

WINGS SPREAD

12th FTW Services Division wins top AETC Award

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

After a thorough inspection of the 12th Services Division in February by the Air Education and Training Command LeMay Team, the verdict is in – the Randolph Services Team is the best large services unit in AETC.

As a reward, the unit was awarded \$70,000; \$30,000 for appropriated fund activities and \$40,000 for non-appropriated fund activities. But the team's biggest honor is having the opportunity to compete for the Air Force 2004 Gen. Curtis E. LeMay Services Award later this year.

Col. Greg Patterson, 12th Support Group commander, said he is very pleased with the team effort of the Services Division, led

by George DeCoux.

"I stopped being surprised by this team and their achievements some time ago," he said. "They continue to win, award after award."

"Last year they were recognized as the best child development center in the Air Force," the colonel continued, "and this year, in addition to winning eight major command-level awards, they were recognized as the best enlisted club in the Air Force. These folks work hard for Team Randolph and I have every confidence they'll be recognized as the best services team in the Air Force. This is a great honor, not only for the services folks, but also for the best customers in the world."

Among the services team's many accomplishments, it achieved a zero safety

incident record last year and reduced workers compensation claims by 65 percent. The organization also garnered a Team Randolph Civilian of the Year award, two group annual awards, two wing and seven group quarterly awards.

"In everything we do, people are the focus of our attention," said Capt. David Kretz, 12th Services Division deputy chief. "Customer feedback is very important to us," he said. "We look at trends, look for inter-relationships and demographics in our customer bases, then develop plans and solutions."

The results of this kind of planning show in the results achieved. For example, both the officer's and enlisted club annual membership drives exceeded goals by 34 percent.

The division also managed more than \$350,000 worth of special events for the base and civilian communities last year, including a two-day air show attended by 200,000 people, a 4th of July celebration with fireworks and live bands, a Youth Center Famaganza and Wing Sports Day.

The division also acquired a \$100,000 mobile stage that is now available for many different kinds of base events, such as the recent Tops In Blue performance.

"While we are proud of our programs and facilities," said Captain Kretz, "it's really the people of the 12th Services Division that make the difference for Team Randolph. This award is a direct reflection of their hard work and commitment to excellence."

Freedom Flyers Reunion

Former POWs tell of extraordinary will to return with honor

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

Randolph welcomes former prisoners of the Vietnam War for the 31st annual Freedom Flyers reunion today.

The public is invited to join six of the Freedom Flyers in the base theater at 9 a.m. as the former prisoners of war recount their experiences. Also speaking is one of the spouses who successfully weathered those years of separation. Retired Col. Ken Cordier is the moderator at this year's symposium.

During the event, guest speaker, retired Col. Carlyle Harris, plans to talk about developing and using the "Tap Code" for communicating between prisoners while retired Col. Ray Merritt, talks about the infamous Hanoi March. Also during the symposium, Retired Lt. Col. Lauren Lengyel, tells the story of The "Great Escape;" retired Col. Elmo Baker talks about life in prison before the Son Tay raid; and retired Lt. Col. John Yuill discusses Operation Linebacker II and the role of Strategic Air Command.

Also at the event, retired Col. Don Ellis, former 560th Flying Training Squadron commander, talks about what it was like re-qualifying the original Freedom Flyers; Louise Harris, wife of retired Col. Carlyle "Smitty" Harris, discusses what the POW wives were experiencing on the home front; and Retired Brig. Gen. Robinson Risner, senior

ranking officer of the 4th Allied POW Wing and author of "The Passing of the Night," talks about some of the leadership challenges in the POW camps.

A wreath laying ceremony at the base Missing Man Monument follows the symposium at noon, accompanied by a traditional Missing Man fly over by Randolph T-38s. The public part of the festivities concludes with a composite flyover of the base at 6 p.m. and includes various types of other Air Force aircraft.

The 560th FTS has hosted the reunion every year since the pilots among the returned Air Force POWs were first sent to the squadron for cockpit requalification training in 1973, said Lt. Col. Michael Mitchell, squadron project officer. Last year during the reunion, the last two of the eligible pilots of this group received their "fini flights."

Finis flights are an old military tradition going back at least to the World War II days, Colonel Mitchell explained. During the Vietnam War, a pilot who completed 100 missions over enemy territory earned his ticket to go home. A successful landing after that 100th mission was counted as completion of his fini flight and he was met on the flight line with champagne and dousing with a fire hose. A pilot who was shot down obviously could not count that mission as completed, so there was no fini flight.

Former POW pilots who entered the requalification training cycle with the 560th FTS were greeted with the

traditional celebration when they completed their first training flight, thus symbolically completing their "interrupted" last combat mission. There were other pilots who, for many different reasons – medical and personal – did not go back to the cockpit. Over the years those who were able to fly were offered the opportunity to take their fini flights in 560th FTS T-38s. That group of former POWs has now been exhausted. That era is coming to a close.

Finis flights have always been just one part of the Freedom Flyers Reunions, Colonel Mitchell said.

"The chance to see familiar faces and retell old stories is reason enough for the former POWs to celebrate," he said. "For military people who shared the horrors of prison and who supported each other through years of brutality, the opportunity to share a few moments together is worth the effort of the reunion," he added.

Spouses of the POWs also made sacrifices. The way they faced their challenges during those years also provides many examples of heroic fortitude that should not be forgotten, said Colonel Mitchell.

"While these reunions celebrate the return of those who survived the ordeal of prison, we will never forget the many who did not return," Colonel Mitchell said. "The reunions will continue as long as there are Freedom Flyers to attend, but their record of faithfulness and courage will be treasured by Air Force people for generations to come."

12th FLYING TRAINING WING TRAINING TIMELINE

As of Monday			Navigator, EWO training			Wing Sortie Scoreboard			
Pilot Instructor Training			562nd FTS			Aircraft Required Flown Annual			
Squadron	Senior Class	Overall	Air Force	240 Undergraduate	52	T-1A	1,957	1,917	4,040
99th FTS	-5.0	-2.0	Navy	71 International	16	T-6A	4,068	4,115	9,103
558th FTS	-5.9	-1.5	International	1 EWC Course	0	T-37B	3,555	3,288	7,171
559th FTS	-4.8	-3.3	NIFT	82 Fundamentals	0	T-38A	4,060	3,946	5,674
560th FTS	-7.2	-4.9				T-43A	511	531	1,160

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

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.

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

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**AIR AND SPACE
EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE**

As of Monday, 126 Team Randolph members are deployed in support of military operations around the globe.

The Randolph
WINGSPREAD

12th Flying Training Wing
Editorial Staff

Col. Mark Graper
Commander

Col. George Duda
Vice Commander

Capt. Paul Villagran
Chief of Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Angelique McDonald
Chief of Internal Information

Senior Airman Lindsey Maurice
Editor

Prime Time Military Newspaper

Contract Staff

Jennifer Valentin

Staff Writer

Bob Hieronymus

Staff Writer

Maggie Armstrong

Graphic Designer

Wingspread office:

1 Washington Circle, Suite 4
Randolph AFB, Texas 78150
Phone: (210) 652-5760
Fax: (210) 652-5412

Wingspread Advertisements:

Prime Time Military Newspapers
7137 Military Drive West
San Antonio, Texas 78227
Phone: (210) 675-4500
Fax: (210) 675-4577

Wingspread online:

www.randolph.af.mil/12ftw/wing/pa/wingspread.htm

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Articles may also be sent by e-mail to wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

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. Mark Graper

12th Flying Training Wing commander

Refill pharmacy taking too long

Q The base refill pharmacy has not been running as smoothly as it has in the past. Lately I have had to wait up to an hour after already waiting 2-3 days for my refills to be filled. I used to call before 6 a.m. and it would be ready for me the following duty day. I do not have the time to sit around that long and wait for my prescription. Can you please take a look at this process to make it better? Thank you.

A I understand your concern as there have been numerous complaints regarding increased wait times at the pharmacy.

The new PharmASSIST automated barcode technology prescription processing system is a mandatory Air Force-wide program that either has been or will be implemented in every medical treatment facility pharmacy. The new system focuses on

medication filling accuracy and patient safety. The initial expectation was that there would be a slow-down in operations until after the staff became used to the new equipment, but that we would resume near normal operations in time. However, even though the staff is now skilled in dealing with the new system, the wait times are still longer.

The pharmacy staff has taken many steps to optimize the current situation and inform patients, including the installation of a number system so that patients can sit down rather than stand in line and a work order given to the civil engineers to provide additional pick-up stations.

As always, active duty members in uniform have priority in line, but as an alternative, customers can use the TRICARE mail order pharmacy program, which is free to active duty and charges only a nominal fee to other beneficiaries. More information on the program is available at www.expresscripts.com.

**Agency
contact
numbers**

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

Following rules builds credibility for Air Force members

By Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Sergent
12th Flying Training Wing command chief

Military professionals who demonstrate service before self, do so through various behaviors. One of the behaviors involves a willingness to follow rules.

I often encounter young men in the military wearing earrings on base. When this occurs, I ask them if they're familiar with the rules concerning earrings. Of course, they say yes.

To clarify, I then ask if they're aware that males may not wear earrings on a military installation, even if they're off duty and in civilian clothes. Again they say yes. This then leads to the obvious question: "Then why are they wearing earrings?" If these individuals know what they are doing is against the rules, then why are they doing it? The most common answer I get is that they "don't agree with the rule."

My response to this is that membership in the Air Force involves tremendous responsibility. Every day military members place their safety in the hands of others. For this reason, we must have unwavering trust in our fellow service members.

Individuals who make a conscious

"Those who cannot be trusted to follow simple rules, fail to inspire confidence in their willingness to follow rules of greater magnitude... They call into question their trustworthiness."



Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Sergent
12th Flying Training Wing command chief

decision to violate a rule, any rule, offer insight into their character. Their actions call into question our ability to trust them implicitly.

Each day, a few military members choose to disagree with rules and to act on this disagreement. They choose to walk outside, in uniform, while not wearing a hat. They choose to remain seated while speaking to someone senior in rank. They choose to wear earrings when not authorized. While these actions won't cause an immediate collapse of civilization, their

impact on mission effectiveness should not be minimized. Those who cannot be trusted to follow simple rules fail to inspire confidence in their willingness to follow rules of greater magnitude with greater implications. They call into question, their trustworthiness.

In the Air Force, trust is the foundation upon which we build mission success. We trust individuals to carry out all tasks necessary to ensure the safe completion of our obligations. Individuals who can't be trusted adversely impact the mission. Subsequently, they limit their value to the unit and the Air Force.

Right or wrong, people form their first opinions of us based on what they see. If the individual they see conveys a sense of professionalism and self-discipline, a willingness to do the right thing in small issues as well as large, feelings of trust develop quickly. For others, the path toward gaining trust is far more difficult.

Some rules are required by instructions; some by verbal order; others still by customs and courtesies. Regardless of their origin, we should always strive to do the right thing – to follow rules. It's the right thing to do as a professional, to inspire trust and confidence in others.

Lieutenant provides new perspective on advancement of women

By 2nd Lt. Ashley Gee
319th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. — If there was ever one thing that my mom taught me, it was to be self sufficient.

"Never be in a position where you have to rely on someone else to take care of you," she always told me.

Being just a child romping in the jungles of Nigeria, I never really understood what she was talking about or where she was coming from, I just knew I had to try hard and give 100 percent at everything I did.

Eventually that mentality got me through the United States Air Force Academy and led to becoming an officer and lady in the United States Air Force.

A few weeks ago, I saw an e-mail about Women's History Month. The thought occurred that I had never heard of such a thing. Was there really a month that celebrated women and their

achievements? Well just about everything has a month, or a day at least, so it was entirely possible.

The whole idea sparked thoughts of my life as a young girl in Africa to now being a female second lieutenant in the Air Force stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Nigeria, where I once lived, in itself is an amazing place with a people and culture unlike anywhere else in the world. That being said, the life of a woman in Nigeria is vastly different from anything you could imagine here in the United States.

Nigerian women were expected to bear the children, plant the cassava fields and take care of their family with very little recognition for how much they did.

Education for children was not the primary concern for most families and, if you were a girl, that might mean you didn't get one at all.

See Perspective on page 3

Numerous credit cards costly for consumers

By Charles Ringwood
82nd Mission Support Squadron
financial planner

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Thousands of Americans find themselves in insurmountable debt to the tune of millions of dollars every year.

Yet, those thousands of Americans can't understand where the problem originates.

They need look no farther than their pocketbooks and wallets. The average American family carries 13.5 credit cards. Is that really necessary?

Two would be plenty: one for emergencies and the other for monthly charges that can be paid off every month. The biggest reason for the two-card rule is it's easier to keep track of possible errors and current interest rates with no more than two cards.

Some credit card companies will increase your interest rate without prior notification. You must check your

statements each month and inquire about any discrepancies. Controlling the interest rate is also a way for consumers to lower their debt.

Competition in the credit industry is fierce and business will fight to keep customers. With that in mind, it doesn't hurt to ask credit companies for a lower rate. It could save hundreds of dollars in interest charges.

If the company refuses to lower the interest rate, threaten to transfer the balance to another credit card — be persistent.

If the company doesn't budge, look for a better deal. There are over 6,000 companies that issue credit cards; find the one that fits your needs.

Many credit card companies offer credit card protection for a fee. This is normally a percentage of the outstanding balance.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, consumers are only obligated to pay for the first \$50 when

credit cards are used by someone unauthorized.

Consumers could easily pay several times the \$50 for credit card protection in a year. Always protect your credit card numbers from others.

It is very easy to use someone else's credit card, as stores are very lax in their security of handling credit cards, seldom checking to see if the signature on the back of the card matches the one on the credit card form. Also after signing the back of the credit card, write in bold ink "See ID card."

If the clerk is doing his or her job, they will ask to see your ID card to match the signature. Never give credit card numbers over the phone unless you know who you are talking to.

Fees can be costly for consumers. Here are some of the fees credit card companies may charge:

- Late fees: charges can be up to \$35; even if your one hour late it can cost you.

- Over-the-limit-fees: This is a no-brainer; keep your balance below your credit limit.

- Cash advance fees and rates: the interest rate for cash advances is much higher and there is no grace period, and you will be paying a fee of 2 to 4 percent.

- Annual fees: normally associated with frequent flyer miles or cash back credit cards.

People blame the credit card companies for their financial problems. Unfortunately, the truth is people abuse credit cards.

Take control of debt, don't let it control you.

For help, call the family support center at 652-5321 and talk to a counselor. For help online, visit the Air Force Crossroads Financial Information Web site at <http://www.afcrossroads.com/financial/index.cfm>.

(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

Perspective

Continued from Page 2

Most privileges were given to the boys first and then the girls. I watched the majority of my childhood schoolmates go to arranged marriages before they had a chance to finish any of their schooling.

The rules didn't always apply to men and women in the same way either. It is perfectly normal for the men to be promiscuous but if a woman were to be that way, she would face harsh repercussions.

While that seems terrible, there were many lessons about life and freedom to be learned through the Nigerians. Among those lessons, I was taught kindness and humility.

I learned to respect those women in the fields and never take life for granted. Most of all, I learned how to appreciate

what I had and to work hard for what I wanted.

When my family moved back to the United States during my high school years, I faced a complete culture shock. My world had been turned upside down, but two things would remain constant: work hard and give my all.

There were so many opportunities and none were limiting because I was a female, not even the United States Air Force Academy.

With my acceptance to the academy, I thought the sky was the limit and I was right. There were many challenges to be faced but they were challenges for both men and women.

Everywhere I looked, there were equal opportunities for anyone who was willing to work hard. I saw the ground work that had been laid beforehand, some 22 years earlier by the first graduating class of women in 1980.

It showed the perseverance, dedication and character of all the women who had come before me, not just at the

Academy but throughout the United States.

Nigeria, and many countries like it, may seem backwards to us, but they are making advancements toward the improvement of women's rights. In comparison, the United States and Nigeria are centuries apart and a world of difference.

It is amazing to think that our great nation was at one time not so different from Nigeria. It lends a whole new appreciation for those who came before us and opened the doors for limitless opportunities, not just for women, but for anyone who is willing to work hard and give 100 percent.

During Women's History Month, we get to see how much progress the United States and much of the world has made in the advancement of rights and opportunities for women.

I'm glad to say I've seen what happens from one end of the spectrum to the other.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Historical discovery

Randolph SNCO helps in search for fallen heroes in Southeast Asia

By Jillian Speake
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

When Master Sgt. Von Anderson received his deployment assignment to Southeast Asia, he did not anticipate his definition of patriotism was about to change forever.

The Air Education and Training Command Directorate of Operations superintendent of trainer aircraft operations for life support recently returned from Laos after volunteering for 45 days to help the Joint POW and MIA Accounting Command recover remains of fallen or missing soldiers.

JPAC, located on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, is responsible for the fullest possible accounting of those missing people. To accomplish this, JPAC is organized into five main areas: analysis, negotiations, investigations recovery and identification.

Teams visit Southeast Asia about 10 times a year in hopes of bringing home remains of Americans still unaccounted for. Missions typically last 35 to 60 days depending on the location, terrain and recovery methods.

"I liked the idea of going to where the war was fought, being where guys before us had been and seeing the terrain and conditions that were out there," Sergeant Anderson said. "I wanted to walk where they walked and see what they saw."

The surreal idea of visiting the battle site where several

"There are a lot of heroes that never got a hero's welcome, especially in Vietnam. We're trying to get some of the recognition back that those guys missed out on."



Master Sgt. Von Anderson
Air Education and Training Command
directorate of operations superintendent of
trainer operations in life support

service members lost their lives quickly became a somber reality when members of the recovery team began reviewing packages with detailed information about the missing people they were looking for. The information in the packages included everything from the type of aircraft they were flying and their last known location to the color of their hair and type of glasses they wore.

"When I first went to Laos, I was just going to a dig site," Sergeant Anderson said. "But once I got out there and

started going through the packages, seeing the faces and the names of the people we were looking for, it became more personal because I was looking for people now."

A typical search and recovery team consists of 10 to 14 people with specialized duties and skills including anthropology, photography, explosive ordnance disposal, medicine, life support, mortuary affairs, linguistics and radio communications.

Investigative work, safety, accessibility and available weather windows dictate which sites the recovery teams excavate.

Once the recovery team arrives at the site, they spend the majority of the day digging and sifting through soil. Any material or remains found that might be items from wreckage are placed in buckets and brought back to a base camp for further analysis.

As a life support technician, Sergeant Anderson helped determine the significance and possible origins of the collected items. In his day-to-day career, Sergeant Anderson works closely with the equipment pilots wear so he is able to look at wreckage and tell, for example, if it's part of a parachute or a mask. From Sergeant Anderson's conclusions, recovery teams are able to narrow down possible sites where human remains might be.

See Discovery on page 5

Thirty-six Randolph master sergeants selected for promotion



By Senior Airman Lindsey Maurice
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Thirty-six Randolph master sergeants received good news from their commanders Wednesday, as they were selected for promotion through the 04E8 central evaluation board.

The board, which convened Jan. 26 to Feb. 12 selected 1,566 master sergeants out of 16,516 eligible for promotion – a 9.48 percent selection rate. This is 3.48 percent above the minimum promotion rate objective of 6 percent.

The average score for those selected was 671.72, with an average time in grade and time in service of 4.70 and 20.15 years respectively.

The Randolph selectees are:

12th Civil Engineer Squadron
Neil Orenich

12th Communications Squadron
Sabrina Strickland

12th Contracting Squadron
Ricky Harris

12th Mission Support Squadron
Joel Pelletier

Air Education and Training

Command
Regina Alfonso
Hector Bosques
Perita Cook
James Flood
Daryl Grant
William Griesemer
Oscar Hernandez
Kenneth Jackson
Harry Reese
James Rogers
Mark Viera
Edsel Walker
Andrew Walls
Alison Williams

19th Air Force
Edward Blauvelt
Matthew Jamison
Roy Jimenez
Thomas Lovett

Air Force Personnel Center
Andre Baylor
Thomas Carnes Jr.
Michael Murray
Donald Taylor
Cheryl Wells
Michael Young

Air Force Recruiting Service
Patricia Barry
Colette Bousson
Gregory Elmore
James Mears
David Richards
Cal Robinson

Air Force Manpower Agency
Jeffrey Hahn
Moton Hopkins Jr.

U.S. forces get tax break for combat-zone service

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – American forces serving in designated combat zones supporting the war against terrorism continue to get a tax break from Uncle Sam.

Depending upon rank, eligible servicemembers can exclude from federal income tax either all or some of their active duty pay, and certain other pays, earned in any month during service in a designated combat zone.

The Internal Revenue Service's Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2003 states: "A combat zone is any area the president of the United States designates by executive order as an area in which the U.S. armed forces are engaging or have engaged in combat."

Servicemembers who serve one or more days in a designated combat zone are entitled to federal tax exclusion benefits for that entire month, according to the IRS.

Current designated combat zones include Afghanistan, Iraq, parts of the Kosovo area and other specified parts of the Persian Gulf region. This includes Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Servicemembers in several other areas specified in law as "qualified hazardous-duty areas" are eligible for the same tax breaks. Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia have been listed since 1995.

The downloadable Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2003 can be accessed on the IRS Web site. It lists many, but not all, designated combat zones.

Some servicemembers providing direct support for military operations within a designated combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area, such as Djibouti, Africa, Turkey, Yemen and the Philippines, are eligible for income tax exclusions.

To be in direct support of a combat zone, a servicemember must be serving in an area the secretary of defense determines is directly supporting a combat zone. Servicemembers who were deployed from March 19 to Aug. 1 to Mediterranean waters east of 30 degrees east longitude are also eligible for combat zone tax relief, as an "in direct support" area. Servicemembers who served in Israel from Jan. 1 to Aug. 1 also were serving in an "in direct support" area.

While servicemembers can use the tax guide in preparing their 2003 federal tax returns, Randolph members who have specific questions about designated combat zones can call the base tax center at 652-1040.

The IRS guide notes servicemembers normally do not need to claim the combat-zone exclusion or

subtract eligible earnings on their federal tax returns. The services normally have already excluded combat-zone earnings from the taxable gross income reported on servicemembers' Form W-2s, the guide reads.

The IRS points out that retired military pay and pensions are not eligible as combat zone income-tax exclusions.

In other military pay news, The National Defense Authorization Act for 2004 extended the increase in imminent danger pay to \$225 per month to eligible servicemembers through Dec. 31.

The amount of servicemember federal tax relief depends upon a taxpayer's rank. For example, enlisted people and warrant officers serving in a designated combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area for any part of a month exclude all gross income earned for military service that month from federal taxation.

For commissioned officers, the monthly income exclusion is capped at the highest enlisted pay, plus any hostile-fire or imminent-danger pay received. For example, in 2003, the most a commissioned officer could earn tax-free each month was \$5,957.70. For 2004, the cap increases to \$6,315.90 (\$6,090.90, the highest monthly enlisted pay, plus \$225 hostile-fire or imminent-danger pay.)

The IRS also allows servicemembers deployed to an area entitled to combat zone tax exclusion extra time to file their federal taxes, usually 180 days after the servicemember leaves the combat-zone or qualified hazardous-duty area.

And, the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 provides certain above-the-line tax deductions for reservists and guardsmen who travel more than 100 miles to attend military drills and meetings. This new provision allows reservists and guardsmen who cannot itemize deductions to still take these deductions. This provision is effective for the 2003 tax year.

The act also provides a \$12,000 nontaxable death gratuity to families of servicemembers who die on active duty, retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001.

Active duty members, retirees and family members with a valid military ID card can make an appointment for free tax assistance with the Randolph Legal Office through its Volunteer Income Tax program now until April 15.

Active duty members should make an appointment through their unit's tax assistant. Those assigned to the 12th Flying Training Wing wing staff or those assigned to a unit without a tax assistant, should call 652-1049 or 652-1041 to schedule an appointment.

All retired military members should call the retiree affairs office at 652-6880 to schedule an appointment. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Some members may qualify for earned income tax credit for 2003

By Greg Jaskinia
12th Flying Training Wing Legal Office
in cooperation with Mike Rico, IRS tax specialist

Working taxpayers with low incomes may qualify for earned income tax credit, a federal tax credit for individuals and families who meet certain income and eligibility guidelines. The EITC reduces the amount of taxes owed and may result in a refund check.

To qualify, a taxpayer must work and have earned income. Earned income includes taxable wages, salaries and tips; net earnings from self-employment; and gross income received as a statutory employee.

In addition, the taxpayer must have a social security number for him or herself, his or her spouse (if filing jointly) and any qualifying children. Neither the taxpayer nor his or her spouse (if filing jointly) can be the qualifying child of another taxpayer. Generally, a person must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all tax year. He or she can use the filing status of single, head of household, qualifying widow(er) or married if filing jointly. A person cannot use the filing status of married filing separately. Also, a person cannot have investment income of more than \$2,600 and cannot file Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ, relating to foreign earned income.

If a person does not have a qualifying child, he or she must meet three additional stipulations. He or she must be between 25 and 64 years old by the end of 2003, cannot be the dependent of another person, and must live in the United States for more than half of the tax year.

To claim the credit using a child, the child must be the tax payer's "qualifying child" by meeting all relationship, age and residency tests.

☐ **The residency test** states that the qualifying child must have lived with the tax payer for more than half of the tax year.

☐ **The relationship test** states that the qualifying child can be a son, daughter, adopted child, grandchild, stepchild or foster child. A qualifying child can also be a sister, brother, stepsister and stepbrother or any of the taxpayer's descendants if the taxpayer cares for them as he or she would his or her own child.

☐ **The age test** states that the qualifying child must have been under age 19, a full-time student under age 24 or any age if permanently and totally disabled at the end of 2003.

Income and family size determine the amount of the EITC. However, taxpayers without children may also qualify for the credit. Each year, the limits on income and credit amount change with the cost of living. The credit begins to phase out at certain income levels. An EITC table, which shows the credit amounts, is in the instruction booklet for Form 1040 and in Publication 596, Earned Income Credit. The maximum amounts are:

Qualifying child: maximum credit	
Two or more children.....	\$4,204
One child.....	\$2,547
No children.....	\$382

To be eligible for a full or partial credit, a taxpayer must have an adjusted gross income of less than:

- ☐ \$33,692 (\$34,692 married filing jointly) and two or more children
- ☐ \$29,666 (\$30,666 MFJ) and one child
- ☐ \$11,230 (\$12,230 MFJ) with no children

If a taxpayer claims a qualified child, he or she must attach a schedule EITC to his or her Form 1040 or Form 1040A.

For additional information, call 652-1040.



(Right) John Villagomez, equipment checkout, shows Capt. Etienne Miszczak, 12th Flying Training Wing legal office, how to work a gardening tool at the equipment checkout building. (Photo by Steve White)

Some military personnel services now Web-only

Airmen no longer have to stand in line to accomplish a personnel records review or several other common tasks.

To make it easier for personnel customers, six different personnel services became available only on the Web earlier this week. As a result, 12th Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight workers are now pointing Randolph customers toward the Internet if they want to do any of the following:

- Update the Record of Emergency Data.
- Apply for a change to an assignment or change a report-no-later-than date.
- Apply for certain curtailments of date eligible for return from overseas.
- Accomplish a humanitarian or exceptional family member program application.
- Request a 'proof of service' letter, often needed for home loans.
- Make simple updates to common information like home address, home telephone number, religious preference, race, ethnic group, foreign language self-assessment, duty and personal e-mail

addresses. (Randolph MPF officials encourage members to make sure that when making updates in the Virtual MPF to this common information, that they also annotate the changes in their Virtual Record of Emergency Data, since the two systems are separate.)

For people using these services, questions can be answered 24 hours a day online or by a toll-free call to the Air Force Contact Center.

The changes indicate the maturing of the MPF concept and the realities of how busy Airmen are now with fighting the war on terror, said Maj. Gen. Thomas O'Riordan, Air Force Personnel Center commander.

"The primary goal of our virtual services is to save time for our Airmen and commanders in the field," he said. "These transactions are simple and direct. We'll achieve better accuracy and save the Airman a trip to the MPF."

The AFPC director of operations said this is part of an evolution in the way personnel services will be delivered to Airmen in the future.

"We've been headed in this direction for a long while," Col. Dale Hess said. "Our Air Force Contact Center has positioned itself to pick up some of the services by phone or online that people used to have to stand in line for, and we're aggressively upgrading our online capabilities."

Officials said they expect that more online services will mean less work on both sides of personnel flight help desks, and that they anticipate the average time spent waiting in line for other services decrease for customers visiting personnel flights.

"We are very concerned about creating more work under the rubric of automation," the general said. "The goal is to slash time across the system and not simply outsource the workload to the Airman."

The changes do not mean that Airmen do not have applications for programs reviewed. The level of approval is not changing; instead, approvals are routed electronically to the correct approving officials.

For instance, a DEROS change requested

online on vMPF is now routed to the contact center, which then coordinates the request through the person's gaining and losing commanders.

"These processes should also move much quicker," said Jan McIntosh, vMPF functional manager at the AFPC. "The nice thing is the member could initiate these actions at any time – even at 3 a.m. from home if they wish."

Colonel Hess emphasizes that Airmen will not be turned away from the MPF.

"We'll make sure our customers are guided through the process and it's explained to them," he said. "Airmen nowadays are very adaptable and computer-literate. In no time, this will be second nature to everyone."

Airmen can access the vMPF through the Air Force Portal, at www.my.af.mil, by clicking on the "careers" tab. It is also available at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

For more information, call the Air Force contact center at 1-800-616-3775 or the MPF customer service section at 652-1845.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Discovery

Continued from Page 5

Each recovery team has a different excavation site and is cautioned ahead of time that not every site produces the desired results.

"I think it was a personal challenge for me to not get too tied up into trying to solve the case and bring closure," Sergeant Anderson said. "I found myself out there talking to the guys I was looking for saying, 'Come on, I know you want to be found. Help me.' It was a surprise to me that I would get hooked in that much."

Master Sgt. Randy Hill, another life support trainer at AETC headquarters, did not find any remains on his first mission to Vietnam so he has volunteered for a second deployment.

"I went to provide closure to a family and be part of that mission and I didn't do that," Sergeant Hill said. "When I went to Washington, D.C., last year and went to the wall, there were my two guys with a missing in action symbol by their names. It doesn't leave you. You never forget those names and what you did, and in the future you want to see that emblem come off."

According to Sergeant Anderson, many service members who died in battle have yet to get the

welcome home they deserve.

"There are a lot of heroes that never got a hero's welcome, especially in Vietnam," Sergeant Anderson said. "We're trying to get some of the recognition back that those guys missed out on."

As of February 2004, there is one American still missing from the Gulf War, more than 1,800 from the Vietnam War, 120 from the Cold War, 8,100 from the Korean War, and 78,000 from World War II, according to JPAC figures.

Although Sergeant Anderson left for Southeast Asia with hopes of understanding the challenges faced by soldiers before him, he returned with much more.

"I felt like I was repatriated by going out there," Sergeant Anderson said. "I like the idea that if I do get captured or die out in combat that somebody's going to be looking for me. Here it is 30 to 40 years later and we're still out there searching for people's remains to bring them home. You can't get that support probably anywhere but our military."

Sergeant Anderson tells families anxiously waiting for their loved one's return to "have faith because we are going out there every opportunity (we get) to find their remains and believe that we're going to be out there until they come home."

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

Space-A dependent travel program extended

By **Bob Hieronymus**
Wingspread staff writer

The Air Mobility Command announced recently that the space available dependent travel test program has been extended indefinitely.

Under this program, dependents of active duty military and retired uniformed services personnel drawing retired pay, as well as Medal of Honor recipients, are eligible to travel with their sponsors on a space available basis on military airlift flights within the continental United States.

Jon Robertson, Air Education and Training Command Logistics Directorate spokesman, cautioned that the

program does not apply to the "gray area retirees." Those are people who retired from the National Guard and Reserves who are not yet drawing retired pay. Whether they are included at a later time is still open to question because the test review process is not complete, officials said.

The program, which began on April 1, 2003 at the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense, was due to expire on March 31, but the program has been extended "indefinitely," according to the AMC message, pending a final review of the usage statistics and completion of formal policy reviews.

The program has had good use on Randolph, said Master Sgt. George Strickland, NCO in charge of the

base passenger services office. Of 187 space available passengers who boarded planes here during the last six months of 2003, 81 were in the category of "sponsors with dependents," the people authorized during the test.

Mr. Robertson pointed out that some bases have more air traffic than others because of the nature of their assigned missions. In the San Antonio area, Lackland's Kelly Annex still has a very active airlift mission, and boarded about 10 times the number of space available passengers as Randolph did last year.

Information and sign-up procedures are explained at <http://amcpublic.scott.af.mil/spacea/apacea.htm>.

For more information about Randolph flights and available seating, call passenger services at 652-5287.

AFSA Chapter 1075 selects new leaders

Air Force Sergeants' Association Chapter 1075 recently honored its newly selected officers with an installation and recognition banquet.

During the banquet, Stan Staples, the new chapter president, pledged to continue the chapter's great work on behalf of the Randolph community.

AFSA supports numerous, base-wide programs through a myriad of initiatives. One initiative uses donations from corporate sponsors, such as the Military Service Organization, to improve the quality of life for all enlisted members, officials said.

During the banquet, Michelle Foster, the new auxiliary president, called upon the membership to be familiar with legislative issues and support AFSA as it continues to represent enlisted men and women on Capitol Hill.

Other new chapter officers include the vice president, Mark Bennett; senior advisor, Tom Nesbit; airman activities coordinator, Amy Weber; and trustees, Paul Hulgán, Martin Austin, Bill Griesemer, Marc LaMontagne and Del Friesen. Other new auxiliary officers include the vice president, Tina LaMontagne; secretary, Sylvia Foster; treasurer, Gisela Williams; senior advisor, Phyllis Perez; and trustees, Donna Elliott, Cathy Robertson, Linda Winter, Marian Barco and Marian Nesbit.

Despite the organization's name, membership is not limited to NCOs. Enlisted members of all ranks can join the professional military association.

For more information about the AFSA Chapter 1075, visit its Web site at <http://www.afsa1075.org>.

(Courtesy of the AFSA Chapter 1075)

Leaders get tool to help people in distress

By **Master Sgt. Michael Briggs**
Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

Leaders throughout the Air Force are receiving a new tool this spring they can use to recognize and respond to people in distressing situations.

A CD copy of the Leader's Guide to Managing Personnel in Distress, an interactive product that provides general information, summaries of policy and checklists on 35 topics relating to distress, is being distributed to every squadron commander and first sergeant.

More than 100 people, including commanders, first sergeants and health experts, spent two years developing the comprehensive guide to help improve the overall fitness, readiness and performance of the force, according to Air Force medical officials.

"It's the only product of its kind," said Lt. Col. Rick Campise, chief of the Air Force

Suicide Prevention Program, who oversees the guide program. "It identifies issues relevant to a particular life problem area, signs and behaviors for how the person is dealing with the problem, and resources for helping them manage the difficulty."

The idea for the commander's guide came from an Air Force Suicide Prevention Program working group that convened in 2002 to develop a guide for mental health clinicians. The group decided to build a second guide all Air Force leaders could use for any situation where people experience distress, Colonel Campise said.

"The truth is, everything is suicide prevention," he said of the guide's development beyond the field of mental health. "Anything you do to address quality of life issues is suicide prevention, regardless of whether that is romantic relations, finances, substance use, family violence or spiritual well-being."

The 35 topics addressed in the guide include common distress-causing events,

but list several not-so-common topics such as coping with car accidents, burglaries and unintentional injuries. The guide breaks the topics down into the categories of topics in distress, specific life challenges and resilience, interventions and community resources, deployment-related topics, and information for unit members.

Each topic has one half to three pages of information also condensed to a checklist to give leaders a quick reference source, Colonel Campise said.

"A condensed version was added for commanders who receive calls that in five minutes someone will be showing up with that issue, resulting in a need to quickly review what to look for and how to help," he said.

While the guide is not intended to act as a replacement for mental health, legal or other professional advice, it provides readily accessible and practical guidance to leaders in helping them make decisions, Colonel Campise said.

"The performance of even our best members can be impacted at times by life's difficulties and unit leaders must be diligent in providing an environment of support," wrote Lt. Gen. Richard Brown III, acting vice chief of staff of the Air Force, in a memo accompanying the CDs. "This tool... provides leaders with specific actions and agencies they may want to enlist in support of their unit members."

People who are not squadron commanders or first sergeants can access the Leader's Guide to Managing Personnel in Distress on the internet Web site <https://www.afms.mil/afsp/afsp/products/default.htm>.

Colonel Campise said everyone can benefit from the guide and suggests people get familiar with it and refer to it whenever they have concerns about themselves or others.

"Read it before you need it," he said.

(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

Security forces to get civilians to fill some squadron-level positions soon

By Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

Security forces Airmen expect to see 495 new civilians added to their ranks between July and October.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche directed the positions be added at the squadron-level to free more Airmen for duties at home station and on deployments.

Officials expect many of the new positions to be filled by separating or retiring security forces Airmen, but said they plan to accept other qualified applicants as well. "Security forces commanders would

prefer to keep experienced Airmen working with the Air Force instead of losing them to private industry," said Michael Allen, chief of the security civilian career program at the Air Force Personnel Center.

An AFPC security forces staffing team begins filling the positions April 5 and continues until all positions are filled, Mr. Allen said.

People interested in applying for any Air Force position can visit the civilian employment Web page located at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afjobs/>,

and use the Air Force Job Kit to prepare and submit a resume. They can then monitor the employment page or the USAJOBS Office

of Personnel Management Web site at www.usajobs.opm.gov/, where they can apply online for the positions.

Vacancies exist in related career fields like security-forces administration; information, personnel and industrial security; security-forces investigations; training; resource adviser; resource protection; standardization and evaluation; plans; and wing and squadron anti-terrorism force protection.

Information is also available at the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775 or at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil by clicking on the contact center button.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Randolph teacher named distinguished educator

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Randolph Elementary School teacher Audra Burke-Mitchell is the Randolph Field Independent School District's Distinguished Educator for the 2003-2004 school year.

She now represents Randolph in Trinity University's "Trinity Prize for Excellence in Teaching" competition, where the top Bexar County elementary school and secondary school teachers are chosen.

"Audra exemplifies excellence in all facets of her professional life," said RFISD Superintendent Dr. Barbara Maddox. "She continually seeks ways to instill a love of reading in her students while creating in each child an appreciation of the importance of becoming a life-long learner."

Dr. Maddox went on to say that "Audra makes learning fun and exciting, and students look forward to their time with her."

"She exemplifies integrity in all that she does and is a model of what we would like for all students to become," she continued.

Ms. Burke-Mitchell, who teaches kindergarten reading, came to Randolph in 1996 as a first grade teacher. However, she has been teaching since 1991, starting out her career with the Frederick County Public Schools in Virginia. Ms. Burke-Mitchell has also taught kindergarten at Rosenberg Elementary, and kindergarten, first and second grade students in the Galveston Independent School District.



Randolph Elementary School teacher Audra Burke-Mitchell instructs her kindergarten students during their reading class. (Photo by Jeff Duffield)

After two years of teaching first grade at Randolph Elementary, she spent one year teaching kindergarten and then the past five as a kindergarten reading teacher.

"I knew from an early age that I wanted to teach young children," said Ms. Burke-Mitchell. "I cannot imagine doing anything else."

"I gain a great deal of satisfaction watching children learn to read and seeing the enthusiasm and confidence that comes from their successes."

Ms. Burke-Mitchell went on to say she wants all children to love reading, and that a good school like Randolph should foster an enjoyment of reading.

"All children can learn and deserve the opportunity, so that they can be successful in life," said Ms. Burke-Mitchell. "I work with students who are struggling because I can empathize with them, having struggled in the primary grades myself. My goal is to find the best way to teach each child and to ensure that each student becomes a self-motivated, independent reader."

Ms. Burke-Mitchell's superiors said they appreciate her passion to teach.

"Audra was born to teach," said Karen Bessette, elementary school principal. "She combines her love of young children with her love of early literacy development and children's literature, and the result is a master teacher with heart."

"Watching her enter kindergarten classes with her special reading quilt, books and treasure chest of materials is magical," she added. "Audra gathers the small groups around her and provides them with targeted reading instruction focusing on concepts of print, phonemic awareness and comprehension strategies."

Ms. Burke-Mitchell serves as the school's Kindergarten Team Leader and is a member of the reading team. She earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in elementary education from the University of Maryland and a Master of Arts in education degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Randolph student receives national award

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

A Randolph Middle School seventh grader is one of 10 students in the United States recently chosen to earn the Temple Grandin Scholarship.

James Stringer, son of Brig. Gen. David and Diane Stringer, received the prestigious scholarship for his outstanding contributions to his family and to the community, said Randolph School officials.

The Temple Grandin Scholarship is presented annually to students with autism who have had a great impact on the community and those around them.

"James has become a very active and productive student since he has been with us," said middle school teacher Bridget Brennan-Bergmann, who nominated him for the scholarship. "He

is a great role model for other students."

Bruce Cannon, Randolph Secondary Schools principal, presented James with a certificate in honor of his accomplishments, as well as a \$100 scholarship check from the Grandin organization during a recent ceremony at the middle school.

Ms. Brennan-Bergmann, who was James' fifth grade special education teacher at Randolph, noted that for the past two years, James has visited the base elementary school to work with younger students and help them become more successful in school. James was also invited to join the National Junior Honor Society.

James also takes horseback riding lessons, makes pottery and enjoys building "Bionicles" toys as hobbies.

"I want to thank Mrs. Bridget Brennan-Bergmann for changing my

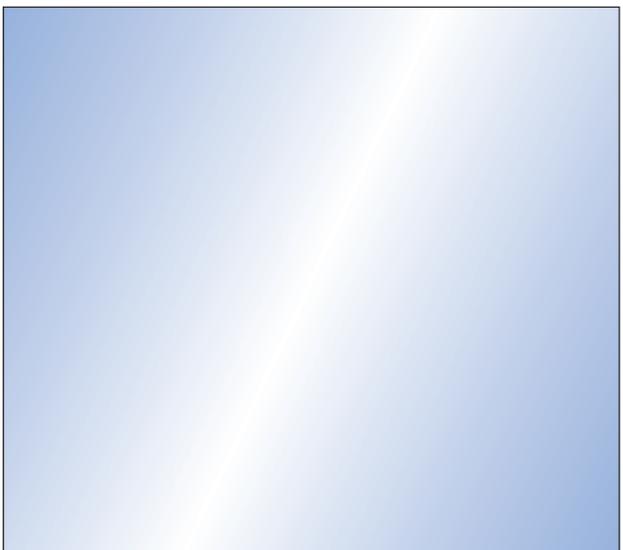
life," James said. "It's taken a whole different course and I'm thankful for that."

James' father said he is also very happy for his son and all of his accomplishments.

"I am so proud of who James is and what he has done," said General Stringer. "We are blessed to have him in our lives."

The general also thanked the school district for all of its support.

"The great team at Randolph Field Independent School District have allowed James to reach his potential," the general said. "The programs available at Randolph, including the pottery classes, and the horseback riding at Retama Park, allow for a rich environment for James to do his best. I urge special needs families to discover the many resources available here."



Randolph Secondary Schools principal, Bruce Cannon, presents seventh grader James Stringer with a certificate honoring his selection for the Temple Grandin Scholarship. The Temple Grandin Scholarship is presented annually to students with autism who have had a great impact on the community and those around them. (Photo by Jeff Duffield)



Freedom Flyers Remember

Prisoner of war spotlight

Fallen hero commemorated

(Editor's note: The following article recounts the story of Lt. Col. Edwin Lee Atterberry, a former prisoner of war and namesake of Hangar 12.)

Lt. Col. Edwin Lee Atterberry volunteered for combat duty in his specialty as a reconnaissance pilot. He was assigned in June 1967 to the 11th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, flying out of Udorn Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand.

On August 12, 1967, then Captain Atterberry and his back seater, Capt. Thomas Parrott, were on a reconnaissance mission in their RF-4C north of Hanoi when their aircraft was hit by a surface-to-air missile. They ejected successfully but were immediately captured by the North Vietnamese and moved to the Hanoi prison system.

After a year of careful planning, Captain Atterberry and a fellow prisoner of war, Capt. John Dramesi escaped through the roof of the prison. They made it about three miles in 12 hours before they were recaptured. Captain Atterberry was seen alive only once after they were returned to the prison, but Captain Dramesi lived to tell his side of the story.

Captain Dramesi was tortured continuously for 38 days, sometimes being beaten for 90 minutes at a time with rubber tire strips, then a new shift of guards would do the same for another 90

minutes. He was sometimes trussed up in ropes so that his head was between his knees, while his arms and wrists were bound tightly behind his back and his ankles were strapped in iron cuffs. He was left in that position for 24 hours at a time and was fed only bread and water for a month as a punishment for the attempted escape. The iron cuffs were kept on for six months and occasionally removed only to treat the festering wounds they caused. He still bears the scars.

Captain Atterberry received the same kind of treatment, but did not survive. According to returnee, retired Col. Richard Dutton, Captain Atterberry was seen by other POWs as he was removed from his cell "in a bloody mess." His captors acknowledged only that he died of "an unusual disease." The other prisoners in the camp were also "worked over" as a collective punishment for the failed escape attempt.

Captain Atterberry was promoted to the rank of major during his captivity and was promoted to lieutenant colonel posthumously. His remains were repatriated in 1974, a year after the Freedom Flyers returned to America.

Returned POWs say they have a special place in their hearts for Colonel Atterberry and each of them knows what happened to their fallen comrade could have happened to any of them,

and in many cases, nearly did.

Randolph's Hangar 12, home of the 99th and 560th Flying Training Squadrons, was dedicated as Atterberry Hall in his honor, Oct. 9, 1986. A plaque at the building summarizes what his example means:

"He served with pride as an Air Force pilot. With honor he kept faith with his fellow prisoners. With dignity he gave his life for his country. May the pilots who enter this building also serve with pride, honor and dignity."

(Information for this article came from records maintained by the 560th FTS.)



"We who came home must never forget those who could not"

“I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.”



**Article VI
United States Military
Code of Conduct**

‘Home With Honor’ *Second edition of Freedom Flyers story published*

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

The second edition of the Freedom Flyers story, “Home With Honor,” is off the printing press and becomes available to Randolph members at the base library and history office soon.

The book, first published in 1976, is a record of those Air Force pilots who completed their final flights after having been prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

One hundred ninety-three of the 591 Americans released by Hanoi in 1973 either returned to Air Force pilot duties or were eligible for a final flight. Their stories are told in the book.

While “Home With Honor” focuses on one subset of the former prisoners, Maj. Todd Ernst, project officer at the 560th Flying Training Squadron, said that both the squadron and the Freedom Flyers want to be sure that all the POWs

are honored, those who returned, those who died, and those still identified as missing.

The 560th FTS has set aside one room of their building, Hanger 12, as a museum for just that purpose. In it are mannequins dressed in actual clothing from the prisons and a flight suit from that era, prison artifacts smuggled out by returnees and other mementos provided by former prisoners. A third mannequin is dressed in the uniform issued by their captors the day the prisoners were released.

A mural of photographs from the air war in Vietnam makes a frieze around the walls. Also on display are custom-made models of six Vietnam War era aircraft, complete with squadron markings from units in which Freedom Flyers flew their combat missions.

One thing that many visitors may not notice is the carpet on the floor. The inner, light colored area is the exact size of a two-man cell

in which some of the POWs were confined for years.

The 1993 report of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs states that of those who returned, 325 were from the Air Force, 138 from the Navy, 77 from the Army, 26 from the Marines and 25 civilians from various U.S. government agencies.

The Senate report states that initial debriefings of the returnees indicated as many as 156 servicemen “may have died in captivity.” Still after 31 years, there are lingering questions about whether those numbers account for every person held by the enemy during the war.

The Freedom Flyers Reunion is timed to recall Operation Homecoming, the series of flights that brought U.S. people out of prisons in Hanoi and back to America in 1973. National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is Sept. 17 this year, is set

aside by Congress to honor all those who made that sacrifice in all wars in American history.

Major Ernst inherited the project to re-edit the “Home With Honor” book in April 2002 from then commander, Lt. Col. J.K. Switzer. The 560th FTS keeps records of every final flight, but new material and personal stories of former POWs continued to flow into the squadron.

“This has been one of the most inspiring projects I know about,” he said, “but it has taken an enormous amount of work and coordination to finish it. Published now as an official government document, the book presents a legacy of honor and integrity with few equals.”

“The former POWs pledged to each other while in prison that they would go home together or not at all,” said Major Ernst. “They lived up to that pledge and we honor them for their example.”

The photos above are from original 35 mm slides taken by aircrews of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing in Vietnam in 1967. The background photo shows Cam Ranh Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, then home of the 12th

TFW, as seen by an F4-C aircrewman returning to the base after a mission. Inset photos show F4-Cs from the 558th Tactical Fighter Squadron on combat missions in 1967.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFAF kicks off Wednesday

The Randolph Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign kicks off at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday with a cookout at the family support center with free hot dogs and hamburgers.

Through the campaign, which runs in conjunction with the Air Force wide AFAF campaign, members can contribute to any of four Air Force related charities: the Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Villages in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., the Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund in San Antonio, and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

The charities benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retirees, surviving spouses, and families. Each charity receives 100 percent of designated contributions. The campaign ends May 5.

People can contribute through cash, check, money order or payroll deduction. Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible.

For more information, visit <http://afassistancefund.org>

For more information on Randolph's campaign, call Capt. Joseph Jones at 652-1024 or call Capt. Thomas Peralta at 652-9371.

Choir students win UIL honors

Randolph Middle School choir students won top honors at the University Interscholastic League Concert and Sight-Reading competition held recently at Trinity University.

The students who participated are: Salita Alexander, Odessa Carnes, Lydia Gamble, Christina Lind, Cindy Lopez, Alissa Miranda, Daniel Phillips, Mary Ross, C. Luster Stoker, Quinton Barfield, Stephen Boarman, Macy Borden, Chrissy Bransford, Edward Campbell, Natalie Goad, Morgan Labanna, Chelsea Matthews and James Stringer.

Anger management class

The health and wellness center sponsors an anger management workshop at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday. The workshop consists of four classes.

To enroll or for more information, call 652-2300.

Library celebrates poetry month

The Randolph Library celebrates poetry month at 11 a.m. April 3 with a "meet the author" event. During the event, visitors can meet and listen to poet Marian Haddad.

For more information, call 652-2617.

MOAA lecture scheduled

The Military Officers' Association of America presents a "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career" lecture from 9 to 11:30 a.m. April 9 in the base theater.

Discussion topics include how to find a job, resume building and salary negotiations. The lecture is geared toward officers and senior NCOs who plan to leave the service in the next one to five years, retirees and spouses.

For more information, call Fae Simmons at 652-5321, ext. 232.

RFISD board meeting

The Randolph Field Independent School District's board of trustees meets at 4:15 p.m. Thursday at the high school, room 21.

An agenda of meeting items can be found at www.randolph-field.k12.tx.us.

EDUCATION SERVICES 652-5964

ACCD

Registration for the May intersession Randolph classes is ongoing in the Alamo Community College District Randolph office and at the main campus of St. Philip's College. The classes SPCH 1311 (Fundamentals of Speech) and CRIJ 1310 (Fundamentals of Criminal Justice) are being offered at Randolph. May intersession runs May 11-29.

Currently enrolled spring students who only enrolled in three semester hours may enroll in any of these courses for free, since the spring tuition rate at ACCD is the same for one through six semester hours.

For more information, call 659-1096.

St. Mary's University

A St. Mary's University Graduate School representative will be available to answer questions about Texas Teaching Certification or how to pursue a Master of Arts in educational leadership from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday in the St. Mary's University office.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 226-3360.

ERAU

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Spring III term begins Monday. The drop and add period for classes during this term ends at noon March 26.

For more information, call 659-0801.

Force shaping program

Through the force shaping program, certain individuals may voluntarily leave active duty in one of three ways: date of separation rollback, palace chase and limited active duty service commitment / miscellaneous separation.

One thing military members planning to use this program should keep in mind is that it can have an impact on eligibility for Montgomery GI Bill benefits and does not give ineligible or disenrolled individuals an opportunity to enroll in the MGIB.

The following are the MGIB eligibility requirements for force shaping programs: **Date of separation rollback participants must:**

- have accepted the MGIB upon entry to active duty
- have served at least one full active duty enlistment
- have an honorable discharge
- have a Separation Designator of JBK or LBK(completion of required active service)

Palace Chase participants must:

- have accepted the MGIB upon entry to active duty
- have served at least 30 months of a three or more year active duty commitment; or have served 20 months of a less than three year commitment; or qualify for the 2 X 4 program (served 2 years active duty plus enlist for 4 years in the Reserve or Guard within in one year of separation)
- have an honorable discharge
- have a separation designator of FGQ, MGQ, or KGQ (interdepartmental transfer)

LADSC waiver/miscellaneous separation participants must:

- have accepted the MGIB upon entry to

active duty

- have served at least 30 months of a three or more year active duty commitment; or have served 20 months of a less than three year commitment

- have an honorable discharge
- have a Separation Designator of FND, KND, or MND (miscellaneous)

MGIB benefits are not given to members who:

- serve less than 30 months of a three or more year commitment
- serve less than 20 months of a less than three year commitment
- does not participate in Palace Chase
- has any discharge other than honorable

These stipulations are final, even if members accepted and contributed to the MGIB upon entry.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER 652-5321

Smooth Move seminar

The family support center hosts a Smooth Move briefing from 9 to 11 a.m. March 23 for members PCSing from Randolph. Discussion topics include TRICARE, finance issues and behavioral health. Spouses are encouraged to attend, and childcare is provided.

To register or for more information, call 652-3060.

Job fair

More than 75 public and privately owned businesses will represent their companies at the 20th semi-annual San Antonio Military Community Job Fair Wednesday at the Live Oak Civic Center. The fair runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A complete list of participating companies and job vacancy categories is available at the employment resource room, located in the family support center as well as the event Web site, located at: <http://www.taonline.com/careerpages/careerfairs.asp#SA>.

The fair is open to all transitioning active duty military, family members, retirees, veterans and Department of Defense civilians. There is no cover charge or other entry requirement.

For more information, call the family support center at 652-5321.

San Antonio tour

A tour of San Antonio is offered from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. March 26. Historic site visits, shopping and lunch is included. Childcare is provided for children under age 12.

To sign up, call 652-5321.

CHAPEL SERVICES 652-6121

Protestant

Sunday - Worship I at 8:30 a.m. in chapel 1; Liturgical at 10 a.m. in chapel 1; Worship II at 11:30 a.m. in chapel 1; Gospel at 1 p.m. in chapel 1

Monday - Male Chorus at 7 p.m. in chapel 1

Tuesday - Men's Bible Study at 11:30 a.m. in the chapel center

Wednesday - Protestant Women of the Chapel Bible Study at 12:15 p.m. in the chapel center; Liturgical choir at 5:30 p.m. in chapel 1; Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 5:30 p.m. at Fort Sam Houston; Gospel

choir at 7 p.m. in chapel 1

Thursday - Children's choir at 5:15 p.m. in chapel 1; Precept Bible study at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel center; Chancel choir at 7 p.m. in chapel 1; Easter Musical practice at 7:45 p.m. in chapel 1

Catholic

Friday - Rosary at 11:10 a.m. in chapel 1; Mass at 11:30 a.m. in chapel 1; Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m. in chapel 1

Saturday - St. Joseph's Men's Group at 8 a.m. in the chapel center; Confession at 4:30 p.m. in chapel 1; Mass at 5:30 p.m. in chapel 1

Sunday - Mass at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. in chapel 2

Monday - Rosary at 11:10 a.m. in chapel 1; Mass at 11:30 a.m. in chapel 1

Tuesday - Rosary at 11:10 a.m. in chapel 1; Mass at 11:30 a.m. in chapel 1;

Contemporary Choir practice at 6:30 p.m. in chapel 2; Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults at 7 p.m. in the chapel center

Wednesday - Rosary at 11:10 a.m. in chapel 1; Mass at 11:30 a.m. in chapel 1

Thursday - Rosary at 11:10 a.m. in chapel 1; Mass at 11:30 a.m. in chapel 1; Cantor practice at 6:30 p.m. in chapel 2; Traditional Choir practice at 7:30 p.m. in chapel 2

Ecumenical

Monday - Wedding briefing at 3 p.m. in the chapel center

Wednesday - Film luncheon at 11 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in the chapel center; Christian Youth of the Chapel Bible study at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel center

Thursday - Combined Lenten luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the chapel center

MOVIES 652-3278

Today

"Calendar Girls" (PG-13), 7 p.m. Starring Julie Walters - Middle-aged women pose nude for a calendar in order to raise money after their friend's husband finds out he has a terminal illness.

Saturday

"Barbershop 2: Back in Business" (PG-13), 7 p.m. Starring Ice Cube - A man continues his struggle to keep his dad's barbershop open.

Sunday

"You Got Served" (PG-13), 7 p.m. Starring Marques Houston - The story of two friends and the culture of street dancing.

March 26

"Win a Date with Tad Hamilton" (PG-13), 7 p.m. Starring Kate Bosworth - A popular young actor is the subject of a "win a date" contest, and ends up falling in love with the winner, a checkout girl.

March 27

"Miracle" (PG), 7 p.m. Starring Kurt Russell - The true story of a hockey coach who is part of a medal winning team.

March 28

"Catch that Kid" (PG), 7 p.m. Starring Kristen Stewart - A father needs an expensive surgery after a mountain climbing accident, so his daughter decides to rob a bank to get money for the surgery.

SERVICES

Art is in the details!



Stephanie Otto, skills craft center recreational assistant, carves a design into a ceramic vase at the center. For information on various classes taught at the center, including ceramics, photography, stained glass, custom framing and quilting, call 652-5142. (Photo by Steve White)

YOUTH CENTER 652-2088

Instructional class openings

Daytime slots are now available for gymnastics and piano instructional classes for home-schooled students.

For more information, call Karon Letcher at 652-2088.

Youth employment service program

Teenagers interested in earning money toward college through volunteer work can participate in the Air Force Youth Employment Service Program.

Through this program, children ages 14 to 18 of active duty members stationed at Randolph are given four years to complete 250 hours of community service. Participants who accomplish this are given \$1,000 to use toward college.

Applications are available at the youth center.

For more information, call 652-2088.

ITT & EQUIPMENT CHECKOUT 652-5640

Sea World season passes

Sea World San Antonio is now open for its 2004 season, with a lineup of shows, rides and animal attractions.

Daily passes to the park are available at the information, tickets and travel office for \$36 for adults and \$25 for children ages 3 to 9.

One-year season passes are also available for \$49.50 for people ages 3 and up and two-year season passes are available for \$78.50.

Six Flags season passes

Six Flags is now open for its 2004 season. New to the park this year is the "Tornado," a water-tubing ride, which debuts this spring.

Daily passes are available at the information, tickets and travel office for \$25 for people ages 3 and up. Season passes are also available for \$53 and parking passes are available for \$20.

Schlitterbahn Water Park

Schlitterbahn Water Park's silver anniversary summer season kicks off April 24 with over three miles of tubing adventures, seven children's water playgrounds, 17 water slides, the world's first surfing machine and three uphill water coasters.

Daily admission passes are available at the information, tickets and travel office for \$28.50 for adults and \$23.50 for children ages 3 to 11. Season passes are available for \$110 for adults and \$72 for children ages 3 to 11.

Splashtown San Antonio Texas

Splashtown San Antonio is now open for its 2004 season. The water park features more than 40 rides and attractions tailored toward families.

Base members can purchase discounted tickets to the park from the information, tickets and travel office for \$14 for children ages 3 and up.

Kinder Gambling Trip

The information, tickets and travel office hosts a Kinder Gambling Trip on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The trip, which costs \$37 for double occupancy and \$72 for single occupancy, includes round-trip motor-coach transportation to the Grand Casino Coushatta in Kinder, La., hotel accommodations, a continental breakfast, dinner buffet and tour guide.

The trip departs at 8 a.m. Tuesday and returns at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Texas Treasure Casino

The next Texas Treasure Casino trip is April 24. The motor coach departs Building 897 at 7 a.m. and returns around 10 p.m. The cost is \$25. The trip stops for meals to and from the casino, at the customers' expense.

Painted churches of Flatonia tour

The information, tickets and travel office sponsors a trip to tour the painted churches of Flatonia April 10. The motor coach departs from ITT at 8 a.m. and returns at approximately 8 p.m. The cost is \$63, and includes round trip transportation, a guide for the tour and a buffet lunch.

To sign-up or for more information, call 652-5640.

Hill Country Flyer

Information, tickets and travel office customers can take a train ride through the countryside near Cedar Park, Leander and Burnet, Texas, March 27. During a stopover in Burnet, visitors enjoy lunch, shop on the square, visit along the creek and witness an "Old West" gunfight staged for the train's passengers.

The tour departs ITT at 8 a.m. and returns at 7:30 p.m. Lunch and dinner are at the visitors' expense. The cost is \$58 per person.

Spring break camping special

The information, tickets and travel office's spring break camping package special includes one tent for five people, four sleeping bags, four mats, one lantern and a stove for \$30.

For more information, call 652-5640.

CANYON LAKE 1-800-280-3466

Boat storage

Customers can now store their boat at the Canyon Lake open dry and wet storage. Dry storage is secured with 24-hour access and wet storage is available in both 8.5 feet and 10 feet widths.

Dry storage is \$40 per month and wet storage is \$75 and \$95 per month. The rental of any storage area also includes an annual park pass, which gives free access for vehicles and all occupants for a year.

For more information, call 1-800-280-3466.

Canyon Lake annual passes

Canyon Lake annual entry passes are now available for \$45. Entry into the park is \$5 per visit, per vehicle.

Annual passes include a vehicle and boat/trailer pass, and it is valid for one year after the date of issue. Annual pass holders are not charged the boat launch fee.

For more information, call 1-800-280-3466.

Two-for-one special

People can rent a cabin or shelter at Canyon Lake for two nights for the price of one Monday through Thursday during March. The cost is \$35 for two nights in a shelter and \$60 for two nights in a cabin.

This offer is not valid during spring break week and weekend. To make reservations, call 1-800-280-3466.

Canyon Lake boating safety course

The Texas Parks and Wildlife sanctioned Boater's Safety Course is offered daily between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Canyon Lake Recreation Park.

During the course, students learn boater safety tips and requirements along with the "rules of the road" for water travel. The course is free.

For more information, call 1-800-280-3466.

ENLISTED CLUB 652-3056

Base championship chess tournament

The enlisted club hosts the base championship chess tournament at 9 a.m.

March 27. The tournament is open to all active duty members, retirees, family members, Department of Defense civilians and base civilian contractors.

There are five categories, including youth 6 to 8 years old; youth 9 to 12 years old; youth 13 to 18 years old; active duty; and DOD civilians, contractors, spouses and retirees.

Awards will be given to the first, second and third place winner of each category. The deadline to sign up for the tournament is noon March 26 at the youth center.

For more information, call Sharon Rector at 652-6508 or John Myers at 652-3298.

Bingo offered

Big Bucks Bingo is held every Sunday at 3 p.m. in the enlisted club.

Enlisted Club Easter Brunch

The enlisted club hosts an Easter brunch April 11. Randolph club members can make reservations now. All other club members can begin making reservations March 29. Reservation and pre-payment are required. Dining times are 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call the enlisted club at 652-2986.

OFFICERS' CLUB 652-3056

Live music

The "Wilburn Brothers" perform from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. today in the Sky Lounge and "Article 15" performs in the Auger Inn.

Easter Brunch Extravaganza

The officers' club hosts an Easter brunch April 11. Randolph club members can make reservations now. All other club members can make reservations beginning Tuesday. Reservation and pre-payment are required.

For more information, call 652-4864.

SKILLS CRAFT CENTER 652-5142

The skills craft center offers the following classes:

• Black and white photography class

Students learn the basics of black and white photography. The cost is \$25, which includes supplies for the two-session course. The next class is from 6 to 8 p.m. March 30.

• Stained glass classes

Students learn the basics of copper foil and how to cut and grind an 8x10 panel. The cost is \$35 plus supplies for the four-session course. Classes are held from 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

• Custom framing classes

Students learn color and material selection, measuring, mat and glass cutting, and frame assembly. Classes are held from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays. The cost is \$45 and includes supplies.

• Quilting class

Students learn how to use a portable sewing machine and make quilts by hand. Classes are held from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, starting April 6. The cost is \$35 plus supplies.

The green mile

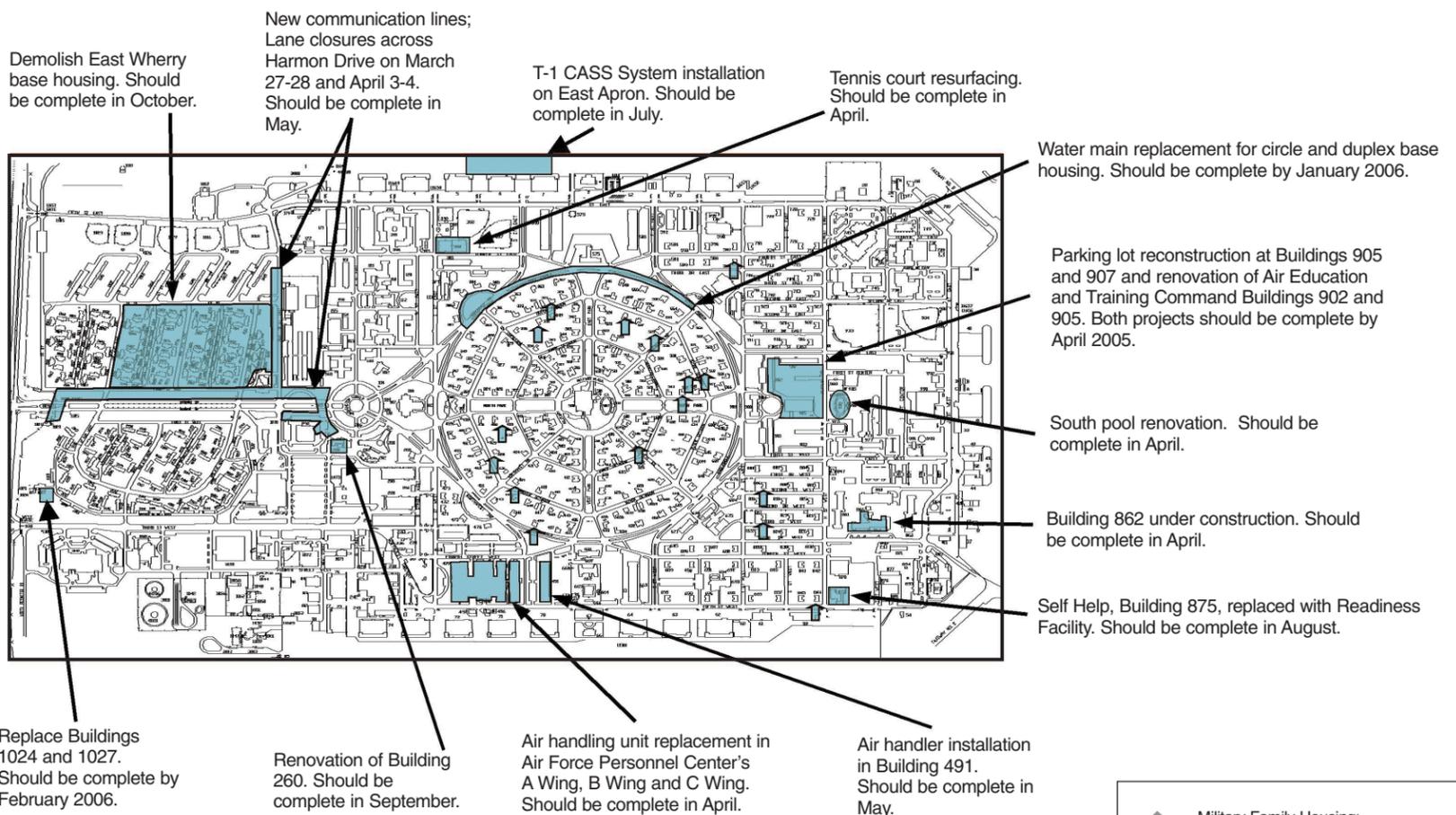


Randolph men, women and children take off from the 1.5-mile start line at Eberle Park during the fitness center's St. Patrick's Day Fun Run/Walk Wednesday. Almost 300 adults and children participated in the event. Midshipman Luke Putz

is the men's winner and Phyllis Estrada is the women's champ. All participants received a free t-shirt from the fitness center for running or walking in the event. (Photo by Steve White)

CONSTRUCTION

ORDER



Special Note:
 Repave of Harmon Drive to include Washington Circle starts on April 26. There will be only inbound traffic in the mornings and only outbound traffic in the afternoons. More details will be available soon.

↑ **Military Family Housing:**
 Exterior Painting/Roof Repair/Interior Repair/Foundation Repair in progress; notices will be sent to tenants. (Circle & Duplex)
 Repairs will continue through July 2004.

Tough competition

Brenda Bijan lifts her way to the top of the Women's Division with 135 pounds during the Greater Randolph Lunch Time Bench Press competition March 12 at the fitness center. Jerry Coburn, one of three heavyweight division winners to lift 405 pounds, spotted Bijan during the lift that garnered her first place. Twenty-eight people competed in four divisions including light weight, middle weight, heavy weight and the womens. Tied for first place in the heavy weight division with a 405-pound lift were Daniel DeLosSantos, Mark Sherrer and Coburn. Josh Cole won first place in the middle weight division with a 325-pound lift and Edmon Williams won in the light weight division with a 330-pound lift. (Photo by Steve White)

AETC/CSS digs its playoff chances, defeats 12th LRS 25-19, 25-17



Air Education and Training Command Computer Systems Squadron's Mitchell Willis taps the volleyball over the head of 12th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Mark Teamm during their teams' intramural volleyball match Tuesday evening. (Photo by Steve White)

By Senior Airman Lindsey Maurice
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The Air Education and Training Command Computer Systems Squadron came one step closer to its goal of qualifying for the base intramural volleyball playoffs Tuesday night after defeating the 12th Logistics Readiness Squadron 25-19 and 25-17.

With a strong show in offense and defense, AETC/CSS' Mitchell Willis led his team in the match with 18 points (11 off of spikes) and 8 blocks, with 9 and 3 in the first game.

Game one was a battle most of the way, as both teams struggled for the lead, trading points off of serving errors and out-of-bound hits.

LRS' Chad Lee managed to get 3 kills for his team's 9-6 lead before AETC/CSS went on a 6-0 run, which included two aces by Willis.

LRS slowly recovered, tying the score at 13-13 and again at 18-18, but were never able to take the lead back. AETC/CSS closed out the game on a 7-1 run, sealed with a kill by Erika Banks.

Going into game two, AETC/CSS jumped out to an early 8-2 lead, which included four aces by Willis and a spike by Chris Miranda.

LRS struggled to regain its footing, after players made several illegal or bad hits midway through the game. But Lee showed heart netting 4 kills, 3 digs and 3 blocks.

Unfortunately for them, AETC/CSS came together both offensively and defensively in game two, leaving no chance for the LRS squad to come back. Willis and Lei Silva joined forces to double block several big LRS spikes. Banks, Willis and Billeye Juarez combined for 5 digs, and Willis, Miranda and Randy Coleman combined for 8 kills off of spikes.

Up 24-17, AETC/CSS' victory was secured when LRS failed to get the serve over the net.

"I'm proud of our team," said Silva, AETC/CSS coach. "We have a set rotation with three hitters up front that really works for us. Plus we have good passers and great communication on the court. Our only goals are to make it to the playoffs and dethrone the Air Force Personnel Center - I think we are well on our way to doing that!"

Intramural
Bowling
Standings



As of March 8

Team	W	L
DFAS	122	54
AFPC TOO	112	64
SFS	112	64
RS	110	66
SVS #1	102	74
AFPC #1	98	78
JPPSO	98	78
AFPC/ESC	98	78
AFPOA	94	82
340 FTG	94	82
SVS TOO	92	84
AETC/LG	88	88
AFSAT	88	88
CS	87	89
AMO #2	82	94
AETC/XPM	79	97
AETC/FM	79	97
AMO #1	79	97
CPTS	78	98
MSS	78	98
AETC/CSS	75	101
AFSVA	75	101
AETC 900	72	104
AFMA	70	106
MED GP	68	108
LRS	50	126

TEAM SCRATCH SERIES

Team	Score
SVS TOO	2900
AFPC/ESC	2815
AFPC TOO	2745

TEAM SCRATCH GAME

Team	Score
AETC/CSS	968
AFPOA	966
RS	955

TEAM HANDICAP SERIES

Team	Score
AFPC #1	3355
CS	3241
MSS	3188

SPORTS SHORTS

Varsity women's softball sign-ups underway

Women interested in playing for the Randolph Lady Ramblers varsity softball team can now sign up at the fitness center. All active duty members, Department of Defense civilians and family members of active duty assigned to Randolph are eligible to play.

For more information, call 652-5316.

Varsity softball coaches needed

Anyone interested in coaching the Randolph men's or women's varsity softball teams should fill out an Air Force Form 303, "Specialized Sports Training," and submit it to the base fitness center staff.

For more information, call 652-5316.

Youth golf classes offered

The base youth center and the local Boys and Girls Clubs are co-hosting a basic golf class Saturdays from 2 to 4 p.m. at Brackenridge Park. Free golf balls and equipment are issued. This class is open to youth center members ages 10 to 18.

For more information, call 652-2088.

Tobacco cessation workshop

The next tobacco cessation workshop begins at 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday at the health and wellness center.

To sign-up or for more information, call 652-2300.

Senior citizen fitness/strength class

The fitness center hosts a senior citizen fitness/strength class from 9 to 9:45 a.m. Wednesday. The course is designed to educate seniors on the health benefits of maintaining an active life-style. Attendees are introduced

to a light fitness program in a pain-free environment.

For more information, call 652-5316.

Life skills workshop

The health and wellness center hosts a life skills workshop beginning at noon Wednesday. The workshop, which is divided into four sessions, is designed to teach people the necessary skills to interpret and deal with stressors.

To sign up or for more information, call 652-2300.

Golf class

The Randolph Oaks Golf Course is sponsoring a nine-week novice golfer class beginning April 3. Each class runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The last class is May 29.

Charlie Bishop, a Professional Golf Association teaching professional, instructs the course. During the course, students learn the fundamentals of the full swing and the shots of the short game. The cost is \$120 per player.

For more information, call 652-4653.

Victims' Rights Week fun run/walk

In recognition of Victims' Rights Week, which runs April 18-24, the Randolph Victims' Witness Awareness Council is hosting a fun run/walk beginning at 7 a.m. April 8 at Eberle Park.

For more information, call Evelyn Mickles at 652-6781.

Golf tournament

The Randolph First Sergeants' Group hosts a four-person scramble golf tournament April 8 at the

Randolph Oaks Golf Course, with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

The cost, which includes green fees, cart, food and drinks is \$35 for golf course members and \$25 for non-members.

Participants can select their own teams. The handicap system will be 10 percent of the total team handicap.

To reserve a spot, contact your unit first sergeant.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Prentiss Spivey at 652-6945.

Aerobic classes available

The fitness center offers a variety of aerobic classes Monday through Friday. Classes begin at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 4:45 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Classes include step/variety, basic step, power step, super step, cardio/sculpt, cardio/step combo, sports conditioning, power yoga and kick boxing.

The fitness center also offers a kick boxing class from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturdays.

For more information, call the fitness center at 652-5316.

Relay for Life

The 3rd Annual Greater Randolph Area Relay for Life runs from 7 p.m. May 14 to 7 a.m. May 15 at Pickrell Park in Schertz, Texas.

The event is a 12-hour relay, which requires one team member to be on the track walking or running at all times during the event.

Military teams of 8-15 members can sign-up. Registration runs until the first day of the event.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Amanda Harness at 652-2619 or Carrie Waterman at 595-0219.