

News Briefs

Supply service store hosts grand opening

Supply is hosting their base service store's grand opening Friday. The Base Service Store/Individual Equipment Issue is located near the flight line on the west side of warehouse 3 the Supply Flight Base Service Store/Individual Equipment Issue is open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (for after hours support contact base supply customer service). The staff provides customers with basic office supplies and replacement uniform items. All customers must have an authorized approving official's signature for individual equipment issue requests. Submit letters designating an approving official for your unit to 355AEG/ELS Supply Flight titled individual equipment issue authorization letter. Approving official must be a flight superintendent equivalent or higher. Direct all questions to 466-1705.

Beach days extended

People have one more day to go to the beach. The beach will be open Mondays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday beach times remain the same from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Beer nights

Beer nights are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 2 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. Buyers must possess a ration card and identification card. Beers will be opened at the time of purchase. Members may not share their beer with others. Abuse of the policy will result in the camp losing the privilege.

Public affairs reminder

Do not send any photos or articles for public release. To request photos or articles to be publicly released contact the base public affairs representative. Some examples of public release venues are base papers, local or national papers, local or national media, etc. For any questions on this matter, or to submit stories or photos to the base paper, contact Staff Sgt. Alexandra V.M. at 466-1127.

Services, volunteers go the extra mile ...



Photo by Master Sgt. Tom C.

Members from Camp Justice and Services' members treated people serving their Christmas dinners at their seats. Services also held several sporting events. They soon will be hosting a New Year's Eve blast at the dining hall starting at 9 p.m. through the stroke of midnight to 1 a.m. The evening will include a custom party and contest.

Several leaders take time out to see troops

By Staff Sgt. Alexandra V. M.
355th Public Affairs Chief

The camp has hosted one visit after another recently and will continue to do so because people care about what troops are doing, how they are doing it and because they want to pass on the resounding message that "America loves you."

That's what one of the first messages Gen. Tommy Franks, Commander in Charge of the area of operations, relayed when he visited Camp Justice Christmas Eve.

"We [leadership] appreciate what you're doing at an important time of year and you're making sure our way of life we've taken for granted can be restored," he said.

The general had the opportunity to address the troops and then talk to them one on one afterward.

He said he wished he could shake everybody's hand and say "thanks a lot and it's an honor to say thanks a lot for being such a long way from home."

The CINC turned the floor over to his wife of 32 years.

"It's a great honor and privilege to be here with my husband," she said. "I see great military pride."

During her site visits with him she said she's been impressed



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lynitta Cotten

Gen. Tommy F. visits Camp Justice

with the morale and attitude of troops.

But she also reminded people not to forget about the families.

"I've been separated from my husband and I know what the families back home are going through," she said.

It can sometimes be harder on the families than the servicemember, she said. The family member doesn't always know what's going on and they are the ones left worrying and waiting while the servicemember is usually busy doing the mission.

She reminded troops that "Everyone in America loves you. You're making sure a way of life we've all taken for granted - can be restored."

The CINC echoed those thoughts.

"I lived in a world that I could go any place I wanted to, as long as I could afford it," he said. "I didn't have to worry about someone blowing my family or my house up. We're going to make Usama pay for ruining the lives of our kids and grandkids."

The CINC requested that when people go home to remember that they are heroes.

"Act like it," he said. "You represent the best our nation has to offer. And we thank god everyday for what you're doing."

He closed with saying, "In America, no one has forgotten what has happened. And, no one will forget. God bless you and God bless America."

One of the troops who heard the speech said it was good to see that leadership truly cares about people to take the time out of their busy schedules to see living conditions and what the troops are doing.

Airman 1st Class Ashley J. said, "It's important so leadership can tailor their decisions based on what they see because we implement the plans they put in place, such as support and morale functions."

It was a morale boost, especially during Christmas, she said.

Deploying: A family affair ...

I'll take my A-bag, C-bag and my spouse

By Staff Sgt. Alexandra V. M.
355th Public Affairs Chief

Military married couples may have special concerns when deploying, such as deploying at the same time, or deploying at the same time to the same base.

While not the common practice, it does happen such as with couples who deployed to the same remote site in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

One of the couples, Russell and Jennifer K., received orders in response to Sept. 11's tragedy, leaving within a month of each other.

"Being married military to military has its advantages and disadvantages," said Jennifer, a 355th Aerospace Expeditionary Group Services member.

"My husband and I talked about all the advantages and disadvantages before he made the decision to reenlist," she said. "One of them was deploying and the risks we would be taking."

The couple said their biggest concern was leaving their 2-month-old daughter, Mackenzie.

"I had mixed feelings about deploying because I had a new borne baby," said Russell, a 355th AEG Civil Engineer Power Production member.

The couple decided Russell's mom would take care of the baby. They also had a back up plan – a list of other relatives who were nearby and could take care of the baby.

Even with a plan in place, it was still difficult for Jennifer to let go of her new borne.

"I didn't have much time to think about it [deploying]," she said. "It hit me the morning I was leaving, thinking about missing everything my daughter was going to be doing. I felt like she was being ripped from me."

She said she was also relieved because she was getting her deployment out of the way and wouldn't be leaving when her husband got back.

She knew Russell was at the site she was going to, he didn't know she was coming because the base was in a blackout communication condition.

"I was very excited when I found out she was here," Russell said.

Since the couple has been here together, they have experienced a whole new set of concerns.

Adjusting here as a married couple has been quite an experience they said.

"It completely changes the way we interact with each other," Russell said.

"We feel like we're dating again. I walk

her to her tent, and I go to mine."

They said they try to be discrete about their situation but said it's difficult not to grab the other's hand when walking. And, they take into consideration there are people here missing their spouses.

"Since we've been here we have tried to make things as much like home as we can," Jennifer said. "We do our laundry together. We play cards and watch movies."

They said they are a crutch for each other during bad days and when they miss their daughter, reminding each other that they will be together soon and very happy.

Also, they said they've had piece-of-mind knowing their daughter is being well taken care of but think of her all the time.

"We look upon the same sky she does each night and we tell her we love her and miss her," Jennifer said.

While they've been here they've kept a daily journal for her so one day she can read why they were here and what they did.

"We are doing our job here so that one day she can have a good life," Russell said. "We want her to live in a free country – free from the types of tragedies that occurred Sept. 11 and afterward. We want her to be free to do the kinds of things that children and teenagers should be allowed to do without fear."

Some guards pull 24-hour shifts, or do they?

By Tech. Sgt. David R.
355th Security Forces

Senior Master Sgt. Garry E., Security Forces operations superintendent, was a bit confused for a few days after Security Forces from New Mexico Air National Guard hit the ground here. He'd do a post check on Senior Airman Johnny M. in the late afternoon, then pass him again on duty in the middle of the night.

"Are you ever off duty?" he'd ask the grinning airman.

"Not me senior," came the cheerful reply. "I'm working 24-hour shifts!"

The senior master sergeant wasn't the only one who didn't catch on right away. Security Force members from both flights, Alpha and Bravo, would work with the young man on shift, then swear they watched him turn in his gear at the end of the day, or night as the case might be. Then they'd see him standing a post on their way back to their quarters.

"We didn't intentionally try to fool anybody," said 25-year old Johnny. "We've never been the type to deliberately play the typical jokes."

Leroy, Johnny's identical twin, agreed.

"A lot of them [security force members] over here just didn't know there were two of us," Leroy said.

The two troops, from Kirkland Air Force Base, have been deployed here for a couple of months. There is one assigned to each duty

flight. Like the majority of ANG members in the area of operations, they were federally activated in response to the Sep. 11 terrorist attack. Johnny was tasked with the deployment and Leroy volunteered. Their unit wasn't going to originally send them to the same place.

"We were a little disappointed in the timing of the activation, but just in the timing," said Johnny. "But I'd have volunteered to come if I hadn't been assigned. Both of us wanted to come, to be a part of Enduring Freedom and serve our country. One of us certainly wasn't coming without the other!"

The reason for their disappointment? Not the actual call-up. Both brothers were over halfway through the New Mexico State Police Academy when the call came. They were the first twins to attend the academy in the history of the NMSPP, and their original class graduated Dec. 7.

They hope to complete their tour and return in time for the next academy class sometime in March. Upon completion, they will hit the road as rookie New Mexico State troopers. They don't know their assignment or district yet.

As members of the New Mexico Air National Guard, the brothers are no strangers to law enforcement.

"We've both always wanted to be cops," laughed Johnny. "Ever since we saw our first episode of CHiPs."

The two brothers seemed well prepared for

their security force career since they were members of the the U.S. Marine Corps junior ROTC detachment at their high school and worked for a detention center prior to attending the academy.

"We pretty much do everything together," they said in unison. "We're pretty much two peas in a pod."

The military and law enforcement jobs are family traditions for the twins, who live with their grandparents in Albuquerque. Their grandfather was in the Marine Corps and is a Korean War veteran, and their uncle is a detective.

"Our grandfather would've been a police officer as well," Johnny said. "But our grandmother wouldn't stand for it. She didn't want to live with the fear of a police chaplain walking up to her to tell her he'd been killed in the line of duty. That's why we don't have any desire for a serious relationship until we're through the academy and settled in."

If all goes well, they'll work the street as troopers for a few years, then both hope to go into canine work and narcotics interdiction.

As for this deployment and their duty here, they said it is succinct and very typical of their two career-mindedness.

"We're here for a reason, the brothers said. "Granted it would be nice to go hunting UBL [Usama Bin Laden], but everybody's part of the team and has a role to play. We have a job to do and we're going to do it."

Base gets surprise visit from USO entertainers

By Staff Sgt. Alexandra V. M.
355th Public Affairs Chief

Visits continued throughout the week, such as from entertainers with the United Service Organizations (USO). Wayne Newton, Drew Carey, Neil McCoy and two Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, performed for troops Dec. 22.

Their visit was put on their schedule the last minute. Camp members also received last minute notice that they would be entertained that night.

"The camp was a buzz since we found out," said a 355th civil engineer troop.

For the entertainers, they said it was a special honor to come here.

"It's so rewarding for us to be able to do this," said Neil McCoy, Country-

Western singer.

McCoy went on a USO tour prior to this visit and said he never felt that type of feeling in his life.

Wayne Newton said, his group just finished a two-week tour, but got the call they were needed for this tour.

"We couldn't have been more thrilled and honored," he said. "It's important that all of the troops, men and women, understand how much America loves you, appreciates you and understands that you're giving up your Christmas and holidays in order that the rest of us can be free. That's the least we could do and bring that message. If it weren't for you doing this for all of us there may not be a Christmas next year."

Drew Carey said he wouldn't have missed this



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jack B.

Mr. Las Vegas performed, from singing to playing the fiddle, with the USO here Dec. 22.

for the world. Carey, a former Marine Corps reservist, said he feels a certain kinship to military members and that's why he wanted to do this.

He echoed the message that camp members have been hearing all week -- "Everybody in America loves you."



The 355th base commander, Col. Tim H., greets Drew Carey to the base.



Neil McCoy, Country-Western performer, entertains troops and signed hundreds of autographs.



Wayne Newton, hugged camp members and signed autographs before and after his performance.



Master Sgt. Tony S., base 355th Civil Engineer Readiness member (left) and Army sergeant Neil M., Nuclear Biological Chemical member, got their chance in the spotlight. They were called up on stage to perform with Neil McCoy and sang "Rolling in my Sweet Baby's Arms." They play guitar and sing for camp members on a regular basis.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Lynitta C.

JTF-SWA Command Chief has a lot of 'good' to say

By Staff Sgt. Alexandra V. M.
355th Public Affairs Chief

From someone who has seen this place grow, Chief Master Sgt. Curt Brownhill, Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia Command Chief, said the amount of work being done here to shift this base into a semipermanent one is incredible.

Brownhill stayed at Camp Justice for a few days to collect information, pass the JTF-SWA commander's message and meet new troops and revisit those who hit the ground first.

Brownhill, who has made several stops here, and was once acting command chief here, said there is a striking change in the base since he was last here 60 days ago.

Some of the biggest, most visible changes were the opening up of land and the tent city structure.

"The dirt boys are doing a hell of a job," he said.

This is a true success story from top to bottom, he said, especially because of senior leadership and their progress with relations with the host nation.

The chief will be visiting more troops throughout the area of operations during the Christmas season on a 10-day site visit.

"Visiting troops during Christmas doesn't get any better than that," he said of performing his duties as a command chief.

"People are a long way from home and

doing important, worthy work for our nation to restore freedom and eradicate the shameful acts of others."

From what he's seen of other sites in the AOR -- everybody's interested in what everybody else is doing.

"No two sites are the same," he said. "At this particular site, there have been more challenges compared to the other ones with terrain and shipping supplies."

But he said, people kept and keep making things happen through the challenges.

After getting to know people during his visits here, he said if he had to pick another name for the camp just as suited as Camp Justice, he said it would be Camp Pride because of the overwhelming amount of pride he sees here.

Getting into the holiday spirit ...



Photo by Master Sgt. Tom C.

Senior Airman Latesha F. and Senior Airman Melody L., 355th Services members who work at the base exchange, celebrate Christmas as Santa's Elves. They are both almost "Christmas babies." One was born Dec. 24, the other Dec. 26.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alexandra V.M.

Lt. Col. Laun H., a flight surgeon here, helped design this nativity scene and Christmas tree out of bottles, coat hangers, plates to help people get into the Christmas spirit. Their creation won the "Most resourceful award" from their squadron.

Upcoming events ...

Saturday: Latino Dance Night will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. at the dining facility. Bring CDs for dance nights.

Sunday: Come to Open Mic Night from 8 to 10 p.m.

New Year's Eve blast

People will be bringing in the new year by partying at the dining facility from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. A costume contest will be one of the events.

Special upcoming event:

The United Service Organizations and the Armed Forces Entertainment team are scheduling a visit through Central Air Force Command Services to host the cast of Band of Brothers here to meet the troops. The visit is scheduled for Sunday. More details to come as they become available.

Looking for -- Airman 1st Class KrisRyan B. is looking for martial artists for a martial arts demonstration. Contact him at the morale tent/recreation office.

Dining hall menu

Dec. 28

Lunch

Schzewan chicken
Cajun Meatloaf

Dinner

Baked chicken and noodles
Shrimp scampi

Dec. 29

Lunch

Beef Sukiyaki
Breaded fried shrimp

Dinner

Ginger BBQ chicken
Spinach/beef lasagna

Dec. 30

Lunch

Five spice chicken
Swiss steak

Dinner

Roast turkey
Pullman ham

Dec. 31

Lunch

Halibut steak
Beef yakisoba

Dinner

BBQ beef cubes
Pork chop suey

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