



# Lackland Talespinner

Published for the community of Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas

SPORTS | PAGE 18

Radiology/Mission Support take base title chase to limit



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## Reductions cost AETC 1,400 positions in 2004

### Wing to lose 72 military, 90 civilians upcoming fiscal year

Air Education and Training Command will lose more than 1,400 positions in fiscal 2004 as part of the Air Force's manpower reduction initiative, the AETC commander announced March 5.

Under the program to reconcile current manning documents with authorized levels as outlined by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Gen. Don Cook, AETC Commander, said AETC will lose about 830 military and 590 civilian positions

next year, with increased reductions in later years. The 37th Training Wing will see its work force reduced by about 72 military and 90 civilians in 2004 under the initiative. However, these reductions will need to come from positions not already identified under the command's Pick-A-Base (A-76) process.

The fiscal 2004 reductions take effect Oct. 1, 2003. The number of military and civilian positions affected in future



Tony Fuentes is the chief of the Civilian Personnel Flight at Lackland.

Cook said. "This doesn't mean there will be no reduction-in-force-actions. RIF procedures will be used to move workers into available positions as some jobs are eliminated. This realigning of our workforce will help us better organize for the

years has yet to be determined.

"We have strategically spread these cuts across the command's bases in such a way that we are confident each base will be able to absorb the cuts," General

ongoing challenges we face to accomplish our important mission to recruit, train, and educate professional airmen to sustain the combat capability of America's Air Force."

The reductions are a result of multiple factors, according to the AETC commander. Foremost, the Air Force and AETC must balance manpower levels with force requirements while meeting manpower ceilings set by Congress and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

"We will use the tools at our disposal to reduce the impact on our work force," said Tony Fuentes, chief of the Civilian Personnel Flight. Some of the

tools he mentioned are hiring freezes, cutting vacant positions and the use of Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Separation Incentive Programs (VERA/VSIP).

Mr. Fuentes indicated with the large number of Lackland employees eligible for retirement now, he anticipates a good number of these cuts can be achieved through approval of VERA/VSIP. He said, "with willing volunteers we can often achieve positive outcomes for the work force."

As this process develops, employees will be contacted to determine interest and avail-

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## Access cards bringing e-mail breakthrough

BY JAMES COBURN  
TALESPINNER STAFF WRITER

By year's end, all Lackland personnel with access to a computer should be able to send unclassified encrypted e-mail that no one but the intended recipients will be able to read.

This secure e-mail breakthrough is being made possible throughout the DoD by use of the DoD's new common access card and a card reader connected to personal computers.

Kris Krimmel, 37th Communications Squadron project manager for the common access card (CAC) reader and its accompanying computer software installation, said the goal is to give everybody at Lackland access to the technology by September.

"I think it's a great idea," said Senior Master Sgt. Normando Febus of the 37th Mission Support Squadron, who has received his card reader and is waiting for further instructions before sending "signed" e-mail.

Mr. Krimmel said more than 9,000 card readers already have been installed of the 22,000 needed for Lackland. "This leaves approximately 13,000 to go between now and September 2003."

The CAC is the new DoD Identification Card being given to all new military personnel. By September,



Photo by Yolanda S. Hunter

**STRICTLY BUSINESS:** Airman 1st Class Kristal Kendrick, Military Personnel Flight customer service representative, prepares Wednesday to take a digital photograph of Staff Sgt. Angelo Mitchell, 37th Mission Support Squadron, for his new common access card.

cards will be issued to all military, civilians and contractors who work at Lackland and have access to a computer or need to enter controlled access buildings, said Tech. Sgt. Patrick Nedrick, alternate site security manager for the 37th Mission Support Squadron's Military Personnel Flight.

The ID card is a "smart card" the size of a credit card that contains an integrated circuit chip, a magnetic strip, bar codes and the owner's photograph.

Mr. Krimmel said the card's processing chip is digitally embedded with the owner's fingerprint, personal identification number (PIN) and both a public

and a private key for the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) system.

"Don't forget your PIN," stressed Ed Bell, primary site security manager for the Military Personnel Flight. "A lot of the military people are not remembering their PIN," he said, because they have not used it. "If you don't use something, two days later it goes out the window ... Short-term memory is gone."

"Eventually," Mr. Krimmel noted, "you'll use this (card and PIN) to log onto your computer. You'll still punch a code in, but it will be your PIN. Another

Please see SECURITY, Page 2

## Returnees get 6-month break

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE - People who return from short-tour assignments to Air Education and Training Command units get a six-month deployment deferral, according to a new command policy.

Lt. Gen. John Hopper, AETC vice commander, announced the policy, which took effect Feb. 28, in a memorandum to commanders.

"As commanders, we must take care of our military members and their families and provide whatever support is necessary for a smooth transition," General Hopper said in the memo. "This policy allows adequate time for families to fully reconnect and take advantage of the many support services available. ... It will also allow the military member to handle the many issues typically encountered upon return from an unaccompanied tour."

If a unit receives an Air and Space Expeditionary Force tasking for which only people in this six-month sanctuary are available to deploy, the AETC vice commander will support a request to relieve the unit of the tasking, according to AETC readiness officials. Commanders submit requests through HQ AETC/DOX.



Lt. Gen. John Hopper served as an airlift wing commander during Operation Desert Storm.

### WEEKEND WEATHER



**Today** Mostly Sunny  
**Saturday** Partly Cloudy  
**Sunday** Partly Cloudy  
**Hi: 83** **Hi: 80** **Hi: 80**  
**Low: 60** **Low: 63** **Low: 64**

### NEWS | PAGE 3

Inns of Lackland compete for command 'four-peat'



### FEATURE | PAGE 10

Finance goes beyond 'showing the money'



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## REDUCTIONS

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ability for VERA/VSIP. Finally, Mr. Fuentes encourages employees to remain calm and focused on our mission as we work together to carry out the manpower reductions.

"We will work closely with the Civilian Personnel Flight to ensure employee concerns are addressed," said Rita Spalding-Moore, executive vice president of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 1367. The local represents more than 2,000 bargaining unit employees at Lackland. Ms. Spalding-Moore indicated Local 1367 would keep bargaining unit members apprised throughout this process and that she and other union officials will work closely with management to ensure employee rights and entitlements are observed.

The Air Force needs to reduce manpower positions to comply with caps imposed on the active-duty and civilian work force. The Air Force is authorized and funded for about 360,000 military and 159,000 civilians. The current force will exceed this amount by more than 9,000 positions in 2004.

"In essence, the Air Force has more manpower 'spaces' on the books than are currently authorized and funded," General Cook said.

For example, the Air Force added 5,000 positions for the Air and Space Expeditionary Force, anticipating manpower and funding relief. However, the Office of the Secretary of Defense did not approve increases.

AETC and the Air Force are concerned about the impact the reductions will have on affected employees, the general said. There are programs in place to help civilian employees, military members and their families through the reductions.

Civilian employees adversely impacted by the reduction may be eligible for registration in the DoD Priority Placement Program. The program provides help to civilian employees who want to continue their federal careers at other DoD locations. Also, family support centers at each base offer services to help people with job search skills.

"Priority placement is a very viable option for those civilians affected by these cuts," Mr. Fuentes added. "Our system allows individuals whose positions are cut to receive a priority in being hired for positions they are qualified to fill."

"Thanks to each and every one of you for your outstanding and dedicated service every day," General Cook said. "The real strength of AETC is its people. My top priority is to ensure our people always come first as we make the adjustments to comply with these necessary authorization reductions."



Photos by Yolanda S. Hunter

**GOLDEN CELEBRATION:** Fireworks explode behind the 37th Training Wing's headquarters building (above), Tops in Blue members sing the National Anthem (top right) and some of several thousand Lackland personnel and their families begin gathering in the Base Amphitheater (bottom right) March 7 in celebration of the wing's 50th anniversary. Tops in Blue, the Air Force's premier entertainment troupe based at Lackland, took the audience aboard the "Spirit of America" train for a musical ride across the nation, prompting a standing conclusion and tears with the singing of "God Bless the USA." Patriotic music and fireworks topped off the celebration.



## SECURITY

Continued from Page 1

advantage in going in this direction is your PIN, you'll use for everything," including entering web sites and controlled-access buildings.

If someone enters their PIN incorrectly three straight times, the processing chip will lock the card and its PIN can't be used again until it is unlocked by the Military Personnel Flight, Sergeant Nedrick said.

A card owner's PIN is used to digitally "sign" an e-mail message or document. When someone sends a signed e-mail, a wrapper is placed around the e-mail so that its intended recipient will know if someone changed the e-mail after it was sent, Mr. Krimmel said.

He said users also will be able to encrypt their e-mail so that only the e-mail's identified recipient or recipients can decrypt the e-mail by using

their private key, which is password-protected by punching in their PIN.

As part of the PKI technology, a user's public key is published on the DoD's Global Access List.

"Say I want to send an e-mail to Sergeant Nedrick," Mr. Krimmel said. "He has published his public key on the GAL. I bring up his e-mail address, and in his configuration of Outlook, there will be a button in the new mail message. So after I compose this message, I can click on that button and say 'Encrypt this message.'"

"It (the message) will then go out to the exchange GAL, get his public key and encrypt the data using his public key. His public key encrypts it such that the only key that can unlock it and decrypt it is his private key."

That message, Mr. Krimmel explained, could only be decrypted when Sergeant Nedrick puts his CAC

into the card reader and enters his PIN.

If a card is stolen, it can't be used because the thief won't know the owner's PIN, Sergeant Nedrick said.

While users will be able to encrypt e-mails with the new technology, "This has nothing to do with classified information," Mr. Krimmel said. "The encryption is for sensitive but unclassified information." It's for privacy, like personnel actions and documents, he said.

According to a Lackland video on PKI, "Every time you use your digital signature, you ensure authentication, data integrity and non-repudiation."

Non-repudiation means someone receiving signed e-mail can't deny later that the communication or transaction took place.

If you want to learn more about PKI, go to:

<https://afpki.lackland.af.mil/>

## NEWS BRIEFS |

AIR FORCE

## AF LAUNCHES DoD COMSAT

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla. – The Air Force launched its first military satellite payload on an Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle from here Monday.

The military payload, a Defense Satellite Communications System satellite, was lifted into orbit by a Boeing Delta IV rocket.

The Delta IV and Lockheed Martin's Atlas V are the two families of EELVs developed with the Air Force to modernize and reduce the cost of America's space-lift operations. Both flew their maiden missions with commercial payloads last year.

The satellite will be positioned over the Indian Ocean and should be fully operational by July 1, 55 days quicker than usual for on-orbit checkout operations, said Capt. Greg Ellingson of the Space and Missile Systems Center's Detachment 8.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

## MEDIA TO SEE FORCE PROS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. military is the best-trained, best-led and best-equipped force in the world, a senior defense official said Monday, and the American taxpayers deserve to see "just how professional that force is."

Bryan Whitman, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, said in a C-SPAN interview that he believes reporters should be allowed extensive access to military operations because they'll cover what he likes to call "the good, the bad and the ugly."

"They'll see the goodness with which our troops carry out their missions. Our troops are human though, too, and they'll make mistakes, and I believe that reporters will cover the bad as it occurs," Mr. Whitman said. "And I think reporters will also cover the ugly because war is ugly, and the world should see that war is ugly (and know) we don't make these decisions to go to war lightly."

DoD officials say hundreds, perhaps thousands, of journalists will cover various aspects of any conflict in Iraq. More than 500 of those reporters will accompany U.S. military units in a process the DoD calls "embedding."

Reporters are given the opportunity to embed in specific military units before conflict begins. They'll then travel with those units, maneuver with them, accompany them during operations and be under their protection.

In return, the journalists agree to follow certain "ground rules." Mr. Whitman said those rules are designed to facilitate cooperation between the media representatives and the military commander on the ground.

## CORRECTION

In last week's edition of the *Talespinner*, Tech. Sgt. Rita Felton was identified as a member of the 37th Civil Engineer Squadron. Sergeant Felton is in fact with the Air Force Information Warfare Center.

## DEPLOYMENT UPDATE |



FOR UP-TO-DATE  
AEF INFORMATION,  
LOG ON TO:  
[aefc.langley.af.mil](http://aefc.langley.af.mil)

CURRENT AEF CYCLE |  
3  
AEF BUCKET 9/10  
March – May 2003  
AEF BUCKET 1/2  
June – August 2003

## Lodging looks to 'four-peat'

37TH SERVICES DIVISION

The Inns of Lackland will be competing for an unprecedented "four-peat" as the best lodging operation in the command when the AETC Inns of Excellence team visits on Monday and Tuesday. Lackland won the AETC award in 2000, 2001, and 2002 and went on to win the prestigious Air Force Innkeeper award for 2000 and 2002.

"We're used to winning and we feel that we have the drive and stamina needed to continue our winning streak," said Don Johnson, general manager of Lackland Lodging. "This award recognizes the command's best lodging operation in terms of customer service, quality of facilities, efficiency, friendliness and customer satisfaction. That's what we do best, and we're hopeful the command will see it that way too."

The Inns of Lackland is a massive complex, encompassing 44 buildings in various locations on Lackland,

Kelly Field, and Camp Bullis. With more than 2,900 bed spaces and 120,000 annual guests, Lackland is easily the largest lodging operation in the Air Force. The recent installation of a modern electronic guest room lock system enhances customer service along with \$2.2 million in upgrades to the rooms, but it's the personal touch of the managers and their professional staff of more than 460 that set them apart from all other base lodging operations.

Attention to detail by the lodging front desk, supply, maintenance and housekeeping personnel is what made "Lackland Lodging the best in AETC the last four years in a row," said Jerry Stanfill, 37th Services Division Chief. "Their challenge is to provide services comparable to finer civilian hotels, and training has been the key to the Gateway Inn's success in providing outstanding service and top-notch facilities. Training is a constant process in maintaining proficiency levels. The



Photo by James Coburn

**SERVICE WITH A SMILE:** Second Lt. Chris Mitchell of Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M., is assisted by Liz Baker, a Lackland Lodging guest services representative at Visiting Officers Quarters, as he checks out Wednesday.

'human touch' flows naturally from highly skilled people, each of them intent on providing the maximum service to each guest."

According to Jim Craney, Chief of the 37th Services Division Combat Support flight, "The support we receive from Team Lackland is what helps set us above the rest. With our far-flung and diverse lodging operations, we need, and receive, the cooperation and support from numerous base organizations to make the Inns of Lackland a success." Mr. Johnson adds that competing for the award isn't just

for the short-term recognition, but requires a sustained effort over time. "The real payoff is in improved service to our customers, the military and government travelers to Lackland AFB."

Maj. Mark Tharp, 37th Services Division Deputy Chief, commented, "Lackland Lodging and the LA Lakers are both seeking four-peats this year. The Lakers have struggled and clearly have an uphill battle on their hands. Our team has continued to build on last year's momentum and are ready to take on all challengers!"



Photo by Boyd Belcher

**END OF AN ERA:** Col. Gary Henley, 67th IOW vice commander, and 1st Lt. Jason Glenn, 690th SPTS commander, encase the 690th SPTS guidon.

## AIA unit inactivates

BY TECH. SGT.  
MARILYN C. HOLLIDAY  
AIR INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Activated, inactivated, disbanded, resurrected, redesignated, renamed, reactivated, reassigned and realigned, 690th Support Squadron at Lackland has been a part of Air Force history since May 1943.

In ceremonies recently, the 690th Support Squadron was once again inactivated at Lackland.

"The spirit of the 690th Support Squadron will live on," 1st Lt. Jason Glenn, 690th SPTS commander since December 2000, said during the inactivation ceremony. "The squadron has accomplished many amazing feats since 1943 and will never be forgotten, as it lives on in the history books."

The squadron was actually reassigned seven times from 1943 to 1945 at different bases in England, before activating at Bergstrom AFB, Texas in 1988, then Kelly AFB in 1995 and finally Lackland in July 2001. At Lackland the squadron was first part of the 67th Intelligence Wing, renamed the 67th Information Operations Wing.

The 690th Support Squadron's mission is to provide all base level infrastructures to sustain local, multi-service and AIA operations while exercising administrative control over members assigned to Headquarters AIA. The squadron's main function was to allocate equipment, facilities and fiscal resources to conduct day-to-day operations.

## Nation, base honor service of women

America and the Department of Defense celebrate March as Women's History Month.

Locally, Lackland sets aside one week to honor the service of women both in the military and out. This year's events are scheduled throughout the month, with specific events March 24-28. Among the scheduled activities are:

**Today** – Scheduled Health and Wellness Center Fun Run at 11 a.m. This is a scheduled HAWC event that will be sponsored by the Federal Women's Week Committee.

**Tuesday** – Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar and Brown Bag Luncheon at the Permanent Party Pyramid Chapel across from BX in the Fellowship Hall, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The guest speaker is Dorothy Phillips.

**March 21** – Women's Health Fair at the HAWC, 1-3 p.m. Guest speaker is Annette Martinez. Blood pressure checks, body fat analysis and health technicians will be available to answer questions.

**March 27** – Annual Luncheon at the Gateway Club, 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker is Command Chief

Master Sgt. Edna Tart, 37th Training Wing. Tickets are \$9 or \$10 for non-club members and \$7 or \$8 for club members, depending on their lunch selection. Tickets are on sale through March 21. Purchase tickets from any committee member.

**March 28** – BMT Graduation Parade at 9 a.m. The parade reviewing official will be Col. Sharon Dunbar, 737th Training Group commander. In support of Federal Women's Week, Lackland's committee will honor federal women at the graduation parade. A flight in the parade will consist of 55 Air Force enlisted females representing the 37th Training Wing and 59th Medical Wing.

The driving force behind the celebration of Federal Women's Week is the National Women's History Project, an educational nonprofit organization. Each year, this group recognizes women from various segments of American life. This year, among the women being honored, is retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, one of the most highly decorated military women in United States history.

# Secretary's memo serving as officer career guide

BY STAFF SGT. C. TODD LOPEZ

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

WASHINGTON – A recent memorandum from the secretary of the Air Force regarding the selection process for general officers could very well serve as a guide to all officers – regardless of rank – as they chart out their careers.

The memorandum is one of a series of initiatives designed to help explain how officials intend to incorporate deliberate force development throughout the Air Force.

In the memorandum, Dr. James Roche discussed the instructions he gives to promotion boards before they consider an individual for promotion to brigadier or major general. He asked all Air Force officers to consider those requirements set out in the instructions.

"As I was reviewing the instructions for a recent general officers board, it occurred to me that you might be interested in what I was telling a board about the kind of officers that should become generals," the secretary said in the memorandum. "I encourage you to discuss this with your mentors."

Among the qualities the secretary looks for are a proven ability to be proactive rather than reactive, a breadth of career experiences and an understanding of the expeditionary air and space force concept.

In addition, he said, general officer selectees are those known for making things happen.

"The Air Force needs officers who can conceptualize, chart strategies and formulate policies, as opposed to merely organizing solu-

tions to problems," Secretary Roche said. "The board should find those officers who provided the direction and force that shaped outcomes rather than reacted successfully to a series of events."

The secretary also stressed the need for officers to possess a variety of backgrounds, strengths and levels of operational and technical expertise. Such a background includes experience in administrative, support and technical positions. For line officers, joint-duty experience is a significant factor. And where appropriate, he explained, command experience remained an important consideration. He stressed that the Air Force focus on force development will help meet requirements for these leaders and better meet the developmental needs.

"For those eligible to command, demonstrated performance as a commander is, and will continue to be, a key factor in selection for advancement," Secretary Roche said.

Finally, the secretary identified a keen understanding of and commitment to the expeditionary air and space force concept as an important trait to have. In particular, he said, officers vying for general must be able to explain the value of air and space capabilities, must have an understanding of the Air Force's contribution to overall national security and must understand each Air Force individual's contribution to the overall AEF concept.

"An understanding of the full spectrum of expeditionary air and space force and air and space operation is a cornerstone for selection to general officer grade. The Air Force needs general officers that can lead the Air Force through the evolutionary change as an air and space force," the secretary said. "To support this effort, the Air Force needs leaders who ... don't just do, but who also can conceptualize what needs to be done."



**Dr. James Roche** served in the U.S. Navy, retiring with the rank of captain in 1983 after 23 years of service.

## POLICE BLOTTER |

*(Editor's Note: Crime doesn't stop at the fence surrounding Lackland. It's up to Lacklanders to make a difference. You can help "take a bite out of crime" by reporting suspicious activities and people. This column will increase your awareness and encourage you to take positive steps to stop crime.)*

These incidents, reported by the 37th Security Forces Squadron, took place during the past week at Lackland.

■ One major accident with injuries and four minor vehicle accidents without injuries, were reported.

■ A civilian contractor with Goldenlook Inc. reported five windows broken out of Bldg. 8772.

■ A dependent son of a retired technical sergeant was apprehended for shoplifting \$1.90 in trading cards from the base exchange.

■ A civilian with the 37th CES reported 18 containers of R-12 Halon valued at \$9,500 stolen from Bldg. 5497/CES Warehouse.

■ A private with the 314th MI

Battalion was apprehended for drug possession at Bldg. 2011.

■ A seaman with the Navy Master at Arms School reported his CD player was stolen from Bldg. 10070/dormitory.

■ A staff sergeant with the 345th TRS was apprehended for simple assault against his spouse.

■ A non-base-affiliated civilian was apprehended for drug possession while attempting to enter the installation at Gateway East.

■ A technical trainee with the 342nd TRS was apprehended for underage drinking.

■ An airman with the 343rd TRS reported \$1,000 worth of CDs and a CD player were stolen from his vehicle in the parking lot of the Mesquite Dining Facility.

Anyone with information about criminal activity on Lackland can call 671-2018. To report emergencies call 911. Callers may remain anonymous.

## MILITARY JUSTICE |

37th Training Wing officials administered these Article 15s during the week March 3 to 8:

■ An airman basic, 345th Training Squadron, Detachment 1, violated Article 92 (dereliction of duty) and received five days restriction and five days extra duty.

■ An airman basic, 345th Training Squadron, Detachment 1, violated Article 92 (dereliction of duty) and received 10 days restriction and 10 days extra duty.

■ An airman, 859th Surgical Operations Squadron, violated

Article 92 (dereliction of duty) and received a forfeiture of \$645 pay.

■ An airman basic, 342nd Training Squadron, violated Article 108 (damaging government property) and received a forfeiture of \$268 pay and seven days extra duty.

■ An airman first class, 59th Medical Support Squadron, violated Article 92 (dereliction of duty) and Article 121 (wrongful appropriation) and received a reduction to the grade of airman, 30 days restriction and eight days extra duty.

# CMSAF urges Congress to beef up education benefits

BY MASTER SGT. SCOTT ELLIOTT

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

WASHINGTON – The service's senior enlisted airman told members of Congress on March 6 that, while quality-of-life issues have gotten better in recent years, there are still about 57,000 airmen without veteran's education benefits.

Besides education benefits, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray cautioned members of the House Subcommittee on Military Construction of the possible effects of current high-operations tempos on retention.

"I had the opportunity to travel throughout Southwest Asia to visit our airmen," Chief Murray said. "Our airmen continue to impress us with their dedication to duty and their love for our country, regardless of the conditions they're serving in."

"Why? Because they know their mission is important," he said.

But, Chief Murray told the lawmakers, despite their devotion to duty, every airman would reach a point in their career when they will have to decide whether to re-enlist or separate from the service.

According to Chief Murray, when many of the nearly 40,000 airmen currently mobilized come home, they will be returning from their sixth, or maybe eighth, deployment.

"About 77 percent of them will make a re-enlistment decision in the next three years," he said. "That's why it's critical that Congress continues to pursue improvements for them and their families."

Chief Murray's concern over quality-of-life issues extends beyond those on active duty, to airmen and families in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

"In terms of airmen in uniform, the Air Force is the smallest it's been since its inception in 1947," he said, "yet we're supporting more operations on more fronts than at any time in history."

The Air Force is only able to sustain the current operations tempo through extensive use of its reserve components – the Guard and Reserve, Chief Murray said.

"We can't do it without them," he said. "The Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve are our nation's treasure, and we're asking more of



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

**PURSUIING IMPROVEMENTS:** Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray answers questions about quality-of-life concerns during a hearing of the House Subcommittee on Military Construction on Capitol Hill in Washington on March 5.

them now than ever before.

"For these citizen airmen, we must ensure that their compensation is equitable and consistent with the jobs we're asking them to do."

Another major area of concern that Chief Murray hears at "almost every forum" is perceived inequity of education benefits among today's airmen.

According to Chief Murray, the Air Force has about 57,000

airmen who will have no veteran's education benefits upon separation or retirement. Of those airmen, about 47,000 declined to enroll in the Montgomery GI Bill while in basic training, while the rest opted not to enroll in the Veteran's Education Assistance Program, which was offered from 1977 to 1985.

"For many of these people, it was their own doing," Chief

Murray admitted, "but the decision to decline was made when they were 17 or 18 years of age, and they had somebody advise them who didn't have all the facts."

While acknowledging that airmen currently receive 100 percent tuition assistance for classes taken while on active duty, the chief said that is not enough.

"The truth is that not everyone can balance college classes with the high pace of deployments and operations, plus meet the demands of their families at home," Chief Murray said.

"This has been a source of frustration among our airmen for many years and can only be resolved by allowing an 'open season' for all active-duty airmen to enroll in MGIB," he said.

By giving all airmen the chance to enroll in MGIB, Chief Murray said, airmen who do not have the chance to earn college degrees while serving on active duty could still pursue advanced education after separating or retiring.

"This is not just good for the individual," he said, "it's an investment in the future of our nation."

COMMENTARY

# Unsigned vouchers top cause of pay delay

BY 2ND LT. DARRELL RANDOLPH  
37TH COMPTROLLER SQUADRON

At a time when our great country is at the very brink of war, the one thing a warfighter shouldn't be concerned with is whether or not he/she will be properly compensated following a deployment. To a typical airman, the unit affectionately known as simply Finance may seem like some sort of military bank, or at the very least, one-stop shopping for military pay problems. In some aspects, this is true. However, believe it or not, many of the pay problems you experience are not initiated within Finance. So, whether you are going or returning from temporary duty, the one concern we all share is will Finance pay me in a timely manner so I can pay off my expenses incurred during my TDY?

As a former aircraft maintenance technician with 13-plus years of service, I've been

deployed quite a few times. My mentality in those days, following a long TDY, was let me file this travel voucher, and Finance, you need to show me the money! Let's be realistic here, after being deployed for months, when I returned home, I wanted to A) see the family; B) hang out with my friends; and C) file my travel voucher, so I could get paid. (Depending on my financial status at the time, choice B was actually optional.) The bottom line, I wanted my money and I wanted it fast! And, the last thing I wanted to hear from Finance was there's a problem with my voucher, and my payment will be delayed.

What's so difficult about pay-



2nd Lt. Darrell Randolph is a financial management officer. For more on Finance, turn to Page 10.

ing a simple travel voucher? Perhaps you have asked yourself this question before, or at least have heard someone in your work center give Finance a few choice words because their voucher was paid later than expected. The truth, a travel voucher is a simple task if filed correctly and in a timely manner.

Recently I sat down with a few finance technicians in the 37th Comptroller Squadron to talk about travel vouchers. As a newly assigned financial management officer, I make it a point to visit the various sections within the unit to become familiar with the different pay processes.

During my time with the troops, I quickly became aware of how much I didn't know about travel pay. Of course, I had formed my own opinion as a maintenance troop on the outside, not knowing what was involved with a simple travel

voucher. The one thing that immediately stood out was the tall stack of vouchers I saw on a couple of desks. When I inquired, I was informed that those vouchers were just the tip of the iceberg. In a month's time the 37th CPTS processes anywhere from 3,200 to 4,000 travel vouchers. That statistic alone gave me a new outlook on Finance. Observing the stack of vouchers piqued my interest, which led me to ask the technicians several questions.

First, what are some common mistakes that cause travel voucher payments to be delayed? There were about 10 oversights mentioned that often cause a delay, however I will only list a few. Oversights such as, airline ticket receipts missing or not claimed for reimbursement; dollar amount not designated for "Split-disbursement," Owner/Operator block not

Please see **FINANCE**, Page 7

**The Lackland Talespinner | Editorial Staff**

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**Deadline for submissions is close of business Friday.**

## Serving your country makes a tremendous career

BY COL. A.J. STEWART  
71ST FLYING TRAINING WING COMMANDER

VANCE AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. – I read the news every day, and it occurs to me I have been fairly disconnected from the current financial cloudy days. For 22 years, I've never wondered about my paycheck. I've never actually seen one since they've been direct deposited to the exact same account number since I was a cadet.

I've never worried about affording health care for my family. Most of the time, health care was free. My kids were all born in military hospitals and received the very best of care.

Truthfully, I've always made enough money to live comfortably, and today very comfortably. Every year I've earned 30 days of paid vacation and lived in "gated" communities among my very good friends and colleagues.

The opportunity for education, experience and career advancement has been nearly boundless. I've received, free of charge, training in an array of courses from small arms, unarmed combat, survival, CPR, chemical warfare defense, navigation, leadership and too many more to begin to name.

Help for anything I needed was never more than a phone call away to a first shirt or commander at worst, and at best right next door.

Commissary, base exchange, my very own club, world class fitness centers, bowling, golf, child care, libraries, auto skills, wood hobby shops, youth centers, swimming pools – I can use them all for nominal fees or for free.

My retirement system is outstanding. Don't believe me? Ask some of your civilian friends or family members with company-funded retirement funds based in the stock market. The news is not good. Some folks who planned to retire, can't.

Best of all, I get the immeasurable satisfaction that comes from honorably and proudly serving our country. I have the respect of the American public. Check the polling data and you'll find uniformed military men and women are at the top of the list of respected professions.

So, what has this great life cost me? Family separations, early mornings and late nights, hard work, and missed holidays and birthdays, among others. But that list applies to most professions today.

I left out the fact I might be put in harm's way or even die for my service to the country. So did thousands on Sept. 11, at the World Trade Center.

What's my point? Serving the country in the Air Force is a tremendous career when you take into account all the tangible and intangible benefits. Knowing what I know now, I'd start over and do it all again.

## Commander's Action Line

Call 671-3333  
actionline@lackland.af.mil  
WHMC Action Line  
292-4567

Action Line is your direct line for comments, questions, complaints and suggestions on how to make Lackland Air Force Base a better place to live and work.



Brig. Gen. Fred Van Valkenburg

Although Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command. We've provided a listing of customer service telephone numbers you can call first to address problems.

If your concerns still can't be resolved, please call Action Line or send them via e-mail. Items of general interest may be printed in the Talespinner.

Your comments or questions will be recorded, so speak clearly and slowly. If you leave your name and telephone number you'll receive a return call. Having your name and number will also give us a chance to get more information, if needed, to solve the problem.

### KEY PHONE NUMBERS |

Civil Engineer | 671-2977  
For housing, environmental facilities/utilities Services | 671-3395  
(After duty hours) | 671-5650  
Base Exchange | 674-6465  
Chaplain | 671-4101  
Commissary | 671-2561  
Security Forces | 671-4123

Safety | 671-3969  
Military Equal Opportunity | 671-2847  
AF Harassment Hotline | 565-2949  
Inspector General | 671-3347  
FWA Hotline | 671-3340  
Finance Office | 671-2807  
Civilian Pay | 671-2549  
Legal Office | 671-3361

Military Personnel | 671-3301  
Civilian Personnel | 671-4118  
Contracting | 671-1700  
Transportation | 671-2855  
Supply | 671-3831  
Communications | 945-0576  
WHMC/IG | 292-7424  
Patient Representative | 292-6688

### Move your rusty car out here

**Q:** I would like to know what my rights are as a base housing resident with regard to vehicles being left in front of our homes. I live in one of the multi-plexes on Billy Mitchell Village and all the residents share the parking, which means the spaces are usually limited.

**In our area, two vehicles have sat in the same spots for more than three months. One has been wrecked and is an "eyesore" for the entire compound. The other vehicle's owner has already moved, but according to the housing office the owner would make arrangements to pick it up at a later date. I didn't even know that was legal. Do I have the right to have these vehicles towed? If not, is there anything that can be done to have these vehicles removed from the premises?**

**A:** Thanks for addressing your concerns about our housing areas. You are absolutely correct; we should all maintain high standards where we live and work.

Every housing resident in Billy Mitchell Village has one assigned covered parking space, located in the rear of his or her building. The vehicles

you mentioned are parked in unassigned parking spaces in front of your building. It is difficult for the housing inspector to determine who owns a vehicle when parked in unassigned parking areas. When vehicles appear to be abandoned (expired tags, wrecked), the housing inspector will call security forces to investigate.

The housing inspector, while conducting a final inspection with the owner of one of the vehicles, was informed her vehicle was disabled. The housing inspector made a customer service decision and allowed the owner to temporarily leave her disabled vehicle because she was having difficulty getting assistance with moving her vehicle and was only moving to another housing area.

Had the member been on a permanent change of station move, the housing inspector would not have cleared the member if a vehicle was left in an assigned space and/or if the vehicle owner was known. The housing office worked with the owner's first sergeant to have the vehicle moved. In addition, the housing office has worked with security forces to have the other vehicle removed.

The Law Enforcement Desk, 671-2018, should be called if anyone suspects a vehicle has been abandoned.



Courtesy photo

**MORALE BOOSTERS:**

Students at the 342nd Training Squadron Military Training Flight play on newly-purchased ping-pong tables. Second Air Force commander Maj. Gen. John Regni authorized \$4,000 for quality-of-life improvements for the students. With this money, the 342nd TRS purchased two billiards tables, two ping-pong tables, an air hockey table, a foos ball table and several pieces of sports equipment.

**FINANCE**

*Continued from Page 6*

checked, when claiming POC mileage; absence of Non-availability letter when the traveler has been authorized to lodge off base; and an improper number of copies of voucher and orders. The next oversight actually surprised me. There are a number of vouchers that come into the office without a claimant signature! Surely, you don't get very many unsigned vouchers here, I asked. Believe it or not, that oversight is actually more common than you may think. In fact, it was the No. 1 most common oversight on the list.

During my career, I've come to realize that no work-center is mistake free. Therefore, secondly, I asked, what are some of the in-house mistakes that may

potentially cause a payment delay? One of the popular answers was overlooking the split-disbursement selection during processing. Also, on a rare occasion, a per diem rate may be entered incorrectly. Although these items are significant, I am certain of one thing, every effort is made to catch all mistakes prior to processing. If an error slips through, the staff in the 37th CPTS will be more than happy to assist in correcting any problems. Another mental note here, the common oversights that I have mentioned only deal with TDY travel. There's also PCS travel. The potential delays to a PCS voucher are so extensive that this is the improper forum to even begin listing causes. However, again a customer service representative from Finance would be more than happy to answer any questions inquiring minds want to

know.

The TDY travel voucher process can, and usually does, flow very smoothly. However, one simple oversight can delay the payment significantly. The average pay time of a travel voucher, with no problems, is about five days. The 37th CPTS, "Combat Finance" takes great pride in their excellent customer service and customer support, of all local and international warfighters! Hooah!!

I can honestly say that my attitude has changed toward Finance in recent months. For the critic that may say, "He's only saying that because he works there now," I can only invite him/her to spend a day in the 37th CPTS and see all that takes place. Trust me, the amount of work and level of effort that flows through this unit makes me feel proud to be part of such an organization.

## INSTRUCTOR OF THE WEEK |

**Time in service:** 13 years

**Hometown:** Merrill, Wis.

**Family:** Wife, daughter and son

**Personal and career goals:** To be a positive role model for our new airmen and to teach them to use Air Force Core Values. I would like to impact both their professional career and their personal lives.

**How does your job contribute to the overall success of Lackland's mission?** My job not only impacts the mission of Lackland, but also the entire Air Force. My main objective is to send the Air Force highly trained, deeply motivated and well disciplined airmen. In today's Air Force, airmen are tasked with more responsibility than ever before. If I didn't do my job to the utmost of my ability, these young airmen would not be accomplishing the Air Force mission at the highest level.



**Staff Sgt. Todd Ristau** is a military training instructor with the 331st Training Squadron

**What is the most rewarding experience you have had as a teacher?** My reward is seeing the airmen I train become productive members of the Air Force. The most rewarding aspect is when former trainees tell me that what I have taught them has changed their lives, made them proud of

whom they are, what they are doing and gave them the discipline needed to carry out their mission.

**Commander's comment:** "Sergeant Ristau has been instrumental to our squadron's success over the past year. We rely heavily on his job knowledge, expertise and professional ability to produce the finest airmen for our Air Force. I couldn't have asked for a sharper noncommissioned officer for our instructor team," said Lt. Col. Jerry Perez, 331st TRS commander.

**CELEBRATION:** The 2002 and 2003 casts of *Tops In Blue* will join forces for a special salute to military aviation during the Randolph Centennial of Flight Tattoo Celebration March 27 at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater. The Centennial of Flight Tattoo is a family event open to the general public. It begins at 6:15 p.m. with the aerial review of military aircraft spanning the 100 years of powered flight. It will be followed by a musical tribute to the history of the Air Force and its impact on the San Antonio community.



Photo by Yolanda S. Hunter

# Air Force unveils memorial design

BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. RICK BURNHAM

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

ARLINGTON, Va. – For the better part of the past century, the men and women of the Air Force and its predecessors have soared high above the clouds in defense of the nation and freedom-loving people everywhere.

Those ideals will soon be reflected in a memorial designed to reach high into the skyline of the nation's capital, honoring those who have slipped the surly bonds to overcome America's enemies, both at home and abroad.

The design for the new Air Force Memorial was unveiled during a ceremony here March 5. Among those in attendance were Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper, along with former chiefs of staff Gen. Michael Ryan and Gen. David Jones. Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray and Ross Perot Jr., chairman of the Air Force Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees, were also present for the unveiling.

The memorial will provide a fitting tribute to the millions who have served, are serving today and those who will serve tomorrow, said retired Maj. Gen. Edward F. Grillo, president of the Air Force Memorial Foundation.

"The Air Force does not have a national memorial, so this is certainly long overdue," he said. "We feel this memorial will honor the millions of patriotic men and women who have served in the Air Force and its predecessor organizations – the aviation pioneers of yesterday. It will serve as a source of pride and tribute to those serving today. And certainly to recognize the nation's military industrial base that has made American airpower the most formidable air force on Earth.



Courtesy art

**GRACEFUL YET BOLD:** The design for the new Air Force Memorial was unveiled during a ceremony in Arlington, Va., on March 5.

Construction on the memorial, designed by New York architect James Ingo Freed, will begin in 2004 and be completed in September 2006, coinciding with the 59th anniversary of the Air Force, Grillo said. The design features three "spires" reaching heights of 270, 230 and just above 200 feet. The memorial will be located just southwest of the Pentagon on a "promontory" piece of land, Grillo added.

"The three spires will represent the Air Force in a manner that is projecting itself into the air and space – gracefully yet boldly," he said.

# 'SHOW US THE MONEY'

## Finance more than LES

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS  
AMANDA CURRIER

TALESPINNER STAFF WRITER

All work and no pay can be frustrating.

Department of Defense personnel at Team Lackland turn to the 37th Comptroller Squadron to address problems with their leave and earnings statements, but paycheck problems aren't the only thing they handle.

Comptrollers handle financial and accounting matters, which also means that they play an integral role in setting up deployment sites and preparing troops for deployment.

"As far as deployments are concerned, we play a very versatile role," said Staff Sgt. Arnold Soto, noncommissioned officer in charge of customer service. "When we are at a deployed location, we are there to service the site commander and also to serve the troops."

Finance personnel are among the first to deploy when the Air Force decides to establish a deployment site. Brand new deployment sites are called bare bases because that is exactly what they are, bare strips of land. The first people to arrive at a new site have to set up camp from scratch. Finance personnel work directly with the site commander and contracting personnel to purchase the items needed to erect a camp. Finance is responsible for shelling out the cash for necessities like generators, refrigerators, tents and water.

"We work side by side with

contracting," Sergeant Soto said. "It's contracting personnel's job to go out there and make the purchases. We're there to say, 'Yes, we can pay for that out of the site commander's funds,' or 'No, we can't do it because it's not legal.'"

Three members of the Finance Office recently deployed to a bare base. They will have to help set up the base, as well as establish a finance office where they can service the deployed troops. Some of their responsibilities will be to set up computer equipment, pay vendors, take care of travel vouchers and cash checks.

"These three people are going to become what you see in this office," said Tech. Sgt. Calvin Nelson, noncommissioned officer in charge of reserve travel pay. "They will handle budgets, military pay accounting, paying vendors and dispensing cash."

Finance offices at pre-established deployment locations function much like they would stateside. The main difference is that the personnel must be acquainted with every facet of finance and accounting, as they may have to perform different duties at their deployed location than the ones they perform stateside.

"When we deploy to areas that already have a finance office set up, we're basically just going in and filling a position," said Sergeant Soto. "But just because I do what I do here doesn't mean that's what I'm going to do there."

Finance personnel not only



play a major role in building deployment sites, they also help prepare troops to deploy.

Representatives from the Finance Office brief deploying troops on issues like military and travel pay, basic housing and sustenance allowances and the different entitlements associated with various deployed locations.

"The biggest thing I preach at the briefing is always to take the most current leave and earnings statement (LES) with you that you can," Sergeant Nelson said. "Because, worst-case scenario, you're sitting in a tent with John Smith Finance, and he's got no

computer support, he can look at your LES, and if he's got enough finance background, he can probably help you out. If you have no LES and we have no computer support, then you're up a creek."

In addition to a current LES, those deploying should bring several forms of cash with them because there is no telling which forms of payment will be acceptable at their deployed location.

"Take credit cards, checks, ATM cards, and even traveler's checks with you," Sergeant Nelson said. "You don't want to be stuck somewhere with just a

checkbook. If you have a current LES and enough sources to get to your money, then you should be (financially) safe when you deploy."

People facing the possibility of a near-future deployment should also set up power of attorney privileges and necessary allotments long before orders to deploy are in their hands. Finance personnel cannot allow spouses, family members or friends to access or gain information about a service-member's account, unless they possess the proper power of attorney documentation.

"You've got to be ready today," Sergeant Nelson said. "Get your power of attorney set up, and make sure it is very specific. You need to specify what your power of attorney can and cannot do. Get your stuff in order because taking care of things last minute is what holds everyone up. When you arrive at your deployed location is not the time to try and set up an allotment."

Customers can handle some financial matters online at:  
<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amanda Currier

**MAY I HELP YOU:** Staff Sgt. Jeremy Egg, 37th Comptroller Squadron NCOIC of special actions, performs customer service training with Tech. Sgt. Calvin Nelson, NCOIC of reserve travel pay.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amanda Currier



Photo by Wayne Bryant

**ATTENTION FINANCE CUSTOMERS:** The 37th Comptroller Squadron customer service section is open Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office closes for training at 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

# 'Flying sergeants' helped forge Air Force legacy

BY 2ND LT. AMBER MILLERCHIP

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – They were not paid much, their opportunities for promotion were limited, and they were treated harshly in training, but that did not stop three generations of enlisted aviators from becoming pilots in the Army Air Corps.

Beginning in 1912, enlisted pilots played an important role in writing the aviation history being celebrated this year during the Centennial of Flight.

These enlisted pilots were known as “flying sergeants” for the staff sergeant rank they received upon graduation from flight training irrespective of their previous rank. Enlisted men seized this once-in-a-lifetime chance to fly, said retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Edward Wenglar, a former enlisted pilot.

“I was born the 10th child of a sharecropper and, at that time, there was no one lower than a sharecropper,” General Wenglar said. “I went from driving a mule to flying the newest (aircraft). It was quite a step. We never thought about whether we wanted to be an enlisted

pilot or an officer pilot. We just wanted to be pilots, and we would gladly have stayed privates forever just to have the chance to fly.”

General Wenglar, who served overseas during World War II from November 1942 through July 1944, holds the distinction of achieving the highest rank of any former enlisted pilot. In February 2003, at the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall at Gunter Annex, Ala., he accepted a memorial stone on behalf of all enlisted pilots.

In Lee Arbon's book about enlisted pilots, “They Also Flew,” Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Fisk compared pilots to precious stones, with the shiniest of all U.S. aviation achievements being those of the sergeant pilot.

Allowing enlisted airmen to earn their wings as pilots was a temporary response to drastic shortages of qualified pilot candidates during wartime. Two congressional laws authorized the training: the Air Corps Act of 1926 and Public Law 99, which went into effect in 1941. Public Law 99 reduced the education requirement, making the average age of the sergeant pilot between 18 and 22, younger than most pilot train-

ing cadets with a college education.

Enlisted pilot training in the late 1920s initially was informal, practical in nature and not a product of the flying schools, which developed in the early 1940s with World War II enlisted pilots.

Instead, Mr. Arbon said, “If fortunate enough, these early, World War I enlisted pilots grew up in the local organization learning under a generous officer in their unit. For the initial enlisted pilots, the World War I generation, many came out of the ranks of mechanics to become successful pilots.”

An enlisted man's opportunity to train to fly was many times luck of the draw, Mr. Arbon said. Such was the case in 1912 for Cpl. Vernon Burge, the first enlisted pilot, who was a mechanic accepted into pilot training.

Mr. Arbon, who attended pilot training in 1942, recalled, “Training conditions were fiercely competitive, attrition was very high, half of us were cut after the medical physical, and only one-fourth made it out of training.”

Enlisted pilot candidates trained six days a week in class or in the air and spent Sundays



Courtesy photo

**PIONEERS:** Enlisted pilot Master Sgt. Boyd Ertwine (right) stands with Lt. Col. H. Dowman in front of a Douglas C-1 transport they occasionally flew while at March Field, Calif., circa 1930.

doing drill, General Wenglar said. One of his strongest memories was training in the hot July sunshine in Arizona with temperatures in the hundreds, which made the flight line surface even hotter.

“While waiting your turn to fly, the instructors would order us to complete one push-up after another, our hands burning,” he said. “When we couldn't do any more push-ups, the instructors would make us (get

on our backs and) hold our feet up six inches from the ground. Looking back, it's amazing we got through. They worked hard to wash us out, especially considering they needed us so badly.”

According to General Wenglar, enlisted pilots flew in 22 campaigns from the Mexican-American War to World War II.

Please see **LEGACY**, Page 13

**READING IS****'FUN'DAMENTAL:**

Airmen 1st Class Robert Hord and Jon DiCristina (far right), 93rd Intelligence Squadron, discuss the importance of reading with a group of fifth-graders at Sun Valley Elementary School Thursday. The two airmen were among more than 50 people who volunteered their time to read to kindergarten through fifth-grade students.



Photo by Boyd Belcher

## *AIA joins in national literacy effort*

**BY TECH SGT. DAVID DONATO**

AIR INTELLIGENCE AGENCY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“Green Eggs and Ham,” “The Cat in the Hat,” “Fox in Socks” and “The Grinch.”

These were just a few of the well-known books by the late great Dr. Seuss that were highlighted March 6 by several members of Air Intelligence Agency who volunteered their time to read to students at Sun Valley Elementary School as part of the annual Read Across America event.

The nearly 25 AIA volunteers were among 50 other base and community people to take part of the sixth annual event sponsored by the National Education Association.

The all-day event featured reading Dr. Seuss and other favorite children’s books to kindergarten through fifth-grade students. It is held to promote reading while celebrating the birthday of Theodore Weiss, better known as Dr. Seuss.

“This was a great opportunity for AIA to emphasize the importance of reading and to promote literacy,” said Debbie Torres, who spearheaded the event for AIA. “Children need to realize that the ability to read is vital to survival in today’s society.”

Second Lieutenant Larry Buycks, one of AIA’s volunteers, agreed.

“Functional reading skills are the gateway to an enjoyable and informed life,” he comment-

ed. Without reading, we are confined to the knowledge of our own experiences and imagination. With reading, we are able to realize an enriched reality through the experiences and imaginations of others.”

Lieutenant Buycks said the experience was unforgettable and encourages people to continue to support programs like the Read Across American initiative.

“I would definitely participate in this event next year without even thinking about it,” Lieutenant Buycks said. “Anyone who has not read to a class full of eager elementary school kids is missing out on a priceless and rewarding experience.”

The Read Across America effort was coordinated through the Lackland/Southwest Independent Mentoring Partnership, though some of the volunteers were not official base mentors.

“But we hope that they will fall in love with these kids and will want to join our program,” Ms. Torres said.

The Read Across America event was started in 1998 and is fast becoming a tradition. Last year, the event attracted more than 45 million participants in all 50 states as well as a number of Department of Defense schools in Germany and Japan. Today more than 40 national partners are players in the national literacy effort.

Dr. Seuss would have turned 99 on March 2.



Courtesy photo

**FLYING SERGEANT:** Walter Beech, co-founder of Beech Aircraft Corp., was an early enlisted pilot who achieved notoriety. He was a World War I pilot and later became a member of the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

## LEGACY

*Continued from Page 11*

"Name a combat plane or theater and you'll find a number of sergeant pilots in each of those units," Mr. Arbon said. "We did everything. It took us a long time to acquaint the world to the fact that we did indeed exist. When we did get acknowledged, people realized we had done a grand job."

The enlisted pilots were high achievers in the Air Force and beyond.

"Our careers as enlisted pilots made us better men and gave us opportunities later in the civilian world that we never would have been offered," General Wenglar said. "Many of us went on to become airline pilots, doctors and educators. We destroyed a total of 249.5 enemy planes, and five out of seven men in charge of air transport systems went on to become commanders of troop carriers in Europe, the Pacific and the Middle East."

Seventeen enlisted pilots became fighter aces, and 11 became general officers. Many sergeant pilots' heroic deeds and accomplishments reached historic significance.

Walter Beech, co-founder of Beech Aircraft Corporation, was one of the early enlisted pilots who achieved notoriety. He was a World War I pilot and became a member of the National Aviation Hall of Fame. Bob Hoover, a World War II pilot, is also listed in the Aviation Hall of Fame and is considered one of the great test pilots of all time.

Ralph Bottriell earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his work with parachutes. Two enlisted pilots, Ira Biffle and Bill Winston, taught Charles Lindbergh.

During World War II, 30 staff sergeant pilots flew transport missions in the China-Burma-India Theater, delivering supplies and people over the treacherous Himalaya Mountains better known as the

"Hump."

The opportunity for enlisted men to become pilots ended in late 1942 with the Flight Officer Act. This law replaced the program's sergeant pilot rank with the warrant officer rank, which was also eventually done away with. Retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, famous for breaking the sound barrier, was in the last class of the enlisted pilot program when it was replaced. The following year, all sergeant pilots received orders to be promoted to the new "Flight Officer" rank.

Following World War II, George Holmes chose to revert to his former rank of master sergeant and served as the Air Force's last enlisted pilot until his retirement in 1957, according to the U.S. Air Force Museum.

To learn more about the history of the enlisted pilot, visit the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute web site at:

[www.au.af.mil/au/cepme/heritage/homepage.htm](http://www.au.af.mil/au/cepme/heritage/homepage.htm)

# Study prompts actions on ephedra products

BY G.W. POMEROY

AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON – Acting on the release of a government-funded study, the Department of Health and Human Services announced a series of actions designed to protect Americans from potentially serious risks of dietary supplement products containing ephedra.

The results of a Rand Corp. study commissioned by the National Institutes of Health provides additional evidence that ephedra may be associated with important health risks, according to a Food and Drug Administration statement. The Rand report also finds “only limited evidence of health benefits resulting from ephedra use,” according to the statement.

Air Force Surgeon General officials have repeatedly “strongly advised” people to contact their physicians or health-care providers before taking dietary supplements containing ma huang, ephedra or ephedra alkaloids.

As a result of the study, the FDA proposed warning labels for all ephedra-containing dietary supplements. The proposed label warns about the risks of

serious adverse events, including heart attack, seizure, stroke and death; cautions that the risk can increase with the dose, with strenuous exercise and with other stimulants such as caffeine; specifies certain groups (such as women who are pregnant or breast feeding) who should never use these products; and lists other conditions, such as diseases and the use of certain medications, that rule out the use of ephedrine alkaloids.

“We want to caution all Americans – particularly athletes and those who engage in strenuous activities – about using dietary supplements that contain ephedra,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson. “There continue to be serious questions about the risks surrounding this particular dietary supplement.”

Results of the study include:

■ **Weight loss:** Short-term use of ephedra or ephedrine is linked with about a 2-pound per month increased weight loss, but the studies lasted only a few months, so there is no evidence of long-term benefit.

■ **Athletic performance:** No studies exist on the efficacy of herbal ephedra-containing dietary supplements on athletic



Photo by Yolanda S. Hunter

performance. The few studies of the active ingredient, the chemical ephedrine, used small samples of mostly fit individuals, finding a modest effect on short-term performance when caffeine is included. Without caffeine, ephedra has little or no effect on athletic performance.

■ **Adverse consequences:** Use of ephedra or ephedrine with or without caffeine is associated with two to three times the risk of nausea, vomiting, psychiatric symptoms, autonomic hyperactivity and palpitations.

In one database of 16,000 health complaints by ephedra users, ephedra was linked to two deaths, four heart attacks, nine strokes, one seizure and five psychiatric cases for which other causes were all ruled out.

“This is not the end of the story,” said Secretary Thompson. The FDA is “building the case for further regulatory action

under the law.”

Meanwhile, Secretary Thompson advised people, especially athletes and exercise enthusiasts, not to take the herb.

“I would not take this. I would not give it to my family, and I don’t know why anyone would take these products,” he said. He pointed to an administration-commissioned Rand Corp. review that found ephedra does nothing to enhance sports performance and causes only temporary loss of a few pounds. “Why take the risk?”

The release of the study came two weeks after the Feb. 17 high-profile death of an ephedra user, Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler. Teammates said Mr. Bechler had taken a supplement containing ephedra in an attempt to control his weight.

Ephedra has been banned in at least 20 states, professional football, college athletics and minor-league baseball.

**TAKE IT EASY:** Athletes who engage in strenuous activities are cautioned using dietary supplements that contain ephedra. Products are no longer available in Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities, which removed them from the shelves in August.

# COMMUNITY

## RANDOM NOTES |

### BONG AVENUE CLOSES

Bong Avenue, near the Truemper Street bridge, will be closed today through Thursday to allow for the installations of retractable vehicle bollards. During this time, there will be no through traffic on Bong Avenue.

### AFA BANQUET SLATED

The top Air Force members from San Antonio will be recognized Thursday at Lackland's Gateway Club. Tickets for the Alamo Chapter Air Force Association Annual Kellogg Blue Suit Awards Banquet are available for \$20, \$10 for E-5s/GS-9s and below.

Call the chapter office at 684-2753 or Master Sgt. Steve Smith at 671-5053 for tickets or more information.

### MERV CRUISES BASE

The MERV, Mobile Educational

Resource Vehicle, will be on Lackland, at Bldg. 1249, Family Support Center, Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m..

The Campus Cruiser, or MERV, will help anyone to fill out a free application for Federal Student Aid forms to apply for federal aid to go to college.

Call the FSC for further information, 671-3722 or the Education Services Flight, 671-2895.

### TUSKEGEE SOCIAL SLATED

The San Antonio Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen Inc., will hold a membership social and open house Thursday, 6:30 p.m., at the Randolph Officers' Club.

Everyone is invited. Admission is free. This is an opportunity to meet with some of the original Tuskegee airmen.

Call Maurice Ripley 696-7505, or Sarah Williams, 679-7237, for details.

### FAIR INVITES PARTICIPATION

The Family Advocacy Program will be hosting its annual Youth Fair in celebration of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child.

The fair will take place April 12, noon to 4 p.m. at the Permanent Party Chapel. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Future - Celebrating Our Children." The fair will offer opportunities for concessions, games, informational booths and exhibits. Family Advocacy is currently recruiting agencies, groups or individuals who would like to participate in this year's fair. Those interested in volunteering or supporting this event can contact Susan Cadena at 292-5967, or e-mail her at: [Susan.Cadena@lackland.af.mil](mailto:Susan.Cadena@lackland.af.mil)

### MARQUEE REQUESTS

Lackland's new electronic marquees are installed and ready for

use by Team Lackland members. However, there are some simple rules to follow when requesting information be placed on the marquees.

The marquees are limited to four lines of text with up to 18 characters and spaces on each line. In order to provide the most information to members of Team Lackland, requests should be forwarded at least one week prior to the requested dates.

Official requests should be sent to the following e-mail account:

[publicaf@lackland.af.mil](mailto:publicaf@lackland.af.mil)

This address is in the Lackland global listing.

### SHOP HOURS POSTED

The Lackland Thrift Shop, 16329 Barnes Ave., is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignments are taken 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 671-3608.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR |

### TODAY

#### Airman Dining Facilities:

**Lunch:** Beef corn pie, seafood Newburg, roast turkey, pea & pepper rice, greens, corn, potatoes.

**Dinner:** Corned beef, pineapple chicken, pot roast, potatoes, carrots, black-eyed peas, gravy.

#### Gateway Club:

DJ 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Enlisted Club; Your Choice - Blackened Catfish or Mahi Mahi \$9.95.

#### Skylark Community Center:

DJ new light show 6:30-11:30 p.m.

#### Family Support Center:

Interviewing Workshop 8-10:30 a.m.; AmVets representative 9 a.m. to noon; Happy Landings 9 a.m. to noon; Family Readiness Brief 2-3 p.m.; BMT Spouse Seminar, Bldg. 7246, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY

#### Airman Dining Facilities:

**Lunch:** Creole shrimp, Swedish meatballs, chicken, noodles, asparagus, potatoes, squash, corn.

**Dinner:** BBQ chicken, fish, Hungarian goulash, rice, beans, cream corn, veggie stir-fry, potatoes.

#### Gateway Club:

Latin Nite - DJ "Caribbean Breeze," meringue, salsa & more, door prizes, drink specials and giveaways, members admitted free,

others \$5-9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Enlisted Lounge; Carved Roast Beef w/Shrimp Peel or Chicken Breast \$12.95.

#### Skylark Community Center:

3-on-3 basketball 11 a.m.; DJ 6:30-11:30 p.m.; karaoke or pool 7 p.m.

#### Family Support Center:

Closed.

### SUNDAY

#### Airman Dining Facilities:

**Lunch:** Spareribs, fish, chicken, rice, mac & cheese, broccoli, peas, sweet potatoes, gravy.

**Dinner:** Sirloin steak, beef stir-fry, turkey nuggets, rice pilaf, potatoes, green beans, corn.

#### Gateway Club:

A la Carte Breakfast 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Champagne Brunch 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

#### Skylark Community Center:

Winston Cup Race shown at the "Pit Stop."

#### Family Support Center:

Closed.

### MONDAY

#### Airman Dining Facilities:

**Lunch:** Pot roast, baked fish, roast pork, rice, potatoes, green beans, succotash, cauliflower, gravy.

**Dinner:** Beef manicotti, fried chicken, chili macaroni, mashed potatoes, carrots, peas, squash, gravy.

#### Gateway Club:

Club closed; Bonanza Bingo, Medina Annex, 7 p.m.

#### Skylark Community Center:

Dance lessons, ages 2 to adult, hip-hop, modern, ballet, tap.

#### Family Support Center:

Family Readiness Brief 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Resume Preparation 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### TUESDAY

#### Airman Dining Facilities:

**Lunch:** Salmon cakes, veal parmesan, teriyaki chicken, rice, succotash, hush puppies, potatoes, beans, spinach, potatoes, gravy.

**Dinner:** Turkey a la king, meat loaf, chicken, rice, okra & tomato gumbo, potatoes, rice, greens.

#### Gateway Club:

Early Bird Special 4-6 p.m. choice of steak, chicken or fish \$7.75; karaoke 7-11 p.m. Enlisted Lounge.

#### Skylark Community Center:

Arcade Night \$5 for 2 hours of playing time 6-8 p.m.

#### Family Support Center:

Consumer Credit Counseling 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Mutual Funds 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Four Lenses 1:30-4:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

#### Airman Dining Facilities:

**Lunch:** BBQ ham steak, turkey &

noodles, beef ball stroganoff, potatoes, spinach, corn, lima beans.

**Dinner:** Pork chops, BBQ spareribs, lemon chicken, potatoes, rice, gravy, corn, cauliflower combo.

#### Gateway Club:

Warrior Wednesday social hours 5-7 p.m., variety DJ 7:30-11 p.m.; Mongolian BBQ - adults \$9.95, kids \$5.50.

#### Skylark Community Center:

Price Specials at Snack Bar.

#### Family Support Center:

Military Job Fair, Live Oak Civic Center, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Family Readiness Brief 2-3 p.m.; FSC closed for training 2:30-4:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY

#### Airman Dining Facilities:

**Lunch:** Fried catfish, herbed chicken, cabbage rolls, greens, cornbread, fried okra, rice, yams.

**Dinner:** Veal w/mushroom sauce, roast pork, Cornish hens, rice, corn, carrots, potatoes, gravy.

#### Gateway Club:

Pasta Lunch 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$6.95; social hours 5-7 p.m.

#### Skylark Community Center:

Select Your Movie Night, see manager for list.

#### Family Support Center:

Sponsor Training, WHMC 3C38 8-9 a.m.; AmVets rep 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Family Readiness Brief 2-3 p.m.



**GATEWAY CLUB**  
645-7034



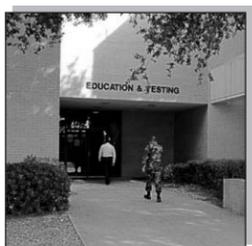
**GATEWAY THEATER**  
671-3985



**COMMUNITY CENTER**  
671-2021



**FAMILY SUPPORT**  
671-3722



**EDUCATION SERVICES**  
671-2895



**PYRAMID CHAPEL**  
671-4208

## CHAPEL SERVICES |

### BAHAI

#### Sunday:

2 p.m., Basic Military Training Chapel (1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of the month)

### BUDDHIST

#### Sunday:

3 p.m., BMT Chapel

### CATHOLIC

#### Weekdays:

Mass, 11 a.m., Wilford Hall Medical Center Chapel

Mass, noon, Permanent Party Chapel

#### Saturday:

Confessions, 4:30 p.m., Permanent Party Chapel

Mass, 5:30 p.m., Permanent Party Chapel

#### Sunday:

Religious Education, 9 a.m., Permanent Party Chapel

Mass, 10:30 a.m., Permanent Party Chapel

Mass, 11 a.m., WHMC Chapel

Spanish Mass, 9 a.m., Technical Training Chapel

Mass, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., BMT Chapel

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

#### Sunday:

2 p.m., Hope Chapel

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

#### Sunday:

1 p.m., BMT Chapel

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### Sunday:

1:30 p.m., Memorial Chapel

### EASTERN ORTHODOX

#### Sunday:

Confessions, 9:15 a.m., Memorial Chapel

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m., Memorial Chapel

Religious Education, 10:30 a.m., Memorial Chapel

### ECKANKAR

#### Saturday:

3 p.m., BMT Chapel (1st, 3rd and

5th Saturday of the month)

### JEWISH

#### Friday:

Sabbath Eve Service, 5 p.m., Permanent Party Chapel, Oneg Shabbat follows

#### Sunday:

Religious Education, 11 a.m., Permanent Party Chapel

### MUSLIM

#### Friday:

Friday Khutba Sermon, 11:30 a.m., BMT Chapel

#### Sunday:

Religious Education, 11 a.m., BMT Chapel

### PROTESTANT

#### Sunday:

Liturgical service, 8 a.m., Memorial Chapel

Contemporary service, 11 a.m., Technical Training Chapel

Traditional service, 9 a.m., Permanent Party Chapel

Gospel service, noon, Permanent

Party Chapel

Children's church, 9 a.m. and noon, Permanent Party Chapel

General service, 9:30 a.m., WHMC Chapel

Religious Education, 10:30 a.m., Permanent Party Chapel

Contemporary service, 10:30 a.m., Medina Chapel

Contemporary service, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., BMT Chapel (12:30 p.m. service for 6th week and BMT graduates/ families only)

Religious Education 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Bldg. 5725

### SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

#### Saturday:

8 a.m., BMT Chapel

### WICCA

#### Saturday:

Information and fellowship, 8 a.m., Bldg. 5725

(For more information, contact the Pyramid Chapel at 671-4208)

## GATEWAY THEATER |

### TODAY

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind (R), 1 p.m.  
Darkness Falls (R), 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY

Final Destination II (R), 1 p.m.  
Biker Boyz (PG-13), 4 p.m.  
Final Destination II (R), 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY

Biker Boyz (PG-13), 1 p.m.  
Final Destination II (R), 4 p.m.

### MOVIE PREVIEW |



#### BIKER BOYZ

**Starring:** Laurence Fishburne, Kid Rock

An undefeated racer known as Smoke is the undisputed King of Cali. But Smoke's dominance of the set is about to be threatened by a young motorcycle racing prodigy called Kid, who is determined to win Smoke's helmet and earn the coveted title.

*Closed Tuesday through Thursday*

## HONOR GRADUATES |

*Congratulations to these airmen basic for being selected Honor Graduates.*

### 320th Training Squadron

*Flight 255*  
Martie, Jeffrey  
Schreck, Cody  
Sewell, Daniel

*Flight 256*  
Laver, Matthew

### 321st Training Squadron

*Flight 263*  
Fidel, Kyle

*Flight 264*  
Brown, Matthew  
Crane, Michael

### 322nd Training Squadron

*Flight 253*  
Devillier, Joshua  
Larcom, Glenn  
Parker, Scott  
Pittman, Andrew  
Blackwell, Timothy  
Robles, Luis  
Duval, Alan  
Guild, Benjamin

*Flight 254*  
Davis, Kizzy  
Cole, Parthenia

Jedrey, Danielle

### 323rd Training Squadron

*Flight 265*  
Feeley, Seamus

*Flight 267*  
Willard, Nathan  
Lightner, Jess  
Penuliar, Sande  
Tenney, Joshua  
Faehnle, Ryan

*Flight 268*  
Collier, Kristen

### 324th Training Squadron

*Flight 257*  
Harvey, Bret  
Milo, Benjamin

*Flight 259*  
Jernigan, Jason

*Flight 260*  
Foxy, John  
Ponder, William  
Quinones, Rolando

### 331st Training Squadron

*Flight 261*  
Fenner, David  
Fiore, Andrew  
Hedge, Joshua  
Lombardy, Vincent

## MSG sponsors Fun Run

The 37th Training Wing monthly Fun Run is set for Wednesday at 3 p.m., and will follow a three-mile course.

The run, sponsored by the 37th Mission Support Group, will include stretching exercises and warm-up calisthenics.

This is a mandatory formation for all active-duty people in the wing, excluding trainees. All civilians, with supervisor permission, are welcome to participate.

Participants will form up by groups on the grassy field located at the corner of Hughes Avenue and Maxwell Street. Groups will be divided into runners and walkers. Once all runners have started, walkers will begin, regardless of their assigned group. The course route has changed due to construction.

Sufficient parking will be available in several locations, however, carpooling is highly encouraged.

## MTI GRADUATES |

*Congratulations to the Air Force's newest military training instructors from Class 021203.*

**Tech. Sgt. Dana Alexander**  
331st Training Squadron

**Staff Sgt. Christopher Irving**  
331st Training Squadron

**Staff Sgt. Duke McDuffie**  
320th Training Squadron

**Staff Sgt. Leevern East**  
324th Training Squadron

**Staff Sgt. Kimberly Stone**  
321st Training Squadron

**Staff Sgt. Lee Haynor**  
323rd Training Squadron

**Staff Sgt. Carlos Cisneros**  
324th Training Squadron

**Staff Sgt. Carlos Damian**  
322nd Training Squadron

**Senior Airman James Anders**  
323rd Training Squadron

## SPORTS

## ARENA |

BASEBALL  
SEASON OPENER

Lackland's varsity baseball team opens its seventh San Antonio Men's Senior Baseball League season Saturday, 6 p.m., against the Pirates at Warhawk Field. The base team plays in the eight-team, 18-and-Over Open Division. The MSBL is the nation's largest adult amateur baseball organization. Lackland is its only military affiliated member. All games are free and played on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays.

SPRING GOLF  
TOURNAMENT

The 690th Computer Systems Squadron's third annual Spring Golf Tournament tees off April 24 at the Gateway Hills course with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Each team must register by 7:30 a.m. for the 4-man, best-ball event. Cost is \$25 for E-4 and below, \$30 for all others which covers green fees, cart, one drink, one mulligan and a lunch at Stillman Park. Competitions will include longest drive and closest to the pin plus door prizes. The field is limited to 32 teams. To reserve a team spot call David Gorham, 977-2381 or Ben Wallis, 977-2750. Entry deadline is April 18.

RUN NEEDS  
VOLUNTEERS

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, a 5K run/walk that benefits breast cancer research, needs volunteers for team packet stuffing, mall registration, pre-race set-up and the April 5 race day activities. For more information and to access the forms, visit: [sakomen.org](http://sakomen.org) or call Betty Flowers at 358-2052.

## Radiology pushes right 'buttons'

X-ray techs pull  
plug on Mission  
Support title run

BY WAYNE AMANN  
TALESPIINNER STAFF WRITER

The 37th Mission Support Squadron made a habit of living on the edge before Radiology pushed them over it.

In their three must-win loser's bracket games prior to the Lackland Intramural Basketball Base Championship Tournament finale, MSS won in the waning seconds. Radiology turned the tables when it mattered most Tuesday before a near-capacity house at the Warhawk Fitness Center.

The opportunistic X-ray technicians, who had never led, converted an MSS turnover into a put-back by Horace Johnson with just 40 seconds left, then hung on for a 38-36 win to claim the 2003 Division I/II intramural crown.

"To be honest, I was scared," admitted Radiology coach Trevor Hudson, who called a pivotal time-out when his club trailed 20-7. "I told them give me five who want to play because it looked like we didn't want it. They responded well."

Radiology cut the 13-point margin down to 25-18 by half-time. After the break they went on a 17-10 run, largely fueled by 10 points from Ryan Danley, to tie matters at 35.

"I was feeling it tonight - there was no hesitation on the shot,"



Photo by Yolanda S. Hunter

**SCORING TOUCH:** Radiology's Ryan Danley elevates above the defensive pressure of Mission Support's James Williams for two of his game one-high 15 points.

Said Danley, who scored a team-high 14 points. "I got to the gym an hour early and just shot around."

After Danley's offense helped pull his club even, teammate Xavier Lanier's defense keyed the

play of the game.

With less than a minute left MSS was playing for the last shot. As they brought the ball over the mid-court line Lanier dove for it. He didn't get it but the move caused MSS to lose possession

and start a Radiology fast break. Lanier hurried a shot and missed but Johnson was there for the easy bucket.

"My coach always told me never quit on a ball," Johnson said. "Follow the rebound, follow the shot, that's what I did." Johnson finished with 12 points.

Mission Support's James Williams, who did most of his damage penetrating off the dribble, led all scorers with 16.

Williams' clutch free throw about an hour earlier with 30 seconds left was the difference as Mission Support nipped Radiology, 43-41, to force the if-necessary rematch.

MSS never trailed in the game and held a 37-25 advantage mid-way through the second half.

Radiology, playing out of the winner's bracket, fought back with a 14-2 run, triggered by eight of Danley's game-high 15 points, to tie the game at 39 with a little more than a minute to play.

Angelo Mitchell and Shawn Harris paced the MSS attack with 13 and 11 points respectively.

Before Tuesday's final round Mission Support was the talk of the tourney thanks to its back-to-back buzzer beater wins on Monday, 52-49 over Dental and 40-38 over the 342nd Training Squadron.

But, it was Radiology, the only team to defeat MSS during their regular season championship, 50-45 on Dec. 10, that earned bragging rights.

"X-ray techs aren't just button pushers, we're ballplayers," an ecstatic Hudson said. "But, we pushed the right buttons all the way to the top."

## Warhawks third at Fort Sam hoop classic

BY WAYNE AMANN  
TALESPIINNER STAFF WRITER

When Antonio Mitchell's buzzer-beating layup gave Lackland a dramatic 60-59 come-from-behind win Sunday over the host Fort Sam Houston Rangers in the 5th annual March



Photo by Amando Flores

**SCOOP TO THE HOOP:** Lackland guard Antonio Mitchell goes airborne Saturday with a San Antonio College Ranger draped at his side at Fort Sam Houston's Brigade Gym.

Basketball Classic, the Warhawks rekindled memories of 2001.

But unlike their unforgettable six-game streak through the loser's bracket to claim that year's Joe B. Hall Memorial Tournament, a run that included four wins in eight hours, this time the tank was empty.

Clearly fatigued after exhausting back-to-back games earlier that day, Lackland fell behind early and never recovered, as they were ousted from the tourney by the cross-town rival Randolph Air Force Base Ramblers 95-51.

The Warhawks finished 3-2, good for third place in the seven-team, double elimination event.

"To be honest, even if we had good legs, I don't think we would have beat them. They're just better," a realistic Lackland head coach Jerome Riley said. "Fatigue ballooned the score because we didn't get back (on defense) or get forward."

An energetic Lackland club opened the tournament Saturday morning against San Antonio College. The Warhawks led from the opening tip and methodically pulled away for a 74-54 verdict. Forward Horace Johnson paced Lackland's attack with a game-high 25 points, 12 coming on layups.

"Once our big men have the ball they tell me to go and I get easy layups," Johnson said. "That's what we do, team ball."

Ken Hill and Dewayne Brown added 16 and 13 points respectively while David Rodriguez was the only double-digit Ranger with 13.

The 'Hawks opened strong Saturday afternoon against defending champs P & H (Players and Hustlers), a semi-professional team.

Lackland led for most of the first half before a 15-5 run enabled P & H to take a 40-33 cushion into the locker room at the break.

Johnson and Hill fueled a 7-0 run to start the second half and tie the game at 40. Lackland could not take the lead because of P & H's rebounding.

"They had too many second and third shots. That's what killed us," Riley said. "You can't run with the ball if you don't rebound."

No rebounding stats were kept, but P & H controlled the boards on its way to an 87-81 win, knocking the Warhawks into the loser's bracket. P & H went on to take the tourney, 95-73 over Randolph.

Lackland's rebounding woes were aggravated by the loss of center Mark Smith, who went down in the first half with a broken metatarsal bone in his right foot.

"I was playing on a fracture," he explained. "It was bothering me and I didn't pay any attention to it. I thought it was just sore. It broke clean."

Smith will be sidelined about 6-8 weeks. If he doesn't mend by then, surgery.

Johnson, Hill and Byron Degrate combined for 52 points in the losing cause.

The trio teamed for 49 more, 32 by Johnson, against Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, for a 70-64 Warhawk victory Sunday morning.

The threesome then totaled 36 points to negate a stellar 29-point performance by Fort Sam Ranger Meshon Lewis leading up to Mitchell's last-second heroics.

"It's the biggest play I ever made," an exuberant Mitchell said. "They'll be proud of me when I take this (news) paper home."

# Black Cats prove good luck for Lacklanders

BY WAYNE AMANN  
TALESPINNER STAFF WRITER

Superstitious people shy away from black cats. Lackland didn't.

Inspired by the return Sunday of injured midfielder Juan Marshall and energized by six new faces to the lineup, the Warhawks kept crossing the Black Cats' paths on their way to a convincing 3-1 win in a San Antonio Soccer Association Division I game at Retama Field 15.

Lackland made its own luck by seizing the territorial advantage from the opening whistle.

"We like to play possession soccer, knock the ball wide and use the whole field," player/interim coach Rai Adams said. "We found the open man and created time. When you can do that on a consistent basis, you get scoring opportunities."

Lackland capitalized on a Black Cat giveaway in their own end at the nine-minute mark. Drew Thompson scored his first goal as a Warhawk after he intercepted an errant clearing pass, dribbled down the right side and buried a shot behind goalkeeper Patrick Blische inside the left post for a 1-0 lead.

"I read the keeper's eyes and jumped in front of the ball when he played it out slowly," Thompson said. "I took it a little

too deep and was lucky the goalie didn't play closer to the near post. It was a good way to jump out early."

Thompson was joined by fellow Medina Annex team players Jason Jones, Billy Belford, Tyler Bohl, John Ospinaisaza and Lorenzo Nasso-Arjona to fill out a Warhawk roster depleted by duty commitments. They all made solid contributions as the game wore on.

The lone chink in Lackland's armor came in the 28th minute. A questionable call inside the Warhawks goal box resulted in a penalty kick taken by Mike Jasso, who converted to tie the game at 1.

Blische preserved the deadlock three minutes later when he made a point-blank save on a Nana Saahene break-away down the right side.

The clubs stood even at halftime, and for the first 15 minutes of the second half, when the veteran 'Hawk Marshall tallied the eventual game winner.

"It looked like a through ball," Marshall explained. "Nana got a good head on it, dropped it back to me and I was able to get a left (foot) on it and put it in the right corner of the net."

The outing was Marshall's first game action in six weeks since suffering a double-fracture between his right knee and ankle. He's still mending.

"It hurts. I'm about 80 percent," he



Photo by Yolanda S. Hunter

**PUSHY:** Warhawk Aphichart "G" Gingsumrong, right, looks for a teammate while jostling for position with a Black Cat opponent.

admitted. "I don't think I'll be practicing, just testing the leg on game day. I should be ready to go 100 percent in another month."

Lackland tacked on an insurance goal in the 62nd minute when Nasso-Arjona took a Saahene cross pass and found the back of the net for the first

time in a Warhawk uniform.

Lackland keeper Brian Cortez made a sparkling save with less than five minutes to play, and the game still in doubt, when he two-handed a free kick from just outside his box.

The SASA is idle Sunday due to spring break.

## ARENA

Continued from Page 18

### AF MARATHON REGISTRATION

Registration is ongoing for the 2003 Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 20. A 5K fun run and a half marathon are added this year to the official 26-mile, 385-yard event.

The marathon team category has been eliminated while the four-person Ekiden-style relay team and wheelchair categories remain the same.

The Air Force Marathon is open to all levels of runners, civilians and military worldwide. More than 3,200 participated last year. Reduced fees are available until

June 30. Registration deadline is Sept. 4. To register or for more information, check the web at:

[afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil](http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil)

or call the marathon office at (937) 257-4350 or (800) 467-1823.

### FIRST SHIRT'S GOLF TOURNEY

The third annual Lackland First Sergeant's Golf Tournament tees off April 4 at the Gateway Hills course with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start.

The event is a 4-person scramble. Registration is 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Competitions will be top three finishers, longest drive, closest to the pin, most accurate drive and door prizes.

Entry fee is \$30, \$5 for three mulligans. Food and beverages will be provided. The field is limited to 30 teams. To sign up, contact your unit first sergeant.

### SKEET TEAM TRAINING CAMP

The Air Force international skeet team's training camp and selection match will be April 7-12 at Robins AFB, Ga.

Shooters must fax an AF Form 303 to Staff Sgt. Guillermo Salazar, Air Force shooting program manager, at DSN 487-4739 or (210) 652-4739. The six-day camp is a permissive TDY, so athletes must pay all travel and lodging costs. Rooms are available at Robins' Pine Oak Lodge.

Call DSN 468-2100 or (478) 926-6685

for reservations. For more details, call DSN 779-0564 or DSN 497-5217.

### MILITARY GOLF CLASSIC

The 20th annual National Retired Military Golf Classic will be May 27-31 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Only 872 men and 132 women will be accepted for the event, reported to be the largest of its kind in the world.

More than \$125,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded. For an application, call 1-800-845-0633, or write to the National Retired Military Golf Classic, P.O. Box 3608, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578. Acceptance is first come, first served. A waiting list will start when full.

## SCOREBOARD |

BASKETBALL		
INTRAMURAL		
Division I/II		
Championship Tournament		
<b>March 6</b>		
Radiology	48	
342nd TRS	17	
Dental	65	
343rd TRS	55	
MSS	63	
345th TRS	53	
<b>March 10</b>		
MSS	52	
Dental	49	
MSS	40	
342nd TRS	38	
<b>March 11</b>		
MSS	43	
Radiology	41	
Radiology	38	
MSS	36	
<b>VARSIITY</b>		
SOUTHWEST MILITARY BASKETBALL LEAGUE		
<b>Eastern Division</b>		
Tinker AFB	6	2
Ft. Sill	8	4
Altus AFB	7	5

Warhawks	6	6
Sheppard AFB	4	6
Dyess AFB	2	8
<b>Fort Sam Houston March Classic</b>		
<b>March 8</b>		
Warhawks	74	
SA College	54	
P & H	87	
Warhawks	81	
<b>March 9</b>		
Warhawks	70	
NAS Corpus	64	
Warhawks	60	
Ft Sam Houston	59	
Randolph AFB	95	
Warhawks	51	
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>		
<b>INTRAMURAL</b>		
<b>Men's League</b>		
A Co. 314th MIBn	6	0
959th Med Ops	4	1
CPSG	4	2
93rd IS	4	3
AFIWC	3	4
DLI	2	3
737th TRG	2	3
IAAFA	2	4
690th CSS	0	7

<b>March 6</b>		
A Co. 314th MI Bn	22-21	
DLI	20-13	
93rd IS	21-21	
IAAFA	19-17	
737th TRG	21-21	
CPSG	7-16	
959th Med Ops	21-16-15	
AFIWC	15-21-8	
<b>March 11</b>		
737th TRG	15-21-15	
690th CSS	21-12-12	
<b>March 13</b>		
Games played after press time		
<b>FINAL</b>		
<b>Coed League</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>
Dental	5	1
CPSG	4	2
MSS	3	3
LRS	3	3
345th TRS	2	4
859th Surgery	2	4
342nd TRS	2	4
<b>March 11</b>		
LRS	21-21	
CPSG	14-18	
Dental	21-21	
345th TRS	15-15	

342nd TRS	21-21
MSS	0-13
End of regular season	
<b>Post-season playoffs</b>	
<b>March 12</b>	
345th TRS	21-16-15
LRS	18-21-6
859th Surgery	14-21-15
MSS	21-17-14
CPSG	21-21
342nd TRS	11-11
<b>Recreation League</b>	
<b>Post-season playoffs</b>	
<b>March 10</b>	
Comm	21-21
LAB	0-7
59th Logistics	won by
A Co. 314th MI	forfeit
<b>SOCCER</b>	
<b>VARSIITY</b>	
SAN ANTONIO SOCCER ASSOCIATION	
<b>Division I</b>	
Raiders Gold	7 1 0 21
Atletico Peru	5 0 1 16
Deportivo Peru	5 3 0 15
Black Cats	4 3 0 12
Kerrville Comets	3 5 0 9
Celtics	2 3 2 8

Warhawks	2	4	1	7
Thunder Club	2	5	1	7
Deportivo Seguin	1	5	1	4
FC Real	0	5	2	2
(Win=3 points Tie=1 point)				
<b>March 9</b>				
Warhawks	3			
Black Cats	1			
<b>BOWLING</b>				
<b>INTRAMURAL</b>				
<b>Team</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>		
Services #1	136	56		
67th IOW	130	62		
341st TRS	126	66		
Security Forces	123	69		
93rd IS #2	119	73		
HQ AIA/LG	116	76		
AFNEWS	113	79		
CPSG	112	80		
CES	111	81		
324th TRS	110	82		
DLI #3	108	84		
HQ AFSFC	107	85		
93rd IS #1	106	86		
319th TRS	106	86		
DLI #1	102	90		
NSGA	102	90		
690th IOG	96	96		
33rd IOS	96	96		
Comm #1	94	98		
90th IOS	88	104		
LRS	84	108		
Comm #2	83	109		
IAAFA	77	115		
344th TRS	74	118		
Dental	69	123		

Band	68	124
Services #3	68	124
Services #2	64	128
DLI #2	34	158
Bye team	0	192
<b>March 13</b>		
Games rolled after press time		
<b>VARSIITY</b>		
<b>2003 AETC CHAMPIONSHIP AT RANDOLPH AFB</b>		
<b>March 4-6</b>		
<b>Team All-Events (18 games)</b>		
Randolph	22126	
Tyndall	21666	
<b>Lackland/Kelly</b>	<b>21525</b>	
Goodfellow	21467	
Luke	21257	
Maxwell/Gunter	20829	
Sheppard	20535	
Little Rock	20048	
Altus	18873	
Vance	17757	
<b>Team Event (6 games)</b>		
<b>4th Lackland/Kelly</b>	<b>7145</b>	
<b>Men's Singles</b>		
<b>7th Bryan Shipman</b>	<b>1342</b>	
(Lackland/Kelly)		
<b>Women's Doubles</b>		
<b>1st Brenda Clink/Trish Rodgers</b>	<b>2273</b>	
(Lackland/Kelly)		

<b>Women's Singles</b>	
<b>3rd Rodgers</b>	(Lackland/Kelly) <b>1160</b>
<b>Women's All-Events</b>	
<b>1st Rodgers</b>	(Lackland/Kelly) <b>3742</b>
<b>10th Clink</b>	(Lackland/Kelly) <b>3164</b>
<b>YOUTH</b>	
Young American Bowling Alliance	
Wild Bunch League	
<b>March 8</b>	
<b>12-and-Over High Scores</b>	
Chris Ortiz	208 (28 over avg.)
Brandy Wills	143 (51 over avg.)
Brittany Navarra	143 (31 over avg.)
Adrian Pedraza	129 (49 over avg.)
Gabriel Lopez	115 (46 over avg.)
Melanie Cortez	104 (30 over avg.)
<b>11-and-Under High Scores</b>	
Alan Even	159 (53 over avg.)
Ryan Bennett	145 (38 over avg.)
Matthew Cortez	140 (50 over avg.)
Erica Bennett-Morales	117 (30 over avg.)
Avery Bessette	106 (24 over avg.)
Tara Gunn	97 (28 over avg.)
Ilianna Walker	73 (24 over avg.)