

Sunburst

Vol. 47 No. 12

Serving the Holloman Air Force Base community

Friday, March 26, 2004



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This week's mission feature takes a closer look at local elementary and intermediate school students who participated in the Mars Mission.

Sports 14



The 49th Civil Engineer Squadron and the 49th Medical Group battled for the Over-30 basketball championship March 18 at the Fitness and Sports Center.

Keflavik team marches for Bataan

by Airman 1st Class
Stephen Collier

49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

The five-man team from Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland placed third in their respective category at the Bataan Memorial Death March, Sunday. The team members are (left) 2nd Lt. Neil Halonen, Staff Sgt. Nikki Drago, Navy Construction Operator 3rd Class John Skoviera, and (not pictured) Chief Master Sgt. Everett Smith and Navy Equipment Operator 1st Class Charles Bily.

Military personnel and local citizens, as well as teams from surrounding states, marched Sunday in remembrance of a group of veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice in some of the harshest conditions in history. Joining them in their tribute was a five-man team from the middle of the Atlantic Ocean whose purpose for marching was to pay respect.

Fire and Ice, a joint Air Force-Naval team from Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, competed in and took third place in the military male heavy team category with a time of 6:35 at the Bataan Memorial Death March.

The march, a 26.2-mile trek through the dusty terrain of the White Sands Missile Range, is held annually in the spring to commemorate the approximately 60-mile

see MARCH on Page 5

Vietnam War hero speaks to F-4 grads

by Senior Airman Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Vietnam War hero, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Bob Pardo, offered words of wisdom at the 20th Fighter Squadron Class 03 DBA, B Course graduation March 19 at the Officers' Club.

The 20th Fighter Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Mark Buccigrossi said it was an honor for Colonel

Pardo to speak to the graduates.

"Many of the lessons we learn can be traced to our heros from the past," Lt. Col. Buccigrossi said. "Colonel Pardo exemplifies the spirit and embodiment of Phantom Fighter aviators."

Colonel Pardo's message for the graduates and all fighter pilots was that of integrity, confidence and persistence.

Colonel Pardo survived by those

values as a captain during one mission near a steel mill over Hanoi March 10, 1967. His birthday started off with blue skies, but one event after another pushed his survival instincts to the limit.

Then, Captain Pardo and his GIB (Guy in Back), 1st Lt. Steve Wayne, teamed up with wingman Capt. Earl Aman and his navigator, 1st Lt. Robert

see PARD0 on Page 4



High: 86
Low: 50
TODAY



High: 85
Low: 52
SATURDAY



High: 80
Low: 51
SUNDAY



High: 79
Low: 47
MONDAY

Guarding against danger on the streets

by Tech. Sgt. Byron Gill
49th Security Forces Squadron

Wearing an orange vest and holding a stop sign, they stand on the corner of First and Arnold streets helping children safely travel to and from school.

Why do they do it? It's not for the money, that's for sure, but it's to make sure the next generation of America will live another day. Just like the mailman, the crossing guard is out there whether it's raining, sleeting, snowing or sunny, it doesn't matter.

Crossing guards are volunteers sponsored by the American Red Cross Volunteer program. As with most volunteer work, people are always needed.

The crossing guards ask drivers to respect the laws and the directions crossing of the guards. Regardless of the crossing

guard's rank, he or she is a volunteer and needs everyone's cooperation.

When going through the school zone, the speed limit is 15 mph. Cars still speed through the school zone when children are present. Also, when the crossing guard is in the middle of the street, pay attention and don't take it upon yourself to decide when it's your turn to go. Always, when children are present, it's safer to just stop. Crossing guards report violators' license plate numbers to security forces.

Impatient drivers will not get any special treatment. The crossing guard is not out there to direct traffic as some may think. However, they do it to be kind. Their responsibility as a crossing guard is to make sure the children cross the street safely.

To volunteer, contact Tech. Sgt. Ted Waller at ted.waller@holloman.af.mil.



Photo by Senior Airman Martha Whipple

Tech. Sgt. Noretta Rasmussen, 49th Security Forces Squadron, volunteers to help Erik Varela (left) and David Lempke cross a busy intersection safely.

Airman tells her Air Force story

by Mr. Donald Larsen
49th Maintenance Group

A 49th Mission Support Squadron Airman followed in her dad's footsteps and joined the Air Force.

Senior Airman Keelye Blackmore said she joined the service to get a college education and to set up a successful future.

"The Air Force gave me much more responsibility than I ever experienced in civilian life," she said. "Airmen right out of high school have all these responsibilities that civilians outside of the military would never have. Accepting and excelling in all of my new responsibilities has been a real challenge."

During her two years in the military she's accomplished two major feats: senior airman below-the-zone and completing more than half of her Community College of the Air Force degree.

She said she's inspired by learning

about other countries and cultures.

"I work in the Personnel Readiness Function at the MPF," she said. "We send people all over the world every day; it's so inspiring to me that I have the skill and knowledge necessary to help prepare people to deploy to foreign lands. I'm happy I can help people understand where they are deploying to, the conditions there, and even simply pointing to a map and showing them where they are going. This makes my day to day work worthwhile and inspiring."

Airman Blackmore said women have come a long way in the service.

"Women are accepted in nearly every career field in the Air Force and allowed to serve side by side with their male counterparts with equality," she said. "Just having the opportunity for women to serve in the Air Force advanced us."

She offered advice for the next generation of women.

"No matter how bad things are, there is always hope and possibilities...anything is possible!"

Senior Airman Keelye Blackmore
49th Mission Support Squadron

"Just because you are a woman doesn't mean you can't be as good as the men," she said. "Believe in yourself, and do everything possible to achieve any goal."

"Set a goal and do everything you can do to achieve it, if you really want it," she said. "No matter how bad things are, there is always hope and possibilities. Anything is possible! Sometimes you may feel like you won't make it, but just believe everything gets better, and if it does not kill you it can only make you stronger."

DUI Update

Days since last DUI	4
DUIs this year	16
This week last year	12

Last six DUIs

- 49 OSS March 22
- 49 MMS Feb. 21
- 8 AMU Feb. 16
- 49 MMS Feb. 13
- 49 LRS Feb. 8
- 49 CS Feb. 7

572-RIDE works!

Calls made are lives saved

333 Saves this year
22 Saves this week



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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Holloman Public Affairs Office. All photos used are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. For editorial information call (505) 572-3515. 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.

PARDO *Continued from Page One*

Houghton to protect the F-105s and other F-4s that formed a strike force targeting the steel mill.

Hanoi was the most heavily defended area in the history of air warfare, and on that day, enemy ground fire was greater than he had seen during his 132 missions, Colonel Pardo said.

Within 20 miles of the steel mill, Lieutenant Wayne shouted, "MiG ... 11 o'clock, low!"

Sixteen North Vietnamese MiGs were circling below the advancing strike force. Captains Aman and Pardo held their own against the MiGs, but both F-4s sustained damage from ground fire in the target area. By the time the crews were above 20,000 feet and on their way out, it was evident Aman's jet didn't have enough fuel to reach Laos because of the damage it sustained during the strike. Instead of leaving his wingman to refuel his own jet, Captain Pardo stayed by his wingman.

Captain Pardo didn't have much time to devise a plan to get his wingman to safety. In an act of desperation, Captain Pardo instructed Captain Aman to drop his tailhook. Captain Pardo used the windshield of his jet to push the disabled jet 88 miles to safety in the south. Because the tailhook swayed in the lead aircraft's jet wash, multiple hook-ups were required. Captain Pardo stayed persistent by repositioning the tailhook on the windshield and starting over every 15 to 20 seconds. He wasn't going to give up now.

Their problems were far from over. Captain Pardo's left engine caught fire, so he shut it down, restarted it, and it caught fire again. With Captain Aman's jet out of fuel and Captain Pardo's jet with less than 10 minutes of fuel in the tank, the crews remained determined to survive.

Captain Aman and his navigator ejected first over the Laos jungles, but they weren't in the clear. Soon after, Captain Pardo and Lieutenant Wayne followed.

Once on the ground, Colonel Pardo said he remembered hearing the screams of enemy troops and sporadic gun fire,



Photo by Senior Airman Martha Whipple

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Bob Pardo speaks to the 03 DBA graduating class March 19 at the officers' club

but through the chaos, he made it to a hiding place where he stayed for 45 minutes before the rescue helicopter took him and the other three to safety in Thailand.

His heroic efforts saved the lives of three people; he attributes the heroism to his dad who taught him integrity, confidence and persistence.

"There's no way I would have left my wingman," he said, "because my dad would have asked me if I tried to help. If the crew had to eject over North Vietnam one of two things would have happened: they would have been captured and killed by civilians or captured and killed by militia and interned at the famous Hanoi Hilton."

"Personal integrity is up to you," he said. "Without it,

you have nothing."

He said that's the most important lesson his dad, a World War II veteran, taught him.

Colonel Pardo passed that message to the 20th Fighter Squadron. He's living proof that persistence pays off.

"Don't ever give up," he told the grads. "Meet challenges head on and don't quit."

Colonel Pardo doesn't quit. Twenty years after Vietnam, he earned the Silver Star for what has been named, "Pardo's Push."

The award didn't come easy; Colonel Pardo was threatened with a court martial for losing his F-4, but he pressed on.

He left the Air Force in 1974, but he didn't retire from flying. The man who joined the Air Force more than 50 years ago, still flies high in College Station, Texas.

MARCH *Continued from Page One*

forced march of American, Filipino and Australian troops April 12, 1942 in the Philippines. Fire and Ice member 2nd Lt. Neil Halonen, 932nd Air Control Squadron assistant flight commander, said the march was challenging both mentally and physically.

“You’re just physically drained at the end,” Lieutenant Halonen said after the awards ceremony. “I just couldn’t believe how the guys did the actual march. It really must have taken some determination.”

Named after the extreme weather conditions which exist in Iceland, such as blizzards and volcanic activity, Fire and Ice set out to compete by beginning their training in January when team founder Chief Master Sgt. Everett Smith, 85th Maintenance Squadron flight chief, approached his group commander, Col. Roderick Zastrow, with the idea.

“After reading about the march years ago in articles, I thought to myself ‘I really would like to do that march.’ I couldn’t think of a better way to show how the Air Force is getting ready for its new Fit to Fight program,” Chief Smith said. “We started putting out flyers and e-mails to personnel here, searching for volunteers to tryout for the team. After we received a ton of responses, we held tryouts on a 10-mile section of base.”

The 10-mile course included three types of pavement, including asphalt, gravel and native Icelandic black sand, or finely-crushed lava, along with changing, and sometimes violent, weather conditions. Half way through training, two of the team’s members received temporary duty assignments, forcing them to drop out. When word got out about the two empty slots, they were filled by two Navy Seabees.

“When they asked for volunteers, I raised my hand on the spot,” Navy Construction Operator 3rd Class John Skoviera, NAS Keflavik public works de-

“I knew this march was more than just an experience. It was going to be very memorable.”

CO3 John Skoviera
Fire and Ice member

partment said. “Chief Smith handed me information on the death march. After doing my homework, I knew this march was more than just an experience. It was going to be very memorable.”

The two other members of the team to qualify were Air Force Staff Sgt. Nikki Drago, 85th Security Forces Squadron installation security NCO in charge and Navy Equipment Operator 1st Class Charles Bily, NAS Keflavik public works department.

With the group formed up, training resumed with more intensity. The team increased their workout load from 10 miles to 12, 14 and finally 18 miles, while packing 35-pound rucksacks and occasionally sprinting.

The team flew to the Southwest a week before the march to get acclimated to the desert climate. Lieutenant Halonen said he was worried about sun overexposure.

“In Iceland, we don’t get to see the sun that much and I burn easily,” Lieutenant Halonen said. “We were also worried about the altitude because when the blood starts flowing, the more wind you’ll suck in. It could be difficult because we aren’t at sea level anymore.”

The team pulled together and persevered by placing in their respective category. When word got out to Colonel Zastrow, he was delighted.

“I truly hope no one ever has to go through that kind of ordeal again,” Lieutenant Halonen said. “It’s very admirable that some of the soldiers persevered and lived to tell their tale.”

Portal provides information, access, instant messaging

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

Air Force senior leaders have asked that all airmen sign up for a new Web-based technology that promises to streamline access to information across the force — the Air Force Portal.

In a December information technology initiatives memo, Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. John P. Jumper asked that all airmen sign up for an Air Force Portal account as soon as possible.

“The Air Force Portal will be the airman’s interface to all services and information needed to perform his or her job,” the memo stated.

Airmen may register for access to the portal by logging onto the Web site at www.my.af.mil and clicking on the self-registration link. The registration process is self-guided.

The portal is a Web-based system developed to incorporate as many Air Force information applications as possible. The result of such an integration is that systems such as the virtual military personnel flight or functional area applications, such as a munitions ordering or parts tracking system, would all be accessible from one Web site, said Lt. Col. Dan Hausauer, portal integration division chief.

“The long-term vision is that the majority of applications and content will come through the Air Force Portal,” Colonel Hausauer said. “Today there are hundreds of applications that are either accessible through the portal or are actually within the framework of the portal. In fact, the portal has the capability right now to house applications or to link to them on their current environment, wherever they are.”

The key benefit to such an integration is the idea of a single user login. Once a user logs in, the portal itself authenticates a user into the application. This means

that with each new application integrated into the portal, users will have one less Web address, login name and password to remember, Colonel Hausauer said.

“You can log into the portal with a single user name and password, and from there, these users can get to their applications without having to reauthenticate,” Colonel Hausauer said. “Some users within the logistics community have told me that in the past they’ve had (more than) 50 user names and password combinations, and now they need only one.”

The logistics community has done the most to integrate their applications into the portal and to integrate the system into their own processes, Colonel Hausauer said. Besides logistics applications, other applications such as myPay and LeaveWeb are soon to follow.

A recent change to the portal makes it even easier for users to get access. Now, users can access the system from any Internet-connected computer at home, at work or on the road, Colonel Hausauer said.

When users are on temporary duty, the portal makes it easy to stay in contact with co-workers at their permanent duty stations in real-time. The portal now includes an instant messaging system similar to those found on the dot-com side of the Internet. The Air Force Instant Messenger was used most recently during operations in Southwest Asia, Colonel Hausauer said.

“When the war kicked off, a lot of people on the front lines had difficulty getting to phone lines,” Colonel Hausauer said. “People with network connectivity were using AFIM to do their job, like ordering mission-essential parts for aircraft or ‘IMing’ back to their home station in the United States to ask for assistance.”

During those operations, AFIM had been set up to interface with commercial messaging systems so deployed airmen

could communicate with friends and family on their “buddy lists.” That capability has been temporarily disabled, but Colonel Hausauer said it would return following a security review.

For every application that has already been assimilated into the portal framework, there may be many others that have not, Colonel Hausauer said. One way to expedite their integration is for those most familiar with those systems to speak up, and ask for them to be incorporated into the portal.

“A challenge for us is to get owners to come to us with their applications and to work with us to integrate them into the portal,” Colonel Hausauer said. “We can make our security layer work for them, plus give them the benefit of the single user login. We also look to users to insist upon having the applications they use brought to the portal. Users need to ask their (leaders) if they can make that happen.”

Besides providing an integrated interface to existing Air Force applications, the portal provides functionality of its own. The portal includes a “white pages” section that lists everybody in the Air Force. It includes personalization features that let users adjust the presentation to suit their needs. The system even allows users to upload favorites from their desktop computers, so those frequently used Web addresses are available from anywhere in the world.

As more systems are brought into the portal, the Air Force moves closer to its overall vision for a Net-centric force.

“The Air Force vision is to bring a virtual desktop to the airman and to bring all the applications you need to do your job to that desktop,” Colonel Hausauer said. “You will have the ability to access them all with one login name and password, they will all work together seamlessly, and you will be able to access them from anywhere. That is the future.”

SECAF History (1947-85)

ACROSS

- 1. SECAF 9/18/47-4/24/50
- 8. SECAF 10/1/65-2/14/69
- 11. Dined
- 12. Alias abbreviation
- 13. SECAF 5/1/57-12/10/59
- 15. La _____ Nikita
- 17. Actor Stephen of Michael Collins
- 18. *Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue* singer Keith
- 19. Soft drink
- 20. A type of jet engine developed from a turbine
- 21. USAF org. at a deployed location
- 22. NIMA system managing national/strategic imagery
- 26. Army equivalent to USAF Tech. School
- 27. SECAF 5/15/73-11/23/75
- 28. Singer Joan
- 31. Horse feed
- 32. Pot
- 33. SECAF 11/23/75-1/2/76

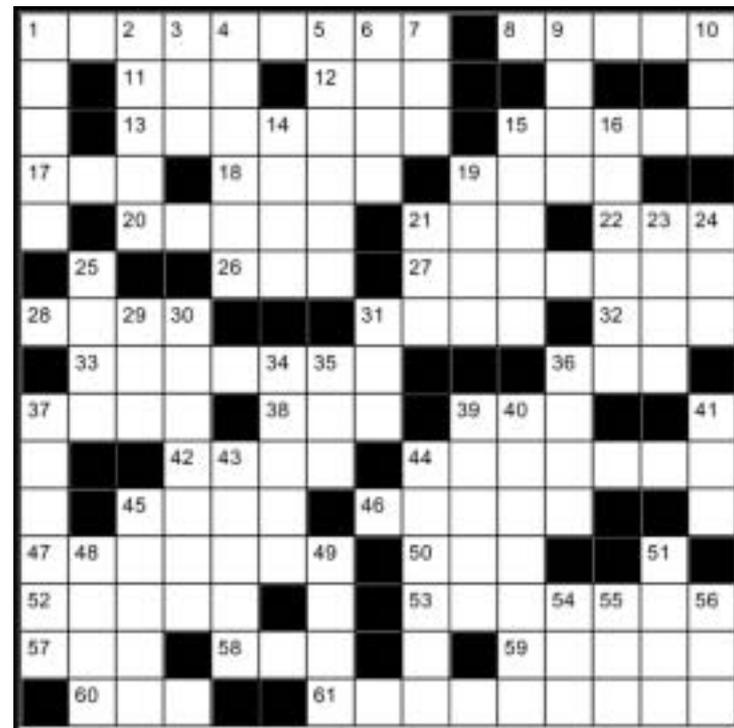
(acting)

- 36. Query
- 37. Soft mineral
- 38. USAF officer eval.
- 39. Rap group Run ____
- 42. Military org. in Kosovo
- 44. SECAF 2/15/69-5/14/73
- 45. Erosion
- 46. CA AFB home to the 9th Recon Wing
- 47. SECAF 8/15/55-4/30/57
- 50. Actress/model Carol
- 52. Army battalions
- 53. SECAF 4/6/77-5/18/79
- 57. Asner and Harris
- 58. Snakelike fish
- 59. Time maker?
- 60. Giant great
- 61. SECAF 4/24/50-1/20/53

DOWN

- 1. SECAF 12/11/59-1/20/61
- 2. Angry with (two words)
- 3. Simpson trial judge
- 4. American architect

- 5. SECAF 2/4/53-8/13/55
- 6. Fine
- 7. Navy equivalent to AFB
- 9. SECAF 1/2/76-4/5/77
- 10. Formerly
- 14. Mongolian desert
- 15. Chicken and duck
- 16. Stoic emperor _____ Aurelius
- 19. Coterie
- 21. Doctor's org.
- 23. SECAF 5/18/79-2/9/81
- 24. Military identity
- 25. California wine valley
- 29. Extension
- 30. SECAF 1/23/61-9/30/65
- 31. SECAF 2/1/81-11/30/85
- 34. 007 once
- 35. USAF enlisted eval.
- 36. Apogee
- 37. Thrust
- 39. Issued (as in cards)
- 40. Bogart film, *The _____ Falcon*
- 41. Cleopatra's killer
- 43. Test answer?



- 44. Fall, winter, spring or summer
- 45. Belly
- 48. Disconnect
- 49. Number one?
- 51. Link
- 54. Asian holiday
- 55. Take a seat
- 56. Neither's partner

Fit to fight: Walk before you run

by Lt. Col. Skip Hinman
49th Fighter Wing Safety chief

Every uniformed member at Holloman serves in a military that has been actively involved in multiple combat operations over the past several years. Most of us have participated in those operations.

Simply stated, we're all in the military and our country is at war. Each and every one of us is a "warrior," in the most literal sense of the word.

As such, we all must be physically conditioned to serve in that capacity. As the saying goes, we must be "fit to fight." I consequently believe the new Air Force Fitness Program is right on target and will help all of us meet that goal. As a fitness buff, I am extremely encouraged to see increased numbers of folks running, working out at the gym, and joining their workmates for squadron PT and organized sports events.

As the Wing Chief of Safety, I'm also a bit concerned. Sports and recreation injuries are the number one cause of lost time and workdays in the Air Force. This has been the case for several years now—even *before* the new Fitness Program went into effect. In the long term, the fitness program will arguably increase our general wellness and decrease these types of injuries. In the short term, however, we run the risk of more sprained ankles, pulled muscles, and other more serious conditions associated with sports and physical exercise.

We all want to pass the fitness test. However, simply showing up for the test without ample preparation invites poor performance, possible injury, and, in some cases, even serious medical problems. The key to success is an incremental plan to develop your fitness level over time. Exercising approximately three times a week, in accordance with new Air Force policy, is a safe and sensible method to prepare for the fitness test.

As part of that exercise pro-



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Airman 1st Class Christopher Beckett, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron heavy equipment operator, runs with his squadron during unit physical training.

gram, consider attempting the fitness test events—situps, pushups, and running—approximately once a week during one of these exercise sessions. Walk before you run: You don't need to max the test, or even pass it, on the first try. Your goal should be to improve upon last week's score, deliberately building up to your desired score over time. Of course, you have to give yourself time to build up your strength and endurance. You can't start training a week before the test and expect good results. And don't stop your new routine once you pass the test. "Cramming for the test" each time is both dangerous and counter-productive.

The Secretary of Defense recently directed a fifty percent

reduction in preventable mishaps in the Department of Defense over the next two years. Airmen who pursue physical fitness in a sensible manner will be in better shape and will likely help the Air Force reduce sports-related injuries. Those who exercise haphazardly and without a deliberate fitness plan will hurt themselves and our mishap reduction efforts. The ultimate goal of the Air Force Fitness Program is a healthier, more physically fit force, available and better prepared when called on to participate in combat operations. In an effort to meet this goal and minimize injuries along the way, I would encourage all members of Team Holloman to take a safe, incremental approach to fitness.

Maintenance Group SNCO earns Air Force-level award

by Airman 1st Class

Stephen Collier

49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A 49th Maintenance Group senior NCO won the Air Force Productivity Excellence Award for 2003.

Master Sgt. Ted Larson, Weapons Standardization load crew chief, said he attained the award by identifying and fixing problems with the F-117A Nighthawk's new guided bomb unit-27 global positioning system during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After its first mission in Iraq, the F-117 returned with damage to 1,760 cables that attach the GPS-guided bombs to the aircraft.

Sergeant Larson discovered that excessive slack in the cables caused them to snap during the deployment of weapons, thereby damaging other parts of the system and plane.

He used duct tape to secure the slack, helping the F-117A continue to employ the EGBU-27 over the skies of Iraq.

The repair not only helped the jet drop 120 more bombs, but also earned Sergeant Larson \$10,000 through the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program. His fix ultimately saved the Air Force \$1.25 million, qualifying him for the Air Force-level award.

"It doesn't matter if you get the maximum or the minimum amount of reward money," Sergeant Larson said. "The reward is making changes for the better."

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Tompkins, 49th Maintenance Group wing weapons manager, said he wasn't surprised that Sergeant Larson won the award.

"Sergeant Larson has a wealth of weapons system knowledge," he said. "Even

though the method he devised for positive weapon employment may sound simple, his fix ensured a 100-percent successful release of weapons being used for the first time in combat."

The annual award recognizes Air Force members and personnel who use their skills to make vast improvements in the way the Air Force runs.

Improvements made were originally submitted through the IDEA program, which averages a savings of \$1 million over a period of 12 months.

Members can submit ideas to <https://ideas.Randolph.af.mil/ipdswarn.html>.

If the idea submitted can save the Air Force money, a reward is calculated based upon the projected savings. If the idea doesn't directly save money but improves performance or helps the Air Force, the member is eligible for a \$200 reward.

Airmen teaching Airmen

by Senior Airman Martha Whipple

49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Holloman Airmen are building on their careers through the Airman Professional Development Course.

Airmen begin developing their Air Force careers during basic military training and continue through technical school. The First Term Airman's Center is the next step, followed by APDC, according to Tech. Sgt. Karen Feckovic, course facilitator.

"APDC provides a strong foundation for Airmen," she said. "It teaches professional development through teamwork and leadership."

The curriculum includes stress management, financial responsibility, and exercises that help build leadership and teamworking skills, Sergeant Feckovic said.

Sergeant Feckovic said she was impressed by the February course graduates who during the two-day class learned leadership techniques to prepare them for their future.

Airman 1st Class Joshua Stillwagon, a class graduate, said the instructors made the class

"APDC provides a strong foundation for Airmen."

Tech. Sgt. Karen Feckovic

Course facilitator

fun which held the class' attention. By avoiding lecture-form teaching, he said he feels more people will retain the information.

"I learned being a manager isn't enough to gain respect," he said. "You must lead, mentor and most of all, listen to those around you."

After the class, Senior Airman Patricia Bowling said she now believes one Airman can make a difference; all it takes is initiative, hard work, integrity and a will to learn.

"Holloman's Airman Professional Development Course bridges the gap between FTAC and Airman Leadership School," said Maj. Joel Rush, Professional Development officer. "It's a tool that helps Airmen transition into the leaders who will shape tomorrow's Air Force."

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

Shooting match

The Otero Practical Shooting Association has a Fun Rifle Shooting Match Saturday and a Practical Pistol Shooting Match Sunday at the Sydney Paul Gordon Shooting Range in La Luz. Sign up is at 8:30 a.m., and the safety briefing and match start at 9 a.m. The match is open to the public.

For more information, call Mr. Butch Rials 437-3663.

Petting zoo

Hedrick's Educational Petting Zoo will be in Alamogordo from 10 a.m. to dark, May 6 through 9 outside of K-Mart. Cost is \$1 or one K-Mart receipt.

Writers' Corner

The Writers' Corner is a friendly, informal group of aspir-

ing writers of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Meetings are 4 p.m., the third Friday of each month in the NMSU-A Writing Center, 2400 N. Scenic Dr.

For more information call Ms. Sandra Riordan at 439-3712 or e-mail riordan@nmsua.nmsu.edu.

German event

German Helping Hands Group from Alamogordo is hosting an Easter event 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday at the German Community Center. There will be kids' crafts and German coffee, cakes and waffles.

For more information, call 437-8328.

Relay for life

Relay for Life meetings will be held at the community center

on from 1 to 2 p.m., Wednesday and April 7, 14, 21 and 28.

The Relay for Life event starts April 30. Register a team for \$10 (each team member) and receive a free Relay T-shirt as a gift.

For more information, call Ms. Beth Markle at 479-6026 or e-mail eam@zianet.com.

Trinity site tour

White Sands Missile Range opens the Trinity Site to the public for an open house April 3.

For more information concerning Trinity Site, go to the missile range's official Trinity Site Web page at www.wsmr.army.mil/paopage/pao.htm.

For more information, people can also call the White Sands Missile Range public affairs office at (505) 678-1134.



Job openings

The 49th Services Squadron has job openings ranging from opening level to management positions. All are welcome to apply. Look for current positions at www.hollomanservices.com or call the Human Resource Office at 572-5454. Holloman Services is an equal opportunity employer.

Family bowl

There is a Family Bowl from 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday at Dessert Lanes. A family of up to three people bowl for \$20 and four to six people bowl for \$25. Price includes shoes, balls, open bowling for three hours, one large pizza and a pitcher of soda.

Chili cook-off

The Holloman Middle School National Junior Honor Society and the Parent Teacher Activity Committee sponsor a chili cook-off from 1 to 4 p.m., April 17 at the Holloman Middle School Cafeteria. Tickets are \$3 and are available through PTAC and NJHS members. The meal includes chili, rice, dessert and a drink.

For more information, call Ms. Silvia Papp at 479-3033 or Ms. Crystal Calloway at 479-0263.

Chapel schedule

Holy Week schedule for Catholics:

- April 4: Palm Sunday Mass, 9 a.m.; No CCD, Walk with Jesus, 2 p.m.; Mass, 5 p.m.
- April 5: Lenten penance service, 7 p.m.
- April 7: Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m.
- April 8: No daily Mass; Mass of the Lord's supper followed by eucharistic adoration, 7 p.m.
- April 9: A day of fast and abstinence, no daily Mass, Celebration of the Lord's passion, 3 p.m.
- April 10: Easter Vigil Mass, 8 p.m.; reception in the annex.
- April 11: Easter Mass, 9 a.m., Easter

egg hunt immediately following Mass, No CCD, No 5 p.m. Mass.

Protestant schedule:

- April 4: Palm Sunday service, 11 a.m.; Walk with Jesus, 2 p.m.
- April 11: Sunrise service at White Sands National Monument Park, 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast at the chapel annex; Easter service, 11 a.m.

All events are held in the Chapel unless specified otherwise.

Rose sale

The Keystone Club offers a dozen roses for \$15 for their "Just Because" rose sale. Place orders at the Youth and Teen Center by Tuesday. Payment is due when the order is placed. The roses can be picked up after 3 p.m., April 15.

For more information, call 572-3753.

MOAA

The Tularosa Basin Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly meeting Friday at the officers' club. Cocktails are at 6 p.m. and a no-host dinner is at 7 p.m. Col. Joe Zeis, 46th Test Group commander, will speak on activities of the test group. Officers and their spouses are invited to attend.

To R.S.V.P., call Mr. Ray VonHusen at 437-6456.

FSC

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

- Spouse employment workshop: 1 to 2:30 p.m., Monday.
- Basic investment: 8 to 11:30 a.m., Tuesday.
- Advanced investment: 8 to 11 a.m., Wednesday.
- Customer service training: 1:30 to 3 p.m., Wednesday.

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

Women's History Month

The 2004 National Women's History Month theme is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility."

A NWHM Planning Committee has been formed to plan and organize wing observance events and celebration. The following events are scheduled:

- NWHM luncheon: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 15 in the officers' club. The speaker will be Amy Haddad.
- Fashion show, "How to dress for success": April 8 in the community center. Exact time will be announced.

For more information, call Staff Sgt.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Java

Airman 1st Class Janice Delfin, 49th Medical Operations Squadron health service management technician, purchases coffee from Olive Branch employee Mr. Justin Riley, husband of Airman 1st Class Alicia Riley, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron. The new coffee stand is located at the 49th Medical Group's pharmacy waiting area and is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Shelia Davis at 572-5574 or 572-5575 or e-mail shelia.davis@holloman.af.mil, or Mr. Donald Larsen at 572-3439 or e-mail donald.larsen@holloman.af.mil.

Accreditation survey

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations conducts an accreditation survey of the 49th Medical Group April 13 and 14.

The results will be used to determine whether accreditation should be awarded.

Anyone who has information about organization quality and safety-of-care issues may request a public information interview with the field representatives at the time of the survey. Interview requests must be sent in writing no later than April 7 and must indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview.

Requests should be addressed to: Division of Accreditation Operations, Office of Quality Monitoring, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, One Renaissance Boulevard, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, 60181 or faxed to (630) 792-5636 or e-mailed to complaint@jcaho.org.

An account representative will ac-

knowledge in writing or by telephone requests received 10 days before the survey begins.

They will also contact the individual requesting the public information interview prior to survey, to inform them of the location, date and time of the interview and the name of the surveyor who will conduct the interview.

Cooler conversion

The base housing conversion from heaters to evaporative coolers is April 15 to 30. Someone age 18 or older must be home during the conversion. If this isn't possible, call to reschedule after April 24.

The conversion schedule is as follows:

- April 15: 2210A-2227D and 2400-2415B;
- April 16: 2228A-2249B and 2416A-2441;
- April 19: 2250A-2269A and 2442-2486B;
- April 20: 2269B-2299B and 2487-2489B;
- April 21: 2300A-2308A and 2501A-2540;
- April 22: 2308B-2354A and 2541A-2589;
- April 23: 2354B-2393B and 2585A-2599;
- April 26 to 30: rescheduled appointments

Housing maintenance will do their best to complete this work with as little inconvenience as possible.

For more information, call the housing service call desk at 572-7901.

B On the BIG SCREEN



Catch That Kid (PG)

7 p.m., today

Miracle (PG)

7 and 10 p.m., Saturday

Against the Ropes (PG-13)

7 p.m., Sunday and Thursday

For a limited time, tickets are 99 cents.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Ben Robinson, 49th Medical Group guard, drills down the court past 49th Civil Engineer Squadron guard Tom Krall during the Over-30 basketball championship March 18. CES won 48-39 to become the 2004 base champions.



Leo Calloway, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron forward, makes a shot over 49th Medical Group guard Ben Robinson.

Engineering a championship

Engineers take season against Medic team 48-39

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

A strong offensive drive by the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron led to a championship victory against the 49th Medical Group March 18 in the final game of the Over-30 intramural basketball season at the Fitness and Sports Center.

Determined to get the win, each team battled for the lead as the score stayed neck and neck through the first nine minutes.

CES center Jeff May helped his team inch out in front with two jump shots to bring his team at 15-11.

After a MDG time out, CES

forward Leo Calloway rebounded the ball and started a fast break that ended with forward Ed Cannon knocking off a three pointer from the left side.

Less than two minutes remained in the half and MDG took control of the ball. A pass to Ben Robinson led to another layup and two more points as the first half ended with CES up by 20-19.

"We're allowing them too many open shots," MDG guard Robinson said. "We need to get the defensive rebounds and score in transition."

CES came out strong in the second half with a three pointer by Calloway that put his team up by four. The engineers

picked off two passes meant for MDG guard Rob Lempke to add four points to their score.

Even with a three pointer by MDG's Robinson, his team still trailed 40-28.

With only four minutes remaining, CES guard Tom Krall knocked off two more shots. A dominating CES team kept the edge over the medical group as Robinson banked another three pointer.

Up by seven, CES would end the season with a layup to take home the trophy with a final score of 48-39.

Calloway led the way for the CES team with a game high 13 points. His teammate Frank Juarez also made a strong contribution with points.

The Sports Bar

Intramural Standings - Basketball

Large Unit

Team	Win	Loss
49 MXS	12	3
49 CES A	11	3
49 OSS A	12	4
49 SFS	9	6
49 MMG	7	8
9 AMU	6	9
49 MDG	5	11
49 LRS	0	0
8 AMU	0	0

(Current as of March 4)

Small Unit

Team	Win	Loss
46 TG	13	1
4 SPCS	11	3
49 MSS/FW	10	4
49 CES B	8	7
49 CS	8	8
746 TS	6	8
49 CONS	5	10
49 MXS B	2	12
49 OSS B	0	0

(Current as of March 18)

Over 30

Team	Win	Loss
49 CES	12	0
49 MDG	9	3
49 LRS	6	5
49 MXS	6	5
49 SFS	4	8
46 TG	4	8
4 SPCS	0	0

(Season ending standings)

World of Sports

The 2004 Spring Soccer Tournament is Monday through Friday at the Fitness and Sports Center's astroturf field.

The Alamogordo Adult Baseball League spring season begins April 24. Registration is now through Wednesday. Contact Tech. Sgt. Nathan Knox at 439-5669.

Commissaries sell groceries at cost

No pain, no gain is a common expression. Bargain hunters go from grocery store to grocery store seeking the best buys – but they may also end up paying more for other items that aren't on sale. A lot of pain, not much gain. Why do all that when DeCA commissaries sell groceries at cost, saving authorized customers an average of 30 percent or more over commercial grocery prices?

Commercial stores are profit-motivated. They can offer popular items at below cost to get customers in their store – and make it up on other items that are priced much higher. There's nothing wrong with that and it has a name: loss leader.

That's how the commercial businesses work. "But commissaries are a benefit, not a business, and sometimes people lose sight of that," said Maj. Gen. Mike Wiedemer, director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "It's true we operate in a businesslike fashion, but our sole reason for being here is to deliver the benefit. Our cost is your cost."

The prices paid by commissary customers for grocery items equals the government's cost for those items. "Because we sell at cost, and the U.S. government covers the expenses associated with providing the benefit, that allows us to achieve an overall average customer savings of 30 percent or more over commercial grocery stores," Wiedemer said.

That's a benefit that is now worth about \$2,700 a year to a military family of four that shops regularly at a commissary. Put simply, "We're here to save military families as much as we can – not make money," said Wiedemer.

Like any commercial grocery store, commissaries also have unadvertised "sales" on hundreds of products on any given day, according to Scott Simpson, chief operating officer at DeCA. "One of the many reasons we don't have a 'frequent shopper' card is simply that everything we sell is already at cost. If a manufacturer offers us a special sale, we pass it on. Your military ID is the only 'special card' you need," he said. "If an item is on sale, it's on sale for every authorized shopper who walks into the store."

Sometimes getting sales information to customers about what's on sale at the commissary is difficult. Commissaries are not allowed to advertise product prices. But private vendors and manufacturers doing business in the commissary system can, and increasingly do, advertise products and prices. Many installation newspapers now carry monthly commissary shopping circulars; other vendors distribute sales information direct to the doorways of military families in housing areas. Still more hand out circulars and coupons at the door of the local commissary.

Customers can also find out what's on sale at their local commissary by accessing the savings aisle in the shopping section of DeCA's Web site: <http://www.commissaries.com>. Prices aren't listed, but it's a safe bet that if the items are on



Photo by Senior Airman Martha Whipple

Staff Sgt. Brenda Martinez-Lashley, Pharmacy technician, buys groceries at cost at Holloman's Commissary Wednesday.

sale, the prices are going to be below average commissary prices and well below commercial grocery store prices.

Commissary customers get an additional break by not paying any sales tax when shopping at the commissary. In some locations, that can amount to sizeable savings.

There is one cost born by customers. A five-percent surcharge, mandated by Congress, is added at the register on the total grocery bill before coupons are deducted. "We're frequently asked about the surcharge because people feel like that's part of the cost of the groceries or some sort of profit," said Wiedemer. "But the surcharge funds have nothing to do with making a 'profit.' The 5-percent surcharge goes right back into the military system to fund the building of new commissaries and the improvement of existing stores for our customers," he said.

Commissary customer satisfaction surveys consistently rank the commissary as the No. 1 military benefit, and military quality of life surveys consistently rank commissaries among the top two benefits, said Wiedemer. "But yet, there still seems to be a lack of realization that at the heart of their benefit is the ability to buy groceries at cost."

"Our intention is to spread the word and make sure the commissary benefit is being fully used by active duty, Guard and Reserve, and retired military families," he said. "It simply doesn't make sense for anyone to spend valuable time and gas running all over town to save on a few items when shopping regularly at the commissary can result in savings of 30 percent or more!"

(DECA)

Exercise, exercise, exercise ...

by Mr. Charlie Huffman
49th Fighter Wing
Plans and Inspections

Ever wonder why we seem to always be in exercise mode?

By regulatory directive, we have some exercises we are required to have on an annual basis. These help knock the cobwebs off the augmentees and keep the command and control elements focused on the mission tasks at hand in a contingency environment.

In layman's terms, we exercise in peacetime to keep from bleeding in war or conflicts. Face it, the mission of an Air Combat Command unit is to get to the fight ready to launch sorties, and kill the enemy and their stuff. The Air Force mission is to provide combat-ready forces to the combatant commanders in time to meet force closure at the destination.

ACC has the majority of allocated combat forces and goes to great lengths to "exercise" our abilities to generate our jets, deploy our cargo and people, and regenerate our force at the destination and start launching combat sorties. Definitely easier said than done.

Most people seldom get to analyze why we try and make our exercises "hard" rather than easy. The criterion is established by ACC and we use this as the measuring stick to figure out where we stand — and more importantly where we can improve.

The Phase I is an intensively time-constrained event. When the execute order drops, all actions and tasks are evaluated in a timed environment.

Our job as inspectors is to try to weigh the day-to-day necessities against our deployment mission and come up with a usable medium. The exercises must be enough of a challenge to make a satisfactory success meaningful and usable. Too easy and we all feel good about the ratings, but when the ORI evaluators look at what we've done they'll know we've not done enough to prepare the force. This is like asking someone to walk around their building once a week and then telling them

one morning they will be running the Boston Marathon in a couple of hours. Can you imagine the result? Crash and burn!

So we try to solicit inputs into the exercise program to make it meaningful while weighing the end results and past performance.

The inspector general is tasked to look at many things and do some homework before they arrive, like review our status or resources

and training reports, AEF reporting tools, previous reports, etc. to build a mini-marathon for us to exercise. The current published criterion estimates we will be tasked for roughly 500 personnel and 800 short tons of cargo — the largest single deployment commitment of any ACC wing.

We need to get our war face on and prepare to execute now before the 72-hour notice hits. Commanders and unit deployment managers need to work together. The UDM must ensure the commander knows every issue affecting the unit's ability to provide any of the unit type codes listed on the Air Force World Wide UTC Summary listing.

Other areas we need to work on are the shortfall process. During an evaluation, every resource on base should be used before we send out a shortfall message saying we do not have the resource. The rationale behind this is we are deploying a combat force — not a force with holes in its capabilities.

Instead we need to deploy everything we can and then go back to ACC and Air Staff if needed to backfill the holes from other



Photo by Meghan Musante, Alamogordo Daily News

Airman 1st Class Michael De Los Santos helps the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron's Damage, Assessment and Repair team "shore and brace" an imaginary hole after a simulated attack Tuesday morning.

Airman 1st Class Michael De Los Santos helps the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron's Damage, Assessment and Repair team "shore and brace" an imaginary hole after a simulated attack Tuesday morning. (photo credit: Meghan R. Musante/Daily News

untasked units.

Bottom line: the basics must be solid. The data must be accurate and the unit must be able to deploy the UTCs in the minimal time allowed. The basics must be learned and tested in a local exercise to ensure we are doing it right.

How do we get credit for an exercise using the published guidance? This doesn't seem well understood throughout the wing. To get credit for an exercise, certain minimums must be accomplished. First, three areas must be evaluated: generation, deployment and regeneration. That means we deploy, recover and regenerate the aircraft and equipment to prepare the force for their first combat sortie.

Anytime we leave out an area, our task is multiplied as we don't get credit for the event — it's just training. We then need to schedule another event down the road to accomplish our tasking.

All commanders and key supervisors need to be aware of these minimums to make sure we get credit when it's earned and seriously look at the impact withdrawals have on our mission.

Scam alert: Don't be a victim

New Mexico Attorney General Patricia Madrid's office is warning e-mail recipients throughout New Mexico of a scam that could endanger their Wells Fargo bank accounts.

Attorney General Madrid warns New Mexicans not to follow the instructions in an e-mail they might receive with the subject heading, "Please verify your Wells Fargo account."

The originating address is wells@wellsfargo. The body of the message informs recipients that Wells Fargo is attempting to verify the user's account information and asks the recipients to click on a link that takes them to a verification page.

What the recipient doesn't realize is that the link does not take them to an authorized Wells Fargo site. Instead, it takes them to a fraudulent server that collects the user's personal information and ac-

count numbers. Unfortunately, scammers can use this information to access the recipient's bank account and the funds held within.

This is a type of new widespread Internet scheme called "phishing," which attempts to trick account holders to give their account authentication details away. Recipients of this e-mail are advised to ignore the message and immediately delete it.

"It's an ongoing industry issue," said Wendy Grover, senior vice president of Wells Fargo Corporate Communications. "We're making sure people know about this because it's also a matter of educating and protecting people from these scams."

For more information or to file a complaint about suspicious e-mails, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (800) 678-1508.

On the side

To help protect accounts and personal information from fraudulent activity, users should:

- Delete any e-mail without opening it if you don't recognize the sender.
- Be suspicious of any e-mail that asks for personal information, requests your authentication, or indicates a problem with your accounts. If you receive an e-mail like this, do not reply by e-mail. Instead, please call the Online Fraud Prevention Hotline at 1-866-867-5568 to verify the legitimacy of the e-mail.
- Do not open attachments in e-mails like this.
- Only provide your personal information if you initiated the sign-on process to your account.
- Use virus protection software and keep the virus lists current.
- Keep your computer operating system and Web browser up-to-date.



The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents from March 15 to Monday.

Tickets

Security Forces issued 18 tickets: two for inoperable tail lights, two for no driver's license, one for no registration, one for improper passing, one for failure to stop, two for no insurance, three for failure to wear a safety belt, one for careless driving, one for no child restraint, one for an aggravated DUI, one for open container, one for reckless driving and one for speeding one to 10 mph over the speed limit.

Property loss, damage or theft

- March 15 – An airman struck the front gate with a government-owned vehicle, creating a 6-inch scratch on the rear fender and a broken bolt.
- March 15 – An airman was in a car accident on Highway 54.
- March 18 – There was a major accident

involving two privately owned vehicles on Vandergrift and Radar Roads.

- March 19 – There was a gas-n-go at the shopette.
- March 21 – An airman reported the screen in his dorm window was damaged.
- March 20 – An airman reported his room key and cell phone were missing.

Patrol response

- March 17 – A civilian reported a gas leak at building 1265.
- March 19 – An NCO's family member reported his son was missing at 3:30 p.m. He was found on Valencia Loop at 5:50 p.m.
- March 20 – An airman reported loud music coming from a room in Dorm 333.
- March 20 – An airman reported a loud party on Dona Ana Loop.
- March 20 – Security forces found five empty beer cans under an Airman's driver's seat. The Airman passed a sobriety test.
- March 20 – The New Mexico State Police reported passengers in a white van were throwing eggs at other vehicles and failing to yield to NMSP on Highway 70. The vehicle was stopped by security forces on First Street.
- March 21 – An airman's family member reported possible animal neglect in base housing.
- March 21 – An NCO's family member reported a loud noise coming from a vehicle on Mora Loop.

Women inspiring hope and possibility

by Mr. Donald Larsen
49th Maintenance Group

As a project officer for the 2004 National Women's History Month at Holloman, I have become acutely aware of the phenomenal progress Air Force women have made since I enlisted in the Air Force in May 1961.

Today, Air Force women serve side by side with their male counterparts in almost every Air Force specialty, and are an integral part of Team Holloman. They maintain F-117A Nighthawks, refuel the jets, load precision guided weapons, and they launch and recover the aircraft. Women serve in the security forces, store and maintain munitions, maintain aerospace ground equipment, serve as combat aircrew members, and deploy anywhere in the world — all unheard of in 1961.

Upon entering the Air Force, I was assigned to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas for eight weeks of basic training. I was totally unaware there were Air Force enlisted women at Lackland. During my third week of training, I was assigned a two-day detail working on and repairing the confidence course. On the second day, the civilian in charge of the detail hustled us all

in a six-by and drove us off the course, explaining it was against regulations for men to be on the confidence course when the women trainees were running it. I thought this was odd, but being in basic, I didn't ask any questions. I completed my eight weeks of basic training without ever seeing a woman and no part of my training included any mention of Women in the Air Force. Upon completion of basic training, I was assigned to Lowry Air Force Base, Colo. for 22 weeks of technical school. I saw no Air Force women during my entire 22 weeks at Lowry! When I graduated from technical school, I received my first permanent change of station orders to Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Edwards was a dream assignment for me, with all of the new and exotic aircraft undergoing tests at the time, and I was getting to work on most of them — pure heaven for an aircraft buff! At Edwards, I was vaguely aware there were enlisted women, but I never came into contact with any of them, and they certainly didn't work on the airplanes. When I learned that the chapel was short handed, I volunteered to work part time as a chaplain's assistant; which is when I met Airman 2nd Class Amy Engersol, who was also a volunteer. Airman Engersol and I quickly became very close, life-

long friends and remain in contact to this day. She is simply Amy to me now. It seemed natural at the time to share how we felt about the Air Force and anything else that came up. I taught Amy about the men's Air Force, and she taught me about the WAF. It was hard to believe we were in the same Air Force!

Things were pretty restrictive for a male Airman back then compared with today's standards. For example, an airman had to live in the dormitory (regardless of marital status), and could not get married or own a vehicle without the commander's approval. Then there was Class A, B, and C passes and mileage restrictions based on rank. You had to be a NCO to get a Class A pass, which allowed unrestricted movement on and off base. The Class B was for the weekend, typically noon Saturday through midnight Sunday, and the Class C pass was for a very specific time, not to exceed 72 hours. You had to sign for Class B or C passes at your squadron orderly room, and then sign out before you left the base and sign back in before the pass expired.

Amy recently sent me a copy of a local attachment to Air Force Regulation 35-10, Dress and Personal Ap-

see HISTORY on Page 21

HISTORY *Continued from Page 20*

pearance, dated October 1957. The attachment is subtitled "Acceptable Civilian Apparel and Appearance of Female Personnel." The following excerpts give some idea of civilian clothing restrictions placed on women in the late '50's and early '60's:

- Sleeveless outer garments will not be worn in public
- Pants/shorts, when authorized (Chart III), must be buttoned; side opening type (zip-pers unauthorized)
- The heel on high-heeled shoes will not exceed three inches in height
- Boots taller than fourteen inches will not be worn
- Pullover sweaters will not be worn
- No men's clothing items may be worn
- When worn, earrings must match and have no dimension greater than one inch
- Swimwear, when authorized (Chart VI), will be full, single piece (Fig 12a) design
- Wigs will not be worn

Amy was assigned to a WAF squadron at Edwards. The squadron was far away from where the male dormitories were and was essentially a self contained compound complete with

dining facilities, day rooms, laundry facilities and the like. Special religious services were held at the WAF squadron, and, oh yes it was surrounded by a twelve foot fence with barbed wire on top with a single, guarded entry/exit point and exterior lighting much like a munitions storage area. The WAF squadron had a female commander, and every enlisted female on the base was assigned to the WAF squadron, regardless of where they worked. Being a WAF also meant you could not marry or get pregnant.

Amy thought the Class B and C pass I lived with was lenient. The WAF had a buddy system, it took two to get a single pass and they had to stay together while off base and until they signed back in. The buddy system existed on base as well, with some modifications: two WAF could move about the base, or an individual WAF could be accompanied by a male NCO or any officer or warrant officer.

Any WAF found walking or moving about the base alone was placed on report and subject to disciplinary action.

Amy was bussed to and from work and stood several roll calls each day. Each WAF had addi-

tional duties within the WAF squadron besides her normal duties. Amy was an administrative specialist by Air Force specialty code, so she also performed administrative duties within her WAF squadron — just like the duties for the organization she worked for during her normal duty day.

As I see it, the WAF were an especially dedicated and professional group who somehow thrived in spite of everything. In most cases, if a WAF wished to leave the Air Force all she had to do was apply for separation and it would be approved. Yet many of these women stayed on and paved the way for Air Force women today.

Amy stayed in the Air Force until she was diagnosed with breast cancer and was medically discharged in 1966 with a 20-percent disability. She won her battle with breast cancer and went on to get a degree in education and is still working and teaching today.

Ask her today if she would go back in the WAF, and she will answer, "where do I sign?" Here is a woman who is living this year's National Women's History Month theme "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Welcome home

The \$19 million housing project currently being built south of Arnold Avenue between First and Patterson Road is on schedule for its October 2004 completion date. The 101 three- and four-bedroom houses will incorporate five different floor plans as well as several color schemes.