

## 416th testers beat time, nature to achieve goal

By 2nd Lt. Tony Wickman  
Public Affairs

It isn't every day someone is asked to turn around six weeks of work in three and a half days, but that is exactly what Air Combat Command asked of the 416th Flight Test Squadron here recently.

In an effort to integrate a new targeting pod on Block 50 F-16s,

members of the 416th FLTS condensed six weeks of developmental test and evaluation into three and a half days, along the way overcoming man-made and environmental challenges.

The F-16 System Program Office in Dayton, Ohio, tasked the 416th FLTS to verify that the M3.1B+ software upgrade and the Litening II targeting pod were safe

and effective for Block 50 F-16s.

"This is the central operating system for the airplane," said Maj. Todd Ericson, the targeting pod test pilot. "Think about [the software upgrade] as the Windows XP for the Block 50."

The accelerated testing resulted from ACC's need to get the product operationally tested, evaluated and ready for the warfighter.

According to Tony Kaiser, 416th FLTS M3.1B+ program manager, Edwards' goal was to confirm the software and pod were ready for operational testing.

"We laid out a plan to prove the pod was safe and stable for use on the aircraft, to include ground testing, electromagnetic interference evaluations and flight testing," Kaiser said.

The Litening II targeting pod is a newer, more capable replacement for the Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night pods, or LANTIRN pod, an infrared targeting system currently used by Block 40 aircraft. The Litening II will bring Block 40 and 50 aircraft closer together in capabilities.

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## Edwards flight accomplishments awarded at engineer banquet

By Airman 1st Class Matthew Dillier  
Public Affairs

Team Edwards' importance to powered flight was recognized last month with a special award presented by the San Fernando Valley Engineers' Council.

Maj. Gen. Doug Pearson, Air Force Flight Test Center commander, accepted the Centennial of Powered Flight Commemorative Award on behalf of the Edwards workforce during the council's 48th Annual Gala Honors and Awards Banquet celebrating National Engineer's Week Feb. 22.

The gala was attended by such companies as the Boeing Co., Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems and Navigation Systems division and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company.

"I am accepting this award on behalf of the entire workforce," said Pearson. "This was not an award to me ... it was all about this high performance workforce called Team Edwards."

Retired Maj. Gen. Joe Engle, former astronaut, echoed Pearson's words.

"Congratulations to you and the entire Team Edwards workforce," said Engle. "That's a well-deserved recognition I know you're extremely proud. Keep up the good work."

The SFV Engineer's Council awarded Edwards because of the vast contribution to the history of powered flight.

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Photo by Thomas Powell

### Sunrise, Sunset

The sun rises over Rosamond Lake Bed Monday and reflect onto the water from the recent rain. Rosamond Lake Bed, several miles southwest of Rogers Lake Bed, offers 21 square miles of smooth, flat surface, for routine flight test, research operations and for emergency landings. The lakebeds are among the lowest points in the Antelope Valley and collects seasonal rain and snow runoff from surrounding hills, as well as the San Gabriel Mountains to the south and the Tehachapi Mountains to the west. At one time, the lakebeds contained water year around, but changing geological and weather patterns allow the lakebed to contain water only after infrequent rains or snow falls.

### Inside this week



**Edwards civilian honored**  
412 Test Wing's Paul Phillips received NASA's Quality and Safety Achievement Recognition Award.



**Poison Prevention Week**  
Sunday through March 22 is set aside to educate and prevent accidental poisonings.



**Write the caption contest**  
A base person gets a chance to win a \$10 gift certificate for submitting a clever caption by Wednesday.



# Edwards civilian receives top NASA safety award

By Rob Bardua  
Public Affairs

For the second time in three years, an Air Force Flight Test Center member has received one of NASA's highest safety awards.

Paul Phillips, a member of the center's Access to Space Office, accepted the Quality and Safety Achievement Recognition Award during NASA's Annual Continual Improvement Reinvention Conference in Alexandria, Va., March 7.

The award recognizes specific government or contractor employees for significant quality improvements and/or safety initiatives within NASA products, programs, processes and management activities. Each of NASA's 10 centers nominate one individual for four award categories in the QASAR program. The "Best of the Best" are honored annually at the agency level. Frederick Gregory, NASA Deputy Administrator, presented the award in the non-NASA government category to Phillips in recognition of his contributions toward enhancing the quality and flight-safety process of the X-37 and X-38 programs.

Phillips, who has worked at the center for 23 years, said the award was unexpected but extremely appreciated.



Photo by Rob Bardua

Paul Phillips, an AFFTC Access to Space Office member, received the QASAR award, a top level NASA award for safety.

"I was quite surprised when I heard this was a NASA Agency award because only one person is chosen from the 10 centers to receive it," said Phillips. "I was very flattered that they picked me."

Johnny Armstrong, ATSO chief engineer and Phillips' technical advisor, said the award couldn't have gone to a more deserving in-

dividual.

"I was very enthusiastic that he was going to be recognized for the great job he has been doing for such a long time," said Armstrong. "The ATSO is comprised of highly motivated engineers who are particularly versed in the type of programs and testing that NASA conducts."

According to Armstrong, one of the biggest ways that the ATSO supports NASA is by providing technical expertise and serving as the interface between NASA and AFFTC, as required to accomplish their activities.

"Typically with these kinds of flight test programs, problems arise that must be overcome to keep the tests on schedule and Paul has been there to make sure the center's resources are used to help mitigate those obstacles so that the job gets done," said Armstrong.

Although NASA Dryden has their own highly-qualified range and safety people, Phillips said that many of their operations compete for range assets with Air Force projects and must be fully coordinated through the appropriate AFFTC organizations.

"The trick is to make sure the Air Force is up to speed on what NASA is doing and understands the risks involved in order to support their activities," said Phillips. "We also try to look for areas where AFFTC can help them get their job done more cost ef-

fectively and efficiently."

According to Bob Loomis, NASA Dryden's Safety and Mission Assurance Office deputy director, Phillips has played a critical role in helping them accomplish their mission.

"His ability to coordinate between Air Force and NASA requirements makes him an essential part of the joint team," said Loomis. "Paul's persistence, technical expertise and personal commitment to quality and safety were key to the test team's preparation."

Phillips said having AFFTC representatives with many years of experience working with NASA Dryden helps to make this coordination process run smoother.

"They're very open to our suggestions, so we have a very good relationship with them," said Phillips.

Although Phillips has received many awards throughout his career with AFFTC, he is extremely thankful for this one and said it shows how much NASA values the center's contributions.

"The one thing about working with NASA is that they really seem to value our support," said Phillips. "I'd have to say that of all the awards I've received, this one is at the top."



## Air Force Flight Test Center Commander's Hot Topics

*Ad Inexplorata*



*Toward the unexplored*



Photo by Thomas Powell

### Vigilance

This past weekend there was an unauthorized aircraft landing at our north base runway. This act is being investigated by the authorities, but it is a timely reminder to remain vigilant of suspicious activities. Keep your eyes and ears open for possible threats to our people or facilities. With the ominous threat of war, those who would do us harm may try to gain access to the base and disrupt our mission. They may probe our perimeter to understand our vulnerabilities. Do not assume the abnormal behavior you may observe is okay. It may not only be abnormal, it may be illegal and eventually harm someone. Be mentally alert and prepared and take appropriate action; it can happen at Edwards. Notify Security Forces

at 2777-3340, or 911 or your commander of any suspicious activity.

### ORI Preparation

The Operational Readiness Inspection is a tool used to gauge our ability to accomplish the Air Force mission. In regards to the inspection, over the next several months we will be conducting ORI preparedness exercises, which are designed to ensure we are ready to meet Air Force needs and complete our mission. During these exercises we must make sure we have all of our plans done and tell our people exactly what is expected of them. By taking these exercises seriously and learning from our success and shortcomings, we will be prepared for the inspection in August and the every day mission of the Air Force.

### Anti-Terrorism

Anti-terrorism activity is extremely important right now in these security-heightened times. Everyone has a part to play in ensuring our people and resources are protected. Always remember, this is not a game; there are mean and evil people out there who hate us, our way of life and will make every effort to harm America and our Armed Forces. This is our new normal, and we must all modify our behavior to remain ever vigilant and ready to defend ourselves, our installation and America. Continue to enjoy the freedom America affords you but be mindful an attack could come here or elsewhere at the least expected moment. Rest assured, Team Edwards and America must and will be prepared.

*Doug Pearson*

DOUG PEARSON  
Major General, USAF  
Air Force Flight Test Center  
commander

**Speak to the Commander:** If you have a problem with a service or process after giving the appropriate base agency an opportunity to resolve it, I want to know. Compliments and suggestions for improvements also are greatly appreciated. Contact me at 277-7325 or send me an e-mail at [afftc.cc.speaktoafftccommander@edwards.af.mil](mailto:afftc.cc.speaktoafftccommander@edwards.af.mil), and I'll look into it.

# 95th Security Forces, Marines team up to protect Edwards

Story and photos by  
Airman 1st Class Wes Auldrige  
Public Affairs

The 95th Security Forces Squadron and the Marine Aircraft Group 46, Detachment Bravo have teamed up to make Edwards more secure by performing random aerial surveillance of the approximately 470-square-mile base.

Lt. Col. Charles Beck, 95th SFS commander, said this teaming is the best way to deter potential threats to Edwards.

“One of my goals is to go from a predictable, reactionary force to a mobile, unpredictable, interdiction force,” he said. “Aerial surveillance gives us a great capability because it is faster and provides unlimited routes of travel all over the base.”

Beck said the aerial surveillance will be done routinely, although not on a regular time schedule to keep an unpredictable nature. The security forces also will receive good comprehensive knowledge of the base by seeing an aerial view of the areas they cover that they



Marines perform preflight inspections of the CH-53E before the mission takeoff.

cannot get from the ground.

Staff Sgt. Juan Vazquez, 95th SFS patrolman and aerial team leader, said the team is looking for more than possible terrorist threats.

“We are looking for people attempting to break through the base boundaries by off-roading in unauthorized areas and any other unauthorized activities,” he said. “There is so much acreage here that

regular base patrols can’t cover all that open area. This is really going to help us out.”

Although protecting Edwards is the 95th SFS’s mission, Maj. Rick Ostermeyer, MAG 46, Det. Bravo CH-53E aircraft commander, thinks teaming with security forces to help out in that effort will serve a dual purpose.

“It gives us a real-world mission

we can perform at home and helps cross-pollinate the Air Force with the Marine Corps,” he said. “I think the best part is we are tearing down the walls between the enlisted forces — Army, Air Force and Marines — and helping them realize they are on the same team.”

Ostermeyer also said the pilots will benefit from the mission as well.

“Any time we are cutting the rotor-heads loose it’s helping us get our flight hours in,” he said. “So instead of just going out and doing nothing, we’re actually doing a mission that’s paying dividends for the taxpayers.”

According to Vazquez, working together on tactical maneuvers will improve the 95th SFS in handling real-world situations.

“If we make contact with someone in an unauthorized area, we will have the pilot drop us near them and approach them with a high-risk challenge to identify who they are and what they are doing there,” he said.

Vazquez said a high-risk challenge is when the security forces members approach individuals using tactical maneuvers with their rifles armed, ready to attack if the need arises. According to Vazquez, security forces must ensure their own safety and be prepared for anything and then later determine the punishment for the offense.

“Punishment and fines can vary for each offense — from a verbal warning to jail time, depending on the situation,” he said.

All parties feel these missions have been going well so far and are looking for ways to make improvements.

According to Army Spc. Vidal Garcia, 95th SFS augmentee, it was a great training experience.

“It was pretty awesome,” he said. “This was the first time I had been up there and I’m looking forward to going again.”

Garcia said because this was so new, he thought some of the tactical maneuvers were rusty but in the future the team will grow together.

“We’ll have better communication in the future,” he concluded.

Ostermeyer said he can see this progressing into something bigger.

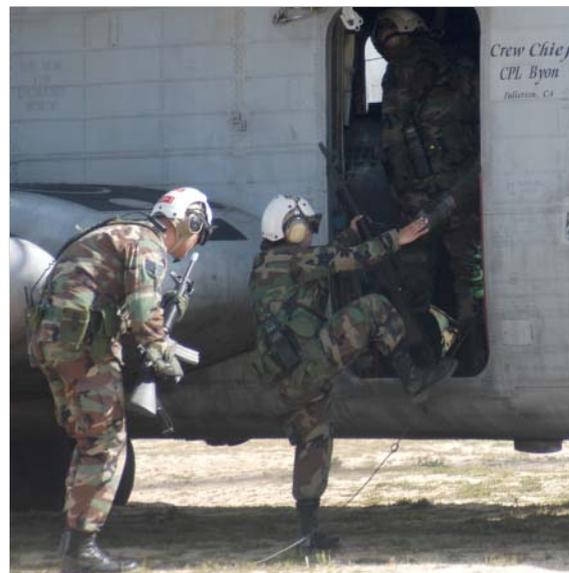
“These missions have been working really well,” he said. “I think it is growing into something that nobody has really envisioned.”



The CH-53E banks hard left as it takes the security forces members around the skies of Edwards to look for trespassers.



(Right to left) Airman 1st Class Robert Reynolds, Staff Sgt. Juan Vazquez, Airman 1st Class Lisa Domigues and Army Spc. Vidal Garcia head back to the aircraft after performing a check on the ground.



Vazquez and Domigues load back on the CH-53E to continue their patrol of the base.



# Engineer council awards Edwards' accomplishments

From AWARD, Page 1

"Edwards is our neighbor in the big scheme of things," said Robert Tarn, San Fernando Valley Engineer's Council president. "We couldn't think of a finer place to give the award. This award is not just to an individual, but to a whole community."

The SFV Engineer's Council was founded in 1955 by the California Society of Professional Engineers, the American Institute of

Plant Engineers, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

National Engineers Week is dedicated to increasing public awareness and appreciation of engineers and to encouraging precollege interest in science, technology and engineering. National Engineers Week is celebrated annually by thousands of engineers, engineering students, teachers and leaders in government and business.



Courtesy photo

(Left to right) Maj. Gen. Doug Pearson and retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager receive the award from Robert Tarn, council president.

## Briefs

**Senior Airman Mario Delos Santos was named the 2002 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron airman of the year, the 2002 53rd Wing airman of the year and the 2002 Air Force Warfare Center airman of the year.** Santos will represent the 3,040 airman of the AFWC at the Air Combat Command annual awards.

**The Edwards Community Outreach Team will present a two-day class on Applied Suicide Intervention Skills today.** The class is a highly-interactive training seminar that uses teaching, discussion, videos and skills to stop suicide. The class is open to all Edwards' people. For more information, call Capt. Spring Myers or Darrel Burns at 277-5292.

**The 95th Mission Support Squadron military personnel flight and customer service office** will be closed March 24 through 26 to convert systems to issue the Common Access Card. For more information, call 1st Lt. James Smith at 277-4281.

**The 48th Annual Joint Electronic Warfare Conference at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.,** will be May 6 through 8. The conference, for U.S. government personnel only, is unique in that it is the only Electronic Warfare conference where the barriers to complete communication are removed by limiting attendance to active duty military and civilian representatives of U.S. government agencies with a need-to-know basis. This conference is not considered a training session. A DD Form 1556 may not be used in lieu of check or money order to pay the registration fee.

For more information, call Susan Hynds at (805) 989-4018 or Melody Dates at (805) 989-7832, or go to <https://jewc.mugu.navy.mil>.

**Staff Sgt. Paul Boliou** is the 412th Test Wing Performer of the month. He is a Quality Assurance Inspector on the flight line. As a QA inspector, he is responsible for the inspection of the 28 F-16s assigned here. During 55 inspections last month, he found a wire bundle chafing a flight control actuator.

**The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps** is looking for enlisted members to become officers. Air Force ROTC is a commissioning program that allows a person to be enrolled in college and officer training. Lt. Col. Gene Doremus from Cal State University, San Bernardino Air Force ROTC Detachment 002 will conduct two sessions, which consists of a short brief followed by a question and answer period here Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m., at the Oasis Community Center. He will answer questions and talk about ROTC programs.

**Recruiter positions** are available for senior airman through master sergeant. This special-duty assignment is for self-motivated and self-managed Air Force members. Interested people must attend the Recruiter Screening Team briefing March 27, 9 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. at the conference center. After the briefing the RST will be taking applications.

Interviews will be conducted March 28, 8 a.m., at the conference center. For more information on recruiting, visit the Web site [www.rs.af.mil/RTR.htm](http://www.rs.af.mil/RTR.htm).



## 95th ABW vice commander named, expected to start in April

By Rob Bardua  
Public Affairs

The 95th Air Base Wing recently announced that Col. Jackie Tillery has been selected as the wing's next vice commander and will begin work here April 14.

Tillery, currently the 82nd Mission Support Group commander at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, said he is excited to come back to Edwards.

"Excited is an understatement," said Tillery, who also worked briefly at Edwards in 1983 with the NASA Dryden Research Center here when he was a member of the Shuttle Activation Task Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. "I am very excited and thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve my country in such a key leadership role."

Tillery said that the importance of the Edwards' mission is what makes his new job appealing to him.

***"Excited is an understatement. I am very excited and thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve my country in such a key leadership role."***

Col. Jackie Tillery, future 95th Air Base Wing vice commander

"The mission at Edwards is vital to our country's national defense because it is key to bringing new aircraft [and weapon systems] on-line and into the Air Force's inventory," said Tillery.

According to Col. Wendy Masiello, 95th ABW commander, Tillery will bring the strong discipline of a varied space and missile background, along with support squadron and leadership experience.

"He's a great team player, while still being a 'get things done' kind of person," said Masiello.

Masiello said that some of

his first responsibilities will include ensuring that the base is prepared for the August operational readiness inspection, as well as taking on the role of Pay Pool 416 manager.

Although many have come together to support the wing in order to make up for the vice commander vacancy, Masiello said she's looking forward to Tillery joining the 95th ABW.

"I've had superb help from Col. Lee Gustin, Col. Ken Huxley and Col. Ross Roley in the absence of a vice commander since Dec. 9, but it will be great to have a complete team again," said Masiello.

## Marine detachment commanders change

By Lt. Col. Drew Crane  
MAG-46, Det B Public Affairs

Two Edwards-based Marine flying units — Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764 and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 769 — welcomed new commanders in-change-of command ceremonies held Saturday and Sunday in Hangar 1210.

Lt. Col. William Fox III, outgoing HMM-764 commander, passed the flag to Lt. Col. Mark Bowen Saturday, and Lt. Col. James McGinley relinquished command of HMM-769 to Lt. Col. Richard Mullen Sunday. Brig. Gen. H. J. Fruchtnicht, Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, presided over both ceremonies.

Helping emphasize the importance and timeliness of world events, The Marine Corps Band from Marine Corps Base 29 Palms filled the air with patriotic music mixed with the occasional sounds of airfield operations.

In his final comments, Fox reminded the Marines to "think about what can hurt you and what you can do about it; take care of yourselves and each other and make America proud to have you as Marines."

The Marine Reserve squadrons change commanders every two years, allowing the best leaders the privilege to hold "the best job in the Marine Corps," said Fox.

The "Moonlighters" of HMM-764, who operate the CH-46s, and the "Titans" of HMM-769, who use the CH-53s, moved to Edwards in May 1999 when Marine Corps Air Station El Toro closed.

About 150 active duty Marines provide daily support to the 180 reservists who travel here from all over California and the United States.

Bowen, who has flown with HMM-764 since 1990, is a deputy sheriff and chief pilot with the Riverside County, Calif., Sheriff's office.

Mullen is a Los Angeles County Fire Department firefighter and paramedic.



# National Poison Prevention Week starts Sunday

By 2nd Lt. Tony Wickman  
Public Affairs

Young children are curious, but that curiosity can lead to danger in the household if parents are not watchful over what their tots are doing.

Poison control centers across the United States reported more than 2.1 million poison exposures in 2000, with more than 57 percent occurring among children under age six.

In response to the high numbers of accidental poisonings to children, the president has declared Sunday through March 23 as National Poison Prevention Week as a means for local communities to raise awareness of the dangers of poisons and to take preventive measures.

This year's theme, "Children act fast ... So do poisons," encourages parents to be watchful of household chemicals and drugs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported the most common poison exposure for children were ingestion of household products such as cosmetics and personal care products, cleaning substances, pain relievers, foreign bodies and plants.

For adults, the most common poison exposures were pain relievers, sedatives, cleaning substances, antidepressants and bites or stings, according to the CDC.

Children under the age of five are more at risk because they are at a developmental stage where they are constantly exploring and investigating things around them, according to the Poison Prevention Week Council, which was organized in 1961 after President John Kennedy signed the National Poison Prevention Week into law.



Enoch White (left) Samuel White (right) and reach into the kitchen sink cabinet and look at chemicals and other poisons. National Poison Prevention Week begins Sunday. People are reminded to keep poisons and chemicals locked away from children.

If a person thinks someone has been poisoned from a medicine or household chemical, they can call (800) 222-1222 for the local poison control center. This is a new, national toll-free number that

works from anyplace in the U.S. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Also, The California Poison Center can be contacted at (800) 876-4766 for assistance.

If it is an emergency, people should

call 911 for immediate help.

Things to remember when contacting a poison control center or dialing 911 are:

To bring the container, if possible, to the phone so you can tell the operator the exact name of the substance and its ingredients.

- The amount of the substance involved.
- When the exposure happened.
- How long was the person exposed to the substance.
- What, if any, symptoms have occurred.
- What, if any, first aid has been performed.
- Information about the person exposed, including name, age, weight and general health history, if known.
- Some emergency first aid tips for poisonings include:
  - If poisons are on the skin or clothes, remove any contaminated clothes and flood affected parts with lukewarm water, wash with soap and rinse thoroughly.
  - If poisons are in the eyes, remove all foreign materials by flushing for a full 15 minutes with lukewarm water.
  - If poisons are inhaled, get the person into fresh air and give cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) if needed.

People should also take precautionary steps to decrease the chances of accidents involving poisons. Things to consider include locking cabinets where medicines and chemicals are stored, never transferring hazardous materials to improper containers and safely disposing of old medications or hazardous materials in an approved local government disposal program.

People are encouraged to use this week as a chance to ensure children in the home are as safe as possible from poisonings.

# Women's History Month honors past, future pioneers

By Staff Sgt. Michael McComb  
Military Equal Opportunity volunteer

Edwards' Federal Women's Program, in conjunction with the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, will celebrate Women's History Month with two special events at Club Muroc March 27. "Embracing Change," a workshop featuring Jewell Diamond Taylor, a nationally-acclaimed motivational speaker, author, trainer and life-skills coach, takes place from 9 to 11 a.m. This workshop is followed by an afternoon tea from 1 to 3 p.m. Taylor will provide the keynote address and jazz saxophonist Michael Paulo will perform.

There is no charge for the morning workshop, but advance reservations are required. Cost for the afternoon tea is \$5 for FWP members and \$7 for nonmembers.

More information and tickets are available from the following FWP members: Jeannie Alvarado, 277-6375; Della Perry, 277-3000; Pam Clark, 275-4181; Mary Pablo, 277-3338; Irene Lucas, 277-0440; Tonya Wieck, 276-7447; Pam Jeglum, 277-5898; Hallie Kelly, 275-9128; Noreen Kinch, 275-0578; or Gayle Harold, 277-4777.

For more information about the "Embracing Change" workshop, call Mary Pablo at 277-3338.

If you are interested in joining the Edwards' Federal Women's Program, please contact Carla Cannington at 275-9252. Additional information on the FWP can be found at [https://www.centernet.edwards.af.mil/cpf/Organizations/DPCS/SEP/FedWomens\\_Program](https://www.centernet.edwards.af.mil/cpf/Organizations/DPCS/SEP/FedWomens_Program).

## History of an observance

Women's History Month was developed to increase awareness of women's achievements and highlights women in American history who were innovative, battled for equality and civil rights and furthered both educational and workforce opportunities. The observance also salutes women pioneers in the arts, sciences and humanitarian arenas.

Women's History Month has been recognized through presidential proclamation since 1992, but its roots can be traced to California in the late 1970s.

In 1978, to increase public awareness of women's role in history, the Sonoma County, Calif., Education Task Force's Commission on the Status of Women initiated an annual "Women's History Week." They focused this week-long observance around March 8, International Women's Day, to ensure a multicultural perspective that recognized the connection between all women. The program was very well received by area schools and the community. The observance became a national event in 1980 when President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential message urging all Americans to observe the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week, a time to celebrate the historical achievements of women.

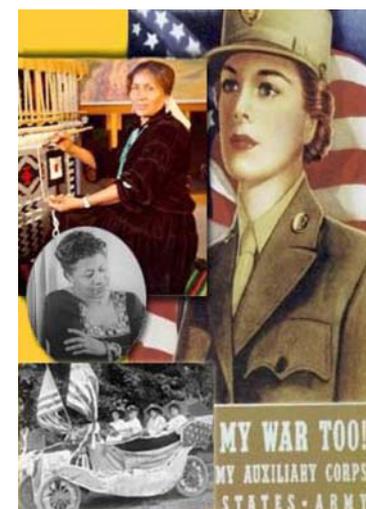
Also in 1980, the National Women's History Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring women who have impacted the nation's history, was founded in Santa Rosa, Calif. The organization served as a clearinghouse for women's history information and developed projects

and school curriculum materials they then shared with various states' departments of education.

In 1987, with major support from around the country, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to change the week-long observance to cover the entire month of March. The resolution was passed and women's history is now a month-long observance. A National Women's History Month Resolution was quickly approved with strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate and National Women's History Month was born.

This year, the Women's History Month theme is "Women Pioneering the Future." In his 2003 proclamation, President George W. Bush encouraged all Americans to recognize the countless women whose efforts continue to enhance the economic, social and cultural history of the United States.

(Some information courtesy of the National Women's History Month Project Web site, [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org).)



Courtesy graphic

## MEO reads to Lake L.A. students

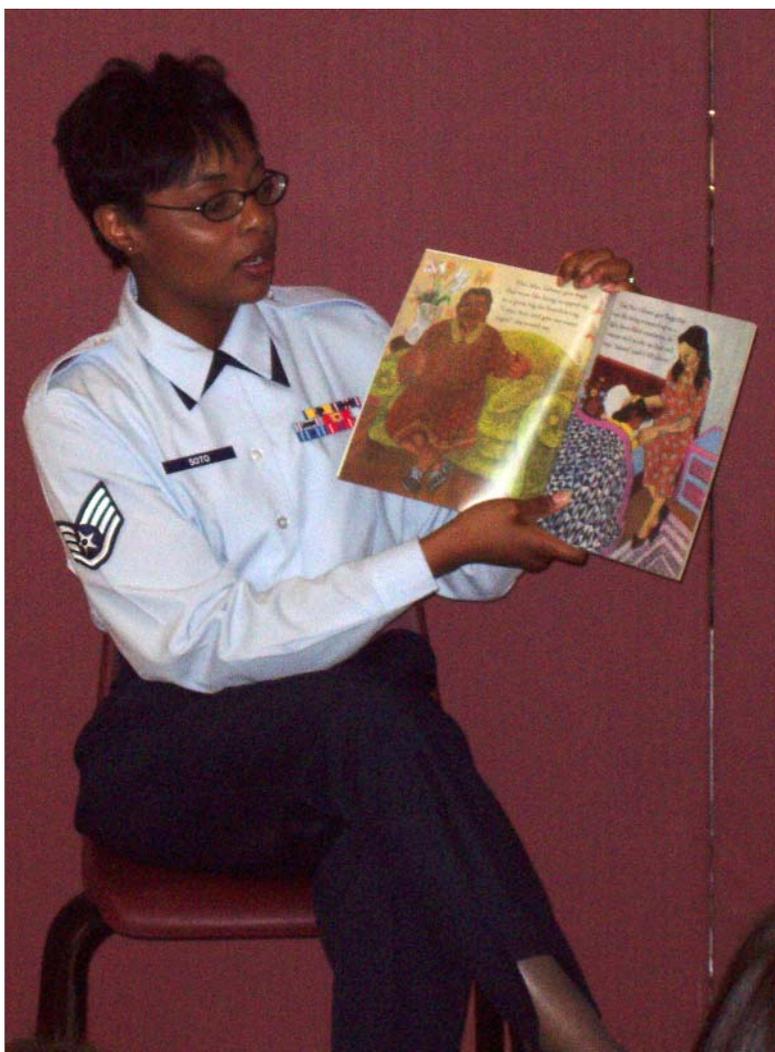


Photo by Tech. Sgt. DeeDee Dubose

Staff Sgt. Daphne Soto, Military Equal Opportunity office, reads a book to students at Lake L.A.'s Wilsona Elementary School March 7.

The 95th Military Equal Opportunity office visited the Wilsona Elementary School in Lake Los Angeles, Calif., March 7 as part of the "Read across America" campaign.

The MEO staff read the book *Two Mrs. Gibsons*, a story about a child with a multicultural family, to 120 students from the third through the fifth grade.

Capt. Joseph Schneider, Tech. Sgt. DeeDee Dubose and Staff Sgt. Daphne Soto shared the importance of reading with the children and took time to answer questions about Edwards and the Air Force.

During the thank you reception after the reading, each of the volunteers from the MEO office received a shirt and were given an open invitation to return to the school in the future to share information on diversity.

'Read Across America' is a nationwide campaign to help encourage children to read. The program was first started in 1998 and falls on or near March 2, the birthday of children's author Dr. Suess. For more information on the Read Across America campaign, go to [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross).

*(Information courtesy of the Military Equal Opportunity office)*

## TRICARE offers mail order pharmacy

More than 400,000 military pharmacy mail order customers were switched March 1, to the new TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy.

Express Scripts, Inc., of Maryland Heights, MO, will provide TMOP services, however this change does not alter the pharmacy benefits military members and their families receive as TRICARE beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries who have prescription refills remaining under the current National Mail Order Pharmacy will have their prescriptions transferred to Express Scripts. The exceptions to this policy are for narcotic, controlled substance or compounded prescriptions. New prescriptions for these exceptions need to be written by individual providers and sent to Express Scripts.

TRICARE beneficiaries living and working overseas can also use the mail order pharmacy if they have an APO, FPO or a U.S. Embassy address. However, the prescription must be written by a provider licensed to practice in the United States.

Current mail order pharmacy users should have received a postcard in early January announcing

the new services. This will be followed by a mailing that will include a registration form, a description of benefits and a brochure covering the TMOP benefits.

Beneficiaries eligible to use the current mail order pharmacy program or the retail pharmacy benefit are eligible to use the new TRICARE mail order pharmacy program. Beneficiaries may register using the provided registration form, on-line or by calling the Express Scripts call center. Once TMOP is in operation, beneficiaries can refill prescriptions over the phone, via mail or on the internet.

Under the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy program, the co-pay for up to a 90-day supply for most medications is \$9 for brand medications or \$3 for generics.

People need to know that if they have other health insurance that covers prescription medications, they will not be able to use the TMOP benefit.

For more information, call the Express Scripts Call Center at (866) 363-8667, visit the Express Scripts Web site at [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com) or the TRICARE Web site at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil).



# Use the *Wings* to sell your things

Beginning April 4, the *Desert Wings* will run a free monthly community bulletin board in the first issue of every month for Team Edwards members.

The community bulletin board will allow base-affiliated people to advertise goods or services, personal ads (except for dating), lost and found items and other ads that can be discussed on a case-by-case basis. The rules for submitting ads are:

- Single items for sale cannot exceed \$150 in price,



or \$350 group of items for sale

- Ads run on a first-come, first-serve basis — limit one ad per individual, household or organization per month
- The last date to accept ads will be the Friday before the final week of a month.
- All ads must include a contact name and phone number
- Ads must not exceed 25 words and be sent via e-mail to [afftc.pa.desertwings@edwards.af.mil](mailto:afftc.pa.desertwings@edwards.af.mil) or via fax at 277-2732
- All ads will be edited by the *Desert Wings* staff for content and readability
- The *Desert Wings* staff reserves the right to pull or deny ads

The following items will not be allowed for advertisement:

- Advertisements for garage or yard sales
- Animals for sale; animals free to a home are okay
- Business or work wanted ads
- Advertisements that exceed maximum word count, or violate dollar amounts, good taste and Air Force and Department of Defense policies regarding advertisements

Examples of acceptable ads include base-affiliated organizations searching for members, carpools looking for members, a base-affiliated person looking for a racquetball partner, a base-affiliated person selling a television for \$100, etc.

The community bulletin board is not replacing the *Desert Wing's* community announcement section or the rules regarding those submissions.

Questions concerning advertising in the community bulletin board can be directed to the *Desert Wings* at 277-2345 or by e-mail to [afftc.pa.desertwings@edwards.af.mil](mailto:afftc.pa.desertwings@edwards.af.mil).

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century.

At the age of 16, he was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They took him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. After six years, Patrick escaped and according to his writing, a voice, which he believed to be God's, spoke to him in a dream and told him it was time to leave Ireland.

Soon after, Patrick began religious training that lasted more than 15 years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland to minister to Christians already living there and to begin to convert the Irish.

The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for thousands of years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762.

Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by people of all backgrounds in the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, Singapore and Russia.

In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious occasion. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17. Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use St. Patrick's Day as an opportunity to drive tourism and showcase Ireland to the rest of the world.

*(Information courtesy of [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com))*



# Announcements

**Seventeen students from Edwards Middle School** were inducted into membership of the National Junior Honor Society March 4, at the Edwards Air Force Base Theater. The inductees were selected by a faculty council for meeting the honor society standards for scholarship, service, leadership character and citizenship. The students inducted are: Emma Ah Sing, Amanda Blake, Michael Flach, Jessica Fontaine, Leah Guidry, Monika Hansing, Leslie Hines, Robin Huxley, Alexandra Keene, Kehly Kirk, Brooks Munyer, Ronald Ramos, Michael Ruiz, Molly Shanks, Michael Vaughan, Jonathan Villanueva and Jordan Young.

**The Edwards Officers Wives Clubs' March Luncheon** is Thursday, 10:30 a.m., at Club Muroc. The guest speaker will be Anna Smith, a horticulturist from Tehchapi, whose topic is gardening in the high desert. The cost is \$7.50 for club-members and \$9.50 for non-club members. Respond or cancel no later than Sunday to Laura Ward at 258-7028 or Barbara Gibbons 258-1062.

**March kicks off National Nutrition Month**, with this year's theme being "Healthy Eating, Healthy You." The Edwards Health and Wellness Center is offering several classes and events to observe the month.

The following events are offered to Edwards community members:

Today .....	Games at the youth activity center 3 to 4 p.m.
Monday .....	Cholesterol Heart Care class 9 to 11 a.m.
Monday .....	Savvy shopper's commissary tour 1 to 3 p.m.
Wednesday .....	Let's eat cooking demo/luncheon 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information about any of these events, contact the HAWC staff at 275-4292.

**The Edwards' Officers Wives Club Thrift Shop** is open Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m. for shopping. Consignments are accepted Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m. to noon and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m. The shop also accepts donations (clothing not included). The Thrift Shop has many items from infant clothing to electronics and much more. The shop is located in building 7211, between the Post Office and Teen Center. For more information, call 277-4294.

**The annual U-Fix It Store plant giveaway** will run every Saturday until May 3 at 8 a.m. or until supplies are gone. Each address is authorized up to four plants for the giveaway. Two cubic foot bags of planting mix will also be available for the plants — maximum two per address. For more information, call the U-Fit It Store at 277-2550.

**Edwards Chapel will sponsor a free introduction to Biblical counseling** seminar and lunch March 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Chapel 1 Annex. The seminar is open to anyone who wants to grow in Christian ministry and counsel. For more information call, Nate or Aurelia Smith at 258-6925.

**The Edwards' Enlisted Spouses Club is offering college scholarships** to enlisted spouses. Deadline for the applications is April 30. Eligibility requirements and applications are available at Created Treasures. For more information, call Aimee Anthonio at 258-1315.

**Payne Avenue — from Bailey Avenue to Love Boulevard — will be under construction** beginning March 17 through May 9. Access will be limited throughout the duration of construction. This

project is part of the overall effort to resolve the existing drainage issues within the housing areas. For more information, call George Galentine at 275-2192 or John Stephens at 277-4491.

**California State University, is having an information meeting** March 25, 5:00 p.m. at the CSU-Bakersfield campus, located next to the Antelope Valley College, room 124 in Lancaster. The Joint Engineering Program — a 3rd year program that offers classes taught by CSU-Fresno, CSU-Northridge, and CSU-Bakersfield, leading to a bachelor's degree in electrical or computer engineering — will be discussed. For more information call (661) 952-5029 or (661) 258-5936.

**California State University-Fresno is offering** a Master of Science degree in electrical or mechanical engineering, as well as courses that are accepted for a bachelor's degree in computer or electrical engineering. For more information, call (661) 258-5936.

**Southern Illinois University is offering motion and time study** during a three weekend course starting March 29. SIU is located in the Education Building at 140 Methusa Ave. For more information, call SIU at 258-7357.

**The Air Force Assistance Fund** — fund raising to benefit Air Force families begins March 31 and will continue through May 2. Contact a unit representative for more information.

**Chapman University is offering** computer science, religion, psychology, history and sociology courses to Edwards' students during the next 10-week term. Registration begins Monday. Courses run from April 7 through June 13, and meet once per week in the evenings. For complete course listings please visit [www.chapman.edu/univcoll/ac/edwards](http://www.chapman.edu/univcoll/ac/edwards). Accelerated bachelor degree programs in computer science, computer information systems, psychology, social science and criminal justice are offered as well. For more information, call the Chapman office at 258-5251.

## Upcoming/ongoing

### APET Rescue and Kennels

5550 Forbes Ave. 275-2423

**APET, the base's resource center** for military members who are departing Edwards with pets, needs volunteers. Stop by APET for information on hotels that allow pets or any other information about the APET program.

### Child Development Center

1208 W. Fitz-Gerald Blvd., 275-TOTS

**Carnival and parent snack** is March 27, 3 p.m. Snack times vary, check with the individual rooms.

### Club Muroc

275 Manzanita Way, 275-CLUB

**A St. Patrick's Day party** is Monday, 5 to 11 p.m. in Fogleman's Lounge. This party is free for club members, \$5 for nonmembers and includes drink specials and disc jockey entertainment.

**Steak on the patio** is March 21, 5 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers.

### Family Support Center

350 S. Bailey Ave., 277-0723

**Women, Infants and Children nutrition program** is Monday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Baby and me support group** is Tuesday, 10 a.m. to noon. The class is for parents and their infants and toddlers up to 4 years-old.

**Pre-separation counseling** is Thursday. Counseling is required by law for active duty military people not more than 12 months or less than 90 days prior to separation or retirement.

**A federal job application class** is Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Learn how to find and apply for federal jobs.

**Resumes from scratch** is March 21, 8:30 to noon. Class helps to research options, examine objectives, thoroughly evaluate skills and get on the path to building a relevant, dynamic resume. The class is for transitioning military and DoD people and their spouses.

**Spouse/local employment workshop** is March 24, 1 to 2:30 p.m. This job-seeking workshop is for spouses and others and includes information about looking for a job in the local area and how to use the Family Support Center's vacancy resources.

**Sponsorship training** is March 25, 11:00 a.m. to noon. This training is mandatory for anyone who is selected as a sponsor.

**Smooth move** is March 25, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The class gives tips for easing a permanent change of station.

**Hearts Apart** is March 25, 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is an activity group for family of members who are deployed, on remote tour or extended temporary duty. Children are welcome.

**Local area adventures** is March 26, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Base people can learn information about interesting and inexpensive local area getaways such as places to hike, nature parks and camping areas.

**Predeployment briefing** is by appointment only. This briefing is mandatory for those deploying or going on extended temporary duty or remote tours.

**The Family Support Center** is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Reservations must be made for all center classes, seminars and workshops. Call the FSC to sign up.

### Information, Tickets and Travel

1100 Kincheloe Ave., 275-TRIP

**Trip to a taping of "Best Damn Sports Show Period"** is March 21. Sports and comedy collide as Tom Arnold, John Kruk, D'Marco Farr, John Salley and Chris Rose discuss "real" sports and other points of interest to "real" guys. The trip departs ITT at 10 a.m., returns at approximately 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$15.

**The Price Is Right trip** is March 24. The trip departs ITT at 8:30 a.m., returns at approximately 11 p.m. Cost is \$20.

**Trip to a "King of Queens" taping** is March 27. Kevin James, Leah Remini and Jerry Stiller head the cast in this CBS comedy. The trip departs ITT at 2 p.m., returns at approximately midnight. Cost is \$15.

### Oasis Community Center

205 W. Popson Ave., 275-CNTR

**The Miss Edwards Pageant, "All That Glitters,"** is Saturday starting at noon in Stripes Lounge. The Edwards community is invited to come watch this annual event. There are three age competition categories; Little Miss, ages 6 to 8 years old; Junior Miss, ages 11 to 14 years old; and Miss, ages 17 to 19 years old. Volunteers are needed to help with the pageant.

**Chess Club** meets Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the Oasis Community Center. All ages are welcome.

**Spring Classic Chess Tournament** is March 22, 5 p.m. Winners will receive Coyote Cash.

**A native Alaskan dance performance by the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Yupik Dance Group** is April 1, 6:30 p.m. in Stripes Lounge. The entire Edwards community is invited and there is no admission charge for this event.

See ANNOUNCEMENTS, Page 11

## DESERT WINGS

### Editorial staff

Commander, AFFTC .....	Maj. Gen. Doug Pearson
Acting Director, Public Affairs .....	Dennis Shoffner
Chief, Internal Information .....	2nd Lt. Tony Wickman
Editor .....	Airman 1st Class Wes Aldridge
Staff writer .....	Airman 1st Class Matthew Dillier
Staff writer .....	Rob Bardua
Photographer .....	Thomas Powell

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The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or Aerotech News and

Review, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political attitude or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Advertising: (661) 945-5634. Newscopy: (661) 277-2345. Fax: (661) 277-2732.

Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Edwards Air Force Base. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

Paid advertisements may be referred to Aerotech News and Review, 456 East Avenue K-4, Suite 8,

Lancaster, CA, 93535 (661)945-5634. Submitting false or misleading advertisements may, depending on circumstances, subject the violator for administrative or criminal penalties for civil suit.

Deadline for all other *DESERT WINGS* submissions is Friday at noon preceding the desired publication date. All submissions must be e-mailed to [afftc.pa.desertwings@edwards.af.mil](mailto:afftc.pa.desertwings@edwards.af.mil) or submitted on a computer disk in a Word or plain text document format. No handwritten material will be accepted.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Send to: AFFTC/PAI, 1 S. Rosamond Blvd., Edwards AFB, CA 93524-1225 Attn: Editor. Letters are subject to editing.



# POLICE *BLOTTER*

The 95th Security Forces Squadron reports the following incidents for March 5 through Tuesday

## Damage to government/personal property

- An individual reported that while driving a government vehicle a gate started to shut causing damage to the vehicle.
- An individual reported that his vehicle had been damaged.

## Medical responses

- Paramedics responded to F area housing for a medical emergency. A child had fallen and was injured. She was treated at the scene.
- Paramedics responded to Rosamond Boulevard for a medical emergency. An individual reported that his passenger was having a seizure. She was treated at the scene.
- Paramedics responded to building 5620 for a medical emergency. An individual reportedly collapsed.
- Paramedics responded to I area housing for a medical emergency. An individual reported that a child was injured by hot water. The child was taken to Antelope Valley Medical Center.

## Patrol responses

- Patrols responded to F area housing for a report of animal neglect. An investigation is pending.
- An individual entered security forces to report an individual was drunk on duty. The individual was charged with this incident.
- Patrols responded to the dormitory area for a report of failure to obey a lawful order or regulation. The individuals involved were cited for this violation.
- Patrols responded to I area housing for a report of child neglect. All was in order.
- Patrols responded to building 2670 for a report of a suspicious package. All was in order.
- Patrols responded to building 1220 for a report of a suspicious envelope. An investigation is pending.

## Thefts

- Patrols responded to the AAFES Gas Station for a report of an individual leaving without rendering payment.
- An individual reported that an item was stolen from building 1405.
- An individual was detained for petty theft from the base exchange.

## Traffic incidents

- An individual struck a pole causing damage to the vehicle.
- An individual was exiting the installation and struck a barrier.
- An individual rear ended another vehicle causing a minor vehicle accident.
- An individual reported bumping into another vehicle while driving a government vehicle.

*(Information compiled by Brandi Kizzer, 95th SFS Reports and Analysis.)*



Photo by Airman 1st Class Wes Auldridge

### Hungry?

Children involved in Edwards' youth programs, feed Lancaster's needy people breakfast burritos Saturday morning as part of a 30-hour fast. The youth finished the fast Saturday at 6:30 p.m. with a feast provided by the chapel and community members.

## Announcements

From Page 9

### Skills Development Center

200 Methusa Rd., 275-ARTS

**Children's drawing classes** are offered Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$40 for three classes, plus supplies.

**Air Brush classes** are Wednesday, 5 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 for each class and includes all supplies and tools.

**Quilting class** is Wednesday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. or Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$45 for four classes or one 8-hour class. The class does not include supplies.

**Tole Painting class** is March 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The class includes all supplies, except brushes. Cost is \$25. Participants are invited to bring a lunch.

**The March Craft of the Month** is "Florals." Throughout the month, a 10 percent discount will be offered on all related supplies, along with featured demonstrations on this topic.

**Basket weaving classes** are now offered. Dates will be announced and the cost is \$35, which includes all supplies.

**Stained glass classes** are now offered. Dates will be announced and cost is \$55 for four classes, plus supplies.

**All classes require a minimum number of students**

and payment must be made at least three business days prior to the class.

### Teen Center

1100 Kincheloe Ave., 275-TEEN

**Teen Center chess tournament** is Monday through 19, 3:30 p.m.

**Keystone Club meeting** is Wednesday, 12:30 p.m.

**Women's History Month movie day** is Thursday, 3:30 p.m.

**Karaoke day** is March 21, 3 to 7 p.m.

**Keystone car wash** is March 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Youth Activities Center

24 Lathrop Dr., 275-KIDS

**Photo and scrapbook club** meets today, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

**YAC movie day** is today, 3:30 p.m. in the action room.

**Green Bingo** is Monday, 4 p.m. in the art room.

**Free youth bowling** is Tuesday, 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. Sign up at the YAC.

**Crafty kids** is held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Family skate night** is March 22, 7 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$2 for members, \$3 for nonmember.

## Joshua Tree Inn dining facility menu

### Today:

Lunch

Beef and corn pie

Veal paprika steaks

Seafood Newburg

Dinner

Yankee pot roast

Simmered corned beef

Pineapple chicken

Saturday:

Lunch

Swedish meatballs

Savory baked chicken

Creole shrimp

Dinner

Hungarian goulash

Barbecue chicken

Baked fish

Sunday:

Lunch

Swedish meatballs

Savory baked chicken

Creole shrimp

Dinner

Hungarian goulash

Barbecue chicken

Baked fish

Monday:

Lunch

Liver and onions

Orange spiced pork chops

Tempura fried fish

Dinner

Ginger pot roast

Pepper steak

Mr. Z baked chicken

Tuesday:

Lunch

Teriyaki chicken

Salmon cakes

Veal parmesan

Dinner

Yankee pot roast

Simmered corn beef

Pineapple chicken

Wednesday:

Lunch

"Spanish Meal"

Chicken enchiladas

Tacos and chalupas

Dinner

Turkey nuggets

Steak, loin strip

Beef with broccoli stir fry

Thursday:

Lunch

Stuffed cabbage rolls

Herb baked chicken

Southern fried catfish

Dinner

Jaeger schnitzel veal

Honey glazed Cornish hens

Roast loin of pork

(Information courtesy of the 95th Services Division)



## St. Patty's Day crossword puzzle

By 2nd Lt. Tony Wickman  
Public Affairs

### ACROSS

1. River in southern Ireland
5. Mischievous little Irish sprite
14. Mexican food item
15. Native American tribe in South Dakota
16. River in northern Ireland
17. First stage of coal
18. A type of well
19. A course of travel
21. Swinging barrier to a room
22. Vase to hold 30 down

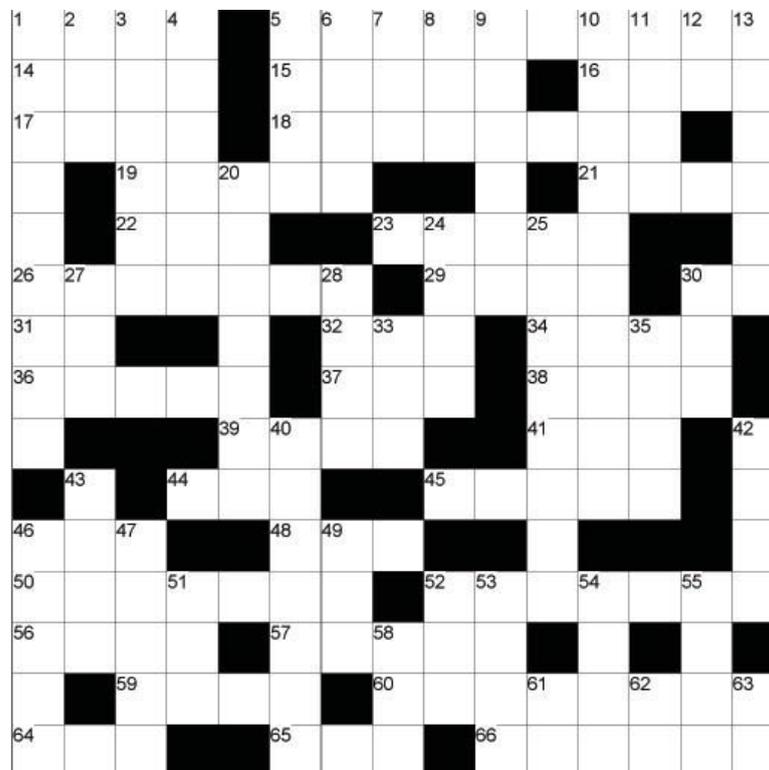
### Feb. 7 Answers

ICBM TRASH COLA  
DORIS SENECA OD  
OMEN P I O U V I N I  
SAUTE BYME EN  
BASTOGNE AAAA E  
ETTE SA D TREX  
T A M NE STEP  
HAWC MILE LL  
LENA LAPSE O  
BAR CLAW YEAGER  
C STORE EAR A  
CLUE RIO BEAT  
BOLT T GNU SEA  
SUET ASH LEAST  
SUEZ T M V CA

23. Family who settled at Edwards in 1910
26. *Gladiator* star \_\_\_\_\_ Crowe
29. Sicilian erupter
30. Element discovered by Oersted (abbrev.)
31. Information Technology (abbrev.)
32. Dine
34. Direct Internet connections (abbrev.)
36. Aromatic conifer tree
37. Baseball stat.
38. D-Day beach
39. Fixed span of time
41. Fifth sign of the Zodiac
44. Unit of electrical resistance
45. Leads; as in a movie
46. A type of fish
48. Org. dedicated to fair job hiring
50. Garden plant
52. It's capital is Dublin
56. Island where Napoleon was exiled
57. Mistreat
59. Icon
60. Irish emblem
64. Recently rediscovered
65. Owed
66. Animals supposedly chased by 1 Down

### DOWN

1. Patron saint of Ireland
2. United Arab Emirate (abbrev.)
3. Escaped the labyrinth on wings of wax (Gr. Mythology)
4. Rotating airfoils on helicopters
5. Test for law school
6. Another name for 52 across
7. \_\_\_\_\_ of gold; reward for capturing 5 across
8. Regret or repent
9. To push out
10. Private school administrator
11. Chief river in Tuscany
12. Organization headquartered in NYC (abbrev.)
13. Relating to the nervous system
20. Dig up
24. Mountains in Thessaly
25. Wavelike motion
27. Southwestern Indian tribe
28. Sly look
30. Burned material residue
33. Equip with weapons
35. Country in Southeast Asia
40. \_\_\_\_\_ Isle; nickname for 52 across
42. Tear apart
43. Anglo-Swedish painter Michael \_\_\_\_\_
46. Popular color for March 17



47. Latino singer Paulina \_\_\_\_\_
49. Weaken or lessen
51. Evil
52. Suffix indicating nationality
53. Irish actor Stephen \_\_\_\_\_ and others
54. Actress \_\_\_\_\_ Flynn Boyle in *MIB II*
55. Pleasant
58. Employ or apply
61. Postal abbreviation for Minnesota
62. Tail marking for E-3C AWACS at Tinker AFB
63. Postal abbreviation for McConnell AFB state

## Be creative, write captions for laughs

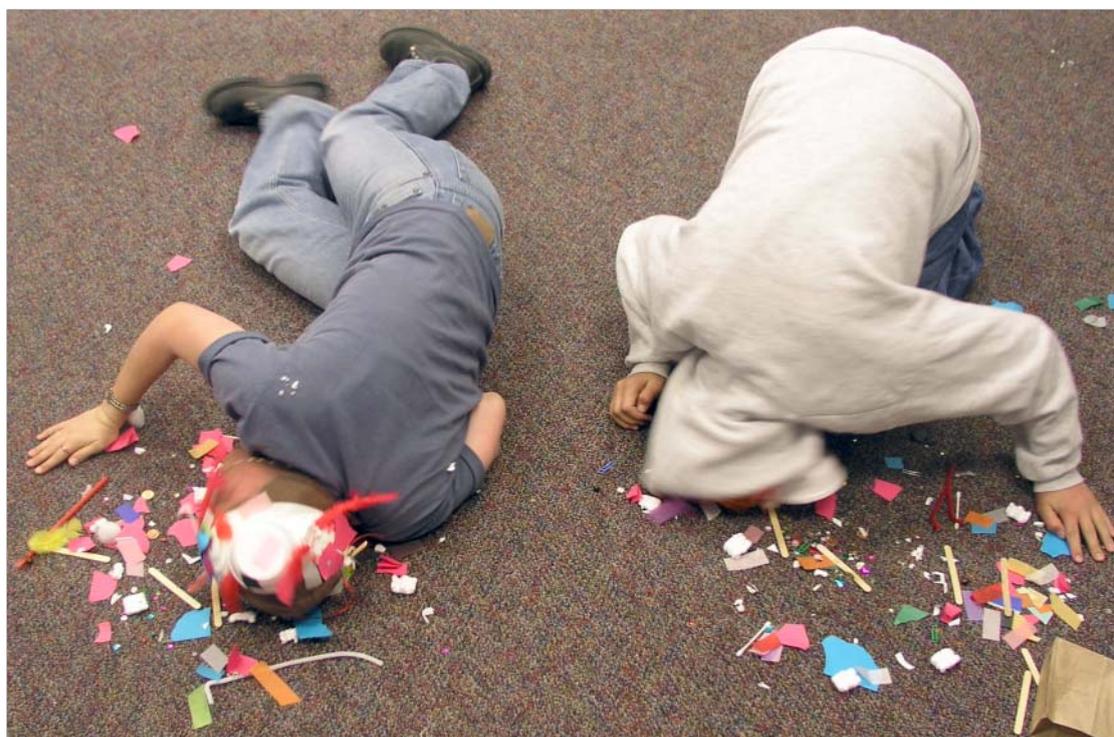


Photo by Airman 1st Class Wes Auldridge

### RULES

The Desert Wings is offering people a creative opportunity to write a caption for the above photograph. The author who receives the most laughs — or groans — from the Desert Wings staff will get a \$10 gift certificate to the base exchange.

The rules for entry are:

1. The caption must be

imaginative, humorous, Edwards or Air Force related and must be appropriate for print in the Desert Wings.

2. All entries must be received no later than Wednesday.
3. All submissions must include a name, organization and contact number.
4. All submissions become the property of the Desert Wings and the Air Force Flight Test Center Public Affairs office.

The winning caption will be announced in the next issue of the Desert Wings. Any questions regarding contest rules or entries can be sent to the Desert Wings at: [afftc.pa.desertwings@edwards.af.mil](mailto:afftc.pa.desertwings@edwards.af.mil) or call 277-2345.

(The photo was taken during Edwards' Chapel youth's 30-hour fast in the Chapel 2 annex.)

## Aircraft search-a-word



Compass Call  
Eagle  
Falcon  
Galaxy  
Globemaster  
Hercules  
Huron  
JSTARS  
Lancer  
NAOC

Nighthawk  
Open Skies  
Rivet Joint  
Sentry  
Spectre  
Spirit  
Stratofortress  
Talon  
Texan  
Tweet

(Search-a-word courtesy of 2nd Lt. Tony Wickman, Public Affairs.)



## Commanders' Access Channel 6

**Air Force Television News**  
5, 6, 8 and 11 a.m., noon, 5, 6 and 11 p.m.

**Think Like the Wolf:** *Applying OPSEC to Military Operations*  
9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**2002 Air Force Flight Test Center Workforce Awards**  
1 and 8:30 p.m.

**Navy/Marine Corps News**  
8 p.m.

**National Anthem — Edwards Air Force Base**  
7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

*Video programming will be suspended during emergencies*

### Base Theater

*On the corner of Yeager Boulevard and S. Muroc Drive.*

Today	<b>Final Destination 2</b> <i>Ari Larter, A. J. Cook</i>	(R)	90 min.
Saturday	<b>Biker Boyz</b> <i>Laurence Fishburne, Derek Luke</i>	(PG-13)	111 min.
Sunday	<b>Final Destination 2</b>	(R)	90 min.
Monday	<b>Biker Boyz</b>	(PG-13)	111 min.
Tuesday	<b>Final Destination 2</b>	(R)	90 min.
Wednesday	<b>Biker Boyz</b>	(PG-13)	111 min.
Thursday	<b>Final Destination 2</b>	(R)	90 min.

Movies begin at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children unless otherwise stated.

For movie information, call 275-SHOW.

*Schedule submitted by AAFES and is subject to change.*

# Women's History Month Crossword

The Military Equal Opportunity office and the Edwards Base Exchange are sponsoring a Women's History Month crossword puzzle.

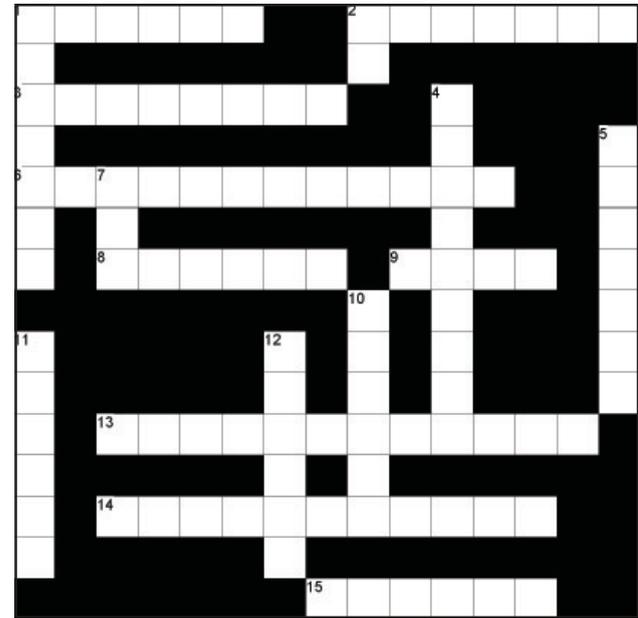
The first person to accurately complete the puzzle will win a \$25 gift certificate from the base exchange. The clues for the puzzle are:

### ACROSS

1. Founder of the National Retired Teachers Assoc. and American Assoc. of Retired Persons
2. First black woman to own a production co.; talk show host and child protection advocate
3. Confederate spy known as "Wild Rose"
6. Last Hawaiian queen; wrote more than 165 Hawaiian songs
8. First black, female millionaire; Developed hair care/ grooming co. to meet needs of black women in 1905; used position to oppose racism
9. First woman tennis player to earn \$100,000 per year; Dominated for more than 20 years
13. '79 Nobel Prize winner and '85 Medal of Freedom winner; Known for her kindness and generosity
14. Woman who changed nursing education in Crimean War
15. First woman Rear Admiral; "Grandmother of the Computer Age"; created computer "language" through math for computers to understand

### DOWN

1. First black woman to have screenplay produced as film; *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* author
2. Asian-American physicist elected president of APS; First woman to have asteroid named after her



4. First woman Principal Chief of Cherokee nation
  5. Founder of Women Air Force Service Pilots; Holds more Distance/Speed records than any man or woman
  7. Girls Scouts of American organizer in 1915; known as Girl Guides
  10. Founder of American Red Cross; used home as first location
  11. Colorado's "Mother of Charities;" Driving force for today's United Way
  12. Chicana labor activist; Co-founder of United Farm Workers Union in 62
- For more information or to submit your puzzle, contact the MEO office at 277-4440.



# Intramural volleyball season begins Tuesday

By Airman 1st Class  
Matthew Dillier  
Public Affairs

The Edwards intramural volleyball league begins Tuesday at the fitness and sports center.

"We pushed back the start date because of the intramural basketball season," said Mark Geairn, Edwards sports director.

According to Geairn, volleyball is just one of many excellent athletic opportunities for Team

Edwards to take part in. Also there are sports such as football and basketball, racquetball, golf, bowling and softball.

"Volleyball, as well as all intramural, recreation and varsity sports, improves physical condition, morale and the esprit de corps of a unit," said Geairn. "Volleyball is an anaerobic sport that improves cardiovascular health."

In addition to the physical benefits of volleyball, Geairn says there are mental benefits as well.

"All sports and especially the military, teamwork is essential," he said. "The success of the team depends on that, as well as cooperation and working together as one unit."

No safety equipment is required for play, however Geairn recommends using mouth guards and proper foot gear.

For those interested in playing, contact a squadron sports advisory representative.

"Also, if your unit does not

have a team, you may call the Fitness and Sports Center and be placed in the players' pool," said Geairn.

The intramural volleyball season continues through May and playoffs begin the last week in May. Games are played Monday through Thursday at 6, 7 and 8 p.m.

For more information on intramural volleyball or any other sport, call the fitness and sports center at 275-GYM1.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Matthew Dillier

Susan Sackett swims laps at the Oasis Aquatic and Aerobic Center. The hours of the Oasis Aquatic Center have temporarily changed due to low manning. Hours Monday through Friday remain 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday hours are now noon to 4 p.m. The center is closed on Sundays. For more information, call the Oasis Aquatic Center at 275-SWIM.

## Sports writers wanted!

Want to see more sports? Ever wanted to be a sports writer or take action photos?

The Desert Wings will consider sports articles, features, photographs and commentaries from units or individuals for publication. Don't know much about writing? Writing for publication work-

shops are available the second Monday of every

month at 1 p.m. or the fourth Friday of every

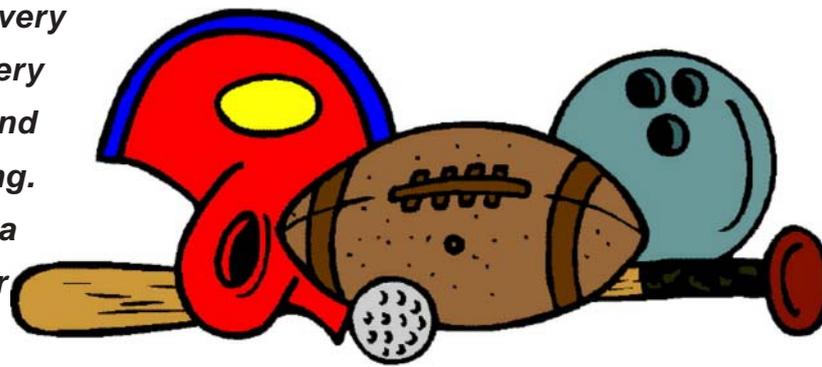
month at 10 a.m. Individuals wishing to attend

these workshops please call before coming.

Special appointments will be considered on a

case-by-case basis. For more information or

to attend the workshop, call 277-2345.



## Briefs

### Family Fitness Center

1100 Kincheloe Ave., 275-GYM2

**New Hours for the Family Fitness Center** are Monday through Friday, 4:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### High Desert Lanes Bowling Center

205 Fitz-Gerald, 275-BOWL

**Green Bowling for St. Patrick's Day** is Monday. Bowlers who wear green, bowl for \$1 a game.

**Pizza, Pins and Pop** is Monday, 4 to 6:30 p.m. Up to four people can get a large pizza, sodas, rental shoes and 2.5 hours of bowling for \$27.50.

Advance purchase of the package by Sunday, 7:30 p.m. is required for the \$27.50 rate; purchase cost on the day of the program is \$30. Call for more information.

### Muroc Lake Golf Course

111 Crest Dr., 275-PUTT

**St. Patrick's Day golf tournament** is Saturday. Format is alternate shot. Cost is \$15 per person and does not include green fees or cart rental.

### Outdoor Recreation

1100 Kincheloe Ave., 275-CAMP

**Climbing 101** is Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon. This two-day course is for ages 16 years and older. Cost is \$15.

Call or stop by Outdoor Recreation to register in advance.

**March Madness at the Rod and Gun** is Thursday through March 23. The Rod and Gun now has satellite TV and will be showing the opening round NCAA games over these four days.

The games will be playing on four different TVs. Light snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase.

**Lake Tahoe Ski Trip** is April 3 through 6. Accommodations at Harvey's Resort Hotel are based on double occupancy.

Cost is \$320 per person and includes two adult lift passes, ski equipment, lodging and transportation. Cost without ski equipment is \$310.

Transportation and lodging only is \$170. Mandatory pre-trip brief is April 1, 5 p.m. at the Outdoor Recreation facility.

Trip departs at 10 a.m. on April 3, returns at 9 p.m. on April 6 (times subject to change due to weather).



# Block 50 Falcons given precision engagement capabilities

From TESTERS, Page 1

“The Block 50s currently conduct the SEAD (suppression of enemy air defenses) mission and the Block 40s are our ground strikers,” said Ericson. “Over the next few years, the Block 40 and 50 fleets both will have ground-strike and SEAD capabilities.”

Once the 32-member team of government and military engineers, pilots, maintainers and civilian contractors got approval to test, they wasted little time planning and strategizing how to accomplish the mission.

Not everything fell into place; weather and transportation problems created a number of obstacles.

The aircraft sent to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., to retrieve the pod for testing broke down on the Nellis flight line, forcing the Edwards team to drive to Nellis and truck the pod back.

In addition, Kaiser said bad weather forced a day's delay leaving Edwards, and then the storm drifted to Nellis, making things difficult at both locations.

“We worked through the night to get the pod in place for testing,” said Kaiser.

“We borrowed assets from everyone to make this happen,” said Kaiser. “We borrowed a truck from the F-22 (Combined Test Force) and a case from another unit to carry the pod in for the trip back to Edwards. We even had to go get the pod and have people standing by here to start testing when it came in.”

When the pod arrived around 1 a.m. Feb.



Photo by Tom Reynolds

*An Edwards F-16 modified with the Litening II targeting pod and M3.1B+ software upgrade prepares for takeoff to accomplish a test mission. The Litening II pod and software packages were test accelerated recently to provide Block 50 F-16s precision targeting capabilities.*

14, testers worked through the night and all that day to check paperwork, conduct EMI and functional checks and accomplish two flight-test missions.

Two individuals singled out for their contributions to the team's accomplishment were Kris Peterson, 416 FLTS armament engineer,

and Christine Horan, 416 FLTS core avionics engineer.

According to Kaiser, Peterson and Horan played critical roles in getting the EMI and flight test missions completed and on target.

Even though testing was greatly accelerated, neither safety nor quality was sacri-

ficed, according to Bill Gaddis, 416th FLTS systems engineer.

“While there was a risk, it was paramount that the planning incorporated everything we would normally do in a six-week test in the compressed timeline,” said Gaddis. “We double-checked everything to make sure all was safe before we proceeded.”

For example, the Edwards team checked with ACC, the SPO and the Seek Eagle program at Eglin AFB, Fla., to verify that weapons loaded on the aircraft were safe to load and fly in the proposed configuration so testing could proceed, said Gaddis.

With the completion of the flight missions, the 416th testers said they accomplished their mission and released a safe software upgrade and targeting pod

capable of accurately dropping laser-guided bombs.

“This was a team effort not only by the 416th, but also a number of base agencies here and at Nellis, with the ultimate goal of providing an essential combat capability to combat air forces as soon as possible,” said Ericson.



# 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 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," 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.

## Decision time

But, 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 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."

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 Reserves, 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 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 Murray hears at "almost every forum" is perceived inequity of education benefits among today's airmen.

According to 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," 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."

## Not enough

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," 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, 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."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

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 6.

## Air Force briefs

### Red Flag cancelled again

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — For the second time this year, Air Combat Command officials at Langley cancelled a Red Flag exercise because of emerging Air Force deployment requirements. The exercise was originally scheduled to be held later this month at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Red Flag, a realistic combat-training exercise involving the armed forces of the United States and its allies, is conducted on the bombing and gunnery ranges at Nellis.

### Officials investigate possible mortar launch near Yokota

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — U.S. Air Force officials and local Japanese authorities are investigating a possible improvised mortar launch toward Yokota Air Base.

Japanese civilian guards and base residents reported two arcs of light, noise and plumes of smoke headed toward the base around 10 p.m. Wednesday.

Two improvised mortar launchers were found off base, but no projectiles have been found at this time. No injuries or damages to base property have been reported.

More information will be released as it becomes available.

### Two survive Black Hawk crash at Fort Drum; 11 dead

WASHINGTON — Officials at Fort Drum, N.Y., reported Wednesday that two soldiers survived the crash of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that crashed on the post Tuesday.

The two survivors were flown to Samaritan Medical Center,

For up-to-the-minute information on what's going on around the Air Force, log onto the Air Force News Page at [www.af.mil/news](http://www.af.mil/news).

in nearby Watertown, N.Y., where they were listed in serious and critical condition, said a Fort Drum public affairs spokesman. They had been among 13 soldiers aboard the aircraft. The names of the 11 soldiers killed are being withheld pending notification of all the next of kin.

The soldiers, all members of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), were taking part in a routine training exercise when the Black Hawk crashed at about 2 p.m. in a wooded area on the installation. The accident is under investigation.

### Air Force tests massive munition

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Air Force officials tested a Massive Ordnance Air Blast weapon here Tuesday. The MOAB is a precision-guided munition weighing 21,500 pounds and was dropped from a C-130 Hercules aircraft for the test. It is the largest non-nuclear weapon in existence.

### Peacekeeper launches from Vandenberg

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — An unarmed Peacekeeper intercontinental ballistic missile was successfully launched at 1:29 a.m. Wednesday.

The missile carried eight unarmed reentry vehicles approximately 4,800 miles across the Pacific Ocean to a predetermined target at the Kwajalein Atoll. This test was a part of the force development evaluation program, which routinely verifies the accuracy and reliability of the Peacekeeper force.

### Coalition drops leaflets in northern Iraq

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, TURKEY — Coalition aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq dropped informational leaflets near Iraqi anti-aircraft-artillery batteries for the second time in 12 years.

Aircraft supporting Operation Northern Watch dropped 240,000 leaflets on two locations south of Tall Afar and southwest of Saddam Lake. Both locations have a history of Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery firing on coalition jets, according to officials.

The front message on the leaflets warns the Iraqi military, "Do not track or fire on coalition aircraft." The backside of the leaflets read, "Any hostile action by Iraqi air defenses toward coalition aircraft will be answered by immediate retaliation. Iraqi air defense positions which fire on coalition aircraft or activate air defense radar will be attacked and destroyed."

The previous leaflet drop was northeast of Mosul, March 1. Operation Northern Watch is conducted by a coalition of more than 1,400 U.S., British and Turkish forces with more than 50 aircraft used to patrol the northern no-fly zone.

### Pilot survives jet crash

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — An Air Force T-38 Talon aircraft crashed into two houses in nearby Valparaiso Saturday. The pilot ejected safely and no one was injured on the ground. The pilot was on a training mission from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., when the accident occurred.

An interim safety board has been established to investigate the cause of the crash.



# Women aviators gather for “Above & Beyond” film premiere

By Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

ARLINGTON, Va. — More than 200 people gathered at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery Monday to view the premiere of the film “Above & Beyond: 100 Years of Women In Aviation.”

Among those in attendance were Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper and Lt. Gen. Leslie Kenne, deputy chief of staff for warfighting integration, who served as key speaker at the event.

The film chronicles the contributions of women to aviation from 1903 to the present and highlights such contributors to aviation as Katharine Wright, sister of the Wright brothers; Eileen Collins, the first female space shuttle commander; and the more than 1,000 World War II Women Airforce Service Pilots.

The premiere of the film, part of a yearlong celebration leading up to the 100-year anniversary of the first successful powered flight, also coincides with the Women’s History Month.

Kenne, who has civilian flying experience, began by telling the crowd that she was honored to be part of the festivities.

“I’m really pleased to be part of the centennial of flight program and to introduce tonight’s screening,” Keene said. “In the film you will see women of varied backgrounds, races, economic backgrounds, some young and some not so young. You will see that at times women had to overcome barriers to reach the same goal they shared with many men — the passion to fly. It is not surprising that we here tonight honor the women in World War II and others in the field of aviation.”

The World War II women aviators Kenne spoke of were the Women Airforce Service Pilots. Between 1942 and 1944, more than 1,000 women flew military aircraft inside the United States to compensate for a shortage of male pilots — pilots



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

Lt. Gen. Leslie Keene introduces the film “Above & Beyond: 100 Years of Women in Aviation” during a private reception and preview screening at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery Monday.

who had gone overseas to fight in World War II.

“These women, the WASP, who came from all types of backgrounds, responded in a time of national emergency due to love of their country and passion to fly,” Keene said. “During their time, the WASP delivered more than 12,000 aircraft and logged over 60 million miles of flying.”

Nearly two dozen WASP were in attendance at the premier of the film, including Dorothy Lucas, whose duties during the war included towing aerial targets.

“I towed targets for the male cadets,” Lucas said. “There was an enlisted man in the back seat, a young boy like I was a young girl — and this target was on the end of a cable that weighed about 600 pounds, so you couldn’t do any acrobatics with all that weight back there. This boy had to unroll the

thing on the cable and it went way out the back of the ship. The target was a flag, and the cadets made their passes at the flag. That’s how they learned aerial gunnery.”

Lucas said she joined up with the WASP out of duty to country.

“I was here in Washington, working at the Pentagon and going to night school,” Lucas said. “I had two brothers in the service. Everybody was in uniform. I wanted to do something.”

Betty Shipley was another WASP who attended the premiere. Shipley joined because of her fascination with flying.

“At the entrance to Riverside, Calif., there was a bridge,” Shipley said. “When I was 12 years old, a man had his wife stand on that bridge, and he flew under that bridge with an airplane. That really impressed me, and that is what made me want to fly — that and the fact that my brother was a Navy pilot.”

During her stint as a WASP, Shipley flew several aircraft.

“The biggest one I flew was an AT-6,” Shipley said. “When we were in training, every class was different. We were the first ones to fly an AT-6. We had started with a 120-horsepower plane and then we went to a Steerman 220-horsepower plane. Finally we jumped to an AT-6, which was a 650-horsepower plane.”

The plane must have seemed larger than life to Shipley, who had had been formally trained as a schoolteacher.

“It was a big airplane, and I was little,” Shipley said. “It took two cushions under me and two cushions behind me to reach full right rudder. I was so small.”

Later, Shipley was able to put to good use her formal skills as a schoolteacher. She trained pilots with the 1st Mexican Fighter Group in aircraft instrumentation.

Stories like those of Shipley and Lucas are featured in the film, which will be shown as a regular feature at the WIMSA Memorial during March. Extending beyond Women’s History Month, the film will be part of a series of related centennial of flight activities.



# The Last Word

## Supervisors play key role in career counseling

By Master Sgt. Victor Tennant  
14th Flying Training Wing

**COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. (AFPN)**—Quick! What is your role in career counseling as a supervisor? Do you have to be a supervisor to provide career counseling? What does career counseling mean to you? How does career counseling tie into any retention problems the Air Force faces today?

If you can answer every question above, you have mastered one of the main roles of being a supervisor and leader. If you are one of the many who question why you have to know career counseling, then you should brush up on this important duty.

As a frontline supervisor and leader you must promote a "career mindset." It is one of your NCO responsibilities.

Several years ago, the Air Force did away with base career advisors and transferred those responsibilities to frontline supervisors, first sergeants and commanders. Today, due to the increased operations tempo throughout the Air Force and force reductions during the '90s, career advisors are back.

The Air Force has realized supervisors, first sergeants and commanders often don't have enough time or detailed information to provide definitive answers about career decisions to help guide our airmen. Providing that type of advice requires specialized knowledge and training.

When there weren't any career advisors, many airmen had to make the critical decision of "Should I stay or should I go?" without proper guidance and necessary information. It became obvious there was an urgent need to fill this void, so the Air Force responded by creating career assistance advisor positions at each installation.

As the career assistance advisor at my base, it's my responsibility to help supervisors, first sergeants and commanders

get out the right information on the benefits of making the Air Force a career. The ways I do this are by briefing airman leadership school classes; conducting informed decision briefings; and speaking to groups at enlisted professional development courses, first term airmen center classes and commander's calls.

This is my role, but what about yours as a supervisor and leader?

According to the most recent Air Force exit survey, three of the top five reasons members are leaving the Air Force are directly related to our supervisors and leaders. The reasons are "lack of recognition of one's efforts, lack of leadership at the unit level and lack of job satisfaction."

These three cost areas cost the Air Force years of experience and thousands of dollars in training every time an airman walks out the door and into the civilian work force. As supervisors and leaders, we must address these issues head on.

Not surprisingly, these three responses are also mentioned numerous times in civilian job satisfaction questionnaires. Apparently, the grass isn't always greener on the other side.

Think about what kept you in the Air Force. Was it a mentor? Was it patriotism or personal or professional pride? Whatever the reason, it was positive or you wouldn't be here today.

We are part of the most powerful Air Force in the world, an organization that stands second to none in several areas including tax-free allowances, free health care, family support programs, educational benefits, promotion opportunities and the only retirement program in America where, after 20 years, you don't pay a penny to collect a retirement check for the rest of your life.

Expose your airmen to these and other military benefits. Don't leave them to find out for themselves. It is time we, as supervisors and leaders, stand up and enthusiastically talk to our young troops about all the positive reasons, both per-

sonal and professional, why we made the military a career.

Your comments, thoughts and guidance on what led you to stay in the Air Force will not only affect the individual you're counseling, but could ultimately affect your entire workcenter.

Career counseling should be a daily, weekly or monthly activity. As a minimum, career counseling should happen twice a year during mandatory feedback sessions. The general NCO responsibilities section of Air Force Instruction 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure, mandates you provide an "Air Force Benefits Fact Sheet" and discuss this with the individual. You can find this sheet at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.com](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.com) under "Enlisted Benefits."

Learn everything you can about our benefits and entitlements, and share this information during counseling sessions. Remember, you've been in the Air Force for several years and know about many of the benefits. Many junior personnel aren't aware of some of their benefits. This is where you come in. This is why your role as a supervisor and leader is so critical in successful career counseling.

Admittedly, the Air Force isn't for everyone. I'll be the first to admit that military life includes much stress on the person and their family. Yet, the closeness of the military family is one of those intangibles to think about when people consider their future.

We owe it to our junior personnel to help them make an informed decision based on facts and the intangibles. If they still choose to separate, thank them for doing their country a great service and wish them luck in their future.

If an individual chooses to reenlist, don't take it for granted. Also take time to thank him or her. They, along with their family, have just made one of the most important decisions of their life, and, hopefully, you played a small role in this commitment by providing them with good career counseling.