TALLYHO

Serving the men and women of Fighter Country

Vol. 26, No. 14 | Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. | April 14, 2000

Zero emissions ...

Staff Sgt James Hart

Staff Sgt. Leroy Lefiti, 56th Communications Squadron, pedals his way to a cleaner environment Wednesday during Luke's Bike-to-Work Day as part of the Valley annual bike week to promote cycling for fun and transportation. Bike week events conclude with a bike swap meet Saturday at Phoenix Municipal Stadium, 5995 E. VanBuren St., from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Team Luke celebrates Earth Day, Arbor Day

By Miriam Dixon
56th Civil Engineer Squadron

Luke combines Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations Thursday with a poster contest for Luke Elementary School students and static displays at Fowler Park on archeology, recycling and trip reduction.

In addition, there is hazardous material collection for military family housing residents.

Earth Day was created from the activism of the late 1960s. Sen. Gaylord Nelson, of Wisconsin, had the idea of a nationwide teach-in on the environment after reading about the anti-war demonstrations spreading across U.S. college campuses leading to the first Earth Day in 1970. During the last 30 years, the nation has seen ecological disasters such as buried wastes in Love Canal, N.J., and a dead Cuyahoga River, Ohio, so polluted it caught fire.

Some examples of steps to help the environment include banning lead in paint and gasoline, recycling and air and water pollution controls.

"Luke people are making the environment safer and more earth-friendly every day," said Capt. Timothy Imdieke, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight chief.

A decade-long effort to clean up contaminated sites at Luke is almost complete and hazardous materials are vigorously managed to ensure the base doesn't contaminate the air, water or soil.

Kicking off Luke's Earth Day celebration is a poster contest at Luke Elementary. Posters are judged on appearance, message and originality. Prizes include cameras, tents, sleeping bags and backpacks. The posters are displayed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fowler Park.

In addition, military family housing residents can turn in their unwanted hazardous materials, such as paint, varnish, pesticides and household cleaning supplies, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Fowler Park. Compressed gas cylinders, medical waste, explosives, radioactive materials and tires are not accepted. Those looking for paints, varnish or other common household items may find what they need for free at the turn-in location.

To celebrate Arbor Day, Luke is planting eight trees at Fowler Park. Trees not only improve the park aesthetics, but they also improve air quality and provide shade.

A state forester's office representative presents Luke with the Tree City Tree Award during the planting ceremony at 9:30 a.m. in Fowler Park.

Luke receives the Tree City USA Award for the seventh year in a row and is one of 13 communities in Arizona to earn the award in 2000.

As part of the Earth Day celebration, the environmental flight recommends ways to help save the planet including using mass transit, car pool or walking; properly disposing hazardous materials; joining a conservation group; using natural pesticides such as baking soda and lady bugs; using rechargeable batteries; buying products made of recycled materials; picking up trash when out hiking; planting a tree; and watering lawns only in early morning or late afternoon for only 20 minutes at a time.

56th Security Forces investigate bomb scare at local elementary school

By Senior Airman Jeremy Clayton Tredway
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

56th Fighter Wing emergency personnel responded April 5 to assist the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office investigate a bomb threat at Luke Elementary School, near the base.

Officials from the school said they observed threatening comments written on a bathroom wall. They called the sheriff's office and the Luke law enforcement desk for assistance.

After notification, the base sent two 56th Security Forces Squadron patrols and an explosive-detection military working dog to the school to assist the sheriff's office in searching the property.

"School got out early that day, so after the children went home we ran one of our bomb dogs through the school to check it out," said Maj. Al Jamerson, 56th SFS commander.

No explosives were found, but both agencies went through the school the next day to be sure.

"Luke and the sheriff's department worked very well together," said Jean Meier, Luke School principal. "They had the right amount of visibility so parents and others could see what was going on, but did it in a manner which didn't alarm students. Their presence and assistance was very reassuring for everybody."

Luke experts are often called upon to support local community emergency departments in crisis situations.

"Our primary focus was to assist in any way we could," Jamerson said. "We would do that for any school, not just Luke, if we got a request. We're here to support the local community whenever we can."

Goal day

Determination, hard work earns wing day off

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As a "thanks for a job well done," Col. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander declared April 21 as a wing goal day.

"You've earned a well-deserved day off," Sargeant said.

On that day, there will be no flying operations or maintenance activity and all active-duty military wing people, except those identified by their unit commander as mission essential, will have the day off. The goal day was earned for mission performance during March.

"Our folks deserve a day off for all their hard work," Sargeant said. "Scheduling a goal day a couple of weeks after it was earned enabled all 56th Fighter Wing units to plan ahead for the day off. I want all Luke people to plan for some special time with their families and friends."

Sargeant congratulated everyone for their role in catapulting Luke's F-16 mission-capable rate to its highest level in 24 months.

> ***"Our folks deserve a day off for all their hard work. ... I want all Luke people to plan for some special time with their families and friends."***
>
> ***Col. Steve Sargeant***
> 56th Fighter Wing commander

"I hope everyone takes advantage of the goal day and has a special and safe day with their friends and family," Sargeant added.

Luke's hospital and both pharmacies are closed for the day but the emergency room remains open for those requiring accute care. Additionaly, some services facilities may be closed or have limited hours. However, all Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities will keep regular hours.

Regulations do not permit civilian employees to be granted a day off without being charged leave or compensatory time. Use of Time Off Award is not authorized for goal days, but supervisors are asked to be liberal in approving leave for civilian employees for the goal day,said Benjamin Holt, 56th Mission Support Squadron.

Because of the goal day the Falcon Inn and the Plaza Deli are closed; the clubs are closed for lunch and the fitness center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In addition, the library, skills development center, auto hobby shop and outdoor recreation maintain regular hours. People using base facilities April 21 should call ahead to check operating hours.

Action Line

Col. Steve Sargeant
56th FW commander

The 56th Fighter Wing Commander's Action Line is your direct line to me. I get personally involved in every reply. Your ideas and concerns help build a stronger foundation on which we can successfully complete our mission and take care of our people.

Before you call the Action Line though, give Luke's professional experts a chance to answer your question in concert with your unit chain of command. If the appropriate official is unable to provide a satisfactory response, call me at ***856-7011*** *or send an e-mail to command.actionline@luke.af.mil. Please include your name and telephone number so I can provide a personal reply to your concern. Together we can make Luke a better place to live and work.*

Who to call:

Fraud, waste and abuse hotline	856-6149
Base exchange	935-4652
Commissary	935-3821
Patient advocate	856-9100
Legal assistance	856-6901
Law enforcement desk	856-5970
Housing office	856-7643
Military pay	856-7028
MPF customer service	856-7874
Civil engineer customer service	856-7231

Children in cars unattended

Comment: I take my daughter to the child development center and it really troubles me how many parents leave their children in their vehicles, sometimes with it running. Isn't there a law on base that prohibits leaving a child unattended in a vehicle? This is very irresponsible and dangerous — especially if the car is running and the child accidentally puts it into gear and gets hurt or injures someone else.

Response: Yes there is guidance against leaving children unattended in a car: "no owner or operator will leave a child under the age of 10 inside an unattended vehicle," according to Luke Instruction 31-205. This becomes particularly important as we experience warmer weather.

I have instructed security forces to increase patrol coverage at the child development center. If you observe an unattended child in a vehicle, please note the license plate number, vehicle make and type and immediately call the law enforcement desk at 856-5970.

Sortie Scoreboard

Fiscal year 2000 programmed flight training

	To date	Goal
Sorties flown	**19,484**	**38,595**
Flying hours	**22,425**	**48,843**
Pilot graduates	**400**	**876**
MRT graduates	**376**	**972**

Luke people deployed:
AEF 5/6: **81**
Others: **5**

View from the top

Training makes it happen

By Gen. Lloyd Newton
AETC commander

Recruit the right people, train them well and lead them smartly and with passion, and you'll create a force that can conquer almost any challenge. That's exactly what I believe we're doing in the U.S. Air Force and in AETC — making this equation work.

That's the clear image I brought back from my recent trip to visit commanders and airmen hard at work doing real world missions in eastern Europe. It was positively eye watering to interact with those dedicated airmen conducting Operation Northern Watch from Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, and Operation Joint Forge, Tuzla, Bosnia.

The truly satisfying part of the visit was to hear these airmen say directly that they felt very well prepared for their duties in these forward locations as a result of the training they received in the "First Command." I was gratified to hear their commanders' agree. Our airmen, they said, demonstrate all the right attributes — the skills, knowledge, training, attitude, motivation and determination — to get the job done.

Some of the airmen I met in Turkey and Bosnia had as little as 15 months in the Air Force! These young men and women are doing magnificent work in very tough situations within just a few months of completing technical school. That fact absolutely underscores the importance of our work in AETC.

In today's air expeditionary environment, solid skills training is more important than ever before. At Operation Northern Watch, many people said they were on the job within 36 to 48 hours of arriving in country for their three to four month duty rotation. This level of readiness would not have been possible without the top-notch training that you, our commanders, supervisors and instructors provide.

The rotation schedules of today's Expeditionary Aerospace Force in real world contingencies requires many of our airmen arrive at their first duty station in a fully mission-ready state.

> ***"In today's air expeditionary environment, solid skills training is more important than ever before."***
>
> ***Gen. Lloyd Newton***
> AETC commander

My observations confirm the individuals we're recruiting and the training we're providing are getting the job done in a superb manner.

These elements of recruiting, training and leadership apply to the total force as well. For example, the security forces unit at Operation Northern Watch was a blend of permanent party and temporary duty personnel. Some of the temporary duty people were from the Air National Guard serving tours as short as just 14 days. Under these rapid turnover conditions, mission accomplishment was a constant challenge and the unit's leaders made it happen. When gaps existed between personnel departures and arrivals, the unit's senior enlisted leaders filled the security posts to ensure the success of the mission.

All the people I encountered on this trip displayed total competence, immense dedication and a deep sense of commitment to the mission. I'm proud to know it all started here — in the "First Command."

Deputy secretary bids farewell, Hamre remains strong advocate

By John J. Hamre
Deputy Secretary of Defense

It has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life to serve as your deputy secretary of defense.

These past several years have been a time of great change, unexpected challenges and hard-won progress for our armed forces. Under Secretary William Cohen's leadership, we sustained readiness, improved pay, retirement, recruiting and quality of life, while meeting military challenges in the Balkans, southwest Asia and in the Pacific.

Threats emerged, as seen in the bombings of our embassies in Africa, cyber-attacks on our information systems, natural disasters and serious terrorist threats in our homeland. Yet, amid all these competing demands on our time, attention and resources, we have maintained the strongest force for good in the history of the world and made significant progress in transforming the structure and operations of the department.

> ***"I am confident, in your hands America will remain secure and strong. God bless you all; it has been an honor to serve with you."***
>
> ***John J. Hamre***
> Deputy Secretary of Defense

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Secretary Cohen and the countless men and women — uniform and civilian, active, Guard and Reserve — who have been responsible for these successes. I would also like to offer my special thanks to those who worked on some of the signal issues of my tenure: the Defense Reform Initiative, the Joint Task Force for Civil Support, computer network defense, information assurance, the creation of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the reform of our export control process, missile defense, Y2K preparation, and preserving a sound defense industrial base in a global economy.

In going forward as a private citizen, I will remain a life-long advocate for the finest men and women I have ever known. I am very proud of your skill, service and sacrifice in defending this nation and our national interest.

I am confident, in your hands America will remain secure and strong. God bless you all; it has been an honor to serve with you.

Editorial information

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56th Comm squadron supports JROTC meet

Staff Sgt. James Hart

Arizona State University Cadet Maj. Robert Cureton inspects the uniforms of Thunderbird High School Navy Junior ROTC members Saturday during the ASU Sun Devil Showdown drill meet.

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As part of the "we are all recruiters program," the 56th Communications Squadron provided equipment and support Saturday for the Arizona State University Sun Devil Showdown Junior ROTC drill meet.

Hosted by the ASU Air Force ROTC, Detachment 25, more than 20 Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC units from across Arizona and Nevada gathered for the all-day event.

In a show of "excellence in all we do," the Westwood High School Air Force Junior ROTC drill team from Mesa, Ariz., took top honors.

"The annual competition is hosted at ASU to encourage high school students to strive for excellence and to continue their military education," said Cadet Capt. Imelda LeMasters, ASU Air Force ROTC project officer. "Luke's support helped make the day a success and gives the students a better idea of what the Air Force is all about."

Other drill winners were:

Westview High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC in Avondale won first place in colorguard and four-man unarmed drill.

In addition to the over-all award trophy for the day, Westwood High School also took top honors in unarmed inspection and ten-man unarmed exhibition.

Hamilton High School Air Force Junior ROTC marched their way to first place in the ten-man regulation drill division. Thunderbird High School Navy Junior ROTC showed their skill, winning the four-man armed drill competition and the commander's trophy for excellence.

The overall championship trophy is awarded to the school with the highest score from each division of competition.

"The Westwood Air Force unit tends to win several awards at other dril meets each year," LeMasters said. "And the Westview Marine Corps unit won the state championship recently."

Cadet Tech. Sgt. Amber Johnson from Hamilton High School won the final event of the day, known as the Individual Drill Down, which pits the best individual cadets from each unit in drill movements.

"Drill team competitions are a great opportunity for cadets to show off the teamwork they have learned," LeMasters added. "The teams spend long hours working on drill and ceremonies and perfecting their routines. Junior ROTC is a wonderful program that can benefit high school students incredibly by teaching them confidence, leadership ability, good citizenship and self-discipline."

About 500 people attended the competition, including Junior ROTC cadets, instructors and family members.

"We're all here to have fun and do our best," said Cadet Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Crable, Red Mountain High School Army Junior ROTC, Mesa, Ariz. "But more importantly, we're here to strive for excellence, demonstrate teamwork and learn from each other so we might continue to improve in whatever we do."

NCO trades stripes for bars

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors Davidson
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Many people enter the Air Force with dreams of taking advantage of the various educational programs, completing a college degree and earning their commission as a U.S. Air Force officer.

For Staff Sgt. David Moon, 56th Communications Squadron computer and communication systems project manager, hard work and dedication has made all of those dreams become reality.

Recently selected for Officer Training School, Moon trades his stripes for gold bars and continues his service as a communications officer.

Moon

"I decided last year to take the road less traveled and expand my Air Force career by taking on the challenge of becoming an officer," Moon said.

"It takes sacrifice, a lot of family support and hard work, but in the end it's all worth it."

Moon followed the example of former enlisted officers like Col. Michael Hazen, 56th Support Group commander, and Maj. Linda MacConnell, 56th Medical Group, to find the way to accomplishing his dreams.

A strong advocate of Air Force educational opportunities, he hopes to inspire other enlisted members to follow their goals.

"Take advantage of every degree-building program the education office offers," Moon said. "Set a goal and don't lose sight of your objective."

Moon completed his bachelor's degree of liberal arts with a minor in psychology from Luke's Regents College extension office.

"Most military students use a mix of traditional and nontraditional methods to complete their degrees," said Charlie Isleb, Regents education specialist.

"Air Force people are well suited for education success because of self-motivation learned from technical schools and career development courses."

The 56th Mission Support Squadron Education Services Flight has programs to help all Air Force members with their educational goals including ROTC programs like Airman Commissioning Scholarship Program and the Professional Officer Corps program, said Jackie Smith, 56th MSS education services flight counselor.

Other methods of completing a degree that can lead to a commission include Airman Education and Commissioning Program with degrees in engineering, nursing and foreign language. In addition, the Air Force offers a physicians assistant program.

"There are programs to help almost everyone complete their college education in a timely and cost-effective manner," Smith said. "If you set an education goal, we can help you attain it."

For more information on these and other commissioning programs or additional educational opportunities, call 856-7722.

News Briefs

Memorial service

A memorial service is Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., for the 19 Marines killed Saturday when an MV-22 osprey crashed at an airport in Marana, Ariz. For more information, call Yuma public affairs at (520) 341-2275.

Family housing construction

Base housing gas services lines will be repaired beginning Monday until December 18. Residents are notified seven, three and one day before repairs and must ensure children and pets are secured inside while work is accomplished.

Comptroller society meeting

The American Society of Military Comptroller meets Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the recreation center. The Thunderbird Chapter invites members and all interested to a brown-bag lunch meeting.

56th LG change of command

Col. Frank Bruno takes command of the 56th Logistics Group from Col. Ronald Lee in a ceremony April 25 at 9 a.m. in Hangar 485. A reception follows at the officers club.

Volunteer recognition

The 56th Fighter Wing Annual Volunteer Recognition reception is April 27 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Desert Star Enlisted Club. Friends, family and community members are invited to attend. For more information, call Debbie Davis at 856-6362.

EEO counselors needed

The 56th Fighter Wing seeks collateral duty equal employment opportunity counselors. GS-5 and above civilian employees are eligible to apply. Duties include advising complainants and trying to resolve complaints at the informal stage. Applications endorsed by supervisors are due Saturday. For more information, call Susan Bradford at 856-7747.

ALS seeks instructor

Luke Airman Leadership School seeks a high-caliber staff sergeant for a professional military education instructor position. For more information or to apply, call Tech. Sgt. Derek Urban at 856-7737.

Goldwater Range open house

The Bureau of Land Management's Phoenix Field Office has a series of open houses to gather public input on the resources and management of the four parcels of land the Air Force relinquishes from the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

Yuma: Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at BLM's Yuma field office, 2555 E. Gila Ridge Road

Gila Bend: Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Gila Bend Community Center, 202 N. Euclid Ave.

Ajo: Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ajo Community Center at Bud Walker Park, 290 Fifth St.

Tucson: April 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at El Rio Center, 1390 W. Speedway

Senior NCO ECI course change

Senior NCOs can no longer enroll in the Extension Course Institute, Maxwell, Air Force Base, Ala., Senior NCO Academy. Those enrolled are not affected by the change if they complete the course by their deadlines. For more information, call Master Sgt. Billy Henderson at 856-7722 or 856-7723.

Tax center help, volunteers needed

The Luke Tax Center is open until Monday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Bldg. 1150, Room 1064. The center provides free income tax help to active-duty members and retirees; appointments are not necessary. For more information, call Barbara Gaugert at 856-3140.

Correction

Tech. Sgt. James McDonald, 56th Transportation Squadron, was mistakenly identified as being part of another squadron in the salutes section of the April 7 edition of the "Tallyho." McDonald is the 1999 AETC readiness NCO of the year.

It's all attitude ...

Air Force photo

A Military Training Instructor recruiting team visits Luke for a briefing at 9 a.m. April 20 in the 944th Medical Squadron classroom. The team seeks eligible senior airmen through master sergeants with less than 16 years active service. Applications may be accepted on-the-spot. MTIs receive $275 per month in special-duty assignment pay, additional clothing allowance to upgrade uniforms, free dry cleaning and a stabilized four-year tour. This extremely challenging job requires long hours and is never done. Spouses are encouraged to attend the briefing.

Volunteers

Contributions pay off

In conjunction with National Volunteer Week, Luke recognizes its volunteers April 27 at 10 a.m. at the Desert Star Enlisted Club.

The event honors the contributions of the hundreds of volunteers who give unselfishly to improve the base and local community.

Volunteer recognition awards are given in the categories of active duty, retiree, youth and nonmilitary contributions.

The person chosen as Luke's Volunteer of the Year is presented the Air Force Chief of Staff Volunteer Excellence Award.

The Luke community benefits from the voluntary contributions of about 1,000 people including active-duty members, retirees, family members and civilian employees.

Their contributions are estimated to provide more than $900,000 in real benefits to the community.

Some of the agencies that rely on volunteers to provide services include American Red Cross hospital volunteers, base chapel programs, youth services, family services, legal office volunteer tax preparers, family support center, base library and the retiree activities office.

Blue ribbons are at each location to thank volunteers for their work.

Volunteers work in offices and agencies throughout the base as well.

Team Luke people are invited to attend the recognition reception. For more information on this or other volunteer issues, call Vernadene Loveland or Debbie Davis at 856-6362. *(Courtesy of the 56th Mission Support Squadron)*

Clubs implement payment change

Due to problems in implementing the Internet-based CLUB WORKS program, the officers and enlisted clubs cannot process payments until further notice. However, there are other payment options.

Phone: Customers who have a U.S. checking or savings account may call Card Member Services in Austin, Texas at (800) 759-0294. This free service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Internet: Members may use a personal computer to make payments via the Internet. Members may enroll for this free service at http://www.firstusa.com. Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Automatic payment: Members authorize their checking or savings accounts to be debited automatically on a pre-established date each month. Members may have the minimum payment, a fixed amount or the total balance due paid automatically each month. To establish payments, call Card Member Services at (800)759-0294 to obtain the necessary form.

Mail: This is the traditional payment method. Members must mail the payment in sufficient time for it to reach First USA and be posted before the due date.

Pay ahead: Allows members to make advance payments for up to two months ahead of time. Call Card Member Services at (800)759-0294 to arrange this payment option. *(Information courtesy of 56th Services Squadron)*

Blotter: SPs apprehend BX shoplifters, Airman leaves accident scene

56th Security Forces Squadron commander's note: *Crime does not stop at the fence surrounding Luke. Team Luke members can "take a bite out of crime" by reporting suspicious activities and people.*

56th SFS members responded to the following incidents April 4 through Saturday:

Accidents:

- A senior airman was arrested for damaging government property and fleeing the scene of an accident.
- A civilian backed into a vehicle in the commissary parking lot.
- An airman and a master sergeant's wife backed into each other at the base exchange parking garage.
- A retiree backed into a car in the hospital lot.

Theft:

- In three separate incidents a retiree's dependent, a staff sergeant's wife and a Navy retiree were arrested for shoplifting at the BX.

Miscellaneous:

- Security forces and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department responded to a verbal altercation at Luke's riding stables.
- There was a possible domestic situation in base housing reported via a 911 call.
- A retiree's family member was arrested for prescription forgery.
- An Army private turned himself in for being absent without leave.
- Glendale police arrested a staff sergeant for violating a restraining order.
- There was a disorderly patron at the Desert Star Enlisted Club.
- There is an investigation of an indecent assault and disorderly conduct incident.
- Numerous base agencies responded to a chemical spill adjacent to Bldg. 1233.
- Emergency units assisted a pregnant airman first class who was complaining of pains.
- There was a domestic disturbance and assault with damaged government property.
- There were also three noise complaints, five dormitory lockouts, three housing lockouts and one traffic complaints.

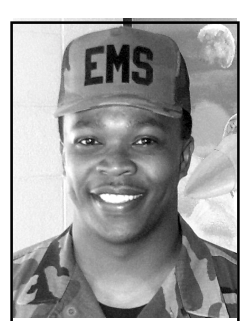
Damage:

- An airman reported a small dent to car door.
- A staff sergeant reported damage to a government vehicle after a softball hit the windshield.

Anyone with information on these or other Luke crimes, call the security forces desk at 856-5970 or investigations at 856-3748. If reporting a crime or an emergency, call 856-5970 or 911. Callers may remain anonymous.

Wing Warrior

This column recognizes Team Luke members' contributions to wartime readiness in the tradition of 2nd Lt. Frank Luke.



Kyle

Name: Staff Sgt. Darrel Kyle, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance production superintendent
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.
Years in service: 15
Inspiration: Relationship with God and desire to succeed.
Goals: To be a multi-media stand-up comic and have the business savvy to own the rights to it all.
Off duty: Stand-up comic, listening to contemporary jazz and volunteer as a youth sports coach.
Commander's comments: "Staff Sgt. Kyle is an aggressive, mission-focused NCO who gets the job done right the first time in one of the busiest shops in the maintenance arena," Col. Ronald Lee, 56th Logistics Group commander, said.

Luke's Spirit

Col. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, uses this column to recognize Team Luke members' outstanding customer service.

Matthews

Name: Staff Sgt. Christopher Matthews, 56th Communication Squadron, still photographic journeyman
Hometown: West Leyden, N.Y.
Years service: Eight
Family: Wife, Linda and 3-year-old son Alexander
Inspiration: My dad
Goals: To be the best husband and father to my family.
Famous last words: "Life's a game, play ball."
Off-duty: Birds, fish and cars
Commander's comments: "Staff Sergeant Chris Matthews is not only an expert in his craft, but he has an outstanding attitude," Sargeant said. "He is never satisfied with achieving the minimum required, but always strives to be the best."

Congress confirms deputy secretary, Cohen gives oath

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Secretary of Defense William Cohen presided at a ceremony March 31 to swear in Rudy de Leon as the 27th deputy secretary of defense, following his March 29 Senate confirmation.

In his most recent position, de Leon served as the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, assuming those duties in August 1997.

In this capacity he was the secretary of defense's senior policy advisor on recruitment, career development and pay and benefits for 1.4 million active-duty military people, 1.3 million Guard and Reserve members and 680,000 Department of Defense civilians.

He also oversaw the Defense Health Program, Defense Commissaries and Exchanges, a Defense Education Activity and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

Courtesy photo

Secretary of Defense William Cohen administers the oath of office March 31 to Rudy de Leon. The new deputy secretary is accompanied by his wife Anne (right) and their daughters Libby (holding the Bible) and Kerry.

Fiscal 2001 budget

AF plan bolsters space programs

By Mary Ann Roney
Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFPN) — The Air Force space budget for fiscal year 2001 provides all necessary components to continue to organize, train and equip the nation's premier space and missile force.

According to Brig. Gen. Brian Arnold, director Space and Nuclear Deterrence, Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisition, "As a whole, the AFSPC (Air Force Space Command) Operations and Maintenance budget has remained relatively constant over the last few years."

The fiscal year 2001 space budget, including operation and maintenance, procurement, research, development, testing and evaluation, is $8.8 billion, which is approximately 9 percent of the Air Force's total budget.

As in the past, this new budget reflects concern about military readiness and continues to address the modernization of weapons and support systems both at the national and command levels.

AFSPC project areas that are seeing funding increases are wide-ranging, Arnold said. Global positioning system modernization, upgrades to the GPS Operational Control System and Anti-Jam development and testing dollars are growing substantially, virtually doubling from the fiscal year 2000 budget.

GPS satellites provide extremely accurate three-dimensional location information such as latitude, longitude and altitude; velocity and precise time to military and civilian users all over the world for navigational purposes.

According to Arnold, Space Based Infrared System-High will see a budget increase of more than $148 million, which will enable the project to comply with Department of Defense full-funding policy and implement a procurement policy to reduce concurrency risk. The infrared system gives the warfighter critical information in the area of missile warning, missile defense and early battlefield warnings.

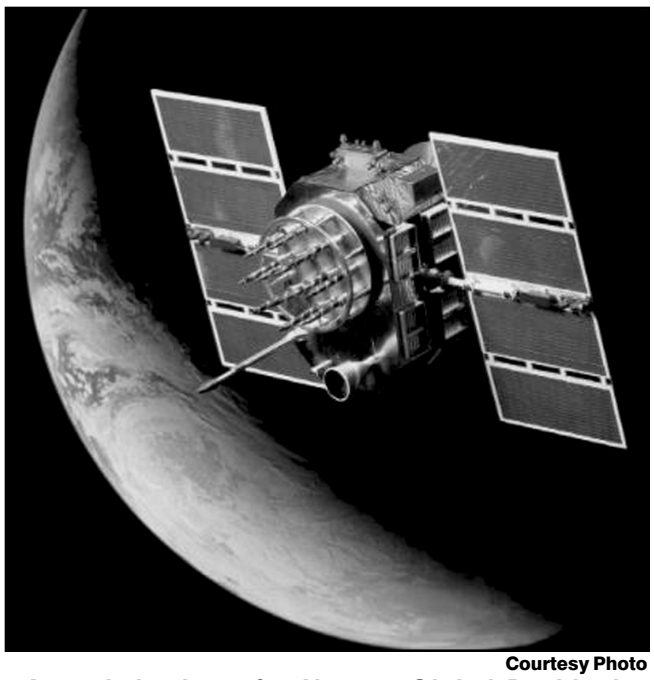
While overall Milstar funding will decrease in fiscal 2001, the dollars for satellite sustainment engineering will be augmented slightly. Milstar is a joint service satellite communications system that provides secure, jam resistant, worldwide communications requirements for military users.

The Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, EELV, the Air Force's space lift modernization program, will adjust funding up more than 50 percent in order to match launch schedule changes and to correct for congressional reductions.

Some space command programs that maintained resource allocation without an increase or decrease are the Eastern and Western launch range funding which held firm at about $550 million and the Defense Support Program, which is a key part of North America's early warning system.

"There are, however, a few significant cuts in the budget," Arnold said. These include GPS II procurement and launch schedule adjustment. As well as, the National Polar Orbiting Environmental System restructuring resulting in a 25 percent loss of funding.

Also the Space Architect program has moved from Air Force control to the Office of the Secretary of Defense.



Courtesy Photo

An artist's view of a Navstar Global Positioning System satellite. GPS provides 24-hour navigation services. A GPS satellite orbits the earth every 12 hours, emitting continuous navigation signals.

On the whole, the proposed budget continues to expand the technology and funding necessary to deploy a National Missile Defense system and to upgrade the aging intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, force. It also provides for research and development of emerging missions and will help encourage space command goals.

AF leaders study how to best use people

By Senior Airman A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Seeking to dispel common misconceptions about ongoing A-76 competitive sourcing studies, the Air Force's top civilian leader recently reiterated the primary goals of the studies — saving money but, more importantly, placing people into positions where the Air Force needs them most in order to accomplish the mission.

Secretary of the Air Force Whit Peters said the service is not conducting A-76 studies to reduce the number of active-duty troops — repeating a promise made by him and by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan.

According to the secretary, the A-76 process evaluates whether government functions can be performed more efficiently by the private sector vs. the military and civilian workforce.

"Every time we conduct A-76 competitions we figure out better ways to do business," he said. "Whether the government or private sector is chosen to provide the service, there is always a reduction in cost a veraging between 30 to 40 percent."

"The A-76 process is often misunderstood by troops in the field when referred to as 'contracting out' or 'outsourcing,' implying we automatically lose something in the process, whether jobs or capability," said Brig. Gen. Michael McMahan, director of manpower and organization, headquarters Air Force. In reality, the opposite is true. "The Air Force and its people benefit from A-76 competitions," he said.

"We gain an increase in capability — by freeing up military manpower from nonwartime requirements and migrating them to functions directly supporting the combat mission — and save money to reinvest into quality of life programs — benefiting all Air Force members."

"However, some of our active-duty airmen incorrectly equate re-engineering and competitive sourcing with losing their jobs," Peters said. "I want to dispel that rumor. I want them to know the Air Force needs them — they are our most valuable resource."

> ***"... Some of our active-duty airmen incorrectly equate reengineering and competitive sourcing with losing their jobs. I want to dispel that rumor. I want them to know the Air Force needs them — they are our most valuable resource."***
>
> **Whit Peters**
> Secretary of the Air Force

The Air Force is not going to ask military members, freed up through the A-76 process, to resign from the Air Force. They will first be offered reassignment to another location. In situations where there is excess manning in a career field, they will have the opportunity to retrain into another career field. "We don't want to lose the people who want to stay with the Air Force," he said.

"The people affected by the conversions are our primary concern," McMahan emphasized. "We understand people are worried about their future and there may be some anxiety. Change can be uncomfortable, but it is also an opportunity for the Air Force to become more agile militarily and more efficient economically.

"The ideal situation, for military members, is to move them to another position at the same installation or to another base that is undermanned in their same career field," McMahan said. "We have invested a tremendous amount in these professionals and they know how to fight 'the war,' and the Air Force wants to retain these highly trained and experienced people.

"The Air Force also takes care of government civilians affected by A-76", he said. "They will be offered placement assistance, at the same base if possible, or at another government location. They also have the right of first refusal — choosing to leave civil service and work for the contractor. Our civilians are a vital part of the total force and every effort will be made to keep them on the Air Force team."

"We are being scrupulously fair, and making every effort to assist people whose jobs shift to the private sector," Peters said.

People at locations receiving services from an organization that was converted to contract can expect no change in the level of customer service, said Robert Corsi, deputy director for manpower and organization. "There should be no loss in capability. The A-76 study is not about doing 'less with less.' It is about providing the same amount of service in a more efficient manner."

"Our people work hard, and the recent chief of staff quality-of-life survey showed most work well over a 40-hour work week," Peters said. "The problem we have is that most of our bases are not 100-percent manned. Currently, when people deploy, it really comes out of the hide of the people left behind. They must work even harder and longer to make up for the absence of the deployed members."

To alleviate this, the secretary said the Air Force, by the end of fiscal 2001, will have moved almost 6,000 positions from the nondeploying portion of the Air Force into forces available to support the expeditionary aerospace force. This will substantially assist EAF manning, decreasing operations tempo for individuals and providing even more stability for Air Force members and their families.

Slippery when wet ...

Photo by Derk Blanset

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFPN) — Raptor 4001 undergoes wet-runway testing during a rare rainy day in the Mojave Desert. The F-22 was tested at speeds of 30, 60 and 90 knots. This test is just one of thousands of rigorous trials the F-22 Combined Test Force is putting the Raptor through during the most extensive test program that any fighter aircraft has undergone.

Later in 2000, the F-22 CTF aircraft will begin pushing the flight test envelope with Raptor 4003 and advanced avionics testing with Raptor 4004.

AF unveils EAF website

By Capt. Wilson Camelo
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — To help ensure people deploying as part of the expeditionary aerospace force concept are fully prepared for their arrival in theater, the Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center unveils the first version of an electronic one stop shop for AEF deployments April 15.

Called EAF Online, the website features training templates airmen can access to get information on actions they need to complete — specific to their Air Force specialty code — before deploying, said Lt. Col. Gordon Bennett, website project officer.

The restricted website is only available via military computers at http://aefcenter.acc.af.mil/eafonline.

The version features training templates for communications, legal and maintenance AFSCs deploying for Operation Southern Watch. The completed version with training templates for all AFSCs deploying to support any steady state deployment will be available by October, Bennett said.

"The goal is to have EAF Online serve as the backbone for all AEF actions for people deploying to support Air Force worldwide operations," he said. "We want everyone identified for an AEF deployment to go to this site first to obtain the information on actions they need to complete so they are ready to hit the ground running at their deployed location."

Those actions include required training, shots and qualifications for each AFSC and location. Once logged onto EAF Online — accomplished by entering a career field, AEF number, deployment location and home base in specific fields — people can access the requirements and training needed for the deployment, such as weapons, chemical warfare and air base ground defense. The site also features force protection and geopolitical issues, lessons learned from previous rotations and links to related news articles.

"We want to make people smart and do as much training as we can on this side of the ocean," Bennett said. "This will benefit the people on the other side of the ocean when they receive a fully-trained, fully-briefed airman."

Conducting briefings and training also has positive implications for the large number of reserve forces filling AEF taskings, Bennett said.

As the website is developed other aspects such as "Right Start" briefings, travel arrangements and issues such as orders, pay and outprocessing will be added.

Bennett stressed EAF Online's success depends on feedback from airmen in the field. The website lets users provide feedback directly to the AEF Center.

"We hope people of all specialties will visit the site, and suggest ways to improve our information. The site is for the deploying troop — we are trying to present information they will need, and consider valuable. Feedback is essential for our success," he said.

The October upgrade to EAF Online will also benefit commanders by allowing them to track the readiness status of their units and people.

AF celebrates women's history

Washington showcases military memorials

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Women in Military Service for America Memorial is perhaps the largest and best-known tribute to women's contributions to the nation's defense and defenders. It's also only one of hundreds of its kind.

Statues and inscriptions etched into marble in parks, gardens, cemeteries and cathedrals honor military women, war correspondents, industrial workers, American Red Cross and Salvation Army workers — and women who took their husbands' places on the front line after the men fell in combat.

At the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, the Women in Military Service for America Memorial is the first major national tribute to all military women — past, present and future. It also recognizes women who have served in direct support of the armed forces, particularly during conflicts, in a special way called "We Also Served."

The memorial project completely restored a structure formerly called the Hemicycle and took about 11 years from concept to completion. Dedicated Oct. 18, 1997, it attracted more than 162,000 visitors in 1999.

The Vietnam Women's Memorial, dedicated in 1993, is part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial complex on the Washington Mall. Congress authorized the memorial in 1988 to honor the "women of the armed forces of the United States who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam era." The bronze statue by sculptor Glenna Goodacre of Santa Fe, N.M., depicts three women, one of whom is tending a wounded soldier. The statue is 68 inches tall and weighs one ton.

The memorial pays tribute to 10,000 women stationed in Vietnam during the war. It also honors the more than 265,000 other military women who served stateside and in other areas of the world during the Vietnam War.

Eight trees encircling the statue's site commemorate the eight women who died in Vietnam. Their names are engraved in the shiny black granite wall panels of the nearby Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

American Red Cross spokesperson Kelly Alexander said women are honored by several memorials and other tributes at Red Cross Square in Washington. Over the years, hundreds of Red Cross workers lost their lives while supporting American combat troops.

Additionally, African American activist and educator Mary McLeod Bethune isn't normally thought of as a major contributor to the nation's defense efforts, but she lobbied the War Department during World War II to commission black women officers in what became the Women's Army Corps.

In 1944, Bethune became the national commander of the Women's Army for National Defense, an all-black women's organization founded on Nov. 15, 1942. The organization was created to seek "opportunities for service ... share in this fight for democracy ... and to provide an instrument through which our women could serve in this great crisis, with dignity and pride...."

With the help of President and Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Bethune fought for better conditions for African Americans men and women in the military. The three-person statue in lincoln Park features the renowned educator and two students.

Several quotes from Bethune are inscribed around the larger-than-life-size statue: "I leave you finally a responsibility to our young people. I leave you also a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow man. I leave you a respect for the use of power. I leave you racial dignity. I leave you a thirst for education. I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another."

AF hosts seminars for business owners

By Master Sgt. Terry Somerville
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — The Air Force has $1 billion in contracts it hopes women-owned businesses will seek.

To help attract more competition for contracts, the Air Force hosts seminars at various locations where local women business owners can learn how to compete for Air Force contracts.

"We want to make you successful because that in turn will make us more successful," said Carol DiBattiste, undersecretary of the Air Force.

Follow-up surveys from the previous seminars indicate 46 percent of all attendees have bid on Air Force contracts and 35 percent have won them, DiBattiste said. That's resulted in more than $23.5 million in Air Force contracts awarded to women-owned businesses.

Outreach events "provide us with a greater number of sources" for contracts, said Tony DeLuca, director of the Air Force Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. "From a competitive sense, when you increase the competitive pool, you get better products."

The five-hour event features an overview of the Air Force's use of the Internet to enable Air Force contracting officials and women-owned businesses to get together. "WOBlink" enables women business owners to set up a company profile which Air Force buyers can search to find the right contractor. The site also includes lists of Air Force contracts which company officials can search for contracts open to bid.

Saudi Arabia

U.S. will not cut troop levels

by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AFPN) — Contrary to news reports, U.S. troop levels in the area will not be reduced.

An April 9 story quotes an anonymous U.S. military official as saying that Defense Secretary William S. Cohen and Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan agreed to reduce troop levels at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Aribia.

"The story is complete hogwash," said Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon. "We have no plans to reduce the number of airmen or planes at Prince Sultan Air Base, and the topic of reducing airmen in Saudi Arabia was not discussed tonight between Secretary Cohen and Prince Sultan. In fact, Prince Sultan expressed a strong desire for a continued U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia at current levels."

U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Wyche Fowler said there "has been no discussion whatsoever, at any level, about reduction of American soldiers." There are about 4,000 U.S. service members in Saudi Arabia.

During a news conference following meetings between the prince and Cohen, Sultan said the U.S. troops are in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the U.N. framework to conduct operations over Southern Iraq. "These troops are doing their duties to keep the peace only, not to be aggressors," Prince Sultan said. "Whatever is said more than that is not true."

Cohen and the prince said the discussions were fruitful. One part of the discussions centered on the Peninsula Shield forces of the six Gulf Cooperation Council members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

All six GCC countries contribute to the force, but it is more a paper force than a real one. The forces only exercise together about once every two years. Prince Sultan suggested the United States join with Peninsula Shield forces to achieve more multilateral exercises.

The prince also commented on U.S.-Iranian relations. He said Saudi Arabia called for peace, and he hoped Iran would respond "with what is in its security interests. All steps taken by the United States toward this goal are welcome," he said.

Cohen and the prince also discussed the Cooperative Defense Initiative, which seeks to tie the Gulf States, Egypt and Jordan into an early-warning network to track missile threats. He said the United States thinks the initiative is an important program for the gulf because of the threat of chemical and biological agents in the region.

"There is no particular sense of timing to this issue," Cohen said. "I have been talking about it for several years. We are talking about it because we have seen evidence that the spread of chemical and biological weapons continues."

Senior Airman Michael Duhe

Air Force members on temporary duty assignments to Prince Sultan Air Base, Al Kharj, Saudi Arabia, have a varitey of options for meals at the upgraded dining facility. On any day, about 70 Luke airmen are deployed to Saudia Arabia.

AEFs improve military life

By Staff Sgt. Brian Orban
35th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan (AFPN) — The Air Force's Expeditionary Aerospace Force improves as it evolves into the service's new way of doing business.

During a recent visit, Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, said the service has not seen any major glitches in the plan since the first aerospace expeditionary force teams deployed in October 1999.

In late February, more than 270 pilots, maintenance troops and support people as well as eight F-16CJ jets from the 13th Fighter Squadron left Misawa Air Base, Japan, to fulfill the Air Force's deployment requirements as part of AEF 5.

The 13th FS and its team of combat support members and equipment joined other fighter, bomber, transport and support units to patrol the "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq as part of Operation Southern Watch. Another team from the 14th Fighter Squadron is scheduled to leave the base this summer as part of AEF 7.

Teamwork is the key behind the success of the EAF, Ryan said. Under the plan, the Air Force sends a complete team to support contingency operations vs. pulling individuals from various bases as previously done under the former Palace Tenure program.

As the Air Force continues to fine-tune the AEF deployment plan, "every AEF deployment should get better," Ryan said. Every time we rollover AEFs, we learn ways to better prepare and take care of our people. We should make sure the next AEF is better both in terms of how we treat our people during their deployment and in terms of the kinds of capability they bring."

Ryan said the AEF schedule offers more predictability and stability for the lives of Air Force members. However, the service does give up something each time it deploys as a group — it loses the "corporate memory" normally retained when deploying people in stages vs. all at once.

"You lose some of the continuity you normally have with people not rolling over all at once; but we gain so much more in terms of the team effort that goes into deploying as a group," Ryan said.

Turning to other issues, Ryan highlighted the service's priorities for its people in the coming years. Having reformed the military's retirement system and pay tables for service members in 1999, he said the Air Force and its sister services are making improved health care one of their top priorities in 2001.

> ***"Every time we rollover AEFs, we learn ways to better prepare and take care of our people."***
> **Gen. Michael Ryan**
> Air Force chief of staff

Ryan said the military made a fairly smooth transition from its old medical care program to TRICARE, but plenty of work remains.

"This year, we're going to Congress with some (proposals for) added benefits for TRICARE ... that give us more flexibility in how we make TRICARE payments," Ryan added. Using co-pays as an example he said "we're trying to do away with them — they're are really just nuisance fees. We think that's wrong, and we want to fix it."

Meanwhile, the military's senior leaders are continuing to fight for better pay raises for their people. The 4.1-percent across-the-board pay raise that took affect Jan. 1, as well as the pay table reforms, are just the beginning, Ryanl said.

The pay raises were not a "one-time shot" to make military pay comparable with similar jobs in the civilian sector, Ryan said. "We need to continue these pay raises, and we're very dedicated and committed to continuing (to push for) these pay raises in the future."

'I love the Air Force, I love Air Force life, I love AF people'

By Senior Airman Amy Berry
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy (AFPN) — After seeing Gen. Lester Lyles, Air Force vice chief of staff, interact with troops, it's no surprise to hear him say, "I love the Air Force, I love Air Force life and I love Air Force people."

For those Air Force people, the general spends much of his time developing and examining new and existing ways to support them. He deals with issues ranging from retention and recruiting, to education and retirement benefits and optempo.

Lyles, recently selected for reassignment as commander of Air Force Materiel Command, visited Aviano recently and got a closer look at how people complete their mission. The general said in the last 10 years, the Air Force has decreased in size by roughly 40 percent, while optempo and deployments have increased nearly 400 percent.

"I know we'll always get the mission done," he said. "One way or another our people always come through. We need to figure out a way to support them.

"We're struggling right now in the Air Force to some extent," he said. "We recruited more people last year than we've done in the Air Force in the last 10 or 15 years or so. But, our retention numbers are not where they need to be.

"Our task is to support the chief and secretary to examine, literally, every out-of-the-box solution and every in-the-box solution we can," Lyles said.

These solutions are bonuses, better education benefits and putting more recruiters in the field.

"There is just a myriad of activities and initiatives that we will be taking on to solve the problem," Lyles said.

System eases civilian job search

By Tech. Sgt. R.R. Getsy
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Job seekers no longer have to continually check for Air Force vacancies once the Civilian Announcement Notification System goes online this spring.

Nicknamed CANS, the system allows people to sign up using their e-mail address and automatically receive a list of new Air Force civilian job announcements that match their specific search criteria, according to Felipe Jimenez, CANS action officer at the Palace Compass program office, Directorate of Personnel Force Management.

Scheduled to launch May 1, CANS is the only one of its kind in the Department of Defense, although private industry has similar systems, Jimenez said.

"The great thing about CANS is that it eliminates the need for an applicant to constantly check for new job announcements," he said. To sign on, the only information required is a valid e-mail address.

"This is a very user-friendly program," Jimenez pointed out. "Once you're logged on, the system will take you through the process step by step. All you need to do is list your specific job criteria, and CANS does the rest."

Applicants input search criteria, such as occupational series, pay plan and grade combinations and duty locations. Once criteria are established, they remain in the system for 180 days. Applicants can list up to 20 different criteria combinations. The information can be changed at any time, initiating another 180-day cycle.

The system automatically searches for jobs based on the applicant's search criteria; if there are any matches, an e-mail will be sent to the applicant listing the job announcement number, description, pay plan, occupational series, grade, job location, closing date and the address.

Anyone interested in seeking employment with the Air Force is eligible to sign on, including military members close to retiring or separating, Jimenez said.

Beginning May 1, people can go to their website to sign on to the CANS subscription service via the World Wide Web. This website is operational and features additional information, such as an updated Job Kit and online Resume Writer.

Jimenez said potential applicants for Air Force civilian jobs have an endless source of employment information, from links to position announcements to detailed instructions on how to prepare and submit a properly formatted resume. Users can also point and click their way to other related websites, such as the Veterans Home Page, OPM and the Air Force Civilian Career Management Program.

Website features travel information

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Whether traveling to central London or the African plains, people may want to check the travel section on the State Department website home page for international travel information.

The site provides health and safety information and host nation travel rules and regulations. It offers advice on what to take and not take and how to ensure a safe journey.

Officials issue warnings whenever Americans should avoid certain countries. Announcements are posted about terrorism and other relatively short-term or transnational conditions posing threats. In the past, the department has issued warnings about bomb threats to airlines, terrorist violence and anniversaries of specific terrorist events.

The website also includes a list of travel publications available on the Internet or in hard copy.

The travel section cites services offered by U.S. consular sections overseas. These include helping travelers replace a passport, find medical or legal assistance and obtain funds from back home.

Luke NCO leaves Air Force, returns

By Tech. Sgt. George F. Jozens
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

While many airmen debate whether to reenlist, one Luke staff sergeant recently changed her mind and returned to active duty after finding out the grass isn't always greener outside the gate.

Staff Sgt. Sharon De'Deaux, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness Logisitics NCO in charge, returned to active duty after spending more than three years in the civilian job market.

"I was at a point in my career where you stay in or get out — half way," De'Deaux said. "I had been in the Air Force 9 years, 7 months and a handfull of days as a readiness troop when I decided to get out. I had a job offer at Intel in Seattle. But without a college degree I started at $6 or $7 an hour, 10 bucks if you're lucky."

De'Deaux said she had several different jobs in the 3.5 years she was separated from the Air Force.

"I worked as an office manager and the guy who hired me would expect me to cut steel without safety equipment, training or experience and there were no benefits," De'Deaux said. "I also worked in a warehouse. They hired everybody as a part-time employee for a year. Then after six months, you could buy partial benefits and if there was a position after a year, you could buy full benefits."

However, in the Air Force benefits are part of the package.

"When I first considered getting out the Air Force, I was tired," said De'Deaux. "The OPTEMPO at that time was incredible and my friends were telling me to get out. My friends kept telling me that I wouldn't get told what color of green to wear today and how long my hair could be.

"I heard life was greener on the other side of the fence, so I went for it," she said. "But that was not an accurate statement. It's cut throat out there, people would step on you for that quarter raise."

The one item De'Deaux noticed most outside the gates was there is no teamwork or sense of family.

"Luckily my family was supportive in all of my decisions," she said. "What I missed in the civilian world was my Air Force family, Red Horse, with all of its team members who are like brothers and sisters to me. The civilian jobs have a bottom line — money!"

Although she said the pay isn't the best, she said it's better than the civilian world. De'Deaux said the total Air Force benefits package is a better deal.

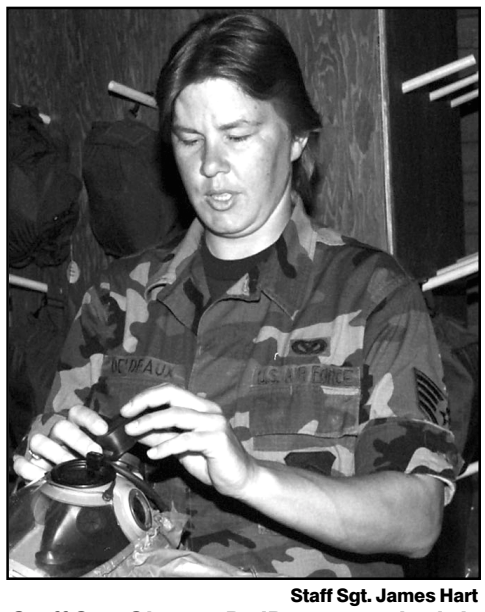
"When people ask 'Why didn't you stay out?,' I tell them the pay for the work the civilian sector expects isn't worth it," De'Deaux said. "The overall advantage of returning to the Air Force definitely outweighs anything the civilian world offers.

She also said today's Air Force is a better place to work now compared to when she separated.

Some improvements in today's Air Force are the highest pay raise in 18 years, return of the 50-percent retirement system and a change in the pay table for mid-level NCOs and officers in July.

De'Deaux is a welcomed asset in the readiness flight.

"Having a trained readiness craftsman makes integration into the job a lot easier," said Michael Badillo, 56th CES Readiness chief. "Having Sgt. De'Deaux in our flight gives us a mission-ready asset."



Staff Sgt. James Hart
Staff Sgt. Sharon De'Deaux on the job.

Deployments are one reason De'Deaux left the Air Force. That too has improved.

"The OPTEMPO hasn't changed, but I think we're organized better," De'Deaux said. "I see some positive things going on with the new aerospace expeditionary force and expeditionary aerospace forces," she said. "Any airman thinking about getting out, I'd love to talk to them first."

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Michael Burns

The U.S. Air Force Academy Wings of Blue parachute team members practice free-fall formation movements at Gila Bend Air Force Auxilary Field.

Wings of Blue

U.S. Air Force Academy Parachute team practices jump fundamentals at Gila Bend

By Senior Airman Jeremy Clayton Tredway
56th Fighter Wing Public Affiars

U.S. Air Force Academy parachute team, Wings of Blue, instructors and cadets recently converged at Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field in southwestern Arizona for their annual training camp.

The team comes to Gila Bend because of the great weather and long free fall times.

Gila Bend provides the best combination of opportunities for training, service and support, safety and security for the cadets.

During the first week dedicated parachute instructors concentrate on four- and eight-way formation skydiving and other disciplines tied to free fall practice. Formation maneuvers resemble choreographed square dances in the sky. Everyone has an integral part to make the dive succeed.

These daring jumps hone the flying skills needed to be effective, credible instructors for the follow-on cadet-training week.

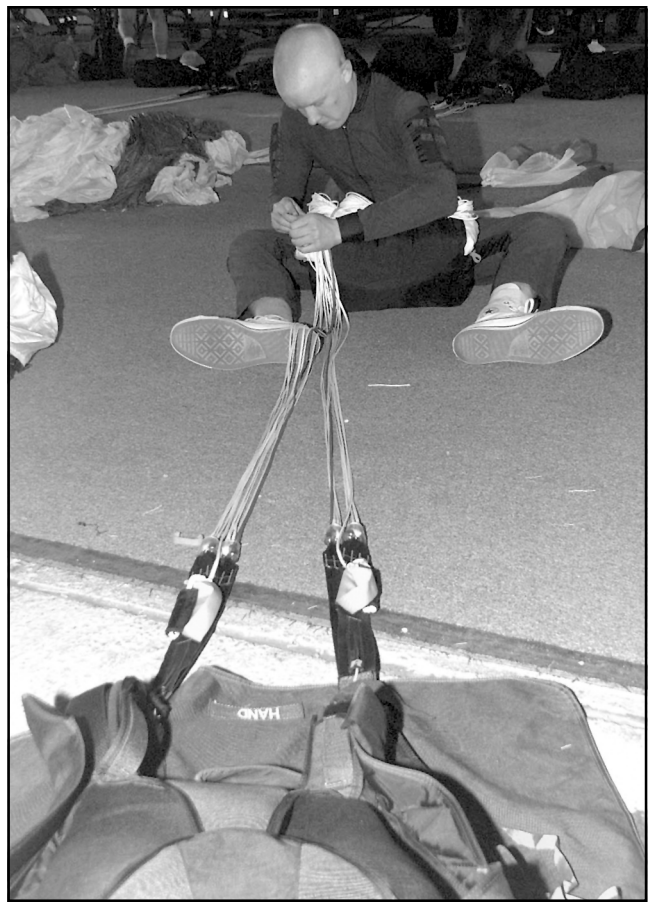
When the sophomore cadets arrive on week two, they enter into formal jumpmaster upgrade and two-way formation training. This work is paramount to developing their crew resource management understanding and future four-way dive skills and may also carry over to the more classical style and accuracy events currently on a resurgence within U.S. competitive circles.

The sophomores, who are the focal point of spring break training, will soon be the instructor corps teaching basic parachuting to more than 700 academy cadets each year.

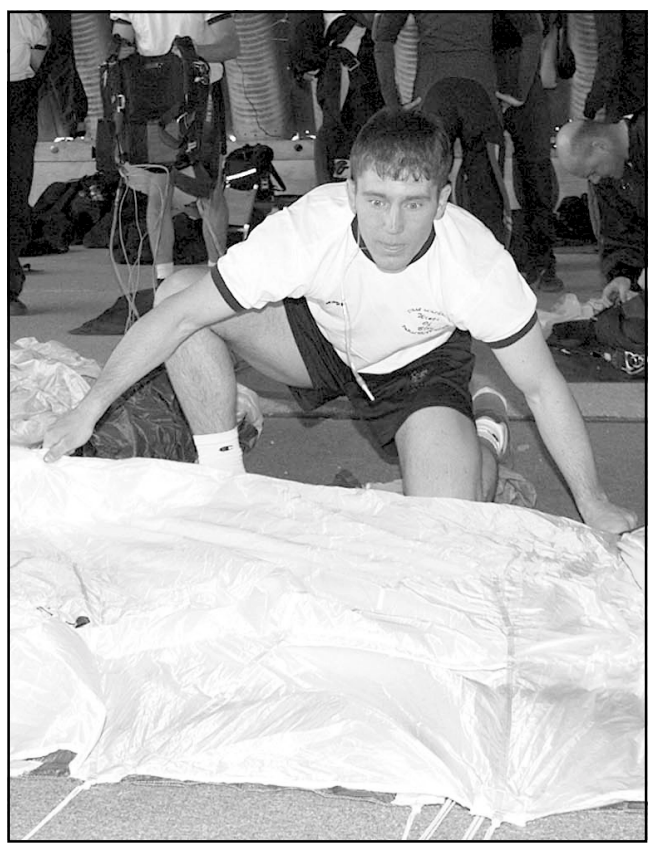
There are also eight-way drills for the seniors and four-way competition practice for the juniors bound for the 2001 nationals. The air shows and parachute demonstration team practices show line-ups, scripted narration and work on disciplined aerial routines so when they perform in front of a live audience of 100,000 people or more, their hard work, pride and professional dedication shines through.

Wings of Blue have been one of the outstanding parachute units in the country during the past two decades. Since 1967, cadets have dominated national intercollegiate parachuting championships, typically winning decisively over the other 40 schools. Additionally, they perform about 30 demonstrations each year.

The Wings of Blue have won the National Collegiate Parachuting Championships 23 of the last 32 years and reached millions through performing more than 70 demonstrations each year.



U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Jerad Hand inspects and packs his jump gear prior to a practice jump.



U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Matt Hepp folds his parachute prior to jumping.

Wings of Blue members file out for an afternoon launch.

Chapel News

Worship schedule

The following is Luke's Protestant and Catholic worship schedule:

Protestant worship

- Holy Communion is Sunday at 8 a.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- Gospel service is Sunday at 8:30 a.m. at the Chapel on the Mall.
- Morning worship service is Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- Evening praise service is Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.

Catholic worship

- Saturday Mass is at 5 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- Sunday Mass is at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- Weekday Mass is at noon at the Luke Community Chapel.

Religious education

- Religious education and youth Protestant Sunday school is 9:30 a.m. in the education annex, Bldg. 246 on 140th Drive near the Chapel on the Mall. Classes are for ages 4 through adult.
- Protestant Youth of the Chapel for junior and senior high youths meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Luke Community Chapel Annex.
- Catholic religious education is Sundays at 11 a.m. at Luke School. Classes are for ages 3 through adult. For more information, call Loida Lagang at 856-6211.
- Catholic Youths of the Chapel meet Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Luke Community Chapel Annex. Junior and senior high school youths are invited.

Holy week services

In addition to the normally scheduled services:

Catholic

- Holy Thursday Mass is at 7 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- Good Friday service is at 7 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- Easter Vigil is Saturday, at 7:30 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel

Ecumenical stations of the cross

- Good Friday is at noon at the Luke Community Chapel.

Protestant

- Holy Week devotions is Wednesday at noon followed by a soup lunch at the Luke Community Chapel
- Easter sunrise Service is at 6 a.m. at the Chapel on the Mall.

Heir Born

The following babies were born at the Luke hospital.

Feb. 24
Elizabeth Christine to Deanna and John Busch

March 1
Jacob Andrew to Paula and Thomas Reidelbach

March 2
Eric James to Dora Robles and Victor Reyes

March 3
Caleb Michael to Lashundra and Michael Coad

March 6
Hunter McCrae to Kimberly and Travis Hargitt

March 7
Kieanna Sarah Marie to Mary Jean and Jeffrey Chalue

March 8
Ryean Romeo to Crystal and Ramon Rivera

March 12
Rick James to Tanya and Rick Dettlinger
Breanna Nicholle to Vanessa and John Muehlhausen
Madison Lee-Ann to Maureen and David Dunton

March 15
Dominic Guy to Michelle and David Marascola

March 16
Arianne Elizabeth to Kelli and Scott Reszka
Benjamin Joseph to Kathleen and Scott Haas

March 18
Taylor Nicole to Stephanie and Michael Weatherly

March 19
Carolyn Anne to Jacquelyn and William Berg
Terrence Joseph to Valerie and Joseph Monthie
Alexandria Tatum to Angelita and Bryan Bohn

March 21
Brianna Elise to Heather and Brian Craig

March 26
Hannah Marie to Lisa and Jeffrey Cusick

March 27
Matthew Lee to Carla and Nathaniel Williams
Tristan Anthony to Erin and Jeff Waldron

March 28
Emma Lynn to Stephanie and David Anderson

March 30
Summer Elise to Robin and Lance Mitchell
Clare Elizabeth to Juli and Frank Butcher

Club card use offers rewards

Luke's 56th Services Squadron kicks off sweepstakes promotion Saturday through July 15 to reward club members for using their club card when charging in services facilities.

Sweepstakes entry is simple; every time a member charges with their club card at participating services activities, they receive an entry form for the sweepstakes. There is a $5 minimum purchase.

Last fiscal year, Services Squadron activities paid more than $34,000 in bank fees for charges made with other credit cards. However, when members use the club card, services does not pay a bank merchant fee.

The goal of the program is to keep precious non-appropriated funds dollars on Luke to finance improvements for Luke people, while adding value to the club card, said John Beckett, 56th SVS business operations.

"Lowering our cost of doing business allows us to continuously improve facilities and programs throughout the squadron and make our programs better for all of Team Luke," he said.

Prizes include $1,000 in cash, a 25-round golf coupon book, a two-night stay in an A-Frame at Fort Tuthill, free dues for a year at each club or $250 in "Club Bucks", a weekend pontoon boat rental from outdoor recreation, and a custom bowling ball and bag valued at $175.

Participating activities include the officers' and enlisted clubs, outdoor recreation, skills development center, Falcon Dunes Golf Course and Luke Lanes Bowling Center.

For more information, visit a participating services activity or call, John Beckett at 856-6625.
(Courtesy of the 56th Services Squadron)

Salutes

AETC annual award winners

Anthony C. Shine Award

Maj. Dean Caldwell, 309th Fighter Squadron, and Maj. Richard Scobee, 56th Operations Group, received the AETC annual Anthony C. Shine Award. The award recognizes outstanding fighter pilots for flying profiency and professionalism.

Medical awards winners

Staff Sgt. Alberto Alvarado and Kathy Sanders, 56th Medical Group are the AETC annual medical information systems award winners. The award is for outstanding support in a military medical treatment facility.

Quarterly award winners

56th Contracting Squadron

The following 56th Contracting Squadron people are their quarterly award winners:
NCO: Staff Sgt. Brian Milam
Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Howard Trimmins
Company grade officer: Capt. Anthony McGraw
Civilian: Mary Peetz

56th Operations Support Squadron

The following 56th Operations Support Squadron people are their quarterly award winners:
Airman: Airman 1st Class Nathan Iseminger
NCO: Staff Sgt. Charles Roberts
Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Vyron McCraw
Instructor pilot: Capt. Michael Lay
Company grade officer: Capt. Amy Pepper
Field grade officer: Maj. John Hokaj
Civilian: Gladys Tharrington

Information, Tickets and Tours

Information, Tickets and Tours is in the community and wellness center. Dillards Box Office and Ticketmaster hours are weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and closed Sunday. For more information, call 856-6000.

Mexico shopping

There is a shopping day-trip to Nogales, Mexico, Saturday. The bus leaves the recreation center at 6 a.m. and returns at 6:30 p.m. Cost is $15. Shoppers should wear comfortable walking shoes and carry picture identification. Call for reservations.

Laughlin trip

There is a trip to Riverside Casino in Laughlin, Nev., Sunday and April 29. the bus leaves Bldg. 700 at 6 a.m. and returns at 10 p.m. Cost is $5 and includes transportation. Call for reservations.

Events

ITT also has tickets available to these and other local area events:

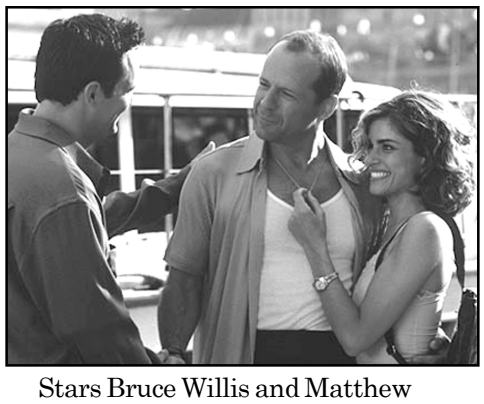
- Wynton Marsales and Lincoln Center Jazz plays Sunday at the Civic Plaza.
- The Phoenix Symphony plays Thursday at the Phoenix Symphony Hall.
- Jimmy Buffet plays April 25 at the Desert Shy Pavilion.
- Tina Turner and Lionel Ritchie play April 26 at the America West Arena.
- Country Thunder is April 27 through 30 at Queen Creek.

Luke Movies

Movies begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Children 12 and under pay $1; adults $1.50.

Today and Saturday

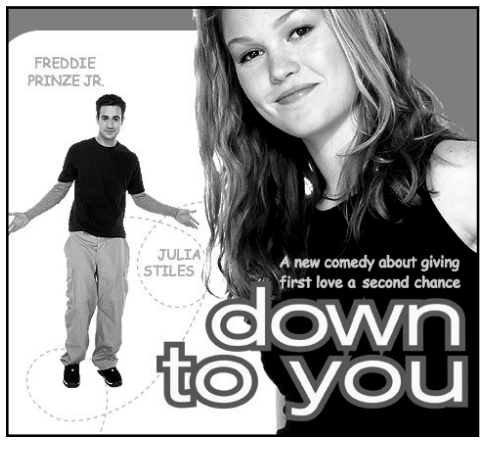
"Whole 9 Yards" (R)



Stars Bruce Willis and Matthew Perry. Nicholas Oseransky lives in suburban Montreal. His new neighbor, Jimmy "The Tulip" Tudeski is a hit man hiding out. Despite their differences, Oz and Jimmy have one thing in common: someone's trying to kill them both. *(99 minutes)*

Sunday

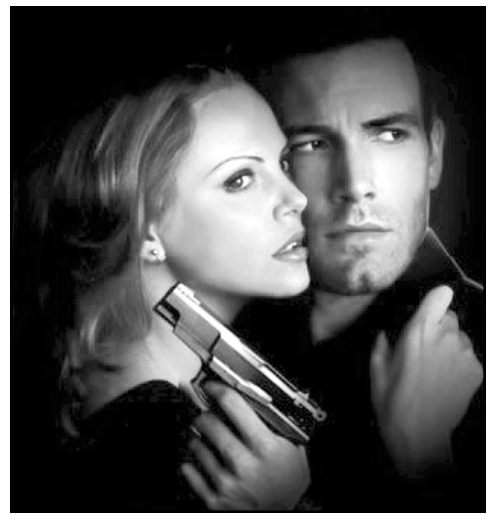
"Down to You" (PG-13)



Stars Freddie Prinze Jr. and Julia Stiles. A romantic and comedic tale of Al Connelly and Imogen, a young couple whose passionate romance takes them for a ride down the all-too-powerful path of first love. Set against the chaotic and hilarious backdrop of college lifestyle in New York City, their story brings to light the ever-present conflict between true love and the temptation to wander astray from commitment, with some unexpected results. *(97 minutes)*

April 21

"Reindeer Games" (R)



Stars Ben Affleck and Dennis Farina. After being released from prison, all Rudy Duncan wanted was to start a new life with the girl of his dreams. But between them and happiness stands a team of criminals who are going to force him to take down a casino on Christmas Eve. Just when Rudy and Ashley thought they could start a new life, their entire future is on the line. *(97 minutes)*

Matinees

"The Tigger Movie" (G)

Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. and April 21 at 1 p.m.

Stars Tigger, Roo and an all-star cast from the Hundred-Acre Wood. Winnie the Pooh and the gang, with the ever-exuberant Tigger, are busy preparing a suitable winter home for dismal donkey Eeyore. Everyone is into the effort except Tigger who is too playful to work. Rabbit suggests Tigger go find some other "tiggers" to cavort with. At first, Tigger thinks the notion is absurd since he believes he's the only "tigger." But an amazing journey brings surprises. *(75 minutes)*

Around Base

Family Springfest

Luke has a Family Springfest and parade April 22. The parade is at 9 a.m. in family housing and the Springfest is at Fowler Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Booths are available for squadron and group fundraising and event volunteers are needed. For more information, call 856-7471.

Pet fair

Luke's Veterinary Services has a pet fair at the family springfest from 8 a.m. to noon at fowler Park. Vaccinations and microchips are offered on an appointment-only basis. Activities include a pet wash, giveaways and military working dog demonstrations. Pet food company representatives and an obedience trainer are available to answer pet owner's questions. For more information, call 856-6354.

Cooking class

The Health and Wellness Center has a 'Southwest Fiesta" cooking class May 12 at noon. The menu includes very veggie enchiladas, salsa ranchera and fruit medley. Recipe cards and nutritional information is available. Reservations are required. For reservations or more information, call 2nd Lt. Deborah Robinson at 856-3778.

Congressional Award Program

The Congressional Award Program is for ages 14 to 23 and is a voluntary, noncompetitive program that recognizes young Americans for meeting established criteria in voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition or exploration. Youths set goals with an adult advisor of their choice. For more information, call 856-7152.

CPR and first aid class

The American Red Cross has an adult, child and infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid class Saturday at 9 a.m. at Bldg. 1150, Room 107 for military, civilian employees and family members. Cost is $22.

Volunteer orientation

There is a Red Cross volunteer orientation Thursday and April 27 at 10 a.m. at Bldg. 1150, Room 1077. To register or for more information, call 856-7823.

Enlisted wives club

Spouses interested in forming an enlisted wives club may call Vernadene Loveland at 856-6835.

Ocean excursion

Outdoor recreation has a four-day Coronado Island Memorial Day weekend ocean excursion near San Diego. The trip leaves Luke May 26 at noon and returns May 29 at 8 p.m. Cost is $300 per person and includes transportation, hotel accommodations, half-day deep-sea fishing trip, tour of the USS Constellation aircraft carrier and a trolley tour through Old Town. Special payment plans are available. For reservations or more information, call 856-6267.

Hospice volunteers

Hospice of Arizona seeks volunteers to work in patients homes, group homes, care centers and inpatient hospital units. To volunteer or for more information, call Traci Pope or Sylvia Don Carlos at (602) 687-1313.

Retirement center volunteers

Good Shepherd Retirement Center seeks volunteers for the adopt-an-elder program. To volunteer or for more information, call 875-0122.

Spring carnival

Luke Elementary School has a spring carnival today from 5 to 8 p.m. Base organizations are invited to operate fundraising booths. Booth cost is $30. For more information, call 856-6336.

Pioneer Day

Peoria Main Street Partnership has a Pioneer Day parade Saturday at 9 a.m. at 83rd and Peoria Avenues.

Free child care

Family child care providers offer up to 20 hours of free child care for active-duty staff sergeants and below with permanent change of station orders. Registration forms are at the family support center. For more information, call 856-6841.

Teen talent competition

There is a teen talent competition at the Family Spring Fest April 22. Competition categories include male and female vocalist, vocal group, instrumental solo and instrumental group, dance and specialty act. Rehearsals are April 18, 19 and 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call 856-7470.

Children's storytime

The base library has children's storytime Thursday and April 27 at 9:30 a.m. In addition, dial-a-story is available at all times by calling 856-6015.

"Mosquito" reunion

The 6147th Tactical Group "Mosquitos" from the 5th Air Force during the Korean War have a reunion Oct. 30 through Nov. 5 at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park, 445 South Alvernon Way, Tucson, Ariz. For more information, call Robert Blackwood at (520) 648-1933.

Air Rescue Association reunion

An Air Rescue Association annual reunion is Sept. 24 to 28. For more information, call Shad Shaddox at (210) 656-0306.

Outdoor Recreation sponsors rafting tours

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

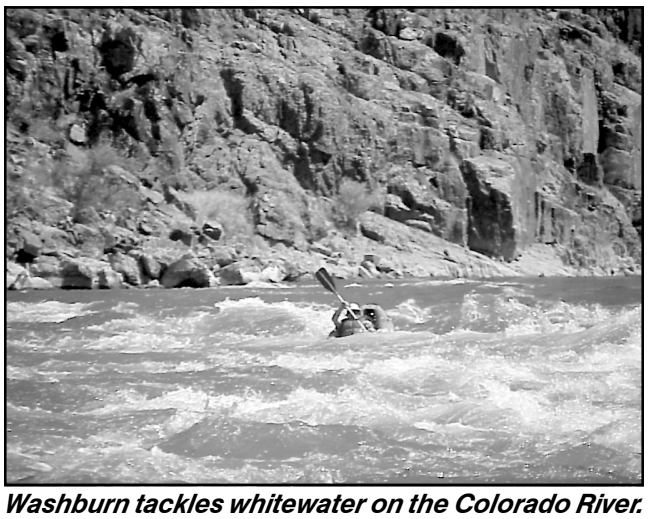
Maj. John Wesley Powell and his nine-man crew launched their boats May 24, 1869, to challenge the uncharted Colorado River. Loaded with scientific instruments and enough supplies for 10 months, the explorers set off with a 37-star American flag waving in the breeze.

Nearly 130 years and 13 stars later, following in the spirit of Powell and his crew, intrepid travelers and guides experience their own adventure, rafting down the Colorado and through the Grand Canyon.

Fort Tuthill Air Force Recreation Area in Flagstaff offers three-day Grand Canyon excursions through the Outdoor Adventure Program for active duty, family members, retirees and Department of Defense employees.

Led by expert guides, the adventure sets off in inflatable rafts and kayaks from the Diamond Creek launch on the lower Colorado and everyone works as a team to ensure each other's safety.

"We start the trip with safety briefings and explain each day's events," said Blaine Stuart, Ft. Tuthill outdoor adventure coordinator. "The trip is for the young and old alike, but each member must have a sense of adventure and be willing to work as a team."



Washburn tackles whitewater on the Colorado River.

The first day of the trip is filled with whitewater that rolls faster and faster as the boats leap over waves and the roar drowns out voices. Foaming waves break over the travelers and drench them with bone-chilling water.

"This is really a once-in-a lifetime experience," said Neal Washburn, Luke's outdoor recreation program coordinator. "It's an adventure you won't soon forget."

As the daylight begins to wane, the group makes landfall and sets up camp.

Unlike Powell's expedition who lived mostly on flour and coffee, the group feasts on steak, chicken, baked potatoes and salad.

After the golds and reds of the evening sun fade away, a field of stars unfolds, framed by the towering black canyon walls, and the river sings the weary adventurers to sleep.

At first light, breakfast is made, and the group breaks camp, loads the rafts and begins the second day of their adventure.

The river is past the treacherous rapids, and the boats move gently downriver. Taking turns, the rafters paddle the kayaks lazily and explore the banks of the river.

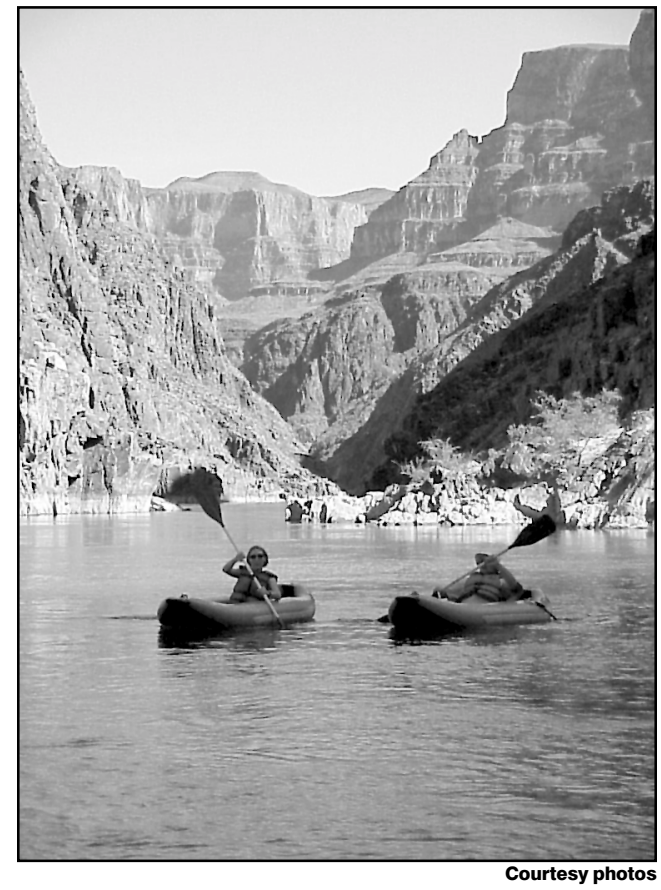
Stopping at assorted side trails and estuaries, the guides tell stories of past adventurers, Powell's expedition and areas of historical significance. They also explain the evolution of the canyon and teach about the different rock formations and plant life.

"This trip is definitely for the bold-hearted," Stuart explained. "But it's more than just an adventure. It's a work-share and learning experience."

On the third day of the trip, the rafts are tied together and the group motors closer to the end of the trip. They enjoy each other's company and the peaceful majesty of the canyon as the river widens and slows—hiding the fury it shows at the beginning of the trek.

Descended out of the canyon and onto Lake Mead, the Ft. Tuthill adventurers share the excitement of their achievement just as Powell's expedition.

Although Powell's trip down the Colorado was a never-ending story of disasters, dangers and miseries, the Ft. Tuthill trip is a respite from phones, faxes, e-mails and the day-to-day rat race.



Courtesy photos

Marlie Sherer and Neil Washburn kayak down the Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon rafting trip costs $325 per person.

In addition to the Grand Canyon rafting trip, the outdoor adventure program also has rim-to-rim backpacking and Green River canoeing. All of the Ft. Tuthill programs require at least moderate physical conditioning. For more information on the outdoor adventure program, call 856-3401.

Women's AF basketball team faces Army in championship

By Master Sgt. Mike Briggs
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The 2000 Air Force women's basketball team hopes to do what only one other team has been able to do in the past 22 years: beat the Army for the Armed Forces championship.

The only team to accomplish that feat since the women's tournament began in 1978 was the 1981 Air Force team. Nearly every year before or since, airmen have finished second to soldiers on the hard court.

"This is the year 2000. This is the year for the Air Force," said a confident Air Force coach Larry Glover.

Glover, assistant coach Angie McCullough and their players will find out if this is indeed the year for the Air Force when they play the tip-off game Sunday against the Army. Randolph Air Force Base is serving as host for the 2000 Armed Forces Women's Basketball championship.

The Navy and Marine Corps teams round out the field that will determine the best women's basketball team in the Department of Defense.

Sunday's open ceremonies were followed by the Air Force vs. Army game.

The double, round-robin tournament will run April 9 though 11 at the fitness center here. Teams play each other twice for a total of six games each. The team with the best win-loss record wins the championship. In the case of a tie, head-to-head competition will determine the title.

Glover, a technical sergeant stationed at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, and McCullough, a technical sergeant from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., hope the "hometown" Air Force crowd will give their women the lift they need to defeat Army.

"We've played at Army and Navy gyms, and they always have a lot of people out supporting their teams," McCullough said. "We hope (Air Force members and their families around San Antonio) come out to cheer the Air Force on."

This is the third year Glover and McCullough have coached the Air Force team, and this is the most talented of the three squads, Glover said.

"This team, by far, is the best team we've put together," he said. "Best because, as individuals, they are great people. We didn't have to deal with the conflicts that can occur in a camp. Everybody came in with a purpose. From day one we focused on teamwork."

The bonding among players is crucial to getting the team ready for the tournament ahead, said guard Kallie Quinn, a second lieutenant from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., who played for the team in 1999.

"We're really starting to get some team cohesion," she said. "The biggest obstacle Air Force women's basketball faces is trying to put together a team in a matter of two-and-a-half to three weeks."

Now that the team is together, Quinn said the key to winning the championship is staying focused and maintaining intensity.

"If we can keep our intensity up and just run on people, we'll be very successful," Quinn said. "We go 10 to 12 (players) deep and there's not many other teams in the tournament that go that deep. We're going to really try to push the ball offensively, run the fast break as much as possible and, defensively, we're going to pressure them full court the whole game."

That's the game plan Glover and McCullough have in place.

"We know what it's going to take to win this tournament and we're getting our players to focus on that — execution, hard work, playing together and being a team," Glover said. "Right now, we're refining the product so by Sunday, everything should be clicking on all cylinders."

He also said he has the luxury of coaching a very versatile squad who can show the opposition different looks.

"We have big people who can dribble and shoot, and we have guards who can post up," Glover said. "We have so many options with this team. Our game is to press, and we have the players that allow us to play the up-tempo style we like."

Sports Briefs

Bowl-a-thon

The Luke Chiefs Group sponsors an "extreme" bowl-a-thon today at 1 p.m. at the Luke bowling center to raise money for the enlisted widows home. The price of $5 includes shoes and three games. People can contact any chief for a pledge sheet.

AFA golf tournament

A "Let's get acquainted with Luke personnel" golf tournament sponsored by the Air Force Association is Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Falcon Dunes Golf Course. The tournament, which is a four-person scramble made up of two military and two civilian members, helps the Boys and Girls Clubs of Glendale and Luke. Cost is $38 per person for military members and $50 per person for others. For more information, call John Dearness at 975-9877.

3-on-3 tournament

The fitness center sponsors a three-on-three "hoop it up" basketball tournament Saturday at 9 a.m. at the base fitness center. To register, call 856-4511 or 856-6241.

Varsity volleyball

The Luke varsity volleyball team invites people interested in playing volleyball to the scheduled practices. For more information, call Armando Robles at 856-6427.

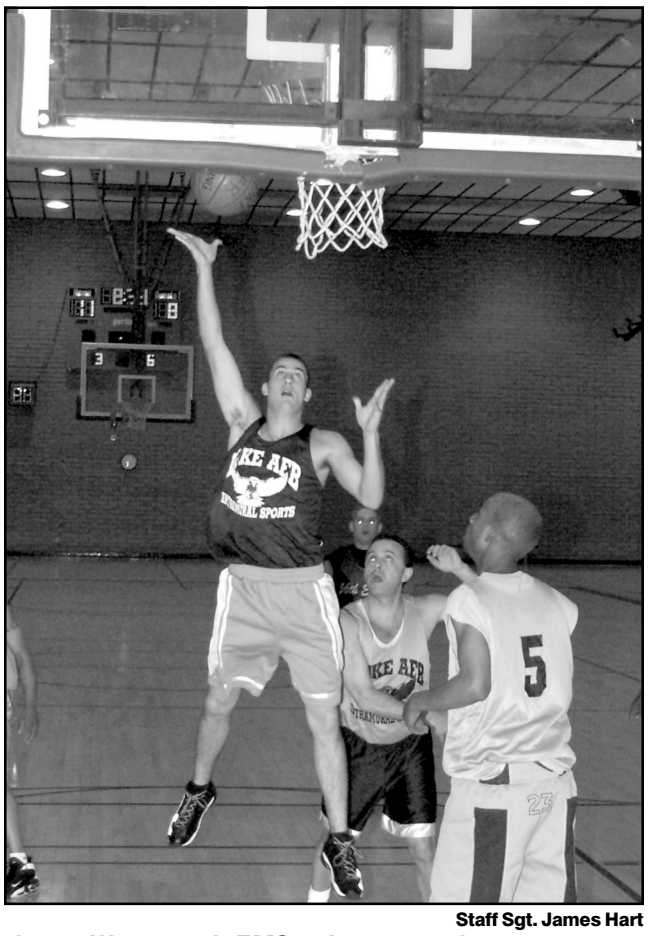
Varsity soccer

Anyone interested in playing varsity soccer can call Adam Cyr at 856-7038.

Mini-triathlon

The fitness center and outdoor recreation sponsor a mini-triathlon April 22 at 7 a.m. at the Silver Wings Pool. The triathlon consists of a 500-meter swim, 10-mile bicycle ride and a 5K

*See **Briefs**, Page 23*



Staff Sgt. James Hart

Jason Wynn, 56th EMS 2, lays up a shot.

Retirees, civil service employees pound 56th EMS team 72-52

An intramural basketball team of retirees and civil service employees overpowered the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron 2 team 75-52 Monday at the base fitness center.

After leading by only five after the first half, the team of retirees and civil service employees outscored the EMS 2 48-30 in the second.

Briefs

Continued from Page 22

run, in that order. Individuals or three-person teams may compete. To register, call 856-6267.

Operation Night Hoops

The teen center sponsors Operation Night Hoops, a free program for teens beginning June 3. Basketball games are played Saturday evenings. The youth center also seeks for adult volunteer coaches and assistant coaches.

Loop de Luke

As part of Arizona Bike Week, Luke sponsors Loop de Luke April 27 at 11:30 a.m, an 8-mile fun ride at the base fitness center. Information on bicycling, maps and prizes are available.

For more information on the Loop de Luke or other bike week activities, call Ed Gruerrero at 856-6044, Chris Glasheen at 856-7557 or Gary Ewing at 856-3815 Ext. 234.

Family bicycle ride

Glendale sponsors the Go Glendale Family Bicycle Ride Sunday at 7 a.m. at Sahuaro Ranch Park at 59th Avenue and Mountain View Road. Participants bike a 7-or-15 mile ride. Complimentary refreshments are available along the route. Helmets must be worn. Preregistration is recommended. To register, call 930-2940 or visit www.ci.glendale.az.us/transportation/bicycle.

Pistol competition

The 355th Security Forces Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, sponsors an elementary-level U.S. Air Force Excellence-in-Competition Pistol Match April 27. The event is open to active-duty members in uniform. To register, e-mail merle.hudson@dm.af.mil or chris.tschirhart @dm.af.mil Monday through Friday. In the e-mail, include rank, full name, social security number, organization, office symbol, local address and phone number. Partipants are entered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Luke Falcons vs. Navy

The Luke Falcons varsity basketball team takes on the Navy team April 29 at 11 a.m. and April 30 at 10 a.m. at Millenium High School, 14802 W. Wigwam Blvd, Goodyear. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jeff Dahlke at 856-7092.

Women's varsity basketball

Women's varsity basketball tryouts are April 24 through 27 at 4 p.m. at the base fitness center. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Matthew Krueger at 856-8889.

May Fitness Month

In recognition of May Fitness Month the Luke Fitness Center sponsors the following events:

May 3: Strength and conditioning and nutritional eating 101 from 9 to 11 a.m.
May 5: Camelback Mountain hike
May 8: Walleyball tournament from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
May 9: Walleyball tournament from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
May 10: Strength and conditioning and nutritional eating 101 from 9 to 11 a.m.
May 11: Walleyball tournament from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
May 12: White Tanks Park hike and picnic from 6 a.m. to noon
May 13: Volleyball tournament from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.