



Briefly

Congratulations

The fourth quarterly 49th Fighter Wing Staff Agency award winners are:

- **Senior Airman Gwennan Franceschini**, 49th Fighter Wing Legal Office
- **Tech. Sgt. Shelley Ward**, 49th Comptroller Squadron
- **Master Sgt. Calvin Perry**, 49th FW Command Post
- **First Lt. Carl Cook**, 49th FW Manpower Office
- **GS-05 Ms. Karen Cody-Van Brunt**, 49th CPTS
- **GS-08 Ms. Barbara Shaeffer**, 49th FW Command section

Families Apart dinner

The Family Support Center hosts the Families Apart dinner at 6 p.m., Wednesday in the Chapel Annex. The dinner is sponsored by the 49th Security Forces Squadron.

Pass and registration

Pass and Registration is open 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday beginning Feb. 14.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Rashe at 572-5920 or 572-5951.

Mission feature

This week's mission features prepares for the mass fitness test.

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Some can leave active duty early

by Maj. John J. Thomas
*Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs*

There's good news for thousands of airmen considering leaving active duty who thought they couldn't because of existing service obligations.

An effort dubbed 'force shaping' is opening the exit doors to officers and enlisted in select career fields and year groups by waiving some active-duty service commitments previously incurred for events like government-funded education, permanent changes of station and promotion.

Force Shaping includes opportunities to transition to the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard; as well as relieving some people of their active-duty service commitments.

Rules for leaving active duty early will be the least restrictive for anyone wanting to transfer to the Guard or Reserves through the PALACE CHASE program.

Some bonus payback requirements may also be waived, officials say.

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

More than 16,000 additional people currently projected to leave—12,700 enlisted and 3,900 officers—will be allowed out to help

see **FORCE** on Page 3



Photo by Lt. Col. Les Kodlick

Fit to Fight

Col. D. Lee Hall, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group commander (right), and Staff Sgt. Marcus Boone, 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, run along the taxiway at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in preparation for the new Air Force fitness test. Sergeant Boone is deployed from Holloman. Both are deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



High: 47
Low: 52
TODAY



High: 54
Low: 18
SATURDAY



High: 58
Low: 30
SUNDAY



High: 50
Low: 24
MONDAY

MDOS commander adds appointment line advice

by Lt. Col. Soledad Lindo-Moon
49th Medical Operations Squadron

Calling the appointment line and holding for an extended period of time to make an appointment has understandably stirred frustration, but there are a few tips that can ease the frustrations and reduce the holding time.

The holding time is the result of demand versus capacity. Monday mornings between 7 and 10 a.m., the Family Practice Clinic receives more than 150 calls. Mondays, the average number of calls is close to 250.

The influx of calls causes traffic to back up creating a holding pattern to speak to a scheduler. The scheduler needs at least five minutes to book an appointment or send a telephone consult to the triage nurse. The reason it takes five min-

utes is every caller has to have their information verified and corrected before an appointment is made.

We would love to give every caller an appointment when they call, but that isn't possible. If every provider was on duty, we'd only have 125 available appointments a day. This number doesn't provide the amount of appointments needed to cover the number of calls that come in.

To ensure every caller is medically cared for we have a nurse triage system. Schedulers are given guidelines for booking appointments and when to send a telephone consult to the nurse. Telephone consults are sent to the nurses who, in turn, contact the patient to determine what level of care is needed. The nurses provide home care advice to those whose symptoms warrant it, walk pa-

tients in to providers if the patient requires care the day of the call or make future arrangements for a visit to the primary care manager.

The goal is to get appropriate medical care or advice to every patient within 24 hours of the call. Several changes have recently been implemented to the appointment line that hopefully will cut down on some of the frustration.

There are some steps that members can take to prevent staying on hold for extended periods: Avoid the rush hours between 7 and 10 a.m., call in the afternoon, Mondays and days following a long weekend are always very busy, so avoid calling on those days unless you truly feel you need to be seen that day.

The clinic has implemented an online appointment system. Several appointments have been allocated to al-

low for on-line booking from computers at home. These appointments are available after midnight for the next day only with the individual's PCM.

For more information on how to book appointments online visit the TRICARE website www.tricareonline.com or call the TRICARE office at 572-7700.

Also, call the TRICARE Line for Care, at (888) 887-4111. The TLC provides 24-hour services including: General health, wellness and medical advice; Information about health care alternatives; Information about the uses and possible side effects of medications; Audio library via phone and an online health library.

The TLC team of registered nurses can determine if seeing a doctor is necessary or if a telephone consult can provide enough information to help the patient. For emergencies on or off base call 911.

Research proves: Expect more, get more

by Brig. Gen. Arthur J. Rooney Jr.
82nd Training Wing commander

I occasionally hear people use the phrase, "What did you expect?"

This is usually just after the person has explained the failure of some project or task, goal or benchmark. The problem with "What did you expect?" is that it automatically pre-supposes a certain outcome, like the breakdown was imminent or some sort of divine fate.

I prefer to think, "What DO you expect?"

Thinking in the "do" realm is action; it is forward-looking. "Did" is past tense; the outcome is a forgone conclusion not worth trying to overcome.

When you expect to succeed, when you expect the best, when you are "excellent in all you do," you will find obstacles are merely bumps in the road that do little to change your course. This

isn't a warm and fuzzy ideology. It is hard science.

In a recent Wall Street Journal article, Sharon Begley chronicled the newest research on the "expectation effect" or "Pygmalion effect." Simply put, scientists have proven time and time again the expectations we have of students, athletes, workers and even laboratory mice have a direct effect on their performance.

One study Ms. Begley cited is of particular importance to the Air Force. Elementary-school teachers were told one particular group of students scored high on an aptitude test and were identified as having attributes that would lead to great academic success.

After a few months, the group achieved "significant gains over the other students."

You can probably guess the punch line: There was no aptitude test!

In fact, the group of students teach-

ers thought were extraordinary included children from every ability level. They were just like any ordinary classroom.

"The only difference was in the mind, and expectations, of the teacher," said Dr. Robert Rosenthal, one of the researchers in the study and professor of psychology at the University of California-Riverside.

When teachers expect students to excel, they unknowingly become partners in their success by teaching with warmth and excitement. In your relationship with subordinates and peers, teach and lead to the highest level, not the lowest common denominator.

Expect more from yourself physically and mentally. Jog that extra mile. Read that extra page.

Believe in others and believe in your mission. Your attitude and expectations will show through your work whether you know it or not. Research proves it.

DUI Update

Days since last DUI	4
DUIs this year	11
This week last year	10

Last six DUIs

- 49 CS Feb. 2
- 49 MMS Feb. 1
- 49 MOS Dec. 13
- 49 AMXS Nov. 16
- GAF Nov. 23
- 49 MXS Nov. 23

572-RIDE works!

Calls made are lives saved

198 Saves this year
14 Saves this week



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FORCE *Continued from Page One*

the service return to the 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 say.

Joining the Guard and Reserve

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 Spiegel, the Air Force's director of personnel policy at the Pentagon.

"We're focusing a big part of our efforts there because it keeps the member 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.

Some applications may not be approved.

Due to 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.

"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 Spiegel.

"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.

The scope of the program

Examples of efforts to shape the force go beyond waivers. They include procedures where those who fail to complete technical schools will only 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.

Program highlights include:

- The chance to transfer to the Guard and Reserve for those with at least 24 months time in service, incurring a 2-for-1 service commitment (not less than 1 year or greater than 6 years).

- Enlisted waivers of active duty service commitments associated with technical training and bootstrap programs.

- Potential service commitment waivers of up to 18 months for permanent-change-of-station.

- Potential service commitment waivers for officers of up to 24 months for Air Force Institute of Technology doctoral education and education-with-in-industry.

- Up to 12-month waiver of intermediate and senior developmental education commitments for officers.

- Possibility of ROTC commissioning directly into the Reserve or Guard.

- Aviator Continuation Pay, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences scholarships, and AFIT fellowship, scholarship, and grant commitments will not be waived.

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.

Details and career counseling are available from unit career assistance advisors at each base. People can also call the Air Force Contact Center at DSN 665-5000 or toll-free (800) 616-3775 for more information.

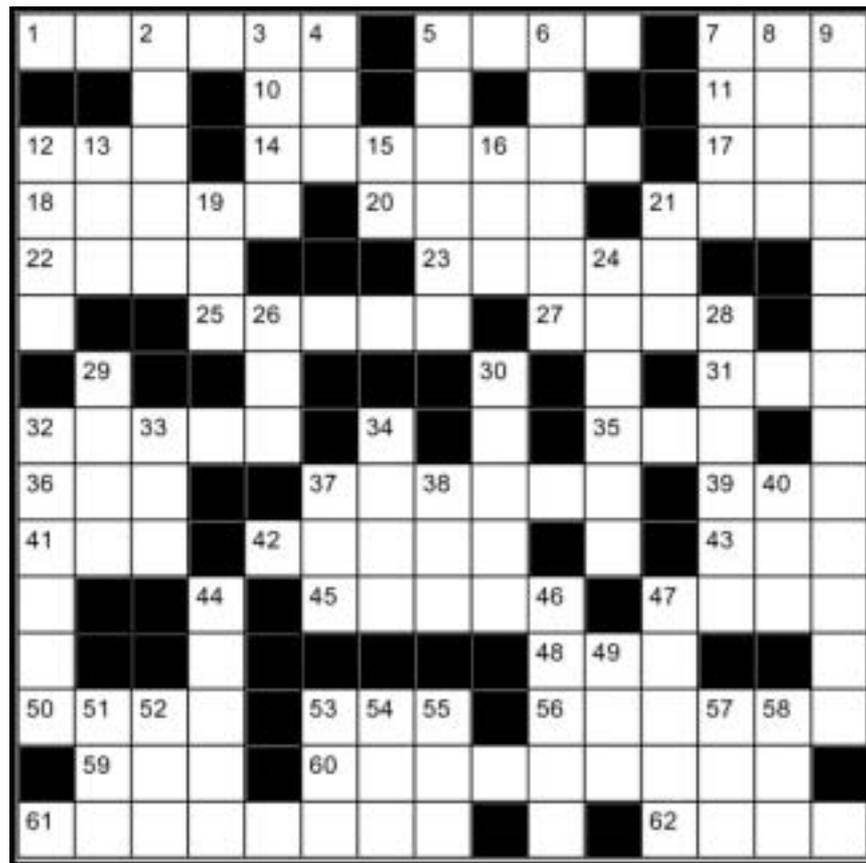
Black History Month

ACROSS

- 1. First African-American U.S. Surgeon General
- 5. Competition
- 7. Mon.
- 10. Article 86-UCMJ topic (abbrev.)
- 11. ___ Paulo, Brazil
- 12. African-American prize fighter considered to be "The Greatest"
- 14. First African-American astronaut in space
- 17. Center
- 18. *Roots* African-American author
- 20. Balkans person
- 21. Soccer star
- 22. Capital of Norway
- 23. Construct
- 25. Halts
- 27. Authentic
- 31. CIA precursor
- 32. Inventor of Synchronous Multiplex Railway Telegraph
- 35. Debt
- 36. Sick
- 37. African-American civil rights activist, NAACP founding member
- 39. Actress Lupino
- 41. 60-70s African-American film, theater star Carl
- 42. Mustang, Explorer, Escort...
- 43. Title for a knight
- 45. Famous African-American woman who traveled to speak against slavery
- 47. Char
- 48. DoD 5-digit code used to uniquely identify a "typeunit"
- 50. Spaghetti sauce maker
- 53. Greek letter
- 56. Greek island
- 59. Military phone lines
- 60. Youngest, first African-American nominated for Oscar Best Director
- 61. African-American aboli-

- tionist, author, orator
 - 62. Dick Tracy's lady
- DOWN**
- 2. Bore
 - 3. Precious stone
 - 4. Actor Mineo
 - 5. Firearms
 - 6. African-American innovator in agriculture
 - 7. First African-American to win Wimbledon
 - 8. ___ Cuffe; 1800s African-American civil rights champion
 - 9. First African-American woman to serve in presidential cabinet
 - 12. Ship to shore call
 - 13. ___ Vegas
 - 15. America, briefly
 - 16. Paddle
 - 19. Greek goddess of dawn
 - 21. School grp.
 - 24. Vivid purplish-red
 - 26. ___ the season to be jolly
 - 28. Rosa ___ Parks; African-American called "Mother of Civil Rights"

- 29. Staff
- 30. *The Road Not Taken* poet
- 32. *Little House on the Prairie* writer
- 33. Bullfight cheer
- 34. Vice President dueler
- 37. Fleck
- 38. Military work clothes (abbrev.)
- 40. Military org. concerned with foreign military intel
- 44. First African-American ambassador to the United Nations
- 46. Tosses
- 47. African-American slave who waged freedom legal battle
- 49. Article
- 51. Commotion
- 52. Military unit not attached to a MOB (abbrev.)
- 53. Civil war opponent to the Union (abbrev.)
- 54. Towel marker?
- 55. Former org. concerned with immigrations
- 57. Female deer
- 58. Navy 0-1 (abbrev.)



Effective dental care begins in childhood

by **Laura Pellegrino**
Sunburst staff writer

The things that happen to a child can effect who they become as an adult. The same is true for the things that happen to a child's teeth.

Because February is National Children's Dental Health Month, the 49th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron Dental Flight gives advice on protecting a child's teeth to help ensure their adult smile is a healthy one.

Oral health begins when the child is just a fetus, said Staff Sgt. Mara Laffitte, 49th ADOS Dental Flight perio therapist. Proper development of the oral structures, including teeth, is important to overall health.

The best way to insure strong oral development is with proper nutrition. Fluoride supplements have little effect at this stage.

"A mother's fluoride intake during pregnancy only minimally transfers to the developing fetus," Sergeant Laffitte said. "The child won't benefit a great deal from supplementary fluoride during pregnancy."

After birth, parents must continue to provide oral care for children. This care includes protecting the teeth from prolonged exposure to foods and drinks.

"A classic cause of rampant tooth decay in children is putting the child to bed with a bottle of juice," said Capt. Aries Ganir, 49th ADOS Dental Flight Preventive Dentistry Officer. "Put only water in a child's naptime or bedtime bottle to prevent baby bottle tooth decay."

Even the single tooth of a newborn should be cleaned twice a day.

An easy way to clean the child's first teeth is to wipe them with a clean, wet washcloth, Sergeant Laffitte said. If the child's primary source of water is not fluoridated, dietary supplements, such as drops, are normally recommended starting at 6 months old.

In early childhood, 6 months

to 3 years, parents should start using a soft child's toothbrush instead of a washcloth.

"Find a fluoride toothpaste that your child likes, but use it sparingly," Captain Ganir said. "Teeth get cleaner when a toothpaste is used, but very young children usually swallow much of it, which can increase their fluoride intake above the recommended level."

Parents should be primarily responsible for brushing their young child's teeth. However, the child can be allowed to practice unassisted to develop their brushing skills.

"The way children care for their bodies today will have an impact on their health years from now," Sergeant Laffitte said. "Good oral health practices should begin in infancy and continue throughout adult life."

For more information, visit the ADA's web site at www.ada.org.

On the side

Tips to keep teeth healthy

- Take your child to see the dentist regularly, beginning by the child's first birthday.

- Start brushing the child's teeth with water as soon as the first tooth appears.

Start flossing when two of the child's teeth begin to touch.

- Brush and floss your child's teeth daily until he or she can be taught to do this alone.

- Make certain your child gets the right amount of fluoride needed for decay-resistant teeth. Ask your dentist how this can be done.

- And ask your dentist about dental sealants, a thin protective barrier that shields the chewing surface of back teeth against tooth decay.



NCO wins ACC award

by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Holloman's Military Equal Opportunity NCO in charge won a command-level award.

Air Combat Command awarded Tech. Sgt. Trese Smith the Outstanding MEO NCO Award category Two-B which recognizes MEO non-commissioned officers.

Dedicated to the concept of "People First, Mission Always," Holloman's MEO staff looks at each equal opportunity issue individually and gives commanders the tools to help improve their unit's human relations climate, according to Tech. Sgt. Trese Smith, NCOIC of the base MEO office.

"We contributed to the base in a lot of ways," Sergeant Smith said. "There were several programs we either revamped or took a different approach to help advocate the need for equal opportunity."

Sergeant Smith helped to spearhead a number of programs such as the "Out and About" program where MEO visits individual squadrons to speak with airmen on issues they perceive to impact the workplace. MEO was successful over the last year in raising its visitation rate 5 percent with an increased emphasis on the geographically-separated units Holloman supports.

"Our job doesn't end with the MEO mission," Sergeant Smith said. "For example, during a wing safety briefing, I brought up the need for added safety on our playgrounds because of the amount of debris where our children play. Before I knew it, the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron started the Adopt-A-Park program."

The MEO NCOIC went on to organize the



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Trese Smith won the 2003 Air Combat Command Outstanding Military Equal Opportunity Award. ACC also named Holloman's MEO office as best in the command.

office's first-ever job fair booth where she provided information to potential retrainees into the career field. Even with the many things she contributes to her office and the base, Sergeant Smith said she couldn't have done it by herself.

"No one person is capable of receiving this award alone," she said. "Without the help of this outstanding MEO team, none of this would be possible. It's a total team effort. This NCO award is definitely our award."

The MEO office provides various human resource services such as third party conflict resolution, equal opportunity assistance information, mediation and helping agency referrals. The office also provides formal and informal complaint assistance and processing to all military members, their families and retirees who believe they have experienced sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion or sex

Suicide prevention: A team effort

by Laura Pellegrino
Sunburst staff writer

Out of approximately 350,000 active duty Air Force members in 2000, there were 128 deaths overall. Thirty of these deaths were suicides. Suicide was second only to unintentional injuries as a leading cause of death.

At Holloman, the 49th Medical Operations Squadron's Life Skills Support center is working in conjunction with the base Integrated Delivery System to get the base involved in preventing suicide. Their new initiative trains volunteers on how to brief their squadrons on suicide prevention.

"The idea behind the new approach to suicide prevention

training is for people to watch out for each other," said Capt. Michelle Wine, 49th MDOS Behavioral Health chief. "It's a community effort, not just an effort by one office."

According to the American Association of Suicidology, suicide is the third leading cause of death among people age 15 to 24. Holloman's high-risk population, combined with other factors such as stress, make suicide prevention especially important.

The program is designed to train individuals to give suicide prevention briefs, not to offer treatment, Captain Wine said. Everyone on base should know suicide warning signs and what to do if they observe those signs in someone else.

In the past, a life skills or IDS team member briefed squadrons using an Air Force standard PowerPoint presentation. Now, the same presentation will be used, but each squadron will have one of their own provide the training.

"Because we're not at work with people every day, members of the squadrons have a tap on that pulse that we don't have," Captain Wine said. "Suicide prevention is about what happens before they get to my office."

The life skills center hopes to have the majority of people ready to brief others by March. Anyone interested in volunteering to provide the briefing for their squadron should call Captain Wine at 572-5676 by close of business Tuesday.

Taxpayers should know ...

by Capt. Paul Durkes
49th Fighter Wing
Preventive Law chief

The 49th Fighter Wing Legal staff urges Team Holloman members to be aware of the new tax laws that could help with filing taxes for 2003.

The Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 and Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003 are items that could affect some taxpayers here.

A taxpayer on qualified official extended duty in the U.S. Armed Services may suspend for up to 10 years of such duty time the running of the 5-year ownership-and-use period before the sale of a residence.

This applies when the duty station is at least 50 miles from the residence – or while the person is residing under orders in government housing – for a period of more than 90 days or for an indefinite period.

This election, which is an option for the taxpayer, applies to only one property at a time and is retroactive for home sales after May 6, 1997. The act allows qualifying taxpay-

ers to amend their returns before Nov. 10, 2004, if they sold a residence before 2001. If you are entitled to a refund, complete and file Form 1040X and write “Military Family Tax Relief Act” in red at the top of the form.

Under the so-called “Kansas Rule,” several states, including New Mexico, have included the military income of the active duty service member in determining the appropriate tax rate for the member’s nonmilitary income or that of his or her spouse.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003 prohibits this practice.

Therefore, a state like New Mexico can only use a spouse’s income and a servicemember’s off-duty income to determine the gross income of a married couple.

The death gratuity paid to survivors of deceased Armed Forces members rises to \$12,000 and is not taxable (was \$6,000, with \$3,000 tax-free). This benefit is effective for deaths occurring after Sept. 10, 2001.

Reservists who stay over-

night more than 100 miles away from home while in service (e.g., for a drill or meeting) may deduct unreimbursed travel expenses (transportation, meals and lodging) as an above-the-line deduction. The deduction is limited to the rates for such expenses authorized for federal employees, including per diem in lieu of subsistence.

The various extensions granted to combat zone participants to file returns or pay taxes will also apply to those serving in Contingency Operations, as designated by the Secretary of Defense.

The extension is effective for any acts whose deadline has not expired before Nov. 11, 2003.

For more information please consult the *Armed Forces Tax Guide* at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf or contact your unit tax advisor.

UTAs will be processing tax returns at the squadrons. Holloman’s Tax Center opened Monday at building 29, Room 2150.

For more information about filing taxes call the tax center at 572-7846.



The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents from Jan. 28 to Tuesday

Tickets

Security forces issued two tickets: no registration and careless driving

Property loss, damage or theft

Jan. 27 — A retiree reported he broke his fog lamp

and curb guard on his vehicle when he hit a pothole.

Jan. 30 – A civilian reported damage to a soda machine at Holloman Middle School.

Jan. 30 – An airman was transporting a government desk when he made a sharp turn causing the desk to fall out of the back of his privately owned vehicle.

Jan. 30 – An NCO’s spouse reported a five inch scuff mark on the passenger door of her POV.

Jan. 31 – An officer reported a wide scrape on her passenger side bumper after a civilian struck her car and drove away.

Feb. 2 – An airman and an NCO were involved in a minor accident after backing into each other.

Feb. 2 – A retired NCO reported damages to his POV near building 280.

Patrol Response

Feb. 1 — A spouse reported juveniles shooting paintballs in base housing.

Feb. 1 – An NCO reported cruelty to animals after he noticed his neighbors dogs had not been fed or given water.

Feb. 1 – A military working dog alerted on an airman’s vehicle.

Feb. 1 – An airman was apprehended for drunk driving.

What's going on in the Tularosa Basin and beyond...

Swing dance

There is a Country Swing dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m., today at the Senior Center.

For more information, call 439-4150.

Historical society

The Tularosa Basin Historical Society is now open on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. The Museum is located at 1301 N. White Sands Blvd.

Play

"The Unsinkable Molly Brown" is playing at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts. Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$18 for children.

For information, call 437-2202.

Relay for life

The 2004 American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is April 30 to May 1 at Grigg's Field in Alamogordo.

The relay kick-off is with the Harlem Ambassadors (formerly the Globetrotters) at 6 p.m., Feb. 21 at the Alamogordo High School Tiger Pit. Tickets are \$5 for ages 18 and under, \$7 for the general public and \$1 more at the door.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the kick-off event, contact Ms. Beth Markle at 479-6026 or eam@zianet.com.

Little Angels

"The Little Angels" is playing at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 24 at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children. The Little Angels have performed world-wide, capturing the hearts of everyone in the audience with their tiny size and strive for perfection.

For more information, call 437-2202.

Turkey federation

The Noel Southard Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation holds their annual banquet on Feb. 28. The festivities start at 6 p.m. at the Otero County Fair Building. There will be auctions, drawings, door prizes, great food and fun for all.

For more information, call 437-2542.

White Sands hours

During February, the White Sands National Monument Visitor Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Dunes Drive may be entered from 7 a.m. to sunset daily, except during missile test closures. All visitors must exit the park by one hour after sunset. Entrance fee: \$3 per adult (17 and over), free for children.

Freedom banquet

The 44th Annual Sertoma Freedom Banquet begins at 6:15 p.m., Feb. 21 at the Alamogordo High School cafeteria. Tickets are available at Alamogordo Federal Savings and Loan, First National Bank, Western Insurance and from all Sertoma Club members for \$16.

In addition to the presentation of the annual Service to Mankind Award, this year's keynote speaker will be U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce.

The Service to Mankind Award is given annually to a local citizen who exemplifies the spirit of service to mankind. The Sertoma clubs will also recognize newly naturalized citizens, and present an eighth-grade essay contest winner, delivering the topic "What Freedom Means to Me."

Sweethearts dance

The Sweethearts Tailgate Dance is Feb. 14 at the New Mexico Museum of Space History. There will be a live band and refreshments.

For more information, call 437-2840 or (877) 333-6589.

Country Five dance

There is a dance from 7-9:30 p.m., Feb. 13 at the Senior Center to the music of "Country Five."

For more information, call 439-4150.

Chocolate Buffet

The Flickinger Center for Performing Arts presents a Chocolate Buffet starting at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 14 with a concert at 7 p.m. All tickets are \$15 to enjoy decadent chocolates and mesmerizing music by Kari Simmons.

For more information, call 437-2202.

Library friends

The Friends of the Library will meet at 7 p.m., Feb. 19 in the multi-purpose room of the Alamogordo Public Library. All officers, committee members and other friends are invited to attend.

For more information, call 437-6681, 437-2980 or 439-4140.

Skywatch

There is a free skywatch program 10 a.m., Saturday at the New Mexico Museum of Space History.

For more information, call 437-2840 or (877) 333-6589.

Lake Lucero tour

There is a Lake Lucero Tour at 2 p.m., Feb. 29 at White Sands National Monument. Special fees apply and advanced registration is required.

For more information, call 479-6124 or (505) 679-2599.

LOAC briefings

The Legal Office provides Law of Armed Conflict briefings at the base theater at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., Tuesday and Feb. 18 and 25. Sessions last approximately 35 minutes.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Jose Bautista at 572-7217.

Top-3 scholarship winner

The Holloman Top-3 would like to congratulate Airman 1st Class Natalie Lasher of the 49th Medical Group's Life Skills as the \$100 scholarship winner for the Spring Term I. Currently, Airman Lasher is attending Park University and is six credits away from her CCAF degree in Mental Health. Her overall goal is to obtain a bachelor's degree in Psychology.

The Holloman Top-3 awards one \$100 scholarship each term to E-6s and below who are pursuing their CCAF or bachelor's degrees. Application for the Spring Term II will be sent out within the next few weeks and will be due March 5 to the Base Education Office or any Holloman Top-3 member. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Michael Reilly at 572-5141.

Deployed family and friends

An open meeting for families and friends of deployed military personnel is 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Monday and Feb. 9, Feb. 16, March 1 and March 18 at Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center's private dining room.

For more information, call Ms. Paige Viscarra at 443-7891.

Static display

This month's static display is 1 to 3 p.m., Feb. 19 at hangar 500.

Black History month events

• Story time: 11:30 a.m., every Tuesday in February at the base library.

• Health Fair: all day, Monday at the health and wellness center.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

A step up

Master Sgt. Byron Osborn, 49th Maintenance Squadron repair and reclamation section team, preflights a crash and recovery tow vehicle. Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt, 49th Fighter Wing commander, step promoted Sergeant Osborn to master sergeant Jan. 29.

• Ethnic meal: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 11 at the Shifting Sands Dining Facility.

• Food tasting: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 13 at the chapel. Donation of \$4.

• Black movies at base theater: Feb. 14, 21 and 28.

• Luncheon: noon, Feb. 27 in the officer's club. Guest speaker is Brig. General. Toreaser Steele, AAFES vice commander.

• Gospel extravaganza: 1 to 5 p.m., Feb. 28 in the chapel.

For more information, call Ms. Linda Robinson at 572-1214.

ALS graduation

Airman Leadership School class 04-B has their graduation banquet at 6 p.m., Tuesday in the ballroom of the Oasis Enlisted Club. Commanders, first sergeants, supervisors, family and friends are invited to join the graduates. Ample seating is available. See an ALS student for a ticket. The menu is charbroiled NY strip steak for \$15 for club member and \$17 for non-club members or Baled Cod for \$14 for club members and \$16 for non-club members. R.S.V.P. with a stu-

dent no later than today.

For more information, call the ALS at 572-5860.

HESO Game Nite

Holloman Enlisted Spouses' Organization has a game nite at 6 p.m., today at the community center. Bring a dish for the potluck and free babysitting in the community center is available with R.S.V.P. Last names beginning with A through M, call Lori Howard at 479-4845. Last names beginning with N through Z, call Linda Lustig at 479-1146.

Red Cross

The Red Cross schedule of classes is as follows:

• Community first aid and safety: 9

a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday.

• Adult CPR: 9 to 11 a.m., Tuesday.

• Infant CPR: 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday.

All classes are at the Alamogordo branch, 700 E. First St., #765.

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



B On the BIG SCREEN

Antoine Fisher (PG-13)
7 p.m., Thursday

Cheaper by the Dozen (PG)
7 and 10 p.m., Saturday

Peter Pan (PG)
7 p.m., Sunday and Thursday





Photos by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

FW/MSS forward Calvin Perry (left) drills by 46 TG guard Jason Alvarado during their loss Jan. 29 at the Fitness and Sports Center. Perry finished with

Testing their patience

FW loses to TG in last-minute foul up

by Airman 1st Class
Stephen Collier

49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 46th Test Group secured their 56-52 victory in the final seconds with a key defensive play against rival team 49th Fighter Wing/Mission Support and Services Squadron during intramural basketball action at the Fitness and Sports Center Jan. 29.

TG guard Michael Knight started the game with a three-pointer followed by a jump shot by FW guard Rhonnell Singleton. Forwards Glenn Ross and Jason Alvarado sank consecutive shots for the TG, widening the score. FW guard Louie Rocha broke through with a layup drive, bringing the score to 14-7.

The FW wouldn't relent as they sank two three-pointers by forward Calvin Perry and Singleton. Alvarado banked a floater from the three, putting the TG at

23-17. The FW continued to put two-pointers on the board with Singleton sinking back-to-back layups to trail by three. TG point guard Ryan Black ended the first half with a last-second jump shot, widening the score 30-25.

FW coach Stacey Horton said his team had a problems that hampered coming out on top.

"We let them have too many shots," coach Horton said. "We are making all our shots on the inside, but we have to be better passers or our offense will end."

TG came out of the half with three consecutive fast breaks and a steal by Knight to add six points to the board. The FW came back with a 13-point run helped by threes made by Perry and Singleton, pushing the game to a tie at 38.

The FW pulled ahead as Singleton nailed a three-pointer with four minutes left. TG began to strike harder with bank shots



MSS point guard Stacey Horton is blocked by TG forward Glenn Ross Jan. 29.

by Alvarado and foul shots sank by Knight, putting the score at 52-47. Only a three-pointer could prop the FW up and Singleton delivered one from the outside, putting his team 2 points behind TG.

Eight seconds left and the FW trailed 54-52. A pass from point guard Stacey Horton to Singleton, who tossed up an off-balance three from the top missed, landing back into the hands of the TG, who made one final jump shot to end the game 56-52.

The Sports Bar

Intramural Standings - Basketball

Small Unit

Team	Win	Loss
46 TG	7	0
4 SPCS	5	2
49 CES B	5	2
49 FW/MSS/SVS	5	2
746 TS	4	3
49 OSS B	3	4
49 CONS	2	6
49 CS	1	6
49 MXS	1	7

(Current as of Jan. 29)

Large Unit

Team	Win	Loss
49 CES A	6	1
49 OSS A	6	2
49 MXS	5	2
9 AMU	3	4
49 SFS	3	4
49 MMG	3	4
49 MDG	2	5
8 AMU	2	5
49 LRS	2	5

(Current as of Jan. 29)

Over 30

Team	Win	Loss
49 CES	7	0
49 MDG	5	2
49 LRS	5	2
46 TG	3	4
49 MXS	3	4
49 SFS	1	6
4 SPCS	1	6

(Current as of Feb. 2)

World of Sports

A 5-K Fun Run and Walk is scheduled for 11:30 am, Feb. 12 at the Fitness and Sports Center. T-Shirts will be given out to the first 50 participants.

The Lunchtime 3 v 2 Flag Football tournament is scheduled for Feb. 17 to 20 at the Fitness and Sports Center's astroturf field.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

You're going down!

Airman Larry Reid (left), 49th Communications Squadron, takes on Senior Airman Harry Daniels, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron, during the first round of the 2004 Sandbowl at the Whispering Sands Community Center.

Fleet Viability Board provides longevity assessment for AF

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

The Air Force's newly created Fleet Viability Board will begin assessment of the KC-135E/R Stratotanker in April.

The Air Force Fleet Viability Board stood up in August and was created in response to a directive from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche to create an agency that could provide senior leaders with an unbiased assessment of the service's aircraft fleet longevity.

Despite recent controversy and discussion surrounding that tanker fleet, the assessment will remain impartial and fair, said the board's director, Col. Francis P. Crowley.

"The Fleet Viability Board looks to have total impartiality and objectivity in doing an assessment," Colonel Crowley said. "We don't seek to prove anybody's point. What we are looking for is the best answer for our national defense and for the American taxpayer."

Colonel Crowley also said that having operational control of the process at a high level — the Air Force's Installations and Logistics Directorate at the Pen-

tagon — and the personal integrity of each board member ensures honest and impartial assessment.

"Secretary Roche asked the Air Force deputy chief of staff, Installations and Logistics, and the Air Force Materiel Command to come up with a process, similar to the Navy's process for retiring ships, to be used on our aircraft," Colonel Crowley said.

Although different from the Navy's process, which focuses on seaworthiness, the Air Force Fleet Viability Board was the result of this collaboration.

The board is still working on its first assessment of the C-5A Galaxy. That project began in October and will conclude in March. Because the C-5A assessment was the first, it was used as a learning tool to develop the assessment process. It will serve as a template for future assessments, Colonel Crowley said.

"The C-5A is a prototype assessment and all follow-on assessments will improve upon that assessment process," he said.

Until recently, board members did not know what their next assessment project would be, be-

cause there had not been an official list produced. Colonel Crowley said the board was involved in making suggestions about which aircraft should be assessed.

"(Board members) did make assessment recommendations to senior leaders," Colonel Crowley said. "To do that we went to various groups of people, including technical experts among various engineering specialties and asked which fleets they were most concerned with. We looked at structural service life remaining, any identified corrosion or stress fatigue issues, non-mission capable rates, maintenance man-hours per flying hours, modification costs per aircraft and how the aircraft ranked in various sorting of the data. This analysis resulted in the board recommending the KC-135E/R as a follow-on assessment to the C-5A."

In January, the secretary of the Air Force signed off on the official assessment list. That list includes the KC-135E/R, the A-10 Thunderbolt II, the F-16 Block 10/15 and the B-52H Stratofortress. Colonel Crowley said the goal of the board is to assess three aircraft a year.

Nominations open for support award

by Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department began accepting nominations Feb. 1 for the 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, which recognizes significant contributions and sacrifices made by employers of National Guard and Reserve members.

For the first time since the awards program was established in 1966, nominations may be submitted by anyone who has knowledge of a company or organization deserving of the award. Previously, only guardsmen and reservists could submit nominations.

In addition, Defense officials expect to increase the number of awards presented — previously five — to as many as 15.

The awards program is particularly important now, because so many of America's employers are affected by the war on terror, said Bob

Hollingsworth, executive director of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

As of Jan. 27, 193,804 guardsmen and reservists were serving on active duty: 164,416 in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve; 2,000 in the Naval Reserve; 19,757 in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve; 6,764 in the Marine Corps Reserve; and 1,057 in the Coast Guard Reserve.

"An essential link has been formed, as many of America's employers have become inextricably linked to the nation's defense by sharing their most precious asset, their employees," Mr. Hollingsworth said.

Nominations will be accepted at the ESGR Web site through March 15. Recipients will be recognized during Sept. 21 ceremonies in Washington.

Previous award recipients include Home Depot, Miller Brewing, American Airlines, American Express, Intel and UPS.

CENTCOM displays mural of fallen fighters at Macdill

by 2nd Lt. Erin Dorrance
6th Air Mobility Wing
Public Affairs

Bayshore patriots wave flags, kindergartners write thank you letters and spouses send pictures, all supporting servicemembers fighting during Operation Enduring Freedom. Stewart Wavell-Smith took a different approach to show his appreciation to the military, especially those who give the ultimate sacrifice life.

During a dedication ceremony Jan. 30 at U.S. Central Command headquarters here, Mr. Wavell-Smith presented the 8-foot-tall, 28-foot-long Enduring Freedom Mural to Army Gen. John Abizaid, U.S. CENTCOM commander.

Mr. Wavell-Smith, who has been recognized for more than 30 years for his art, created the mural to honor fallen servicemembers, to provide money for the surviving spouses and children of fallen troops, and to portray the complex role of the U.S. military worldwide.

Mr. Wavell-Smith called retired Army Gen. Tommy Franks, former U.S. CENTCOM commander, several months ago and asked him if the mural could hang in the CENTCOM headquarters building. General Franks, who owns a piece of Mr. Wavell-Smith's artwork from Vietnam, said he would be honored to have this artwork displayed at U.S. CENTCOM headquarters. It will be permanently housed here.

Mr. Wavell-Smith is originally from England and moved to the United States in 1963. He was drafted into the Army during Christmas of 1964 as a combat photographer.

"I take all of the images from photographs I have taken during times of war to create art," he said. "My art is simply flashbacks from what I have seen through life."

Mr. Wavell-Smith said he can recall the second when he was



Photo by 2nd Lt. Erin Dorrance

Artist Stewart Wavell-Smith shows Army Gen. John P. Abizaid, U.S. Central Command commander, some of the images portrayed in the 8-foot-tall by 28-foot-long Enduring Freedom Mural that inspired him while he spent time in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. The Enduring Freedom Mural was unveiled at the U.S. CENTCOM headquarters at Macdill Air Force Base, Fla.

inspired to create the Enduring Freedom Mural. He was on his way back to the United States in a C-17A Globemaster III on April 16, 2002.

"There was a casket on board and I felt a terrible sense of loss," he said. "I knew the troop's family had been notified and was mourning. I had to thank him."

Mr. Wavell-Smith said the mural represents the eminence of danger, the partnership of people in Afghanistan to regain old dignity, the strength of a coalition and the memory of those who served.

Mr. Wavell-Smith's mural represents the work of several volunteer artists who worked in an airplane hangar in Palm Springs, Calif.

John Durst, an 82-year-old who spent several hundred hours working on the details of the mural, said the mural was that important to him.

"I wasn't the smart one," Mr. Durst said. "I would volunteer from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. when temperature would soar well above 100 degrees. Most of the volunteers would come when it was cooler, midnight to sunrise."

Mr. Wavell-Smith said the hard work was worth every second.

The mural inspired him to form a nonprofit charitable organization called the Operation Enduring Freedom Killed in Action Fund which collects donations to provide monetary support to surviving family members of the fallen.

Team Holloman airmen working for airmen

Dorm council makes dorm life a little bit better

by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

They have normal jobs just like every airman, ranging from 49th Materiel Maintenance Group, the 49th Medical Group, the 46th Test Group and even the 49th Fighter Wing level. Day by day, they accomplish their mission during duty hours for the Air Force, but help make the quality of life for dorm dwellers more bearable after hours. Who are these airmen?

The Holloman Dorm Council is dedicated to giving airmen a voice at the command level, said newly-elected dorm council President Airman 1st Class Michael Green. New officers were elected for 2004 and, according to Airman Green, they are dedicated to furthering the accomplishments of

the previous administration.

“We represent the dorms to help those who live here,” Airman Green said. “When airmen express their concerns or have an idea for the dorms, we present those issues to base Command Chief Master Sgt. Matthew Pollock or base commander Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt.”

Dorm projects recently completed include anti-terrorism measures that include but are not limited to xerescaping and closed-off parking areas, a 144-space parking lot located southwest of the dorm area and the indoctrination of the resident advisor program that gives airmen the chance to oversee their individual dorms.

Other projects currently under way include the construction of additional parking areas on each side of the dorm

“I’m happy to hear airmen are so passionate about where they live.”

Airman 1st Class Michael Green
Dorm Council president

complex, new carpeting and furniture for some.

Airman 1st Class Patricia Bowling, council vice president, said great things are in store for the airmen in the dorms and airmen coming to the base.

“In six months, airmen coming to Holloman will have no idea what it was like before they arrived,” Airman Bowling said. “The dorm council plans activities quarterly for incom-

ing airmen and additional quality of life activities for those already living in the dorms. It’s a good time to live in the dorms.”

Airman Green said even with the programs the dorm council is sponsoring, he is encouraged by the airmen’s enthusiasm.

“Since becoming the dorm council president, airmen have given me a lot of ideas to work with,” he said. “I’m happy to hear airmen are so passionate about where they live. I hope airmen will continue to help better the dorms and one another.”

Dorm council meetings are every second Thursday of each month at the Top-Three room in the Holloman Enlisted Club. For information on dorm improvement and activities for airmen, call the dorm council at 572-7471.

Air Force boxer takes national crown

by Rita Boland

37th Training Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force has its first national boxing champion since Jerome Bennett in 1977.

James Johnson, stationed at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, took home the title in the 165-pound weight class at the 2004 Everlast U.S. Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo., recently.

Johnson won four fights on his way to the title. He defeated Dennis Hasson in his first bout after Hasson's coach stopped the fight in the third round. He went the full four rounds against his next opponent, Greg Hatley, beating him easily with a 31-11 decision.

He faced Anthony Dirrel in the next bout and scored a narrow 15-14 victory. Dirrel's brother, Andre, was the No. 1 fighter in the 165-pound weight class before Johnson claimed the top spot.

"That was the toughest fight for me in the tournament," Johnson said.

Johnson then boxed Julius Fogle, the top Army boxer in the weight class, in the championship bout, winning the decision 25-17.

"I dominated most of my fights," Johnson said.

"The 15-14 (decision), that was just mental on my half."

More than 200 boxers participated in the U.S. championships. The top two boxers in each weight category qualify for the 2004 Olympic Team trials Feb. 16 to 21 in Tunica, Miss. Johnson qualified for the Olympic trials in December by winning his weight class at the Armed Forces Championship. He wanted to compete in the U.S. championships to earn recognition as the best boxer in the nation.

"Everybody came to fight," he said. "I just wanted it most."

Johnson said he hopes the Olympic trials give him the opportunity to face off against the fighter he unseated as champion.

"(Andre Dirrel) is the main guy I want to fight," Johnson said.

The top two finishers at the Olympic qualifiers then compete in the U.S. Olympic Box-Offs. The first-place finisher must defeat the second-place boxer once to make the Olympic team. The second-place man must defeat first place twice.

"It's demanding, but it's the process you have to go through to represent the U.S. in the Olympics," Simms said.



Photo by Rita Boland

James Johnson works out at an Air Force Boxing Team practice here Jan. 27. Johnson, stationed at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, took home the title in the 165-pound weight class at the 2004 Everlast U.S. Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo., recently.