

Briefly

Sunburst survey

The *Sunburst* readership survey ends Monday. Readers can access the survey at <http://www.holloman.af.mil/sunburst/index.htm>. For more information, call the *Sunburst* staff at 572-3515.

Yard of the month

October yard of the month winners are: Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Byrd, zone one; Tech. Sgt. John Jensen, zone two; Staff Sgt. Shane Sweeney, zone three; Maj. Bryan Runkle, zone four; Tech. Sgt. Javier Cruz, zone five; and Staff Sgt. Bret Barlow, zone six.

New MPF hours

The 49th Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight will have new hours effective Wednesday. The new hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Haunted house

The BEAR BASE-sponsored haunted house will be open from 6 to 9 p.m., today across from the youth center. Prices are \$2 for adults and \$1 for kids age 12 and under.

The kiddie haunted house is open from 5 to 6 p.m. Admission is free for kids and \$1 for adults.

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Coupaud / Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

We own the night!

Trick or treat hours at Holloman Air Force Base are from 5:30 to 7 p.m. See page 16 for information to help parents and 'candy monsters' alike have a safe Halloween.

ACC command chief visits HAFB 14 base LTs to get second bar

by Airman 1st Class
Vanessa LaBoy

49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Air Combat Command command chief master sergeant, Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Ellison, visited Holloman Oct. 21 to Oct. 24.

The chief discussed various topics including new fitness standards, deployment schedules and how to prepare airmen to become NCOs. Ellison also commented on how Holloman's

dormitories measured up in ACC and explained why Holloman's airmen are the best he's seen in his 27-year career.

According to the new Air Force fitness standards, airmen are scored on a point system to assess their fitness capabilities. The Air Force standards go beyond the ergonometric test to include a 1.5-mile run, crunches and push-ups. The chief said the new standards will

see **CHIEF**, Page 5

Fourteen first lieutenants here are among more than 2,500 selected for promotion by the calendar 03B captain-selection process.

Board officials considered 2,519 lieutenants for promotion in the line, judge advocate general, chaplain, medical service corps, biomedical sciences corps and nurse corps fields. A total of

see **CAPTAIN**, Page 6



High: 79
Low: 48
TODAY



High: 77
Low: 46
SATURDAY



High: 74
Low: 46
SUNDAY



High: 73
Low: 44
MONDAY

DUI Update

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Days since last DUI: | 8 | Last six DUIs: | • 49 OSS Oct. 18 |
| DUIs year to date: | 2 | | • 49 CES Oct. 16 |
| DUIs this time last year: | 5 | | • 49 SFS Sept. 6 |
| | | | • 49 OSS Aug. 29 |
| | | | • 49 SFS Aug. 28 |
| | | | • 49 CES July 7 |

572-RIDE works!
Calls **MADE** are lives **SAVED.**

Calls:
Year to date: **53**
Last week: **10**

(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. | • Sacrament of Penance, 4 p.m. |
| Sunday – Catholic Mass, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. | • General Protestant Worship Service, 11 a.m. |
| | • Protestant Contemporary Worship Service, 6:30 p.m. |

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.
- **"This is Team Holloman":** 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.

COMMENTARY

How are your ABCs?

by **Tech. Sgt. Matthew Frickey**
Hill Air Force Base, Utah

When I hear the letters "ABC," Sesame Street, kindergarten or some other fundamental learning tool of my youth comes to mind.

These letters are not always used in an alphabetic sense — in the military they can also stand for attitude, behavior and conduct. As adults in the Air Force, these letters should be used as a code for our actions, appearance and perceptions.

Several years ago when tennis star Andre Agassi was pitching cameras, he drove home the message that "Attitude is everything." It certainly is.

Attitude is the first element of the ABCs. Besides personal dress and appearance, it is the key to making a great first impression. Attitude can be either positive or negative.

Attitude is projected in degrees. Unfortunately, there are days when your car breaks down, the alarm doesn't ring or your spouse is screaming; these are the days when your attitude can be negative.

We may not like it, but presenting a negative attitude renders an improper military image and can damage our professional demeanor. This is where self-discipline and control help us deal with our attitude.

Either we become aware of our negative attitude or some outside source shows us the error of our ways. This should be a moment of self-realization where we take control and get rid of it.

If you have trouble getting rid of this negative attitude, you should solicit the help of a supervisor or use the chain of command where appropriate. In any case, a bad attitude is infectious; it can spoil the manner of younger, impressionable airmen.

Attitude is the easiest part of the ABCs to reciprocate, while behavior is more difficult.

A person with a bad attitude will let you know within several minutes of conversation. Behavior, on the other hand, is more elu-

sive and a lot of times it is not until someone demonstrates bad behavior that we are able to identify a problem.

Writing bad checks, drinking and driving, lying and cheating on promotion tests are all examples of bad behavior. These acts are controllable by using self-discipline and making correct conscious decisions.

Unfortunately we have things like peer pressure (and those who pressure us sometimes have bad ABC issues) that lead us down the wrong road and make being bad feel "cool."

The bottom line is we either conduct ourselves professionally with integrity or choose to use inappropriate behavior possibly affecting the Air Force mission.

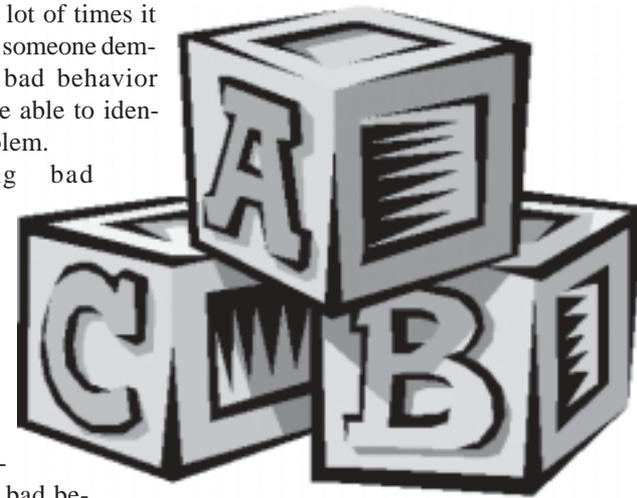
The line between attitude, behavior and conduct is blurred and often fine. You could argue that they are one and the same. However your attitude and behavior basically sum up your conduct and should be treated as a package deal.

As airmen, all three can affect your career and personal development. The airmen in our Air Force are held to a higher standard for good reason and are expected to have a higher standard when it comes to our ABCs.

Conduct, like attitude and behavior, is a quality we can control. Good conduct is the result of a positive attitude and good behavior.

Whether you are in the Air Force 20 years or two years, you face conduct choices all the time. Choosing to do drugs is negative conduct. This is a conscious choice and is the perfect example of poor conduct.

The consequence of this decision affects the Air Force mission. Airmen are expected to fix multi-million dollar aircraft, provide security for billions of dollars in



assets and make the United States of America a safer place to live. Poor choices and bad conduct won't be tolerated. Not following this letter in the ABC sequence could get you a one-way ticket out of the Air Force.

The only person who can control the fate of your career is you. Look around, and ask yourself these questions:

— If you show up at work with a really bad attitude, how does it affect your behavior and conduct?

— Can you trust yourself to have appropriate conduct and behavior if you cannot control your attitude?

— When you are guilty of bad behavior and conduct, what is your attitude like?

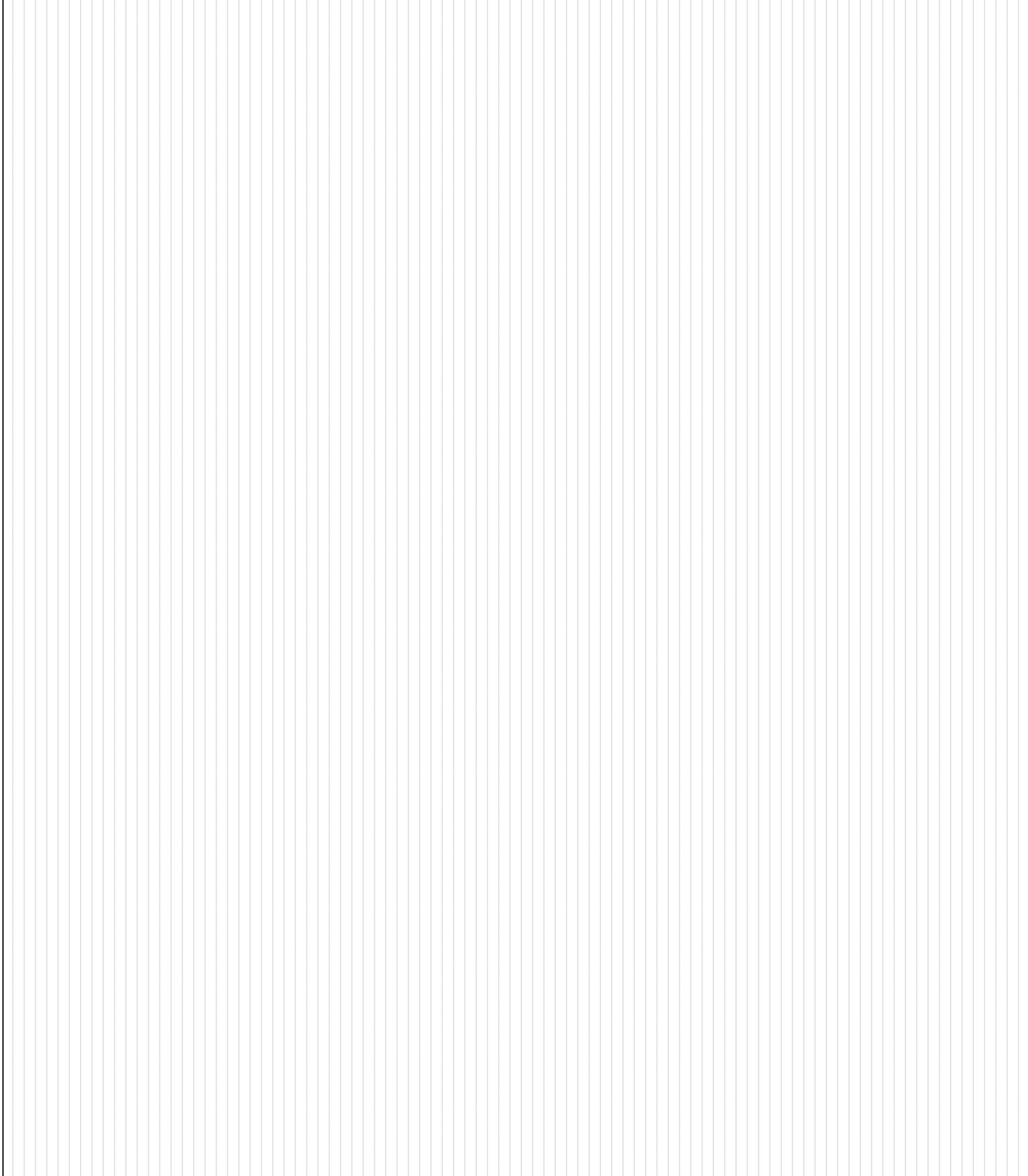
Good or positive ABCs are like an equation: A + B + C = success. If one of the variables is missing, the formula fails.

Airmen who positively follow their ABCs will likely receive better feedback and enlisted performance reports and see their names put on quarterly packages. Airmen who fail to follow these fundamentals will ultimately feel the drawbacks.

They might receive counseling, have problems with the law and ultimately, could find themselves facing charges under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

We are in control of our own ABCs, and this affects our outlook either positive or negative.

What is the state of your ABCs? If they aren't positive, what are you going to do about it?



Bird hunting season begins

The south unit of the Lake Holloman Wildlife Refuge Area will be open for waterfowl hunting from Saturday through Dec. 30.

Hunting is permitted from 30 minutes prior to sunrise until 10 a.m., Tuesdays and Saturdays only. No upland game bird hunting is allowed. Also, Canvas-back Duck and Pintail seasons are closed until Dec. 18.

Access to the hunt area is through the southern-most gate on Highway 70. Hunters are required to check in at the base visitor's center to obtain a hunt station pass. Check in begins at 5 a.m. and up to four hunters may hunt from the same hunt station.

Maps and regulation sheets will be available at the visitor's center and at the information kiosk at Lake Holloman. All

hunters must have a New Mexico state hunting license, a migratory bird permit, a valid duck stamp and have completed a hunter education course.

Hunters must hunt from their respective hunt stations. Portable or temporary blind structures may be used, but must be removed at the end of each hunt day.

Hunters must keep their bag limits separate from other members of the hunt party and are required to self-report their bag when checking out at the visitor's center. Only shotguns firing non-toxic shot are allowed, and all litter must be removed each day. Retrieval of downed waterfowl by dogs, persons or a non-motorized boat is authorized.

For more information, call the base environmental flight at 572-3931.



The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents Oct. 21 to Monday.

Tickets

During this time, security forces members issued 13 tickets: one for unsafe backing causing an accident, two for parking violations, one for expired registration, six for speeding one to 10 mph over the posted speed limit, two for speeding 11 to 15 mph over the posted speed limit, and one for expired insurance.

Property loss, theft or damage

Oct. 23 — A civilian in a privately owned vehicle backed into another POV.

Oct. 24 — An airman reported a broken dormitory window.

Oct. 25 — An airman reported his computer stolen from his dorm room.

Oct. 27 — A civilian reported two broken security lights on the south side of the Holloman Intermediate School.

Patrol response

Oct. 22 — A spouse reported an unprovoked animal bite.

Oct. 22 — A patrol responded to obtain a statement from a spouse in regard to an assault.

Oct. 25 — A family member reported someone had been in her home without her consent.

help airmen become more physically fit for their jobs both at home station and when deployed.

“The new fitness standards are right in line with how we are transforming the Air Force,” Ellison said. “We are an air and space expeditionary force and our job is to deploy forward, which means we have to be physically fit to work long hours in extreme temperatures. Our senior leadership has seen the need for a fitness program beyond the cycle test. I think it’s something most people have asked for and has been accepted throughout the Air Force with enthusiasm.”

Airmen are moving up the ranks and assuming additional responsibilities quicker than before. Ellison said the most important thing supervisors can do to prepare airmen to become good NCOs is mentorship.

“As a supervisor, it’s your responsibility to expose airmen to those situations that help them become a leader,” he said. “Mentorship is very important in the relationship of a supervisor. Supervisors need to bring airmen along and teach them the techniques they’ve learned as they became supervisors.

While teaching airmen the tricks of the trade are important, Ellison said the most important part of being a supervisor is letting the airmen know they care.

“Airmen need to know supervisors care about them, that they care whether they succeed and that supervisors have an expectation of their success,” Ellison said. “There is a quote that says it all, ‘Airmen today don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.’ Supervisors should know what their airmen’s interests are and support them on and off duty,” he said. “It’s their responsibility to ensure their airmen are progressing and will be successful.”

Since Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, the deployment cycle has been adjusted, keeping some airmen deployed longer than the norm. Ellison said that ACC hopes to resume the normal 90-day rotation by March 2004.

“Prior to OEF, we had a card system where each airman knew



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alan Port

Staff Sgt. Jenette Reitman, 49th Operations Support Squadron, briefs Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Ellison, ACC command chief, at the air traffic control tower.

what AEF they were assigned to,” Ellison said. “I think we are going to try to do that again, so if I were to go up to any airman they would be aware of what AEF they were assigned to and how vulnerable they were right now to deploy. We want to get back to predictability so airmen and their families can plan their life.”

Spending a tour at Holloman may not usually rank on high on every airman’s dream sheets, but according to Ellison, that can change as the base improves its own reputation.

“I visited the dorms and many other places around Holloman and I can tell Holloman’s leadership is being proactive in turning around those things that maybe once made Holloman one of those places you didn’t want to go,” Ellison said.

“If there’s something wrong at Holloman, it’s everyone’s responsibility to fix those problems. The base is in an isolated location, but that doesn’t mean there aren’t things to do or places to go; it just means you’ll have to drive a little bit farther to get there. Every assignment is what you make it. The folks I’ve talked to realized that once they got here they were

thrilled at just how friendly everyone is downtown. When they started doing things, their expectations changed dramatically.”

Right now, Ellison said people would be surprised just how good things are at Holloman. “Especially since it’s probably one of the best dorm campuses in ACC.”

It’s a model and people would be shocked to see how first-rate it really is.

Along with the first class dorms, Ellison said the airmen he met at Holloman were among the most outstanding he’s seen during

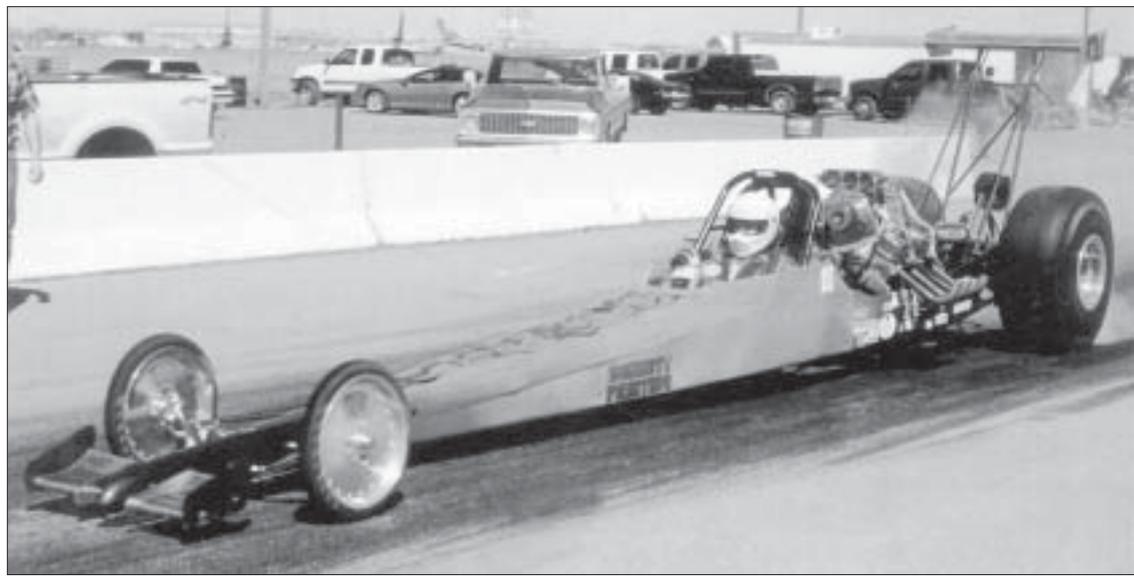
“We wear this uniform because of the people that we love, and we protect and preserve freedom for them. This is a noble profession serving our country, and I thank you for your willingness to serve.”

— Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Ellison
ACC Command Chief

his 27-year career.

“The leadership here is second to none,” Ellison said. “The transformation of this base and what they’ve done to make this not just a place where warriors live and work, but truly a model for air power.”

After his three-day tour of the base Ellison wanted to leave Team Holloman with this message: “We wear this uniform because of the people that we love, and we protect and preserve freedom for them. This is a noble profession serving our country, and I thank you for your willingness to serve.”



Courtesy photo

Sue Stringer waits for a dragster race to begin. Stringer is a Family Support Center employee here.

FSC member puts the pedal to the metal

by **Laura Pellegrino**
Sunburst staff writer

In her spare time, one member of the Family Support Center races her alcohol-fueled dragster at speeds of 170 miles per hour.

Sue Stringer, FSC Air Force Aid Society officer, started racing cars 15 years ago, when her two sons were young.

“My husband and I were wondering what activity to get the family involved in,” Stringer said. “I wasn’t sure I could do something like drag racing.”

After racing her first car, a Chevrolet Nova, she not only found she could do it; she found she was good.

In her first few years of racing, Stringer took first place in every powder puff race she entered. When her husband asked her if she wanted to race faster cars – like dragsters – she said yes.

“When we decided I would

drive, we had to redo the interior of the car,” Stringer said. “The seat and the pedals had to be adjusted because I’m shorter.”

Today, she’s the only female racing with the Southwest Superchargers, a team made up of about 20 members. Stringer and the team members can race one-quarter of a mile in 7.7 seconds.

While traveling that fast, there’s only one thing on Stringer’s mind – stopping.

“I’m thinking, ‘I hope my brakes work and I hope my parachute comes out,’” she said.

In one race, Stringer got to the end of the strip, tried to stop and realized her brakes had failed. The parachute, which normally slows the car when the brakes fail, malfunctioned. Luckily, this particular track had sand and gravel at the end, which allowed her to stop.

Other than that incident, Stringer hasn’t had any collisions.

Stringer’s favorite thing about racing is the relationship it builds between herself and her family. Her two sons still race cars, and now her grandchildren are getting involved as well. Even the other members of her team are like family, she said.

“We’re all very close,” Stringer said. “It’s a great way for family and friends to bond.”

Stringer’s knowledge about cars also helps in her career, said Lenn Furrow, FSC director.

“Many of the Air Force Aid requests have to do with car repairs,” she said. “She has a good working knowledge of automobiles and knows if members are getting a fair price.”

Stringer’s next goal is to participate in a race in Mexico in December.

On Nov. 16, the Superchargers race on a track in the Las Cruces and Deming area located at mile marker 102 off of interstate 10. The event is open to the public.

CAPTAIN *from Page 1*

2,504 were selected for an overall 99.4-percent select rate.

First lieutenants must meet the time-in-grade requirement. The entire list is available on the AFPC Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

The Holloman selectees are:

49th Fighter Wing

1st Lt. Paul Durkes
1st Lt. Brandon Jaroch
1st Lt. Glenna Soirez

49th Aeromedical-Dental Sq.

1st Lt. Richard Farley

49th Operations Support Sq.

1st Lt. Christopher Finan

49th Logistics Readiness Sq.

1st Lt. Brian Clark
1st Lt. Adrienne Miller

8th Fighter Sq.

1st Lt. Kevin Van Stone

746th Test Sq.

1st Lt. Michael Dooley
1st Lt. David Garay

846th Test Sq.

1st Lt. David Hoffman
1st Lt. Alex Johnson
1st Lt. Jacob McWhirter

586th Flight Test Sq.

1st Lt. Brett Casey

For more information, active-duty officers can contact the military personnel flight here at 572-3850. Reserve and Guard officers can call the AF Reserve Personnel Center at (303) 676-6398. (AFPC News)



Photos by Airman Stephen Collier

A sailplane stands at the ready behind its towplane at the Alamogordo-White Sands Regional Airport.

Sailplanes offer 'wild blue yonder' experience

by Airman Stephen Collier
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

They can fly for hours on end, climb as high as airliners and even travel cross-country distances—all without an engine! Sailplanes can provide the thrill of flying without the power of a turboprop.

Maj. Mark Rose, commander of the 49th Maintenance Operations Squadron and an avid sailplane pilot, is a member of the White Sands Soaring Association, located at the Alamogordo-White Sands Regional Airport. For him and other Holloman members, sailplane flying is a part of life.

Sailplanes have been a part of the Holloman community and Alamogordo since the late 1950s,

when officers and local civilians founded the WSSA.

Rose's love of sailplanes can be traced back to his first flight in the engine-less aircraft when he was 15-years-old.

"I was introduced to flying by my father, who was a pilot and salesman for Cessna. I was anxious to start flying on my own, so I got a job to support my training," said Rose.

As a teenager, Rose was not eligible to train on pow-

ered aircraft due to his age. Because of this, his family suggested that he seek out other opportunities.

"My father suggested sailplanes as an alternative to powered aircraft. So, after getting a job, I started sailplane lessons," said Rose.

For those on budgets, Rose said learning to fly sailplanes can be a cost-effective and rewarding means of flight training.

"It's simply one of the best ways to learn how to fly because the pilot can learn by flying 'at the seat of their pants,'" he said. "When you compare the costs, sailplanes are hard to ignore."

Team Holloman members and their dependents have the opportunity to earn their pilot's certification while in the service. Along with earning a sailplane license through the WSSA, Air Force members can also take advantage of the Aero Club, an organization dedicated to providing a flying organization to earn a pilot's license for powered planes.

According to Rose, potential pilots can make the transition later on to powered aircraft much more easily with a sailplane license.

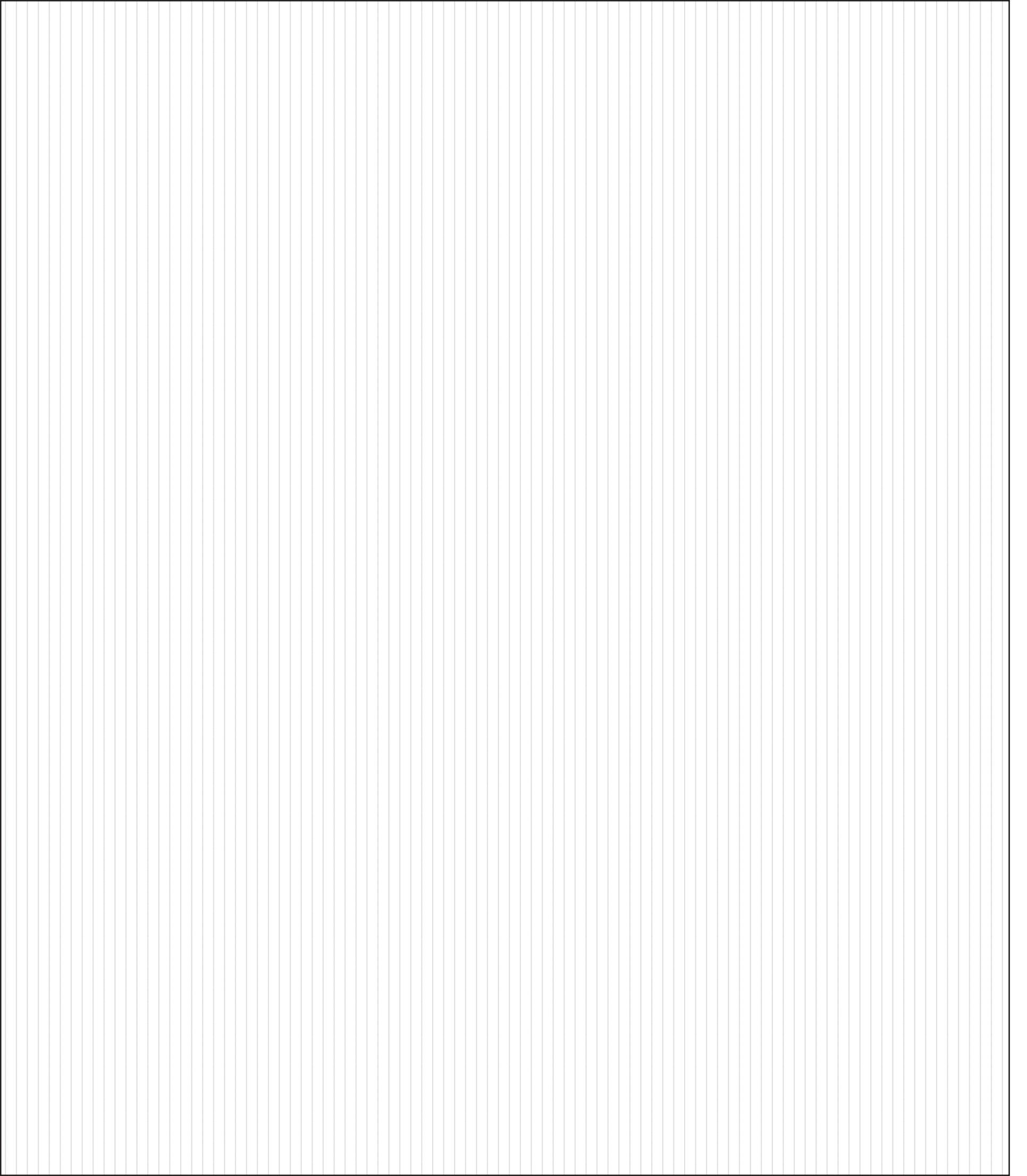
"Regardless of what you fly, sailplanes will make you a better pilot because the basic concepts of flying are all you need. Sailplanes can definitely show you the joy of flying that can be lost in today's complex and technological aviation," said Rose.

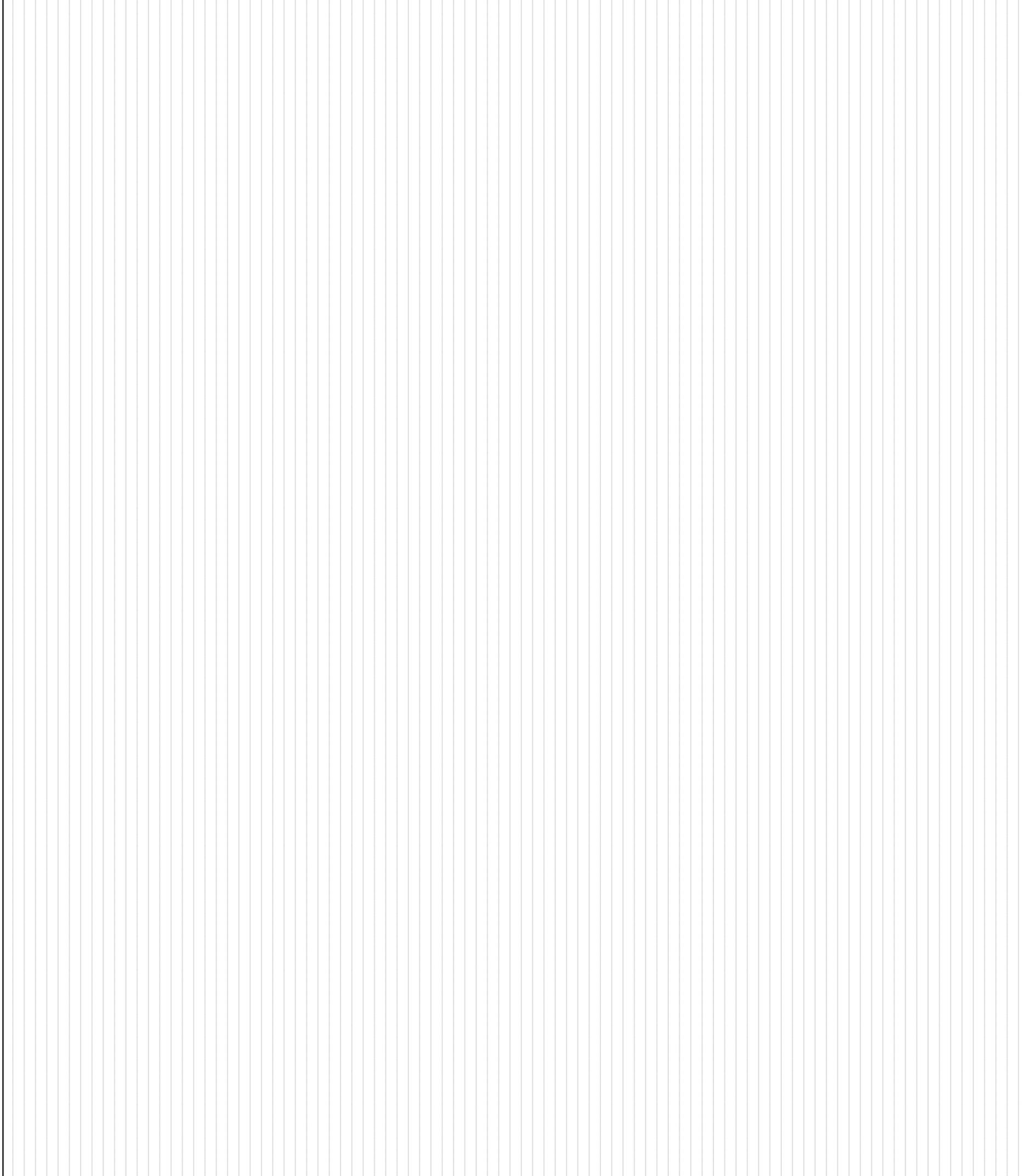
Rose said he continues to fly sailplanes today because of the freedom of the powerless airframe.

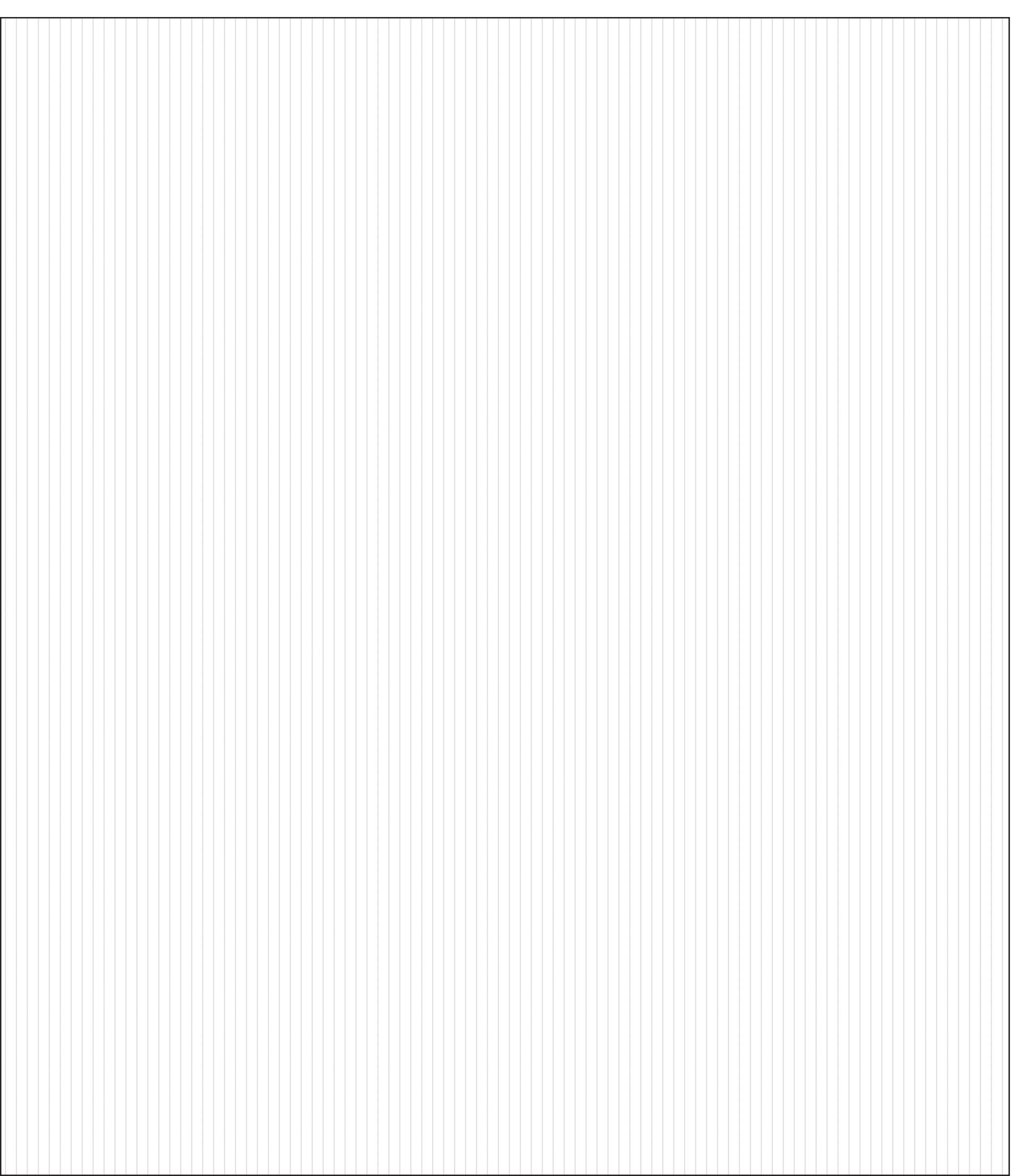
"It is truly the closest thing to having wings and flying like a bird. Sometimes when you fly, birds will fall in formation with your wingtips," said Rose. "That would never happen in a powered plane."



Airman 1st Class Christopher Mellot, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron, attaches a tow cable.







Air Force Climate Survey

The Air Force Climate Survey began on Oct. 1. Air Force leadership will receive your feedback, in a final report. Go to the Web site <https://afclimate.survey.af.mil/librarian/index.cgi> to take the survey.

For more information, call 572-7004.

Centennial coin and CD

Additional Centennial of Flight Ball coins can be purchased until Nov. 14 for \$6. Compact discs of the video played at the ball commemorating the centennial of flight are also available until Nov. 14 for \$2.

To order a coin or CD, call 1st Lt. Carl Cook at 572-7004.

HazMart giveaway

Paints and other items are available for free issue at the HazMart. The program allows authorized users access to a variety of hazardous chemical items free of charge. To participate, your shop must be authorized for the item and the item must be in HazMart's free issue area.

For more information, call the HazMart at 572-7899, 572-3093 or 572-7608.

HESO

Because of Veteran's Day, the next Holloman Enlisted Spouses Organization meeting is moved to 6 p.m., Nov. 12 at the community center. Bring a snack to share and child care will be provided.

HESO has a new playgroup for children not yet school age from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Thursdays in the community center.

Christmas parade

Volunteers are needed for traffic and crowd control during the Alamogordo Christmas parade at 6 p.m., Dec 6. To volunteer, e-mail lisa.gallegos@holloman.af.mil or john.graves@holloman.af.mil.

For more information contact the Chamber of Commerce at 437-6120.

Red Cross

The schedule of events for American Red Cross classes is:

• Basic first aid class: 1 to 4 p.m., Tuesday at the Alamogordo office.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Coupaud

Stretch!

Heather Patrick leads her gymnastics students through exercises at the Holloman Youth and Teen Center. For information about taking gymnastics and other classes, call 572-3753.

• First aid and safety: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nov. 8 in Alamogordo.

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

Thrift Store hours

The Thrift Store is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. Consignment hours are now 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The store is run by volunteers only, and the consignment desk will close if manning falls short. The Thrift Store will close at noon, Nov. 6 for training, and is closed Nov. 25 and 27.

Harry Potter brunch

The Harry Potter brunch is 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday at the Holloman Officers' Club. Cost is \$11.95 per person. Members receive a \$2 discount and children receive a Gringotts BankCard for their wand, hat and caldron.

Fitness Fair

The 49th Figher Wing Fitness Fair is Nov. 14 in the fitness center. Events include shoe clinic, stretching clinic, triathlon guest speakers, body fat measurements, yoga demonstration, nutrition and depression screenings.

For more information, call the Fitness and Sports Center at 572-3229.

African-American month

The next African-American Heritage Month committee meeting is at 9 a.m., Nov. 7 in the MEO training room in building 29. The committee needs a chair person for the wing luncheon and musicians for a musical program.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Alvin Earp at 572-3032.

Space museum

The New Mexico Museum of Space History's Education Department has a "Moon Mission" program from 7 to 9 p.m., Nov. 13 and 20. There is a \$15 fee per family. Space is available on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, call 437-2840.

Power outages

Charter Communications is replacing equipment on base through Nov. 15. During this time, there may be temporary cable service outages from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

For more information, call 437-3101.

Native-American month

National Native-American Heritage Month is in November. This is the first time in six years that Holloman has an official committee to set-up and celebrate the events.

For more information, call Senior Airman Ben Lomas at 572-5778 or Master Sgt. Carolyn Peeler at 572-5507.

Holiday feast

The Holloman enlisted and officer spouses clubs invite all single military members to their annual holiday feast from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday in the chapel annex.

The menu will feature turkey, ham and a wide variety of desserts.

For more information, call the chapel staff at 572-7214.

B On the BIG SCREEN

Secondhand Lions (PG)

7 p.m., tonight

Once Upon a Time in Mexico (R)

7 and 10 p.m., Saturday

The Order (R)

7 p.m., Sunday and Thursday



Desert Hawk helps protect Tallil

Not every unmanned aerial vehicle in the sky at Tallil Air Base is a Predator.

The 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron is using its "Desert Hawk" UAV in Iraq, providing an extra set of eyes in the sky for looking for potential terrorists and criminals.

"Desert Hawk allows us to interdict our adversaries before they are able to threaten (airmen) and resources," said Maj. Glen Christensen, 332nd ESFS commander. "With this equipment, we can achieve the desired ... base defense."

The Desert Hawk UAV system's official name is the Force Protection Airborne Surveillance System, a small, 7-pound remote control led aircraft used by security forces airmen. The battery-powered aircraft has a wingspan of about 4 feet and flies for about an hour using its on-board rechargeable batteries.

"The manual describes the plane as a state-of-the-art composite material, but it's actually got a lot more in common with a Styrofoam cup than anything else," said Staff Sgt. Michael Roth, 332nd ESFS Desert Hawk program manager. "It's pretty tough, but we can glue it back together if it breaks."

The little plane already has scars from missions here. Brown scuffs along the underside mark the plane's many landings on the

desert plains, and small gray lines show the places where glue and tape connect the pieces replaced following missions.

"This plane has gone through a lot, but she's still flying," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Vialpando, 332nd ESFS's noncommissioned officer in charge of the Desert Hawk program. "The environment here makes it tough to fly, especially the wind. Getting the plane airborne, keeping it on track and catching it when it's done is probably the hardest part of the (Desert Hawk) mission here."

The surveillance system is launched by a bungee cord and controlled with a portable computer system by operators on the ground. One of the strengths of the system is in its flexibility. The Desert Hawk aircraft can change route while airborne by changing the waypoints in the computer's software program. The plane can also lift interchangeable payloads of color cameras and thermal imagers for day and night operations, enhancing the vision of security forces on the ground.

Vialpando is probably one of the Air Force's most experienced Desert Hawk operators, and the lessons learned elsewhere have helped him in his mission here.

"I operated the (system) up in Afghanistan during my last deployment, and learned a lot," he said. "In three months, we found weapons caches, 107 mm anti-air-

craft guns and other weapons with the Desert Hawk.

"So far we haven't found anything near that volatile, but we have found people trying to loot materials and scrap metal outside the wire near our base perimeter," Vialpando said. "That's a big concern for us because not only could those people present a threat to us, but also to themselves — there's a lot of unexploded ordnance in that area just waiting to go off."

The base's security forces use the system as part of a comprehensive antiterrorism program. Together with remote sensors and standard foot patrols, the Predator's little brother helps keep the base and its people safe.

"Most of our UAV flights are supporting the squadron's random antiterrorism program," Roth said. "We'll vary our flight times and days of the week looking for signs of possible terrorist activity. We can be ready to fly almost anytime and see any part of the base and its surroundings quickly."

As the security forces airmen scan the sky of southern Iraq, the Desert Hawk is also returning images of the people returning to a normal way of life.

"It's kind of nice to see life outside the gates — the caravans, vendors, sheep herders and such," Roth said. "We don't normally have a chance to go outside the perimeter here, so the (Desert



Photo by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

Staff Sgt. Joseph Vialpando (left) and Staff Sgt. Michael Roth prepare the Desert Hawk aircraft for flight. The lightweight aircraft is part of the Force Protection Airborne Surveillance System used in Iraq to look over the horizon for terrorist activities. Vialpando and Roth are part of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

Hawk) is one way we get to go 'off base' and see the Iraqi people we're helping protect."

For the security forces airmen operating the system, their rotation here has been both a challenge and an opportunity. Protecting the base while operating a piece of cutting-edge technology has been an ex-

perience the airmen said they will not soon forget.

"I feel like we're making a difference for our security forces on patrol at Tallil," Roth said. "Working with the Desert Hawk and supporting the mission here is something I'll remember for the rest of my career."

Air Force increases school slots for officers

by Maj. John Thomas

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

New ideas about force development are already fixing a longtime frustration of many officers who carried the official "school candidate" label — that they could not get a slot for in-residence professional military education even with a three-year window to attend.

This year the Air Force has told more than 750 majors they will be going to developmental assignments in-residence — more than a 50-percent increase. As recently as three years ago, only about 480 slots existed for majors to attend in-residence intermediate-level programs. And that meant about 30 percent of those who had been dubbed "candidates" did not actually get to go to school.

"From now on, it looks like we're going to be able to send every officer who is school-selected during the pro-



motion board. And that's how it should have been all along," said Lt. Gen. Tex Brown, the service's top personnel officer and acting assistant vice chief of staff.

"Last week we got to give good news to more than 250 additional officers than in previous years," he said. "And that's good news for the Air Force as a whole."

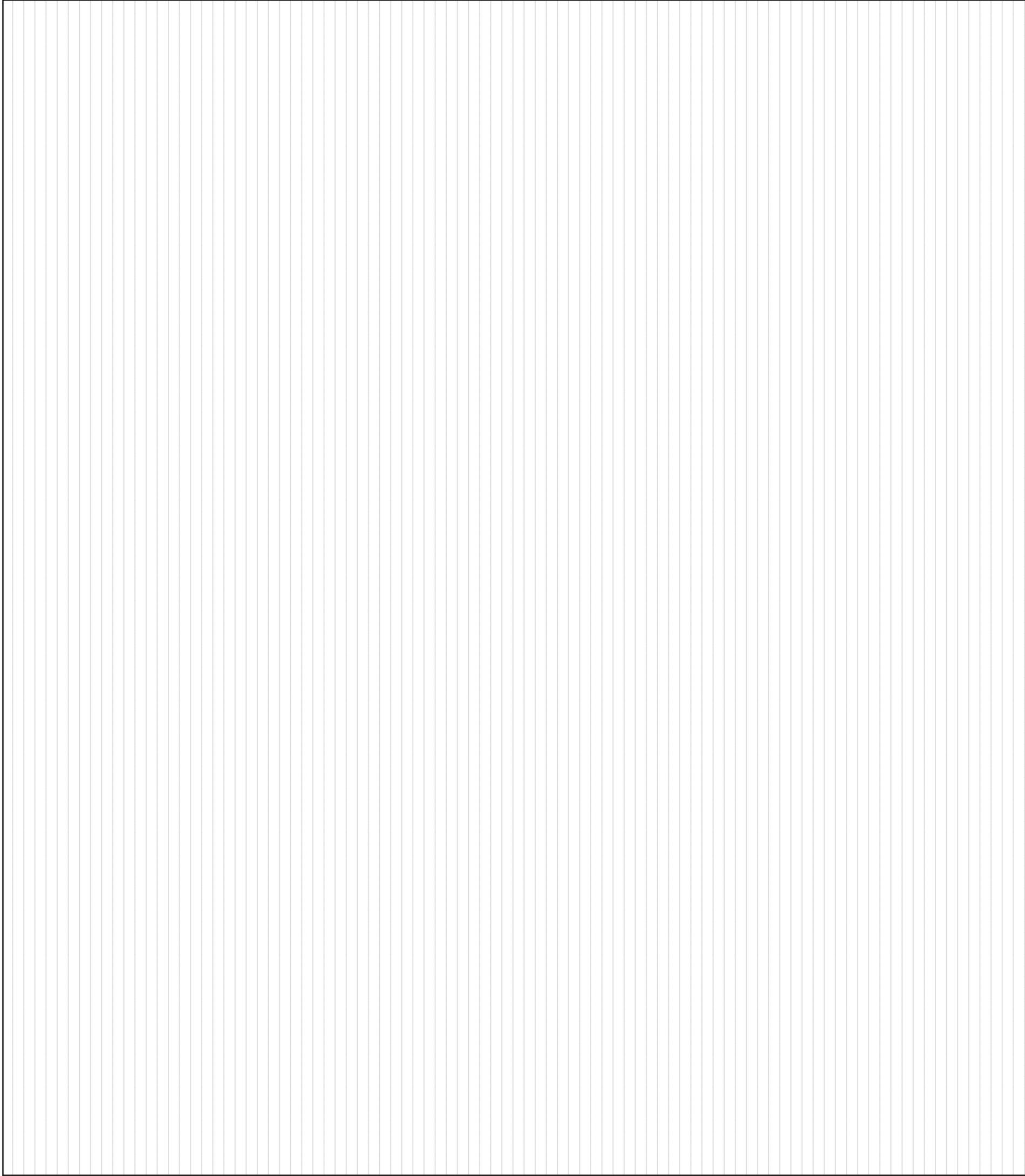
"What got the pig through the python and allowed us to permanently clear this backlog was that so many great folks have worked so hard at implementing the secretary (of the Air Force)'s vision of creating more slots, more school opportunities," Brown said.

The reason this is all possible, officials say, is that the Air Force has re-defined what it means to send someone to developmental education. It used to be Air Command

and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base's Air University was the hallmark of intermediate training. Other services' schools, plus a few fellowships here and there added to the opportunities, but ACSC was the place the service looked to send most of its most promising majors.

"Now we've come to realize that the best developmental education for someone may well be to go for an advanced academic degree at (Air Force Institute of Technology) or Naval Post Graduate School and that one size doesn't fit all," the general said. "The force-development concept is allowing us to build the framework we need to give us that flexibility, and then to leverage our officers' education."

Officials say soon, under force development, each officer will be considered for developmental assignments at several phases in his or her career, based on performance, rank, years in service and the needs of their career fields and the Air Force.



Tricks to make Halloween a treat

With witches, magicians and super-heroes descending on Holloman, the 49th Fighter Wing safety office offers parents some safety tips to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday. Halloween is a fun time for kids, but it is also an important time to be extra vigilant for possible safety hazards.

- Children should cross streets only at corners or marked crosswalks. Never cross the road between parked cars.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic, use the driveway rather than the yard to avoid tripping over

yard decorations and never go into a stranger's house for treats.

- Team Holloman drivers should be extra cautious Halloween night in case a child forgets to follow safety rules.
- Parents need to instruct their children not to open their candy until they return home. Also, advise them to avoid homemade treats. Parents should inspect all candy for

signs of tampering before children are allowed to eat it.

- It's a good idea for children of all ages to go out in couples or groups, but children under age 10 need to be accompanied by an adult.

- Parents should set a time for children to return home. It's also a good idea to have a prearranged trick-or-treating route to help ensure their safety.

- Parents should make sure costumes are flame retardant (this includes wigs and bags). Make sure children wear comfortable shoes and bright, highly visible material. Costumes should fit correctly to prevent tripping.

- Children or accompanying adults should carry a flashlight for visibility. If the costume is dark, a reflective material should be worn.

- Inform children to only approach houses where there are lights on.

Team Holloman's trick-or-treating hours are today from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

(Courtesy 49th Fighter Wing Safety Office)



AF skeet team earns world championship

For the fourth time in five years, the Air Force's skeet team proved they are the best in the military during the 2003 World Skeet Championship held Oct. 10 to 18.

The Air Force has not enjoyed this much success since the late 1980s, according to Tom Clayton, from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., who is team captain.

Six military teams and a total of 1,042 shooters from various countries participated in the championship. Air Force Team One defeated the Navy team by 19 targets, shooting 2,705 out of

2,750 possible targets.

Air Force also hammered the competition by winning four of the six team events.

Stuart Brown from Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., led Team One with a score of 546, while Eric Worley from Peterson AFB, Colo., led Team Two with 535.

Brown was the only shooter of the tournament to hit 24 straight pairs of targets during the 410-bore event in the sudden death shoot-off. This feat earned him the competition's "champion of champs" title. (AFNS)

Nighthawks spooked out of Halloween Classic

by Airman Stephen Collier
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Holloman Nighthawks vanished Saturday from the Halloween Classic basketball tournament at Ft. Bliss as game two came to a close a Wilson Optical team win 82-74.

After recovering from a 61-59 loss to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base's basketball team earlier in the day, the Hawks began their second game of the double-elimination run by taking the opening jump ball. Wilson forward Jerry Flowers grabbed the ball from a failed Hawk jump shot and darted down the court where he scored a three-point goal to begin the scoring.

The action stayed steady and the game got rough as Nighthawk forward Brian Greenwood was called for a personal foul. After successful free throws, the game continued with an onslaught of three-pointers by Hawks forward Shane Fisher to ratchet the score up to 32-40. The first half drew to a close 41-42.

Holloman coach Clarence Mitchell said at halftime that the

team needed to continue to do what they had been doing all day.

"Good shooting and a good defense is what we have," said Mitchell. "If we step up our shooting, then we will pull off the second half."

Russell Wilson, coach of the Wilson Optical team, said it would take better defense and rebounding for their team to take the game in the second half.

The second half began with huge defensive plays by both ball clubs, the Nighthawks held tough on defense until Wilson's Flowers bounced a shot off the



Photo by Airman Stephen Collier

Hawks forward Kyle Barnhardt drives to the basket against Wilson guard Gary Clouse.

glass for a two-point goal.

The game took on momentum as Hawk's guard Jorley Vivo knocked down three-consecutive three-point shots with less than seven minutes left in the game.

At the two-minute warning, both team's defenses clamped down as Holloman's guard Tobius Shipp smacked the ball away from Wilson center Edwin Scruggs, breaking up a potential three-point play.

Hawk's center Laurance Morrow set up a perfect lay-up that ended with a forced foul, but a missed foul shot, settling the score at 77-74.

With only 20 seconds left, the Hawks passed the ball to awaiting forward Kyle Barnhardt who shot and missed, turning it over to Wilson Optical. The Hawks wouldn't get another chance to score and team Wilson ended the game by adding five points to their lead and closed the game at 82-74.

"We played a great game," said Mitchell on

his team's performance. "We just missed some crucial free throws that could have made the difference."

Wilson gave his reason for his team's success.

"We held together at the end when it looked like we were in trouble," he said. "Everyone did their job. They started hitting their shots, but our defense held tough. That's all I ever ask of my team."

Mitchell said his team would be ready for their game against Davis-Monthan AFB, who they are scheduled to play Nov. 15 and 16 in Tucson, Ariz.

"We'll be ready," said

Mitchell. "There is no doubt in my mind that we can't take DM."



Photo by Airman Stephen Collier

Wilson Optical forward Jerry Flowers follows through with a lay-up against Hawks defender Tobius Shipp.

Falcon football teams split over weekend games

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

Holloman's youth and peewee Falcon football teams respectively chalked up a win and a loss Saturday.

The peewee team, led by coach Jon Shumard, scored an overtime 6-0 win against last year's champions, the Tularosa Wildcats. The peewee Falcons are tied for second place in the pee-

wee league and, according to the coach, have a "great chance" of making it to the super bowl again.

Meanwhile, the Falcons youth team, led by coach Tracy Fields, faced up against the first-place Alamogordo Cowboys. Despite a strong team effort, the Falcons were unable to stop the Cowboys as they ran to a 45-0 win.

Falcon football games are at 9 and 11 a.m., Saturday mornings at the Griggs Sports Complex.



LeMarcus Cole, of the Holloman Falcon's youth football team, tries to break away from an Alamogordo Cowboy defender. The Falcons lost 45-0 against the first-place Cowboys.



Anthony "T" Boswell (left) and Trey Cates, both of the Holloman Falcons peewee football team run past a Tularosa Wildcat defender on the way to their 6-0 overtime win.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Paul Coupaud