

The SHEPPARD SENATOR

Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, home of the 82nd Training Wing and 80th Flying Training Wing

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Sheppard members on their selection for Officer Training School:

- Staff Sgt. Edith Coon, 364th TRS
- Staff Sgt. Eric Graham, 383rd TRS
- Staff Sgt. Michael Lundin, 365th TRS
- Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Cooley, Det 16, 373rd TRS
- Staff Sgt. John Jewell, Det 14, 373rd TRS
- Master Sgt. Jesus Raymond, Det 2, 372nd TRS

Award winners

2001 AETC Life Support Awards

•Civilian Journeyman of the Year: Mr. Stanley Joslin, 80th OSS

2001 AETC Air Traffic Control Awards

•Airfield Management NCO: Master Sgt. Angela Briody, 80th OSS

•Terminal Instrument Procedures Specialist: Master Sgt. Mario Gonzalez, 80th OSS

•Air Traffic Control Controller: Senior Airman Bobby Delaughter, Jr., 80th OSS

2001 AETC Aviation Resource Management Awards

•Operations Resource Management Civilian Tech: Ms Larissa Masterson, 80th OSS

2001 Military Traffic Management Command Quality Award

•Albert Moving and Storage, contract mover for the 82nd Logistics Group



Combat capability starts here

Airman 1st Class Danielle Prasuhn-Smith and Airman Cheyenne Bode, 364th Training Squadron students, troubleshoot a C-130E wing tip navigation light. Both are attending the Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems course. Students from this course maintain mission-essential aircraft systems on all models of fighter, bomber, cargo and tanker aircraft in the Air Force inventory. Graduates from the course are assigned to active, guard and reserve units and can be deployed to any worldwide location to support the flying mission. The course graduates about 725 students this year. (Photo by Mike McKito)

New civilian personnel data system now online

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force civilian personnel system transitioned to the modern defense civilian personnel data system in March and despite a few issues, officials said the switch was successful.

All but three installations across the Air Force are online and operating under the new system.

“We certainly did experience our first few weeks of pain but have seen drastic improvements in system performance since then,” said Shirley Williams, director of the Air Force’s PALACE compass program management office at the Pentagon. “Initial comments we’ve received from the field indicate they like the system and are looking forward to getting beyond the learning curve to fully explore its capability.”

The move to the modern civilian personnel system is a Department of Defense-wide initiative and is necessary to reduce cost and eliminate redundancy, she said.

“Many of the computers and other hardware the previous system used were outdated in capability, and we were losing the ability to sustain (the system) due to the archaic program code,” Williams said. “While the initial move to a new enterprise system can be painful, it was an absolute necessity.”

The system was deployed by first converting the old database to the new system, and next bringing users online to process actions. The database conversion was accomplished ahead of schedule, but all users could not be brought online until capacity problems were resolved April 3.

“In a nutshell, system performance

would degrade when we hit a certain number of users,” said Carmen Maria Livoti, also from the PALACE compass program management office. “When the threshold was exceeded, the system would lock up.”

To get through the early stages with the new system, the number of users was restricted to allow it to continue processing personnel actions.

Personnel actions were also prioritized and officials worked closely with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service on accessions and actions that placed individuals in nonpay status.

PALACE compass and DoD officials are working together to deploy the three remaining bases as soon as additional system changes are made, and the modern DPCDS is expected to handle the additional load, officials said.



Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney Jr. awards a medal to a Special Olympics athlete during the Spring 2002 Special Olympics Games held at Sheppard Saturday. Many Team Sheppard members volunteered for the event. (Photo by Lou Anne Sledge)

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

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 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
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 South bowling center....6-2170
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 Base straight talk line.....6-4438

I Love Sheppard Week is May 6-10

I Love Sheppard Week is an opportunity for Team Sheppard to show pride in base appearance and to focus on improving the area where we work and live everyday. This year, I Love Sheppard Week includes four days of base improvement followed by a day of participant appreciation events.

Organizational facilities and common areas are the focus of improvement during I Love Sheppard Week.

Units can submit their requirements to self-help by Monday to get exterior brown or tan paint, interior off-white paint, paint brushes/rollers, mulch and tools. Call the self-help store at 6-7755.

Services is also providing specials throughout the week on bowling, golf, outdoor recreation and ITT.

Achievers

Quarterly Award Winners

<p>82nd Training Wing Staff Agencies</p> <p>Junior enlisted: Airman 1st Class Pamela Stratton, public affairs</p> <p>NCO: Staff Sgt. Lisa Hough, judge advocate</p> <p>Senior NCO: Senior Master Sgt. Fred Patao, inspector general</p> <p>CGO: 2nd Lt. Ann Hatley, public affairs</p> <p>GS-8 and below: Terri Tyler, public affairs</p> <p>GS-9 and above: Richard Pfeffer, comptroller</p> <p>82nd Logistics Group</p> <p>Junior enlisted: Senior Airman Chantel Smith</p>	<p>NCO: Tech. Sgt. William Manning</p> <p>Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Aaron Kelly</p> <p>CGO: Capt. Marc Gonzalez</p> <p>GS-8 and below: Carole Jones</p> <p>GS-9 and above: Angela Dunlap</p> <p>Wage Grade: Joseph Reyes</p> <p>82nd Support Group</p> <p>Junior enlisted: Senior Airman Daniel Phillips</p> <p>NCO: Tech. Sgt. Baron Caton</p> <p>Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Micheal Lathan</p> <p>CGO: 1st Lt. David Osterman</p> <p>GS-8 and below: Elaine Rolens</p> <p>GS-9 and above: Richard</p>	<p>Milhollon</p> <p>Wage grade supervisor: Anthony Anderson</p> <p>Wage grade: Douglas Hill</p> <p>364th Training Squadron</p> <p>CGO: Capt Ranier Tanglao</p> <p>Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Tony DellaPietro</p> <p>NCO: Tech. Sgt. Jeff Zeitvogel</p> <p>GS-9 and above: Deb Pinaeu</p> <p>Senior NCO instructor: Master Sgt. Phil Conn</p> <p>NCO instructor: Tech. Sgt. Greg Drown</p> <p>Civilian instructor: Jennifer Prebish</p> <p>Officer instructor: Capt. Bryan Armstrong</p>
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82nd Training Wing commander
 Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney Jr.
Sheppard Senator editorial team

- Director of public affairs.....Lt. Col. John Skinner
- Chief of internal information.....Mike McKito
- Deputy director.....2nd Lt. Ann Hatley
- Noncommissioned officer in charge.....Master Sgt. Jeff Szczechowski
- Editor (6-7243, Pamela.Stratton@sheppard.af.mil).....Airman 1st Class Pamela Stratton
- Action Line coordinator (6-2000).....Terri Tyler

Sheppard hosts Special Olympics track and field



Col. Ralph Jodice, 80th Flying Training Wing commander (top left), poses with an athlete during the Area 9 Special Olympics track and field meet. Col. Sue Caudill, 82nd Training Group commander (above), awards a medal to a top finisher. Many Team Sheppard members volunteered to help make Special Olympics a success. Approximately 20 teams from area communities participated in track and field events, with winners moving on to compete in the Texas State Special Olympics. Sheppard has hosted the track and field meet for Area 9 Special Olympics since 1974. (Photos by Lou Anne Sledge)



Housing residents get ready for 'Yard of the Month' competition



These houses at Bunker Hill (left) and Capehart (right) housing areas are great examples of well-maintained yards. Residents can show pride in their homes without spending a lot of money by making sure their lawns are mowed and trimmed and the carport area is neat and conforms to housing guidelines. Starting in April, the housing office will select four yards as the Yard of the Month, two from Capehart (one officer and one enlisted), one from Wherry and one from Bun-

ker Hill. Letters of appreciation and signs designating the winning yards will be awarded, along with a \$25 gift certificate from AAFES. On the second and third quarter, four Yards of the Quarter are chosen from the monthly winners. A letter of appreciation and a sign designating the winning yards will be awarded along with a \$50 gift certificate from AAFES and a \$50 U.S. savings bond from Sheppard Bank. Let the competition begin! (Courtesy photos)

82nd Maintenance Squadron builds Predator trainers for 372nd TRS

By Airman 1st Class Pamela Stratton

Base public affairs

Those who work in the 82nd Maintenance Squadron Trainer Development Flight have the important job of making the only RQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle trainers in the Air Force.

The trainers are built from damaged Predators and are completely restored to full flying capability before being sent to Det. 13, 372nd Training Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., where Predator training is conducted.

The Predator is a medium-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle system used for reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition.

The flight not only rebuilds the Predators, but outfits them with things such as an instructor control console, into which a number of faults can be programmed, allowing maintainers to practice their troubleshooting skills.

"There are about 55 faults we can program into the ICC," said Joe Mahon, engineering supervisor. "This allows the instructors to simulate 55 different things going wrong with the Predator, so the student can get training on many different malfunctions."

"There's no tech. school for this," said Mahon, "but since we continually update their training capabilities, they end up getting comprehensive training on most aspects of Predator maintenance."



Above, James Moore, an engineering technician, and Don Kraft, an electronics mechanic, both from the 82nd Maintenance Squadron Trainer Development Flight, work on the interior components of an RQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle. The flight restores damaged Predators for use as trainers for Det. 13, 372nd Training Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The predator at left is in the damaged condition in which they arrive. The one at right has been restored. (Photos by Airman 1st Class Pamela Stratton)



Bad weather doesn't stop Sheppard's first-ever civilian fly-in

By Capt. Ketil Moe

Royal Norwegian Air Force

Have you ever noticed that the highways seem to be more and more crowded each year? Well, the skies are the same way. So how do you let civilian pilots know they are flying around the airspace of one the busiest airfields in the Air Force? Invite them all to spend a day in our backyard talking about how Sheppard does business.

For several months, the 80th Flying Training Wing safety office, working with the regional FAA office, planned a civilian fly-in to conduct a Mid-Air Collision Avoidance safety seminar

on 13 April. Invitations were sent out, permission for the fly-in was obtained from Headquarters and all the detailed plans were completed. By the day prior to the event, 38 civilians and 12 military had responded and a total of 14 aircraft were expected to fly in. Everything was ready for the first-ever fly-in for civilians at Sheppard. Of course, best-laid plans sometimes go awry.

The worst weather so far this year: heavy rain, lightning, and wind gusts up to 60 miles per hour hit the flightline. Saturday morning, the civilian flyers exhibited great operational risk

management skills by canceling their flights and driving to Sheppard instead. A 15-minute delay due to heavy rain showers allowed all 34 civilians and 12 military to arrive safe and sound for the briefings. It was a large turnout considering the terrible weather.

Lt. Col. Bernard Schwartz, 80th FTW chief of safety, kicked off the meeting with a hearty welcome and was followed by Capt. Ketil Moe briefing military operating areas, low-level routes, and hazardous air traffic reports. Then, Staff Sgt. Sheffield Brodrene and Staff Sgt. Craig Wright, from Tower

and RAPCON respectively, briefed ATC procedures in the local area and on Sheppard. After a short break, Maj. Rabe continued with an extensive briefing about mid-air collision avoidance, including a study of a mid-air collision between an F-16 and a Cessna 172.

By the end of the briefings, the weather had improved and was just good enough for the promised barbecue sponsored by the Norwegian senior national representative. Lieutenant Colonel Schwartz, Maj. Gerald Roberts, 80th FTW chief of flight safety, and Capt. Erik Nikula served hot dogs and

hamburgers for everyone.

Civilian pilots and military pilots share the same airspace. Information and knowledge about each other's operations is key to preventing mid-air collisions between military and civilian aircraft. By exchanging information, they avoid conflicts before they develop, and also know where future conflicts are most likely to appear. The civilian pilots welcomed this first-ever fly-in at Sheppard as they displayed considerable interest in the base's operations. Hopefully, next time the weather will be better so they can actually fly into the Sheppard fly-in.

Blood drive

The 364th Training Squadron will hold a blood drive Monday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the north fitness center. For questions or appointments, call Maj. J. R. Weilacher at 6-5486 or 6-5488.

Platelet donation

The American Red Cross needs volunteers to donate platelets (apheresis donors). Blood is made of four components: platelets, plasma, red blood cells, and white blood cells. The platelet component is necessary to

control bleeding. To learn more about platelet donations, call Carol Pettijohn at Wichita Falls Donor Center 322-8686 ext. 48, or visit www.redcross.org/services/biomed/blood/learn/apheresis.html.

SEPM nominations

The Civilian Personnel Flight is currently accepting nominations for Special Emphasis Program Managers. They are seeking recommendations for individuals to fill both the Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager and the Federal Women's Program

Manager positions. SEP Managers are responsible for the concerns of represented groups in the areas of employment and advancement. They are responsible for providing advice and assistance to management officials who have program responsibility for, or interest in, such matters. This is an on-duty responsibility. There is no monetary compensation; however, an experience code of up to 20 percent may be included in the employee's record, reflecting time spent on these duties. SEPMs may be civilian or military. Those

who have an individual in their organization who they would like to nominate, and who is willing to serve, please submit his or her name to Sandra Brooks, DPCS, ext. 6-3368, or e-mail Sandra.Brooks@Sheppard.af.mil no later than May 8.

NCO induction ceremony volunteers needed

The Junior Enlisted Troops Service will sponsor an NCO induction ceremony Aug. 30 at the enlisted club. They are currently looking for volunteers to assist with several

aspects of the ceremony. If interested, call Staff Sgt. Kathy Wood for seating at 6-8499, Staff Sgt. Michael Kohn for speakers at 6-7535, Tech. Sgt. Timothy Green for invitations and programs at 6-2810, Tech. Sgt. Dianna Valley for protocol at 6-6023, Senior Airman Larry Frey for sounds and systems at 6-6103, Staff Sgt. Linda Burns for certificates and binders at 6-6290, Staff Sgt. Suzette Whilby for advertisement at 6-4250 and Staff Sgt. Edmund Allen for club and theater at 6-4474.

Sheppard fitness center announces Mission Fitness 2002

The Sheppard fitness center invites you to make fitness your personal mission!

During May, fitness centers worldwide encourage Air Force personnel to make fitness a regular part of their daily lives. Each base will conduct special events and programs during May, and a worldwide 5K Fitness Run is planned during Armed Forces Week.

“Known for years as May Fitness Month, the program has expanded this year,” explained Senior Airman Courtney Finney, Sheppard’s May Fitness Program Manager. “There will be more equipment and prizes, including a vacation package for two to Super Clubs Breezes Resort Runaway Bay, Jamaica or Bahamas.” Individuals participating in the “Mission Fitness 2002” program, sponsored in part by Destination Arlington, Chaney Financial Group and Gatorade (*no federal endorsement of sponsors intended*), will use stamp cards to accrue points.

Attendees of the opening and closing ceremonies will be eligible to win prizes.

Anyone who participates in any Mission Fitness 2002 event may enter a drawing for an Arlington Destination Vacation package for four (includes two nights stay and tickets for 10 different entertainment venues), sponsored by Destination Arlington.

The more a person works out or participates in Mission Fitness activities, the greater their chances of winning, making Mission Fitness a true “Get Fit and Win” program!

Mission Fitness events are designed for everyone, but only individuals 18 years or older are eligible to win the grand prize. For more information, contact the fitness center at 6-2972. (*Courtesy of 82nd Services Division*)

See page 7 for
Mission Fitness
2002 events



Mission Fitness 2002 events

Opening ceremony

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. at south fitness center. Door prizes and stamp cards will be handed out. Sign up for May fitness events and get information on health and fitness. Call Senior Airman Finney or Airman Coddington at 6-2972.

Incentive program

Starts Wednesday. Compete in the Fiesta Run across Mexico and be awarded 1st, 2nd or 3rd place medals at the end of the month. Or be challenged by our Mountaineer Challenge. Climb the peaks of Mt. McKinley, Mt. K2 or Mt. Everest. Awards will be given to 1st and 2nd place climbers of each mountain during the closing ceremony. Register by Wednesday and choose your peak. Call Senior Airman Finney or Airman Keys at 6-2972.

Aerobithon

May 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the south fitness center. Cost is \$10 and entrants will be given a T-shirt. Register at any of the three fitness centers by Wednesday. Call Sandy Angell or Airman Keys at 6-2972.

Family 5/10k fun run

May 4, 8 a.m. at the north fitness center. Bring your children or just yourselves and join

in on the fun. The categories for 1st and 2nd place will be male and female, for the 5k or the 10k. Cost is \$5 per person, and the first 35 entrants will receive a T-shirt. Register at any of the three fitness centers by Wednesday. Awards will be given at the closing ceremony. Call Airman 1st Class Dawson at 6-2022 or Airman Coddington at 6-2972.

3 on 3 basketball

May 6-9 at the south fitness center. Each team can have up to four players, male or female. All games start at 4 p.m. Register at any of the three fitness centers by May 3. 1st and 2nd place trophies will be awarded at the closing ceremony. Call Airman 1st Class Varkey at 6-6336 or Airman Williams at 6-2972.

And more

Other events in May include fitness workshops, a bench-press competition, Armed Forces Week sports challenge, nutrition class for kids, Armed Forces 5/10K run, fitness day at the youth center and the closing ceremony. Find out about all the events at the opening ceremony on Wednesday. Upcoming events will also be posted weekly in the *Sheppard Senator*. (Courtesy of the 82nd Services Division)

Youth center offers homework help



Hiawatha Bouldin, tutoring program coordinator at the Madrigal Youth Center, aides Joshua Terrazas in reviewing his social studies in preparation for the next day's exam. (Photo by Mike McKito)

By Mike McKito

Base public affairs

Got homework? Need help doing it?

The Madrigal Youth Center offers free assistance with your tough subjects.

Students in grades 4 through 12 can come to the center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. to use this program.

The youth center staff and volunteers from the Team Sheppard community are available to assist students in most academic subjects.

"With the end of the school year rapidly ap-

proaching, students may need help to pass that one difficult subject," said Hiawatha Bouldin, program coordinator.

Students also have a computer lab available to research topics and complete reports.

Parents may find that they also need assistance in helping their child.

"Refresher manuals are provided for parents who want to provide that extra helping hand for their children," said Bouldin.

For more information about homework assistance, contact the Madrigal Youth Center at 6-KIDS.

The Madrigal Youth Center offers a variety of programs for young people. Call 6-KIDS.



Spring cleaning: don't overlook the clothes dryer

Warmer weather and more daylight hours means that spring is here. When the spring-cleaning fever hits you, don't just think of cleaning gutters, garages, closets or the storage shed. While you're in the cleaning mode, don't overlook the handy appliance that made the clothesline obsolete—your clothes dryer.

The most common fire hazard associated with gas and electrical dryers is the unnoticed accumulation of excess lint in the collector and exhaust air vent. The lint trap should be cleaned after each load of laundry is dried and the exhaust air vent should be inspected at least quarterly or sooner if

the dryer is used a lot.

A flexible vacuum cleaner hose can often be routed into the vent opening to remove most of the accumulated dust and lint. Also, you can moisten a small rag attached to a straightened coat hanger and then work it through the vent hose.

Not only will a good cleaning reduce the fire hazard, but your dryer will operate more efficiently and clothes will dry quicker. Also, if your dryer still has the old plastic vent hose, replace it with the new aluminum fire resistance hose.

*(Courtesy of 82nd
TRW Safety Office)*

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

New dining hall hours announced

Dining Hall 516

Effective Saturday, Dining Hall 516 will have new hours of operation on weekends and holidays only:

Breakfast: remain closed

Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Dinner: 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

DH 516 will offer regular dine-in with carryout service available at all meals.

Dining Hall 726

Effective Saturday, carry out service will be offered at DH 726 on weekends and holidays only.

Dining Hall 716

Effective Monday, DH 716 will serve midnight meal. This is in addition to DH 726. Hours of opera-

tion for both facilities are:

DH 716: Monday through Friday, midnight to 2 a.m. Supports T shift students.

DH 726: Sunday through Thursday, 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Supports A shift, T shift and permanent party.

All A shift students will use Dining Hall 726, and T shift students will use 726 or 716 by squadron:

726: 360th, 361st and 364th, 366th.

716: 362nd, 363rd, 365th and 882nd.

Units are encouraged to march their T shifts to their respective dining facilities for release. This will encourage students to eat and reduce the amount of time they spend going to and from the dining facilities.

(Courtesy of the 82nd Services Division)

Air Force IDEA Program changes Web address for ideas

The web address for the Air Force IDEA program has been changed to [<https://ideas.randolph.af.mil/>](https://ideas.randolph.af.mil/). Members must use this address to submit IDEAs into the IDEA Program Data System. This change is effective immediately. For further information contact Mr. Sam Graham, Sheppard IDEA Program Manager at 6-IDEA.

384th Training Squadron announces deactivation ceremony

The 384th Training Squadron will hold its deactivation ceremony Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at the medical readiness site. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Loretta Bryant at 6-6914.

Soundoff

What do you do to stay in shape?



"I try to work out five times a week, lift weights every day, and three days a week I do aerobics. I also take supplements and do a 40/30 diet."

~Staff Sgt. Marisol Maldonado, 82nd MDOS



"I run three to five miles every other day, and I also try to go to the gym."

~Capt. Ruben Matos, 82nd MDSS



"I'm a member of the Wichita Falls running team. I lift the days I don't run, and I also enjoy biking and swimming."

~Capt. Sara Teufert, 82nd MDOS



"I work out five days a week, three with a trainer and two by myself."

~Airman 1st Class Jackie Gunn, 82nd MDOS

361st TRS sponsors essay contest

The 361st Training Squadron Enlisted Council recently sponsored an essay contest for seventh and eighth graders of Kirby Junior High. The essay theme was “What Does Freedom Mean to You and What is it Worth?”

Several 361st TRS members judged the contest, including Senior Master Sgt. Jonathan Turner, Master Sgt. Andrew Donate, Master Sgt. Dennis Albaugh, Staff Sgt. Eric Dudash, Ms Jan Conwell and Ms Julie Clark. Below is the essay of first place winner Jessica Burke, who received a \$100 savings bond for her entry.

Winning essay

“What does freedom mean to me, and what is it worth? Freedom to me is having the unalienable rights as Americans to maintain our life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. The price to sustain that freedom can be something material or something very dear to us, our lives.

Freedom comes in all different shapes, sizes, and colors. It is the simplest thing, yet the most complex. In its simplicity there are things such as baseball games, McDonalds, and the Internet. Things that we all take for granted daily. In freedom’s complexity lies the things Americans hold dear to their hearts, for example, men and women’s ability to vote and hold public office, the equality of all Americans under the law, and of course the ever so precious Bill of Rights. Freedom in my mind automatically transfers itself in to life. A life based on will, your will to persevere, struggle, and prosper. Just think, in other countries men and women are killing others for our simple freedoms. Equality for all seems as far off as the stars for them, yet we live with it day in and day out.

Value. Putting a value on freedom is like putting a value on life. It’s priceless. The lengths Americans will go to, to defend and restore their freedom is endless. Americans will even endure the greatest sacrifice to give their children a better tomorrow. When people are willing to die for

freedom, something they believe in so much, they become a hero. I mean why shouldn’t they? Dying for freedom is the most heroic thing I have ever heard of. Men and women in the armed forces put their lives on the line everyday for us. For that they will always have my respect.

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are guaranteed to us, however, no one ever said that we wouldn’t have to defend them one day.

Would you fight for your freedom?” *(Courtesy of the 361st TRS)*

DeCA: May is 'Commissary Awareness Month'

By Bonnie Powell

Defense Commissary Agency

You're ready to serve your country. Your commissary is ready to serve you.

"That's our most important mission," says Defense Commissary Agency Director Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr. "Commissaries are an essential part of the worldwide military community, and that's just one of the messages we want to deliver to our service members during Commissary Awareness Month in May."

Actually, every month is commissary awareness month at DeCA.

"Commissaries are a military benefit offering grocery savings of more than 30 percent," said General Courter. "Our store directors have been working hard to deliver the good news to the entire military community, from single service members to families, from retirees to Guard and Reserve members."

Savings for a family of four shopping regularly in the commissary can amount to over \$2,400 per year.

"We also want to communicate the message that we are a part of readiness – a core element of military family support," said General Courter. "We enable military families to be assigned worldwide with active duty members, and we impact quality of life, retention, and a sense of community. Consistent delivery of U.S. grocery products and great prices worldwide are what we are all about."

Commissaries continue to be a focal point of the military community in 2002, just as they have been for over 135 years, and the biannual Commissary Customer Satisfaction Survey rates customer satisfaction higher than ever. DeCA,

formed in 1991 from the separate commissary systems, is celebrating its 10th year of existence as an agency, but it's still changing, evolving, and striving for improvements.

"Yes, we have a long tradition behind us, but we haven't stopped seeking a higher standard," said General Courter. "Our stores now offer the freshest produce at great prices, unbeatable deals on fresh meats and we've developed the Best Value Item and Manager's Specials programs to offer even lower prices.

We've also streamlined our operations to control costs, while increasing savings and improving customer service."

Commissaries have been listening and responding to customer feedback through focus groups and the "Your Action Line" program. As a result, conveniences such as short-term parking, more express lanes, Grab 'n' Go and quick meal sections, express lunches and more have been added to stores. Many commissaries will "strut their stuff" by planning outreach activities and

tours during Commissary Awareness Month. And "Serving Up Savings," a brand new outreach video about commissary shopping, will make its debut along with "Click 'n' Save," a video that helps increase awareness of the commissary Web site and how authorized shoppers can use it to save money.

DeCA will also be announcing recipients in the 2002 "Scholarships for Military Children" program in May. "The scholarship program is just one more way we have become

more essential in the lives of military families," said General Courter. "Nearly 400 scholarships were awarded in 2001 and that number will grow this year."

Find out more about Commissary Awareness Month by checking out DeCA's Web site www.commissaries.com in May for online shopping sprees, what's on sale, and other Commissary Awareness Month news. Find out what's happening at your local commissary through the "locations" link.

ORI tips of the week: 11 weeks to go

CHECKLISTS: Check on the discrepancies you discovered in your checklists in January. If you ran your checklists in one day you may have missed something. Look at them again. While you're at it, review your checklists and the IG augments guides. The inspection team will ask questions based on checklist items. Work on your answers.

SAFETY PROGRAM: Important questions to ask yourself: Are you documenting safety inspections and weekly briefings? Are you providing your workers with a safe environment to perform their duties? Are

AF Forms 55 properly documented? Is your safety program meaningful, or just designed to impress an inspector? Have you checked your hazardous material storage, handling and disposal program? Have you looked in your storage areas lately? Can all of our newly assigned personnel answer specific questions concerning solvent, grease or whatever else is in the storage locker? Do all your personnel know how to find first aid kits and perform first aid procedures? Can they locate the material safety data sheets? Do they know how to determine what protective equipment is needed?



Staff Sgt. Jamie Eichhorn, 82nd Security Forces Squadron, fingerprints Brandon Timian, a Sheppard Elementary School student, during the Partners in Education event at Sheppard Elementary April 19. (Photo by Sandy Wassenmiller)

Partners in Education teams 82nd SFS with Sheppard Elementary

The 82nd Security Forces Squadron visited Sheppard Elementary School April 19 to conduct "Partners in Education." The squadron became partnered with the school by conducting a dog demo, fingerprinting students using Identakits and registering the children's bicycles. The Identakits are provided to the children's parents, so they will have all the vital information that law enforcement officials would need if something should happen to their children. The information includes height, weight, any scars or distinguishing marks, eye color and a current picture. It's recommended that all parents have this information about their children handy at all times. (Courtesy of the 82nd Security Forces Squadron)

General activities

Name the Services Mascot Contest

The information, tickets and tours office wants children ages 5-7 to name the Services "Bear" mascot. The Name the Services Mascot Contest will run from Wednesday to May 17. Winners will be selected on May 20 and will be notified at that time. The winner will receive a goody basket from ITT, a free Friday night activity and bowling and shoe rental. The Services mascot will be on hand to present the prize package to the winner. Entries may be placed at the youth center or at ITT. Call 6-2302 or 6-KIDS for more information.

Asian-American/Pacific Islander story time for the month of May

The base library will celebrate Asian-American/Pacific Islander Month every Tuesday in May with story time from 10:30 - 11 a.m. Children and adults are invited to come and enjoy story time with members of the Asian American/Pacific Islander Committee. For more information, call 6-6152.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly

A new chapter of TOPS, Take Off Pounds Sensibly, is forming at Sheppard, and the meetings will be held at the community center. For more information, call Vernie Nordstrom at 855-4308.

Upcoming trips

Ripley's Believe It or Not

Information, tickets and tours will sponsor a trip Saturday to Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum and Medieval Times. The cost is \$60 per person.

Six Flags Over Texas

Information, tickets and tours will sponsor a May 11 trip to Six Flags Over Texas. The cost is \$40 per person, with transportation and park admission ticket included. Attendees can visit the entertainment capital of Texas. The park features over 100 exciting rides, shows and attractions for guests' enjoyment. Visitors can check out great roller coasters like the Texas Giant, the TITAN, Batman or Mr. Freeze, and spend

the day at the original Six Flags Theme Park riding thrilling rides till their heart's content. Those interested must register by May 7.

Murder mystery weekend

Information, tickets and tours will sponsor a trip to Stone Lion Inn Murder Mystery Weekend June 15 and 16. The cost is \$250 per couple. This includes round trip transportation, overnight accommodations at the Stone Lion Inn, a seven-course candlelight dinner with Murder Mystery and breakfast. Participation in murder mystery is scripted. Dress code enforced. All rooms are non-smoking with only one bed and pricing is double occupancy only.

Club activities

Officers club game league

The officers club game league holds tournaments in 9-ball, cricket, shuffle board, foosball and crud every Thursday night. Food and beverages are 15 percent off during league play. Prizes will be awarded. For more information, call 6-6460.

Mother's Day brunch

The officers club will host a Mother's Day brunch May 12. Four seating times available at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$13.95 for members, \$16.95 nonmembers and \$7.95 for children ages 5-12. As an added touch, the club will have flowers for the mothers. Reservations are required. All ranks are welcome. Call 6-6460 to reserve a seat.

Enlisted club solo comedy hour with new sound system

Back by popular demand for a solo show, the enlisted club presents Honest John on May 4. Comic View comedian Honest John promises to keep audiences laughing during his comedy act. Doors open at 8 p.m., show starts at 9 p.m. Advance tickets are \$5 for members, \$8 for nonmembers. Prices the day of the show are \$8 for members, \$11 for nonmembers. This show is for a mature audience. For information and tickets, call 6-6427.

At the Flicks

<p>Friday 6:30 p.m. 40 Days and 40 Nights Friday 9 p.m. Resident Evil Saturday 2 p.m. All About the Benjamins Saturday 4:30 p.m. 40 Days and 40 Nights</p>	<p>Saturday 7 p.m. Resident Evil Sunday 2 p.m. All About the Benjamins Sunday 4:30 p.m. Resident Evil Thursday 6:30 p.m. Resident Evil</p>
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This schedule is subject to change without notice. For movie information, call 6-4427.

40 Days and 40 Nights (R) – Josh Hartnett, Shannyn Sossamon – Lent, that time of year when everybody gives something up. That's when Matt decides to go where no man's gone before and make a vow: No sex for 40 straight days. At first he has everything under control until the woman of his dreams, Erica, walks into his life.

Resident Evil (R) – Milla Jovovich, Michelle Rodriguez – A virus has escaped in a secret facility called "The Hive," turning all researchers into hungry zombies and

releasing the mutated lab animals that they were studying. The government sends in an elite military task force to contain the virus before it escapes and infects the rest of the world.

All About the Benjamins (R) – Ice Cube, Mike Epps – Bucum's dream is to open his own private investigation firm, but for the time being, he's stuck following the trail of small-time crooks, like Reggie. Things start to look up for Reggie when his lottery ticket is the sole winner of a \$60 million jackpot.

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

Saturday, 6:30 p.m., Holy Eucharist with Praise and Worship, South Chapel
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Hospital 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, 1:45 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, call Kalista at 6-4370

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



Scholarship winners

The Enlisted Spouses Club announced the recipients of their annual scholarship at a banquet April 18 at the enlisted club. The scholarship is offered to qualified high school seniors and spouses of all military members. This year's \$500 scholarship winners include Michele Harvey, Amy Wenk, Maria Kyser, Phyllis Reibly, Cynthia Cummings and Dorcas Dabbs. The \$1000 scholarship winners are Joshua Garey, Samantha Reibly, Sara Brunney, Shellie Olaveson, Dominick Garza, Mark Yehle and Brandon Kraft. *(Photo by Lynn Bullard)*

It's not too late to get your degree - visit the base education office!

Sports

Yoga-pilates classes

The south fitness center is now offering yoga-pilates classes Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m., Wednesdays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:15 p.m., Thursdays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 3 p.m. For more information, call 6-2972.

Muscle Mania

AETC is sponsoring a MAJCOM-level muscle mania sports competition May 18 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. The active duty Air Force winners from Sheppard's Dec. 1, 2001, power lifting competition will represent the base. Additionally, the fitness centers are looking for serious bodybuilders to participate at the competition. Members must be on active duty and assigned to an AETC base. General information and instructions for the competition are available at the south fitness center. Questions or comments regarding this sports event should be directed to Master Sgt. Desi Hale at 6-3550.

Pool season

Pool season is coming up again at the Bunker Hill, Capehart and main pools. Pools open May 18 and 19. Season passes are available. For more information, call 6-4141.

Colorama tournament

The south bowling lanes will host a Colorama Tournament May 4 at 7 p.m. Participants can bowl with lights out and knock down glowing colored pins in a special position to win cash. For more information, call 6-2170.

Final intramural bowling standings

	WINS	LOSSES
1. 364 TRS	146	94
2. 82 MSS/SVS	143	97
3. 362 TRS (B)	136	104
4. 363 TRS (A)	134	106
5. 365 TRS (C)	132	108
6. 363 TRS (B) Ammo	131	109
7. 187 Med Bn.	128	112
8. 365 TRS (A)	127	113
9. 362 TRS (A)	126	114
10. 82 CES	124	116
11. 882 TRG (B)	123	117
12. 365 TRS (B)	123	117
13. AFOSI	123	117
14. 381 TRS (B)	121	119
15. 366 TRS (A)	121	119
16. 382 TRS	118	122
17. 882 TRG (A)	116	124
18. 381 TRS (A)	112	128
19. 82 TRSS	108	132
20. 82 CS (B)	108	132
21. 82 CS (A)	107	133
22. 366 TRS (B)	98	142
23. 384 TRS	98	142
24. 882 TRG (C)	73	167

New look for Sheppard softball team

By Ty Dirk

Senator contributor

New faces will dominate the Sheppard softball landscape this year. For the past ten seasons, Senator softball has had a nucleus of solid mainstays. These players have helped build a team that is one of the most successful military softball programs in the country. Retirements and assignments have changed that, but nothing can

take away their legacy.

What happens now? "We try and reload instead of rebuild," said veteran Buk Bukowski. This may be a possibility, but there are some big shoes to fill. Big Jim Davis is one of those departed players. Nobody hit the ball harder than Davis. Bill Cramblett wears some pretty big shoes himself. Cramblett has played at the Armed Forces level and brings the reputation of being able to play anywhere and hit the ball with power. Second baseman Steve Swazay's departure has left a hole at the top of the line up, as well as in the field. Coach Rito Alvarado has several options to replace Swazay. Lance Turner can do time at second as well as the outfield. In fact, Sheppard will bring an all-new middle to the field this year. Tevin

Auster looks like he will get the nod at short stop. Turner and Auster played with Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, during their world championship run in 1994. "These guys bring experience to go with our veterans in helping our younger ball players," Alvarado said. Clint Borel may help Cramblett with the long ball. Borel is hitting the ball hard and long and may be the answer to strengthening the middle of the lineup.

The left field position has not had a full time fielder since Chris Pittner left the base. Although Pittner is still assigned here as a reservist, he lives in Buffalo, New York. Either Bill Muse or Joe Calderon will try and make the fans forget Pittner. It looks like one of these two will be trying their talents in left

field. The last newcomer to the team is Anthrone Jones. Jones is the youngest member of the team and brings a mix of speed and power to the field. Inexperience may be a problem now, but Jones is a quick learner and with some guidance may be the key link to a successful season. Veteran members of the team are Jim Christman, Bubba Bubolz, Whitney Matthews, Steve McCord, Buk Bukowski and Bill Nevis. Helping Rito Alvarado with the coaching duties will be Eddie Shroads. "We have a good mix of vets and rookies," said Alvarado. "We will be playing at a level that most of these guys have not played at. Playing week in and week out at that level will hopefully groom these guys for the big tournaments in August and September."