

Sunburst



Vol. 47 No. 35

Serving the Holloman Air Force Base community

Thursday, Sept. 2, 2004

Briefly

Party time

The 9th Annual Thanks Team Holloman Party, sponsored by the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce, is from 6 to 10 p.m., Sept. 10 at the park across from the Officers' Club.

There will be a jumping house, jousting, free food and drinks, and more.

Parking is limited so carpool or walk if possible. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair.

Gate hours

The La Luz Gate is open from 6 to 9 a.m., and from 3 to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Vote

The Armed Forces Voter's Week is Friday to Sept. 11. People can register to vote from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday to Sept. 10 at the Base Exchange.

Action needed

People who use government-issued portable electronic devices such as cellular phones, personal digital assistants and text pagers must sign a consent form for telecommunications monitoring.

For more information, contact the Network Control Center Information Assurance flight at 572-3535.

Claims office closed

The claims office will be closed for end of year processing from Sept. 13 to 20. New claims will not be accepted during this time.

For more information, call 572-3625.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Back to school

Airman 1st Class Clint Gateley directs traffic at Holloman Middle School Tuesday. Drivers are reminded the 15-mph school zone is active three times each day.

General sends Labor Day message

The following is a message from Brig. Gen. Kurt Cichowski, 49th Fighter Wing commander:

During the last few years, America has arguably faced possibly some of its toughest challenges since its inception; and the U.S. military has stared them down. America's total force, its active-duty, guard and Reservists, as well as its coalition-partners have led the fight against the War on Terror – just one of our nation's challenges. This Labor Day, remember what America has faced; both the obstacles overcome and the future that lies ahead. Team Holloman has been a part of it all.

The 8th Fighter Squadron's F-117A Nighthawks dropped the first bombs in Baghdad during Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Many Team Holloman members have supported the war abroad and at home. Many are still deployed even now. Many are still scheduled to deploy in the future.

This Labor Day reflect on how far our country has come. Remember the heroes lost, and pray for the ones who are risking their lives for freedom today. Labor Day has been recognized for more than 100 years and celebrates the common American who quietly ensures his part of the over-

all job is done right.

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes an acknowledgment to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Team Holloman continues to contribute to America. We are committing ourselves to use our inspiration to go forth and preserve, protect and defend the United States. We dedicate ourselves to extend this legacy; not just today, but into the 21st century.



High: 90
Low: 58
Friday



High: 90
Low: 58
SATURDAY



High: 88
Low: 60
SUNDAY



High: 88
Low: 58
MONDAY

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

Strive for gold-medal standard

by Lt. Col. H.B. Brual
Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

Over the past week, I've been watching the world's best athletes compete in numerous sporting events at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. During the television coverage of the games and the post-event interviews, I noticed two common themes from the athletes' comments.

First, the competitors worked extremely hard to prepare for the Olympics, and second, they possessed the desire to be the very best in their respective disciplines.

These two themes bring to mind the phenomenal effort and work ethic of our own Airmen and how our people exemplify the third of our Air Force core values, excellence in all we do.

Similar to the world's best athletes, Airmen practice and work hard before they're ever called upon to perform their respective tasks. Regardless of career field,

we can see it in all of our work centers. Take a moment to look around and you can see our Airmen training for the ultimate competition — war, where there is no second place. Bottom line: our Airmen are ready because they work hard during the preparation phase of each operation.

The second theme, the desire to be the best, is reflected in the numerous accolades and awards Airmen have received over the past year.

But it is important to note that we cannot sit on our past accomplishments, expecting to receive the same laurels and awards without the hard work and sacrifice necessary to be the very best.

Maurice Green ran the men's 100-meter race in 9.87 seconds, a time equal to his gold-winning performance in the 2000 Olympic Games. Four years later, that same time was only good enough for bronze. The competition continues to improve, and to stay at the top, we must as well.

Teddy Roosevelt was giving a speech at the Sorbonne in Paris and he said, "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly."

It is Airmen who deploy, maintain our planes and missiles, and provide security for these great weapons. It is Airmen who preserve our freedom and way of life. And unlike the Olympics, where athletes compete in fields of friendly strife, we serve in a more dangerous and exacting environment.

Our great nation expects — no, deserves — the very best from all of us, because we cannot afford to receive anything but the gold medal. Therefore, we must continue to improve and strive for excellence in all we do.

DUI Update

Days since last DUI **9**
 DUIs this year **29**
 This week last year **16**

Last six DUIs

- 49 AMXS Aug. 24
- GAF Aug. 7
- 49 SFS July 25
- 746 TS July 18
- 49 AMXS July 2
- 49 SVS June 23

* Dependent

572-RIDE works!

Calls made are lives saved

686 Saves this year
24 Saves this week



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Next STEP

Tech. Sgt. Nickolette Reynolds, 49th Operations Support Squadron airfield management training, received Stripes for Exceptional Performers Aug. 27.



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Photos by Mr. Mark Sprayberry

Left to right: Mr. Jerry McDermott, Brig. Gen. Kurt Cichowski, Edward Santelia and Lt. Col. Mark Drinkard cut the ribbon to the new experienced riders' course Tuesday.

New course opens

by Senior Airman
Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The motorcycle training program had a ribbon cutting ceremony Tuesday to open its new experienced riders' course at the balloon operations launch pad at the west area of the base.

The course builds riders' skills in high-speed maneuvering, quick swerving, avoidance techniques, counter steering, traction control, emergency braking for curves and riding on slippery surfaces.

According to the motorcycle training program manager, Tech. Sgt. Dianne Mula, the class allows riders to use their own equipment. It gets away from the classroom-style training and into a hands-on course which allows riders to improve skills while riding their own bikes.

For more information about the base training, call the motorcycle safety program manager, Sergeant Mula, at 572-3971. More free classes will be scheduled in the future. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation also offers the class off base for \$65.



A rider practices steering maneuvers during the motorcycle training program's first class at the new experienced riders' course. The course opened at the balloon operations launch pad Tuesday.

Mentors teach PRIDE to Holloman students

by Ms. Laura Hunt
Sunburst staff writer

Volunteers are needed for the Falcon and Eagle PRIDE programs, which are held monthly beginning in October.

Eagle PRIDE, for third through fifth graders, and Falcon PRIDE, for sixth through eighth graders, are mentoring programs designed to assist Holloman's students with civic and social development, said Ms. Silvia Papp, program coordinator.

Mentors teach the core values of perseverance, respect, integrity, determination and excellence, she said.

"PRIDE creates a focus and vision for the students and school staff as well as for the community members who are involved," Ms. Papp said. "It builds a bridge between school and community, which is vital for the development of our students."

The program also gives volunteers an opportunity to develop their leadership skills, she said. Anyone in the community can be involved.

"A good volunteer is a person who is comfortable talking to the kids," Ms. Papp said. "They should be able to influence them to follow the core values of PRIDE."

Staff Sgt. Hilario Torres, PRIDE volunteer, mentored eighth graders last year and is volunteering again this year.

"I liked the interaction with the kids," Sergeant Torres said. "It was amazing to see how smart and attentive they really are."

One session Sergeant Torres taught was on respect.

"I told them that not only did they have to respect their elders, parents, teachers and people in authority, but respect what they do on a daily basis," he said. "The example I used was not taking responsibility for their

actions when throwing away trash or seeing trash around school."

Sergeant Torres gave the students homework for that month. He asked them to pick up one piece of trash a day for the entire month.

"Most of the students followed it, and I think they learned a valuable lesson," Sergeant Torres said. "Some also mentioned to me that they couldn't believe how much trash was around and inside the school.

"My lesson made them aware and responsible for their actions and respectful of what they have," Sergeant Torres said.

About 70 mentors are needed for the PRIDE program. Mentoring sessions last 30 minutes once a month and mentors receive a lesson plan provided by Ms. Papp.

For more information, e-mail Ms. Papp at silviapapp2003@yahoo.com.

Safety is critical year-round

by Capt. Danny Roper
49th Medical Group

We have left the 101 critical days of summer, but we are continuing the thousands of days that make up a child's life. We've been reminded to watch out for other peoples' children. Let's take a moment to look out for our own children.

The Holloman Air Force Base supplement to AFI 31-204 states that bicyclists, roller bladders, skateboarders, and other manually operated vehicle operators "must wear American National Standards Institute-approved or Snell Memorial Foundation-approved helmet while operating." The instruction states roller blades, skateboards, scooters and motorized scooters are prohibited on all main

roadways: First Street, New Mexico Avenue, Delaware Avenue, Sabre Road, and 49er Avenue.

In the last few weeks we have observed a number of children riding on main roadways and operating bicycles without helmets or wearing helmets improperly. A properly worn helmet is square on the child's head with the chin strap securely fastened.

Each year 67,000 bicyclists are taken to the emergency department with head injuries. A brain injury can affect an entire family for life. Half of the bicycle accident deaths that occur are children under 15 years of age. It is estimated that cyclists' brain injuries can be reduced by 45 to 88 percent by simply wearing a helmet. A helmet is a cheap way to save



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Gregg Jackson, 9, rides his bike to school Tuesday morning. Gregg is wearing his helmet properly, square on the head with the chin strap securely fastened.

your child injury or death. Remember, every day is critical in the life of a child.

Germans honor surgeon general

by **G.W. Pomeroy**

*Air Force Surgeon General
Public Affairs*

The German Ministry of Defense has awarded the Gold Cross of Honor of the Bundeswehr to Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) George Peach Taylor Jr., for his ongoing contributions to the German aviation medicine community.

Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Erich Roedig, the German air force's surgeon general, presented the award during a Pentagon ceremony Aug. 13. Dr. Taylor is the fourth member of the Defense Department to receive the award since its inception in 1980, said officials at the German embassy.

During the ceremony, Dr. Roedig said that Dr. Taylor had "shown a very special commitment" to the German aeromedical evacuation community dating back to June 1997 when he was command surgeon for U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

"It is an incredible honor to be recognized by Germany," Dr. Taylor said. "It has been my fortune to have been in the position to facilitate a stronger aeromedical medical alliance between our two countries.

"One of the great things about medicine is that the science and art crosses all international boundaries," he said. "Taking care of those who are placed in harm's way remains a fantastic privilege, one that is not unique to Air Force medicine, but is in the heart and soul of the medical forces of all nations."

Dr. Taylor's efforts "proved to have a highly positive influence on the planning and development of the aeromedical evacuation now utilized in Germany," Dr. Roedig said.

He also said that since Dr. Taylor returned to the United States from USAFE, he has

maintained close contact with the German aviation medicine community.

He cited "intense exchange of information and opinions," especially within the NATO's aeromedical working group, which greatly enhanced the training of German pilots in the United States.

Dr. Roedig said that Dr. Taylor also had a "very positive influence" on two key NATO working groups: the advisory group for aerospace research and development, and the research and technology organization.

Dr. Taylor's role with the groups "not only led to NATO-wide homogeneity in some areas but also resulted in some positive influences at the national level," Dr. Roedig said.

The surgeon general was also credited with aeromedical-related successes at U.S.-based locales of bilateral training at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. and Holloman.

"These efforts are dedicated to the development and promotion of the existing cooperative partnership between the aviation medicine administrations of the U.S. Air Force and German air force," Dr. Roedig said.

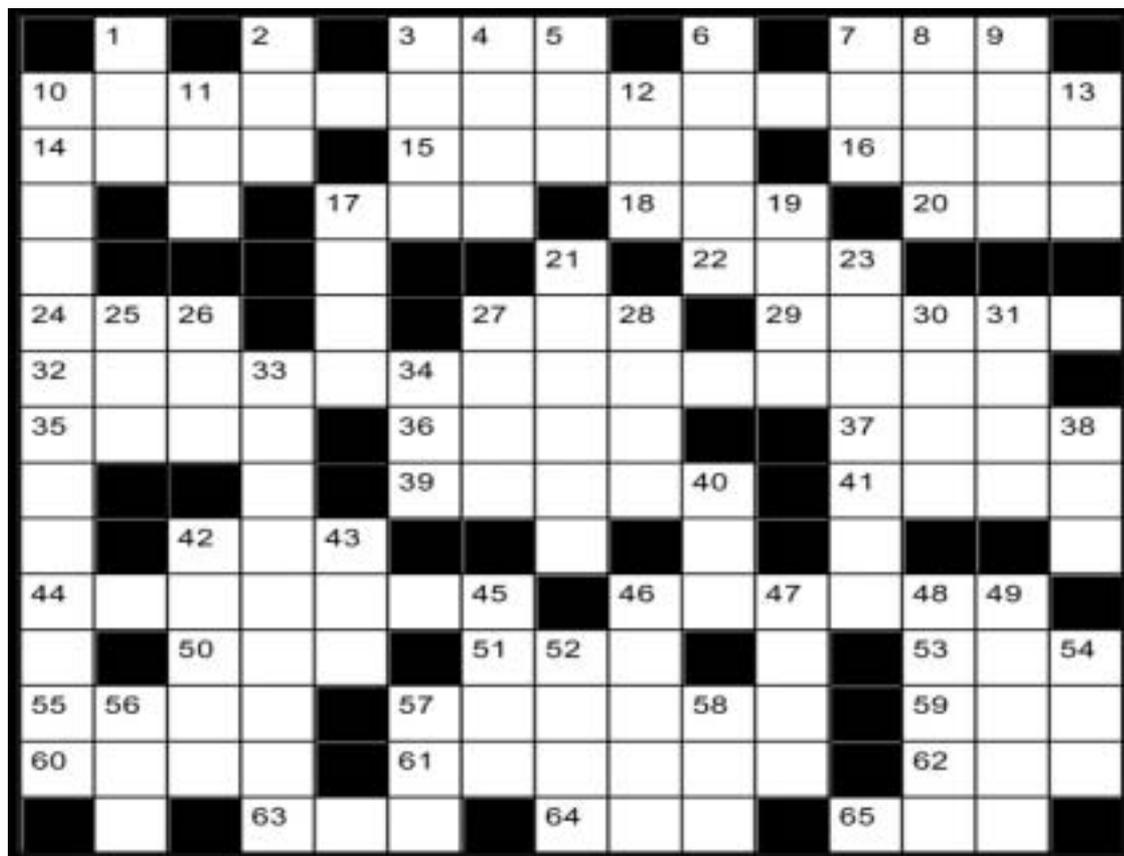
Dr. Taylor "has done the German-American friendship a great service," Dr. Roedig said.

Drs. Roedig and Taylor visited Holloman in April to evaluate German and American relations in the medical field.

Both said they were pleased with quality medical care and combined missions.

"The hospitality extended to the German families doesn't go unnoticed. The Germans are friends among friends at Holloman and in the Alamogordo community," Dr. Roedig said. "In the future, when the German soldiers and their families return to Germany, they will be ambassadors for America."

CROSSWORD



Deploying the Force

ACROSS

3. Mascot for University of Georgia
 7. One's fortune in life; fate
 10. What a C-Bag is for (two words)
 14. Capital of Norway
 15. Honeydew or water
 16. VIP
 17. Person who interprets 3 DOWN
 18. Dame
 20. Mining goal
 22. Sass
 24. Order with motto 'For God and the Empire', briefly
 27. Exclamation of discovery
 29. Peninsula of southeast Asia
 32. Necessity for deploying members to take care of families (3 words)
 35. Pal
 36. Snakelike fishes
 37. Law to enforce during war
 39. Queried
 41. Sports channel
 42. Diving sea bird of northern regions
 44. MREs to deploying troops
 46. Military org. concerned with deploying members' records
 50. Alcoholic beverage made with rye and berries
 51. Columbus, OH school

53. Picnic pest

55. At the home of; at or by

57. Loves

59. 3 in old Rome

60. Ripped

61. Concern of all deploying service members, commanders

62. Rules to observe during wartime

63. Primary, secondary or hasty; spots to fight from, in short

64. Part of a circle

65. Wear, as in a gas mask

DOWN

1. VCR tape

2. Military org. for moving supplies, household goods

3. Mil. law applicable at all times, everywhere

4. Mother Earth

5. Everything

6. Of, relating to, or prescribing punishment, as in 3 DOWN

7. Pay statement needed for deployment

8. Aware of, as in a criminal activity (two words)

9. Former Russian ruler

10. Rules to observe when captured (3 words)

11. Large North American deer

12. Tag given to service members

13. Previous to; before

17. Dirt

19. Hobble

21. Deployment assignments

23. Items used to move cargo on aircraft for deployments

25. Mil. pay entitlement on 7 DOWN

26. Flightless bird

27. Hole-in-ones

28. Rear end (British slang)

30. Country of southeast Asia

31. Catch a wink; take _ _ _

33. What members must be before deploying

34. Vote of agreement

38. CSAF's naval equivalent

40. Name in legal proceedings to designate an unknown

42. Ire

43. Barbie's pal

45. Cola

46. Containing less extraneous than most

47. Having pink or red color

48. Capital of Egypt

49. Edible bulb vegetable

52. Accord between foreign gov't and US for handling troops

54. Even

56. Spicy

57. Cleopatra killer

58. And so forth, briefly

Answers on Page 10



The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents from Aug. 24 to Monday.

Tickets

Security forces issued 7 tickets: two for inoperable license plate lights, one for no proof of registration, one for no proof of insurance, one for inoperable tail lamp, one for license plate not visible and one for speeding 10 to 15 mph over the speed limit.

Property loss, damage or theft

Aug. 26 – An NCO reported a crack in the windshield of a government-owned vehicle.

Aug. 27 – A family member reported four rings were stolen from her house on Socorro Loop. The rings are valued at \$1,100.

Aug. 27 – A contractor reported damage to a privately owned vehicle..

Aug. 27 – There was a minor accident in the parking lot of building 340 when a driver backed his POV into a fixed object.

Aug. 27 – A family member reported damaged to her POV at the community center.

Aug. 27 – There was a minor accident at the main gate when a driver hit a pole as he was turning into the search area.

Patrol response

• Aug. 27 – An NCO reported his neighbor's dog is left unattended with no shelter 24 hours a day.

• Aug. 27 – An Airman found a bag of what appeared to be marijuana on the ground

next to his vehicle in the parking lot of the shoppette.

• Aug. 28 – A family member reported she was involved in a verbal dispute with another family member on Mora Loop.

Civil Arrest

• Aug. 25 – An Airman was arrested by the Alamogordo Department of Public Safety for driving under the influence.

• Aug. 29 – A civilian was arrested at the main gate for driving under the influence.

Scam alert

Although no instances of identity theft or credit card fraud have been identified, people continue to try to collect sensitive credit card and other personal account information. In a recent scam, a caller alleges to be calling all Department of Defense personnel to offer a free government grant of about \$8,000 to help pay off personal debts. The caller may have your address, home and work telephone numbers and age. The caller may ask your bank name, routing number and credit card number for identification. Never provide this type information over the telephone unless you initiated the call and know exactly with whom you are talking.

If you have any information concerning any of these incidents, contact security forces at 572-7171 or your first sergeant. For the Crime Stop Help Line, please contact security forces at 572-1100 or dial "911."

Saved by the belt

by Ms. Laura Hunt
Sunburst staff writer

Many Team Holloman members walk or jog in the evening, and low-light conditions can make it difficult for drivers to see people in the street. However, people who walk or run during these conditions can take a few precautions to keep themselves safe.

According to Holloman's supplement to Air Force Instruction 31-204, joggers must wear reflective belts from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise and during hours of reduced visibility. Pedestrians and joggers are required to wear light colored or reflective clothing when they're out at night.

Reflective belts help drivers see pedestrians or joggers sooner and decrease the chance of an accident, according to Tech. Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 49th Security Forces Plans NCO.

"It's just a common sense

approach to being more visible in low light conditions," he said. "Most accidents occur 30 minutes to an hour before and after sunlight. Reflective belts and clothing let drivers know there is someone there."

The AFI also states that joggers can't wear headphones, earphones or other listening devices on base.

"Pedestrians and joggers need to be aware of what's going on around them," Sergeant Sullivan said. "Emergency vehicles may be approaching with sirens blaring and those drivers will expect folks to hear and get out of the way."

When walking in the street, pedestrians should walk along the roadway facing oncoming traffic. However, the best way to prevent an accident is to stay out of the street whenever possible, Sergeant Sullivan said.

"Cars don't drive on sidewalks," he said. "So we ask pedestrians to use them as much as they can."

Fitness policy revised

by Ms. Laura Hunt
Sunburst staff writer

There are changes to Holloman's Civilian Fitness Policy, which authorizes Air Combat Command civilian employees to take up to three hours each week to exercise.

The original policy, issued Dec. 2, 2003 by Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt, former 49th Fighter Wing commander, required that civilians report to work before and after exercising. The new policy eliminates that requirement.

According to a letter by Brig. Gen. Kurt Cichowski, 49th Fighter Wing commander, the rest of the fitness policy will remain the same.

The policy reflects Air Force policy encouraging employees to adopt healthy lifestyles to enhance mission effectiveness.

"A healthy workforce is a more productive workforce," said Blaine Jackson, 49th Mis-

sion Support Squadron Civilian Personnel officer. "By giving civilians excused absence for exercise and not making them take leave or compensation time, it encourages them to remain physically fit."

Employees must accomplish certain program requirements to be eligible for this program. They must formally request authorization to participate in the program from their supervisor. Physical activities are restricted to on-base facilities.

As mission permits, commanders will determine the employees' use of time off for exercise activities.

Physical exercise activities must be performed on base or in base facilities. Activities that offer minimal benefits such as golf, softball and bowling are excluded from this program.

Details are available at <https://wwwmil.holloman.af.mil/sptg/mss/civpers/index.htm>.



Photo by Tech Sgt Scott Reed

Major Robert York, 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility aeromedical specialist at Balad Air Base, Iraq, examines a wounded soldier June 11. The CASF is a staging area where patients are cleared for transport to a major medical facility.

Doctor saves lives, brings hope

by Ms. Libby Strauder
for the Sunburst

For most American doctors, an antiseptic work environment, state-of-the-art medical equipment and regular rounds of golf are an everyday part of life. But nothing could be further from reality for Major Robert York, Jr., SME Flight Surgeon for the 8th Fighter Squadron, deployed in support of 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group in Balad Air Base, Iraq.

“I’m basically practicing cave-man medicine out here,” Major York said. “We’ve got sand everywhere and to keep things interesting, insurgents send their love daily in the form of mortar and rocket attacks. We’ve had a few close calls, but the concrete barricades protect us well and I’ve learned to do a medical procedure or two while lying on the ground.”

To make things even more challenging, most patients arrive in Balad without medical documentation or records and doctors don’t have the benefit of on-site EKGs, labs or x-ray machines. The majority of medical decisions are made purely on history and physical exam.

Major York was originally assigned to EMEDS at Kirkuk Air

Base, Iraq, but his skills as a residency-trained flight surgeon were needed at the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility in Balad. Balad’s CASF is the largest aeromedical evacuation facility in CENTCOM. It is officially listed as a 50-bed facility, but is configured for more than 100 patients. A typical day sees 25 to 35 patients from all over the local area, including Iraq and Qatar.

“Things have been busy here,” Major York said. “I’m the only doc at the CASF right now because my colleague had to leave the theater for a family emergency. So, instead of working a 24-hour shift every other day, I’m working every day. It’s almost like being an intern again. I catch cat naps here and there and try to get some sleep after we upload all the patients on the C-141 for Germany.”

To date, the largest upload of York’s deployment was 84 patients.

“Our aeroevac numbers have fallen some since the first of June, but we’re still seeing too many military members with severe injuries from IED explosions,” Major York said.

In addition to American military, the Balad CASF also treats civilian contractors and Iraqi citizens. One incident involved a 6-

year-old Iraqi girl whose father was a high-ranking official in the Ba’ath party. During his arrest, she received blast injuries that shattered her jaw and disfigured her face. The CASF’s job was to evacuate her and her mother to Walter Reed for plastic reconstruction of her face.

“While awaiting transportation, one of our nurses gave the girl her first Barbie,” Major York said. “It just about brought tears to your eyes to watch this seriously injured child absolutely light up and hug and kiss that doll. The translator told us how the mother’s opinion about the United States had completely changed and she now believed the U.S. is full of caring and compassionate people. Stories like that are the reality over here. It’s too bad the American people never get to hear most of them.”

The 332nd EMG provides aerospace and preventive medicine, minor trauma and life-skills care plus contingency response to more than 2,300 members of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad. It also provides 24/7 stabilization, staging and transport of coalition, Department of Defense and humanitarian patients from Iraq during entry, transit and exit of the aeromedical evacuation system.

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

Lions Vision Week

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson proclaimed Monday to Sept. 11 as "Lions Vision Awareness Week."

As Knights of the Blind, Lions of New Mexico introduces the Lions Crane Reading as a means to move the reading level of New Mexico's students to one of the top ten states by the year 2010.

This program focuses on annual eye examinations (not just eye screenings), adjusting desk height, using the Lions template program, teaching reading from a distance in the early grades, providing vision skill development and using computers to teach and reinforce reading skills. These simple steps are invaluable tools for schools, teachers and parents to further our goal of providing a quality education for every New Mexican and realizing "All Reading Problems Resolved."

For more information on the Lions Crane Reading Program or any of the Lions Vision Programs contact Alamogordo Breakfast

Lions Club Sight First Chairman Mr. Chuck Galusha at (505) 434-6296 or chuckg@zianet.com. The Alamogordo Breakfast Lions meets every Saturday morning at 7 a.m. at Clarks Family Restaurant on Canal Street in Alamogordo.

Shooting match

The Otero Practical Shooting Association has a Cowboy Action Shooting Match at 9 a.m., Saturday at the Sydney Paul Gordon Shooting Range, 19 Rock Cliff Road, northeast of La Luz. Sign up is at 8:30 a.m. The match is open to the public. Match participants will need a pistol, holster, rifle of handgun caliber, and shotgun. Firearms should be of turn of the century design or replicas. All ammunition must have lead projectiles. Approximately 50 pistol, 50 rifle and 25 shotgun rounds will be required.

For more match information, call Mr. Butch Rials at 437-3663. For information regarding the Shooting Range, contact Range

Master Jay Frost at 443-9006.

WSNM volunteers

White Sands National Monument needs volunteers to work at the Heart of the Sands Nature Center and Interpretive Boardwalk. Volunteers will be trained to assist park rangers in interpreting the natural history of the park to visitors. Volunteers will learn about the plants, animals and geology of the dunes, the history and mission of the National Park Service and how to answer visitors' questions about the park. Volunteers should be willing to work a minimum of four hours per week. A training session for volunteers is scheduled for Sept. 7, 8 and 9.

For more information call Mr. John Mangimeli at (505) 479-6124 or (505) 679-2599 extension 230.

Star Party

Star Party VI is Sept. 10 and 11 at White Sands National Monument. The event will also offer several daytime activities in the Alamogordo-White Sands area. Registration fees are \$40 per person, \$60 for a couple and \$12 for each child. The fee is \$3 per person. Children 16 and under are admitted to the park free.

For more information, call 437-2840 or (877) 333-6589. Registration forms may also be obtained at the star party Web site <http://www.zianet.com/wssp>.

Apple Festival

The High Rolls-Mountain Park Lions Club's 2004 High Rolls Apple Festival is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 16 and 17 at the High Rolls Community Center. It will feature over 50 arts and crafts vendors, local apples and apple products, food, kids' stuff and entertainment. Admission, parking and ambiance are free.

For more information visit www.highrollsfestivals.com or call (505) 682-1151.



BRIEFS

HOSC Thrift Shop

The Holloman Officer's Spouses Thrift Shop will be open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday. The store's operating hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. During the first week, select items are discounted. This season the store has set prices for many items such as men's and ladies' clothing. Consignments will be accepted starting 10 a.m. to noon, Sept. 14.

Munitions area closed

The Munitions Storage Area will be closed Sept. 13 to 17. Review all munitions requirements for this period and submit issue requests no later than noon, Monday to the 49MXS/MXWMA for pick-up on or before Tuesday. Only bona fide emergency requests approved by the Maintenance Group commander will be honored during the inventory.

For more information, call munitions accountability at 572-1612 or 572-1613.

ALS graduation

The Airman Leadership School Class 04-G graduation retreat is 11:30 a.m., Sept. 22 in the dorm mall area behind the PME Center building 339. Commanders, first sergeants, supervisors, family and friends are invited to join the graduates. Dress is duty uniform.

For more information, call the Mayo PME Center at 572-5860.

Retirement ceremony

Chief Master Sgt. Phillip Aldrich's retirement ceremony is 2 p.m., Sept. 28 at the Officers' Club. Everyone is welcome to attend the ceremony.

DTS training

Defense Travel System training for September is as follows:

- Traveler training: 8 to 11 a.m., Wednesday at the Bong Theater
- Approving Official training: 8 to 10 a.m., Sept. 10 at the Learning Resource Center, room 232



Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez

Building the road

Airman 1st Class Christopher Beckett, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, uses a concrete saw to cut a trench across a roadway at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The saw takes more than a minute to move just one foot. The blade must be cooled with running water as it cuts, and costs approximately \$600 dollars. Airman Beckett is deployed from the 49th CES.

- ODTA training: 8 to 11 a.m., Sept. 15 at the Learning Resource Center, room 232
- Traveler training: 8 to 11 a.m., Sept. 22 at the Bong Theater
- Approving Official training: 8 to 10 a.m., Sept. 24 at the Learning Resource Center, room 232
- Traveler training: 8 to 11 a.m., Sept. 29 at the Bong Theater

FSC

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

- Sponsorship training: 9 to 10:30

a.m., Wednesday.

- Families Apart dinner: 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday at the Chapel Annex.
- Commander's overview of Key Spouse Program: 7:30 to 8 a.m., Thursday.

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

Scuba lessons

Scuba lessons are offered through Outdoor Recreation 6 to 9 p.m., Oct. 5, 7, 12, 19, 21, 26 and 28 in Alamogordo. There will be an open water dive in Balmorhea

State Park in Texas on Oct. 29, 30 and 31. Participants must be 13 years or older and must sign up by Sept. 28.

For more information, Call Mr. Wayne Lyles at 572-5369.

Road closures

49er Road

Due to the rerouting and widening of 49er Road, there will be a road closure on Arizona Avenue from First Street to Arnold Avenue until further notice.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Stacy Nimmo, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron, at 572-3066.

Eglin Court

There will be a road closure on Eglin Court until Tuesday due to construction of a new manhole and lateral line installation. Residents of Eglin Court will have one entrance accessible during the construction.

NCO retraining

The Air Force has announced the start of the 2005 NCO retraining program. The 2005 NCORP aims to retrain approximately 1,098 NCOs from AFSCS with overages to shortage AFSCS. The voluntary phase of the program will run through Sept. 30. A complete list of retraining opportunities will be available on the retraining advisory at the military personnel flight.

For more information, call the MPP at 572-5047.

HazMart giveaway

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

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

Chapel Services

Weekday Masses – 11:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Sunday – Catholic Mass, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- Sacrament of Penance, 4 p.m.
- General Protestant Worship Service, 11 a.m.

• Protestant Sunday School is 9:30 a.m. and Catholic Religious Education is 10:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 12 at Holloman Intermediate School.

B On the BIG SCREEN



Thunderbirds (PG)

6 and 9 p.m., today

The Bourne Supremacy (PG-13)

6 and 9 p.m., Saturday and 6 p.m., Sunday

Tickets are 99 cents.

Sexual assault prevention, response report released

by Tech. Sgt.
David A. Jablonski
Air Force Print News

The Air Force has released a study that assessed the service's sexual assault prevention and response capabilities.

The 96-page document titled, Report Concerning the Assessment of USAF Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, was released Aug. 30. In February 2004, the secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief of staff requested an assessment of sexual assault prevention and response capabilities, including areas needing improvement. The Air Force performed a qualitative assessment that generated findings to inform senior leaders of potential program improvements.

Michael L. Dominguez, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, and Lt. Gen. Roger A. Brady, deputy chief of staff for personnel, supervised the assessment.

The assessment's findings and recommendations were briefed to Air Force senior leaders May 18 at CORONA Top. They approved a campaign plan to address the findings and to further develop the recommended solutions. Air Force three-star leaders met at a summit Aug. 16 to discuss proposed solutions.

"The most important thing we learned is that sexual assault is a very complex subject," General Brady said. "And it's a subject that we probably didn't understand very well. So this report helps us educate our commanders, our supervisors, our people and ourselves so that we know what we're dealing with, and we can attack the problem aggressively.

"We want to do something about it because it obviously affects the quality of life for our people; it affects our readiness; it affects our ability to conduct our mission," he said.

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff

Gen. T. Michael Moseley, in a February tasking memorandum to all major command commanders, established five goals for the assessment:

- Strive to eliminate sexual assault and any environment that fosters it.

- Ensure an environment where victims have the confidence to report sexual assault.

- Conduct appropriate investigation and prosecution.

- Address victims' well-being and health as effectively as possible.

- Ensure commanders and senior leaders oversee program effectiveness.

"We want to send a very clear message," General Brady said. "It is that sexual assault, or any behavior anywhere approaching this, is absolutely inconsistent with our core values and everything that we believe. It is unacceptable.

"When we find people who are involved in this kind of activity, these are not people we need in our Air Force," he said. "We also need to make sure that anyone who is a victim of such a crime knows that we're going to handle it discreetly, we're going to be aggressive in not only pursuing justice for the individual and the system, but we're also going to show all of the compassion and show all the support we can (to individuals) as they proceed through what for them is a very traumatic event."

Twenty significant findings are listed in the report, as well as 14 recommendations. Findings and recommendations focused on six topic areas: sexual assault realities; policy and leadership; education and training; reporting; response; and air and space expeditionary forces and deployment. Each topic area except sexual assault realities contains a series of recommendations.

"We're already using what we have found," General Brady said.

"We did not wait until we got ready to publish the re-

port," he said. "As soon as we started having consistent findings from across our Air Force, we put out guidance to our commanders, for example, to establish victim-support liaisons. We are using this report to educate ourselves about the nature of this crime, about the environment we currently have in the Air Force and to build the programs we need to create the environment where we build greater trust. I think it will help us move toward eradicating a behavior that is totally unacceptable.

"We already have Air Education and Training Command building most of our education programs for this," the general said. "We're developing programs that begin with Airmen coming to Lackland, officers coming in to various accession forces, noncommissioned officer academies, commander's schools, etc. We want to have consistent messages, appropriate to the audience, across the ranks. And we are educating our leaders to deal with these problems wherever they're faced."

The cornerstone of this effort was a series of self-assessments conducted by major commands focusing on each one's sexual assault prevention and response capabilities. A headquarters integrated planning team undertook a parallel effort to review established policies, conduct corporate and university benchmarking, and engage in sexual assault subject-matter experts external to the Air Force. Representatives from the MAJCOMs and the headquarters teams worked together to capture findings and develop recommendations.

This assessment is the next step of a journey that began in January 2003, when allegations of sexual assault at the U.S. Air Force Academy came to light. In March 2003, after multiple investigations into these allegations, the secretary and chief of staff implemented Agenda for Change. The Agenda for Change was a map

for complete cultural change within the academy.

Over the course of 2003, two studies focusing on the sexual assault crisis at the academy were conducted. The Report of the Working Group Concerning Deterrence of and Response to Incidents of Sexual Assault at the U.S. Air Force Academy (Working Group Report) was delivered in June 2003. In a second study, former Rep. Tillie Fowler led a panel chartered by the U.S. Congress to review the actions of the academy and Air Force in response to allegations of sexual misconduct. The Report of the Panel to Review Sexual Misconduct Allegations at the U.S. Air Force Academy (Fowler Report) was released in September 2003.

The Air Force learned a great deal about sexual assault from its experiences with the academy. Consequently, during a four-star summit in the fall of 2003, Air Force senior leaders decided to look beyond the academy to determine whether the academy experience was an anomaly or existed Air Force-wide.

The Pacific Air Forces commander volunteered to do an assessment within the command. This assessment was limited to allegations of rape within the command and findings were presented to the next four-star summit in February. Based on the PACAF findings, Air Force leaders agreed on the necessity of an Air Force-wide assessment.

This assessment represents the culmination of an 18-month process. Although the learning process continues, the Air Force is comfortable drawing three overarching observations:

- The sexual assault problem is much more complex than it seemed initially.

- Sexual assault is a societal problem. Consequently, it is also an Air Force problem. There are no quick solutions to address sexual assault. It will

require positive, ongoing efforts to foster and instill institutional change.

- Commanders and leaders at all levels are key to the process of institutional change. Recognizing and understanding the sexual assault problem is challenging. Air Force commanders have been working this issue on a case-by-case basis rather than attacking it as a cultural and societal issue. The Air Force must do a better job of defining and understanding the crime of sexual assault and the behavior that spawns it. Ultimately, the Air Force must work through its commanders to create an institutional environment that refuses to accept or facilitate such behavior.

"Finally, let me say that this is an issue that has to do with who we are as Airmen," General Brady said.

"It has to do with our core values. And just as we talk about integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do, there is an important, vital component in each of those that has to do with respect," he said. "When we have sexual assault, we have a clear lack of respect. As Airmen we must respect ourselves, we must respect the institution and its values, and we must respect each other.

"Airmen come into the Air Force because they want to be part of a winning team," the general said. "And to be a winning team every one of us — every man, every woman — has to be a full-up round. We cannot have a situation in which one Airman, for whatever reason, lives in fear of another. Winning teams do not operate that way. We're a team: men, women, civilians, military, officer, enlisted, Guard, Reserve and active. One team, one total force, one standard."

The complete Report Concerning the Assessment of USAF Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, is available at www.af.mil/library/posture/SA_Assessment_Report.pdf.

Election, holiday peak to challenge mail delivery

by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski
Air Force Print News

The upcoming holiday peak mailing season and national elections may challenge Air Force postal workers, but recent improvements show delivery times are steadily dropping.

Air Force postal officials said Airmen deployed to operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom are receiving mail in nine to 12 days, far below the 16-day standard set by U.S. Central Command officials. Sometimes it is faster.

Postal officials predict the military postal system will be placed under a microscope as they approach the peak mailing period and the national election.

Absentee ballots arriving late to servicemembers or election offices, lack of postmarking devices and inadequate forwarding address data or locator service for redeploying troops during the 2000 national election issues linger. The issues have postal workers hus-

tling to assure lawmakers that these problems will not be repeated this fall.

Postal officials said additional charter flights and recent improvements to absentee ballot handling procedures will produce the desired service results on Election Day. These improvements will ensure Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines have the opportunity to cast their votes during this year's national election.

The U.S. Postal Service is transporting the material in specially marked containers and processing it with Express Mail. Military postal clerks overseas are reporting any ballot material that is delayed because of a delivery or transportation problem. Postal supervisors are checking ballots daily to ensure they are legibly postmarked, in the proper container and dispatched according to procedures.

"Providing quality mail service to our deployed troops is our No. 1 priority," said Col. Ronnie Hawkins, director of communications operations.

Postal officials have increased the number of char-

ter flights to handle the enormous daily mail volumes from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, and San Francisco International Airport, Calif., to Bahrain and Kuwait mail processing centers. Postal workers process a daily average of more than 180,000 pounds of mail — 145,000 pounds for Iraq and 35,000 pounds headed to Kuwait. More than 5 million pounds of mail destined for deployed members was delivered in July alone.

Deployed Airmen can provide immediate feedback on customer service, transit times or other issues. An electronic questionnaire can be accessed at http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=ice_main.

The survey is an on-going project and the collection process is permanent.

Once the election is over, postal workers must still contend with the holiday peak period between Thanksgiving and Christmas. As in past years, additional people may be hired or volunteers solicited at each location based on the commander's discretion.

Civilians can make life insurance changes

by Master Sgt. Ron Tull
AFPC Public Affairs

Federal employees will have the chance to enroll or make changes to their group life insurance as part of a special open season from Sept. 1 to 30. The event is in celebration of the program turning 50 years old.

“We estimate 127,000 Air Force employees will be eligible to enroll or increase their life insurance,” said Maria Molly, chief of benefits and entitlements at the Air Force Personnel Center.

“The last time federal employees were allowed to make these kinds of changes was five years ago,” Ms. Molly said. “Normally it would take a ‘qualifying life event’ or the employee getting a physical at their expense. This open season doesn’t require a physical or answering any questions about one’s health.”

The Federal Employees’ Group Life Insurance program consists of basic life insurance coverage and three options that include coverage for up to five times an employee’s base salary plus coverage for family members. In most cases, a new employee is automatically covered by basic life insurance. The types and amounts of coverages available are not changing.

Newly elected coverage won’t be effective until after Sep. 1, 2005. The reason for the delay is to prevent em-

ployees increasing coverage only when they know they need it, resulting in a high number of immediate claims, according to the Office of Personnel Management. Such claims increase the program’s costs.

“This is a great opportunity, but I urge everyone to do their homework and remember that the premiums increase with age,” Ms. Molly said.

Information about the FEGLI program and the open season is online at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/menu.htm. There’s a calculator available to assist in computing premium cost at www.opm.gov/calculator/worksheet.asp.

Air Force civilian employees can make open season elections electronically via the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team automated Web or phone system.

The web-based Employee Benefits Information System is located at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm. Employees in the United States can reach the automated phone system by dialing 1-800-616-3775. Overseas employees will first dial a toll-free AT&T Direct Access Number for the country they are calling from and then enter 800-997-2378.

Hearing impaired employees may reach a benefits counselor by calling toll-free (800) 382-0893. Benefits counselors are available weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time.

AF is accepting PA applications

The Air Force is taking applications for Physician Assistant Phase I training classes beginning January, April and August 2006.

Only active-duty enlisted Airmen are eligible for the program. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be E-3 to E-8 with a minimum of two years or maximum of 14 years active military service as of Aug. 31, 2006.
- Meet age limitations specified in AFI 36-2005 for appointment as second lieutenant in the Biomedical Sciences Corps.

- Have a combined verbal and math score of 950 on SAT.
- Have a minimum general score of 80 points on the ASVAB or Air Force Classification Test.

- Have 60 semester hours of transferable college credits and a grade point average of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale. Courses listed below are mandatory and must be in classroom at an accredited college or university. A combined minimum 3.0 GPA is required in the Math and Sciences courses. 24 hours may be met from CCAF, DANTES, USAFI correspondence courses, end-of-course test, or specific subject examination.

For more information, contact the base education office at 572-3971. (AFPN)

O-5, O-6 eligible again for time-in-grade waiver

by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski
Air Force Print News

Air Force officials are again offering lieutenant colonels and colonels a reduction of the time-in-grade requirement for retirement.

Reduction of the three-year time-in-grade requirement for those officers to retire in their current grade dropped to no less than two years.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche authorized personnel officials May 6 to reduce the time restriction. That offer reopened Aug. 12 for fiscal 2005.

“We remain focused on solving our end-strength problem through voluntary programs,” said Maj. John Silverman, chief of Air Force retirement and separation policy.

“The recent law change allowing officers to retire with a minimum of two years time in grade is reflective of that effort and was another tool in our kit for which we wanted to take advantage,” Major Silverman said. “Although relatively small, this program helps us toward meeting our mandated Air Force ends strength. As part of the force shaping, we also opened a similar opportunity for our retirement eligible senior noncommissioned officers, waving up to 18 months of their obligated service commitment for putting on a new stripe.”

Retiring officers must meet the following:

- Must be a lieutenant colonel or colonel on

active duty with at least two years and less than three years time in grade on the requested retirement date to retire under this authority.

- Must have served at least 20 years of total active federal military service and 10 years commissioned service by the requested retirement date to be eligible to request a reduced time-in-grade retirement.

- Must have served satisfactorily in grade.

- All Air Force specialty codes may apply.

- Deployed people may apply; however, the requested retirement date must be at least 30 days following their return to home station. Member must retire not later than Sept. 1, 2005. Deployment periods will not be curtailed.

- Waivers of active-duty service commitments will be given according to the limited active-duty service-commitment waiver program.

The number of people permitted to retire with the reduced time in grade is limited to no more than 2 percent of the total number of people on active duty in that grade during each fiscal year.

The Air Force is projected to have 10,460 lieutenant colonels and 3,640 colonels on active duty Oct. 1. Two percent of these totals equate to a maximum of 212 lieutenant colonels and 72 colonels who may retire with the reduced time in grade in fiscal 2005.

Officers interested in this program can visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape2.htm.

Airmen will receive AEF ID cards

by 1st Lt. Sarah Small
Air and Space Expeditionary Force Center Public Affairs

The Air Force chief of staff has directed all major commands issue Air and Space Expeditionary Force identification cards before the beginning of Cycle 5 in September.

AEF ID card usage was stopped during the height of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom because six to eight AEFs were deployed simultaneously, according to Col. Vincent Wisniewski, AEF Center vice commander.

Reissuing the cards will again link every Airman to his or her assigned deployment window within Cycle 5.

The cards provide predictability and stability by allow-

ing Airmen to plan around deployments to schedule leave, professional military education and TDYs, according to Chief Master Sgt. David Mimms, superintendent for AEF Matters, Headquarters Air Force, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations. The cards are conveniently sized to print and keep in a wallet or purse. The front of the card tells Airmen their assigned AEF pair and the back shows the new 20-month cycle chart, which begins in September.

Some low density/high demand forces and stressed career fields may be postured in several AEFs as needed for extended tours, Colonel Wisniewski said. These forces are considered “enabler” capabilities. Due to the higher operations tempo re-

quired for these forces they may not rotate on the normal four-month schedule. The affected MAJCOMS and Air Reserve Component are working to determine the best way to issue cards to Airmen in enabler billets.

Airmen who do not fall into the enabler category are assigned to only one AEF during an AEF cycle, in accordance with Air Force Policy Document 10-4, Chief Mimms said. To add discipline to this process, a MAJCOM vice commander waiver is required to move an Airman from one AEF to another.

The AEF ID card template and implementation guidance are posted on the AEF Center Web site: <http://aefcenter.acc.af.mil>



Courtesy photo

Going for gold

Lt. Col. Leslie Ness, 49th Medical Group administrator, and Col. Matt McKeon, 49th Operations Group commander, rode in the 100-mile “Hotter than Hell” bicycle ride Aug. 28 in Wichita Falls, Texas. They finished the race in 4:40. More than 8,000 riders participated.

Falcons win one, lose one

Air Force Academy Falcons Melinda Mokos' goal at the 86-minute, 34-second mark propelled Air Force past the University of Northern Colorado Bears, 1-0, in women's soccer Aug. 27 at the Air Force Academy. The Falcons won their season-opener for the second consecutive season.

With the clock winding down and overtime seeming eminent, Brittney Perkowski was able to get to a loose ball deep in the center of the Bears goal box. Perkowski then swung the ball out to the right side past two defenders, finding Mokos open. Mokos immediately fired from five yards out and scored the game-winner — her first-career goal — past Bears goalkeeper Chrissy Marvin.

Falcons goalkeeper Jennifer Drew earned the shutout in her

first-career start, only having to corral two saves as the Falcon backfield constantly disrupted Bears offense. Martin had four saves in the loss for the Bears.

In a game of two evenly matched foes, the shots were hard to come by as the Falcons took only eight shots in the game, four on goal, while the Bears took six shots, two on goal.

Perkowski and Raegan McDowell led the way for the Falcons with two shots taken. Reagan McHugh led the Bears with two shots.

Nine Falcon freshmen, including three who started, saw their first action as Falcons.

The Falcons lost to Colorado, 0-1, Aug. 29 in Boulder. The Falcons fell to 1-1-0 on the season.

Air Force next plays Idaho at the Air Force Academy Friday. (AFPN)

CES wins in OT

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

The 49th Civil Engineer Squadron slipped by the 49th Operations Support Squadron in overtime 16-8 Monday during pre-season intramural flag football at the astroturf field.

CES didn't waste time running the ball as Chad Scott added four yards. Quarterback Jevre McKinstry faked a pass to the right and ran the ball 15 yards. On the fourth down, a CES pass to the goal line was picked off by OSS cornerback Nathan Deleon.

OSS drove for 20 yards to set up for the goal line. Quarterback Nick Alarcon shot two short passes to Dan Fusco, but CES's Scott reached for an interception.

Defenses continued to press as OSS held back CES's offensive onslaught to halftime.

A short kick to OSS started the second half, putting them in prime scoring territory. After a pass to Ryan Arrigo, Alarcon found a hole and ran in for his team's first touchdown. After a two-point conversion to Joel Rybarczyk, OSS led 8-0.

CES answered back with a 40-yard run by McKinstry and a two-point conversion.

Both teams vied for the win but neither offense could break out, pushing the game into overtime.

CES's McKinstry ran in another touchdown and two extra points, defeating OSS 16-8.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Quarterback Jevre McKinstry, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron, rushes past 49th Operations Support Squadron Joel Rybarczyk for a first down. CES defeated OSS in overtime 16-8 Monday during pre-season action.

