

Briefly

Thanks Team Holloman!

The Alamogordo community will host their annual "Thanks Team Holloman" celebration from 6 to 10 p.m., tonight across from the Officers' Club. All Holloman military members and their families may attend the free picnic and festivities. There will be activities for children and door prizes given out during the event.

ALS graduation

The Airman Leadership School class 03-G graduation retreat is at 10 a.m., Sept. 15 in the dormitory mall area behind the Mayo PME Center.

The staff of the PME center invite commanders, first sergeants, supervisors, spouses, family and friends to join the graduates for this important event.

Contact Staff Sgt. Stacey Horton at 572-5860 for more information.

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Clean-up begins at old service station site

by Airman 1st Class
Vanessa LaBoy
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

An eight-week clean-up project to remove soil that is possibly contaminated began Aug. 25 at the old Base Exchange Service Station site on First Street across from the base clinic.

According to David Scruggs, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental restoration/pollution prevention

see **CLEAN-UP**, Page 4

West Nile Virus found in bird

Education key to prevention

by Tech. Sgt. Paul Coupaud
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Base officials here confirmed the West Nile Virus was found in a bird on base Aug. 21.

To date, no human cases have been reported on the base or in Otero County, but two horses in the county have also been infected.

In the past few months, the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron Entomology team has taken aggressive measures to control mosquitoes, which can carry the disease. These measures include removing vegetation that can harbor

see **VIRUS**, Page 4



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa Laboy

Shawn Chesters, with the Bhat Environmental company, uses a loadmaster to backfill a hole after soil was removed. Team Holloman can expect construction in the area for about seven weeks.



DWI Update

Days since last DWI: 6
DWIs year to date: 17
DWIs this time last year: 18

Last six DWIs:

- 49 SFS Aug. 28
- 49 CES July 7
- 49 MXS June 26
- 49 LRS June 12
- 49 MMS June 7
- 49 MXS May 31

Motorcycles don't kill people - people kill people

by Master Sgt. Ty Foster
 21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Last year, I wrote an article about motorcycle safety titled, "What were they thinking?" I should have called it, "Why weren't they thinking?"

For as many years as I have been a rider, even longer, I have been concerned about motorcycle safety.

Two months before I bought my first bike, a motorcycle passed me on the right as I was turning right. As his bike crashed into the side of my parents' 1970 Chevy pickup, everything began moving in slow motion. He flew 30 feet through the air right over the hood of the truck. Two other motorcyclists waiting to turn at the intersection watched in dismay as this human projectile hurled toward them and his mangled bike careened their way.

He landed face-up and unconscious underneath the nearest bike and his right leg had a gash so severe I thought it had been severed. Pulling the bike off of him, I looked at his helmetless head. His face, cut by my rearview mirror, was lacerated from the top of his forehead to the tip of his nose. Blood pooled over his closed eyes.

His motorcycle ended up in the ditch 10 feet away. The Hamm's beer that had been between his legs as he began his impatient pass was in the grass near my parents' truck. His name, I had learned, was Ricky Hicks, and he was alive.

I met him, under better circumstances, about a year later. It had taken about 300

stitches to fix his wounds and he almost did lose his leg. He told me it wasn't my fault. He was drunk and had done a stupid thing. Why wasn't he thinking?

I was 18 years old. I am 42 now, but I remember that wreck like it happened yesterday.

Between then and now, I have logged tens of thousands of miles on motorcycles. I have taught motorcycle safety at eight sites in two states to more than 650 people. I have written countless articles, conducted workshops, inspections, and demonstrations in an effort to stem the red tide of Air Force motorcycle deaths and injuries.

But it hasn't worked.

On April 10, two riders were on a divided highway with a posted speed limit of 50 kilometers per hour — that is about 31 mph. Rider No. 1 zipped between two cars at a high rate of speed. As he entered a gradual curve, his motorcycle began to lose control. He skidded for 198 feet, hit the median, was ejected from the bike and collided with an on-coming vehicle. He was dragged 30 feet and tumbled another 103 feet. Rider No. 2 watched his friend die.

Rider No. 1 had just picked his bike up from the shop where it had been in for brake problems resulting from a previous mishap. He had attended motorcycle safety training about 18 months earlier.

Why wasn't he thinking?

Another Air Force rider and his buddy were out for a ride May 24 on a new road. There were no street lights, minimal

street markings and neither rider had driven it before. At a speed in excess of 60 mph — posted 45 mph — an unannounced curve sneaked up on them. Rider No. 1 applied his brakes hard. Rider No. 2 swerved around rider No.

1, who then struck the curb and went airborne. Two hundred twenty-two feet later, the dust began to settle on the mangled bike. This rider No. 2 also watched his friend die. Neither rider was wearing the required protective gear.

Why weren't they thinking?

On June 1, an Air Force motorcyclist with a passenger was doing about 120 mph in a 60-mph zone down a divided four-lane highway. Approaching a curve, the front tire left the pavement edge. They crashed in the grass median and were launched about 500 feet. The operator lived but the passenger suffered traumatic head injuries and later died. They had been at a party, then went on a beer run while the designated drivers were taking people home. Neither wore the required protective gear.

Why didn't they think?

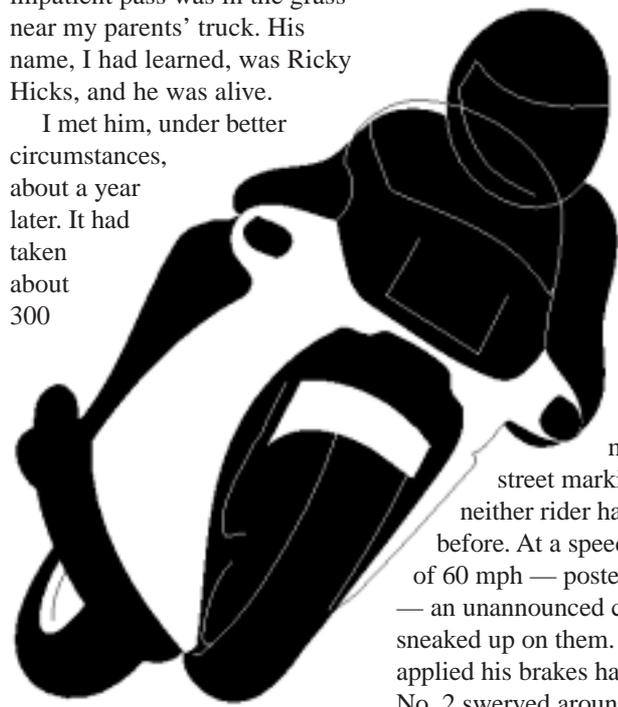
I would recount more of these tragic losses, but it makes me sick to read them, to envision their final realities. Last year, we lost 16 airmen in fatal motorcycle crashes — Class A mishaps — Air Force wide. This year, we have already lost 20.

Unfortunately, more will die.

I have realized there is no panacea, no cure-all to eliminate the deaths of Air Force motorcyclists. As involved in their rider's lives as supervisors and commanders can be, they can't make the decisions. It is on the rider. For when riders decide to straddle their bikes, start them, shift into gear and roll onto the road, they have accepted the risk and the responsibility for whatever may occur. Their split-second decision to speed up, slow down, swerve or not to ride after a drink of alcohol is in their hands — or, rather it is in their heads.

Some people think we motorcyclists have an attitude. I think they are right. I just wish the attitude every one of us had was the same as that of Gen. Lance Lord, commander of Air Force Space Command, "Safety is an attitude — get one!"

If they did, they would probably live to ride a lot longer.



572-RIDE works!
 Calls MADE are lives SAVED.

Calls:
 Year to date: 386
 Last week: 18

(The DWI and 572-RIDE statistics reflect FY 2003. The * denotes a family member or civilian employee.)

Holloman Chapel Services — 572-7214

Weekday Masses – 11:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
Sunday – Catholic Mass, 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.
 • Sacrament of Penance, 4 p.m.

- General Protestant Worship Service, 11 a.m.
- Protestant Contemporary Worship Service, 6:30 p.m.
- Protestant and Catholic Religious Education resumes Sept. 14

49th Fighter Wing Commander's Access Channel

The commander's access channel, cable channel 3, offers up-to-date information about current security conditions, closures on base, hours of various programs on base and community information about what programs and events are available at Holloman and in the local area. The commander's access channel also features the following videos today through Thursday:

- **Air Force Television News:** 6, 9 and 11 a.m.; 2, 5 and 7 p.m.
- **Air Force Child Care Program:** 7 a.m. and 12, 3 and 6 p.m.



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Articles must be typed and double-spaced. Stories should be submitted directly to the Public Affairs Office via e-mail to 49fw.pa.sunburst@holloman.af.mil or mailed to **49 FW/PA, 490 First Street, Suite 2800, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., 88330-8287**. All material is edited for accuracy, brevity, clarity, and conformity to regulations. The delivery of the SUNBURST to Holloman on-base family housing sections is provided by Alamogordo Daily News. The deadline for submitting articles to the SUNBURST is 4 p.m. Thursday the week before publication. For advertising information, call (505) 437-7120.



The Hotline is your direct link to the 49th Fighter Wing commander. If you've tried to solve the problem yourself and haven't been able to get results, call 572-7500 or e-mail *cc.hotline@holloman.af.mil*. Leave your name and phone number so the office of primary concern can contact you. Before submitting a Hotline, please give the appropriate agencies a chance to work out the problem. If you want to pass on praise for a job well done, please contact the supervisor or commander directly who can provide the appropriate recognition to the individual or group. The unit commanders and agency chiefs want to help. Let them try first.

Housing office	2-3981
Housing maintenance	2-7901
Medical clinic	2-5991
Finance	2-5107
Services	2-3528
Commissary	2-5127
Fraud, waste and abuse	2-3713
BX	479-6164

School and sports physicals



I have tried to get an appointment for my son to have a sports physical done before Aug. 18. I was told he can't be seen on base until Sept. 10 because a "sports physical" is the same as a "school physical," and there are so many kids on base that it's hard to get everyone seen. I understand the clinic staff does everything they can, but this problem is going to cost me \$33. For the sacrifices everyone in the military makes, healthcare should be something we can count on, even if it's only a physical. If a school of 2,500 kids can have one big "physical day" that takes care of every kid playing sports, then why can't a small base like this put aside a few doctors on a Saturday or during the week to take care of this problem?



Our first priority at the 49th Medical Group is to provide the best care possible to all our beneficiaries. As we try to accommodate our beneficiaries, you may obtain physicals at any time during the year. Our access requirements for wellness visits is 30 days — and a school or sports physical is considered a wellness visit. We had a challenging summer where there was an unscheduled delay in transition between the incoming and departing provider. This caused a backlog, and patient demand exceeded our capacity.

We currently perform 100 to 120 physicals per week and still can't meet the full demand. As a result, we have picked one day per week for the next four weeks where we will have one provider devote half of a day doing 10-minute exams. These exams are for those who do not have any other medical problems. All sports physicals remain current for one year and can be done anytime during the year.

In prior years, we have set up four "sports physical" days at the end of July and beginning of August and would advertise a few times during the summer to inform parents. This year, we were only able to set up two sports physical days in August and did not advertise. We will advertise in the Spring and a few times in the Summer so parents can call ahead and book appointments. As staffing permits, we will set up more sports physical days and have a few days close to when school starts for those who need them at the end of the summer. We appreciate your suggestions for improving communication of our services.

VIRUS

from Page 1

mosquitoes, regular testing of standing water sources and the use of pesticides. To date, no mosquitoes on base have tested positive for the virus.

The 49th Medical Group Public Health team usually collects 300 to 1,000 mosquitoes per week around the base and sends them to the New Mexico Department of Health in Albuquerque for disease testing, said Tech. Sgt. Douglas Lacey, 49th Aero-medical-Dental Squadron NCOIC.

According to 49th Civil Engineer officials, because of those efforts there has been an 80-percent reduction in the population of adult mosquitoes over the last two years.

Lacey credits the base entomology team as one reason for the decline in mosquitoes.

The team monitored breeding grounds and used measures ranging from biological control, such as mosquito larvae-eating fish, to chemical control, such as larvicide, to keep the mosquito population down.

Other diseases carried by mosquitoes include Western Equine Encephalitis and Dengue, Lacey said.

“Water collecting in natural and man-made objects attracts and provides a breeding ground for mosquitoes,” Lacey said.

The entomology team fogged for mosquitoes last spring, but there was no need to this year, said Don Carlton, 49th CES Entomology Pest Management supervisor. That may or may not change with the weather, he said.

CLEAN-UP

from Page 1

chief, it's a requirement of the New Mexico Environmental Department that soil be cleaned to a level where there is no risk to human health or the environment.

Excavation began on the northwest corner of the site and will proceed to the northeast section. To reduce the interference with school traffic and students, the hauling takes place between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Cones and flagmen direct traffic during hauling times. Odor from the site is minimized by backfilling holes and keeping stockpiles of contaminated material to a minimum.

The service station operated from the early 1950s until 2001. In 1981, discrepancies in the gasoline inventory led to an environmental study

WNV history

First isolated in 1937, the West Nile Virus was initially active in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East. It wasn't until 1999 that outbreaks of the virus were reported in the United States.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey Web site, West Nile Virus is not transmitted from person to person and there is no evidence that a person can get infected by handling live or dead infected birds. However, the report states that people should add an additional level of safety and only handle potentially infected birds with gloves, a plastic bag or other protective barrier.

C. Mark Sewell, a New Mexico epidemiologist with the state department of health, said in a statement that only a small portion of people develop symptoms. “West Nile Virus can cause flu-like symptoms such as fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. The elderly are at most risk for serious disease from West Nile Virus.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the basic transmission cycle begins when mosquitoes feed on infected birds, which may circulate the virus in their blood for days. The infected mosquitoes then transmit the virus to humans or animals when they bite to take blood. The virus lives in the mosquito's salivary glands. When the mosquito feeds, the virus may be injected into the animal or human from those glands, where it could multiply and possibly cause the illness.

(Laura Pellegrino contributed to this story.)

Inside the story

Here's how you can reduce the chance of mosquito bites:

- Avoid outdoor activities during dusk and dawn, or wear long sleeves and pants during those times.
- Use insect repellents that contain DEET. Adults should use a concentration of 35 percent. Children should use a concentration of no more than 10 percent. Products containing soybean oil and eucalyptus oil are also effective, but need to be applied more often.
- Ensure window and door screens are in good working order.
- Remove stagnant or pooling water from around the house and yard. Toys, wading pools, birdbaths, and empty bottles are potential reservoirs for mosquitoes. Unclog and clean rain gutters periodically.

Other sources

The following Web sites have additional information on the West Nile Virus:

New Mexico Department of Health at <http://www.health.state.nm.us/wnv/index.html>

• USGS West Nile Virus Page at http://www.usgs.gov/west_nile_virus.html

• Center for Disease Control WNV background page at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

that determined that between 100,000 to 150,000 gallons of gasoline had leaked from the fuel system. Several initiatives have been accomplished since those studies that reduced contamination levels on site.

These initiatives included sampling and monitoring well installations, installing a soil-vapor extraction system. “The process will be complete when all contaminated soils are removed from the site and backfilled with clean soil,” Scruggs said.

All soils will be taken to a newly permitted land farm on base next to the old main base landfill. Landfarming is an environmentally sound alternative to landfill storage of petroleum contaminated soil. This pollution prevention initiative allows the remediation of contaminated soils. ”

Call Dan Holmquist at 572-5395 for information.

DoD civilian spouses now eligible to provide child care

By 1st Lt. Anna Siegel
Air Combat Command
Public Affairs

She's been taking care of children for years, but thanks to a recent waiver, Air Combat Command considers her the first, of what they hope is many, off-base child care providers certified to take care of active-duty members' children.

Laura Pishnak-Sylvia, the owner of Nonna's Daycare in her Goldsboro, N.C. home, is now affiliated with the Seymour Johnson Family Child Care Program, and is the only Department of Defense civilian spouse who has received a certificate of affiliation with the Air Force Family Child Care Program.

Previously, only spouses of active duty or retired military members, who are approved FCC providers, could be affiliated, said Sheila Robinson, an ACC Family Member Programs specialist. Now, ACC has been granted an Air Force waiver to include DoD civilian spouses as affiliates in their FCC programs.

"These childcare providers are not licensed by the base, but they are affiliated," said Sharon Weber, the FCC coordinator at Seymour Johnson. "The difference is that off-base providers are licensed by the state but affiliated with the Air Force."

"Providers receive training in CPR, first aid, guidance techniques, child development and appropriate play activities," Robinson said. "FCC coordinators ensure providers are screened, trained and licensed to provide quality childcare in a safe, nurturing and home-like environment."

According to Therese Wiley, Holloman's Family Child Care coordinator, affiliated providers are granted all the rights and

Inside the story

Who is eligible?

Spouses of Department of Defense civilian employees, Active Duty military or retired military are eligible to apply. Applicants must live in Alamogordo and be licensed by the state of New Mexico to be eligible for affiliation with the Holloman Family Child Care program.

How do I apply?

Spouses can pick up applications at the FCC office in building 325. Once an application is turned in, the FCC coordinator will contact the applicant to review the process for background screenings, training and home inspections to become affiliated. Once the applicant completes those steps and they provide proof of liability insurance, the FCC coordinator can recommend the applicant for approval. If approved, the 49th Mission Support Group commander will issue a certificate of affiliation.

How long does the process take?

For an FCC provider who is already licensed by the state of New Mexico, the affiliation process should take four to six weeks. For providers who would like to become affiliated, but have not received their state license, the process will take a little longer.

responsibilities of licensed providers on Holloman AFB, they are just geographically separated.

"These providers will get the same support and assistance with the management of their child care business as an on-base provider," she said. "They also have free access to our resource library and can attend our free monthly training sessions."

To receive a certificate of affiliation, people who live off base must meet and maintain their county or state licensing requirements in addition to meeting all Air Force criteria, she said.

Many parents need care beyond the hours of the child development center and the youth center, Weber said. This new program has made it easier to meet the needs of parents who need the help of the extended childcare program, which provides night and evening care.

"Sylvia is open for both the first and second shift and is able to support 12-hour-

shift care for a family. For example, military or civilian parents working shifts can be provided care through Sylvia," Weber said.

"We already have one off-base provider, an Air Force wife, in the process of becoming affiliated right now," said Wiley, "but we'd love to have more off-base spouses join. This expansion opens up new options to Holloman's military families, and that's what makes having the affiliation eligibility expanded to include spouses of civilian employees so exciting. This program plays a vital role in supporting Holloman's mission readiness."

For more information about Holloman's family child care programs, including affiliation, contact Therese Wiley at 572-5848.

(Tech. Sgt. Paul Coupaud, 49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs and Staff Sgt. Jason Eaton, 4th Fighter Wing Public Affairs contributed to this story.)



The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents Aug. 26 to Sept. 2.

Tickets

Security forces issued 23 tickets from Aug. 26 through Sunday: Seven for speeding up to 15 miles over the posted limit, two for speeding and no insurance and no registration, one for speeding and no insurance, one for careless driving, one for expired temporary plates, one for seatbelt usage, three for failure to stop, two for no insurance, one for failure to yield, one for expired registration, one for no registration, one for no license and one for no tail lamps.

Property loss, theft or damage

- Aug. 26: A civilian reported a tractor-trailer hit a privately-owned vehicle at the Commissary loading zone.

- Aug. 26: A civilian in a POV reported he was involved in an accident with another POV on Eglin Loop.

- Aug. 30: An NCO reported possible vandalism to his POV.

Patrol response

- Aug. 27: An Army and Air Forces Exchange Service employee reported two gas-n-gos at the Shoppette. Both airmen who drove off were

contacted by Security Forces and escorted back to the Shoppette to pay for their gas.

- Aug. 27: An airman reported a possible domestic/child abuse incident within an on-base residence.

- Aug. 27: An airman reported possible gun shots near Santa Fe and First Street. Patrols in the area conducted a walk around which resulted in negative findings.

- Aug. 28: An airman reported he had a verbal dispute with a family member.

- Aug. 29: An AAFES employee reported a gas-n-go at the Shoppette in the amount of \$29.44. The officer who drove off was contacted by Security Forces and escorted back to the Shoppette to pay for his gas.

Civil arrest

- Aug. 28: An airman was arrested by the Department of Public Safety for driving under the influence.

- Aug. 29: An airman was arrested by the Otero County Sheriff's Office for resisting, obstructing and evading an officer.

Cards, decals and badges

An expired dependant identification card was seized.

These incidents can become breaches of security. If personnel have a military issued ID card stolen or lost, or a DD Form 2220 stolen from a vehicle or missing from the squadron's inventory, report it to security forces at 572-7171 immediately.

B On the IG SCREEN

Bad Boys II (R)

7 p.m., tonight

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13)

7 and 10 p.m., Saturday

Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13)

7 p.m., Sunday and Thursday



SPCS troops earn county sheriff badges

by Tech. Sgt. Paul Coupaud
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Three members of the 4th Space Control Squadron here recently graduated from the Otero County Sheriff's Academy.

Master Sgt. Frederick Clausen, Staff Sgt. Arthur Barrett and Staff Sgt. Mark Casadei attended five months of instruction with the sheriff's academy and now serve the community by volunteering with the department.

The reserve deputies support the Sheriff's Office by volunteering numerous hours. In 2002, the Reserves volunteered more than 3,000 hours and saved the county thousands of dollars in overtime for deputies, said Master Sgt. Steven Odom, captain of the Otero County Sheriff Reserve.

"There are now 19 reserve deputies in the Otero County Sheriff's Office," said Odom. "Counting the three who graduated in the Aug. 2 class, there are now five of us who are Active Duty Air Force — the three from the 4th Space Support Squadron, myself and Airman 1st Class Chad Kerlin from the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron."

During their training, the trio learned about topics such as federal and state law, patrol procedures, and crime scene investigation. They also qualified with weapons, learned counter drug tactics, search techniques and defensive maneuvers.

All three NCOs said they also learned several lessons during the training that they can apply to their Air Force career.

Barrett, a passive space systems operator and evaluator, said the training taught him a lot about people skills. "How you deal with people is very important," he said. "Being direct and open with people is critical. You have to treat people with respect — it can go a long way for you in the police department as well as in the military."

According to Casadei, the skills they learned often go hand in hand with their Air Force lifestyle.

"Both the sheriff's department and the Air Force require control in a high-stress environment," said the space operations specialist. "The military taught me how to be a better cop by having integrity and dealing with different types of people everyday. Law enforcement has taught me about making split-second decisions, maintaining that integrity and having compassion for my fellow man. These jobs tie into each other perfectly."

In much the same way as the academy training complements their Air Force life, the understanding and assistance from their families and their Air Force leadership was instrumental in their completing the sheriff's department training.

Clausen, a flight chief at the 4th, said his children were concerned about their dad being involved in such a potentially dangerous job, but his wife worked hard to ensure they were able to take the situation in stride and adapt to the changes.

"My whole family had to step up and take up the slack during my absences," said Clausen. "My oldest son, Frederick junior, became the family taxi service and ensured the family's transportation needs were met. My wife, Lisa, provided the emotional support my family needed."

Barrett, a fitness enthusiast and martial artist, said it can be a challenge to find time for school and volunteering in an already busy life. "Dividing my time between an Air Force career, work outs, Kuk Sool Won training and

my responsibilities at home can be a challenge," he said. "I couldn't have done it without the flexibility and support of my leadership at work and the help and understanding of my family."

The 4th Space Support Squadron's operations officer, who watched the three go through the challenges of balancing their responsibilities to the sheriff's academy, the Air Force and their family, said he thought what they achieved is nothing short of impressive.

"What these outstanding gentlemen have accomplished is no simple task," said Lt. Col. Jim Jennings.

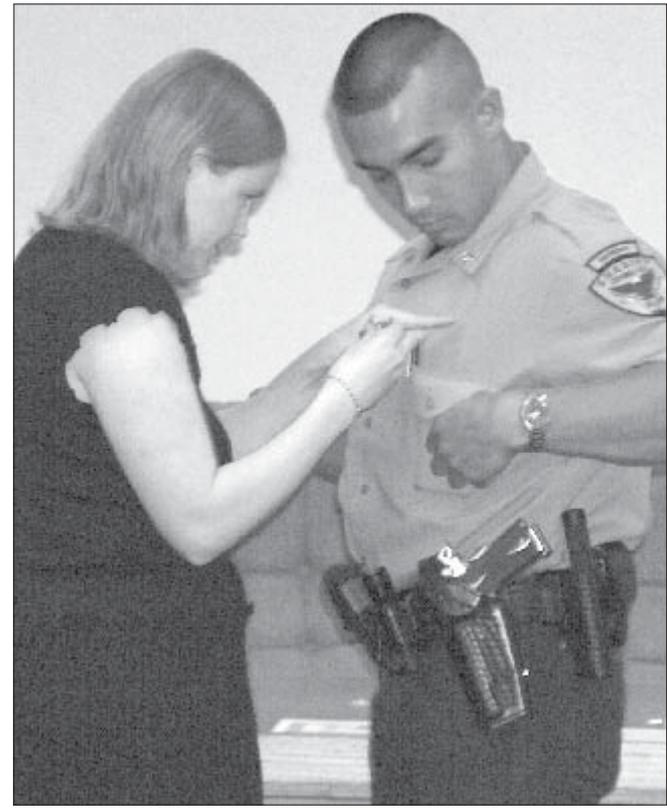
"They juggled a hectic and demanding work schedule, as well as their family's needs, and were able to succeed in a very demanding course. And this isn't the end of the story — they now volunteer their time to help keep our community safe."

While each NCO joined the department with a dedication and desire to serve the community, Casadei said his joining was destiny.

"I come from a family of law enforcement," he said. "With two deputies, one state patrolman, a detective and a chief of police in the family, I pretty much grew up in this lifestyle. I also volunteered with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department when I was stationed in Florida, so I had a sample of the lifestyle already and knew I loved it."

Clausen said he has had a lifelong desire to be in law enforcement. "I'd love to have a career in law enforcement or corrections after I retire," he said. "This training and experience helps me now and will hopefully help me further on down the road when I'm looking at a second career, but the main thing is right now, to help the people of the community."

While their Air Force jobs help guarantee the Air Force meets its mission, the regular patrols the three NCOs pull with the Otero County Sheriff's Department help ensure both



Courtesy photo
Staff Sgt. Arthur Barret has his badge pinned on by his wife during the graduation ceremony.

Air Force and community members outside the gates are protected.

"We're volunteers," said Casadei. "Putting our life on the line for the community isn't about getting a paycheck. This is really about making a difference one criminal at a time. If I take one person off the street and it saves a member of my — or someone else's — family from getting hurt, then that's a reward no paycheck can ever match."



Courtesy photo
Staff Sgt. Mark Casadei before a patrol.



Courtesy photo
Master Sgt. Frederick Clausen's wife pins on his badge at his Sheriff's Academy graduation.

FSC

The Family Support Center offers the following classes and events at the FSC, building 40:

- Spouse employee workshop: 12:30 to 2 p.m., Monday.
- Bundles for babies: 1 to 3 p.m., Monday.
- Heart link: 8:30 to 11 a.m., Tuesday.
- Financial management: 8 to 11 a.m., Tuesday.
- Sponsor training: 9 to 10:30 a.m., Wednesday.
- Families apart: 6 to 10 p.m., Wednesday.

For more information, contact the FSC at 572-7754 or visit the website at www.mil.holloman.af.mil/sptg/mss/fsc.

HESO

The Holloman Enlisted Spouses Organization meets at 6 p.m., Tuesday in the Community Center.

HESO has a question and answer session with Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt and Chief Master Sgt. James Callander at 6 p.m., Tuesday in the Community Center. Bring a dish to share and free daycare will be provided.

Heritage month

November is Native American and Indian heritage month. Anyone interested in serving on this year's committee can contact the Military Equal Opportunity office at 572-3032 for information.

Parade volunteers

The Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade Committee needs two volunteers for traffic and crowd control committee, two for parade line-up, and one to be Santa for the night of the parade. Meetings begin in about two weeks and will be once a month until October, then will be twice a month up until the parade. The committee also needs volunteers for the night of the parade to assist with traffic and crowd control. The parade is scheduled for Dec. 6.

Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 437-6120, or CJ Cooper at 572-5562 or 434-8313 after 5 p.m.

Wet 'n' Wild discount

The Wet 'n' Wild WaterWorld park in Anthony, Texas offers a military discount Saturday and Sunday. The entrance price will be \$7.95 with a valid military, dependent or retiree identification card. Park hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and the park is located on Interstate 10 at the border of Texas and New Mexico.

Call (915) 886-2222 for information.

Family members under age 3 cost \$2. There is a \$1 parking fee.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa Laboy

Football to finger foods

Football Hall of Famer and former Pittsburgh Steeler Franco Harris, founder, owner and CEO of Super Bakery, Inc. presents his line of nutritional pastries and snacks at the Shifting Sands dining facility Aug. 28. Super Bakery created the first nutritional donut approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

White Sands special events

White Sands National Monument holds the following special events:

- Hot Air Balloon Invitational: 7 a.m., Sept. 20 and 21.
- Star Party: 7:30 p.m., Sept. 27.
- Lake Lucero Tour: 9 a.m., Sept. 28.

Reservations are accepted beginning Sept. 14.

For more information, call 479-6124 or 679-2599 ext. 232.

Sailplane lessons

The White Sands Soaring Association offers a military special of three instructional flights for \$99 on the weekend of Oct. 11 to 13. The special includes flight instruction and pilot's log book.

Call 479-4023 to make a reservation before Oct. 8 or for more information.

Red Cross

The upcoming Red Cross schedule of

events is as follows:

- Basic first aid: First aid, CPR, AED: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday in Alamogordo.
- Adult CPR: 1 to 3 p.m., Thursday in Alamogordo.
- Child/Infant CPR: 9 a.m. to noon, Sept. 18 in the Whispering Sands Community Center.

For more information, call the Holloman Red Cross at 572-7066.

NFL Sunday Ticket

The Oasis Club offers "NFL Sunday Ticket" from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., every Sunday for football fans.

For more information, call 572-3226.

Oktoberfest

The German Air Force Flying Training Center has its annual Oktoberfest from 4 to 11:30 p.m., Sept. 27 in and around maintenance hangar 286.

Admission for people 16 and older is \$8. Admission is free for youth under 16. Tickets can be purchased at all Otero Federal Credit Union branches, J&J Mini Markets, the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce, Officers' Club, Outdoor Recreation and the GAF Headquarters in building 45, Room 2295.

For more information, call 572-2928.

Spencer Theater

Series tickets (a purchase of tickets to four or more shows) for Spencer Theater's winter season are now on sale. Single tickets go on sale Wednesday. The theater features six Broadway musicals, two Broadway comedies, Celtic song and dance, and new world flamenco and folk guitarists.

For more information on shows, prices and times, call (505) 336-4800.

Federal employees

Chapter 182 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees will hold a buffet luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m., Sept. 13 in the ballroom of the Holiday Inn de Las Cruces at 201 East University Avenue in Las Cruces, N.M.

Organizers invite all current and retired employees of the federal government to attend. Call 521-3583 by Tuesday for reservations.

Cosmic bowling

Cosmic Bowling is from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., every Friday and Saturday at Desert Lanes Bowling Center. Cost is \$7 for up to four games and shoe rentals are 75 cents. Open bowling is 1 to 3 a.m. for \$1.75 per game.

For more information, call Desert Lanes Bowling Center at 572-7378.

Thrift store

The Holloman thrift store has a grand re-opening 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday.

HAFB school news

There will be a meeting of the Parent Teacher Advisory Council for Holloman Primary School at 6 p.m., Sept. 9.

The PTAC for Holloman Middle School will meet at 3:30 p.m., Sept. 18. Visit the Alamogordo Public Schools Web site at www.aps4kids.org for the latest information on school events.

Airman's Attic opens

The Airman's Attic will have their grand re-opening Saturday. The store will be open regularly for E-6 and below, and open to all ranks on the first Saturday of each month.

Contact Lori Howard at 479-4845 or Tara Bottoms at 479-1178 for information or to volunteer.

Holloman Hero

Airman Claudia Ortiz

46th Test Group

Duty title: Direct procurement technician

Time in service: One year, two months

Time at Holloman: 11 months

Hometown: Jacksonville, Fla.

Personal and career goals:

My personal goal is to obtain a degree in nursing and get commissioned as an officer in the medical field.

Why is serving in the Air Force important to you?

The Air Force is an organization which protects freedom for all. Freedom to live in a manner for all to prosper. I can never serve such noble cost as a part of another organization in a civilian world. I also like to live my life in a disciplined and productive fashion. The Air Force offers me just such a lifestyle and endless opportunities. For the short time I've been in the Air Force, I already feel a true friendship and camaraderie with my co-workers that I never felt in the civilian world. My immediate supervisor and everyone in my chain of command became my extended family in no time.

What accomplishment during your Air Force career are you most proud of?

I was selected as the Airman of the Quarter for

the 46th Test Group, as well as Holloman's Tenant Units. I competed with the 46th Test Wing airmen at Eglin AFB, Fla., and to my complete surprise I was selected as the wing's Airman of the Quarter. I am and will continue to be so very proud of these accomplishments as long as I live. I am going to work hard to give more than what is expected of me. I owe my absolute best to the Air Force and my country. So many airmen before me paid so dearly for the freedoms we all enjoy and now it is my turn to do the same.

Core value portrayed: "Integrity first"

"Airman Ortiz's strongest trade is her integrity. Her solid ethical foundation guides her to nothing short of complete dedication to all Air Force values. That foundation of unwavering integrity carries through to impact the other core values of "service before self" and "excellence in all we do." Amn Ortiz is a perfectionist. She exemplifies the "whole person" concept. With her strong moral fiber, work habits and selfless service, Ortiz has distinguished herself to her peers, chain of command and society as a whole."

– Col. Joseph E. Zeis Jr.
46th Test Group commander



Courtesy photo

The Holloman Hero submission form is available online. It can be downloaded at: https://www.mil.holloman.af.mil/wing/49FW_PA/internal.html

Letters, packages move quicker

by K.L. Vantran

American Forces Press Service

The U.S. Postal Service and the Military Postal Service Agency process about two million pounds of mail a week for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Of those, some items make it to the recipient faster than others, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brian Lomax, agency chief of plans and policy.

Depending on where it originates, a letter or package spends "a couple of days" in the civilian system before it reaches either San Francisco or New York City, Lomax said. Then it travels another 16 to 19 hours by plane before landing in Kuwait or Bahrain. From there, it is picked up and delivered by motor vehicle.

Once in theater, a letter takes seven to 14 days to reach the servicemember, while a package usually takes 14 to 24 days, he said. Packages make up 90 percent of the mail.

"The mail is getting to the troops," he said. "The troops are happy. Our intent is to continue to make improvements and exceed their expectations."

Using automated mail-scanning equipment and increasing the number of people working at mail facilities are two improvements that have sped up mail delivery, Lomax said.

People who mail letters and packages also can help, he said.

"The size of the package (is) an important (factor)," Lomax said. "Large packages take up a lot more room. If there's a choice between taking one large box or a lot of smaller boxes and letters, the large box will stay (at the mail facility). The ideal size is a shoebox. It's also important to correctly address the package."

Some items cannot be mailed. They include: aerosol cans, alcoholic beverages, ammunition, fireworks, flammable or explosive materials and illegal or infectious sub-

stances. For more information, call 1-800-ASK-USPS or visit the postal service Web site at www.usps.com.

Though not restricted, Lomax also recommends against sending chocolate. Cookies and sunflower seeds seem to travel well, he said, and placing cookies in a coffee can helps to protect them.

Heat also takes a toll on the tape used in packaging, Lomax said. The postal service officials recommend using clear or brown packaging tape, reinforced packing tape or paper tape. Cord, string and twine should not be used, because they can get caught in the mail-processing equipment.

Servicemembers love to get mail, Lomax said.

"When I was out at sea, it was always a joy to get a letter from home or a copy of a report card," Lomax said. "It's an exhilarating feeling: 'I'm out here doing my job, and they haven't forgotten who I am.'"



Courtesy photo

'The Stealth is my favorite'

Darius Schulenberg, a 9-year-old cancer patient, gets a cockpit tour of his favorite aircraft, an F-117A Nighthawk stealth fighter, from Lt. Col. Jim Pillar, 49th Fighter Wing director of safety, at the Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. open house and air show.

Test group grounds spacemen

by Airman Stephen Collier
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

After the final serve of the night, the 4th Space Control Squadron's Gary Thomsen rocketed his arm forward and spiked the ball to the 46th Test Group's side of the court, ending the second game of a three-game match Tuesday at the Fitness and Sports Center.

Game one of the match began with the 46th TG pulling ahead with big slams by Justin Smithhart. He put two points on the board for his team, bringing the score to 4-1. Big blocks by Gary Perrin and Troy Meier, both members of the 4th Space Control Squadron, kept the test group team at bay as they pushed their way back into the game.

As game one came down to the wire, the test group's Wayne Mims returned a pass from the 4th SPCS and scored another point, making the score 24-13. Then, as the final serve of the game was launched, it was returned by the 4th SPCS and hit with Mims' knee back over the net for the game-winning score.

Game two began with solid defenses by both teams with big blocks by the 4th Space's Meier, who stopped an incoming ball on the net by the test group's Terri Bullard. The test group caught a break at the end as the SPCS knocked it out of bounds on the test group's side to win 24-21.

For the 46th TG, Tom Farrell became the game's highest scorer with seven points in game one.

Perrin, 4th SPCS, was his team's highest scorer with six points in game two.

"These guys are the hardest to play," said Wayne Mims, coach of the 46th TG. Mims is referring to the German Air Force A team, who they were scheduled to compete against Wednesday night at the fitness center.



Photo by Airman Stephen Collier

Justin Smithhart, 46th Test Group intramural volleyball team, reaches up to block a spike by Gary Perrin, of the 4th Space Control Squadron. The 46th TG went on to beat the 4th SPCS in a two-game match.

"They're a tough team, always are. They're very skilled. We need to play our best and have a lot of hustle if we are going to beat them," he said.

The 46th TG moved on to the winner's bracket game on Wednesday at the Fitness and Sports Center.

Playoffs

- The German Air Force B team defeated the 49th Materiel Maintenance Group in two games with a score of 25-23 and 25-16.
- The 49th Civil Engineer Squadron overtook the 49th Logistics Readiness Squadron in two games, 25-12 and 25-19.
- The German Air Force B team eliminated the 4th SPCS from the tournament: 25-19, 24-26 and 15-12.
- The 49th MMG beat 46th TG in a hard-fought, three-game match: 25-19, 22-25 and 15-9.
- The GAF B team took on the 49th Communications Squadron A team and defeated them 25-16 twice to win the match.
- The 49th CS A team beat the 49th CES in a three-game match: 25-17, 21-25 and 15-10.
- The GAF A team slipped past the 49th LRS team: 25-21 and 25-20.



Photo by Airman Stephen Collier

Smack!

Sean Mears, a 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron member of the Tornados baseball team, rockets the ball toward centerfield in Sunday's last exhibition game of the National Adult Baseball Association league. The regular season begins at 1:30 p.m., Sunday at the Griggs Sports Complex in Alamogordo.

Sports Briefs

Softball tournament

The Company Grade Officers' Council is hosting an "End of Summer" softball tournament. The one-day, double-elimination event takes place Sept. 13 and is open to off-base teams. For information or to sign-up, contact 1st Lt. William Ball at 572-7316 or 479-9967

Sports and fitness

The Holloman Sports and Fitness Center will host two upcoming events:

- Fun run and walk at 11 a.m., Thursday
- Leg press competition at 5 p.m., Sept. 15

Contact Master Sgt. Joseph Shaw at 572-2392 for information.

Tennis tournament

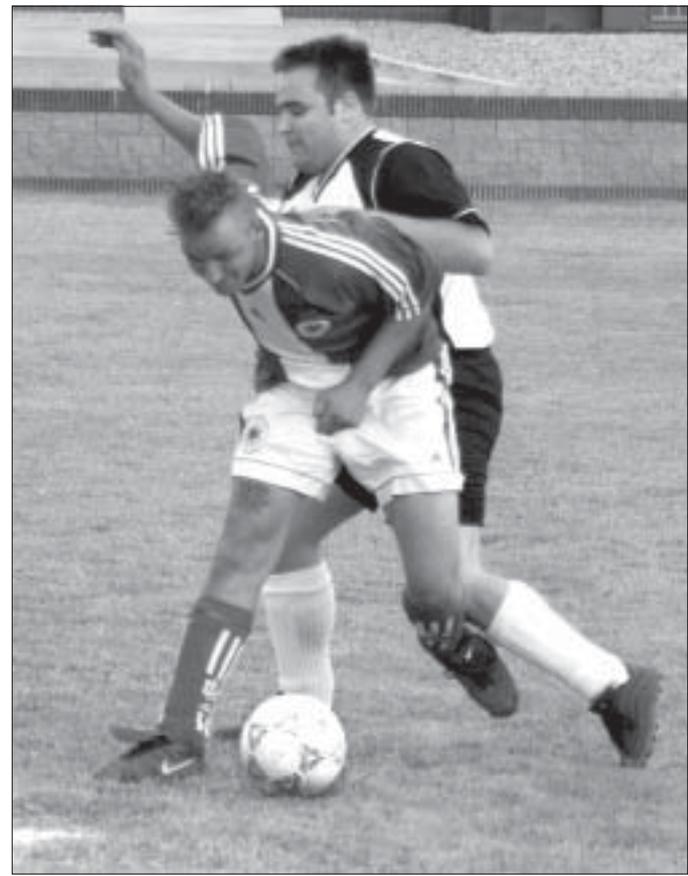
The annual Otero County Closed Tennis Tournament is Oct. 4 and 5 at the Oregon Park Courts. Events will be available for all skill levels. Entries are available at the Oregon Park Courts and the Holloman Fitness and Sports Center and are due by Sept. 27.

Call 434-1949 for more information.

AFA sponsors Fall golf tournament

The Air Force Association Chapter 196 is hosting a golf tournament beginning at noon, Oct. 17 at the Holloman golf course. Cost for the four-person, best ball tournament is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. The cost includes green fees, cart, entry fees and lunch.

Contact Capt. Amanda Redash at 572-1366 for details.



Is it a foul?

Marc Diefenbach (left) with the German air force Electronics Squadron and Michael Schreiber of the GAF 2nd Line Maintenance, battle for the ball during a semifinals game of the base intramural soccer playoffs. The GAF Electronics Squadron won 1-0 in a double overtime shoot-out Tuesday night. The Electronics Squadron team then defeated the GAF headquarters team 2-1 to move on to the finals. See next week's *Sunburst* for coverage of the championship game.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Paul Coupaud