



Photos by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier



Airman 1st Class Jeremy Parthemore, 49th Security Forces Squadron armory technician, inspects the sight on a M-4 rifle after a cleaning. The M-4 is one of the newest weapons in the Air Force's base defense arsenal.



Airman 1st Class Jeremy Parthemore dismantles a M-4 rifle for cleaning. The M-4 is one of the newest weapons in the Air Force's base defense arsenal.

National Police Week gives SFS credit

by Airman 1st Class
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49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

From defending the flight line to guarding installations, they protect the Air Force in several ways. As front-line fighters in the war on terror for every Airman deployed or at their home station, it's just natural they are given one week a year in honor of their sacrifice.

The National Police Week is Monday to May 15. The Peace Officers Memorial Day pays tribute to Federal, state and municipal officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty.

Staff Sgt. Gregory Harper, 49th Security Forces Squadron air base defense trainer and president of the Peacekeeper's Association, a booster organization for the 49th SFS, said the week allows police officers, military and civilian, to demon-

strate to citizens how the law enforcement community serves to protect and keep the peace.

"The nation sets aside an entire week to honor police departments and their fallen comrades," he said. "Not only does it let security forces show Team Holloman members how we serve and protect them, but the rest of the world as well."

Signed into law October 1, 1962 by then President John F. Kennedy, the Peace Officers Memorial Day requires all government facilities to display the American flag at half-mast in remembrance of the fallen. With Holloman flags displayed properly, the Peacekeeper's Association is scheduled to highlight the day at Saturday in the Park with several booths offering more insight into not only the squadron, but into local law enforcement agencies.

"The 49th Security Forces Squadron will be joined with the

Alamogordo Department of Public Safety as well as many other organizations," Sergeant Harper said.

The Peacekeeper's Association has bought several booths for other groups, such as a 82nd Airborne detachment from El Paso to the New Mexico State Police and Department of Transportation to allow them to demonstrate their commitment to the community, he said.

Senior Airman Philip Finch, 49th SFS clerk of reports and analysis and active member of the Peacekeeper's Association, said the National Police Week gives security forces a chance to show its true colors

"The main reason we participate in National Police Week is to try to change people's negative thoughts about security forces," Airman Finch said. "We aren't out there to harass you; we are there to keep you safe at night so your family is pro-

ected. We encourage everyone to come out so we can try to change peoples misconceptions of military police. Just pull a security forces member aside and ask them questions because we are people just like everyone else."

Sergeant Harper added that not only does security forces go above and beyond in protecting military members and their dependents, but Team Holloman members need to be courteous during day-to-day operations.

"All we ask is to just be courteous," Sergeant Harper said. "Security forces members know that security may be an inconvenience from time to time. We just want people to know that there is never a personal vendetta against any Team Holloman member. We are there to protect each and every person."

(Information from this article if from <http://www.nationalcops.org/law.htm>.)



Staff Sgt. Daniel DeRouen, 49th Security Forces Squadron patrol, explains to a Team Holloman member his offense after being cited for speeding.

Airman 1st Class James Hyman, 49th Security Forces Squadron elite gate guard, checks identification cards at the main gate.