday, 189 Team Randolph members are deployed in support of military operations around the globe.

The Randolph
WINGSPREAD

12th Flying Training Wing

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For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

Commander's Action Line

Call 652-5149 or e-mail
randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil



While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better.

In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

Col. John Hesterman
12th Flying Training Wing commander

**Agency
contact numbers**

Security Forces	652-5509
Services	652-5971
Civil Engineers	652-2401
Transportation	652-4314
Military Pay	652-1851
Civilian Pay	652-6480
Safety Office	652-2224
Housing Maintenance	652-1856
12th FTW IG	652-2727
Equal Opportunity	652-4376
FW&A Hotline	652-3665
EEO Complaints	652-3749
Randolph Clinic	652-2933
Base Exchange	674-8917
Commissary	652-5102
Straight Talk	652-7469

Patriot Day: Time to reflect, honor all who protect freedom

By Col. John Hesterman
12th Flying Training Wing commander

Tomorrow we pause to remember a day three years ago that forever changed who we are and how we perceive the world around us. Tomorrow we should reflect on the actions of a few who altered the course of history and impacted the lives of each and every one of us.

President George W. Bush has proclaimed Sept. 11 as Patriot Day – a day for Americans to remember those who died in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and to honor those who help protect our freedoms.

As President Bush stated, "We will not forget the events of that terrible morning nor will we forget how Americans responded in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in the skies over Pennsylvania – with heroism and selflessness; with compassion and courage; and with prayer and hope. We will always remember our collective obligation to ensure that justice is done, that freedom prevails, and that the principles upon which our Nation was founded endure."

None of us should forget, where we were when we heard the surrealistic news that terrorists had attacked America – terrorists who killed more than 2,800 people from 90 countries in New York City, 125 people at

the Pentagon, 220 airline passengers, and deprived thousands of families of their fathers and mothers and sons and daughters.

I ask you to remember people like Army Sergeant Tamara Thurmon, from the Pentagon; Lisa Egan, who worked for Cantor Fitzgerald at the World Trade Center; Brian McDonnell of the New York City Police Department; Paul Pansini of the New York City Fire Department; Timothy Ward on board United Airlines Flight 175; Barbara Olson on board American Airlines Flight 77; Anna Allison on board American Airlines Flight 11; Todd Beamer on board United Airlines Flight 93 – and the more than 3,000 other victims and heroes who tragically died that day.

Remember their families who are continuing to cope with losses and search for some sense of normalcy in their lives. Never forget the heroic firefighters and police officers, and the passengers on board those aircraft, such as those on United Airlines Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania.

Remember the silence for two-and-a-half days following the attacks when all air traffic was grounded for the first time in our nation's history.

Remember the young men and women, including nearly 200 of our own Team Randolph Airmen, who are now serving in

harm's way in places around the world fighting our nation's war on terrorism and defending our country.

Remember 911 and draw resolve from that moment in history for as President Bush has often stated about our war on terrorism, "we will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail." The president's inspiring words are drawn from a speech given by another leader during a time of national trial, Winston Churchill after the British Army's withdrawal from Dunkirk in the early days of World War II.

Prime Minister Churchill went on to say, "We shall go on to the end. We shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air. We shall defend our (nation) whatever the cost may be...we shall never surrender."

Just as the prime minister shored up the British people for a long struggle, so Americans are prepared to persevere in the fight against terror. As we take a day to reflect on the tragedy of September 11, we acknowledge great loss but we also understand the need to move forward for we are a nation, not of victims, but of victors.

I encourage you to remember the heroes of that fateful day but also remember September 11 as a day that solidified our unity and patriotism and renewed our commitment to freedom and democracy throughout the world.

Secretary, chief send Patriot Day message

By Dr. James Roche
Secretary of the Air Force
and Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

On the third anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, the world will remember those tragically lost (because of) the heinous actions of terrorists in New York, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania. These were attacks against freedom, democracy and humanity that carried a high human toll as citizens from the United States and many other countries lost their lives.

This Patriot Day, we honor the memories of those lost, and we pay tribute to those answering freedom's call to combat

terrorism around the world.

Your efforts over the last three years have been phenomenal. You continue to professionally safeguard the skies of America. You have dispersed al-Qaida and toppled the Taliban government in Afghanistan. And, you were instrumental in ending a cruel regime in Iraq and ensuring that a new, democratic government could take root.

Our superior total force of active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen continue to brilliantly answer America's call to defend peace and freedom. Our country is confident in your capabilities and proud of your service.

Unfortunately, on this, the third Patriot

Day, our mission is not complete. Those who indiscriminately killed more than 3,000 people on Sept. 11, are still dedicated to terrorizing our nation and the world because we value life, believe in liberty and welcome democracy as the people's voice.

Let's remember those who are deployed in harm's way to defend the American way of life. And, let's ensure their families are taken care of while they're away from home.

As Airmen, our cause is just and noble. Our country depends on us to stay the course.

Thanks for all you do for America and our Air Force. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Congratulations Retirees

Today
Lt. Col. Paul Shannon
Air Education and Training
Command

Chief Master Sgt.
Randy Fuller
Air Force Recruiting Service

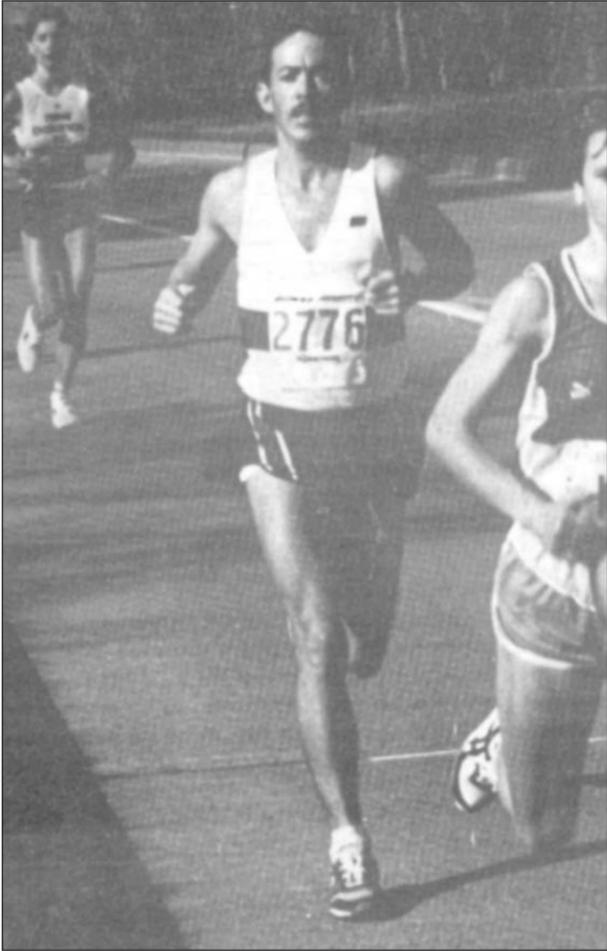
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Paying tribute

Jogging path honors former Airman, athlete



Capt. Kevin Collins runs toward the finish line of the Boston Marathon in 1986. He was the only entrant from San Antonio to finish in the top 100 that year coming in 62nd. He had hoped to qualify for the Olympic trials. (Courtesy photo)

By Col. Jay Mounkes
12th Flying Training Wing Legal Office

If you're like me, you probably have passed on more than one occasion a slightly tilted, slightly weathered stone marker you meet when you jog across the west side taxiway and start the Randolph golf course trail. The marker is kept company by an uncomfortable looking concrete park bench to one side.

If you take a breather for a minute or two to read the bronze tablet on the top of the marker, you will find that what I had always heard referred to as the "golf course jogging trail" was actually dedicated as the Kevin P. Collins Jogging Course on Dec. 21, 1986. The inscription tells us the dedication was in memory of Capt. Kevin P. Collins, USAF, 1954-1986, a 12th Flying Training Wing Instructor Pilot. The marker explains the significance of the dedication of a jogging trail in his memory. He was an All-American Track and Field competitor in college and also finished 62nd in the 1986 Boston Marathon, both feats being no small accomplishment. The inscription ends with the words "An Example for All – Erected by the Men and Women of the 12th FTW."

Captain Collins was killed, along with his father, in a plane crash near Georgetown, Texas in 1986.

Many of us who live and work on Randolph have passed by this memorial probably without a second glance. It's easy enough to do, as Randolph is perhaps the most historical of all our Air Force bases. Many buildings, monuments, plaques and markers easily pre-date 1986 by 50 years or more. Many are very visible and well-known symbols of our Air Force legacy like the "Taj" and Washington Circle. A treasured few, like the Missing Man Monument, stand on a far higher plane reminding us of the ultimate sacrifices made and being made by our comrades in arms.

"Captain Collins made such a positive impression upon his fellow Airmen that they were compelled to honor his memory as an officer and an athlete as 'An Example for All.'"

However, when I stopped at that askew marker a couple months ago, for some reason, the importance of keeping our Air Force legacy as part of a daily routine really struck me as I read the bronze inscription about Captain Collins.

I never met this man. But in the article published in the Wingspread more than 17 years ago I read how his widow Terry Collins cut the ribbon to officially open the course and later stood by as base athletes ran the 2.5-mile Kevin P. Collins Jogging Course in his honor. Fortunately for us, the marker erected that cold December in 1986 continues its mission and speaks to the fact that Captain Collins made such a positive impression upon his fellow Airmen that they were compelled to honor his memory as an officer and an athlete as "An Example for All."

So, the next time you jog the trail I hope the memory of Captain Collins inspires you to push yourself that extra mile, to step to the next level of fitness, or maybe just to achieve your personal best goals. In today's world, that next level of fitness, built at least in part on a legacy from our recent past, could well mean the difference between success or failure in meeting the challenges of our Air Force. If you feel that small part of our legacy, I'd ask you to give a salute of thanks to Captain Kevin P. Collins as you pass by that humble marker.

News

Fundraising rules emphasized during CFC

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

As the annual Combined Federal Campaign got underway with Thursday morning's kick-off breakfast, the 12th Flying Training Wing Legal Office offers some on-base fundraising campaign guidelines.

"Military discipline requires that there be no coercion when it comes to how individuals spend their money or decide which charitable activities they choose to support," said Paul Blackwell, 12th FTW Legal Office lawyer. "Those are questions of ethics."

According to Mr. Blackwell, there are two official fundraising campaigns in the Air Force, the Air Force Assistance Fund and the Combined Federal Campaign. Both have been around for over fifty years.

"These are the only two fundraisers where on-duty solicitation by uniformed members are authorized," he said.

Air Force Instruction 36-3101, Fundraising within the Air Force, sets out the rules for fund raising on Air Force installations. In addition to the two official fundraisers, the AFI identifies two other



(Left to right) Col. Vinnie DiFronzo, 19th Air Force vice commander; Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski, Air Force Personnel Center commander; Lt. Gen. John Hopper, Air Education and Training Command vice commander; Col. John Hesterman, 12th Flying Training Wing commander; and Col. Bill Bennett, Air Force Manpower Agency commander, sign their Combined Federal Campaign cards at the kick-off breakfast held Thursday in the officers' club. (Photo by Joel Martinez)

categories that are familiar to most military members, those supporting private organizations and the small, unofficial groups.

Small, unofficial groups can be any of those squadron or office fundraisers, such as a fund to keep up an office snack food

supply, Mr. Blackwell said. Sometimes these funds are focused on specific, one-time projects, such as a fund to help a family through a crisis of some kind. Fundraisers involving prepared food handling, however, come under special rules in order to satisfy safety concerns.

According to the AFI, when small funds become on-going operations with an average of more than \$1,000 in assets over any three month period, they must register with the installation commander as private organizations and have a written constitution and bylaws. Private organizations include groups such as the Boy Scouts, the Top Three Club, and even credit unions. Private organizations are governed also by AFI 34-223.

Because Air Force computers are an official government system, advertising private organization fundraisers using e-mail messages through government computer networks is not allowed. In addition, government contractors may not be solicited and military members may not solicit for private organizations while in uniform or while using their official titles, position or unit name.

"The best thing to do when questions of fundraising come up is to contact the legal office," Mr. Blackwell concluded. "We'll help sort out the details and make sure all the legal requirements are satisfied."

For more information, call Mr. Blackwell at 652-6781, or go online to www.safcg.hq.af.mil/ethics.htm.

Former POW shares unusual story of hardship

Teachers' daughter recalls years spent in captivity at Japanese internment camp

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

The many stories about American prisoners of war usually detail the experiences of service members captured during combat overseas. They range, for example, from the tragic heroism of Capt. Lance Sijan in Vietnam to the lighthearted television antics of Hogan's Heroes in World War II.

The little-known tale of a teenage girl, now a grandmother in San Antonio, is also among the accounts deserving of acknowledgement when America observes National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day Tuesday.

Liz Lautzenhiser Irvine has scrapbooks full of original documents and mementos of her three years of imprisonment.

Her parents had been American schoolteachers in the Philippines for almost 20 years when the war broke out. Ms. Irvine, who was born there, was a 14-year-old high school freshman in Manila in December 1941.

Within a 24-hour period, the day we know now as "a day that will live in infamy," the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Guam, Midway and the Philippines. After pulling his forces back to Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island, on Dec. 24 Gen. Douglas MacArthur declared Manila an "open city," hoping to preserve it as a designated neutral location. But three days later the Japanese army occupied the city and immediately seized the campus of Santo Thomas University to use as a prison for "interned enemy nationals."

"The Santo Thomas Internment Camp, or STIC as we called it," said Ms. Irvine, "occupied the entire 60-acre campus of the 300-year-old university. The Dominican teachers there had built a concrete wall around it to make the campus a quiet place for study, but the Japanese saw it as an ideal prison."

At one time there had been 6,000 students attending classes there, but very quickly it became home for 4,000 men and women prisoners. Ms. Irvine was one of those prisoners. "There were people from a dozen nations there," she said, "some of whom just happened to be in the Philippines when the war broke out."

For the first two years the camp was run by civilians from the Japanese government and living conditions were cramped but not harsh, Ms. Irvine said. Food was not plentiful, but the prisoners could buy fresh vegetables from Philippine vendors who were allowed inside the camp.

"The camp commander authorized us the equivalent of 35 cents per day per person, so we had two meals a day – watery rice, hard tack bread made with rice flour, and some kind of vegetables. Occasionally there was meat, too," she said.

Ms. Irvine explained that her grandmother, Nancy Belle Norton, along with other elderly foreign nationals, was not imprisoned at first because of her age. Luckily, she was allowed to bring food and supplies to the camp.

"Sometimes she managed to smuggle in news from the outside world when she came," Ms. Irvine said.

After the war, President Harry Truman awarded Ms. Norton the Medal of Freedom for her courageous work on behalf of so many prisoners.

The former prisoner went on to explain that they were allowed to have their own camp organization.

"We had our senior officials who dealt directly with the Japanese commander," she said. "There were several camp committees, including sanitation, recreation, health, religion, entertainment, and education. Because he had experience in school administration, my dad was a member of the education committee."

Ms. Irvine told how the education committee quickly established a school with all twelve grades.

"My dad convinced the Japanese to let us collect textbooks from what was left of schools in the city" she



Three former women prisoners of war talk with U. S. Army soldiers in 1945 just three weeks after they were liberated from the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in the Philippines. Liz Lautzenhiser, third person from the right, was imprisoned there for about three years. Behind the group is one of the L-4 liaison airplanes that was involved in the fast-moving spearhead of the 1st Cavalry Division that freed the prisoners. (Courtesy photo)

said. "We learned to write very small to conserve paper. We also had tests and even report cards. I still have some of mine in my scrapbooks. By the time we were liberated, I had completed my high school work."

The former POW went on to explain the living arrangements in the camp.

"The men and women were quartered separately in the main building," she said. "My mother and I were together in a classroom that usually held 32 women prisoners. Our cots were all just inches apart. There was no such thing as privacy."

"We washed clothes outside in a metal trough some of the men built and we had an old bathtub in the yard where

managed to get enough components smuggled in to build a radio receiver. It had to be taken apart every day and hidden in various places so the Japanese soldiers couldn't find it even though they searched for it repeatedly.

"The best news, though," she said, "was when an American liaison plane flew low overhead and dropped a cryptic message that let us know the U.S. Army was close by."

The hospital committee kept detailed records. They show that 390 people died in the camp of various causes. Toward the end the number of people dying every day was accelerating as the dwindling food supplies left people increasingly vulnerable to disease. However, the camp

commander would not allow the medical people to list the cause of death as malnutrition because that would show neglect on the part of Japanese officials, Ms. Irvine said.

When Gen. Douglas MacArthur's troops made their first landing on the island of Luzon on Jan. 9, 1945, about 100 miles north of Manila, he ordered them to make a dash to liberate the camp at Santo Tomas. He was concerned that the Japanese might harm the prisoners there. A small element of the Army's 1st Cavalry

Division was the first to reach the camp, smashing their tanks through the front gates during the night of Feb. 3.

Irvine recalled the excitement of seeing American soldiers as they quickly set up their artillery to defend the camp, which was their most forward position. Artillery barrages and sniper fire continued for a month in Manila before the Japanese forces were finally defeated. Ms. Irvine recalled climbing up in a bombed out building not far from the camp with a friend and watching artillery shells arcing through the air between the opposing forces.

But the former POW's fondest memory was being liberated.

"The best part of being freed by the Army was having all that good Army food," she laughed.

Ms. Irvine remembered that the camp had only about three days' supply of food left when the Americans arrived.

"We stuffed ourselves on C-rations that they brought in by the truckload!" she said. "In just a few weeks, I regained the weight I had lost."

Carefully turning the pages in one of her scrapbooks, the former POW pointed to a picture of an American flag hanging from the front balcony of the main camp building. It was taken by a Life magazine cameraman the day after the camp was liberated.

"I was just over here to the left of where the cameraman was," she said.

The excitement still showed in her voice as she told about that day.

Ms. Irvine and her mother were repatriated to the U.S. a year after they were liberated, but her father stayed on for another year to help the Philippine government rebuild their school system. Ms. Irvine was accepted into Whitman College in Washington the next year, where she met Walt Irvine. They were married in 1949 and raised a family of four children.



Liz Irvine reminisces about her time in the prison camp as she thumbs through one of her scrapbooks of documents from the war years. (Photo by Bob Hieronymus)

conditions became much worse, Ms. Irvine recalled. The Allies were advancing across the South Pacific and the war was not going well for the Japanese. Food rations in the camp were cut down to about 1,000 calories a day. People were dying almost every day from various tropical diseases, often compounded by malnutrition. By early 1945, rations were reduced again to about 600 calories per day.

Seventy-seven U.S. Army and Navy nurses were also prisoners in the camp.

"They were so faithful serving in the camp hospital," Ms. Irvine said. "They included a dietician who tried to monitor the food situation and make demands for specific medicines to help the sick."

Ms. Irvine recounted a time at the prison when three men escaped from the camp but were quickly caught.

"The camp commander forced our senior officials to watch as the escapees were executed as a warning to the rest not to try any more escapes," she said. "By the time we were liberated, a total of ten men were executed."

The prisoners were able to keep up with news about the war because some engineers imprisoned in the camp

"We washed clothes outside in a metal trough some of the men built and we had an old bathtub in the yard where the women washed their hair."

Liz Lautzenhiser Irvine
Former prisoner of war

the women washed their hair," she continued. "Everyone was assigned a job of some kind. Being cooped up so closely together, having regular work was the only way to keep our sanity."

In 1944, operation of STIC was taken over by the Japanese army and

Advanced Instrument School offers refresher class

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

In an effort to expose more Randolph-based pilots to the latest news in instrument flying, the Air Force Advanced Instrument School will begin offering a short class on instrument procedures open to all interested aviators, starting Sept. 21.

The special one hour class is now part of the one-day Instrument Refresher Course taught by Lear Siegler, Inc. AIS instructors will augment the LSI staff and present a variety of topics during the class.

The IRC, offered on a monthly basis and required

annually for all pilots and navigators, will be held in the DeBellevue Room in the 12th Operations Support Squadron, Building 740. The IRC normally starts at 7:30 a.m., with the AIS presentation beginning at 8 a.m. Reservations are not required.

Topics will vary each month, but will include subjects such as departure procedures, changes in the National Airspace System, circling approaches, cold weather altimeter settings, approach lighting and other such topics as they are developed.

According to AIS officials, one subject of interest that will be discussed is the Reduced Vertical Separation Minimums that go into effect nation-wide on Jan. 20, 2005.

Currently, aircraft flying above 29,000 are given 2,000 vertical separation from other aircraft. When the RVSM procedures go into effect, that separation will change to 1,000. All commercial Air Force aircraft wishing to fly above 29,000 feet will need to be modified to add equipment to aid in keeping that separation. Randolph aircraft are not currently scheduled to be RVSM certified.

AIS officials also noted that instructors from the staff are now regularly contributing articles to the Air Force's Flying Safety magazine. Their first article will be in the October issue and will deal with circling approaches.

For a list of upcoming class dates or for more information, call the AIS at 652-6047.

Operation Bolo - Vietnam

Hero tells of most successful one-day operation of war

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

The 558th Flying Training Squadron was recently honored by the visit of Vietnam War aviator, retired Col. Dan Fulgham.

With 32 years of military experience, the colonel had many stories to tell, but this visit focused on his participation in Operation Bolo, the most significant one-day operation in the Vietnam War with seven North Vietnamese fighters shot down in air-to-air combat.

Colonel Fulgham was an F-4 Phantom pilot with the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, based at Ubon Air Base, Thailand. Serving as a flight member at the time of Operation Bolo, he told about the build-up and planning phase that was originally put forward by Col. Robin Olds in late 1966.

Because they were carrying such heavy bomb loads at low altitudes, the F-105 "Thuds" had been experiencing unacceptably high loss rates when attacked by the more maneuverable, lighter weight MiG-21 aircraft, he said.

Colonel Olds proposed a deception operation in which F-4s, well armed with four AIM-7E and four AIM-9B air-to-air missiles, pretended to be flights of the more vulnerable F-105 aircraft, he said. The F-4s used radio frequencies and call signs, and flew in formations on strike routes toward targets the F-105s often struck. When the enemy aircraft started their attack, the F-4s were then to drop their external fuel tanks and go into their air-to-air attack mode.

This operation was planned and executed in a little more than a month, Colonel Fulgham said. It required a maximum effort from units across the whole theater to launch 56 F-4 fighters, 16 F-104s, 24 F-105s that would actually deliver ordnance on targets during the operation, along with tankers and other mission support aircraft.

The operation was cancelled once because



Three F-4Cs of Col. Dan Fulgham's four-ship flight on a combat air patrol over North Vietnam in early 1967. Visible on the aircraft are the AIM-7 Sparrow and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles. (Photo by Col. Dan Fulgham)

of weather and finally launched on Jan. 2, 1967. To get as many fighters airborne as possible in a short amount of time, F-4s took off from both ends of the runway with minimum separation to get the force airborne in the minimum amount of time.

"The cloud cover was solid over North Vietnam," Colonel Fulgham recalled, "but the Operation Bolo tactics successfully lured a good portion of the MiG-21 fleet above the weather where we met them in a series of fast moving dog fights."

Colonel Olds led the formation into battle and got the first MiG kill with a Sidewinder missile. Two other aircrews in his flight also each downed a MiG. Ford Flight, the second flight into the area, led by then Col. "Chappie" James (later Gen. Daniel James, commander of the Air Education and Training Command), downed the fourth MiG.

In the 13-minute engagement, four of the MiGs were shot down with AIM-7E Sparrow

radar-guided missiles and three with AIM-9B Sidewinder heat-seeking missiles. Two days later two more MiG-21s were shot down, thus accounting for more than half of the North Vietnamese MiG-21 inventory. The remaining MiG-21s were not launched for another three months.

Colonel Fulgham emphasized the tremendous pride that he had seeing the whole base work as a team. Portions of the flight were even broadcast live over the base public address system. Hundreds of base personnel were on the flight line to cheer the returning aircrews.

"Operation Bolo bound Men to Machines, Men to Men and Men to God," the colonel said.

After Colonel Fulgham's visit, members were in awe.

"It's quite an experience to meet someone who was part of such an important operation," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hilton, 558th pilot instructor. "He is a real, living legend.

The same kind of initiative and resolve, represented by Operation Bolo and all the people who made it happen, still applies today."

Colonel Fulgham, Ph.D., is now president of International Pathfinders, Inc., a company that works to bring new drug therapies to the U.S. for testing. He was formerly director of Biosciences and Bioengineering at Southwest Research Incorporated in San Antonio.

He entered the Army in 1945 just before the end of WWII. After his discharge in late 1946, he joined the Texas Air National Guard in Houston while attending the University of Houston as a pre-med student. He graduated in June 1950, coincidentally just when North Korea invaded South Korea, and was called to active duty along with his entire unit.

He entered flight training, where he flew the original T-6 Texan, graduating in 1952. Colonel Fulgham flew a full combat tour in Korea in the F-84 fighter-bomber, once flying five combat sorties in one day. He also completed a full combat tour in the Vietnam War from 1966-67.

Colonel Fulgham flew 18 U.S. Air Force aircraft during his career. More than half of his 32 years of military service was spent in research and development related to high altitude and space flight. He has hands on experience with such programs as the X-15, X-20, XB-70, Manned Orbiting Laboratory, Mercury and Gemini. He also participated in the super-secret Air Force space program prior to Sputnik and NASA. He is a Command Pilot, Master Parachutist, and a military balloon pilot.

Colonel Fulgham retired from the Air Force in 1978 as a colonel and commander of one of the 13 Air Force research laboratories.

"We are very thankful for Colonel Fulgham giving his time to provide a great example of our U.S. Air Force heritage," said Colonel Hilton.

(Lt. Col. Jeff Hilton, 558th FTS, contributed to this story.)

LOWER SEGUIN ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The first phase of reconstruction of Lower Seguin Road is in progress. This phase includes the closing of Woman Hollering Creek Bridge with access from FM 1518 blocked. This phase of the project should be complete this fall. The South Gate remains accessible by way of Loop 1604.

GATE HOURS DURING HARMON DRIVE CONSTRUCTION

MAIN GATE/HARMON DRIVE

- Monday through Friday two lanes inbound from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Monday through Friday two lanes outbound from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Closed all other times including weekends, holidays and family days

SOUTH GATE (Two-way traffic)

- Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Closed weekends and holidays

EAST GATE (Two-way traffic)

- Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Sunday and holidays 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

WEST GATE (Two-way traffic)

- 24-hour operations, seven days a week
- Commercial vehicle entrance

HIGH SCHOOL GATE

- Closed

TRICARE officials offer tips for contract transition

WASHINGTON – Some beneficiaries of the military's TRICARE health-care system may experience long wait times when calling their new regional contractors.

But the transition to new contracts "will make a strong program better and ultimately result in higher patient satisfaction," TRICARE officials said.

Officials suggest conducting business online whenever possible, calling during non-peak hours and visiting TRICARE service centers for face-to-face assistance as ways to beat phone congestion during the transition.

Each regional contractor has made conducting business online easy and fast, officials said. Beneficiaries may enroll or change enrollment information online, search for providers in their local area and find information on the health plan as well as links to other key sites for information on claims processing and online appointments.

Beneficiaries still may call their regional contractor, officials said, but should understand they might experience longer wait times because of high call volume during the transition. Officials suggest that since more people call on Mondays than any other day, beneficiaries should try to call on other days if they can. Thursdays and Fridays have the least calls, officials said, making these days the best chance for gaining quick access.

The toll-free regional contractor telephone numbers are:

TRICARE for Life Briefing

There is a TRICARE for Life briefing for all TRICARE eligible people nearing or over age 65 Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Family Support Center, located at 555 F Street West.

For more information, call 1-800-406-2832, option 3.

☐ TRICARE North: (877) 874-2273.

☐ TRICARE South: (800) 444-5445.

☐ TRICARE West: (888) 874-9378.

Officials also stressed the importance of beneficiaries keeping their Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System information updated. Failure to keep information current may result in denials of care or pharmacy service, returned claims and undelivered updates about the transition, officials said.

To update personal information in DEERS, beneficiaries can visit the military personnel flight in Pitsenberger Hall, Building 399, or contact the defense manpower data center support office at 1-800-538-9552.

For other TRICARE information, call the service center at 1-800-406-2832.

(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

Sixteen base technical sergeants graduate Lackland NCO Academy

Sixteen Randolph technical sergeants graduated from the Lackland NCO Academy Sept. 2. Among the graduates was Erica Aguilar, Air Education and Training Command, who was awarded the honor of distinguished graduate.

Other graduates included:

12th Communications Squadron

Tonia Bennett

12th Mission Support Squadron

Tonya Kidwell

Patricia Walker

12th Operations Support Squadron

Wanda Atkari

Air Education and Training Command

Charles Corte

Jeffery Needham

Michele Taylor

Air Force Personnel Center

Keith Crowder

Walter Goodwin

Cameron Jones

Tiffany Velez

Bryan Walling

Electronic Systems Center

Matthew Fox

Joint Personal Property Shipping Office

Marc Lewis

381st Training Squadron, Det. 1

Jason Mills

West Wherry access to Harmon Drive to reopen

Third Avenue West reopens Sept. 20 to provide residents of the West Wherry housing area better access to the base.

When entering Harmon Drive from West Wherry, only right turns (toward the interior of the base) are permitted from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Harmon Drive is closed to all non-construction traffic from 1-3 p.m. From 3-6 p.m. all traffic on Harmon Drive flows outbound.

In addition, Harmon Drive is closed to all traffic

from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Friday and on weekends and holidays.

The intersection at 3rd Avenue West was blocked off shortly after Harmon Drive construction began due to several incidents of drivers turning against the direction of one-way traffic on Harmon Drive which could have resulted in serious accidents. The future of keeping Third Avenue West open depends on drivers conforming to traffic flow rules, said base engineering officials.

25 YEARS AGO

in the Wingspread

☆ The Wingspread featured the Randolph Professional Military Education Center with a full page spread. The article listed three phases of PME. Phase I was a three-day course required for senior airmen before promotion to staff sergeant. Phase II was a 60-hour course, taught four hours a day over a three week period. It was designed for E-4s and civilians who were preparing for their first supervisory assignment. Phase III was a four-week course for junior NCOs preparing them for better understanding of the role of the non-commissioned officer.

☆ The Air Force was recommending all members use "Sure Pay," a new system of electronic transfer of funds

directly to banks where members deposit their regular pay.

☆ Scheduled for the following week was the national celebration of Hispanic Heritage Week. Special music was scheduled for both Catholic and Protestant chapel services. A brown bag lunch with the Band of West was slated for the center pool area on Tuesday, and a film, "Heritage in Bronze," was on tap for continuous free showing during a two-hour lunch period on Wednesday and Thursday. In addition, the dining hall was to feature Mexican food all week and the NCO Open Mess planned Hispanic music and food on Friday evening.

Find the *Randolph Services page* online at
www.servicesatrandolph.com

Semi-annual Military Community Job Fair set

Randolph members searching for employment encouraged to attend

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

More than 70 public and privately owned businesses are expected to attend the 21st semi-annual San Antonio Military Community Job Fair Sept. 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Live Oak Civic Center.

The fair, which is sponsored by San Antonio area military transition assistance and career focus programs, targets active-duty military, family members, retirees, veterans and Department of Defense civilians transitioning into the civilian work force, said fair officials.

"The employers who participate in this popular fair are specifically looking for individuals with the type of skills a

military member offers," said Charlotte Noll, family support center career focus program manager.

The companies typically have a large variety of job vacancies, to include aircraft engine mechanics, telecommunication experts, network administrators, computer technicians, programmers, clerical and administrative persons, sales persons, human resources experts, accountants, electronic technicians and managers.

A complete list of participating companies and job vacancy categories is available at the Randolph Transition Assistance office located in the family support center. The list can also be found on the event Web site at <http://www.taonline.com/careerpages/careerfairs.asp#SA>.

"If a service member has six months or less left in the military, he or she should make every effort to attend," said Ms. Noll. "Also, those who are new to the area should attend as well – it is an excellent opportunity to see what our local employers are offering."

The Live Oak Civic Center is located at the junction of Interstate 35 North and Loop 1604 at 8101 Pat Booker Road in Live Oak.

For more information, call Ms. Noll at 652-5321.

Job Fair tips

Randolph Family Support Center Career Focus Program officials offer the following tips to prepare for the San Antonio Military Community Job Fair:

Before the fair:

- See a list of employers and the jobs they are offering at <http://www.taonline.com/generalpages/careerfairs.asp>.
- Research those companies of interest.
- Prepare a resume focusing on relevant skills and qualifications for each position of interest.
- Arrange for childcare the day of the fair, if necessary.

The day of the job fair:

- Dress professionally, as if going to an interview.
- Turn cell phone ringers off.
- Bring multiple copies of resumes.
- Organize time at the job fair by visiting employers you have interest in first.
- Have direct questions ready for each recruiter.

Enlisted club celebrates 10 years of Football Frenzy

Air Force Services Agency offers prizes to NFL, NCAA fans during 2004 season

By Shelta Reese
12th Services Division

In celebration of Football Frenzy's 10th Anniversary, the Randolph Enlisted club offers club members lots of ways to get involved and win prizes.

Every Saturday, Sunday and Monday night, football fans can come to Gil's Pub and watch the games on the big screen while enjoying food and drinks.

Throughout both the college and professional football seasons, club members can enter a variety of drawings

sponsored by the Air Force Services Agency. Prizes awarded include a variety of fan gear, video games, a plasma television and a trip to a regular-season NFL game, the Pro Bowl and the Super Bowl.

Every Monday night, two boxes, one representing each team playing, will be available for participants to place a Football Frenzy entry form into. Members place the form into the box of whichever team they think will win. At the end of the game, an entry form will be pulled from the winning team's box and the person selected wins a door prize. If the winning team scores only 10 points, a second form will be selected from that team's box for \$25 in club bucks.

College football fans have a chance to win an Alamo Bowl ticket prize package as well by wearing any item of NCAA football gear to the club during a regular season

game. Members wearing gear of a team that is playing that night receive an entry form to go into a drawing at the end of the season.

Another Football Frenzy prize program the club offers is Football Fandemonium. As part of this program, club members earn a one-point ticket for every \$2 purchase of food or drinks during the games. Members also earn five points for every Football Frenzy and college football entry form they turn in. At the end of the season, the top three club members with the most points receive \$500 cash, \$250 cash, and lunch for two once a month for a year respectively. In addition, the top 40 point winners are awarded "VIP" status for themselves and one guest to the enlisted club's Super Bowl party.

For more information on Football Frenzy, call the enlisted club at 652-3056.

Victory stroke



Doug Rogers, Air Force Personnel Center, putts on the 18th green during an intramural golf playoff game Wednesday at Randolph Oaks Golf Course. AFPC won the game and earned the right to compete for the base championship against Air Education and Training Command's Directorate of Communications and Information next week. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts)

SPORTS SHORTS

Aerobathon

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at Fort Sam Houston sponsors an aerobathon Sept. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. During the event, participants perform step and low-impact aerobics as well as abdominal exercises. The cost is \$10.

For more information, call 221-2020.

Operation Stay Fit

The fitness center hosts an Operation Stay Fit Circuit Challenge Sept. 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the main center, Hangar 71.

During the workout, participants travel from one circuit station to the other doing various exercises to include push-ups, crunches, leg lunges, jumping jacks, jump rope and more.

For more information, call 652-5760.

Biathlon

Randolph athletes can celebrate the beginning of Oktoberfest with a biathlon consisting of a 10-mile bike ride and 5-mile run Sept. 24 at Eberle Park.

The event begins at 9 a.m. and is open to all military ID cardholders age 18 and over. All participants must attend a meeting on Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. in the fitness center conference room, Hangar 70 in order to participate.

Army Dillo Half Marathon

The Brigade Gym on Fort Sam Houston sponsors an Army Dillo Half Marathon Sept. 26 at 7 a.m. The cost is \$30 per team or \$25 per person for those who register by Sept. 22. After Sept. 22, the cost is \$40 per team or \$35 per person. Registration on the day of the race begins at 6 a.m. at the gym.

For more information, call 221-3185.

Family Golf Special

The Randolph Oaks Golf Course offers a family special Monday through Friday after 6 p.m. Adults can golf for \$2 and children for \$1.

For more information, call 652-4653.

Discounted golf

Now through Sept. 30, base golfers receive \$4 off the Randolph Oaks Golf Course regular rates and \$2 off its "twi-lite" rates.

Also, those members who have annual fee cards that are good through this timeframe receive a two-month extension on the expiration date. (Dec. 31 through Feb. 28) at no extra charge.

The discounts are due to the inconveniences customers may experience during this time due to course reservations.

For more information, call 652-4653.

Fit to fight

In an effort to recognize those Team Randolph members who achieve an "excellent" rating on the Air Force Fitness Test, which is a 90 percent or above, the *Wingspread* has implemented this "Fit to Fight" column, in which the names of these individuals and their unit are featured. Scores are divided into two categories – those who score 100 percent and those who score between a 90 and 99.95 percent.

The following are members who recently earned this benchmark score:

90s and above:

12th Flying Training Wing
Lt. Col. Larry Goodwin, 92.2
12th Mission Support Group
Airman Lionel Garcia, 92.0

