

Sunburst



Vol. 47 No. 14

Serving the Holloman Air Force Base community

Friday, April 9, 2004

Briefly

Congratulations

The following master sergeants were selected for promotion to senior master sergeant:

Wilfred Oliver Jr., 49th Security Forces Squadron; **David Urdahl**, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Kathleen Harmon**, **Donald Poormon Jr.** and **Dale Witcofski**, 49th Maintenance Squadron; **Christopher Davis**, 49th Communications Squadron; **William Haddock**, 49th Maintenance Group; **John Foster** and **Richard Golden**, 49th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **William Bynum**, 46th Test Group.

Tax deadlines

The deadline to file taxes is Thursday. Holloman's Tax Center is at building 29, Room 2150.

For more information, call the tax center at 572-7846.

Women's history

There is a Women's History Month luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday at the Oasis Enlisted Club Ballroom. The guest speaker is Mrs. Amy Haddad, Social Programs Manager from White Sands Missile Range.

Menu is a turkey croissant or chef salad for \$8.90 for members and \$9.90 for non-members.

Inside

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- Trinity Site 12-13
- Sports 14-15

49th LRS troops lead the way

by Ms. Laura Pellegrino
Sunburst staff writer

In November, 15 members of the 49th Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Operations Flight learned they had two months to prepare for a deployment to Iraq.

This wasn't a typical deployment, which requires the team to provide transportation support for the deployed wing. This time, they were tasked with combat convoy operations, making them responsible for moving cargo and passengers to destinations throughout Iraq.

Combat convoy operations are usually handled by the Army, but the Air Force was asked to assist and relieve them for two six-month rotations, said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Bunce, Vehicle Management Flight chief.

"The Army is manned, equipped and trained for this type of duty," Sergeant Bunce said. "We're not typically trained for convoy operations in a combat environment."

Air Force-wide, the vehicle operations field was tasked with providing more than 450 transporters.

"Saying 'no' wasn't an option," Sergeant Bunce said. "So we began to plan on how we could get our guys ready for the most hazardous duty in the area of responsibility with little to no formal training in actual combat."

The 49th Security Forces Squadron helped by providing comprehensive training on short notice to prepare the

see CONVOY on Page 5



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Scout's honor

Left to right: Katharyn Scheller, Caroline Brereton, and other members of Girl Scout Brownie Troop 32 learn how to display the American flag during a practice retreat April 2 at the 9th Fighter Squadron. Learning to display the flag is a step Brownie Scouts take to transition into Junior Scouts. The Brownie Scouts will use the respects learned during this lesson May 7 during their bridging ceremony to Junior Scouts.



High: 74
Low: 52
TODAY



High: 71
Low: 54
SATURDAY



High: 57
Low: 43
SUNDAY



High: 61
Low: 45
MONDAY

Weather forecast provided by the 49th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight

Effective anti-terrorism takes everyone's involvement

by 2nd Lt. Darrell Peek
14th Security Forces Squadron

The March 11 train bombings in Spain, occurring 911 days after September 11, 2001, as well as the daily bombings in Iraq, illustrate the unwavering resolve of terrorists to attack those they fervently hate.

In response to these and past terrorist attacks, a great deal of time, effort and money has been spent gathering intelligence and attempting to safeguard ourselves and others. Yet, lives are unfortunately lost to the perpetrators of terror almost daily. This leads many people to believe if terrorists really want to get us, they will. This is a rather fatalistic attitude, but it's pervasive throughout the world. So how do we protect ourselves from those determined to harm us? What can we learn from this violence?

First, terrorists will continue to innovate and adapt in an effort to strike at the heart of their sworn enemies, regardless of gender, age or military affiliation. Their goal is to terrorize people into altering the way they or their governments do business. An election outcome was significantly affected by the bombings in Spain.

Moreover, terrorists are only limited by their imaginations. Although improvised explosive devices seem to be the weapon of choice, you can bet terrorists are working on new methods to murder innocent people and destroy property. Terrorists are continually working on the next 9/11.

The old rules and Force Protection Condition checklists cannot, on their own, provide the basis for antiterrorism efforts. I'm not arguing their value. They are necessary. However, it is imperative we innovate and adapt as the terrorists do. We can no longer rely solely on numerically sequenced directives in the hopes of sending the terrorists somewhere else. These people are smart and will not attack us when we most expect it.

The most important thing we can learn is anti-terrorism is everyone's responsibility. At least two of the unexploded devices found during the recent bombings in Spain were left in unattended backpacks. With a little vigilance, lives could have been saved. If you were standing outside the base exchange and found an unattended bag, would you become suspicious? Would you report it or move people away from the area?

Do you recall the Centennial Olympic Park bombing during the summer of 1996 in Atlanta? At a recent anti-terrorism course, I learned people actually tried to walk off with the backpack containing the bomb until they realized it was too heavy. Vigilance and a willingness to act are paramount if we are to make the enemy ineffective. In every anti-terrorism class I've ever instructed, I repeat the same message: I'd rather be embarrassed to have reported something that turned out to be harmless than to live with the fact I could have saved somebody's life and failed.

The expectation that our government can stop every single act of terrorism is unrealistic. As Air Force members, the expectation that security forces or the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, our counter-terrorism experts, can single-handedly thwart a well-planned terrorist event is similarly unrealistic.

That doesn't mean we're incapable of protecting ourselves. What we can and should do is work collectively to identify and report incidents that raise our suspicions. We can stop events before they occur and steal the initiative from the enemy.

Business owner is Woman of Merit nominee

I nominate Shari L. Scott as a "Woman of Merit."

She's lived in Alamogordo for 23 years and has been an active citizen in the community. She and her late husband Don Scott operated Radio Communications, a business that has provided two-way radio communications for several private companies, such as the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation, the Otero County Sheriffs Office and the local Volunteer Fire Departments.

Don was diagnosed with cancer more than 12 years before his passing. During that time, Shari began to completely take over doing all of the business. She researched Don's cancer and possible treatments for it, and became quite an expert on cancer in general. She ensured Don had the best care, medicine and doctors available. She took him to every appointment, each chemotherapy treatment and was with him through every transfu-

sion, yet she always made time to meet every need for the business and her employees. She dealt with customers personally and the business continued to flourish.

Shari made it a point to pursue one of Don's life-long dreams — to have a facility and a tower for the business on Longridge, a ridge of the Sacramento Mountain range that overlooks the Tularosa Basin. After more than 10 years, Shari was successful in obtaining the proper permits, licensing and property to make their dream come true. Although Don never saw the completion of the project, Shari continued to pursue it.

In December 2003, the tower and building on Longridge were completed. Shari had a plaque installed within the cement footing of the tower in memory of Don.

The hours of sitting beside her husband and taking care of him while tak-

ing care of the business and family were countless. Her love and dedication to Don and their family should be an example to all. She is a model mother, as well as being a very successful businessperson; she was a perfect help mate for Don.

Since Don's passing in March 2003, Shari has continued to operate the business and to be a mother to her son, Bruce, and daughter, Brandi.

It's for these reasons I believe she is a Woman of Merit. Her attitude of "just deal with it" has been inspirational to all who know her. Her demeanor has always been to be in the background, not wanting to have the lime light, shine on her is indicative of the humbleness she portrays.

She has been such a role model for so many that it would only be right to give honor and to respect her by giving her this award. Shari is truly a very remarkable Woman of Merit. — **Ted W. Dyer**

DUI Update

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Days since last DUI | 10 |
| DUIs this year | 17 |
| This week last year | 12 |

Last six DUIs

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| 49th CES | Mar. 27 |
| 49th OSS | Mar. 22 |
| 49th MMS | Feb. 21 |
| 8th AMU | Feb. 16 |
| 49th MMSS | Feb. 13 |
| 49th LRS | Feb. 8 |

572-RIDE works!

Calls made are lives saved

| |
|----------------------------|
| 363 Saves this year |
| 8 Saves this week |



Editorial Staff

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- 1st Lt. Nora Eyle Public Affairs deputy director
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Air Force announces Thrift Savings Plan open season

Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the open season Thursday to June 30.

"TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider," said Senior Master Sgt. Felipe Ortiz, superintendent of the contact center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. "It's a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans.

This open season applies only to regular TSP contributions.

It doesn't include TSP catch-up contributions, as they aren't tied to open seasons, according to Janet Thomas, of AFPC's civilian benefits and entitlements team.

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

The five TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

Some of the specifics of the program include:

Military

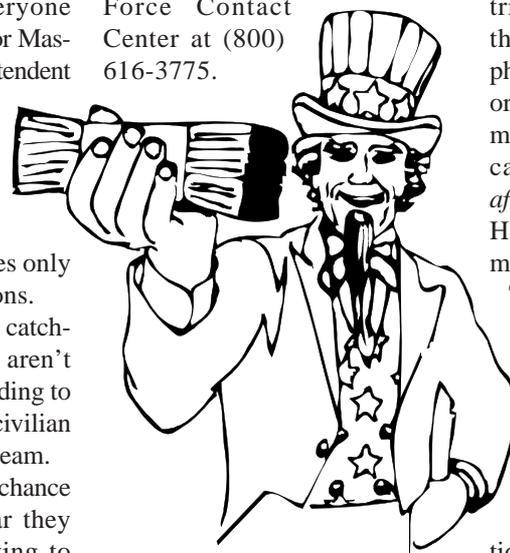
- Military members can contribute up to 9 percent of their base pay, as long as the annual total of tax-deferred investment doesn't exceed \$13,000 for 2004. Airmen also have the ability to invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.

- Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$41,000 in annual contributions.

- Military members can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service web site at <http://www.dfas.mil/emss/>. They can also enroll by filling out a form TSP-U-1 at local military personnel flights, finance offices and family support centers.

- Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to in-

vest money among the five funds) can be made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>. For general TSP questions, call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.



- Specific TSP information is available for Air Force military personnel at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm.

Civilians

- Contribution limits are based on which retirement system an employee has. For the current open season, the following contribution rates apply:

- Federal Employees' Retirement System employees may contribute up to 14 percent of basic pay each pay period. Once eligible, the government provides matching funds of up to four percent as well as an automatic one percent each pay period, whether the employee contributes or not, making the government's contribution five percent.

- Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System may contribute up to nine percent of basic pay, but do not receive any agency contributions.

- The percentage FERS and CSRS employees may contribute is restricted by the IRS's annual limit of \$13,000 this year, said Ms. Thomas.

- Specific information is available for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings web site at

<http://www.tsp.gov/> or the BEST homepage at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm>.

- All Air Force civilian employees will make their TSP contribution elections or changes through the BEST automated phone system at (800) 616-3775 or the Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS) web application at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm. Hearing impaired employees may contact BEST by calling TDD (800) 382-0893 or commercial 565-2276 within San Antonio, Texas. Overseas employees enter the AT&T Direct Access Number for the country they are calling from and then enter 800-997-2378. AT&T access instructions can be obtained from http://www.att.com/business_traveler/guides_and_access/dialing_instr.html#outside. Counselors are available weekdays from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Central Time.

- Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest their money among the five funds) are made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>

The Thrift Savings Plan has announced several changes to the loan program effective July 1. They are:

- A \$50 fee will be deducted from the amount of each new loan.

- Participants will no longer be able to have two general purpose loans at the same time. However, participants will still be able to have one general purpose and one residential loan.

- When participants pay off one loan, they will not be eligible to apply for another loan for 60 days.

More information about the Thrift Savings Plan can be found in the booklet "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan" on the TSP home page under civilian or uniformed services TSP Forms and Publications. (AFPN)

CONVOY *Continued from Page One*

team for their deployment.

The 49th SFS Combat Arms Training section taught the team to fire an M-16A2 rifle and the M-9 pistol, said Staff Sgt. Dwight Mills, 49th Security Forces trainer. They also trained the team on convoy operations, land navigation, map reading and reaction to fire.

“Our intentions were to give them basic combat skills so if they did run into combat, whether in a convoy or otherwise, they would be able to cope with the situation,” Sergeant Mills said.

The 49th Medical Group also helped the team by training them in first aid, Sergeant Bunce said.

“They took self-aid buddy-care several steps further by providing our guys the know-how on saving each other’s lives,” he said.

According to Sergeant Bunce, the 49th Mission Support Group insisted that the team leave with full body armor, despite some mixed messages saying it would be provided for them in Iraq.

“We took care of our own and security forces came through once again by providing my guys with this life-saving gear,” Sergeant Bunce said.

Thanks to support from the wing, the team was prepared to handle their assignment, Sergeant

Bunce said.

“I think I sent the most motivated and best-trained team of Air Force vehicle operators in the AOR,” Sergeant Bunce said. “My guys have been tasked with the most difficult jobs to include running convoy security in heavily armed gun trucks. I’m extremely proud of them.”

Their accomplishments aren’t only important today, they also set a standard of excellence for the future of the Air Force.

“These guys are making Air Force History, plain and simple,” he said. “The Air Force has never been tasked to conduct operations of this magnitude. It really gets down to what the chief of staff has been saying about where the Air Force is headed. What my guys are doing right now is our future.”

On the side

“The Holloman Hounds” are:

Tech. Sgts. Dan Allen and Michael Sifford; Staff Sgts. Daryl Lane, Jeremy Domingo and Jeremy Garcia; Senior Airmen Mark Mancha, Joseph Petty, Don Clayborn, Shaun Lathrop, Justin Rangel and Jason Schiavo; and Airmen 1st Class Mazen Abdu, Adam Courtney, Steven Royer and Matthew Grigsby.



The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents from March 30 to Monday.

Tickets

Security Forces issued 24 tickets: two for no license, eight for no registration, two for no insurance, two for failure to stop, three for limitations on backing, one for failure to wear proper footwear while operating a motorcycle, one for no seatbelt, one for shoplifting, one for using lights giving the impression of an emergency vehicle, one for a parking violation and two for speeding one to 10 mph over

the speed limit.

Patrol response

- March 30 — An airman reported loud music coming from a room in building 342.
- April 4 — An NCO’s family member was detained for shoplifting at the base exchange.

Property loss, damage or theft

- March 30 — There was a minor accident between two privately owned vehicles in the parking lot of building 15.
- March 30 — There was a minor accident between two POVs at the intersection of Arizona Avenue and First Street.
- April 1 — There were two minor accidents between POVs.
- April 4 — An Airman reported someone broke into his dorm and took his computer.

Sound of country rock hits Holloman

by Airman 1st Class
Stephen Collier

49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Country music and classic rock are rarely found on the same radio station. Country music may bring to mind the days of daisy duke shorts, a couple of good ol' boys and a hemi-powered Dodge Charger "General Lee" muscle car, while the beat of classic rock conjures images of long-haired bands, cigarette lighters twinkling across a stadium and power ballads from the '80s.

Whiskey Downs, a Holloman band putting out country-rock songs since July 2003, fills the dance floor at the enlisted club on a regular basis. Giving the band its sound are Airmen and family members from the 49th Maintenance and 4th Space Control Squadrons as well as a contractor from the White Sands Missile Range. Staff Sgt. Doug Pinard, a guitarist for the band, said the members all have unique gifts they bring to the band.

"Each one of us has a different musical upbringing, yet we're still tied together by a common thread," he said. "Whether we play rock and roll or country, we all bring different ideas to the table. This diversity really accentuates the individuals in the band while still maintaining the tightness of the band as a whole."

After starting out in the country band Roughstock, Sergeant Pinard and singer Senior Airman Kevin Beiland teamed up with drummer Jason Curry to write original songs. The musicians felt a need to form a new band in order to play their songs live after lining up a number of their own tunes. With the three members together, their search started for people to fill the positions of back-up vocals, rhythm and bass guitarists. In two months, they found what they were looking for in Capt. Steven Mathews.

"Since I just arrived at Holloman, I didn't know anyone here," Captain Mathews said. "I walked into the orderly room and overheard Sergeant Pinard talking about Whiskey Downs; I told him 'Hey, I play bass.' I got a call later that week asking me to join the



Courtesy Photo

Whiskey Downs

Members of Whiskey Downs, from the left, are drummer Greg Willis, back-up vocals Staff Sgt. Monique Shelton, first guitarist Staff Sgt. Doug Pinard, lead vocals Senior Airman Kevin Beiland, drummer Jason Curry, back-up vocals Laura Pinard and bass guitarist Capt. Steven Mathews.

band."

Around the same time, the group found the name that would stick with the band.

"Kevin and I took 'Whiskey' from the Willie Nelson song 'Whiskey River,'" Sergeant Pinard said. "The 'Downs' part just kind of came in and it fit."

Captain Mathews, who's played in garage bands since junior high, was teamed up with second guitarist Greg Willis, husband of Staff Sgt. Barbara Willis. Mr. Willis originally met Sergeant Pinard during another band's performance in Alamogordo.

"Greg has a country feel to his guitar playing," explained Sergeant Pinard. "That balances out nicely with my rock and roll style. Our styles have also influenced each other's playing."

While the band worked out their musical details with their newly acquired second guitarist, Sergeant Pinard was signing on the band's back-up vocals known as the 'Downettes' — his wife Laura Pinard and Staff Sgt. Monique Shelton.

"I felt honored when they asked me," said Sergeant Shelton. "I knew there was a lot of talent in this band and to be able to give the music that extra 'umph' to put it over the top is a dream come true."

Mrs. Pinard said she felt the

backing vocals bring an extra dimension to an already explosive band.

"The five guys create incredible music together on their own," she said, "but they say Monique and I add a 'fullness' to the songs we do."

With a recognizable name and a country-rock sound, the band played in front of its main audience, the Holloman community, at the enlisted club. Captain Mathews said he knew the performance was going to be good as soon as the band brought their instruments on stage.

"We had more than 200 people at our first concert in the enlisted club," Captain Mathews said. "It's such a great feeling to play in front of a large crowd. We feed off the energy of the place. That energy is kind of like a wheel because it keeps going and going."

Sergeant Pinard said the main thing that helps the band mesh so well is because they are friends first, band members second.

"We all seem to know each others' strengths and weaknesses," he said. "When we came together as a band, all we needed were instruments in front of us. During the week we are all 'Captains, Sergeants, Sirs and Maams, but on stage, we become Kevin, Dougie Love, Cletus, Heavy D, Jay, and the Downettes."

SECAF History (1985-present)

ACROSS

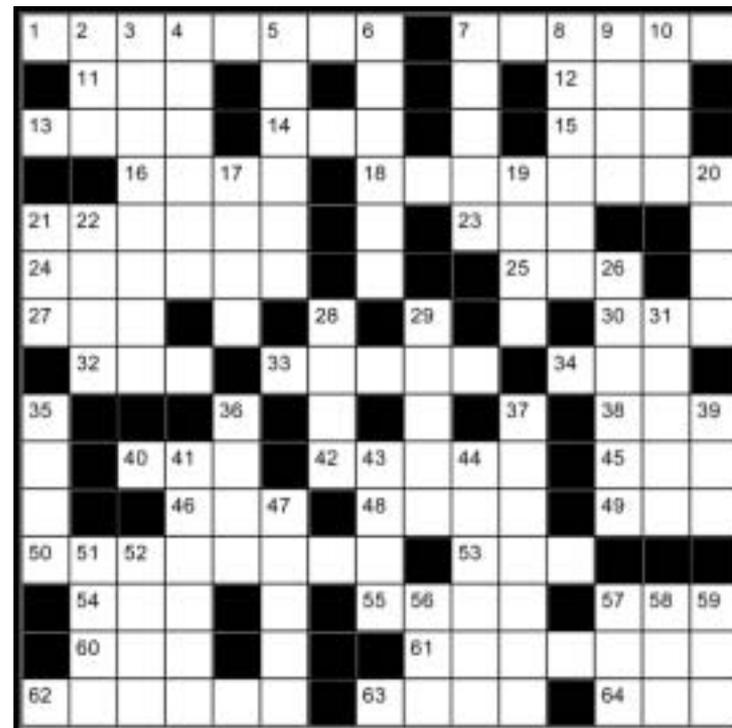
- 1. SECAF 4/8/86-12/16/88
- 7. SECAF 11/1/97-1/20/01
- 11. Former org. concerned with Johnson's 'War on Poverty' (abbrev.)
- 12. Former White House spokesman Fleischer
- 13. Language in Pakistan
- 14. New
- 15. Pen brand
- 16. Russian river
- 18. Actress Turner
- 21. Kennedy's wife
- 23. Behold
- 24. Blood carrier?
- 25. Cash machine
- 27. Tiny
- 30. Corporate head? (abbrev.)
- 32. Compute
- 33. SECAF 6/1/01-present
- 34. Mock
- 38. Make a mistake
- 40. YA-1 aircraft (abbrev.)
- 42. Spiny plants
- 45. USAF org. concerned with

intel.

- 46. Untested
 - 48. Timber
 - 49. Legend (as in map)
 - 50. SECAF 12/16/88-4/29/89 (acting)
 - 53. NYSE symbol for Fannie Mae
 - 54. Deployed USAF wing (abbrev.)
 - 55. Treaty governing US forces overseas (abbrev.)
 - 57. Terminate
 - 60. British equivalent to Special Forces
 - 61. SECAF 1/21/01-5/31/01 (acting)
 - 62. Separate grain
 - 63. Part of the foot
 - 64. Golf prop
- DOWN
- 2. Military punishment (abbrev.)
 - 3. Took away
 - 4. SECAF 12/1/85-4/7/86
 - 5. SECAF 1/20/93-7/13/93 (act-

ing)

- 6. Conjured up
- 7. Trousers
- 8. Pill
- 9. Great Lake
- 10. SECAF 5/1/89-1/20/93
- 17. Broadcasts
- 19. Entropy, in a way
- 20. Emperor who let Rome burn?
- 21. Mandible
- 22. Region
- 26. SECAF 7/14/93-8/5/93 (acting)
- 28. Military commissioning source (abbrev.)
- 29. 70s TV show _____ and the Man
- 31. Scary
- 35. Military living area
- 36. Member of ethnic group in the Balkans
- 37. SECAF 8/6/93-10/31/97
- 39. Type of fish in the shark family
- 41. Skim



- 43. Plant bristles
- 44. Chewy candy
- 47. SECAF 4/29/89-5/21/89 (acting)
- 51. Currency
- 52. Equipment
- 56. Lyrical poem
- 57. Tolkien character
- 58. Formerly
- 59. Stain

DoD officials discuss new civilian system in open letter

by Jim Garamone
American Forces
Press Service

A letter signed by Defense Department leaders asks DoD civilian employees to be patient as teams work to make the new National Security Personnel System a reality.

The April 1 letter, signed by David S.C. Chu, undersecretary for personnel and readiness, and Navy Secretary Gordon England, stresses that DoD sees the new personnel system as a combined effort.

The system, passed as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, allows DoD officials to transform the civilian personnel system to make it more agile and responsive.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the new system would make it easier for the department to make new hires and keep highly skilled employees. It also would allow DoD to move workers to shortage spe-

cialties as national security concerns change, he said.

In the letter, Mr. Chu and Secretary England state, "We are determined to take the time necessary to do the job right."

Taking time will allow the department to consult with employees, managers and unions, a DoD spokeswoman said. The letter encourages people interested in the system to present their thoughts, ideas, views and concerns.

Department officials are also working with other government agencies as they develop the new system. They are consulting with people at the Office of Personnel Management, the Office of Management and Budget and the Government Accounting Office as the new system takes shape. They are also taking lessons from the Department of Homeland Security, which built its own personnel system after it was formed last year.

Five teams within DoD are

looking at process, personnel, programs, requirements and communications, officials said. A sixth team will draw recommendations from these five together in one package. That proposal is scheduled to be presented to Secretary Rumsfeld and other senior leaders in April.

Once approved, senior leaders will work with Congress on implementing the system.

Mr. Chu and Secretary England said that the system still is being formed, and few details about how the system would work are available because there is no system yet. Concepts and proposals will change over time and department leaders will do their best to keep employees informed, they said.

Information will be available on the DoD and DefendAmerica Web sites, the Pentagon Channel and local commanders' television programs. The new system also has its own Web site.

Holloman Salutes



The following technical sergeants completed the NCO academy April 1 with Class

2004-03:

49th Contracting Sq.

Thomas Connors

49th Communications Sq.

William Feltman

49th Security Forces Sq.

William Hutto

49th Materiel Maintenance Sq.

Robert James

49th Maintenance Operations Sq.

James Knueppel

49th Civil Engineer Sq.

Rick Varela

9th Fighter Sq.

Philip Westfall

4th Space Control Sq.

Eric Kastner

Bryan Lucas

Detachment 10, 372nd Training Sq.

Marshall Starr

49th Aircraft Maintenance Sq.

Susan Ozturk

49th Maintenance Group

Cooney Sarracino

46th Test Group

William Jenkins

49th Maintenance Sq.

Kenneth Allen

Thomas Fitts

Dean Nolander

William Wise

Award recipients from Holloman AFB were:

Academic Achievement Award: Tech. Sgt. Dean Nolander

Commandant's Award Nominee: Tech. Sgt. William Hutto

Distinguished Graduate: Tech. Sgt. Dean Nolander and Tech. Sgt. William Hutto



Photos by Senior Airman Martha Whipple



Two for one

Mr. V.K. Teofilo, Apache Mesa Golf Course assistant manager, sets up a trick shot during the First Term Airman's Center Services Day April 2. The 49th Services Squadron and FTAC teamed up to show new-to-Holloman Airmen the activities the squadron offers. The Airmen also visited the Auto Skills Center, Consolidated Skills Center, Desert Lanes Bowling Center and other 49th Services Squadron facilities.

Band brings harmony to U.S., Russian relations

by Staff Sgt. M. Davis

435th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band's Check Six ensemble was music to Russian ears March 31 as they entertained and fostered relations between the United States and Russia.

The command's premier band served as musical ambassadors helping the U.S. Consulate General celebrate its 10-year anniversary here.

For many Russians, it was the first time seeing U.S. servicemembers, said Maj. Scott Guidry, USAFE Band commander.

"Part of our band's mission is to win the hearts and minds of people; we're in the business of influence," Major Guidry said. "People here don't know what to expect of American military members, so for them to see musicians helps open doors."

Since their military is structured differently from the United States, many Russians have never seen non-commissioned officers who perform complex tasks and take on significant responsibilities, he said.

"They are not used to seeing professional NCOs and are amazed at what our people can do," Major Guidry said. "We are a microcosm of the rest of the Air Force. The confidence, professionalism and excellence we bring to people is a reflection of the entire force. We have a talented group of NCOs and Airmen, and I'm very proud of them."

The diplomatic importance of the trip was incredible, Major Guidry said.

"We are here representing a lot of things — USAFE, military members in Europe and the United States," he said. "Although traveling to foreign countries is routine for us, this trip is different, because it's a place we didn't tour too often in the past."

Keeping the band on the same sheet of music was Tech. Sgt. Bill King's job. Sergeant King is an alto saxophonist and the NCO in charge of the band.

"It took a lot of coordination and planning to ensure things went smoothly," Sergeant King said. "But overall, everything went well, and the event was successful."

As his first trip to Russia, Sergeant King said he was

not sure what to expect of the country's people and culture. "I was surprised about how friendly the people were and how receptive they were of us," he said. "We really enjoyed playing for them and watching their positive reaction to our music."

Nine years ago, Tech. Sgt. Cully Joyce, the band's tenor saxophonist, helped the city celebrate the U.S. consulate's first anniversary here.

"Everything is more open and has more western influence now. The city has grown into a large metropolitan area," Sergeant Joyce said.

Although things have changed, one thing remains the same, he said.

"The people here are still very warm and friendly. They have a lot of pride in their country and are very hospitable," he said.

Sergeant Joyce's wife, Staff Sgt. Krista Joyce, who is the band's vocalist, said the choice of music was important.

"On trips like these, we are diplomats — and that is a great reason for being in the band," the singer said. "Much of the music we play is from the (World War) II era, which is a lot of feel-good music. Many people here could relate to that kind of music. It was also a good way to put people in a military uniform in front of a crowd in a nonthreatening sort of way to make a friendly presence known."

As part of Check Six, the singer said she loves traveling with her husband during the band's trips. "Seeing and experiencing things together is part of the fun," she said. "We would hate to be separated."

During the concert, the U.S. ambassador to the Russian Federation, Alexander Vershbow, was more than a spectator — he was a guest drummer.

"It was great playing with the band. They played excellent music and had fantastic arrangements," said Ambassador Vershbow, who once played with comedian Bob Hope during a morale tour for military troops. "I was very pleased they could come (here) to join in the celebration. It was fitting that they play at the 10th anniversary."

The event was Irina Karimova's first time to a concert featuring American performers, and she said she was pleased with what she heard.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marie Cassetty

Staff Sgt. Krista Joyce sings with a U.S. Air Forces in Europe band during the 10-year anniversary celebration of the U.S. Consulate General at Yekaterinburg, Russia March 31.

"Many of the melodies were familiar to me, and I really enjoyed them all. The band was really great," Ms. Karimova said. She is an advertising director at a local agency. "This was a really nice intercultural exchange. We really enjoy American music, and it was a great way to enjoy the country's culture through its music."

Check Six is a 13-piece musical ensemble made of a rhythm section, seven horns, a vocalist and an audio technician.

The ensemble's mission includes preserving and promoting a musical-art form that is strictly unique to the United States — jazz.

They perform for thousands of people during live concerts throughout Europe, Scandinavia and Southwest Asia, not just for foreigners, but for U.S. servicemembers too, Major Guidry said.

During this trip, Check Six also played concerts at Chelyabinsk and Magnitogorsk, Russia.

Road closures

In support of the ongoing construction of new housing units, a section of Martin Avenue will be closed from Monday to May 21. The affected closure is from the intersection of Fairchild Drive to Patrick Avenue as contractors will connect the new housing to the base utility lines.

There will also be detours that will affect residents of Martin Avenue, Eglin Place, Patrick Avenue, Lockheed Avenue, Hughes Avenue, Andrews Drive, Langley Court, Kirtland Place, Griffis Court, Nellis Place, Keesler Court, Lea Loop, Boeing Avenue, Luna Loop, Hidalgo Loop, Otero Loop, Sierra Loop, Sierra Place, and Torrence Place.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Stacy Nimmo at 572-5832.

Earth Day fair

The 10th annual Community Earth Day Fair is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 24 inside the Alameda Park Zoo. There will be live cultural entertainment all day, a release of 1,500 butterflies, a science fair and more. Admission is free.

For more information, call Mr. Chuck Galusha at 434-6296.

ALS graduation

Airman Leadership School Class 04-D will have their graduation banquet April 29 in the Oasis Enlisted Club ballroom.

Commanders, first sergeants, supervisors, family and friends are invited to join the graduates in celebrating. Contact an ALS student for an invitation. The menu is slow roasted chicken or vegetable lasagna for \$13 for club members and \$15 for non-members. Make reservations with a student by Friday.

Re-enlistment bonuses

Some Air Force career fields will see a change in selective re-enlistment bonuses.

For more information call the re-enlistment and extension office at 572-3373.

Softball tournament

The "Dust'em Off Softball Tourney" is April 17 and 18 at the Holloman softball fields. This is a hit-your-own-ball (.47 core) tournament. The entry fee is \$75 per team and teams must register by Tuesday. This is a non-sanctioned tournament.

For more information, contact James Jackson at (505) 639-1665 or Joey Cocking at (505) 442-9429.

Armed Forces Day

The third annual Armed Forces Day and Emergency Services Expo is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 8 at Young Park in Las Cruces.

For more information, call Ms. Jennifer Billings at (505) 382-6416.

Job openings

The 49th Services Squadron has job openings ranging from entry level to management positions. Look for current position listings at www.hollmanservices.com, or call the 49th Services Squadron Human Resource Office at 572-5454.

Chili cook-off

Holloman Middle School's National Junior Honor Society and the Parent Teacher Activity Committee are sponsoring a chili cook-off from 1 to 4 p.m., April 17 in the 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 Silvia Papp at 479-3033 or Crystal Calloway at 479-0263.

Cooler conversion

The conversion from heaters to evaporative coolers is Thursday to April 130. Someone age 18 or older must be home during the conversion. If this isn't possible, residents can call to reschedule after April 24.

The conversion schedule is:
Thursday: 2210A-2227D and 2400-2415B; **Friday:** 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 office's service call desk at 572-7901.

Holy Week schedule

Catholic schedule:



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Raising the roof

Rafael Garcia, a foreman with Allen Roofing Company Inc., helps roofer Ernest Rangel frame a section of the base theater's new roof. The total cost of the project is \$312,000 and is scheduled to be completed today.

Today: A day of fast and abstinence, no daily Mass, Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3 p.m.

- Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass, 8 p.m.; reception in the annex.

- Sunday: Easter Mass, 9 a.m., Easter egg hunt immediately following Mass, no CCD, no 5 p.m. Mass.

Protestant schedule:

- Sunday: Sunrise service at White Sands National Monument Park, 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast at the chapel annex; Easter service, 11 a.m.

Re-enlistment ceremony

Senior Master Sgt. Brad Truver's re-enlistment ceremony is 9 a.m., Thursday in Fire Station one, building 304.

Red Cross classes

The Red Cross schedule of classes is:
 • Babysitters class: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat-

urday at the Holloman Community Center. Cost is \$30.

- Community first aid and safety: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 17. Cost is \$40.

- Adult CPR: 1 to 3 p.m., April 20. Cost is \$20.

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

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

Graduation

Graduation for students receiving degrees from the Community College of the Air Force, Central Texas College, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Park University, Troy State University and the University of Phoenix is at 2 p.m., April 23 in the Oasis Enlisted Club. All are welcome.

For more information, contact the Education Center at 572-3971.

On the BIG SCREEN



Twister (R)
6 and 9 p.m., today

Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen (PG)
6 and 9 p.m., Saturday

Eurotrip (R)
6 p.m., Sunday
For a limited time, tickets are 99 cents.

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

Shooting match

The Otero Practical Shooting Association has a High-Power Rifle Shooting Match at 9 a.m., Saturday at the Sydney Paul Gordon Shooting Range in La Luz. The match is open to the public. Sign up is at 8:30 a.m.

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

Comedy show

Nationally known singer/comedian Broderick Rice will perform at 7 p.m., May 1 at Christian Joy Center Church in El Paso, Texas, 1208 Sumac Dr. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Christian Joy Center Alamogordo, 1502 East 10th St. and Star of the Morning Christian Book Store, 1508 East 10th St. Children 2 and under are free. The event is limited seating and there is an additional charge at the door.

For more information call the Christian Joy Center Church at (915) 595-1307.

Relay for life

Relay for Life meetings will be held at the community cen-

ter on from 1 to 2 p.m., Wednesdays in April. The Relay for Life event starts April 30. Register for a team for \$10 (each team member) and receive a free T-shirt as a gift.

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

Tax help

Free income tax preparation and electronic transmission help is available from noon to 4 p.m., today at the Sgt. Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center on First Street. No appointment is needed.

For more information, call 439-4154.

Ranch hike

There is a Dog Canyon Ranch House Hike from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday. Meet at visitors center for a hike to the Oliver Lee Ranch House and back.

This 4-mile walk is not vigorous, but plan on at least 3 hours for the walk and Ranch House tour. Topics discussed will be the desert shrub community and early ranching history.

Take of water and snacks. Wear comfortable sturdy shoes and sun protection. Friendly pets are welcome but they must stay leashed while on park property and remain outside during the Ranch House tour.

For more information, call 437-8284.

Speech group

Toastmaster's, a group that helps people polish up on speaking and speech making skills, meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the CAPPED center, 907 New York Ave.

Free license to OIF vets

New Mexico members of the armed forces who were called up for active duty associated with the Iraq are eligible to receive a free general hunting and fishing license under a state law passed in 2003.

The active duty assignment must have required travel beyond New Mexico's borders and is valid for one year.

"Since the law is not clear about restricting this to Reserve and Guard members, we will provide this benefit to active duty members as well, as long as they meet New Mexico residency requirements," said Patrick Block, a New Mexico Game and Fish Department spokesman.

The law states the license is available for the year following the year of the member's deactivation, but those who are eligible may receive them when they are ready, said Block.

"The Department wants to meet the spirit and intent of the law by issuing the licenses when requested rather than making customers wait until the next license year begins," he said.

The free licenses are only available through department offices in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Roswell, Las Cruces and Raton.





Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Pushing for results

Airman 1st Class Keith Spier, 49th Materiel Maintenance Support Squadron utilities specialist, hammers out pushups for the Air Force fitness test Tuesday while being tested by 49th MMSS readiness flight chief, Senior Master Sgt. John Etter. Airmen from the 49th MMSS who were on waiver during February's wing-wide fitness test completed their testing requirements Tuesday.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Training for the Bundesliga

Midfielder Frank Kremer (left), 2nd Line Maintenance Squadron, German Air Force, maneuvers the ball in front of Electronic Maintenance Squadron, German Air Force, midfielder Dietmar Ullmeier during a soccer tournament championship game at the base astroturf field Wednesday. The EMS team defeated 2nd MXS 1-0.

There can only be one champion

MXS loses game one of championship to win final game by 4

by Airman 1st Class
Stephen Collier

49th Fighter Wing Wing Public
Affairs

The 49th Civil Engineer Squadron squeaked by the 49th Maintenance Squadron 38-34 in game one of the intramural basketball championship Monday night at the Fitness and Sports Center.

MXS's players came on strong in first half with back-to-back layups by forward Ron Denson and forward Kyle Barnhardt. MXS guard Tubious Shipp followed his teammates with a three pointer to put the team ahead by five.

CES trailed, but a layup by forward James Denson and a long three pointer by forward Jorley Vivo help put their team ahead by one. Down by two, MXS pulled ahead with a jump shot by Barnhardt to finish out the half 16-15.

CES guard John Sellers, leading his team with four points at the half, said his team needed to limit the MXS offensive rebounds.

"We've got to tighten up our

offense," Sellers said. "We need to box out their defenders and put points on the board."

The score stayed within two as the three pointers continued to flow by MXS's Denson. CES forward Theodore Rayon sank two



MXS Forward Ron Denson drives around CES guard Kendrill Jackson in game one of the intramural basketball championship.

consecutive jump shots to edge his team over MXS by one, 27-26. As both teams battled and tempers flared, a restless CES bench was called for a technical foul. MXS's Barnhardt went to the line, making one of the two shots to put his team ahead 28-27.

With three minutes remaining, CES answered back with a three pointer by guard Jacob Garcia. Barnhardt went back to the line for MXS and sank one more foul shot, putting them down by just one. The clock wound down as CES's Garcia went to the line twice to prop his team upward by two due to a technical called on MXS center Akenty Frazer to put CES up 36-34.

With two seconds remaining, CES closed out the game 38-34 with guard Leo Calloway sinking two foul shots to advance to the final game of the championship.

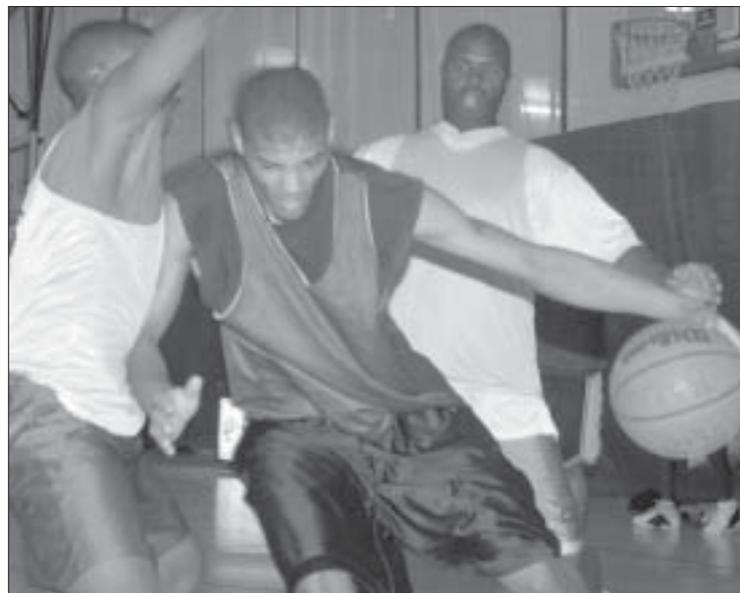
CES's Garcia was his team's top scorer with eight points. Teammate Theodore Rayon followed with six.

Both teams battled once more in game two. CES's Calloway and Sellers poured on

the layups in the first half while MXS's Frazer had a big layup through CES defenders for the foul. MXS went into the second half up by only one, 22-21.

The action continued as MXS guard Kevin Louther and Shipp both tacked on eight

points in the second half. CES suffered from a eight-point gap, but Sellers rocketed his team back with a three pointer and six additional points. Regardless of the final effort, CES fell short in the championship game and lost 51-47.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

MXS Guard Tobious Shipp pushes for the basket as CES guard John Sellers blocks overhead. CES defeated MXS by four in game one, moving them on to the second game where they lost 51-47.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Might as well jump!

Master Sgt. Louie Birkholz, 49th Mission Support Squadron Air National Guard recruiter, jumps back and forth over an aerobic step Tuesday morning during unit physical training. Maj. Jerome Gittens, 49th MSS commander, changed the squadron's PT routine to include cardio and physical strength training to improve overall scores on the Air Force fitness test. 49th MSS troops also participate in stations, wind sprints and competitive relays.



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 shoppette.
- 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.

Holloman Woman of Merit shines in community

I wish to nominate Shari L. Scott as a "Woman of Merit". She has lived in Alamogordo for the last 23 years and has been an active citizen in the Alamogordo Community.

She and her late husband, Don Scott, operated Radio Communications a business that has provided two-way radio communications for several private companies, the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation, the Otero County Sheriffs Office, and the local Volunteer Fire Departments in the basin as well as the ones in the Sacramento Mountains.

Don was diagnosed with cancer more than 12 years before his passing. During that time, Shari began to completely take over all of the business of doing business. She began to research Don's cancer and treatments for it, and became quite the expert on cancer in general.

She ensured that Don had the best care, medicine and doctors available. She took him to every appointment, every chemotherapy treatment and was with him through every transfusion, yet always made time to meet every need within the business and whatever her employees needed.

She prepared payroll every week, addressed every issue concerning accounts receivable. She dealt with

customers personally and the business continued to flourish.

Shari made it a point to pursue one of Don's life long dreams ... to have a facility and a tower to support the business assets on Longridge, ridge of the Sacramento Mountain range that overlooks the Tularosa Basin.

This ridge provides an excellent location for radio and television transmissions. After more than 10 years of frustration, Shari was successful in obtaining the proper permits, licensing and property to make Don's dream, and hers, come true.

Although Don never saw the completion of the project, Shari continued to pursue it. In December of 2003 a tower and a building on Longridge was completed. Shari had a plaque of dedication and honor installed within the cement footing of the tower memory of Don.

The countless hours of sitting beside her husband, taking care of him while taking care of the business and family matters are countless.

Her love and dedication to Don, and their family should be an example to all. Shari always had time to attend to family matters with the children. She is a model mother, as well as being a very successful

businessperson; she was a perfect help mate for Don.

Since Dons passing March 2, 2003, Shari has continued to operate the business, be a mother to her son, Bruce, and daughter, Brandi. Shari has always put family first.

It's for these reasons I believe that she is a Woman of Merit. Shari's attitude of "just deal with it" has been inspirational to all who know her.

Her demeanor has always been to be in the background, not wanting to have the lime light, shine on her is indicative of the humbleness that she portrays.

Shari has been such a role model as a lady, a business person, a wife and a mother, for so many that it would only be right to give honor and to respect her by giving her this award.

She so deserves this award. Shari is truly a very remarkable Woman of Merit. **Ted W. Dyer**

*To recognize a Woman of Merit, e-mail the Sunburst at 49fw.pa.sunburst@holloman.af.mil
For more information, contact Diane Adams at 572-3625, Lee Matthews 572-5507 or Donald Larsen at 572-3439.*

