

THE SHEPPARD SENATOR

Wing Safety Day

The Air Force Chief of Staff has directed all units conduct a safety day prior to Feb. 15. The 82nd Training Wing's Safety Day is today. Brig. Gen. Michael Collings will brief the wing in Hangar 1045 at the following times: 8 a.m. - 82 TRG; 10 a.m. - 782 TRG, 882 TRG, 982 TRG; 1 p.m. - SPTG, MDG, LG, wing staff agencies.

The 80th Flying Training Wing will stand down for a day early next week for safety briefings and activities.

Congratulations to Sheppard's lieutenant colonel selectees:

Michelle Adams, 383 TRS
Lonnie Barker, 82 TRW
Lilly Chrisman, 383 TRS
Lorene Dehaarte, 82 MDOS
Laurie Hall, 384 TRS
Ann Isaacs, 82 MTX
Cheryl Reilly, 383 TRS
Marvin Smith, Jr., 366TRS/DET7
Robert Stephenson, 364 TRS
Michael Weber, 184 TRW
Russell Mack, 90 FTS
John Masseur, 90 FTS
Jeffery Snell, 88 FTS

The following selectees have since PCSed from Sheppard:

Charles Douglass
Karon Uzzell, Baggett
Joseph Lim

Senior leaders are saying...

"We have to take care of DoD's greatest asset: our men and women in uniform. Smart weapons are worthless unless they are in the hands of smart, well-grained, highly motivated soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines." ~Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld



Award

Brig. Gen. Michael Collings congratulates Sheppard's Junior Enlisted of the Year, Senior Airman Jason Hrdina of the 82 Medical Group, during the wing annual awards banquet Tuesday night. Chief Master Sgt. Robert Martens Jr., command chief master sergeant of Air Force Special Operations Command, was also on hand to congratulate the winners. See story and winners on page 7. (Photo by Tommy Steele)

Air Force remains committed to AEF rotation cycles

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The combination of America's war on terrorism and steady state commitments worldwide has put increased strain on the Air Force's aerospace expeditionary forces. However, except for a few stressed career fields, officials at the Pentagon say normal rotations should be back soon.

"Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper is committed to the AEF construct — a three-month deployment with a 12-month period at home," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kohler, director of operational plans, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.

"Given the war on terrorism, we had to go through a momentary blip

in our rotation schedule," he said. "However, it looks like we're going to be on time in bringing home about 90 percent of the people who are currently deployed. We will rotate the forces deployed for operations Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch and Southern Watch so that those who deployed first will be allowed to rotate home first to the maximum extent possible."

There are some exceptions, Kohler said. While Air Force leaders are working hard to come up with a solution, a very small number of career fields may not be able to rotate as scheduled, he said.

"We know that there are some stressed career fields, such as security forces, combat communications and firefighters, that might have to

stay a little longer," Kohler said. "But that's not to say that absolutely everyone in those career fields will be staying longer."

The deployment picture will start to come into focus by the middle of February when the Air Force begins scheduling for the rotation in March, he said.

"It might work out that only one or two unit type codes out of an entire civil engineering squadron might be the stressed career field," Kohler said. "We just don't know yet because we haven't gotten down to that level of fidelity."

The tremendous performance of the AEF in Operation Enduring Free

See AEF page 12

Action Line 676-2000, action.line@sheppard.af.mil



Brig. Gen. Michael Collings
82nd Training Wing
commander

include your name and telephone number. Those concerns with a wide impact at Sheppard may be published in *The Sheppard Senator*.

- AAFES.....6-2211
- AF suggestion office.....6-IDEA
- AFI 36-2903 issues.....6-2984
- Civil engineer/housing.....6-2846
- Facilities maintenance.....6-6524
- Civilian pay.....6-4890
- Commissary.....6-2750
- Comm squadron.....6-5524
- Education office.....6-6231
- Family support.....6-4358
- Fraud, waste and abuse...6-2222
- Inspector general.....6-2031
- Military pay6-1851
- MEO.....6-2360
- Patient advocacy6-7791
- Safety.....6-4149
- Security forces.....6-2745
- Services Division6-2089
- CDC.....6-4244
- Youth center.....6-5395
- Golf course6-6369

The 82nd Training Wing's Action Line is your direct line to me for any concerns and suggestions you have. I am personally involved in every reply, and I am committed to making Sheppard AFB a better place to live, work and play. Before you call the Action Line, however, I ask that you give your chain of command or other base agencies an opportunity to work your concerns. If you still do not receive a satisfactory response, call me at 676-2000, or send an e-mail to action.line@sheppard.af.mil. Please

- Billeting, gyms, athletics, and dining halls.....6-7429
- South bowling center.....6-2170
- Victim assistance.....6-7206
- Base straight talk line.....6-4438

Rude theater supervisor

Q I went with my husband to the base theater to see a movie. We couldn't watch it the whole way through because the projector kept shutting off and then there was no sound. I went into the manager's office to report this to him. He was extremely rude to me.

A The theater supervisor that was on duty when you had your problem no longer works for AAFES. AAFES is very sorry for the problems incurred.

Speeding, not issuing ticket

Q I live in Wherry Housing and had to travel 35 mph to get the license plate off someone who was speeding through the housing area. I called the law enforcement desk and was told they would not be able to issue a ticket to the individual, and I said I didn't think that was the case. I would like to get clarification on this. Would someone please let me know why a ticket cannot be issued?

A Only emergency response vehicles displaying the appropriate emergency lighting are authorized to exceed posted speed limits. Your job, as a concerned member of Team Sheppard, is to report speeding vehicles to Security Forces and not pursue them. Speeding tickets can only be administered by SF personnel using approved speed verification methods.

Combat logistics support squadron de-wings Sheppard C-130 trainer

By 2nd Lt. Ann Hatley
Base public affairs

The 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron from Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, sent a depot field team to Sheppard Monday to remove the wings from a C-130B no longer used for training.

The squadron, comprised of aircraft maintenance, supply, logistics and transportation personnel, performs depot level maintenance support, aircraft battle damage repair and other specialized logistics sup-

port in order to maximize available weapons systems for the Air Force.

"The squadron provides over 90 depot field teams to support the Air Force's mission," said Master Sgt. John Manna, chief of the team performing the wing removal.

The wings on the C-130 only had about 900 flight hours, said Manna. Since the B models are no longer being used, the wings will be removed and put on another aircraft, maximizing the use of the wings, he said.



Wing removal

Members of a depot field team from the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron remove the left wing of this C-130B Monday morning. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Ann Hatley)



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Brig. Gen. Michael Collings
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The appearance of advertising in this publication,

Deployment exercise tests Sheppard's readiness

By Master Sgt. Jeff Szczechowski

Base public affairs

Beginning with a "warning order" on Jan. 31, and concluding when the last of more than 200 base members and their cargo processed through the base deployment line at Bldg. 2113 late Wednesday night, Team Sheppard completed its first deployment exercise of 2002. The exercise was another step in Sheppard's ongoing preparations to meet real-world deployment commitments.

The base exercise evaluation team, headed by Maj. Jill Shaw, assessed how well Sheppard members went through a detailed, well-planned DEPLOYEX, making the entire scenario as close to an actual deployment as possible.

On Monday, personnel went through ability to survive and operate (ATSO) drills, practicing their self-aid and buddy care skills, weapons familiarization and unexploded ordnance identification, marking and reporting procedures.

On Tuesday, unit deployment managers inspected the personal mobility bags of members in their units who might be tasked for future deployments.

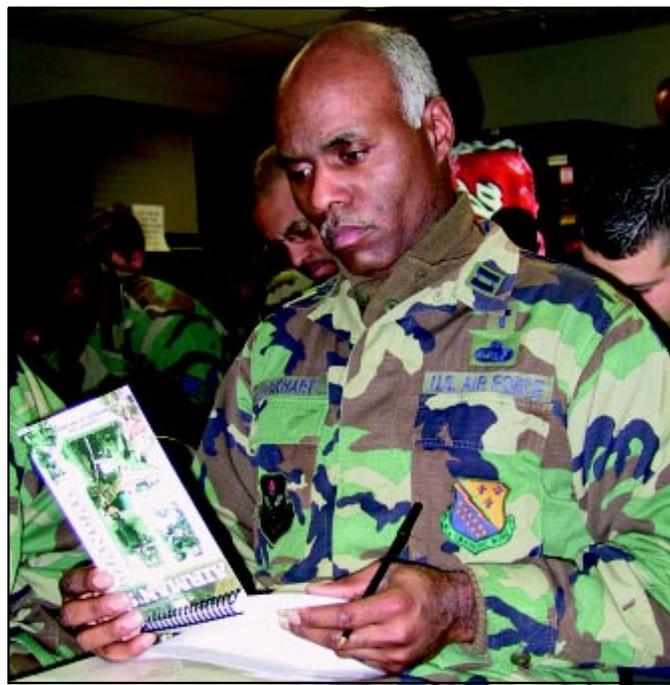
Finally, on Wednesday, personnel and cargo were processed through an extensive deployment line.

The DEPLOYEX provided base leadership and unit-level supervisors with the opportunity to address area of concern and fine-tune all aspects of Sheppard's mobility machine. The experience gained and lessons learned will help to ensure Team Sheppard remains fully capable and ready to fulfill its role in today's expeditionary aerospace force.



These airmen clean and inspect their M-16s after the weapons familiarization portion of the ability to survive and operate drills. Airmen also brushed up on self-aid and buddy care and unexploded ordnance training. (All photos by 2nd Lt. Ann Hatley)

A large unexploded ordnance (below) is spotted by the group of Sheppard members and is flagged to signal its proximity. Chaplain (Capt.) Samuel Lockhart (right) flips through the Airman's Manual. After completing the deployment processing line Wednesday, personnel were tested on their ability to find information in the manual.



362nd TRS provides first step in loadmaster training



Airman Jesse Richardson, loadmaster student, inspects the rollers on a C-141, ensuring they are secure for loading. (Photos by Airman 1st Class Pamela Stratton)



Students guide a pallet onto the tracks of their C-141 as part of their training in the 362nd Training Squadron's Loadmaster Apprentice course.

By Airman 1st Class Pamela Stratton

Base public affairs

The 362nd Training Squadron's Loadmaster Apprentice Course teaches both prior and nonprior service students how to load cargo aircraft ensuring correct weight and balance of the aircraft.

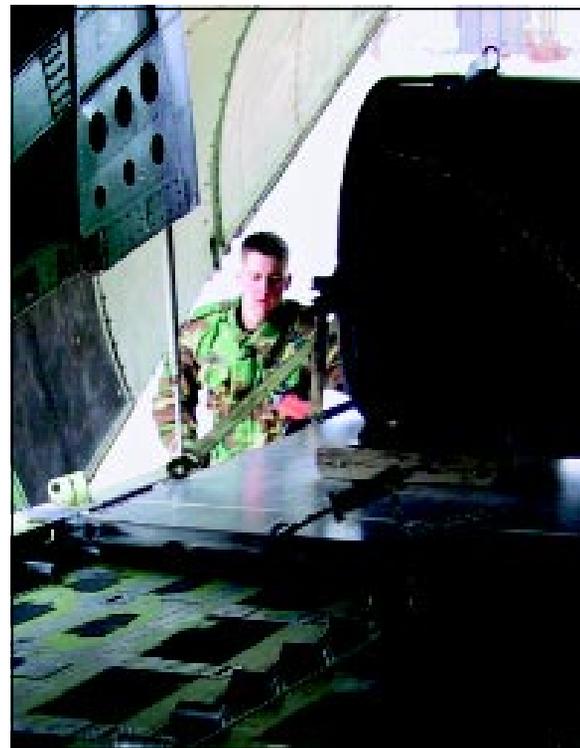
The 21-day course is the first in three parts of a loadmaster's training. At Sheppard, students learn the basics of loading an aircraft safely and calculating weight and balance. After training here, students go on to aircraft-specific follow-on training for 60-90 days. Those who will work on C-5s or C-17s go to Altus Air Force Base, Okla., while those who will work on C-130s go to Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. When students arrive at their first duty station, they have up to 180 days of additional training to com-

plete.

"Many people assume that because this course is 21 days, you can be a loadmaster in 21 days. That isn't true. We lay a good foundation, but their training continues well after they leave Sheppard," said Don Sawyer, loadmaster instructor.

Sawyer said the most important thing students learn in this part of their training is safety. "Loadmasters are in a very supervisory job, and it's important that we send them off knowing how to be safe."

After spending his military career as a loadmaster, Sawyer said it seemed right to continue after he retired by becoming a civilian instructor. "I feel that teaching these students to become loadmasters allows me to give something back to the career field," he said. "I enjoyed my 20 years, and I wouldn't think of doing anything else."



Airman Jesse Richardson, loadmaster student, loads a pallet onto a C-141.

Pilot, football star to speak at National Prayer Breakfast

By Airman 1st Class Pamela Stratton

Base public affairs

A-10 pilot and former Dallas Cowboys football player Chad Hennings will speak at the National Prayer Breakfast at Sheppard's Hangar 1045 Feb. 22 from 7-8:30 a.m.

The National Prayer Breakfast is an annual event open to all of Team Sheppard. The 82nd Services Division will provide the meal. Nonprior service students, and those permanent party not receiving separate rations, can use their meal cards to cover the cost of the meal. Others can purchase their tick-

ets through the first sergeants or at the Base Chapel for \$1.60. The dress for the event is the uniform of the day. Hennings will be the guest speaker for the event and will speak from the Judeo-Christian tradition on the theme of commitment.

Hennings is a 1988 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He is a 1989 graduate of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program, a 1990 graduate of Fighter Lead-in Training and a 1990 graduate of RTU for the A-10 close air support aircraft.

He has flown 45 missions in support of Operation Provide

Comfort in Northern Iraq. He currently serves as a major in the Reserves, promoting the Air Force and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Hennings speaks to congressional forums on life at the academy, and is hosted annually at the academy where he speaks on character and leadership. He also makes public service announcements for Air Force recruiting.

As a collegiate athlete, Hennings was a two-time Academic All-American and was voted most valuable player for the the U.S. Air Force Academy team. In his professional athletic career, he played nine

seasons with the Dallas Cowboys as a starting defensive lineman and was on three Superbowl championship teams.

Hennings serves on the board of directors for the Happy Hill Farm Academy Home and the Greater Dallas Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Annually, he speaks to numerous groups about values and motivation. The proceeds from his book, *It Takes Commitment*, go to help support the Happy Hill Farm.

Hennings and his wife, Tammy, have two children, Chase and Brenna.

Those interested in attending

the National Prayer Breakfast can call the South Chapel at 6-4370 for more information.



Chad Hennings

Air Force Special Operations Command Chief says 'thanks' to AETC, Team Sheppard during wing annual awards banquet

By 2nd Lt. Ann Hatley

Base public affairs

Brig. Gen. Michael Collings, 82nd Training Wing commander, and the rest of Team Sheppard honored its best Tuesday night during the annual awards banquet.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Martens Jr., command chief of Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlbert Field, Fla., was the guest speaker.

Martens, a combat controller by trade, expressed his appreciation to Team Sheppard and the rest of Air Education and Training Command for the highly trained and highly qualified men and women who replenish the combat capabilities of the Air Force.

"What every member of the armed forces does every day is a direct result of the training they receive through tech schools somewhere," said Martens. "Many of today's warriors leading the way in support of Operation Enduring Freedom learned from you," he said.

Annual award winners:

Company Grade Officer:
Capt. Paul Sturges, 982 TRG.

First Sergeant: Senior Master Sgt. John Farrell, III, 82 MDG.

Senior Noncommissioned Officer: Master Sgt. William Medlin, 982 TRG.

Noncommissioned Officer:
Tech. Sgt. Martha Briggs, 82 MDG.

Junior Enlisted: Airman 1st Class Jason Hrdina, 82 MDG.

Civilian, GS-9 and above:
Mrs. Danielle Hurley, 82nd TRW staff agencies.

Civilian, GS-8 and below:
Mrs. Gloria L. Perez, 82 MDG.

Civilian, Wage Supervisor Category: Mr. Wayne Salmon, 82 LG.

Civilian, Wage Grade Category: Mr. Travis Jones, Jr., 82 SPTG.

Honor Guard Noncommissioned Officer: Staff Sgt. Clabome Staten III, 782 TRG.

Honor Guard Airman: Airman 1st Class Marissa Granado, 82 TRG.

Associate First Sergeant: Master Sgt. Carol Boulding, 82 MDG.

Security Forces augmentee: Staff Sgt. Thomas Hall, 882 TRG.



The annual award winners pose with the sponsors of the awards program. (Photo by Tommy Steele)

CSAF: NATO is key to homeland defense effort

By Tech. Sgt. Eddie Riley

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — As U.S. Air Force planes fly combat sorties over Afghanistan, the chief of staff of the Air Force looked homeward conveying his gratitude to NATO forces supporting homeland security with around-the-clock airborne warning and control aircraft missions.

“I want to express my sincere thanks to those NATO allies, some 13 of them, who are participating in the deployment of the NATO AWACS into the United States to help us in our air patrols,” said Gen. John P. Jumper, who spoke to a group of reporters at the Foreign Press Center in Washington on Jan. 31.

Five NATO AWACS aircraft and more than 200 people from 13 nations deployed to Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., in the weeks and months following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. To date, these allied forces have flown more than 200 sorties and over 2,200 hours flying hours across the United States to support the command and control of about 250 airplanes patrolling the country’s airspace.

The presence of those people and aircraft provides a critical boost to Air Force resources, Jumper said.

“It relieves a great pressure we have on our AWACS aircraft deployed worldwide to answer numerous commitments,” Jumper said. “The U.S. Air Force and the people of the United States are grateful for this commitment.”

Specifically mentioning the responsiveness of NATO allies, Jumper said, they were on board with the campaign against terrorism from the beginning.

“I think about two days after we began bombing in Afghanistan, the deployment was on its way over here and we were able to relieve great stress on the aircraft flying patrols in various places over the United States,” he said.

The NATO AWACS contingent is part of a larger effort which includes about 11,000 people and 250 aircraft from across the United States.

“We put the aircraft (on patrol) right after the terrorist attacks... to prevent the same thing from happening again,” Jumper said. “Our intent, of course, is to be able to identify all aircraft that are in the skies over the United States. Every day, we have flown intercepts against airplanes that show up on the radar that are not otherwise identified.”

All of the intercepts to date have turned out to be small privately owned aircraft that have made a mistake in a flight plan or have not identified themselves properly, Jumper said.

“When asked to land, they land immediately and the issue is straightened out right away,” he said. “Obviously, we pay close attention to each one of these (intercepts), and that’s why we’ve continued these patrols. And they will continue.”

The coordination and cooperation of U.S. and NATO forces has been one of the real success stories of the war against terrorism, he said.

“There’s much to be proud of,” he said. “We are absolutely grateful and delighted for the participation of our NATO allies as they help us fly defensive (combat air patrols) over the United States, and the performance of the coalition as we have tracked down and



Making room for improvement

Airman 1st Class Christopher Reimels, Tech. Sgt. Keith Restorff, Master Sgt. R. Lamarr Florence, James Simmons, and Staff Sgt. Christopher Johnson unload some of Sheppard's old furniture at the Fort Sill, Okla. forward receiving area Dec. 28, 2001. Over the past two fiscal years, Sheppard has secured several million dollars for quality of life improvements, including the purchase of new dorm, classroom and office furniture. This boom has overloaded the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office here, requiring the movement of resalable furniture to other DRMO locations. Since November, the 82nd Logistics Group has been staging and transporting furniture to other DRMOs. Sheppard customers are reminded to coordinate the turn-in of DRMO items as far in advance as possible, by calling Charlie Brewer, base supply, at 6-4167. (Photo by Maj. Bryan Swecker)

Need a lift? Call the Airmen Against Drunk Driving hotline at 676-AADD (2233).

Every Friday and Saturday night from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., drivers are available for Team Sheppard members who need a ride home after drinking. Drivers will ask no questions and take no information, and they will not release names of anyone who uses this life-saving program.

Don't risk your life or your career. Cut out this reminder and put in your wallet:

**For a ride home
after a night out:
676-AADD (2233)**

LSI keeps 80th FTW flying training aircraft in the air

By 2nd Lt. Nathan Broshear

Base public affairs

Col. Ralph Jodice, commander of the 80th Flying Training Wing is fond of saying, "Our mission here is it to fly and fix airplanes!" The 80th FTW's mission of producing the world's best fighter pilots for the NATO Alliance requires equal emphasis on maintaining the health of the fleet while flying the sorties needed to graduate student pilots on time. Lear-Siegler Services Inc., an aerospace contractor with over 40 years of experience, is dedicated to keeping Team ENJJPT's jets in the air.

"Without LSI, there would be no flying—period. They do an amazingly tough job," explained Col. Jodice, "We're leaning on Lee and Bill to keep aircraft designed and built in the late 1950s and early 60s flying safely today and into the future. Simply put...they do it right."

Lee Hart and Bill Davis are the managers behind Sheppard's LSI operations. They first met as the commander and deputy commander of the 366th Logistics Group in 1992. Hart retired as a colonel after 28 years of active duty, going to work for LSI as the program manager for maintenance and training contracts. Once LSI won the maintenance contract at Sheppard last year, Hart again looked to his old deputy to become his right-hand man.

As the director of maintenance of the Sheppard LSI operation, Bill Davis is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance operations at the 80th FTW. A B-52 and C-130 pilot of 17 years and a "Loggie" for many more years, he retired Air Force colonel himself. Davis left active duty as Pacific Air Force's chief of logistics plans. Today, he's putting that experience to work maintaining one of AETC's largest fleets of training aircraft.

Both Hart and Davis are quick to point out the key to LSI's success at Sheppard: "Our greatest asset is the maturity and experience of our workforce. Most of the workers at LSI are local Wichita Falls residents that have been here for a long time; some have been working on these aircraft at Sheppard since the 1960s."

LSI employs a staff of approximately 500 skilled technicians working out of 30 buildings along the 80th FTW flightline. Their facilities take up over 230,000 square feet, reflecting the massive mission fixing planes for the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program has become.

"It's a monumental task keeping up with the operations here at Sheppard. In Texas, we do everything big," jokes Col. Jodice, "We fly more T-38 hours here at Sheppard than any other AETC base; we've got the largest T-37 squadron in the Air Force, and we graduate the best fighter pilots in the world! Without LSI, it would all come to a grinding halt."

Despite LSI's extensive on-site resources, the operations at the 80th FTW present several unique challenges. They are preparing for a new generation of aircraft, such as the T-38C and T-6, and maintaining the high number of sorties that the ENJJPT program demands.

"In some respects we're working on a plane that we have so much experience on; we think we know everything, but we're finding first-time failures. Parts that were never supposed to fail tend

to wear once you've been flying much longer than the anticipated," said Hart.

"Tired Iron," a concept similar to metal fatigue, tends to plague older airframes. In response, LSI aggressively targets problem areas using their metal shop to reinforce and sometimes manufacture parts from scratch, "Our capability here at Sheppard is such that we could almost build a whole new aircraft from the ground-up," explains Davis.

Even with LSI's impressive on-site fabrication abilities, hunting down obscure parts is still necessary. "With older aircraft there can be problems with spare parts. Some suppliers have gone out of business, or don't make that piece anymore. So we end up cannibalizing and getting a lot of parts from the boneyard at Davis-Monthan AFB in Arizona," explains Davis. "We're dedicated to the ENJJPT mission, so we'll do whatever it takes to keep our birds flying safely—we won't compromise that."

Bill Davis reiterated the sentiment of the LSI workforce, "We may wear LSI hats and uniforms, but we feel like we're truly a part of



Jerry Canfield, a pneudraulic, brake and tire specialist at LSI prepares a new T-38 tire for an aircraft at the 80th FTW. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Nathan Broshear)

the 80th family."

By 2004, a new set of challenges will face the 80th FTW and LSI as they prepare for the transition to the T-38C model and the replacement of the T-37 Tweet. The T-6 Texan will replace the T-37 throughout AETC with Sheppard and the ENJJPT program on the tail end of the transition. The T-6 offers updated avionics and maneuverability, but a lot of training will be necessary on the new airframe. Davis is confident, "We're ready for the challenge. Our work-

ers are pros who'll re-tool and re-train with ease."

LSI contributes to the 80th FTW mission every day. "The mission could not be done without them," says Col. Jodice. "Both flying and fixing airplanes is important...we have to fly airplanes to fix them and we have to fix airplanes to fly them. LSI is a valuable member of Team ENJJPT. Every sortie we fly has LSI's fingerprints all over it. We appreciate the work they do."

Change to dental sick call hours

The afternoon dental sick call now begins at 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The morning dental sick call remains at 7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. This change allows better service for dental patients. The clinic apologizes for any temporary inconvenience this change may cause.

Please contact the dental clinic at 6-4474 for more information.

MGIB benefit increase

The Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act, enacted Dec. 27, 2001, provided increased benefits for those enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill. Effective Jan.

1, 2002, the MGIB benefit for full-time students rose from \$672 a month to \$800. On Oct. 1, 2002, the monthly benefit for full-time students will rise to \$900 and a third increase to \$985 will follow in October, 2003. For more information, visit the Veterans Administration website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov> or the education services center, located in Bldg. 402, Room 306, or call 6-6231.

Base tax office

The base tax center, located in Bldg. 402, Room 154 is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to assist Sheppard members with their taxes. Appointments are available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morn-

ings. To make an appointment, call 6-7187.

Enlisted Spouses Club scholarships

The Enlisted Spouses Club is offering scholarships to qualified high school seniors and spouses of all military members. The club offers six \$1000 scholarship to high school seniors and six \$500 scholarships to spouses. For an application, contact a high school counselor or go to the base education office. The deadline for submissions is March 23. An awards banquet will be held to recognize the winners on April 18 at the enlisted club. For more information, contact Sharon Klepp at 851-9936 or Beth Moret at 569-3812.

Consolidated Consumer Advisory Council meeting

There will be a Quarterly Consolidated Consumer Advisory Council meeting Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the community center conference room. For more information, call Judy Kimberlin at 6-2745 or Walter Tyndale at 6-2745.

Officers spouses club luncheon

The Sheppard Officers Spouses Club will hold its February luncheon at the officers club on Feb. 20. The social will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a special farewell to Jan Collings and bracelet making demonstration by Friendze. Guests can make a bracelet for \$8. The cost for lunch is \$10.50. Reservations are required by

noon, Feb. 15 to Laura Howard at 851-6682 or Betsy O'Connor at 691-7542.

Steak feed

The National Contract Management Association will hold its annual steak feed Feb. 14 at the North Chapel from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$6 for steak, baked potato and green beans.

Those interested should see an NCMA member by Feb. 8 for tickets or call 6-4406.

Bioenvironmental closing

The bioenvironmental engineering office will be closed for required training Feb. 20, 26 and 27. For emergency services, call 6-4169 and enter beeper number 422 or call the emergency room at 6-2333.

AEF

Continued from Page 1

dom is what caused the stress on certain career fields in the first place, Kohler said.

“The Air Force is sort of a victim of its own success,” Kohler said. “The reason we are stressed is simple — we do such a great job. We went out and set up these bases and started generating sorties as soon as we were asked. I think the results speak for themselves in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan. The (U.S.) Central Command commander in chief could not have done what he did without the superb work of all the airmen who went out and set it up.”

To ease the problems the Air Force has in stressed career fields under current requirements, about 10 percent of the people will stay deployed a little longer — some up to 135 days; others, up to 179 days, Kohler said. To cover the overlap, the second part of the solution will be to reach into the next AEF and bring replacement unit type codes forward about 45 days. Any reduction in current requirements may get the AEF cycle on track a little bit quicker, he said.

Another way to relieve some of the burden on our deployed people is to find additional airmen who normally do not deploy and place them in an AEF library.

“This crisis has caused us to look a little bit deeper,” Kohler said. “We’d like to be able to find people who we haven’t originally had in an AEF library who can deploy but normally don’t deploy. For

example, Air Education and Training Command has instructors who have special skill sets, and the AETC leadership has said that there may be periods in the year when they can rotate. This is just one example and we’re looking at all options.”

Other fixes for stressed career fields are going to take some time and may only be resolved with increased manpower.

Although the Air Force has asked for an end-strength increase of about 22,000 with 7,000 requested for this year, because of training require-

ments, this is more of a long-term solution, Kohler said.

“This is an extraordinary time for the Air Force and our country,” Jumper recently told commanders. “The nation is grateful for the sacrifices our airmen continue to make in meeting our commitments to fight the war on terrorism and defend the American homeland. The secretary and I are proud of the job you are doing and we are personally committed to maintaining the AEF rotation schedule to the greatest possible extent.”

Housing office notes: Children playing in carports

The base housing office is aware that some children in Wherry housing have used the carports as playgrounds.

Children have been seen playing hide and seek under parked cars or climbing up on the roofs of the carports. Either situation is unsafe.

The three housing areas have several nice parks, providing a safer environment for children to play. Parents are encouraged to brief their children not to play in or on top of the carports at any time.

If this situation continues, residents should notify the 82nd Security Forces Squadron at 6-2981. *(Courtesy of the base housing office)*

Sheppard to hold Iwo Jima survivors reunion Feb. 21-23

By 2nd Lt. Ann Hatley

Base public affairs

This year marks the 57th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, and survivors of the battle are coming to Wichita Falls to reunite and share their stories with the public. Several events are open to anyone in the community wishing to know more about this epic battle.

The World War II attack on the island was crucial to the continued B-29 raids on mainland Japan, as well as removing the airstrips the Japanese used for the Kamikaze attacks on U.S. ships in the Pacific theater. D-Day of the attack, Feb. 19, 1945, was all but easy for the U.S. Marines who landed on the small island only eight square miles in size.

After five bitter days of fighting in their advance into the island, the Marines raised the flag on Mt. Suribachi, the world-famous photograph so many people recognize by sight. For many days after the flag was raised, however, U.S. forces continued to fight Japanese resistance on the island. Finally, on March 26, the island was declared secure.

More than one-third of the Marines who participated in the invasion were killed, wounded or suffered from battle fatigue. Total U.S. forces lost in the battle were more than 28,000.

While almost everyone has seen the famous photo of the Iwo Jima flag-raising, few people know the story behind the photograph. The host committee intends to honor the veterans of Iwo Jima and afford them the opportunity to share their stories with younger generations.

This year's reunion will feature several special guests including Medal of Honor recipient Hershel W. Williams, Women Airforce Service Pilot Florene

Watson, and Fiske Hanley II, author of "Accused American War Criminal," an account of B-29 airmen who were shot down over Japan in World War II. Hanley is one of the airmen who lived to tell the story.

Two NASA astronauts will also be attending the reunion. Lieutenant Colonel Christopher J. Loria (USMC) and Major Douglas G. Hurley (USMC) will be featured guest speakers at the All Forces Banquet, along with Watson and Hanley.

Some of the reunion events are open to the public, allowing anyone interested to learn more about the Battle of Iwo Jima as well as hear other historical accounts of WWII. Anyone interested in attending the events or needing more information should contact Gunnery Sergeant Shatto at 676-5424 or email at timothy.shatto@sheppard.af.mil

Schedule of events

Feb. 21 at 9 a.m. Opening ceremony at the Holiday Inn off Broad Street. No cost.

Feb. 22 at 9:30 a.m. Memorial service at the Holiday Inn. No cost.

Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. A night of entertainment sponsored by the United Service Organization. Cost is \$30.

Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. Flag raising ceremony at the Holiday Inn. No cost.

Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. All Forces Banquet at the Holiday Inn. Cost is \$25.

Reservations and tickets are required for the USO Show and All Forces Banquet. Anyone interested in attending these events should contact Gunnery Sergeant Shatto for the reservation forms. If paying by check, make the check payable to Iwo Jima Veterans & Family Association.

Iwo Jima

While most people recognize this famous photograph by Joe Rosenthal, few know the history behind the battle. The Iwo Jima Survivors Reunion gives people the chance to learn more from the veterans who fought there.



Women's History Committee announces membership drive

By 2nd Lt. Ann Hatley

Base public affairs

The Federal Women's Program and Women's History Committee will be holding their biannual membership drive at the base exchange and enlisted club Feb. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Membership is open to all federal DoD employees, active duty military, reserve components and Sheppard Air Force Base personnel, regardless of race, religion, color, age, sex or national origin.

The Federal Women's Program is a special emphasis program within the Equal Employment Opportunity Program of the U.S. government. The purpose of the program is to promote the opportunities within government for women, both military and civil service, while helping to remove any barriers for advancement through education and training.

There is also the Women's History Committee, a group of individuals at Sheppard who focus on the special observance during March, which is Women's History Month.

"Women's History Month recognizes the special achievements and contributions by women throughout history that

have often been overlooked," said Sherry Murray-Garrett, president of the WHC. The committee works hard to ensure that the Sheppard community has every opportunity to learn more about the role women have played in shaping our history, said Murray-Garrett.

Men are more than welcome to join the two programs, despite the emphasis on women.

"It's important to remember women in history," said Tech. Sgt. Dean Barnes, treasurer of the WHC. "Soon after I joined, I realized just how much women have done. Although we do a lot of work, we have a lot of fun," he said.

The busy season for the committee is January through April, said Barnes. Not only does the committee take charge of the events during Women's History Month, it also plans "Take Our Children to Work Day," which is in April, he said.

The committee would like to see more people from the Sheppard community become involved in planning for Women's History Month. For more information on joining either program, contact Vivian Watson at 6-2822, or Sherry Murray-Garrett at 6-4393.

African American history month: health awareness

Certain diseases and conditions are known to affect the African American population more frequently and more severely than other populations. It is important that African Americans understand how these diseases may affect their daily lives and take the steps required to maintain a healthy lifestyle. February, African American History Month, is the perfect opportunity to look at three of the most common conditions that affect our African American population.

Hypertension: Hypertension is a common disorder that is characterized by elevated or high blood pressure. Essential hypertension, the most common type, has no single identifiable cause but has been associated with obesity, high cholesterol and a family history of high blood pressure. It affects African Americans twice as often as Caucasians and is called "the silent killer" because, frequently, it has no symptoms. It can lead to heart attack and stroke. Thankfully, the average patient with essential hypertension can be treated successfully with a combination of diet, exercise, and/or medication.

Diabetes: Diabetes mellitus is a common chronic disease that is characterized by the body's inability to properly use glucose. Glucose is broken down from the foods that we consume. It must be transported into cells of the body using insulin, a hormone produced by the pancreas. When there is too little insulin or the body is resistant to insulin, glucose

builds up in the blood. This high blood sugar or hyperglycemia can cause blindness, kidney disease, and amputations, as well as other complications. Diabetes is diagnosed through blood testing.

Prostate Cancer: The prostate is a gland that surrounds the base of the male urethra and is responsible with secreting fluid used by sperm to assist in conception. Although the cause of prostate cancer is unknown, it can be treated and often cured if it is diagnosed early. Early diagnosis can be accomplished through a physical exam and/or a blood test called prostate-specific antigen (PSA). Every African American male should be screened for prostate cancer starting at the age of 40.

African Americans are prone to many chronic diseases. Some diseases that are equally important but not discussed are breast cancer, glaucoma, lupus, and sickle cell anemia. For more information on these and other diseases that affect African Americans, log on to www.next-stop.com/aachac or www.mckinley.uiuc.edu/multiculturalhealth or call 1-800-242-8721. Make an appointment with your health care provider today or visit the Black Expo at the Community Activities from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 9 for free blood pressure checks and blood testing for diabetes and prostate cancer. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Fitzpatrick at 6-8412. (Courtesy of the African American Heritage Committee)

Upcoming Events for AAHM

- *Saturday: Team Bowl and Black Expo, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Activities Center
- *Tuesday: Black History story time, 10:30 - 11 a.m. at the base library

Views: The history and meaning behind Saint Valentine's Day

By Chaplain (Maj.) Frank Hamilton

Base chapel staff

Have you remembered to buy your beloved those delicious chocolates for Valentine's Day? If not, please finish this article before you run to the store!

This celebration had its beginnings in ancient Rome. According to Roman legend, Romulus and Remus were two orphaned brothers who were reared by a female wolf in a cave. These men later founded Rome. To honor this female wolf (*lupus* in Latin), the Romans had a yearly festival called Lupercalia.

Each February 15th, the priests gathered on the hill outside of Rome, at the cave where Romulus and Remus were reared. Several goats and a dog were sacrificed. Then two youths of noble birth were brought forward. Their foreheads were smeared with blood, and then wiped off with sheep's wool dipped in milk. The youth were then supposed to laugh. They then ran through the streets of Rome, lashing people with the skins of the sacrificed goats. Women wanted to be lashed by these children because they believed they would be spiritually purified and made more fertile. This purification was called the "*feburatio*" and hence we have the name of the month, February.

Because the Lupercalia festival celebrated the coming of spring, sacrifices were made in order to ensure good crops and to protect flocks from disease and predators. Legend said that on about the 14th of February the birds choose their mates for the year. On the idea man should imitate the birds, a mating or lovers' day was born.

To celebrate Lupercalia, the names of all unmarried women in a particular village would be placed in a box. The eligible men of the village would draw

the names of the women, and this couple would spend the day together.

Years later, as Christianity grew stronger, the Church sought to clean up this festival. Instead of focusing on sacrifice, blood, lashings and fertility, the Church looked for a godly person to emphasize as a role model. St Valentine was chosen because he died for his faith instead of worshipping the gods of Rome. St Valentine was linked to Lupercalia because he was killed on February 14th. His death may have even been part of the entertainment for the festival of Lupercalia.

Looking through Church history, we find several saints who were named Valentine and who were executed for their faith. One St. Valentine was a priest who defied the Roman Emperor, Claudius II. When soldiers

were needed to fight, Claudius II decreed that no one could be married or engaged until the war was over. The kindly priest Valentine defied the Emperor's decree and secretly married a number of young couples. When this was found this, Valentine was arrested and put to death.

There was another man named Valentine who also lived during the reign of Claudius II. During Claudius II's great persecution of Christians, this Valentine helped hide and care for endangered Christians. Valentine was put into prison. He was tortured in an attempt to make him recant his faith in Jesus Christ. During Valentine's imprisonment, the jailer and his family were so impressed by Valentine's kindness and Christian faith that they secretly became Christians themselves.

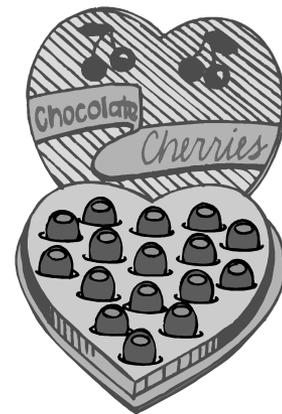
Valentine was especially kind to the jailer's blind daughter and through the power of God, miraculously restored her sight. The evening of his execution, St Valentine left the jailer's daughter a note, thanking her for her kindness. He signed this note simply, "Your Valentine." Valentine was taken from his cell, beaten to death with clubs, and his body was then beheaded.

St Valentine's Day began as a day to renew one's love for God, even if it cost us our lives. It was also a day when we remembered to say "thank you" to those kind souls around us. But the card and candy industries over the past century have focused upon the aspect of romantic love.

So when we go out and get our candy and flowers for the one we love, let's not forget to say "Thank you" to those who

have made our lives better. Let us also remember to truly appreciate those who have helped us to get to where we are in life. And may we express to these "encouragers" our appreciation of what they have done for us.

Now, go get your chocolates!



General activities

AETC Cupid's Cruise Contest

The Cupid's Caribbean Cruise Contest provides AETC club members with the opportunity to win a Caribbean cruise and register to win \$100 each Friday from today through Feb. 28. Current AETC club members can receive an entry form from any club cashier with a minimum \$2 individual food purchase. For more information and club rules, call 6-6460 or 6-2083.

Computer class

The Madrigal Youth Center is hosting a special computer course for its members. Basic computer to Microsoft Windows 2000 is available. Classes are held every Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. Limited space is available. For more information, call 6-KIDS.

African-American History Month story time

The base library will celebrate African-American History Month every Tuesday in February from 10:30 – 11 a.m. Wichita Falls and Burkburnett Elementary school students will share story time with members of the African American Heritage Committee. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call 6-6152.

Tax seminar

The base library will host a tax seminar Monday from noon to 1 p.m. Harry Bell from the base legal office will be the guest speaker. For more information call 6-6152.

African-American film festival

The 882nd Training Support Squadron will host a film festival in honor of African-American History Month. Featured films include: "Night Fighters," today, "America's Black Warriors: Two Wars to Win," Feb. 15, and "Biography of Colin Powell: A Soldiers Campaign," Feb. 22. All shows

begin at 11:30 a.m. in the small auditorium of Bldg. 1900.

Upcoming trips

Sightseeing in Dallas

Information, tickets and tours will sponsor a Feb. 23 trip to Dallas for sightseeing. The cost is \$15 per person. This tour provides transportation services only to the Downtown Dallas area. Participants will have free time to explore the historic West End. The registration deadline is Feb. 19.

Club activities

Lunch at the e-club

The enlisted club now serves lunch from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. The menu includes a food bar, grill specials and healthy heart options. For more information, call 6-2083.

Big Bucks Club Card drawings

Sheppard officers club and enlisted club members are now eligible for the Big Bucks Club Card drawings held every Friday from 6-7 p.m. at both clubs.

Valentine's Day dinner

The officers club and enlisted club will each host a Valentine's Day dinner Feb. 14 from 6-9 p.m. The cost for both dinners is \$35 per couple. Call 6-6460 for the officers club or 6-2083 for the enlisted club to reserve a table or for more information.

Soul Train night

The enlisted club will host Soul Train night Saturday from 10 p.m. – 2 a.m. Guests can enter the "Best Dress of the 70s and 80s Contest." Prizes will be awarded. For more information call 6-2083.

Latino Night

The enlisted club will host Latino Night Feb. 16 from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Guests can enjoy a night full of varied Latino music. For more information, call 6-2083.

At the Flicks

Friday 6:30 p.m.

Closed, ENJJPT graduation

Friday 9 p.m.

Closed, ENJJPT graduation

Saturday 2 p.m.

Jimmy Neutron

Saturday 4:30 p.m.

A Beautiful Mind

Saturday 7 p.m.

How High

Sunday 2 p.m.

Jimmy Neutron

Sunday 4:30 p.m.

How High

Thursday 6 p.m.

A Beautiful Mind

This schedule is subject to change without notice. For movie information, call 6-4427.

Jimmy Neutron (G) – animated – Jimmy and his friends await the opening night of the Retroland Amusement Park. When his parents forbid him to go, he and his friends sneak out.

A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) – Russell Crowe, Ed Harris – In 1947, mathematician John Forbes Nash, Jr. made an astonishing discovery early in life and

stood on the brink of international acclaim. But his ascent into the intellectual stratosphere drastically changed course when his intuitive brilliance was undermined by schizophrenia.

How High (R) – Method Man, Redman – Desperate to diversify the student body, Chancellor Huntley lures Jamal and Silas to Harvard.

Chapel Schedule

Student programs

Tuesday, 11 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., chapel rope meeting, North Chapel
Saturday, 5 p.m., Solid Rock Cafe, South Chapel
Sunday, 5 p.m., Student bible study and activity night, North Chapel

Catholic activities

Mass

Saturday, 5 p.m., North Chapel
Sunday, 9 a.m., North Chapel
Sunday, noon, North Chapel
Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m., Hospital Chapel

Religious education

Sunday, 10:20 a.m., classes for preschool through adult, Bldg. 962

Reconciliation

Saturday, 4-4:30 p.m., North Chapel

Protestant activities

Worship services

Sunday, 9 a.m., Liturgical Communion, South Chapel
Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Inspirational Gospel Service, South Chapel
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Protestant Community

Service, North Chapel

Religious education

Saturday, 5:30 p.m., Growing in God's Grace, South Chapel
Sunday, 9 a.m., classes for ages 3 to adult, Bldg. 962

Bible studies

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., South Chapel
Thursday, noon, South Chapel
Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Bldg. 962
Saturday, 6:30 a.m., Protestant Men of the Chapel Bible study
Second Saturday of month, 8 a.m., Protestant Men of Chapel breakfast

Lay-led faith groups

Islamic activities, Friday, 12:45 p.m., South Chapel
Jewish activities, call Maxine Simpson, House of Jacob Synagogue at 322-4177
Latter Day Saints, Sunday, 2 p.m., Hospital Chapel
Mystic Grove Pagan Study Group, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Bldg. 962.

For more information, call the base chapel at 6- 4370

Comedy Jam returns to enlisted club

The Enlisted Club Comedy Jam, sponsored by Budweiser (*no federal endorsement of sponsor intended*) will return to the enlisted club ballroom Feb. 22.

February's featured comic view comedians are Honest John and Sunset.

The host, Walt-Bruce, will introduce the comedians.

The doors will open at 8 p.m., and the show will start at 9 p.m. Ticket prices for event are \$5 for club members \$8, for nonmembers. Reserved seating is available with advanced ticket purchase.

The comedians will perform a second show Feb. 23 at the student center. The show will run from 6-8 p.m. For more information, call 6-2491.

Honest John, one of the featured comics, has spent 15 years touring both cities and military bases in the United States, Asia and Europe. He is currently doing appearances with the Def Comedy Jam Tour.

The second featured comedian, Sunset, has showcased as a host at the Hollywood Improv and in shows with Nema Williams, Big Rome, Derrick Ellis, Mike Bonner and Don DC Curry, all of whom are under Full Circle Entertainment.

Gary Carithers, enlisted club manager, invites Team Sheppard to come out and support the enlisted club comedy program. For more information and tickets, call 6-2083. (*Courtesy of the 82nd Services Division*)

Support Sheppard's clubs. Join today!

Contributions and service in America's defense

Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James: the first black four-star in the armed forces

By 2nd Lt. Ann Hatley

Base public affairs

The theme for this year's African American History Month observance recognizes the contributions and service in America's defense by black men and women. The Air Force led the way in paving opportunities for African Americans when it promoted the first African American to the rank of general.

When General Daniel "Chappie" James pinned on his fourth star, he summed up his experience in the Air Force and service to his nation: "I've fought in three wars, and three more wouldn't be too many. I love America, and as she has weaknesses or ills, I'll hold her hand."

General James began his distinguished military career when he entered the Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet Program in January 1943 and received his commission in July that same year.

Although he didn't see any combat during World War II, General James earned his reputation as an outstanding fighter pilot shortly after the war ended. In Korea, he flew 101 combat missions in the F-51 and F-80 aircraft. In Vietnam, General James flew 78 combat missions, many in the Hanoi/Haiphong area, and led a flight in the Bolo MiG sweep in which seven communist MiG-21s were destroyed, the highest total kill of any air mission during the Vietnam War.



General James served his country in an era of enforced segregation in the armed forces. Despite the racial bias, General James, a natural leader with superb communication skills, continued to achieve, advancing into command positions within various units in the Air Force.

In 1967, General James was named vice commander of the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. While stationed at Eglin, he was named as Florida's Outstanding American of the Year for 1969 by the Florida State Jaycees and received the Jaycee Distinguished Service Award. In August 1969, General James took command of the 7272nd Fighter Training Wing at Wheelus Air Base in the Libyan Arab Republic.

In April 1973 General James was designated Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), and it was in this capacity as an effective and professional spokesman for the Air Force that he may have made his

greatest contributions to public service. He spoke out not only for military policies, but also on racial policies.

General James is widely remembered for his speeches on Americanism and patriotism. Excerpts from his speeches appear in the Congressional record. He was awarded the George Washington Freedom Foundation Medal in 1967 and 1968. In 1970, he received the Arnold Air Society Eugene M. Zuckert Award for outstanding contributions in Air Force professionalism. The citation sums up his exceptional career: "...fighter pilot with a magnificent record, public speaker, and eloquent spokesman for the American Dream we so rarely achieve."

Soundoff

What's the best Valentine's Day present you ever received?



"Homemade Valentines from my daughters that they made without any help."

– Steve Burwell, base librarian



"A giant card made from poster board from my girlfriend."

– Airman 1st Class Bradley Turner, 361st Training Squadron student



"I don't know yet. It's in the mail from my sweetheart and it's supposed to be the best one yet."

– Airman 1st Class Jennifer Moore, 361st Training Squadron student



"A trip to London. My husband left hints but wouldn't tell me where we were going."

– Lynn Gills, AAFES manager

TRICARE claims: where, what and how to file

A TRICARE Prime member or participant in TRICARE Extra generally will not need to file a claim when receiving health care services. The health care provider will forward completed claim forms to Health Net Federal Services. However, if someone accesses care while traveling outside their service area, they may be required to pay for a covered service and file the claim themselves. If someone is a TRICARE Standard member, depending on whether the provider they use is a TRICARE participating provider, the member may have to pay for services up front and submit claim forms to get reimbursed. TRICARE participating providers are required to file claims for beneficiaries, and providers submit 97 percent of all TRICARE claims. However, if the provider is non-participating, the beneficiary may need to file the claim.

What to include with a claim

Whether the member or the provider files a claim for payment of medical bills under TRICARE, everyone needs to know some basic rules to avoid claims processing problems. When sending in a TRICARE claim, be sure to include:

1. A completed Department of Defense Claim Form #2642.
2. The itemized bill from the provider(s) who treated the member, including procedure

and diagnosis codes.

3. The sponsor's social security number on all pieces of correspondence and the patient's name, address, and date of birth.

4. A brief explanation of medical treatment, including the diagnosis, place of service, number and frequency of each service, and the date of care.

5. Any explanation of benefits from the member's other health insurance, if any.

Claims must be filed within one year of the date of service, or within one year of the date of an inpatient discharge.

Claim forms are available at the local TRICARE Service Center, from Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinators/Health Benefits Advisors, on the Military Health System/TRICARE website at www.tricare.osd.mil/ClaimForms, or by calling (800) 406-2832. Members should make sure they are properly listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System as being eligible for TRICARE benefits. If a member is not properly listed, the claim will be denied. Members can check their DEERS status by calling (800) 538-9552. In addition, members should make certain to update their information with Health Net Federal Services. TRICARE Prime enrollees

See TRICARE, page 25

TRICARE

Continued from page 24

should also update their information with their Primary Care Manager. Anyone who has questions about a claim after sending it in can call Claims Customer Service at (800) 406-2832.

Collection notices

If a member receives a bill from a provider that they don't agree with, or a notice from a collection agency regarding an unpaid TRICARE bill, DON'T IGNORE IT. Help is available in several ways.

~If the member disagrees with the bill, contact the provider

~If it's a collections notice, call the "Collections Hot Line" at (800) 977-7310

~Call or visit the TRICARE Service Center

~Contact the Debt Collection Assistance Officer. To find the nearest DCAO, refer to the listing on the TRICARE website at www.tricare.osd.mil/dcao/update_dcao_dir.html

Where to send claims

For Region 6, send all claims to:

Health Net Federal Services

c/o WPS/TRICARE

P.O. Box 8999

Madison, WI 53708-8999

Note: If you are traveling and receive medical care outside your region, you need to file your claim in the region you live, not in the region where you receive the care. (*Courtesy of Health Net Federal Services*)

To place an ad in the Sheppard Senator, call 767-SOLD



Student views: From crazy ideas to technical orders: a tale of two airmen

By Airman 1st Class Jason Yunker

Fuels systems apprentice

This story begins with two friends going through high school together trying to find something fun and exciting that will keep them out of trouble. So my best friend, Dan Murphy, and I signed the dotted line for the Delayed Enlistment Program, which told us that we would get a great signing bonus and a couple of stripes if we signed up for a six year Air Force enlistment. That seemed like a lifetime, but we dreamed of getting motorcycles and being stationed in California, while working on a multi-million dollar aircraft at the age of 19.

We were amazed at the up and coming responsibility, but really had to make a decision. We started out with a dream that we could stay through it all together and become like Maverick and Goose, two fighter pilots. We wanted to be doing Mach 3 with our hair on fire and nothing but opportunity and more excitement ahead of us.

Well, we figured that the Air Force could possibly do that for us. We set our date to leave for Basic Military Training on Sept. 10 to get all the necessary administrative things completed, and would leave for Lackland on Sept. 17.

We weren't looking forward to Sept. 10. That would be the day we lose our childhood and we weren't sure if we were ready for the decision. Sure enough, that day came and we were supposed to be on a plane the next morning.

We woke up at 4:30 a.m. After a near sleepless night we tried to prepare ourselves for our new life, but it just wasn't working for us. We were late for breakfast and had to rush to the bus and the morning just wasn't starting out right. The next day, Sept.

11, our life took a flip-flop when we were in the "swearing in" line and an officer came running in and told us that one of the World Trade Center buildings was just struck by a Boeing 747 jet! I turned to Dan with a stunned look on my face and just tried to understand that I was going to have to go to war, and all I was doing at that point was "swearing in". It probably took every part of us not to run outside of that building and just work at a retail store forever, but we knew, as proud Americans, that we had a duty to serve.

We left for Lackland on Sept. 17, and were heading for a 24-hour bus ride. We slept most of it and were pretty excited to be in the military. When

we arrived at Lackland, a training instructor greeted us, and our excitement soon turned to fear. Luckily, we were put into the same flight through basic training. We had hoped to go through BMT together, and our dream came true. Our next step was to pick a job that we wanted to do when we got out of BMT, and of course we wanted to have the same job so we could stay together. You wouldn't believe it, but the 4th week of training came around, and sure enough, we both got 2A614, fuels systems apprentice. We did it! We got the same job! Dan and I both made phone calls to our girlfriends and parents, and we knew that so far we would be coming to Sheppard.

Throughout the fun of technical training we were trying to maintain a high morale to keep us going so that we could go home soon. Dan decided that we should ask our girlfriends if they could come down to see us, never thinking about the whole phase situation. Well they came down with my parents and we never thought that our chief military training leader would give us permission to go see them over Thanksgiving weekend, but he did. We were really starting to get to like this military stuff; hopefully everyone would be as generous as the people who had helped us out so far.

Christmas exodus came and went, and with graduation coming up our next "crazy idea" was

that hopefully we could get stationed together! Our families pretty much told us "Yeah right, ya'll aren't that lucky." Our girlfriends, who are also best friends together, were really hoping that Dan and I could maybe get stationed together.

We both graduated on Jan. 11. I had received my assignment Jan. 7 to Langley AFB, Virginia. Shortly after graduation, Dan also received his assignment and you will never guess what happened. He's going to Langley too!

No one ever thought it would be possible. People say the military will move you away from all your friends and family, but that's not always the case. At least that wasn't the case with my best friend and me.



Paintball warriors

Capt. Dave Otto, 88th Flying Training Squadron flight instructor crouches while preparing an ambush during the first T-38 grudge paintball match on Jan. 19. Members of the 88th and 90th Flying Training Squadrons recently participated in the day-long battle to settle a long-standing rivalry. Both sides claimed victories during several rounds of play. A rematch is planned for the near future. *(Photo by Capt. Jon Shaffer)*



Safety tips

Almost everyone tries to be safety conscious, but at times, some people find excuses for not acting safely, both at work and at home. Here are a few tips for improving overall safety attitude.

- Come to work in a good state of mind.
- Know the hazards of

the job, and don't begin a task until you've taken all necessary precautions.

- When you see a situation that might be dangerous, report it.

- Stay focused on the task at hand.

- When proper safety equipment is not available for a task, tell a supervisor right away.

- Follow tech data, even if it takes longer.

- Inspect the work area and equipment daily.

- When there is a spill of a non-hazardous product, clean

it up.

- Use common sense during all activities.

- Accept no unnecessary risks.

- Ensure risk decisions are made at the appropriate supervisory level.

- Only accept risks when the benefits outweigh the cost.

- Integrate operational risk management into all job requirements.

(Courtesy of the 82nd Training Wing safety office)

DFAS provides DoD civilians more financial services online

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — DoD civilian employees can access even more financial information services through an improved Defense Finance and Accounting Service Internet site.

Upgrades made in December 2001 to the agency's computerized Employee/Member Self-Service system now allow DoD civilians to make online changes to their state tax withholding; to start, change and stop U.S. Savings Bond purchases; and to view and print 2001 W-2 forms, according to Jim Pitt, deputy director of DFAS electronic commerce, military and civilian pay services.

"We want to empower our military and civilian employees to have greater control over their payroll records," Pitt explained, adding that DFAS officials anticipate that military members will have online access to their W-2s next year.

Using the self-service Web site, Pitt noted, is a more efficient way of doing business that's more accurate, saves paper and time, and reduces redundancy.

Instead of having administrative specialists re-input employee-provided information, employees can use the system to enter their data themselves, he said.

Another new DFAS self-service Web link, Travel Advice of Payment, allows military and civilian personnel to view and print their paid travel vouchers online, Pitt noted.

At first, only payments made after Oct. 2, 2001, by

the agency's Cleveland, Indianapolis and Columbus, Ohio, centers will be available. Other payment locations will be made available soon.

Military members and civilians can also use the Web site, <http://www.dfas.mil/emss/>, to stop the mailing of their Leave and Earnings Statements, Pitt said. Customers now, he noted, can simply print the statements that have been posted online.

Pitt said the DFAS Web site offered a variety of services to military and civilian personnel even before the December upgrades. They've been able to access, view and print their electronic Leave and Earnings Statements; change federal tax withholding; and change direct deposit information.

Civilians can also use the Web site to file address changes and start, stop, or change allotments, he added.

DFAS serves roughly 5.5 million active duty and reserve military, retired military, annuitants (such as widows) and DoD civilians, Pitt remarked.

The improved Web site, he noted, greatly enhances service for those customers. "It is a user-friendly site and offers things that people have been asking for. We've had a lot of positive feedback from our customers," he concluded.

To access the Employee/Member Self-Service system, customers need a custom personal identification number that can be obtained by calling the system Customer Support Unit at 1-800-390-2348.

MPFs discuss options with Air Force members released from Stop-Loss restrictions

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER — More than 5,000 people whose career fields have been released from Stop-Loss are being contacted by their military personnel flights with explanations on the options they now have.

The Air Force released 24 officer and 40 enlisted career fields from Stop-Loss restrictions as a result of their 90-day review announced Jan. 29. Stop-Loss began Oct. 2 and continues for all other career fields. Another review of whether any more people can be released is expected in 60 days. Waiver applications continue to be accepted.

The released airmen are being presented with options that could lead to their retirement or separation as early as March 2. People also have the option to stay in the service for a while longer, an option personnel officials hope they will consider.

“We would prefer that a lot of them chose to stay with us,” said Lt. Col. Rich Binger, chief of separations at AFPC. “The decision-makers decided that these are people who indicated that they have a desire to go and we feel that we can accommodate them at this point. But release from Stop-Loss is not to say we don’t need these people.”

Since meeting mission requirements is the purpose of Stop-Loss, commanders may retain an individual who is critical to the mission even if their career field is released. Those people cannot be held past July 31.

Those who have been released from Stop-Loss fall into one of the following four categories:

Category 1 — Members with a previously approved or suspended separation date between Oct. 2, 2001 and Feb. 28, 2002; or an approved or suspended retirement date between Oct. 31 and Feb. 28 with a retirement-effective date of March 1.

Members in this category must select a retirement or separation date under Option 2 below, or request withdrawal under Option 3.

Category 2 — Members with an approved or suspended separation date between March 1 and July 31; or an approved or suspended retirement date between March 31 (with an effective date of April 1) to July 31 (with an effective date of Aug. 1.)

Members in this category must select a retirement or separation date under Option 1 or 2 below; or request withdrawal under Option 3.

drawal under Option 3.

Category 3 — Members with an approved or suspended separation date of Aug. 1 or later, or an approved suspended-retirement date of Aug. 31 or later (with an effective date of Sept. 1).

Members in this category will be able to retire or separate as scheduled. Members may request extension or withdrawal of their retirement or separation date in accordance with governing directives if otherwise eligible.

Category 4 — Deployed personnel in released AFSCs will be required to serve the full deployment. They will be allowed to leave the Air Force sometime soon after returning. They will be contacted by personnel officials at their deployed locations to make their election to either retain or ex-

tend their retirement or separation date or withdraw their paperwork altogether. There are special provisions for deployed personnel that take length of deployment and return dates into consideration.

The options are:

Option 1 — The member may elect to retain his or her current or suspended retirement date.

Option 2 — Member may request to voluntarily extend his or her retirement or separation date up to Aug. 31 (with a Sept. 1 retirement) to include those members approved under a seven-day option or restricted by high-year tenure rules.

Option 3 — Any member may request to withdraw an approved retirement or separation. Enlisted people must be

eligible for voluntary extension and must otherwise be eligible for reenlistment or extension. Enlisted members who are HYT restricted, and desire to remain on active duty must submit a HYT extension request.

Option 4 — Commanders may, in limited circumstances, retain an individual with a voluntary retirement or separation date until July 31 when an earlier release would severely impact the mission. In this circumstance, July 31 is the latest date the member could be held to perform duties. Use of this deferment should be the extreme exception rather than the rule, officials said.

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas)

Aerobics classes

The AerobiCenter is located in the south fitness center and offers coed aerobics classes seven days a week.

Classes are offered as early as 5:30 a.m. and as late as 7 p.m. The classes include low impact, intermediate to advance exercises, floor and step exercises, muscle sculpting and kickboxing.

Call 6-2972 for more information.

Softball tryouts

Spring softball season tryouts will run for two weeks beginning Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. at Field 4, which is located near Sheppard Elementary School.

The tryouts are open to all of Team Sheppard and will be held Monday-Thursday. Final cuts will be made March 1.

The season will begin in the middle of March.

Those interested in playing should contact Rich Pier at 851-0288 or 6-5431, or George Amador at 767-3897 or 733-0621.

Texas Rangers tickets

Texas Rangers baseball tickets are available through the information, tickets and tours office.

Some seats are available at regular price and others are available at almost 50 percent off the regular ticket price. Tickets may be bought for as low as \$8.25.

R & R: Return to fitness prescription program

Fitness programs are now available for adults over 50.

An instructor leads the class

through a low intensity and low impact strength training session. Some light aerobics may be involved. The classes are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-9 a.m. at the south fitness center. The south fitness center has free personal trainers and aerobics classes.

For more information, call 6-2972/7491.

Soccer tryouts

Spring season varsity men's soccer try-outs will be held Tuesday and Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the base football field.

Tryouts are open to all active duty, family members, and civilians associated with the base. The team will play in the men's competitive division of the Greater Wichita Falls Soccer Association. The Spring

season runs March-May.

Student intramural basketball tournament

The North Fitness Center will host a student intramural basketball tournament Feb. 18-21 from 6-7 p.m. No entry fee is required. The championship game will be held on Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Casey at 6-6754 or 6-6336.

Intramural basketball tournament

The South Fitness Center will host an intramural basketball tournament, Feb. 18-21 starting at 5:30 p.m. No entry fee is required. The championship game will be held on Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Casey at 6-6754 6-6336.

Night shoot

The base skeet range will hold a night shoot Feb. 23 at 4 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person. The entry fee will cover the cost of targets. Interested people are welcome to sign up early or the day of the event. For more information, call 6-4141.

Bowl-a-thon

The Sheppard-Falls Chapter of the NCOA held a bowl-a-thon recently. High team honors went to the team of Michelle Dodge, John Hirst, Dave Hoose and Chuck Dodge from the 364th Training Squadron. Michelle Dodge had the top score in the female category with a total pin count of 594. In the men's category, Chuck Dodge took the honors with a 761 pin count.