

TOPS IN BLUE HITS THE BIG COUNTRY

Entertainment show performs Monday
NEWS Page 3



AF ASBESTOS AND LEAD EXPERT SPEAKS

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HARD COURT: INTRAMURAL B-BALL ACTION

SPORTS, Page 9

7th Bomb Wing	Monthly	Flown	Status
	67	28	-2

DYESS SORTIE BOARD	Monthly	Flown	Status
	43	12	-2

317th Airlift Group	Monthly	Flown	Status
	67	25	+4

Goal	Current Rate
60.6%	65.7%



Volume 39, Number 6

The Peacemaker

Feb. 13, 2004

Dyess Air Force Base, Texas

Read *The Peacemaker* online at:
www.dyess.af.mil/pa/news/news.htm

A professional team, delivering bombing, airlift support, training and combat support to combatant commanders... anytime, anywhere

'Force shaping' details released

Program means some can leave active duty early

By Maj. John Thomas
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Until March 12, Dyess airmen who qualify will have the chance to apply for a limited-time program that will allow a chance for an early exit from active duty.

The program, dubbed "force shaping," can relieve some people of their active-duty service commitments by offering officers and enlisted servicemembers a chance to separate from active duty entirely or transition to the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard.

"This is a significant opportunity that wasn't previously available for Dyess airmen who don't like being on active duty and are interested in trying something different," said Lt. Col. Oran Carroll, 7th Mission Support Squadron commander.

Applications for any of the force-shaping early release programs must be made through local military personnel flights by March 12.

According to force shaping officials, rules for leaving active duty early will be the least restrictive for anyone wanting to transfer to the Guard or Reserve through the Palace Chase program. Some government-funded education, permanent changes or station, promotion and bonus payback requirements may also be waived, officials said.

More than 16,000 additional people -- 12,700 enlisted and 3,900 officers -- currently projected to leave will be allowed out to help the service return to its authorized active-duty force size by Sept. 30, 2005. The goal is to get within authorized end strength while avoiding "extreme measures" that "wreak havoc" with mission and morale, officials said.

"This helps the Air Force by being able to

return to our approved manning levels while allowing our airmen the chance to experience the reserve components or separate entirely from the Air Force," Colonel Carroll said.

Active-duty airmen wanting to transfer to the Reserve or Guard will be able to apply for a waiver of an active-duty service commitment regardless of their career field.

"We're a total force, and for our active-duty airmen who would like to separate early and still retain a connection to their Air Force, the Palace Chase program provides the perfect vehicle to preserve operational capability while reducing active-duty end strength," said Maj. Gen. John Speigel, the Air Force's director of personnel policy at the Pentagon.

"We're focusing a big part of our efforts there because it keeps (servicemembers) and their expertise in the total force, while allowing them increased stability and a chance to continue working toward a military retirement," the general said.

Even if an applicant meets all requirements, some applications may not be approved.

"Anyone interested in taking advantage of this limited-time program are encouraged to apply, as applicants from each career field will be looked at on a first come, first served basis as well as looking at that particular career field's manning," Colonel Carroll said.

Because of manning shortages, 29 officer and 38 enlisted specialties will not qualify for many of the waivers. Among those are pilots, navigators, air battle managers, aerial gunners, fuels specialists, nurses and first sergeants. The complete list of "stressed" career fields that are excluded from many of the waivers is posted at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm.

"We don't want to break any career fields during our force-shaping efforts or create problems in future years similar to the ones caused by the downsizing in the early 1990s," said General Speigel.

"Approval authority for miscellaneous enlisted separations will rest at the personnel center, to centrally review applications and ensure compliance with manning needs," said Maj. Dawn Keasley, chief of retirement and separation policy at the Air Staff.

See *Shaping*, Page 4



U.S. Air Force

New test uniforms hit streets

By Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski
Air Force Print News

Airmen at two bases will get a first-hand look at the proposed new utility uniform Monday when the tiger-striped blue-, green- and gray-patterned ensemble begins its wear-test phase.

Officials will deliver the distinctive uniforms to testers at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and Langley AFB, Va. A uniform board official provided an update on the utility uniform and released details about the fitness uniform.

This is the largest wear test the Air Force has done. Typically an item goes through a wear test at a maximum of three bases and 300 people. This test will be conducted at nine bases with 700 airmen participating.

"The Air Force is asking us what we need in a utility uniform and this is our opportunity to give our feedback," said Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, chief of the Air Force Uniform Board office.

See *Test*, Page 4



Charles Allison

Striking weather

The Dyess Weather Flight tackles the unique weather conditions at Dyess to meet the worldwide mission requirements of both the B-1s and C-130s. The base weather flight also provides up to date weather information to all people at Dyess online. Find out more about the Dyess Weather Flight on Page 8.

Annual Award nominees compete Wednesday to be named Dyess' best of year

By Master Sgt. Daniel Carpenter
Dyess Public Affairs

Forty-nine Dyess teammates will compete for the title of the year's best Wednesday at the 7th Bomb Wing Annual Awards. The nominees (by category) are:

Company Grade Officer
(7th Bomb Wing) 1st Lt Christopher Heinning, 7th Bomb Wing
(7th Operations Group) Capt. Jaime Hernandez, 9th Bomb Squadron
(7th Maintenance Group) 1st Lt Ryan Ross, 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
(7th Mission Support Group) Capt. David Weide, 7th Communication Squadron
(7th Medical Group) Capt. Colonda Howard, 7th Medical Operations Squadron
(317th Airlift Group) Capt. Thad Middleton, 39th Airlift Squadron

Senior NCO
(BW) Master Sgt. Lewis Williams, 7th Squadron
(OG) Master Sgt. Michael Butrovich, 7th Support Squadron
(MXG) Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Henson, 7th Squadron
(MSG) Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Bush, 7th Squadron
(MDG) Master Sgt. Michelle Moreno, 7th Squadron
(317 AG) Master Sgt. Gregg Kollbaum, 39 AS
NCO
(BW) Tech. Sgt. Marlin Hill, 7 CPTS
(OG) Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Clapper, 436th Training Squadron
(MXG) Tech. Sgt. Steven Holland, 7th Squadron
(MSG) Staff Sgt. Christopher Rodgers, 7th Squadron

(MDG) Staff Sgt. Felice Tuttle, 7 MDOS
(317 AG) Staff Sgt. Stephen Martin, 39 AS
Airman
(BW) Senior Airman Paula Browning, 7 CPTS
(OG) Senior Airman Kaishla Holloway, 7 OSS
(MXG) Airman 1st Class Teal Kolakowski, 7 AMXS
(MSG) Airman 1st Class Daniel Landford, 7th Squadron
(MDG) Senior Airman Lonnie Simmons, 7th Squadron
(317 AG) A1C Jennifer L. Stehr, 317th Maintenance Squadron
Honor Guard NCO
(Alpha) Staff Sgt. Julian Thomas, 7th Squadron
(Bravo) Staff Sgt. Andrew Costa, 7 AMXS
(Delta) Staff Sgt. Sergio Avendano, 7 CES
Honor Guard Airman
(Alpha) Senior Airman Andrew

Charter, 7 CMS
(Alpha) Airman 1st Class Michael Bilharz, 7 AMXS
(Alpha) Senior Airman Joey Gilchrist, 7th Squadron
First Sergeant
(BW) Leticia Balli, 7 CPTS
(OG) Kathleen Cobb, 7 OSS
(MXG) Senior Master Sgt. Debra Norris, 7 AMXS
(MSG) Master Sgt. William Bingham, 7 SVS
(MDG) Lori Smith, 7 MDOS
(317 AG) Master Sgt. Amy Morgan, 317th AMXS
Civilian Category 1
(MXG) Pamela Aulerich, 7 MXG
(MSG) Meredith Collins, 7 CES
(317 AG) Susan Pershing, 40th Airlift Squadron
Civilian Category 2
(BW) Richard Avila, 7 CPTS
(OG) Jimmy Jilek, 436 TRS
(MXG) Sharon Williams, 7 MOS
(MSG) George Denslow, 7 CES
(MDG) Timothy James,

7 MDSS
(317 AG) Scott Hudson, 317th Operations Support Squadron
Civilian Category 3 (7th Services Squadron)
Kenneth Clark, Marketing and Publicity
George Krauskoph, Dyess Inn
Joe Stouffer, Outdoor Recreation
Mitsu Austermann, Dyess Inn
The annual awards banquet begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Abilene Civic Center. For more information, call first sergeants.

Weekend Weather



SATURDAY
Partly cloudy
High 52°F
Low 30°F



SUNDAY
Partly cloudy
High 57°F
Low 32°F

Weather courtesy of 7th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

Good leaders get job done

By Lt. Col. Calvin Reid
7th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander

Now that some days have passed since the Operational Readiness Inspection, I've taken time to examine what happened with as much objectivity and as little emotion as possible.

The rating assessed to our deployment processing and departure timing was much lower than expected. We did not set out to just pass the inspection. Quite the contrary, we wanted to be the first Air Combat Command unit to receive an "Outstanding." However, by the time the inspection was over we found ourselves battling just to fend off failure.

In Leadership for the Emerging Age, Jerrod Apps explains that without precise guidelines for good leadership, characteristics of situations seem to be the best teacher. This inspection has taught me, or rather re-taught me, a hard lesson about this.

Through the entire ordeal, we did not quit or lose our winning attitude, but it did leave many of us feeling knocked down. So many months, so many man-hours spent preparing, and we could not get the job done. Where did we go wrong? How could this happen to the lauded 7th Bomb Wing?



While it's important to find the answer to these questions, it's even more important to outline what we're going to do to ensure we get the job done right in the future.

A quote I often use wonderfully captures what I mean: "Leaders provide direction and force to shape outcomes (albeit skillfully) rather than constantly reacting to a series of events."

rather than constantly reacting (albeit skillfully) to a series of events."

In today's society we too often see "spin doctors" who are experts in damage control and explaining away less than stellar performances. True leaders do not look for excuses. They look for solutions to get the job done. Now is the time for us to come up with solutions and take deci-

sive action to correct the course of the wing.

"Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand," General Colin Powell said that, and I am reminded of it when I consider what leadership really means.

The true leader, especially in the bleakest of times, must remain focused. He must realize that a unit in disarray or disillusionment needs a clearly defined and communicated intent and solution for success.

The task now at hand is to pass the Operational Readiness Re-inspection with no discrepancies. We must do this not just to prove something to the ACC Inspector General, but because of our pride for the 7th Bomb Wing and all of Team Dyess.

This time, we must get the job done and leave no doubt. Our military leaders must have no doubt. Our civilian leaders must have no doubt. When America calls for the B-1 Lancer or C-130 Hercules, we must be ready to deploy, engage and defeat our enemies in defense of our nation at a moments notice.

Now is the time for leaders to come forward with solutions and decisive action. Now is the time for leaders to get the job done.

This week in Dyess History



This week in Feb. 1992 -- Staff Sgt. Laurence Strout, an air traffic controller at Dyess assigned to the 96th Operational Support Squadron, was named Strategic Air Command's Training Achievement Award winner

• Letta Coddington earned the distinction of being named Strategic Air Command's Top Quality Assurance Manager and Accounting and Finance Civilian of the Year.

Leadership A critical element of a rally

By Maj. Robby Weaver
7th Component Maintenance Squadron commander

There is nothing as exhilarating as leading your team through a rally to victory. The most satisfying victories are those against an opponent that had the ability to beat you.

The true test of a team's mettle is its response to falling behind in the fight. This was one of the things that made this year's Super Bowl so thrilling. Both quarterbacks and both teams knew they had the ability to rally. Neither team gave up, neither team hung their heads, neither team conceded victory. Whether a sports team or military unit, there are a few elements that must be present if the team is to rally to victory. These are leadership, belief, training and heart.

Falling behind to the opposition means that some part of your primary plan has failed. We plan to win, we practice to win and we play to win.

Nevertheless, there are times when things start going wrong. When this happens, the team will turn to its leadership. Successful leaders will realize what is wrong with the game plan and make adjustments. The leader must be familiar with their team, knowing the team's strengths and how to best use these strengths in a changing scenario. Leading a rally isn't exclusive to those "out in front." We've all seen the spe-

"...We will have many opportunities to demonstrate to the world that no unit is better prepared to put bombs on target than the 7th Bomb Wing."

Maj. Robby Weaver
7th CMS commander



cial teams or bench player that steps on to the field confident that they can make a difference and bring their team back from defeat. Sometimes all it takes is one player and one play to remind everyone around them that it is not over. That spark can be contagious, spreading hope from teammate to teammate, until they once again begin functioning as winners.

The team must believe that it can win. Once the team thinks they will be beaten, they will be. Hope and confidence are essential ingredients to any rally. Have you ever seen a team that is hanging their heads in defeat come back to win? Me neither.

Solid training is essential. Everyone must be familiar with how everyone else plays. We must know Plan A, Plan B and Plan C, etc. We must understand how adjustments to one part of the plan will affect every other part. Without understanding the fundamentals of how a team fights, we cannot make corrections that

will overcome an adversary and lead to victory.

Leadership, belief and training are meaningless unless the team has the heart to rally. Heart is the mental and physical toughness necessary to continue the struggle. What price is each player or airman willing to pay to achieve their goals? All things being equal, victory is often determined by the size of a team's heart.

The 7th Bomb Wing has certainly had its ups and downs. Many of us are not satisfied with the result of our recent Operational Readiness Inspection, we know we could have done better. We will have many opportunities to demonstrate to the world that no unit is better prepared to put bombs on target than the 7th Bomb Wing. Like any team, we need to have confidence in our leaders, make adjustments to our game plan, keep our heads up, keep practicing and be ready for our opportunity.

Abdominal circumference -- friend or foe?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
380th Expeditionary Medical Group commander

Are you frustrated with the abdominal circumference score for the new fitness standard?

Have you pounded out hundreds of crunches, pumped oodles of push-ups, only to find your abdominal girth doesn't get you past a composite score of 80?

I must admit that I was at first perplexed and amazed that the numbers and scores didn't change based on height or age. How could that be?

The key to understanding why abdominal circumference takes a huge chunk of your fitness score is in understanding that our new fitness program is about maintaining the health of your whole body.

What really matters now to the Air Force is that you are maintaining a state of health that decreases your risk of preventable diseases.

Research has shown conclusively that abdominal size reflects this concept of whole health.

Besides the obvious risk factor of smoking tobacco, your amount of abdominal fat is a good predictor of your risk for heart disease, diabetes, stroke and some types of cancer. Isn't that amazing?

You don't need a palm reader or crystal ball. By just taking a simple tape measurement, you can get a pretty

good idea of your chances for enjoying a long, healthy life.

Of course, the hard part is deciding what to do if your abs just aren't measuring up.

Take heart! You don't have to look for a liposuction specialist or invest in expensive gadgets advertised on TV to make an improvement.

The only proven way to decrease your abdominal circumference is to decrease your body fat.

The fact is we all have those enviable six-packs of muscle hidden under our abdominal fat.

As you lose the fat, the muscle definition becomes clear. If you increase your aerobic capacity and strengthen your shoulders and core muscle groups, your total body fat will decrease and your abdomen will firm up.

It is really a pretty good package deal; as you improve your scores for the 1.5 mile run, push-ups, and sit-ups, you should see your abdominal girth decrease.

Of course, you will also have to burn more calories than you eat, actually exercise aerobically by maintaining your training heart rate between 60 and 75 percent, and build more muscle to boost your metabolism.

Okay, so I never said it would be easy, but don't you feel better just knowing it makes sense? (Courtesy Air Force Print News)



Action Line

The Action Line provides a direct line of communication between Col. Jonathan George, 7th Bomb Wing commander, and the people of Dyess. As a general rule, people should use their chain of command or contact the agency involved first, however, if you are not satisfied, call 6-3355 or e-mail action@dyess.af.mil and leave your message.

Leaving your name and phone number ensures you will receive a personal reply by phone. The Peacemaker staff reserves the right to edit all incoming Action Lines before publication. Not all Action Lines may be published.

Q TLF parking

I am staying in the temporary lodging facility while my family is being reassigned from Dyess. During a recent exercise, the parking area for the temporary lodging facility had been coned off. I was told I had to park my vehicle across the street and walk over with two small children in the dark. I understand there (was) an exercise going on (at the time), but there is simply not enough parking.

A We realize increased force protection conditions inconvenience and encumber us as an Air Force family. Unfortunately, our buildings were constructed in the 1950s and do not allow for the security realities we face today. However, your points are valid and we are working to make improvements. Short term, we have placed a notice in all lodging rooms and TLFs explaining the FPCON requirements. Long term, we plan to construct parking lots that comply with the 25-meter parking restriction as we renovate our existing facilities and build new ones.



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2nd Lt. Benjamin Gamble.....Officer in-charge, Internal Information
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Tops in Blue plays civic center Monday

By Senior Airman Matthew Rosine
Dyess Public Affairs

Tops in Blue, the Air Force's premiere entertainment showcase, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Abilene Civic Center.

Each year's show highlights music that "captures America's history and heritage," according to Tom Edwards, chief of Air Force entertainment.

This year's show will celebrate the past 50 years of Air Force entertainment and the centennial of powered flight. The free 90 minute show is titled "Soaring with Eagles."

"Tops in Blue is a musical celebration guaranteed to captivate the entire audience," said Willie Cooper, Dyess Community Center director.

While visiting the past 50 years of music, this year's show will per-

form a variety of well-known hits such as Glenn Miller's "In the Mood," Tina Turner's "Proud Mary" and the Village People's "YMCA." Tops in Blue will also perform music from artists such as the Supremes, Gloria Estefan, Boys II Men and Ricky Martin.

"Just as Tops in Blue has been energizing audiences around the world for the past 50 years, this year's show will certainly please all of their fans, young and old," Mr. Cooper said.

Seating for the event is based on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tops in Blue is comprised of 35 active-duty volunteers. Tops in Blue will perform more than 150 shows this year in more than 20 countries.

For more information about the Tops in Blue show Monday, call Mr. Cooper at 696-4305. For more information about joining the Tops in Blue team, people can go online to www.topsinblue.com.



courtesy photo

Tops in Blue, an Air Force performance troupe, performed in Hawaii earlier this year and will make their next appearance at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Abilene Civic Center.



Photos by Senior Airman Ryan Summers

Three star visits Dyess

Left: Lt. Gen. William Welser, 18th Air Force commander, shakes hands with a Dyess airlifter during his visit to the base Feb. 5-6. With the 317th Airlift Group now aligned under the 18th AF, General Welser's visit gave him his first opportunity to greet his new Dyess troops. Above: Gen. Welser, inspects a load pallette during his base tour.

TEAM DYESS Warrior of the Week

**Senior Airman
Scott Yonushonis**

Unit: 7th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Job description: B-1 phase area supervisor

Time in the Air Force: Three years, five months

Time at Dyess: Two years, 11 months

Hometown: DuBois, Pa.

Job impact on the mission: I provide mission capable aircraft by performing phase inspections.

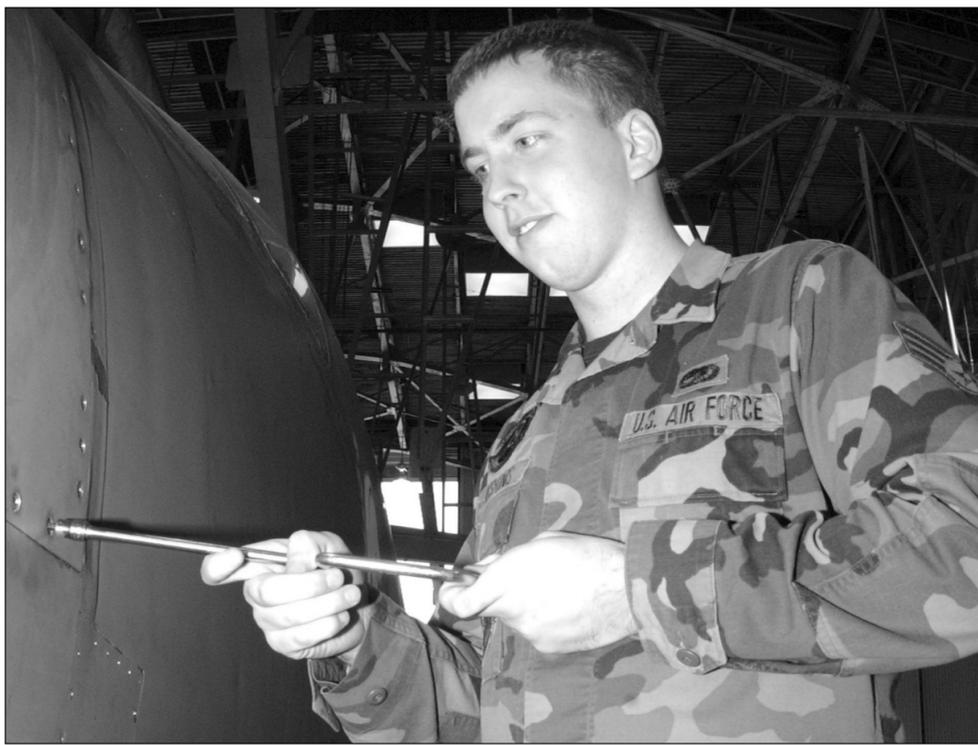
Career goal: To retire from the Air Force as a chief master sergeant.

Most rewarding job aspect: Seeing a B-1 flying after being through the phase dock.

Favorite thing about Dyess: Eating burgers at the bowling alley.

Favorite thing about the Air Force: All the friends I've made.

Editor's note: The Dyess Warrior of the Week is selected by unit squadron commanders, first sergeants or supervisors on a rotating squadron basis.



Airman 1st Class Robert Morris

Shaping

Continued from Page 1

Examples of efforts to "shape" the force go beyond waivers. They include procedures where those who fail to complete technical schools only will be allowed to leave the Air Force or to reclassify into short-manned career fields. In addition, high-year-of-tenure extensions will only be granted to those in specific shortage career fields or for personal hardship reasons.

According to officials, force shaping is designed to return the Air Force to its authorized uniformed population, or "end strength," while shifting some airmen to fill positions in specialties that need more people of their rank.

The Air Force brought in

thousands of people since the late '90s to build up to end strength, with limited consideration for the skill mix, officials said. But more people came into the service and fewer than expected left, leaving the force with more people than are authorized to be on active duty.

To reduce the total number of active-duty people in uniform, the Air Force is continuing efforts like retraining people into careers where they are needed more, outsourcing jobs to private industry and converting some jobs from military people to Air Force civilian workers.

However, these new force-shaping tools are being offered because still more needs to be done, officials said.

"This is a life-changing

decision and a great opportunity for everyone who's interested in applying," Colonel Carroll said. "Force shaping allows the Air Force to meet their need as well as the chance for an airman to try something new."

Interested servicemembers are encouraged to call the retirements and separations section of the military personnel flight at 696-2957 for details. In addition, career counseling is available from Senior Master Sgt. Cheri Drysdale, 7th Bomb Wing career advisor, at 696-4471.

People can also call the Air Force Contact Center at Defense Switch Network 665-5000 or toll-free (800) 616-3775 for more information.

(Airman 1st Class Kiley Olds contributed to this story.)

Test

Continued from Page 1

"Nothing about the uniform is set. And that is why we need to get that feedback from the participants and via the Web," Sergeant Dean added.

The Web site is expected to be operational in April. The decision to launch the site in April was driven by a desire to allow testers time to wear the uniform. Officials also wanted others to see the testers wearing it and get the chance to ask them questions.

Sergeant Dean is asking people with constructive criticism, who have seen the actual uniform, to log on and answer the questions. Officials will tally the data based on career field.

"For example, as a personnelist, I don't wear my BDUs on a daily basis, whereas a maintainer or civil engineer would," Sergeant Dean said. "We need to make sure we're looking at the right data in the right context."

Sergeant Dean said the board will take into account valuable suggestions and opinions that are concrete and have basis.

"We need to make sure we're not being emotional," she said. "We need solutions."

After the six-month test is complete, data is collected and evaluated to determine how the uniform stood up to conditions. Comments about style, color and other issues will also be taken into consideration.

NEWS Briefs

High speed

The 13th Bomb Squadron will be conducting a high-speed B-1 pass today at 12:13 p.m. in honor of Friday the 13th.

Dyess members are invited to a celebration of the 13th BS's heritage will be held at 4:30 p.m. at The Heritage Club.

For more information, call 696-1626.

Split disbursement

Split disbursement and supervisor or approving official signature for civilians are mandatory on all travel claims effective Tuesday.

These provisions apply to temporary duty travel as well as to partial or accrual payments for long term TDY. Civilians are to separately identify travel card charges on their travel claim and directly disburse these amounts to Bank of America.

Supervisors or approving officials are then required to review and sign the voucher. Travel vouchers that fail to designate government travel card charges for split disbursement and/or do not have a signature cannot be processed and shall be returned. Military members are reminded they too must annotate split disbursement on their vouchers along with getting supervisor or approving official signatures.

For more information, call Customer Service at 696-4193.

Hazard expert trains Team Dyess

Asbestos, lead-based paint hazards an unrealized danger to people

By Master Sgt. Dan Carpenter
Dyess Public Affairs

The Air Force's leading expert on asbestos and lead-based paint hazards conducted training Feb. 4 and 5 at the base theater.

Doug Owen provided this special training in order that Team Dyess could remain compliant in these subject areas.

"It was evident that Mr. Owen was a strong advocate on these topics," said Lt. Col. Clinton Taylor, 7th Bomb Wing environmental manager. "He was a superb speaker, and I personally feel the 320 people who received this training benefited from his expertise."

According to Colonel Taylor, many who attended the training didn't realize how much asbestos-laden products are still out there, what preventative measures should

"This training was definitely needed. It raises everyone's awareness, and, if for no other reason, it underscores the fact that self-help projects have other serious hazards."

Charles Carson
Dyess safety technician

be taken and the effects asbestos exposure has to one's health in the long-term.

Through a combination of slides and hands-on physical examples of asbestos and lead, Mr. Owen brought to light the issues associated with the hazards, and also trained the attendees on how to best mitigate them in the workplace.

"This training was definitely needed,"

said Charles Carson, occupational safety and health technician. "It raises everyone's awareness, and, if for no other reason, it underscores the fact that self-help projects have other serious hazards."

The base currently has programs in place to help mitigate asbestos and lead-based paint hazards in the workplace,

Colonel Taylor said. But he feels what has been lacking has been a push for more awareness training regarding these and other environmental hazard topics at Dyess.

"As the new wing environmental manager, I will be pushing more base-wide education for Dyess," he said.

Colonel Taylor added that his staff is currently working to develop an interactive web-based environmental training site where people can log in, review the various training modules and receive training credit.

"I think having this information will make us look at projects in a different light," said Mr. Carson. "From a safety and health standpoint, the training re-emphasized the serious nature of these hazards in our environment."

CALENDAR

**Today, Feb. 13, 2004**

Land and sea lunch buffet, at The Heritage Club.
Base retreat, 5 p.m. at the traffic circle.
Friday night social hour, 5 p.m. at The Heritage Club and Hangar Center.

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2004

Valentine's Day
Thunder Alley, 8 p.m. at Dyess Lanes. For more info, call 696-4166.
Late Night, 11 p.m. at The Hangar Center. For more information, call 696-2405.

Sunday, Feb. 15, 2004

Sunday brunch, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Heritage Club. For more information, call 696-2405.

Monday, Feb. 16, 2004

Tops in Blue, 7 p.m. at The Abilene Civic Center. For more information, call 696-4584.
Mexican lunch buffet, at The Heritage Club.
Intramural bowling, 5:30 p.m. at Dyess Lanes. For more information, call 696-4166 or your unit sports rep.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2004

Fried chicken lunch buffet, at The Heritage Club.
Tiny Tots reading program, 10 a.m. at the library. For more information, call 696-2618.
Bingo, 7 p.m. at The Hangar Center. For more information, call 696-2405.
Dyess Toastmasters Club meets at 11:45 a.m. every Tuesday at The Hangar Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2004

2003 Annual Awards, 7 p.m. at The Abilene Civic Center. For more information, call 696-4584.
Barbecue lunch buffet, at The Heritage Club.

Thursday, Feb. 19, 2004

Asian lunch buffet, at The Heritage Club.

Upcoming events

Feb. 20 -- National Prayer Breakfast.
 Feb. 27-- Senior NCO/NCO induction ceremony.

Dyess Chapel

**Chapel schedule**

Catholic: Reconciliation starts at 4:15 p.m. Saturday followed by Mass at 5 p.m. Sunday Mass is 9 a.m. Sunday School is 11 a.m. at Dyess Elementary School. Daily Mass is at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Protestant: Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. at Dyess Elementary School. Shared faith worship begins 11 a.m. Sunday. Gospel service starts 1 p.m. Sunday. Sunday Night Worship Service will not take place this week but will be back Feb. 22. A nursery and children's church are available at all services.

Jewish: For information about the times and places of Jewish services, call Capt. Matt Paskin at 829-6149.

For more information, call the chapel at 696-4224.



Community



Airman Shawn Baldauf

Make no 'Bones' about it, its not a BUFF

Senior Airman Beverly Durant, 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, loads a Joint Direct Attack Munition on a B-1 to prepare for a combat mission during the 2004 Phase one Operational Readiness Inspection Jan. 25. In the Feb. 6 issue of the Peacemaker a B-52 with JDAMs loaded onto weapons pylons was mistakenly described as a B-1 with JDAMs loaded onto a conventional rotary launcher.

Community briefs

Retirement

Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Bishop's retirement ceremony is 4 p.m. today at the 7th Mission Support Group conference room.

For more information, call 696-1932.

Master Sgt. George Spindler's retirement is 3 p.m. at The Hangar Center.

For more information, call 696-7408.

Thrift shop hours

The Dyess Thrift Shop is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call 696-8203.

Blood drive

The next base blood drive is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 20 at The Hangar Center.

People who've traveled or lived in Europe for three months or longer between 1980 to 1996 are unable to donate.

For more information, call Capt. Lenora Tso at 696-7248.

National Prayer Breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast is 7 a.m. Feb. 20 at The Heritage Club.

Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Charles Baldwin, Air Force deputy chief of chaplains, will be the guest speaker.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Daniel Giorgi at 696-4224.

Observance committees

The military equal opportunity office is looking for volunteers to join committees for upcoming observance months.

The upcoming months are Irish History Month in March, Jewish Observance Month in April and Asian-Pacific Islander Month in May.

They are actively seeking a diversified group of volunteers interested in any or all of the observances.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Melida Edwards at 696-4226.

Dyess Toastmasters

The Dyess Toastmasters Club's next meeting begins 11:45 a.m. Tuesday at The Hangar Center.

The club focuses on developing better speaking and presentation skills, leadership abilities and quick thinking.

For more information, call Patrick Clancy at 696-1046.

OSC scholarship

The Dyess Officers' Spouses Club is currently accepting college scholarship applications.

Eligible applicants must be a spouse of an active duty military member or a graduating senior in high school who is a dependent of an active-duty military member or a dependent of a retired or deceased military member.

The OSC will be accepting applications until March 12.

For more information, call Dawn Willis at 698-4018 or Annette Macler at 660-9150.

DeCA scholarship

The Defense Commissary Agency is accepting applications for \$1,500 scholarships until Wednesday at the Dyess commissary.

At least one scholarship will be awarded to an applicant from Dyess. The application can be downloaded from www.commissaries.com.

For more information, call Alex Herbert at 696-4805.

Lifestyles

Entertaining Briefs

CAPTION Contest

This week's photo (No. 2)



The rules:

1. Write a creative, printable caption for the above photo.
2. Email your entry to peacemaker@dyess.af.mil. Entries are limited to three per photo.
3. Entries must include the photo number and your name with your duty phone number.
4. Contest winners are announced weekly.
5. All entries become the property of *The Peacemaker*.



'I'm sorry officer, was I speeding?'

The winner of the caption contest for the Feb. 6 issue of the *Peacemaker* is **Senior Airman Steven Ortega**, 7th Logistics Readiness Squadron.
The runners-up are:

'Sir, I'd prefer to avoid the body cavity search myself, but Fluffy here is pretty insistent.'

-- Tech. Sgt. Dean De Leon, 317th Airlift Group

'Sir, the dog's a NASCAR fan, can he take it for a spin?'

-- Tech. Sgt. Dean De Leon, 317th Airlift Group

The BIG Screen

The Dyess Theater is located next to the main exchange. Patrons must have a valid identification card and may sponsor guests. Admission for adults is \$2, children 6-12 years old is 99 cents, and children ages 6 and younger are admitted free. G-rated movies are 99 cents for kids ages 2-12. For more information, call 696-4320.

Friday, 7 p.m.

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King -- *Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen* -- The final chapter in The Lord of the Rings trilogy continues the odyssey of Frodo and his

Fellowship and the ultimate fate of the One Ring.

Frodo and Sam continue their journey to destroy the ring, while massive battles are waged across Middle Earth and Aragorn begins to accept his place as heir to the line of ancient kings.

Rated PG-13 (*intense epic battle sequences and frightening images*)

Friday, midnight

Cheaper by the Dozen -- *Steve Martin, Bonnie Hunt* -- Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt star in this family comedy as the patriarchs of a clan of 12 children.

When the couple moves the tribe to Chicago, it takes awhile for them to adjust to big city life.

Rated PG (*language and some thematic elements*)

Saturday, 2 p.m.

Cheaper by the Dozen

Saturday, 7 p.m.

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King

Sunday, 2 p.m.

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King

Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Eurotrip -- *Scott Mechlowicz, Jacob Pitts* -- An American teen on the verge of graduation discovers his anonymous German pen pal is really a beautiful girl. As a result, him and his three friends set out on a road trip across Europe to meet her.

Rated R (*sexual content, nudity, strong language and drug and alcohol content*)

Social hour

◆ The Heritage Club and Hangar Center host a social hour every Friday for club members from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Complimentary snacks and bar bingo are available.

For more information, call 696-2405.

Club breakfast

◆ The Heritage Club is hosting an "all you can eat breakfast buffet" from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

The cost is \$6 for non-club members and \$5 for club members.

For more information, call 696-2405.

Tickets

◆ The information, tickets and travel office now has Dallas Stars and San Antonio Spurs tickets available.

Special rates are now being offered for cruises. Dates and prices may vary.

For more information, call 696-5207.

Junior members

◆ The Heritage Club now has junior memberships available.

Open to children 10 years old and younger. It features a kiddie brunch on the second and last Sunday of each month.

For more information, call 696-2405.

Tops in Blue

◆ Tops in Blue will be performing Monday at the Abilene Civic Center.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

For more information, call 696-4305.

Library

◆ The Dyess Library offers a tiny tots reading program at 10 a.m. every Tuesday.

For more information, call 696-2618.

Skills Development Center

◆ A President's Day sale is going on until Tuesday. All retail items are 10 percent off.

◆ Entrees for the annual Air Force Artist Craftsman Contest will be accepted between March 2 to March 5.

◆ Dyess' giant flea market "Shoppin' in the Park" is scheduled for April 17. The Crafter's Haven is now taking sign-ups for booth space.

For more information, call 696-4175.

Valentine's Day brunch

◆ The Heritage Club will be holding a Valentine's Day themed brunch from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Club members who bring a spouse will receive an additional \$2 off the member's discounted price.

The cost is \$11.95 for non-club members and \$3 for a club member and \$3 for their spouse.

For more information, call 696-2405.

Port Aransas fishing trip

◆ Outdoor recreation has a trip scheduled for April 2 through April 4 to Port Aransas, Texas. For details, cost and itinerary, call 696-2402.

Winter Park ski trip

◆ Outdoor recreation has a trip scheduled for Monday through Feb. 20 to Winter Park Mountain Lodge in Colorado. Call 696-2402 for details, cost and itinerary.

Local Advertisement



Weather Warriors

Dyess weather flight keeps 'eyes on the skies' to make base mission happen

Photo by Michael Bath

By Senior Airman Matthew Rosine
Dyess Public Affairs

The moody, dark sky growled angrily and the storm within grew stronger. With each passing moment, it built more and more, until suddenly, in a rush of wind, rain and lightning, the storm raged across an unsuspecting West Texas countryside.

The storm's erupting fury does not surprise the steadfast sentinels who closely watch the skies around Dyess. These watchers are the weather warriors of the 7th Operations Support Squadron weather flight.

The base weather flight is responsible for providing forecasts, warnings and advisories to protect the people and resources at Dyess, but their mission doesn't end there.

"We help ensure the entire base mission each day gets accomplished," said Master Sgt. Michael Butrovich, NCO in-charge of the weather flight. "Weather affects every single person on base whether they work in trans or on the flightline, the front gate or in an office; one way or another their mission is affected. We work hard to ensure that no one gets surprised."

To this end, the 11 people who maintain the 24-hour operations of the weather flight also provide weather support for worldwide operational and training mis-

sions for Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command.

"We are a unique unit," said Capt. Katie Campbell, weather flight commander. "Many bases operate one airframe for one MAJCOM. But here, we have two completely different personalities between the B-1 and the C-130, so we must be able to answer a wider array of questions to meet their mission needs."

"For example, a T.V. weather forecaster can say that the weather will be partly cloudy with a chance of rain," Captain Campbell added. "But, our pilots have to know more. We have to be able to tell them if those clouds will be above or below 3,000 feet. They need to know when it will start raining, when it will stop and how the visibility will change throughout the day; they need a lot more exact information from us."

Whether briefing aircrews or mission decision makers, Dyess' weather flight doesn't just watch the skies at home. They also keep watch all over the world.

"Our aircraft operate all over the world," Capt. Campbell said. "So we have to have up to date information for all of our people no matter where they will be working."

During combat operations, weather support can play an integral role in putting bombs on target.

"Some weather parame-

ters say that you can't use a certain weapon system," Sergeant Butrovich said. "When certain conditions are in place, infrared or laser guided munitions may need to be switched to JDAMs. If certain conditions are present, we can say 'yes, this is the type of munition that will be most effective, not this one.'"

One new technology that the weather flight is using to help maintain Dyess' combat effectiveness is space weather. Space weather monitors conditions such as solar flare activity. This activity can affect the satellites supplying the global positioning systems of the Joint Direct Attack Munitions, potentially affecting the performance of these munitions.

These conditions can also mean a disruption in other areas of operational activity such as radio communications. But by using this new technological information source, weather flight members can help maintain the Air Force's effective combat consistency.

While weather support operations maintain worldwide combat and training effectiveness, the men and women of the weather flight must still face another foe -- the myth of the "weatherman" always being wrong.

"Weather is a highly technical career field. We have to study the physics of the atmosphere, complex algorithms as well as graphical, numerical and text formats. But, error is built into the system," Captain Campbell said. "We are leaps and bounds ahead of where we were ten years ago, but our computers are still not perfect."

According to Campbell, the forecast computers determine the forecast projections based on weather readings across the world. However, because there are



Airman Aaron Walker

Maj. Devin Martin, 28th Bomb Squadron, receives a weather briefing from Master Sgt. Michael Butrovich, NCO in-charge of the weather flight. The flight regularly briefs aircrew members about conditions before and during operational and training missions.

no weather tracking stations in certain areas such as in the middle of the ocean, the computers are forced to make projections based on past data. Also, not all the incoming data sources for these computers are able to maintain the same degree of accuracy.

Once the computers have crunched the numbers, it is time for the Dyess weather flight to interpret the computers data and make the forecast.

"It's tough sometimes," Captain Campbell said. "There are days when you are just spot on and then there are days when you miss it completely. Still, we are able to maintain consistently accurate weather support."

This support is easily accessible by every Dyess person by visiting the weather flight's daily online forecast on the base homepage at www.dyess.af.mil. Another feature the weather flight has added recently to its Web page is the Dyess fitness weather page. This page provides a conditions forecast to base members so they know what they will face before performing physical training outdoors.



Airman Aaron Walker

The base weather flight uses a doppler radar system.

Fast Facts:

- Thunderstorms have a life cycle of 1 hour
- Feb. 5th was National Weather Fore-casters Day
- Dyess' weather flight personnel have worked on T.V. They have also briefed college, local, regional and Air Force News stations about weather.
- There are eight Weather Support Areas of Responsibility across the globe.
- Dyess' Weather Support Areas of Responsibility is at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.



Airman Aaron Walker

Senior Airman Karen Dykeman scans the skies using a hand held forecasting device while the combat weather station next to her scans for information.



Airman Aaron Walker

Capt. Katie Campbell, weather flight commander, and Senior Airman Karen Dykeman, weather flight, evaluate the current weather situation using the base's doppler radar.



Charles Allison

Standings

Basketball

American League
(Tuesday/Thursday)
Current as of Feb. 6

Team	Win-Loss
7 CMS #1	2-0
7 OSS	2-0
9 BS/13 BS	1-0
7 CS #1	1-1
317 AMXS	1-1
7 MUNS	1-1
7 AMXS #1	1-1
317 OSS	0-1
7 MDG	0-2
7 EMS	0-2

National League
(Tuesday/Thursday)
Current as of Feb. 6

Team	Win-Loss
7 CES	2-0
Varsity	2-0
7 AMXS #2	2-0
7 BW/MSS	1-1
39 AS	1-1
317 AMXS	1-1
7 LRS	1-1
7 SFS	1-1
7 CMS #2	1-1
7 CS #2	0-2
7 MOS	0-2
7 SVS	0-2

Over-30 League
Current as of Feb. 6

Team	Win-Loss
7 LRS	2-0
7 AMXS	1-0
7 BW/MSS/CPTS	1-0
7 MUNS	0-0
7 CES	0-0
317 AMXS	0-1
7 EMS	0-1
7 MDG	0-1
7 SFS	0-1

Bowling

National
(Week 16)

Team	Win-Loss
7 MOS	84-44
Beer Time	83-45
7 SVS	81-47
7 EMS	76-52
7 SVS Command	75-53
317 AMXS	66-62
7 AMXS #2	63-65
7 MDG	62-66
7 MSS	57-71
Fire Wire	44-84
7 LRS	42-86

American
(Week 10)

Team	Win-Loss
7 OSS	56-24
7 SVS #2	54-26
7 SFS	50-30
7 CES #2	48-32
7 EMS	46-26
317 OSS	42-38
7 CPTS	38-42
7 MOS	38-34
7 CES #1	36-44
7 AMXS #1	34-30
7 CMS	32-40
Credit Union	32-40
7 AMXS #3	28-52

Dyess OSC
(Week 20)

Team	Win-Loss
Honey Kats	51-29
Wicked Women	48.5-31.5
Hot Little Mamas	47-33
Still Clueless	46.5-33.5
Consistently Inc	46-34
Herk Hotties	45.5-34.5
Pin Pals	43.5-36.5
The Niners	40-40
Kingpins	39.5-40.5
Pin Heads	37-39
Bowling Impaired	34.5-45.5

Dyess Friday Night Mixed
(Week 19)

Team	Win-Loss
Five	126-26
HMO	98-54
Got B	92-60
If I Know	81-71
D & D	70-82
Mixed Nuts	65-87
Six	56-96

Dyess Preps
(Week 17)

Team	Win-Loss
Spinnerz	54-14
Team Inferno	36.5-31.5
Thunder Pins	33-35

Juniors/Majors
(Week 16)

Team	Win-Loss
The Dominators	55-9
Kingpins	47-17
New-Bees	14-18

Don't see your standings here? Call 696-2862 for more information.

Go team!

Member of the Dyess Youth Cheerleaders strike a pose at the youth center. The girls range in age from 6 to 10 years, they cheer for youth center events and often represent Dyess in the Abilene community. The girls helped construct a float for and marched in last year's Abilene Christmas parade. They practice twice a week and have come a long way since their start last fall, according to Susan Young, the team's coach. "Not only have they mastered cheers, but they are skilled in performing stunts now as well. The girls are excited and enthusiastic about their efforts and are anxious to continue cheering and representing Dyess throughout the year," she said. Since the basketball season is now coming to a close, the girls are looking for other avenues to continue their efforts. To recommend an event, call Jennifer Hensley at 690-1276.



Senior Airman Ryan Summers

Sports Shorts

Excellent fitness performance

The following Team Dyess members scored in the excellent category or higher on their recent physical fitness test:

1st Lt. Holly Allen, 7th Communication Squadron, and Senior Airman Paul Gallegos, 28th Bomb Squadron, both scored a perfect 100.

Captains Janette Ho, Detachment 2, and Nicole Prichard, 7th Bomb Wing; 1st Lt Chris Blair, 39th Airlift Squadron; 2nd Lt Marissa Carlton, 7th Mission Support Squadron; Tech. Sgts. Belinda McCall, 317th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, David Pizzulo, 7th Security Forces Squadron, and Libby Lyon, 7th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Staff Sgts. Nicole Rubenstein and Timothy Sevigny, 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Senior Airmen Karsten Ferguson, 7th AMXS, and Mark Harvey, 317th AMXS; Airmen 1st Class Apuleyo Orias, 7th Services Squadron, and Teklay Legese, 7th SVS; Airmen Caleb Eastman, 317th AMXS, and Brackett Polland, 7th LRS; Airmen Basic Marquile Collins, 7th MSS, Michael Doss, 7th AMXS, Johnny Rivera, 39th AS, and Casey Davis, 7th AMXS, all scored 90 points or higher.

Fitness center

◆ Massages are available at the fitness center. There are four choices of massages offered: full body (one hour) \$35, 30 minutes, \$17.50, 15 minutes, \$12; and chair massage, \$25 for 20 minutes. Purchase massages at the health and wellness center desk and bring receipt to appointment. For more information, call 672-6565.

◆ There's a Love and Basketball 3 on 3 tournament at 9 a.m. Saturday.

◆ The President's Day Wallyball tournament is at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday.

For more information, call 696-4306.

Mesquite Groves Golf Course

◆ The Winter Series Golf Tournament continues Feb. 21.

◆ Airmen's Golf Day is Feb. 22; E-1s through E-4s can golf for half price.

◆ Putters on the Run is now offering delivery service on selected menu items Thursdays through Sundays. Delivery times are from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and from noon to 9:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The last delivery call must be made 30 minutes prior to closing. Delivery is free for orders of \$7 or more (50-cent charge if less than \$7). They have also added wings to their menu items.

◆ Mesquite Grove Golf Course now has an all-new Curbside Café "Canos Cacina" that will stop at your work area, call 696-4384 to get your work area on the schedule.

For more information, call 696-4384.

Dyess Lanes

◆ Kid's birthday special -- on their birthday, kids can get one game, shoe rental and a meal for \$3.50.

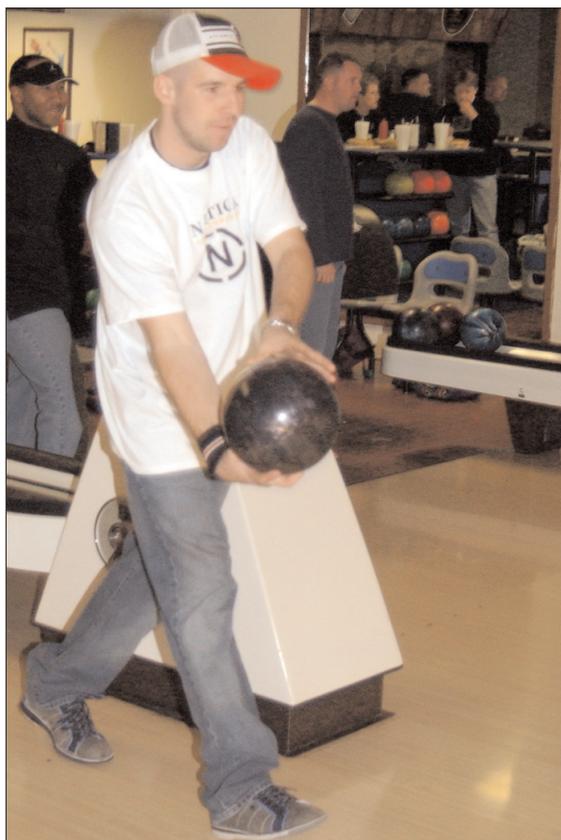
◆ The Dyess youth bowling league is open to children age 5 to 18. Interested kids can still sign up to bowl in the Saturday Youth League that starts at 10 a.m.

◆ Bowl three games for the price of two during the Tuesday Night Special.

◆ At Music Thursday Rock while you Roll, games are 50 cents after 5 p.m.

◆ Sundays are Family Days -- Family Day special \$1 per game all day.

◆ Thunder Alley is every Saturday from 8 p.m. until closing, \$8 per person or \$2 per game (including shoes). No one younger than 13



Airman Aaron Walker

Practice makes perfect

Mark Kuhar, bowling with the 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron during intramural league action, lines up a practice shot at Dyess Lanes. For complete standings, see the column at left. For more information about league play or bowling at Dyess Lanes, call 696-4166.

allowed unless accompanied by an adult.

◆ The Air Combat Command Base Level Championship Bowling Tournament is March 6 and 7; and March 13 and 14. The cost is \$20 to enter. Male and female bowlers will compete in two categories: Scratch and handicap division for bowlers who have an average established between August 2003 and February 2004. The scratch division is open to active duty only with averages of at least 180 for men and 150 for women.

The handicap division is open to all active duty, dependants, Department of Defense and nonappropriated fund employees. Active-duty members can only bowl in one category. Each male and female winner at the base level will go to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., to compete for the ACC championship tournament April 6-10. For more information, call 696-2936.

Outdoor recreation

◆ Reserve the Paintball Field for unit Stress buster Challenges. The field is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday

from noon to 4 p.m. -- reservations accepted until 5 p.m. Friday and must be a group of 10 or more. For more information or reservations, call 696-2402.

◆ Outdoor Recreation has paintball guns for sale. Stop in to see the selection or they can special order for your convenience.

Youth, teens

Registration is underway for Little League baseball. For more information, call 696-4797.

Martial arts classes

The fitness center will be offering Kuk Sool Won classes from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. For more information, call 696-4306.

Golf for singles

If you are single (unmarried, divorced, widowed, legally separated), 21 or older, enjoy playing golf and meeting other singles, the American Singles Golf Association invites your participation. Call 1-888-GOLFMATE, or visit them on the Web at www.singlesgolf.com.





Airman Robert Morris

A 7th Security Forces Squadron player sets up for a shot, while the BW/MSS defender tries to block during action Feb. 5 at the Dyess Fitness Center.

Cops sink last-second shot in come-from-behind basketball victory over BW/MSS

By Airman 1st Class Kiley Olds
Dyess Public Affairs

With three seconds left on the clock, the 7th Security Forces Squadron's Marco Siller drove into the heart of the paint.

Battling through defenders, he leapt, nailing a short jumper as the buzzer sounded to seal the cops come-from-behind victory against the 7th Bomb Wing/Mission Support Squadron, 45-43.

"It was a very hard fought victory," said Siller, the team's coach.

"Had we not been able to come together as a team, we wouldn't have been able to come from behind and pull out the win."

After the tip off, BW/MSS's James Butler scored on a fast break to the basket, but momentum was soon lost as both sides failed to score a single basket for the next several minutes.

Finally BW/MSS player Matt Hoffman snapped the scoring drought with a short jumper.

See *Victory*, Page 11



Photos by Airman Robert Morris

Victory

continued from Page 10

The cops answered with a three-pointer to take the lead.

After the brief scoring surge, the lack of scoring continued for the rest of the half.

Leading at the close of the first period, BW/MMS extended their advantage, 17-13.

Regrouping at the half, the cops opened with two quick baskets to even the score 17-17.

The rest of the period continued to be a defensive showdown with each

team battling back and forth on the scoreboard for dominance.

While BW/MSS held the lead for most of the game, the cops kept a close pace, waiting for the opportunity to steal victory.

Their chance came in the final seconds as Siller drove deep, set up, and delivered the game-winning jump shot.

“Near the end we knew we had to get in there and do our job,” said Siller. “We knew we could do it and we did.”

(Left) The 7th Security Forces Squadron rebounds the ball. Players from both team pounded the boards heavily during the game. (Right) A security forces player attempts to block a 7th Bomb Wing/ Mission Support Squadron player as he tries to score a basket. Even though they trailed for the entire game, the 7th SFS team came away with the victory, thanks to a last-second, Marco Siller jumper.



DOD has civilian buyout, retirement authority

By Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski
Air Force Print News

The Department of Defense now has permanent authority to offer civilian employees voluntary early retirements and buyouts (voluntary separation incentives) without having to get Office of Personnel Management approval each year.

The voluntary early retirement and voluntary separation incentive programs are similar to other programs the Air Force has used since 1993.

They allow the Air Force to offer employees up to \$25,000 to leave the Air Force, and/or take a voluntary early retirement.

By exercising these authorities, the Air Force will be able to take reductions in their civilian workforce while minimizing reductions in force, personnel officials said.

These permanent authorities came as part of the new National Security Personnel System.

"These programs may be used to reduce the number of personnel or to restructure the workforce to meet mission objectives," said Sara Bonilla, chief of the Air Force NSPS project management office. "Because the authority is now permanent, it allows managers greater flexibility in long-range planning.

"In addition, NSPS included a

limit on the total number of VSIPs that can be used in DOD and our allocation this year is 5,873.

"This does not imply we are downsizing 5,873 civilians or that we must use all of the VSIPs. It just means that, if needed, we could offer up to that number."

There are no limits for using voluntary early retirements.

"Buyouts allow the Air Force to decrease (its) workforce without resorting to reductions in force, or reshape it without requiring the loss of positions," Ms. Bonilla said.

"In addition to offering a separation incentive to employees eligible for early or optional retire-

ment, it can be also be used for resignations."

Employees who accept a buyout, or an early retirement must leave government service in the same fiscal year.

Both the early retirement and buyout programs have other requirements.

For early retirement, the employee:

- ◆ Must have at least 20 years of federal service and be at least 50 years old. Younger employees may be eligible if they have 25 years of federal service.

- ◆ Must have worked for DOD continuously for at least one year.

For buyouts, the employee:

- ◆ Can receive a maximum of

\$25,000 before taxes and deductions.

- ◆ Must be a U.S. citizen.
- ◆ Must be serving under an appointment without time limitation.

- ◆ Must have been employed by DOD for a continuous period of at least 12 months.

Employees who accept buyouts may not take another position with the federal government, directly or via contract, for at least five years or they will be required to repay the buyout.

Additionally, employees may not return to work for the DOD for at least one year unless they receive a waiver from the secretary of defense.

Office of Personnel Management web site: <http://www.opm.gov>