AFNS Review

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## DOD, Air Force unveil 1999 budget proposals

by Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
Air Force News Service - 980130

**WASHINGTON** — The president's fiscal 1999 Department of Defense budget proposal of $257.3 billion includes a $63.1 billion request for the Air Force, according to senior officials Feb. 2.

They said the budget proposal maintains the Air Force's top priorities: quality of life, readiness and modernization. The proposal includes a 3.1 percent pay raise for the active-duty force for 1999 and a 3 percent raise in 2000.

In addition, the budget proposal provides for construction, replacement and improvement of 1,473 family housing units and plans to build or renovate 12 dormitories that will eliminate permanent party gang latrines in the Air Force. Other provisions include supporting 84 operational family centers.

The senior officials emphasized that all people programs are funded in the budget, which also maintains a "delicate balance" between readiness and modernization.

To meet these objectives, the budget proposal also supports these expenditures:

■Aircraft: $3.1 billion for 13 C-17 Globemasters, $2.4 billion for two F-22 Raptors, $456 million for Joint Strike Fighters and $146 million for bomber upgrades;

■Space systems: $732 million for space-based infrared systems, $283 million for evolved expendable launch vehicles and $292 million for airborne lasers;

■Munitions: $433 million for 3,258 precision-guided munitions.

Today's Air Force still faces a large operation and personnel tempo load. The current deployment force is four times greater than that fielded in 1989, but overall Air Force manning has shrunk by a third. There are pilot retention concerns along with close tracking of enlisted retention, which has dropped from 82 percent to 71 percent. The Air Force goal is 75 percent.

Senior officials say the budget proposal supports Global Engagement, the Air Force's strategic vision, and its six core competencies. It also reflects the new defense strategy to shape international security, respond to global crises as needed and prepare now for an uncertain future.

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## Military paves way for new era, president says

by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980139)** — A strong military and diplomacy are flip sides of the same coin, President Clinton said Jan. 29 in a speech amplifying his State of the Union national security remarks.

Preceding his speech at the National Defense University here, Clinton met with Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, Deputy Secretary John Hamre, members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the unified commanders in chief.

Clinton said this is a time of tremendous promise for the world. "Superpower conflict has ended," he said. "Democracy is on the march. Revolutions in technology and communications have literally brought the world to our doorstep. Americans are more secure and prosperous than ever. And we have a rare opportunity and a profound responsibility to build a new era of peace and cooperation in the world."

But even as this opportunity presents itself, dangers remain and new ones emerge, he said. The spread of weapons of mass destruction, growth in ethnic and religious conflict, and threats of regional conflicts are some of the challenges facing the world today. He cited terrorists, rogue states and international drug cartels as the new enemies of the United States.

U.S. leadership in this new era is more important than ever, he told the students of the National War College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. "That doesn't mean we can go it alone or respond to every crisis," Clinton said. "We have to be clear where our national interests are at stake."

The United States is helping build a new network of like-minded nations to counter the new threats. "We are helping to write the international rules of the road for the 21st century, protecting those who've joined the family of nations and isolating those who do not," he said.

U.S. military power complements U.S. diplomatic efforts, Clinton said. "Our diplomacy is effective precisely because it is backed by the finest military in the world," he said.

The U.S. military is seeing missions change, and it is adapting, the president said. Clinton gave a quick rundown of the military situation around the world.

In Latin America, U.S. leadership is promoting regional confidence and spurring military cooperation. U.S. and Latin American service members serve together as peacekeepers and to stem the flow of drugs. The U.S. military is working with its Latin American counterparts to promote healthy civil-military relations and respect for human rights.

In Europe, Clinton pointed to the

success of NATO intervention in Bosnia. "[Our armed forces] have helped new democracies to restructure their own defenses," he said. "They have participated in dozens of joint exercises with new partners. They stopped a brutal war in Bosnia, and they're helping to heal its scars." Clinton reaffirmed he will ask the Senate for their advice and consent on including Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic to NATO.

In the Asia-Pacific region, U.S. troops stand with allies to combat instability. He said the United States is deepening the relationship with China, has persuaded North Korea to drop its nuclear weapons program and is working to secure peace on the Korean peninsula. "Our troops make it clear that America is committed to remaining a Pacific power," he said.

The United States also has vital interests in the Persian Gulf region. "(The region) is home to two-thirds of the world's oil resources and some of its most hostile regimes," Clinton said. "Since Desert Storm, America has worked steadily and persistently to contain the threat (Iraqi president) Saddam Hussein poses. ... We know Saddam has used weapons of mass destruction before. We again say he should comply with the UNSCOM [inspection] regime and the will of the United Nations. But regardless, we are determined to deny him the capacity to use weapons of mass destruction again."

AFNS Review

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**Commander, AFNEWS**
Col. Harold J. Smarkola Jr.

**Director, Air Force Internal Information**
B. Kim McDonald Jr.

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Clinton again called for the Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty forbidding testing of nuclear weapons. He also called on the Russian parliament to approve the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, so the United States and Russia can negotiate a START III drawdown.

The president said the American people must understand the sacrifices men and women make to serve in the U.S. military. "It is not easy to wear the uniform and it is never a completely safe proposition," Clinton said. "As president, the hardest decision I ever have to make is to put our troops in harm's way. Force can never be the first answer; but sometimes, still, it is the only answer. We must, and we will, always do everything we can to protect our forces. ... But we must be strong and tough and mature as a nation to recognize that even the best-prepared, best-equipped force will suffer losses in action."

He said the nation's obligation to service members is to do all possible to help them succeed in their missions, to include providing the resources they need to get the job done.

"This week I will submit to Congress my defense budget request for the coming fiscal year — a budget that is fully consistent with the Quadrennial Defense Review," he said. Readiness remains his first priority; Clinton said he will ask for additional funds for the Bosnia mission so overall readiness will not be affected. He reiterated the call for Congress to close more unnecessary bases.

## DOD releases secretary's annual report

**WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980144)** — Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has released his annual report to the president and Congress for 1998.

This report summarizes the plans of the Department of Defense — in conjunction with the fiscal year 1999 budget submission — to implement the national defense strategy outlined in the Quadrennial Defense Review, as well as the subsequent Defense Reform Initiative in the coming years.

The secretary's annual report details specific programs to carry out the three central elements of America's defense strategy: shape, respond and prepare.

In shaping the international security environment, the Department of Defense maintains significant overseas force deployments; has acted to enlarge NATO and enhance the Partnership for Peace; and is working to establish new cooperative ventures with its allies in the Far East, among a host of initiatives.

U.S. military forces are responding to crises around the world, from fighting fires in Indonesia to providing a stabilizing element in Bosnia.

Finally, DOD is accelerating preparations for the future by conducting warfighting experiments to test new systems and operational concepts. It is also expanding efforts to defend against such potential threats as chemical, biological and information attacks.

The Clinton Administration has also submitted a national defense budget request for fiscal year 1999 that directly supports these strategic aspects.

In urging congressional support for this budget proposal, Cohen said, "Our defense strategy and the national security strategy it supports will enable us to reap enormous opportunities and benefits for our nation. We can do so, however, only if we have the right assets to execute our strategy. This means spending the right resources on the right programs — and having sufficient flexibility to manage those resources in a complex and changing world."

The text of the Secretary of Defense Annual Report will soon be available on the Department of Defense's Internet home page, accessible at http://www.defenselink.mil. Details of the Department's Fiscal Year 1999 budget submission are currently available at that site.

## Air Force releases accident investigation results

**EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFNS - 980129)** — The Air Force completed its investigation into the Oct. 22, 1997, mid-air collision over the Edwards test range that resulted in the deaths of two aircrew members.

The investigation stated that an F-16B Fighting Falcon aircraft collided with an AT-38B Talon in an attempt to avoid hitting some birds. Neither AT-38 crewmember survived the collision. The F-16, with a three-foot section of the left

wing sheared off, landed without further incident on the dry lake bed.

Both aircraft were flying a photographic support mission of a B-1B Lancer as it conducted test drops of practice bombs.

The T-38 Talon is a twin-engine, high-altitude, supersonic jet trainer used in a variety of roles because of its design, economy of operations, ease of maintenance and high performance.

The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a compact, multirole fighter aircraft. It is highly maneuverable and has proven itself in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack.

The B-1B is a multirole, long-range bomber, capable of flying intercontinental missions without refueling, then penetrating present and predicted sophisticated enemy defenses. It can perform a variety of missions, including that of a conventional weapons carrier for theater operations. (Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service)

## Offutt starts Looking Glass fleet retirement

by Capt. Mike Richmond
55th Wing Public Affairs

**OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. (AFNS - 980131)** — The 7th Airborne Command Control Squadron took a step toward deactivation recently, with the first permanent departure of one of its EC-135 Looking Glass aircraft.

While dozens of people from the squadron watched, Lt. Col. Ladd Bovey, 7th ACCS Commander, and a crew of five lifted off from Offutt in the aircraft for the last time.

The aircraft's final destination was the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center, adjacent to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. There, more than 5,000 retired military aircraft sit beneath the hot, Arizona sun once their military flying days have expired. Known around the Air Force as "the boneyard," this vast expanse of desert terrain will be the eventual retirement home for the entire 7th ACCS EC-135 fleet.

The squadron's Looking Glass mission — providing an aerial platform for U.S. Strategic Command's Airborne Command Post — will transition to U.S. Navy E-6 aircraft, upon retirement of the EC-135 fleet in October. (Courtesy ACC News Service)

## AF announces non-line promotions Feb. 10

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980132)** — The Air Force plans to release the listing of the service's newest non-line colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors Feb. 10 (Feb. 11 for those units across the date line).

The selectees were chosen from several non-line promotion boards held at the Air Force Personnel Center here in November. Among the boards held were the colonel, lieutenant colonel and major Medical and Dental Corps' selection boards, a lieutenant colonel Biomedical Sciences Corps selection board, and a major's Nurse and Medical Service Corps' selection board

The list of those promoted is releasable at 1500 Zulu at bases across the Air Force. The complete list of those selected for promotion Air Force wide will be available on the AFPC Home Page at the same time.

The AFPC Home Page address is: http://www.afpc.af.mil. Click on the headline beneath the main page graphic to view those promoted. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

## Air Force announces command selection results

**WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980124)** — The Air Force has announced the final results of the 1997 command selection process.

In November, the Air Force announced command candidates selected by the Command Screening Board. During the last several months, these candidates have been considered for various wing and group command positions.

The command selection list released Jan. 30 is the result of this effort and matches people to specific jobs and locations.

Col. Stephen L. Alcock, 59th Medical Group, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Col. Albert A. Allenback Jr., 42nd Air Base Wing, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Col. Helen M. Alverson, 366th MDG, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

Col. Dian L. Atkins, 92nd MDG, Fairchild AFB, Wash.

Col. Bradley S. Baker, 375th Airlift Wing, Scott AFB, Ill.

Col. Thomas E. Baldwin, 95th MDG, Edwards AFB, Calif.

Col. Melvin A. Bayne, 52nd MDG, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Col. David J. Bertholf, 47th Support Group, Laughlin AFB, Texas.

Col. Roger U. Bisson, 3rd MDG, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

Col. Winston H. Blake, 71st MDG, Vance AFB, Okla.

Col. Barbara C. Brannon, 31st MDG, Aviano Air Base, Italy.

Col. Charles E. Bryant, 97th SPTG, Altus AFB, Okla.

Col. Patricia A. Buck, 436th MDG, Dover AFB, Del.

Col. Michael B. Byers, 353rd Special Operations Group, Kadena Air Base, Japan.

Col. Robert H. Byzewski, 2nd SPTG, Barksdale AFB, La.

Col. Kenneth S. Callicutt, Composite Force Air Component, Fighter Group, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Col. Mike Calvert, 36th LG, Andersen AFB, Guam.

Col. Jeffrey R. Charles, 88th Civil Engineer Group, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Col. David L. Clark, 5th MDG, Minot AFB, N.D.

Col. Michael A. Collings, 88th ABW, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Col. Michael S. Coman, 615th Air Mobility Operations Group, Travis AFB, Calif.

Col. Daniel P. Conroy, Air Force Weapons Group, Nellis AFB, Nev.

Col. Nettie L. Crawford, 8th Logistics Group, Kunsan Air Base, Korea.

Col. Maria I. Cribbs, Air Force Inspection Agency, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

Col. Robert C. Cripe, 325th SPTG, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

Col. Stephen G. Cullen, 91st Operations Group, Minot AFB, N.D.

Col. John T. Davee, 612th Air Operations Group, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Col. Duane W. Deal, 11th Wing, Bolling AFB, D.C.

Col. Mark W. Debolt, 33rd OG, Eglin AFB, Fla.

Col. David A. Dellavolpe, 4th SPTG, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

Col. Tommy Dillard Jr., Air Force Academy Support Group, Colo.

Col. Joseph P. Dirosario, 42nd SPTG, Maxwell AFB, Mont.

Col. Douglas A. Dovey, NATO/Allied Air Forces Central Europe Support Group, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

Col. Joe B. Drane, 36th MDG, Andersen AFB, Guam.

Col. Stefan Eisen Jr., 737th Training Group, Lackland AFB, Texas.

Col. Dale A. Elliott, 23rd Fighter Group, Pope AFB, N.C.

Col. Delwyn R. Eulberg, 12th SPTG, Randolph AFB, Texas.

Col. James W. Ewing, 608th Air Operations Bomber Group, Barksdale AFB, La.

Col. Ernest E. Felts, 14th SPTG, Columbus AFB, Miss.

Col. Charles B. Fisher, 49th Maintenance Group, Holloman AFB, N.M.

Col. Jerald L. Folkerts, 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

Col. Mary K. Fryman, 341st MDG, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

Col. Donald R. Gallion, 621st AMOG, McGuire AFB, N.J.

Col. Danny K. Gardner, 75th SPTG, Hill AFB, Utah.

Col. Mark J.D. Gehri, 36th ABW, Andersen AFB, Guam

Col. David E. Geyer, 8th MDG, Kunsan Air Base, Korea.

Col. Michael C. Gould, 22nd Refueling Wing, McConnell AFB, Kan.

Col. Garbeth S. Graham, 20th MDG, Shaw AFB, S.C.

Col. Keith A. Gregory, 982nd LG, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

Col. Joan R. Griffith, 47th MDG, Laughlin AFB, Texas.

Col. Ronald J. Haeckel, 91st Missile Wing, Minot AFB, N.D.

Col. Michael C. Henchey, 85th Fighter Group, Keflavik, Iceland.

Col. Bradley K. Higginbotham, 39th Air Base Group, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Col. Michael C. Hockett, 90th SPTG, F E Warren AFB, Wyo.

Col. Kenton H. Holmes, 72nd SPTG, Tinker AFB, Okla.

Col. Tamzy J. House, 366th SPTG, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

Col. Anthony A. Imondi, 509th Operations Bomber Group, Whiteman AFB, Mo.

Col. Raymond E. Johns Jr., 62nd Airlift Wing, McChord AFB, Wash.

Col. Clarence A. Johnson, 11th SPTG, Bolling AFB, DC

Col. Stephen M. Jones, 615th Air Mobility Group, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Col. James E. Judkins, 95th CEG, Edwards AFB, Calif.

Col. James R. Kelly, 97th LG, Altus AFB, Okla.

Col. Lyle M. Koenig Jr., 16th OG, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Col. Bradford H. Lee, 4th MDG, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

Col. Gregory W. Lewis, 8th OG, Kunsan Air Base, Korea.

Col. Mark T. Lilevjen, 381st Training Group, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

Col. Michael W. Lischak, 56th MDG, Luke AFB, Ariz.

Col. Dale A. Luther, 3rd Field Investigations, Scott AFB, Ill.

Col. Stephen M. Malutich, 372nd USAF Recruiting Group, Hill AFB, Utah.

Col. Michael R. Mantz, 821st Space Group, Buckley Air Guard Base, Colo.

Col. Thomas P. Massello, 374th MDG, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Col. Augustus Mays Jr., 24th LG, Howard AFB, Panama.

Col. Stephen A. Mcguire, 347th MDG, Moody AFB, Ga.

Col. Kimber L. Mckenzie, 341st OG, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

Col. William J. McKinney, 22nd SPTG, McConnell AFB, Kan.

Col. John N. Mclean Jr., 5th SPTG, Minot AFB, N.D.

Col. James J. Mecsics, 78th ABW, Robins AFB, Ga.

Col. Roosevelt Mercer Jr., 30th Space Wing, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

Col. Stephen C. Minnigerode, 7th Field Investigations, Crystal City, Va.

Col. Richard Y. Newton, 28th OBG, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

Col. Bruce A. Oksol, 1st MDG, Langley AFB, Va.

Col. Sue Ann A. Olsavicky, 38th Engineering Installation Communications Group, Tinker AFB, Okla.

Col. Charles B. Oltman, 388th OG, Hill AFB, Utah.

Col. Mark S. Ordess, 35th LG, Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Col. Robert C. Parke, 59th MDG, Lackland AFB, Texas.

Col. Allen G. Peck, 32nd AOG, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Col. Richard E. Perraut Jr., 96th ABW, Eglin AFB, Fla.

Col. Joel M. Peterson, 3rd SPTG, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

Col. Teresa M. Peterson, 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance AFB, Okla.

Col. Gregory H. Power, 5th Bomber Wing, Minot AFB, N.D.

Col. Anthony F. Przybyslawski, 28th BW, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

Col. Thomas J. Quelly, 325th OG,

## Now showing: February 9 Edition of Air Force Television News

**KELLY AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS)** — Personal readiness is the spotlight of the latest edition of Air Force Television News. The program is the virtual crusade of Air Force Surgeon General Chip Roadman who says it's something that not only contributes to the success of the service's mission, but also just makes good common sense for every member of the Air Force, as well as family members.

Also included in this edition of the program is a look at what the Air Force is doing to contribute to a cleaner environment, both above and below the ground. The Air Force is not immune to the continuing threat of terrorism — the Khobar Towers, Saudi Arabia, bombing is graphic proof of that — and the service is changing and improving the way it provides force protection. The program looks at this improvement from two different aspects. And, there is a thrilling ride in an Air Force Thunderbird F-16 for actress Holly Hunter. One of those atching from the ground was her uncle, who just happened to be the first hunderbirds Commander.

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Col. Lloyd A. Reinke, 76th MDG, Kelly AFB, Texas.

Col. Charles L. Renfro, 15th LG, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Col. James H. Sammons Jr., 51st MDG, Osan Air Base, Korea.

Col. Stephen T. Sargeant, 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan Air Base, Korea.

Col. Paul G. Schafer, 4406th ASOG, Kuwait City, Kuwait.

Col. Charles F. Schreck, 436th SPTG, Dover AFB, Del.

Col. Courtney D. Scott Jr., 4404th MDG, Al Kharj

Col. Thomas E. Scott, 11th MDG, Bolling AFB, Washington D.C.

Col. Robert J. Settle II, 15th OG, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Col. Toreaser A. Steele, 17th Training Air Base Wing, Goodfellow AFB, Texas.

Col. Lawrence A. Stutzriem, 47th Operations Training Group, Laughlin AFB, Texas.

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Col. Stanley F. Uchman, 99th MDG, Nellis AFB, Nev.

Col. Carl E. Vanpelt, 48th FW, RAF Lakenheath, England.

Col. Mark A. Volcheff, 374th AW, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Col. Michael J. Ward, 15th MDG, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Col. Robert M. Worley II, 50th OG, Falcon AFB, Colo.

Col. Thomas B. Wright, 611th AOG, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

Col. Donald C. Wurster, 16th SOW, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Col. Sue E. Yingling, 12th MDG, Randolph AFB, Texas.

Col. James H. Young, 355th MDG, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Col. John W. Zahrt, 352nd Special Operations Group, RAF Mildenhall, England.

Lt. Col. Barry S. Abbott, 314th Support Group, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Lt. Col. Marilyn S. Abughusson, 49th MDG, Holloman AFB, N.M.

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Lt. Col. Ronald R. Blickley, 60th LG, Travis AFB, Calif.

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Lt. Col. Kevin P. Burns, 46th OG, Eglin AFB, Fla.

Lt. Col. Steven Graham, 20th LG, Shaw AFB, S.C.

Lt. Col. Paul F. Capasso, 50th CG, Falcon AFB, Colo.

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Lt. Col. Herbert J. Carlisle, 1st Operations Group, Langley AFB, Va.

Lt. Col. Floyd L. Carpenter, 5th Operations Bomber Group, Minot AFB, N.D.

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Lt. Col. Lance D. Christian, 463rd Airlift Group, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Lt. Col. Kenneth A. Cinal, 30th OG, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

Lt. Col. Roy A. Cleland, 51st SPTG, Osan Air Base, Korea.

Lt. Col. Robert M. Clowers, 8th SPTG, Kunsan Air Base, Korea.

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Lt. Col. John C. Culpepper, 1st LG, Langley AFB, Va.

Lt. Col. Paul W. Curtis, 30th LG, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

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Lt. Col. Paul A. Dettmer, 607th Air Intelligence Group, Osan Air Base, Korea.

Lt. Col. Harry J. Devault, 341st LG, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

Lt. Col. Sharon R. Disler, 5th LG, Minot AFB, N.D.

Lt. Col. William K. Doty Jr., 90th LG, F E Warren AFB, Wyo.

Lt. Col. Gail R. Duke, 366th LG, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

Lt. Col. David D. Dyche, 355th SPTG, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

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Lt. Col. Steven R. Eddy, 48th OG, RAF Lakenheath, England.

Lt. Col. John R. Edinger, 2nd LG, Barksdale AFB, La.

Lt. Col. James K. Eken, 341st SPTG, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

Lt. Col. Gus G. Elliott Jr., 92nd SPTG, Fairchild AFB, Wash.

Lt. Col. Thomas D. Entwistle, Air-to-Ground Operations School, Nellis AFB, Nev.

Lt. Col. Robert D. Eskridge, 607th AOG, Osan Air Base, Korea.

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Lt. Col. Craig L. Jarvis, 354th LG, Eielson AFB, Alaska

Lt. Col. James S. Johnson, 27th LG, Cannon AFB, N.M.

Lt. Col. Duane A. Jones, 93rd LG, Robins AFB, Ga.

Lt. Col. Daniel W. Jordan III, 34th Training Group, USAF Academy, Colo.

Lt. Col. Jan M. Jouas, 52nd OG, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Lt. Col. Kevin G. Kenkel, U.S. Air Forces in Europe War Preparation Center, Einsiedlerhof, Germany.

Lt. Col. Olen S. Key, 14th OG, Columbus AFB, Miss.

Lt. Col. Carol D. King, 388th LG, Hill AFB, Utah.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey A. Kwallek, 782nd Training Group, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

Lt. Col. Philip A. Lakier, 319th MDG, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

Lt. Col. Ronald Lee, 56th LG, Luke AFB, Ariz.

Lt. Col. Erwin F. Lessel III, 436th OG, Dover AFB, Del.

Lt. Col. Frances C. Martin, 95th SPTG, Edwards AFB, Calif.

Lt. Col. Matthew F. Martorano, 375th OG, Scott AFB, Ill.

Lt. Col. Edward D. Mayfield, 4404th SPTG, Al Kharj, Saudi Arabia.

Lt. Col. Michael J. Mcphail, 90th OG, F E Warren AFB, Wyo.

Lt. Col. Ronne G. Mercer, 58th LG, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

Lt. Col. Carmen M. Mezzacappa, 7th LG, Dyess AFB, Texas.

Lt. Col. Douglas L. Miller, 317th Airlift Group, Dyess AFB, Texas.

Lt. Col. William E. Moseley, 82nd LG, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

Lt. Col. Joseph F. Mudd Jr., 55th OG, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Lt. Col. Kent A. Mueller, 16th LG, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Lt. Col. David T. Nakayama, 48th LG, RAF Lakenheath, England.

Lt. Col. Paul M. Neiheisel, 6th LG, MacDill AFB, Fla.

Lt. Col. Mark J. Nichols, 9th SPTG, Beale AFB, Calif.

Lt. Col. Ronald J. Norman, 609th AIG, Shaw AFB, S.C.

Lt. Col. Jonathan S. Norwood, 475th Weapons Evaluation Group, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

Lt. Col. David V. Pulliam, 35th SPTG, Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Lt. Col. William R. Quinn, 18th CEG, Kadena Air Base, Japan.

Lt. Col. Douglas L. Raaberg, 7th OBG, Dyess AFB, Texas

Lt. Col. Raymond R. Randall, 65th SPTG, Lajes Field, Azores.

Lt. Col. Joseph M. Reheiser, 86th OG, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Lt. Col. William J. Rew, 35th OG, Misawa Air Base, Japan

Lt. Col. John F. C. Rhoades Jr., 4th Air Support Operations Group, Heidelberg, Germany.

Lt. Col. Marianne R. Rogers, 367th USAF Recruiting Group, Robins AFB, Ga.

Lt. Col. Paul M. Rojko, 43rd SPTG, Pope AFB, N.C.

Lt. Col. Michael Y. Ryan, 552nd CG, Tinker AFB, Okla.

Lt. Col. James T. Ryburn, 305th SPTG, McGuire AFB, N.J.

Lt. Col. Walter W. Saeger Jr., 355th LG, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Lt. Col. Mark D. Schultz, 319th OG, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

Lt. Col. David J. Scott, 24th OG, Howard AFB, Panama.

Lt. Col. Gary R. Selin, 26th IG, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Lt. Col. Paul J. Selva, 60th OG, Travis AFB, Calif.

Lt. Col. Martin J. Sierocki, 82nd LG, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

Lt. Col. Jimmie L. Simmons Jr., 43rd OG, Pope AFB, N.C.

Lt. Col. Mark E. Stearns, 305th OG, McGuire AFB, N.J.

Lt. Col. James A. Stevens, 377th SPTG, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

Lt. Col. Mark D. Still, 62nd OG, McChord AFB, Wash.

Lt. Col. Frederick R. Strain, 28th SPTG, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

Lt. Col. Richard W. Taylor, 81st SPTG, Keesler AFB, Miss.

Lt. Col. Darryl W. Thompson, 36th SPTG, Andersen AFB, Guam.

Lt. Col. Robert L. Trapp, 721st SPTG, Cheyenne Mountain, Colo.

Lt. Col. Robert K. Traylor, 9th OG, Beale AFB, Calif.

Lt. Col. Michael R. Vanhouse, 22nd LG, McConnell AFB, Kan.

Lt. Col. Charles S. Voelker, 81st Training Group, Keesler AFB, Miss.

Lt. Col. Cary R. Wallington, 347th SPTG, Moody AFB, Ga.

Lt. Col. Norman A. Weinberg, 314th OG, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Lt. Col. Gary C. West, 4404th OG, Al Kharj, Saudi Arabia.

Lt. Col. Charles M. Whitehurst, 607th Air Support Operations Group, Osan Air Base, Korea.

Lt. Col. James A. Whitmore, 20th OG, Shaw AFB, S.C.

Lt. Col. Stuart E. Wilson, 319th SPTG, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

Lt. Col. Paul R. Ziaya, 59th MDG, Lackland AFB, Texas.

## Pentagon theme celebrates African-American history

by Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
Air Force News Service - 980140

**WASHINGTON (AFNS)** — Department of Defense celebrates the anniversary of President Harry Truman's initiative on race relations half a century ago with a theme of its own during African-American History Month.

"Fifty Years on the Road to Equal Opportunity: A Celebration of Executive Orders 9980 and 9981," pinpoints equal opportunity success in the federal government and the Armed Forces since July 1948.

"Executive Order 9980 established the foundation for the equal employment opportunity programs in today's federal government. Executive Order 9981 led to desegregation of the armed forces. This is definitely a milestone year in race relations for the Department of Defense," James Love, deputy director for military equal opportunity, said.

Truman's signing in 1948 allowed leaders like Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, Maj. Gen. Marcelite Harris and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Thomas Barnes to rise to the highest levels based on their accomplishments. This act also opened avenues of success for today's leaders.

"African Americans in Business: The Path Towards Empowerment," is the national theme during African-American

History Month, and Love says the Pentagon does not intend to overshadow the national theme.

"Installation commanders have the discretion to develop themes more appropriate to the nature of their organizations and mission," Love said. "The Pentagon theme and national theme are alike in that both recognize the accomplishments of African-Americans."

## Pay hoax circulates through Air Force

**DENVER (AFNS - 980138)** — The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is reassuring Air Force members that nobody can use the new PayCall system to access their accounts.

Members became unnecessarily concerned about the security of their pay information after an erroneous e-mail message was circulated by an Air Force member stating that anyone can use PayCall to establish a personal identification number and illegally access and alter another member's account. None of this is true, stressed DFAS officials.

PayCall uses a "read only" file that has been extracted from the main pay record data and is for informational purposes only. An Air Force member who wants to access his or her own records via PayCall must correctly answer a series of security questions before a PIN can be established. PayCall can't be used to make changes to any member's data in the pay system. Changes to a pay account can only be made by the member's local Financial Services Office.

Air Force members can contact their base FSOs worldwide whenever they hear a rumor about a pay problem. The FSOs are kept appraised of military pay issues by DFAS. DFAS-Denver Military Pay Director Ronald Swenka said, "PayCall is an added pay service which gives a member direct access to information about his or her own account. Don't let an unfounded rumor like this one ruin your day. Try PayCall and verify for yourself that it works."

Member access to PayCall is available 24 hours a day. Members can access the system by calling toll-free 1-800-755-7413 from the United States or DSN 926-1281 from overseas. (Courtesy of DFAS News Service)

## Housing allowance expected to have no immediate impact overseas

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFNS - 980142)** — The new Basic Allowance for Housing is expected to have no immediate impact on overseas military members, according to U.S. Air Forces in Europe finance officials, here.

BAH, implemented Jan. 1, replaced both the Basic Allowance for Quarters and the Variable Housing Allowance for military members stationed in the United States.

However, Leave and Earnings Statements for military members overseas will continue to reflect two housing allowances, according to Capt. Regina Goff, chief of USAFE financial services and entitlements.

The BAQ entry on overseas LESs will be replaced with the new BAH entry, but the OHA (Overseas Housing Allowance) will remain, she said.

"The Overseas Housing Allowance computation is not expected to change for now," Goff said, "but rate changes based on currency fluctuations and survey data will continue to have some effect on overall housing compensation overseas."

"The OHA amount may decrease slightly due to the increase in BAH because of the pay raise," she said, "but OHA and BAH, combined, will continue to cover rental amounts or ceilings as they do today. The bottom line is, total compensation will not change."

Other changes military members can expect include:

- BAH Partial will replace Partial BAQ
- BAH Differential will replace BAQ Differential
- Family Separation Housing will replace Family Separation Allowance Type 1.

BAH will be phased in over a six-year period to allow members to adjust to the transition. If BAH decreases, members at a specific location will be rate protected.

"This means that their housing allowances will stay the same until they move to a new location," Goff said.

Military members stationed in the Continental United States will receive the full amount of BAH regardless of their rent amounts. (Courtesy of USAFE News Service)

## Air Force Core Competencies

Our Nation's Air Force develops, trains, sustains and integrates the elements of air and space power to produce:

- Air and space superiority
- Global attack
- Rapid global mobility
- Precision engagement
- Information superiority
- Agile combat support

Speed, flexibility, and the global nature of its reach and perspective distinguish the Air Force's execution of its core competencies.

## Eglin family practice residents lead nation in testing

**EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS - 980148)** — Eight senior family practice resident physicians assigned to the 96th Medical Group here earned the highest score in the nation on the annual American Board of Family Practice In-training examination.

Each November, the board gives a comprehensive, full-day examination testing the knowledge of every senior family practice resident physician in the

United States.

All eight residents scored at or above the 94th percentile leading the nation for 1997. A total of 10,329 resident physicians took the examination.

Five of the residents scored above the 95th percentile, representing the best performance in the history of the Eglin family practice residency program.

This test is a preclude to the national family practice board exam offered in July which residents must pass in order to be nationally certified as a family practitioner.

The Eglin residents' scores were two standard deviations above the average U.S. resident score. A standard deviation is used to measure how far above or below the average scores fall in a selected sample.

The following doctors comprise the Eglin senior resident class: Maj. Michael Clay, Capt. Gregg Hallbauer, Capt. Wayne Justice, Capt. Andrew Kim, Capt. Jessica Mitchell, Capt. Gerald Parker, Capt. Julie Stark, and Capt. Jeff Wilkins.

All eight class members are scheduled to graduate in June, then will be reassigned to medical facilities throughout the Air Force.

## Delivery of F-15Is to Israel a 'milestone'

by Capt. Wilson T. Sims
F-15 System Program Office

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFNS - 980125)** — Reaching a "major milestone" in the relationship between Israel and the U.S., the Israeli Air Force received the first two of 25 F-15I aircraft amid much celebration and fanfare this week.

The F-15I, like the U.S. Air Force's F-15E Strike Eagle, is a dual-role fighter that combines long-range interdiction with the Eagle's "proven air superiority capabilities," according to Col. Scott Britten, F-15 Systems Program Office director.

The two-seat F-15I, known as the "Thunder" in Israel, incorporates new and unique weapons, avionics and communications packages that make it one of the most advanced F-15s ever.

Preparations for aircraft delivery began in January 1994, when Israel selected the F-15I after evaluating a variety of aircraft to meet its defense needs. "This foreign military sale is valued at $1.8 billion dollars," said Britten.

"The air logistics center here will provide the technical expertise and critical logistics support necessary to sustain this weapons system for years to come," Britten said. "Israel's selection of this aircraft to help meet their defense needs says a lot about the people who work this program — from the parts buyers to the back shops making repairs.

"I have tremendous admiration for the people who make this quality operation happen on a daily basis," said Britten. "This aircraft buy represents a major milestone in cooperation between the U.S. government and the government of Israel, strengthening the defense posture of our allies."

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center is the system program office for F-15 aircraft. (Courtesy of Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Public Affairs)

## Importing cars means ensuring U.S. standards are met

by Robert Szostek
U.S. European Command Public Affairs

**MANNHEIM, Germany (AFNS - 980126)** — U.S. military members and civilians overseas risk losing lots of money importing vehicles that do not comply with U.S. standards, say Environmental Protection Agency experts.

The agency strongly recommends people stationed overseas sell their foreign-specification cars abroad and buy a vehicle meeting U.S. standards after arriving in the United States.

"EPA recently worked out that shipping, paperwork, duties, EPA-required emissions work and safety conversion cost an importer at least $7,500, and often much more," said Norman Kaucher, customs program manager at U.S. European Command.

Military members often request hardship waivers from the EPA, but the agency only offers these exemptions in rare cases involving extreme hardship or extraordinary circumstances. One example is a handicapped person needing a special vehicle not available in a U.S. configuration.

Both the EPA and the Department of Transportation monitor the import of foreign vehicles to ensure they meet U.S. air pollution and road safety standards. Under EPA regulations, nonconforming vehicles less than 21 years old may only be imported into the United States through an independent commercial importer — unless exempted by the EPA.

These vehicles have to be tested and converted to the emission standards in effect at the time of production. Vehicles 21 years old — or older — do not have to be tested or converted to air pollution standards.

The Department of Transportation requires people who ship vehicles not meeting U.S. standards to sign a contract with a registered importer. The importer must certify in advance that the vehicle can be converted to U.S. safety standards.

These vehicles must also be entered under a bond for one and a half times their duty value. "Motorcycles and other vehicles over 25 years old do not need conversion to U.S. safety, bumper and theft prevention standards," Kaucher added, "but they must still be entered by a registered importer."

Military customs offices have more information on shipping vehicles to the United States, including the "Importing a Car" pamphlet. Customers with Internet access can also visit the new military customs web site at http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/customhp.htm. (Courtesy of U.S. Air Forces Europe News Service)

## Space Command announces Guardian Challenge competition dates

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNS - 980133)** — Air Force Space Command's Guardian Challenge competition is slated for May 4 to 8, 1998, at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. Guardian Challenge is the only space and missile operations competition in the Air Force. The event pits the best-of-the-best in Air Force Space Command against each other, determining the top space and missile operations teams.

This year's event marks the fifth Guardian Challenge competition, and a return to wing-based competitions versus a squadron-based event, according to Capt. Scott Traxler, Guardian Challenge project officer.

The Guardian Challenge competition is

designed to improve readiness and combat capabilities through preparation, innovation and crosstalk; enhance esprit de corps; and strengthen teamwork across all mission areas in the command.

The Space Command competition is the only peacetime opportunity for Air Force space and missile teams to fully demonstrate the effectiveness of their training procedures in a competitive environment.

For more information about Guardian Challenge '98, check AFSPC's web site at http://www.spacecom.af.mil/hqafspc/gc/index.htm. (Courtesy of AFSPC News Service)

## Digital communications system saves dollars

by Cheryl Stefenel
552nd Computer Systems Group

**TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFNS - 980136)** — A communications and simulation programmer recently developed a better way to send encrypted communications over telephone lines, saving the Air Force almost $1 million per year.

What Technical Sgt. Dale Ellis, 752nd Computer Systems Squadron, came up with is a new encrypted Digital Communications System. In past exercises, a High-Speed T-1 digital line or multiple telephone lines, were used for communications at a very high cost. "The T-1, for instance, is a digital telephone line which costs about $10,000 just to install and additionally $5,000 a month to maintain," said Ellis.

Users would need a special computer for voice digitization to ensure security of communications at an additional cost of $45,000 per unit at each end of the line, said Ellis.

Ellis' system however, takes four individual voice channels and puts them through one regular phone line. The phone line's installation cost is $30. Additional savings are realized because it only costs about $30 a month to maintain. This represents estimated savings of nearly $1 million per year.

This new system has been tested by the 752nd CSS communications and simulation section and by the Tactical Air Command and Control Facility personnel at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., said Lt. Col. Leonard Edwards, 552nd Operational Support Squadron Tactics and Training Flight commander.

Air Combat Command funded the program to produce Ellis' new DCS after he had successfully developed the communications box, called the "E-box," which allows tactical data link information to be sent over regular phone lines as well.

"Even at an initial cost for each unit of $40,000, savings estimated by officials at headquarters ACC for one two-week exercise by using Ellis' DCS was more than $112,000," said Maj. Bob Deasy, Air Force Office of Modeling and Simulation at the Pentagon.

The system, still in its infancy, was put to task during Warrior Flag '97; its first application in an operational environment. "The new DCS worked flawlessly," said Maj. Robert Clampitt, 552nd OSS director of modeling and simulation.

Warrior Flag '97 was a joint service exercise designed to put the same picture seen onboard an E-3 in front of commanders on the ground at multiple locations. The data from the E-3 simulator used during the exercise flowed directly to exercise control centers at Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; Kirtland AFB, and several others.

"The beauty of this in exercise terms is that the E-3 (simulator) simultaneously received data back from all the other locations," said 1st Lt. Rick Jarrell, 752nd Communications Simulation Flight. "This ability to coordinate radar data over a large area gives commanders an unprecedented real-time view at the aerial battlefield. With this knowledge they can make instant decisions on actions needed to put steel on target and win that battle."

"Simulations and exercises cannot hope to replace live fly missions, but using off-the-shelf technology to reduce aircrew training costs goes a long way in preparing our forces for the 21st century," said Col. Frank Richardson, 552nd Computer Systems Group commander. (Courtesy of ACC News Service)

## Yeager thanks Wilford Hall team

by Dewey Mitchell
Wilford Hall Medical Center Public Affairs

**LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980147)** — At a ceremony Feb. 2 in San Antonio, retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager praised the care he received from the Wilford Hall Medical Center staff after an accident one year ago left him with a broken shoulder and several broken ribs.

"You couldn't have gotten better care than I got, and you never even grounded me," said the fighter ace who is best known for breaking the sound barrier in October 1947.

After his supersonic flight Oct. 14, 1997, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of breaking Mach 1 — and twice more in subsequent air shows, Yeager decided to quit flying military planes after 55 years and one month.

Yeager was the guest speaker for the 6th annual Gold Headed Cane Society dinner, which honors the top physician at Wilford Hall Medical Center, as judged by his or her peers. Col. (Dr.) Bradley A. Yoder of Pediatrics won the award. Criteria for the award are excellence in patient care, resident teaching and clinical research.

"Dr. Yoder is highly regarded for his research work in neonatology, many published articles and his skill in providing care to premature infants," said Col. (Dr.) Philip J. Perucca, president of the society. "Especially noteworthy is his work in high-frequency ventilation."

Describing his longtime association with military medicine, Yeager explained how advanced aircraft and weapons have created the need for better gravity suits, or G suits, to keep pilots from losing consciousness during high-G maneuvers.

"Sometimes during dogfights with the Germans, we would load up to about 4.5 Gs, where you could feel the plane, but you couldn't see anything, but you knew the German who was following you couldn't either — so you could use it to your advantage."

Wilford Hall Commander Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Paul K. Carlton Jr. also spoke to the dinner audience.

"This room is full of living legends," he said. "You are dedicated to excellence in patient care, and our charter is to strike the right balance — to be the advocate for the patients needs, despite entering an era of cost containment."

Other finalists for the Gold Headed Cane were Col. (Dr.) Stephen G. Waller, Opthalmology; Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jay B. Higgs,

Rheumatology; Maj. (Dr.) Stephen P. Johnson, Radiology; and Lt. Col. (Dr.) Gary S. Gronseth, Neurology.

## Staff sergeants a vital part of retention workshop

by Tech. Sgt. Timothy Hoffman
Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNS - 980145)** — The Air Force sees the yellow caution light on enlisted retention rates, but instead of slowing down, it is pressing on the accelerator to get through this dangerous intersection of downsizing, wavering morale and the allure of a robust civilian economy.

To make sure it is pressing the right pedals the Air Force brought in 11 staff sergeants from career fields suffering the most from retention problems to give their views directly to Brig. Gen. John F. Regni, director of military personnel policy. Two of those sergeants were from Air Force Space Command.

"The general wanted our unfiltered view and we gave it to him," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Grady, 91st Security Forces Squadron, Minot Air Force Base, N.D., who attended the one-day workshop at the Pentagon recently.

"We came up with 53 items ranging from more pay to lower deployment rates," said Grady.

Regni told the group their inputs would be reviewed across the Air Staff, and will be the basis for a section of the enlisted retention briefing for the Air Force leadership when they meet for the annual CORONA South Conference at the end of February in Orlando, Fla.

"In my career field, space systems operations, the two main problems are career progression and contractors offering very good jobs," said Staff Sgt. David Pesch, 21st Operations Support Squadron, Peterson AFB. "We do the same thing as new airmen as we do as staff sergeants. So for 10-14 years you have nothing new to look forward to."

Contractors are also gobbling up people as fast as they can. "If you do anything with space or computers you can get a higher paying job outside the Air Force," said Pesch.

Grady echoed some of the same feelings in the security forces career field. "On the plane ride back, I was sitting beside a police officer from Colorado Springs. He had been in (the Air Force) four years at the Air Force Academy, got out, and now is making $54,000 a year plus benefits — and to top it off, he works four days on and then gets three days off," said Grady.

The operations tempo and low manning are major concerns for SFs, especially at the command's missile bases.

"We are constantly deploying to Saudi, which makes it not only hard for the people deploying, but for those left behind," said Grady. "When we are not out at a remote missile site for 3 1/2 days straight, we are working 12-hour shifts." This makes it nearly impossible for them to use some benefits.

"A lot of us would like to use TA (tuition assistance) and get our degrees, but it's a hard choice after a 12-hour shift whether to spend time with your family, or time in the classroom," said Grady.

Pesch said he was surprised that everyone at the workshop brought up nearly identical issues. "Everyone thought they deserved a paycheck closer to their civilian counterparts and wanted better child care." However, they all realized in won't happen overnight.

"We're not asking for equal pay, just something close — within 15 percent, were numbers we were talking about at the conference," said Grady. "Child care was brought up several times. The problem is most base child care is geared for the Monday through Friday person. For example, there's a single parent in our squadron that is paying a huge amount for child care when he is out in the missile field for four days. There's just no service on base for him."

The retirement system, dental care (especially coverage for braces), and the protection of benefits already in place — like the commissaries and exchanges — were also concerns.

"Most people won't get out just

PEOPLE FIRST

## Videos bring deployed airmen close to families

**WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980127)** — In an effort to bring deployed airmen and their families a little closer, the Air Force has been testing video-teleconferencing and video-phones.

Since the program began in August 1997, hundreds of deployed people have enjoyed face-to-face video and audio connections with their families back home. Once video link equipment has been successfully tested at a site, the equipment remains for use by deployed airmen.

Successful video link tests have been completed at more than 40 locations throughout the Air Force, including remote sites such as Croatia; Istres, France; and Sarajevo and Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. In addition, over the recent holidays, deployed people at Incirlik Air Base Turkey; Ramstein AB, Germany; and Osan AB, Korea, were connected to loved ones at various stateside and overseas locations.

At one of the more recent test sites, Soto Cano, Honduras, the deployment location for Joint Task Force Bravo — the Air Force component commander expressed appreciation on behalf of the Air Force folks there: "We have our video-teleconferencing system up and running ... what a great system ... thanks!"

Although initially focused on deployed airmen, video link equipment could eventually be available at most Air Force units. For more information on obtaining video link equipment, units should visit the Air Force Communications Agency web site at www.afca.scott.af.mil/videophone.

because of one of these things, but when you start piling them up and combine it with a strong outside job market, a lot of people seriously consider leaving," said Grady.

"The general (Regni) did explain how many of these issue are controlled by money from Congress. He also said the Air Force is working hard to change some of them," said Grady. (Courtesy of Air Force Space Command News Service)

## Improved commissary benefits, service aim of defense budget proposal

**FORT LEE, Va. (AFNS - 980143)** — Defense budget decisions released this week will come as good news to Defense Commissary Agency customers of the 299 military commissaries located around the world.

"We are now funded to sustain a basic level of the commissary benefit," said DeCA Director Richard E. Beale Jr. "Our base line appropriated funding remains secure, and DeCA continues to run the system.

"We will still maintain all of the efficiencies we have garnered as an agency over the last seven years, but we will give the customers — through their military branch representatives — a greater voice in how resources are applied and allocated to support them," Beale said.

The Department of Defense budget, submitted Feb. 2 to Congress, funds commissary operations with $983.87 million in the current fiscal year and establishes a funded base line for sustaining the benefit through 2003, the extent of the budget program.

Under the budget decisions, which still must be approved by Congress, each of the military services will assume a measure of financial responsibility for commissary operations beginning in fiscal 1999. Along with this financial stake will come directive authority for the services in the form of a commissary board that will replace the current advisory Defense Commissary Board. DeCA continues running the commissaries, building upon the improvements and economic efficiencies it has made since its inception in 1991.

The budget decisions will move commissary funding as separate line items to the morale, welfare and recreation portions of each service branch's operations and maintenance accounts. The line will be known as Category D MWR - Commissary Operations, a change that recognizes the importance of commissary funding in military quality of life and the services' role in overall funding decisions.

The services will have the ability to consider increasing commissary operations above the base line by providing additional funding.

This wasn't possible before, when DeCA was constrained by its annual budget allocation, and increased operating hours and additional personnel were simply impossible to fund. Now, as long as additional funding is provided, DeCA can provide additional service above current levels.

"There's no guarantee every change requested will actually be funded," Beale notes, "but the option is there. Customers will be able to ask their military branch representatives to help improve their local store."

On the flip side of the coin, the directive board will face some tough decisions, such as whether to close marginal stores when larger stores are nearby, whether to curtail commissary services at closing military installations, or whether to combine commissary and exchange operations at locations where it makes sense.

Beale said he views the budget decision as a long overdue vote of confidence for the commissary benefit as it contributes to military quality of life. "In essence, this process has reaffirmed the importance of the commissary benefit to the military community."

Beale said the commissary consistently ranks either first or second among active duty and retired military when rating their non-pay benefits. "That's because we have good, quality service, and we provide savings of about 29 percent." The budget decisions fully fund valued commissary operations, add a way to increase service, sustain the effectiveness of a consolidated system, and increase emphasis on customer demand. "We fully expect this will help make sure the commissary benefit continues to earn its top ranking among our patrons."

A forthcoming Defense Reform Initiative Directive is expected to spell out details of all changes and responsibilities under the new arrangement within the next few months. (Courtesy of DeCA News Service)

## Air Force reserve command unit activated

**WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980134)** — Air Force Reserve Command officials announced the activation of the 310th Security Forces Squadron at Falcon Air Force Base, Colo.

The 310th SFS, an associate reserve unit, will support Air Force Space Command security requirements worldwide. The squadron joins the 7th Space Operations Squadron and the 8th SOS as the third squadron to comprise the recently formed 310th Space Group.

The mission of the 310th SFS is to meet the security needs at ground sites of satellite control systems and bases supporting spacelift operations. The unit will also support other Air Force security needs at ground based aerospace assets worldwide. The unit is designed to incorporate Air Force core competencies of rapid mobility and agile combat support.

The Air Force identified a need for an increased security deployment capability to handle heightened operations tempo expected during wartime operations. The reserve forces will be available for worldwide deployment within 72 hours of unit mobilization. (Courtesy AFRC News Service)

## Robins AFB wins four environmental awards

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFNS - 980137)** — Robins has earned "best in Air Force" honors as the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center has claimed four Air Force environmental awards. Robins will now compete in early March for the Department of Defense awards.

The awards won by the center include the Gen. Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award (industrial category); the Gen. Thomas D. White Pollution Prevention Award (industrial category); the Gen. Thomas D. White Recycling Award (industrial category); and the Gen. Thomas D. White Natural Resources Award (small base category). The White awards are

given annually to recognize the installation with the best environmental program in the Air Force.

"We couldn't have won these awards without the efforts and dedication of the entire base," said Jean Hagood, director of environmental management. "We have a great team with great progress in our programs, and our base is very deserving of this recognition."

The environmental quality award recognizes efforts for protecting human health and the environment by achieving sustained compliance with all environmental requirements. One of the biggest success stories for Robins in the quality arena is the Restoration Advisory Board.

The board comprises members of the community, state and federal regulators and environmental management personnel. The RAB serves as a forum for all concerned with the cleanup of public lands.

The pollution prevention award is given to recognize efforts for preventing pollution, including practices that reduce the creation of pollutants through increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, waste and other resources.

Environmental management statistics show Robins has an aggressive pollution prevention program.

Hazardous waste disposal is down by 33 percent, EPA-17 chemical use by 89 percent and ozone-depleting chemical use by 99 percent.

The recycling award honors the installation conducting the best recycling program. More than 8,000 tons of material here is recycled annually, saving 24,000 cubic yards of landfill space. Robins achieved the Air Force recycling goal one year ahead of schedule and DOD goal three years early.

The natural resources management award for small bases is awarded for accomplishments in promoting the conservation of natural resources at bases with 10,000 or less acres.

Robins has received Tree City USA designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation for five straight years.

Environmental management has also worked to encourage outdoor recreation here by adding a nature trail, fishing piers and bird boxes throughout the base.

## Air Force 'drops in' on Purple Dragon

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFNS - 980121)** — Air Force mobility aircraft and crews 'dropped in' on Joint Task Force Exercise Purple Dragon Jan. 28 to support Operation Big Drop, a massive airborne and air assault operation at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The joint exercise, which began Jan. 15, is designed to reflect the emerging threats and challenges U.S. forces encounter around the world, officials said.

More than 60 Air Mobility Command aircraft, including C-17 Globemaster IIIs, C-130 Hercules and C-141 Starlifters, as well as 75 aircrews transported troops and heavy equipment to drop zones located at Fort Bragg. Air Education and Training Command also provided a C-17, a C-130 and a C-141 for the exercise.

Operation Big Drop will begin the evening of Jan. 29, when paratroopers and ground forces will be air assaulted by U.S. Army helicopters at four drop zones. AMC will support the operation throughout the evening and into the early morning by dropping heavy equipment and support forces.

About 2,800 soldiers from the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg will jump from the cargo aircraft into the drop zones.

Purple Dragon is a joint training exercise employing Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard assets. More than 30,000 servicemembers from all branches will participate in the training.

The exercise is designed to meet Defense Department requirements for quality, realistic and stressful training to fully prepare forces for joint operations, officials said.

The following AMC units and aircraft are participating in Operation Big Drop:

■62nd Airlift Wing, McChord Air Force Base, Wash., 12 C-141s;

■305th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire AFB, N.J., nine C-141s;

■317th Airlift Group, Dyess AFB, Texas, one C-130;

■437th AW, Charleston AFB, S.C., three C-141s and eight C-17s;

■463rd AG, Little Rock AFB, Ark., four C-130s;

■Air Force Reserves (AMC-assigned aircraft), five C-130s and one C-141; and

■Air National Guard (AMC-assigned aircraft), 22 C-130s.

AETC units participating in the operation are the 314th AW from Little Rock AFB, Ark. and the 97th AMW, Altus AFB, Okla. (Courtesy of AMC News Service)

## Service demographics offer snapshot of force

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980123)** — The Air Force Personnel Center here recently published its quarterly report on the active-duty and civilian populace.

The point papers offer a snapshot of the service's active-duty and civilian employees, providing a more descriptive look at the service.

The latest version covers Oct. 1 through Dec. 31. This demographic information is also available on the center's World Wide Web page (http://www.afpc.af.mil) under the public affairs area and also with more statistical information under the center's analysis page (in the personnel statistics area).

**Active-Duty Demographics Force Strength**

■Approximately 370,297 individuals are on active duty; 73,158 officers and 297,139 enlisted personnel;

■The Air Force has 14,944 pilots, 5,589 navigators and 33,892 non-rated line officers in the grades of lieutenant colonel and below.

**Age**

■The average age of the officer force is 35, for the enlisted force it's 29;

■of the force, 33 percent are below the age of 26;

■39 percent of enlisted versus 11 percent officer.

**Sex**

■17 percent of the force are women;

■16 percent of the officers and 18 percent of the enlisted.

■The population of women has increased from 33,000 (5.4 percent) in 1975 to 65,076.

■Women first began entering pilot training in 1976, fighter pilot training in July 1993 and navigator training in 1977.

■Currently there are 382 (3 percent) female pilots and 131 (2 percent) female navigators.

**Race/Ethnic Group**

■Racial minority representation has

risen from 14 percent in 1975 to 24 percent.

■77 percent of the force are Caucasian, 15 percent Black, 4 percent Hispanic and 4 percent other;

■Officers: 87 percent Caucasian, 6 percent Black, 2 percent Hispanic and 5 percent other;

■Enlisted: 74 percent Caucasian, 17 percent Black, 5 percent Hispanic and 4 percent other;

**Marital Status**

■66 percent of the current force are married;

■75 percent of the officers and 64 percent of the enlisted.

■There are 17,812 military couples in the Air Force;

■1,082 of these are married to members of other services.

**Family members**

■Active-duty members supported 570,475 family members;

■475,801 are family members residing at home.

**Overseas**

■21 percent of the current force are assigned overseas;

■10,648 officers and 67,369 enlisted personnel.

**Total Active Federal Military Service**

■The average TAFMS is 11 years for officers and 9 years for enlisted.

**Academic Education**

**Officers**:

■56 percent of the officers have advanced or professional degrees;

■45 percent have a master's;

■10 percent have professional degrees, and

■1 percent have doctorates.

■32 percent of company grade officers have advanced degrees;

■25 percent have a master's;

■6 percent have professional degrees; and

■1 percent have doctorates.

■91 percent of field grade officers have advanced degrees;

■74 percent have a master's;

■14 percent have professional degrees; and

■3 percent have doctorates.

**Enlisted**

■99 percent of the enlisted force have at least a high school education;

■87 percent have some semester hours towards a college degree;

■14 percent have an associate's degree or equivalent semester hours;

■4 percent have a BA/BS; and

■1 percent have a MA/MS.

**Component**

■66 percent of the officers have a regular commission; and

■73 percent of the line officers have a regular commission.

**Professional Military Education**

■63 percent of the officers have completed one or more PME courses.

■As their highest PME, 8,739 have completed at least one Senior Service School;

■14,300 have completed an Intermediate Service School; and

■23,047 have completed Squadron Officer School.

**Source of Commission**

■19 percent of the officers were commissioned through the Air Force Academy;

■42 percent through ROTC;

■20 percent through OTC; and

■the remaining 19 percent were commissioned from other sources (primarily direct appointment, etc.).

**Term of enlistment**

■31 percent of the enlisted personnel are serving in their first term of enlistment;

■19 percent are on their second; and

■50 percent are on their third or greater term of enlistment.

**Total civilian strength**

■As of Dec. 31, there were 152,317 civilian employees;

■73 percent are white collar and 27 percent are blue collar.

**Citizenship**

■142,878 are U.S. citizens, including U.S. nationals (9,230 are Air National Guard Technicians);

■9,426 are foreign national employees; and

■11 are other, non-U.S. employees in the U.S. or its territories.

**Age**

■The average age is 46 years.

**Length of service**

■The average length of service is 16 years.

**Gender**

■35 percent are female and 65 percent are male.

**Race/ethnic group**

■26 percent are minority;

■11 percent are Black;

■10 percent are Hispanic; and

■4.5 percent are other minority.

**Overseas**

■11 percent of the total work force is assigned overseas (16,349);

■42 percent are U.S. citizens, including U.S. nationals — this is 4.8 percent (6,918) of all U.S. citizens;

■58 percent are local nationals;

■less than 1 percent are other non-U.S. employees in U.S. or territory.

**Education**

**White collar**:

■6 percent have less than a high school diploma;

■24 percent have at least a high school education;

■69 percent have accumulated hours toward a college degree;

■10 percent have an associate's degree or equivalent;

■37 percent have a college degree;

■12 percent have master's; and

■1 percent have a Ph.D

**Blue collar:**

■12 percent have less than a high school diploma;

■50 percent have at least a high school education or equivalent;

■38 percent have accumulated hours toward a college degree;

■10 percent have an associate's degree or equivalent;

■4 percent have a college degree; and

■Less than 1 percent have a master's degree.

**Professional Military Education**

■4,791 civilian employees have completed one or more PME schools;

■1,613 completed Squadron Officers School;

## Family stats

**Sixty-six percent of the current force are married.**

**Seventy-five percent of the officers and 64 percent of the enlisted.**

■2,408 completed Intermediate Service School; and

■770 completed Senior Service School.

**Executive level training**

■192 employees have completed executive level training;

■29 Congressional Fellowship Programs;

■89 Executive and Senior Leadership;

■40 Public Administration Graduate School; and

■34 Management Graduate School.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

## Grissom presented Air Force environmental award

**GRISSOM AIR RESERVE BASE, Ind. (AFNS - 980119)** — Hard work and perseverance was rewarded recently when Grissom became the recipient of the 1997 Gen. Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award.

The award recognizes the Air Force Reserve Command or Air National Guard installation conducting the best environmental quality program.

According to Jeff Woodring, chief of the wing's environmental flight, this award recognizes the wing's outstanding environmental program.

"From the leadership of the environmental protection committee down to each worker who implements and supports the program," said Woodring, "it's an award for the entire program including pollution prevention, environmental compliance and natural and cultural resources.

Highlighting Grissom's environmental year was an Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program inspection that resulted in a 50 percent reduction in the number of findings from the previous year. The inspectors called the base's program the "best show yet."

Grissom's pollution prevention program resulted in a 79 percent reduction in hazardous waste, 80 percent reduction in solid waste and 79 percent reduction in Environmental Protection Agency trackable chemical purchases.

Environmental issues are at the forefront of today's society and that's true for the Air Force too. Grissom was recognized for establishing good relationships within the local community by hosting Earth Day activities that included an essay and recycling contest and a "Run-the-Runway" race for 200 runners.

"This was the one award we really wanted," Woodring said. "It's the award that says we've got an outstanding environmental program." (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

## Ellsworth recognized for clean-up efforts

**ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. (AFNS - 980120)** — The 28th Civil Engineer Squadron's environmental flight here was recently recognized for ongoing clean-up efforts. The Air Force announced the squadron as the recipient of the 1997 Air Force Restoration Award.

Work began in 1990, when the Environmental Protection Agency placed Ellsworth on the National Priorities List.

Being placed on the list simply meant, "if we didn't clean up the base, we'd be penalized," said Dell Petersen, chief of environmental restoration and recipient of an honorable mention for the Restoration Award for Individual Excellence.

The base then created the restoration element to clean-up old landfills and keep the base environmentally safe, as well as in compliance with federal regulations.

The environmental team has been working to resolve several problems and have done a great deal of work, according to Petersen.

Approximately 600,000 cubic yards in landfill has been moved. The construction and movement of ponds to control runoff and maintain wetland distribution was also cited as visible proof that change is taking place.

"Now the hard part starts because (we) have to prove the systems installed will work," Petersen said.

The tracking of environmental procedures on base includes electronic monitoring with an Energy Monitoring Control System, operated by Gary Schmidt an environmental engineer.

"The primary use is to monitor the energy system on base," Schmidt said. The system tracks approximately 125 buildings on base and 80 wells, which were built as part of the clean-up system.

According to Schmidt, the system is monitored 24 hours a day and will alert automatically if there are any problems.

The ponds and wells that were recently added to the system have been working so far, and are "getting the job done," said Schmidt.

## Air Force battlelabs move out

**WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980128)** — Six Air Force battlelabs throughout the United States are up and running with promising results.

Battlelabs are small, focused, activity centers that explore innovative operations and logistics concepts for advancing U.S. air and space power.

Battlelab team members are working to rapidly advance Air Force capabilities to support visions laid out in Global Engagement and Joint Vision 2010. They are melding field ingenuity, innovative operations and logistics concepts with the latest technology the Air Force Research Laboratory and warfare centers have to offer.

The six Air Force battlelabs are:

■Air Expeditionary Force Battlelab, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho

■Command and Control Battle Management Battlelab, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

■Force Protection Battlelab, Lackland AFB, Texas

■Information Warfare Battlelab, Kelly AFB, Texas

■Space Battlelab, Falcon AFB, Colo.

■Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Battlelab, Eglin AFB, Fla.

Some promising experiments are nearing completion and could significantly improve the way the Air Force conducts its core competencies: air and space superiority, global attack, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority and agile combat support.

Concepts being explored at the six battlelabs run the gamut of Air Force mission areas. The Air Expeditionary Force Battlelab is working on the "common boresight system." Successful development promises a significant reduction in logistics footprints, while increasing weapon system accuracy.

The Command and Control Battle Management Battlelab, along with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, is working on an advanced joint forces air component command and control initiative.

Tackling one of the Air Force chief of

staff's high-priority issues, the Force Protection Battlelab is working the Project Geese initiative. This looks at how a wide array of passive and active sensors can improve warning and speed security force response times at remote surveillance sites.

The "early warning system for network-based attacks" is one of the Information Warfare Battlelab's ongoing initiatives. This project looks at different ways to recognize and assess attacks against U.S. information systems and provide warning for an effective defense.

To help keep track of the ever expanding number of satellites crowding the Earth's orbit, the Space Battlelab is working on the "geo-electro-optical deep space surveillance system" augmentation. This project uses an array of regular in-place telescopes to build accurate and affordable metrics to help track deep space objects.

Finally, the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Battlelab is working on the capability to suppress enemy air defenses from unmanned platforms. UAVs could greatly reduce people and equipment at risk during this dangerous mission.

For a complete list of ongoing experiments, visit the Air Force Battlelab web page at www.hq.af.mil/xo/afbattlelab.

## Cannon crew chief presents flag to parents of fallen airman

by Anna Nixon
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFNS - 980135)** — Senior Airman Josh Ploetz, a crew chief with the 429th Electronic Combat Squadron here, sat watching "The Today Show" in his home early one morning when something caught his attention. Guests on the show were the parents of an airman killed June 25,1996 in the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia.

Herm and Sharon Marthaler of Cambridge, Minn., were talking about their 20-year-old son, Brent Marthaler who was an airman first class with the 58th Fighter Squadron of Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Brent was on temporary assignment and was to return to the United States June 26 — the day following the bombing that killed 19 airmen while they were asleep in their barracks.

The show caught Ploetz' attention for several reasons. He, too, was an airman and had been stationed in Saudi. His hometown of Rochester, Minn., was only one to two hours south of Cambridge and his heart went out to the parents.

After the show, Ploetz said he didn't think much more about it. However, as time went by, the thought of the airman kept creeping back into his mind so he decided he wanted to do something in memory of the Marthaler's son.

On Ploetz' next tour to Saudi Arabia, he bought a flag at the base exchange and requested the 429th ECS fly the flag over the no-fly zone in memory of Marthaler. With the help of Ploetz' detachment commander, Lt. Col. K.D. Boyer, and two EF-111A crew members, Maj. John Chandler and Capt. Steve Ranalli, the flag Ploetz bought was flown on a mission in support of Operation Southern Watch on June 25, 1997 — the first anniversary of the Khobar Towers bombing.

Ploetz and his wife, Lani, had already arranged to visit his family in Rochester and attend his sister's wedding in September. Therefore, they thought this would be a good time to present the flag to the Marthalers. District representative and military veteran service officer Jim Rostberg helped coordinate the meeting between Ploetz and the Marthalers.

In a quiet, low-keyed ceremony, Ploetz presented the flag and a certificate to the Marthalers. The ceremony took place at a government building in Cambridge.

Ploetz said doing something for the slain airman gave him a nice feeling inside, but "I didn't do it for satisfaction. I did this hoping that if something happened to me, someone would do this for Lani and my parents. I would like to have done it for all 19 airmen."

Since the bombing, the base where the bombing took place has been relocated to a more secure area. The military has tightened security hoping to prevent another bombing.

At Eglin AFB, where 12 of the 19 victims were stationed, an 8-foot by 37-foot long wall has been dedicated to members killed in the Khobar Towers bombing. Engraved in the wall are pictures of the victims and inscriptions memorializing each one. On the anniversary of the bombing, the wall was dedicated and Marthaler's widow and parents were on hand. (Courtesy of Air Combat Command News Service)

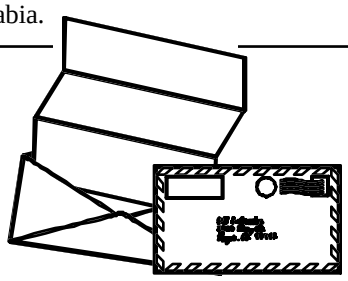
## Tax season brings familiar forms, more phone service

**WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980141)** — Many taxpayers will find some good news in the tax packages they receive from the Internal Revenue Service, familiar forms and an expanded schedule of IRS telephone assistance.

Although the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 made many changes in the tax laws, most of them do not begin until 1998, so this year's tax forms look very much like last year's. For example, the Form 1040 has just two new lines — one for the medical savings account deduction and the other for the adoption credit, both provisions resulting from 1996 legislation.

"For the most part, taxpayers should be able to use last year's tax return as a guide when doing their 1997 return," said IRS Commissioner Charles O. Rossotti.

The biggest change is on Schedule D (Form 1040), "Capital Gains and Losses." Additional lines on Page 2 take taxpayers

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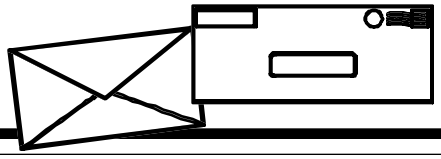

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step-by-step through the new, lower tax rates on capital gains. All taxpayers with capital gains must use Schedule D. Mutual fund investors can no longer put their capital gains distributions directly on Form 1040.

The IRS toll-free help line — 1 800 829-1040 — is now open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Saturday. "Our extra hours should make it easier for taxpayers to get help when they're at home working on their tax forms," Rossotti said.

About 26 million tax packages will have no forms — just instructions for using TeleFile, the file-by-phone system that 4.7 million people used last year. With TeleFile, a toll-free, ten-minute call may be all a taxpayer needs to do. Only those who receive these packages from the IRS may use TeleFile.

Taxpayers who used a paid preparer last year will not receive a tax package, since preparers almost always use their own forms.

The IRS has forms and publications available to computer users through its Web site at http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/. TaxFax offers forms and instructions via return fax. Call 703 368-9694 (not toll-free) from a fax machine. Forms and publications are also available by calling (toll free) 1 800 TAX-FORM (1 800 829-3676). (Courtesy of IRS News Service)

## Community centers offer two new talent programs

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980122)** — Air Force community centers are inviting teens and families to share their performing arts talents with the rest of the Air Force community.

Community centers will conduct two new no-travel talent programs in 1998. The first will be the Air Force Family Talent Program. Couples, parent-child, and entire family categories will be included. Base-level talent contests will be conducted between March 15 and April 15.

Each base will select the best act in each category and send the tapes to the Air Force Services Agency, in San Antonio, by May 1 for judging. The best family talent in the Air Force will be selected from the tapes submitted.

A similar program for teen talent will be held between July 15 and Aug. 15. This program will be modeled after a very successful youth talent program, conducted by United States Air Forces in Europe in 1997, and the Air Force Talent Contest. Teens with talent in voice, instrumental music, and performing arts will compete individually or in groups. Judging of the best category acts submitted by bases will begin Sept. 1.

Both programs will be sponsored by base community centers with assistance from the youth program staff. Interested individuals should contact their local base Services Squadron or Youth Center. (Courtesy of Air Force Services Public Affairs)

## Cleveland delayed entry program hits home run

by Staff Sgt. Chuck Hinrichs
311th Recruiting Squadron Public Affairs

**CLEVELAND (AFNS - 980146)** — Near the site of the last World Series and home of the Cleveland Indians, another team is being built comprised mostly of recent high school graduates with little or no experience.

Like other professional teams, the young group will also be in uniform — the Air Force blue. The new team is part of the Delayed Entry Program led by the 311th Recruiting Squadron's Staff Sgt. Earnest Roberts, a recruiter in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

If the Air Force Recruiting Service were compared to the game of baseball, then Roberts would be its talent scout, trainer, and general manager.

According to the 31-year-old recruiter, whose job is much like that of a talent scout, he interviews as many as five applicants in order to find one person qualified to make the Air Force roster. Roberts says recruiting is a lot of hard work, but he loves the Air Force and its challenges.

Referring to himself as a team player he says he's "willing to do whatever it takes to give other young people the opportunity to get started in their life." A chance, he says, "to do things they couldn't normally do right out of high school. I'm giving a kid a dream."

Prior to becoming a recruiter, Roberts was a personal trainer and director of the wellness program at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., where he says he helped people live healthier, better lives.

Now, as a trainer in the DEP, Roberts does more than just weigh future airman to ensure their eligibility. The Cleveland native says he draws on his experience as a fitness director to show his new recruits that anybody can be fit and have fun doing it.

Roberts expects the recruits to demonstrate their physical fitness on a regular basis, explaining it builds their confidence before heading to the Air Forces' version of training camp at Lackland AFB, Texas.

"I can already do all of the exercises I need to do to pass basic training. I'm not worried about that," says Torre Escott, who entered the DEP in early September. However, she is concerned about being close to her maximum allowable weight. So she runs, swims or lifts weights every day. Escott says she is ready to go and that she is excited to go to Lackland.

When Roberts assumes his managerial role, he tries to make sure people stay motivated, qualified and committed to entering active duty.

After an individual has decided to join, Master Sgt. Charles Brown, Roberts' flight chief, says it's a shame to lose a recruit because of a disqualification or a refusal.

"I've seen it happen too many times," he says.

Roberts has never had a refusal, and only two cancellations due to medical conditions discovered at the time the recruit prepared to ship out.

Using monthly DEP Commander's Calls like team meetings and a fact-filled information letter comparable to a play book, Roberts keeps the young people motivated.

"The key to successful DEP meetings is keeping it interesting and enjoyable. DEPers need to be part of the process," he explains. "I maintain a strong rapport with all of my people. They're not coming just for the food.

I stand by my people from the time I first begin to recruit them until the day they go to basic training," Roberts says.

He attributes his success to honesty at all times. In 1997, his first season as an Air Force recruiter, Roberts was the squadron's rookie recruiter of the year. He earned the Chief's Award and was also a nominee for the squadron's master recruiting badge. (Courtesy of Air Force Recruiting Service)