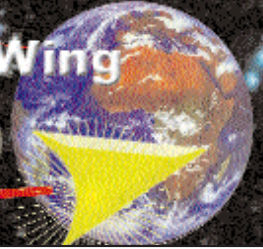


MISSILEER



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The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds dazzle the air show crowd Sunday as they perform death-defying maneuvers under perfect weather conditions. The event also included the Navy

Blue Angels, here for the first time, and the Army Golden Knights. The three headliners are rarely on the same venue. (Photo by Delinda Karnehm, Florida Today)

Air show rocks Florida

By Sue Walden
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It was an event like never before at Patrick Air Force Base.

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, Navy Blue Angels and Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, plus many other aerial demonstrations awed crowds Sunday under cloudless skies.

Patrick officials say 100,000 spectators watched the air show from the base while another 100,000 viewed the event from boats and roadways. These numbers make it perhaps the largest crowd-drawing event in the state, alongside the Daytona 500.

"Patriotism and wanting to watch the three elite headliners were main reasons for the huge crowd," said Lt. Col. Kurt Hall, air show director. The Thunderbirds and Blue Angels are rarely

on the same venue, but Patrick had a stroke of luck. An air show cancellation left the Blue Angels calendar open. "They actually called us and asked if they could come," he said. It was the first time the Blue Angels ever performed here.

Crowds laced through static displays, such as an A-10, B-1, F-117, C-5 and C-130, which were dotted throughout the spectator area. Visitors also got a look at the 45th Space Wing's space mission at the Space Expo Hall. The exposition highlighted how the wing contributes to the space portion of the U.S. Aerospace Force and its support of the warfighter.

"Everyone did an amazing job of executing this event, from the demonstrators who flew brilliantly to Security Forces," said Lt. Col. Hall. "We are thankful for the help of the State of Florida and Brevard County for getting the traffic to flow in, out and around the

base," Lt. Col. Hall said.

The jury was out as to which demonstration was the crowd's favorite. "I loved all of it," said John Graves from Huntsville, Ala. "The aerobatics were superb."

One special moment drew a hush from the crowd when the Thunderbirds flew in formation from left to right of the spectators as the song "God Bless America," recorded by Celine Dion played.

"I really loved the Thunderbirds because it was my first time seeing them," said 10-year-old Justin Debish, who came with his father from Port St. Lucie. "They were awesome."

"This is our twentieth time seeing the Thunderbirds and Blue Angels and we love it every time," said Richard Yoder from Lady Lake, Fla. "We never get tired of it. It's a great show today."

Outstanding is just the START!



By Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich
45TH SW COMMANDER

Spectacular air show greetings everyone! People were promised a once in a lifetime air show and there is no doubt in my mind Lt. Col. Kurt Hall and his air show executive team DELIVERED! I must admit, as I saw hail falling on Friday night and woke up to a drenched Space Coast on Saturday morning, I was a little worried about Mother Nature and her cooperation for Sunday. But I never had a doubt in the great team here and their ability to pull off this monumental task in a first-class way.

As it turned out, Mother Nature had her act together and gave us superb weather giving us a picture perfect backdrop for our numerous aerial demonstration teams. It's obvious our publicity campaign worked, because if you weren't part of the more than 100,000 plus people on Patrick, you were probably in one of the 1,200 boats on the river getting a unique view of the day's happenings. It was great to hear those boat horns after each show.

I'd like to thank the committee by name for all their hard work. While hundreds helped and without them, the air show would not have been a success, these were the people thinking about and planning this air show back when we were picking out pumpkins for Halloween. They did an absolutely wonderful job and I've received many e-mails from people saying they enjoyed the show and getting a look "inside our gates."

So a sharp salute to Lt. Col. Kurt Hall, our project officer and his committee of Lt. Col. Austin Jameson, assistant director; Lt. Col. Stephen Niles, medical lead; Capt. Scott Sanford, security lead; Capt. Neal George, demo and static team lead; Babs Angel, public affairs lead; Jude Sorg, services lead; George Robins, civil engineer lead; Maj. Chris Leavey, legal office lead; Katrina Windschitl, financial management lead; Capt. Robert Tobler, airfield operations lead; Master Sgt. Charlie Stickel, air boss; Carol Power, protocol lead and Judy Nicholson, hospitality lead.

What was even more impressive, is after all the

monumental effort it took to put on a huge air show, the wing was still able to support NASA and the launch of the Pegasus rocket carrying the Galaxy Evolution Explorer or GaleX satellite the very next morning. And we did it without skipping a beat. I believe this is a tribute to the professionalism and flexibility our wing continues to show whether it is supporting our mission, contributing to the war on terror or thanking the community by giving them a show they'll never forget. Great job everyone and I appreciate the all-around effort whether at Patrick or the Cape.

Welcome back to the members who've arrived home with the 920th Rescue Wing. It's great to have you back and I thank you for your service. The rescues you performed are becoming legendary and something everyone on the Space Coast takes pride in. Let's hope the rest of the 920th and wing people come home very soon.

Next week the 45th Space Wing loses one of its very best as our vice commander Col. Cameron Bowser departs for the Pentagon completing nearly four years of service to the wing. It all started with his assignment as the Operations Group deputy commander in July 1999. Since then, he was promoted to colonel and assumed command of the group until he became our vice commander in March.

During his time, he played an immeasurable role in the now more than 100 consecutive successful space launches from the Eastern Range. His dynamic leadership was critical to the Ops Group receiving its "Outstanding" rating during last fall's Operational Readiness Inspection and it directly contributed to the wing earning an "Outstanding." We'll miss him!

I'd like to congratulate and once again thank all of the volunteers we honored Wednesday during our National Volunteer Week breakfast. Volunteers play a critical role in the everyday happenings of the wing and our mission partners. It is only right we set aside a week for all their important contributions. I'm glad so many were able to make it to the breakfast Wednesday. If you couldn't come and are a volunteer, please accept my thanks here from our grateful community. I'll make an opportunity to get you a special volunteer pin handed out at the breakfast.

People here already know Brevard County is the most supportive community of the military you'll find in the United States, but here is another clear-cut example. As I wrote a few weeks back, the people of Indian Harbour Beach held a military appreciation day Saturday at Gleason

Park. All military people and their families were hosted for free and treated to a great day. That certainly would be more than enough in anyone's book.

In the process, however, the fine folks from our neighbors to the south raised \$1,000 for our young families. The money will be used to help out our lower-ranking folks to receive assistance for food and other critical needs when they are down on their luck. I know they will appreciate the help and it is heart warming to know that total strangers, who will probably never meet our people, would give of their time and money to help them out. I can't thank them enough but I can certainly encourage you to reach out and shake the hand of a person from Indian Harbour Beach and thank them for their generosity.

With the beginning of May yesterday, we started the 125 Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign. During the next few months, you will see a great deal of information printed in the *Missileer* and distributed around base emphasizing the importance of working and having fun in a safe environment.

Traditionally, the summer is the most dangerous time of year with the kids out of school and many people traveling far distances on vacation. The Air Force is already ahead of last year's pace of losing people to accidents.

Fortunately, it hasn't struck us here and I definitely want to keep it that way. So the wing is holding a safety contest with the four wing groups and wing staff competing. The "safest" group for the summer receives \$10,000 in quality of life funds to spend on their group. The second- through fourth-place winners receive \$7,500, \$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively. I figure a little incentive never "hurt anyone" (yes, pun intended). So let's have a safe summer and there is nothing I'd like to see more than us all worry that we might have a five-way tie for first because everyone is taking safety seriously. Thanks for your help in this area.

I do need help in an area related to safety. Please, if you are doing it, stop feeding the birds around Patrick and our beaches. We've seen an increase in bird strikes, including one at the air show, so it is becoming a problem. It is much like the philosophy with alligators, you don't feed them in the local canals and we don't want to feed the birds on or near the base. I would hate to see us injure a pilot or lose an airplane due to the fact someone thought they were being nice to our local birds. As busy as our airfield is, we need the birds to find another food source away from the base. Thanks for the help.

Remember to keep our troops in your prayers and have a super weekend. God Bless!


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FL 32925
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Published by Cape Publications, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 45th Space Wing, Patrick AFB, Fla.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 45th Space Wing Public Affairs Office.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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P.O. Box 419000
Melbourne, FL 32941-9000
Retail: (321) 242-3808
National: (321) 242-3803
Classified: (321) 259-5555

Deadline for submissions is 2 p.m. the Friday before publication.

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Former AFSPC vice commander dies in Nebraska

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – Retired Lt. Gen. Roger DeKok, former vice commander of Air Force Space Command up until his retirement a year ago, died April 24 in Omaha, Neb.

During his tenure as vice commander here from 2000 to 2002, the general was known for his implementation of the 2001 Space Commission's recommendations, which included incorporating the Space and Missile Systems Center into AFSPC and developing a professional cadre of space professionals.

Lt. Gen. DeKok received his commission with the Air Force in 1968. He served in numerous space plans and operations positions, from detachment level to space policy work in the White House.

While serving at the Pentagon in 1983, he coordinated the Air Force Space Plan and during his subsequent assignment to the White House National Security Council, he developed and coordinated the U.S. National Space Policy that was signed by President Reagan in 1988.

He commanded two space wings – the 1st Space Wing (now the 21st SW) at Peterson from 1989 to 1990 and the 50th SW at Falcon AFB, (now Schriever AFB) Colo., from 1990 to 1993.

"Roger DeKok was a leader, innovator, mentor and, above all, a friend to the men and women of Air Force Space Command," said Gen. Lance Lord, AFSPC commander.

"He was a true expert in our field who evolved space capabilities into their vital role in National Security. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time."

The funeral service was at the Cadet Chapel at the U.S. Air Force Academy Tuesday. A memorial service will also be held 10 a.m. today at Headquarters, Air Force Space Command on Peterson AFB. *(Air Force Space Command News Service)*

Patriotic retreat

Junior Enlisted Advisory Council members, Tech. Sgt. Ian Morley (left), 45th Services Squadron and Tech. Sgt. John Shelman, 1st Space Launch Squadron, fold the flag during Tuesday's monthly retreat ceremony in Memorial Plaza. *(Photo by Jim Laviska)*



920th RQW heroes return



Tech. Sgt. Albert Gibson, 920th Maintenance Squadron, kisses his baby, 7-month-old Paramina, after a deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom where the 920th Rescue Wing was responsible for saving 17 lives. *(Photo by Malcolm Denmark)*

By Senior Airman Heather Kelly
920TH RESCUE WING

Amid cheers and tears, more than 100 members of the 920th Rescue Wing returned home last week to an eager crowd of friends and family.

Making the long journey home on commercial air carriers and an HC-130 aircraft, the airmen were greeted by wing commander Col. Tim Tarchick and Lt. Gen. James Sherrard, commander of the Air Force Reserve.

Congressman Dave Weldon and Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich, commander of the 45th Space Wing, were also in attendance to welcome the heroes home.

"I couldn't have asked for a better homecoming. It's so good to be back," said Tech. Sgt. Jay Ulloa, embracing his two daughters and wife, Rebecca. He smiled adding,

"Sorry I'm late honey."

His sentiment was echoed throughout the crowd. Flanked by balloons and signs scrawled with "Welcome Home" and "We Love You Daddy," the returning reservists recognized that the day was bittersweet. "We still have a lot of folks over there. The real celebration can begin when the last member steps off that plane," said Maj. Donald Stuke, a pilot with the unit. Approximately 250 of the unit's members remain deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Our prayer's have been answered. Nothing pleases me more than to see the brave men and women of the 920th return home safe and sound," said Col. Tarchick, "I couldn't be prouder."

He has reason to be proud. As the Air Force Reserve's primary combat search and rescue unit,

the 920th was responsible for 17 rescues during Operation Iraqi Freedom. "That's 17 families who can rest easier knowing their loved ones are still with them – it's a great feeling to know we have that kind of impact," said Col. Tarchick.

In addition to the 17 lives saved, the unit was recently engaged in a refueling effort above the skies of Iraq that was nothing short of perilous. In ideal conditions, an HH-60 air refueling takes place 1,000 feet above ground.

Due to the extreme nature of the circumstances surrounding them, the crews were forced to simultaneously refuel two helicopters at half that altitude, an operation that left little margin for error. "It's a testament to the skill and professionalism the members of this unit possess," Col. Tarchick said. "They embody dedication at its finest."

45th Finance opens office at Cape

1st Lt. Eric Badger
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Christmas arrived early for wing members at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. In addition to new services such as dry cleaning, chaplain and legal assistance, the installation now has its own 45th Finance office.

The Finance Office, located in Room 108 of the Cape Headquarters building (Bldg. 60740) is open every other Wednesday from 8-10 a.m. Services will be provided by appointment only.

"We are working by appointment only so the member will be able to have our undivided attention and it gives us time to research their issue prior to the meeting," said 2nd Lt. Reina Chaperon, 45th Comptroller Squadron deputy financial services officer.

Much like the other new services provided at the Cape, the new Finance Office will make accommodations to Cape worker schedules priority number one.

"Traveling from the Cape to the Patrick Finance Office could take a whole morning if you count the round-trip drive, office wait time and

To make an appointment, e-mail 4finance@patrick.af.mil with "Cape Appointment" in the subject line.

Appointment requests are taken up to noon on the Thursday before each scheduled visit. The next available appointment dates are May 14/28, June 11/25 and July 9/23.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Reina Chaperon at 494-4604.

the time it takes to receive assistance," said 2nd Lt. Chaperon.

"The Cape Finance Office will save the workers a considerable amount of time and further ensures the readiness of all 45th Space Wing members."

According to 2nd Lt. Chaperon, the office will perform the same services here as they do at Patrick, such as travel vouchers, pay history review and help filling out financial forms.

"The ability to complete actions through a local, Cape Finance Office will

reduce the number of hours Cape personnel spend away from the mission, which is extremely helpful," said Capt. Dean Holthaus, Detachment 1, 2nd Space Operations Squadron commander.

"The new location is especially helpful to wing members who work and live near the Cape." The Finance Office will remain at the Cape as long as workers continue to show interest in the service, according to 2nd Lt. Chaperon.

"Once we are established at the Cape, the program will run as long as necessary," she said. "We are honored and excited to offer this service to Cape workers. Our number one goal is to do whatever we can to help our customers."

Action Line: 494-6550



Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich
45th SW commander

The Action Line is your direct link to me and provides a valuable source of information on ways we can work together to make Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station better places to work and live.

The best way to get something fixed is to identify the problem to supervisors and first sergeants.

If you can't get your problem resolved through the agencies, contact the Action Line: e-mail, [Commander's Line@patrick.af.mil](mailto:Commander'sLine@patrick.af.mil) or click on global under Action Line - Patrick AFB; recorded message, 494-6550; mail, 45SW/PA 1201 Edward H. White II St, Ste C-130, Patrick AFB FL 32925-3237; fax, 494-7302. Address all correspondence "Attn: Action Line."

When directing an issue to the Action Line, callers must indicate to whom they've previously addressed the issue.

45th Mission Support Group
Col. Steve Werner
494-6607

45th Civil Engineer Squadron
Lt. Col. Chris Hazen
494-4041

Base Housing
Caroline Jamba
494-2593

45th Services Squadron
Lt. Col. John Sproul
494-8081

Military Personnel
Maj. Dianne Dzialo
494-2035

Commissary officer
Jerry Roberts
494-4060

AAFES
Mike Lovejoy
494-6455

Civilian Personnel
Robert Daniel
494-5238

Military Equal Opportunity
Capt. Marlon Johnson
494-6334

45th Security Forces Squadron
Lt. Col. David Woods
494-6202

Financial Services
1st Lt. Raymond Kipp Bradley
494-7171

45th Medical Group
Col. Charles Mackett III
494-8100

Ground Safety
Paul Compton
494-2202

Inspector General
Lt. Col. Ralph Gracia
494-2287



From left, Patricia Duve, Staff Sgts. Cassandra Simmons and Aaron Benlolo receive instruction from Master Sgt. Hope Sanders before graduating from the 45th Space Wing's first Enlisted-Civilian Professional Development Course. (Photo by Jim Laviska)

Enlisted, civilians learn together

By Verla D. Davis
45SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Professional Development Course, once suited for enlisted members only, is now available to junior-level civilians.

Patrick's first class met recently where five civilians and eight enlisted members sat shoulder to shoulder learning about professionalism in the Air Force. "This is not an official program yet; no other wing has it," said 45th Space Wing Command Chief Master Sgt Tony Manson. "This is a good effort to break down those walls so we can work better together."

The class covered civilian and military topics, including rank structure, promotions and evaluations. "I didn't know how long it took for the enlisted to get promoted," said Sandra Calkins, 45th Comptroller Squadron secretary.

According to course facilitator Master Sgt. Hope Sanders, 45th Mission Support Squadron, the class was designed for the non-commissioned staff and technical sergeants and mid-grade civilians in supervisory positions over military members. "It is also a professional development tool for civilians to prepare to transition into supervisory positions in the future," she said.

"This opportunity for civilians occurred as the result of discussions held at off-site meetings by the wing's senior leadership," said Judy Nicholson, START Coordinator. "The AF Chief of Staff survey comments reflected a need for more training by civilians. And it was noted that there is not a clear path for civilians to gain professional development if they are not in career

programs."

The Officer Professional Development Course is open to grades GS-9 and above. The Enlisted-Civilian Professional Development course meets a need for civilians GS-8 and below. In addition to meeting professional development needs, the Civilian Oversight Recognition Team survey showed a lack of understanding by civilians of the military systems. And during the Officer Professional Development last month, it was learned the military lacked understanding of the civilian systems, said Ms. Nicholson. "So along with enhancing training opportunities for civilians, these courses are broadening the understanding by military and civilian attendees of both systems and how they support each other — a win-win for everyone," she said.

"As a member of Air Force Technical Applications Center, the ability to network with the base's military and civilian personnel will surely prove to be indispensable," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Benlolo, NCOIC Network Systems Integration. "This class has excellent potential."

"The overall evaluation of the course was excellent," Master Sgt. Sanders said. "Each graduate went away with a new perspective about each other's careers, as well as the budding of new professional relationships."

Classes will meet at least twice a quarter. Supervisors must nominate students for the course. Nominations for civilians are forwarded through groups or wing staff chiefs to Ms. Nicholson. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Sanders at 494-7080.

Patrick Spouses' Club recognizes achievers

By Ida Barry
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Exhilarated, thrilled and grateful were some of the words used by airmen and military family members who received academic achievement scholarship awards from the Patrick Spouses' Club April 25 at the Officers' Club.

More than \$7,000 worth of student scholarships were presented. The PSC supplements the awards program through fund-raising efforts and periodic contributions from individuals and organizations. The largest percentage comes from the Thrift Shop.

The awards were presented to those individuals who exhibit superior academic achievement, exemplary qualities of leadership and unusual promise of future distinction. "One day these individuals will broaden the world and conquer it," said Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich, 45th Space Wing commander.

Airmen Achievement Awards

\$550

▲ Staff Sgt. Amber Armbruster, 45th Civil Engineer Squadron, Spouses' Memorial Award, plans to pursue her associate arts degree.

\$500

▲ Master Sgt. Glenn Schofield, Air Force Technical Applications Center, will use his money for books.

▲ Master Sgt. Stephen Chase of 45th Medical Group, will continue his degree in business administration.

High school Achievement Awards

\$1,500

▲ Kendra Mackett, daughter of Mrs. and Col. Charles Mackett, 45th MDG, Grissom-White-Chaffee Memorial Award. She attends Satellite High School and plans to attend her father's alma mater,



A large portion of the Thrift Shop profits are distributed to the Patrick Spouses' Club's scholarship program. Teru Dickinson listens as Thrift Shop volunteer Monica Aviles explains composition of the lamp. Teru's husband, Dick, completes paperwork to submit sale items. (Photo by Jim Laviska)

University of Notre Dame to study pre-medicine.

▲ Brian Busick, son of retired Air Force Senior Master Sgt. and Mrs. Ronald Busick, Challenger Seven Memorial Award. He is a student at Astronaut High School, Titusville, and plans to major in Industrial Engineering at the University of Central Florida.

\$1,000

▲ Elizabeth Burwell, daughter of AF retired Mrs. and Lt. Col. William Burwell attends Melbourne Central Catholic High School and will attend The University of Central Florida to pursue a degree in Psychology.

▲ Matthew Schaefer, son of Mrs. and AF retired 1st Lt. Andrew Schaefer, also attends Melbourne Central

Catholic High School. He has applied to the Universities of Notre Dame and Central Florida.

▲ Michael Wetlesen, son of Lt. Col. and Mrs. David Wetlesen. A student of Merritt Island Christian School, hopes to be a veterinarian.

▲ Angela Whisman, daughter of Mrs. and Navy retired Master Chief Darrell Whisman, First Command Educational Foundation Award. She is a student of Melbourne High School and will study Air Space Engineering at the University of Florida.

"Receiving this award makes a huge difference for my family financially," said Mr. Wetlesen.

"The PSC is very happy to continue this time-honored tradition toward higher education," said Terri Ten Haken, PSC scholarship chairman.



Spouse appreciation

Spouse appreciation day is May 9 and the Family Support Center has a full day planned:

9 a.m. Opening ceremony at base theater; includes update on wing's mission, plus info on housing privatization, military construction and other initiatives.

10 a.m. "Increase your Emotional Health," a 30-minute seminar at base theater by Judy Nicholson on handling stress in today's hectic environment.

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Makeovers at FSC by local volunteers.

3-4 p.m. Information fair at FSC. Come see what services are available to spouses and families.

4-6 p.m. Free cookout with hamburgers and hot-dogs for the entire family at the FSC. Winners of the Spouse Appreciation Contest will be announced at 5:30 p.m.

Free childcare is available from 5-10 p.m. by the Child Development Center. Stop by and pick up a referral form, which must be dropped off at the CDC by Monday. Events are for active-duty and DoD civilian spouses.

For more information, call 494-5675.

Take a class

Call the Family Support Center at 494-5675 for these classes: Personal Financial Management, Tuesday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Employment Orientation, Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - noon; Sponsorship Training, Bldg. 537 Room 118, Wednesday 9-11 a.m.; Intro to Sewing, Wednesday 9 a.m. - noon; Information Fair at Base Exchange, Wednesday 11:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Pre-Deployment Orientation, Thursday 7:30-11:30 a.m..

Environmental audit scheduled

The 45th Civil Engineer Squadron, Environmental Flight will conduct an internal Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program comprehensive audit at Patrick Air Force Base May 12-23. The purpose of the audit is to identify and ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

It provides an opportunity for organizations and individuals to be proactive in protecting and preserving the environment while identifying and recognizing positive environmental protection efforts.

Organizations are encouraged to make every effort to complete actions and close findings that are still outstanding from previous ECAMPs. Individuals interested in volunteering or needing more information to assist with the ECAMP should call Terri Bracher at 494-9262.

Instructors needed

The Department of Management at the U.S. Air Force Academy is looking for officers for instructor duty beginning in December 2003 and June 2004. Duty is a three-year controlled tour. Applicants should have: Undergraduate grade point average: 3.0+; Graduate GPA: 3.5+; Graduate Management Admissions Test: 550 or higher and an AACSB-accredited Masters in Business or related field (to see if a masters is AACSB accredited, visit: <http://www.aacsb.edu/accreditation/accreditedmembers.asp>), Contact a functional manager at the Air Force Personnel Center to check eligibility. For more information, contact Maj. Keith McCartney (keith.mccartney@usafa.af.mil) at the USAFA Department of Management or logon at www.usafa.af.mil/dfm/opportunities.htm.

Air Show razzle dazzle



U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds shake the ground as they rumble over the crowd during Sunday's air show. *(Photo by Delinda Karnehm, Florida Today)*



Static displays, such as this A-10, provided hours of things to do for the crowd. *(Photo by Sue Walden)*



Thunderbirds in their F-16Cs demonstrate the Calypso Pass, a mirror image maneuver that brings a roar from the crowd. *(Photo by Delinda Karnehm, Florida Today)*



The Marchetti Mavericks, from Daytona, in their SF.260 Marchettis awed the spectators with their aerial maneuvers. The five pilots are veteran aerobatic and military aviators with various careers ranging from being a commercial pilot to a dentist and author. *(Photo by Sue Walden)*



Navy Blue Angels made their debut at Patrick Sunday. It was also the first time in three years that the Air Force Thunderbirds, Navy Blue Angels and Army Golden Knights have performed at the same air show. *(Photo by Delinda Karnehm, Florida Today)*



The Navy Blue Angel's Fat Albert, a modified C-130, gets the crowd excited as it opens the Blue Angel demonstration. *(Photo by Delinda Karnehm, Florida Today)*



Though the Golden Knights jump from heights of up to 12,500 feet and speeds of 120 miles per hour when freefalling, they land on their designated target. *(Photo by Sue Walden)*



Though the Golden Knights jump from heights of up to 12,500 feet and speeds of 120 miles per hour when freefalling, they land on their designated target. *(Photo by Sue Walden)*



Army Golden Knight Staff Sgt. Cecilia "CC" Elliott peers out of the team's plane as she eyes the target before her jump. See Golden Knights story, Page 11. *(Photo by Sue Walden)*

Record-setting air show numbers

Ever wonder what makes an air show tick? Here are some numbers from Sunday's show.

People viewing show from inside Patrick AFB: **According to SFS, 100,000.**

How many people watched from A1A and Pineda Causeway: **Unknown, but possibly more than inside the gates.**

How many in boats watching from Banana River: **Estimated 10,000.**

The Services Squadron served **50-feet of submarine sandwiches** at the Hospitality Tent,

Number of aircraft here: **93.**

Gallons of jet fuel used: **120,000 gallons.**

Security Forces Squadron members working event: **105 SFS members and 50 volunteer augmentees.**

Police working exterior of event: **30 Fla. Highway Patrol troopers and 15 Brevard County Sheriff's Dept. deputies.**

Number of arrests: **0.**

Number of cars on base: **22,000.**

Military's top demonstration teams at Patrick: **3-Army's Golden Knights, Air Force's Thunderbirds and Navy's Blue Angels.**

Other shows to have all 3 in '03: **0.**

Last time they performed together: **2000 at Andrews AFB, Maryland's air show for President Clinton's farewell.**

Hours event lasted: **8.**

Number of people receiving direct patient care during Air Show: **51.**

Range of injuries: **Scraped knees to shortness of breath to dehydration.**

Number of medical agencies working together: **4 - Central Florida Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Holmes Regional FirstFlight, Brevard County Fire and Rescue in coordination with 45th Medical Group.**

Estimated number of cold cups of water given out by 45th MDG: **3,000.**

How many bottles of sunscreen given out by the squirt: **210.**

Number of portable toilets available: **111.**

Number of busses ferrying airshow goers about Patrick: **12 from Patrick, Cape Canaveral AFS and Kennedy**

Space Center and another 4 from Space Coast Area Transit.

Amount of smoke oil used: **1,600 gallons (30 barrels).**

Number of chocks used: **120.**

Aircraft that had to fly the farthest to participate in the show: **FA/18 SuperHornet from LeMoore NAS, Calif. (more than 2,700 miles one way).**

Oldest aircraft on display: **PT-17 bi-plane (1935).**

Youngest aircraft on display: **FA/18 SuperHornet out of LeMoore NAS, Calif. (Built 1998-Operational Nov 99).**

E-mails sent to base Web site with questions about air show: **234.**



It's only every few years when the Thunderbirds and Blue Angels team up. Visitors came from across the country with one air show participant coming all the way from Seattle for the Patrick show. (Photo courtesy of Delinda Karnehm, Florida Today)



A Golden Knight bids farewell as he jumps during the Air Show Sunday. (Photos by Sue Walden)

By Sue Walden
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jets screamed overhead as I was quickly ushered into the C-31. A soldier spun me around and began zipping me into a black flight suit. We didn't have much time.

I was on an important mission as an embedded reporter flying with an army of one - the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team.

After being strapped into my seat, next to and across from open doorways, I watched the team on the tarmac. "This is no time for square dancing," I thought, then realized the team, clad in shorts and a T-shirt, was practicing their aerobic routines. They broke, stood in formation and with the Army's resounding battle cry, screamed "Hooah," and boarded the plane.

Precision. In a blink of an eye, their flight suits and parachutes were on. They checked each other's parachute and sat down.

It grew colder as we ascended. I was nervous

sitting two inches from an open doorway, though the view was breathtaking with the Banana River and ocean dotted with hundreds of boats and Patrick swarming with "ants."

I may have been a little edgy and cold at 12,500 feet, but the team was cooler than a cucumber. "This is just like going to sleep," said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Mandy, who has been skydiving for 16 years. "When I'm freefalling, I feel so relaxed like I'm on top of the world."

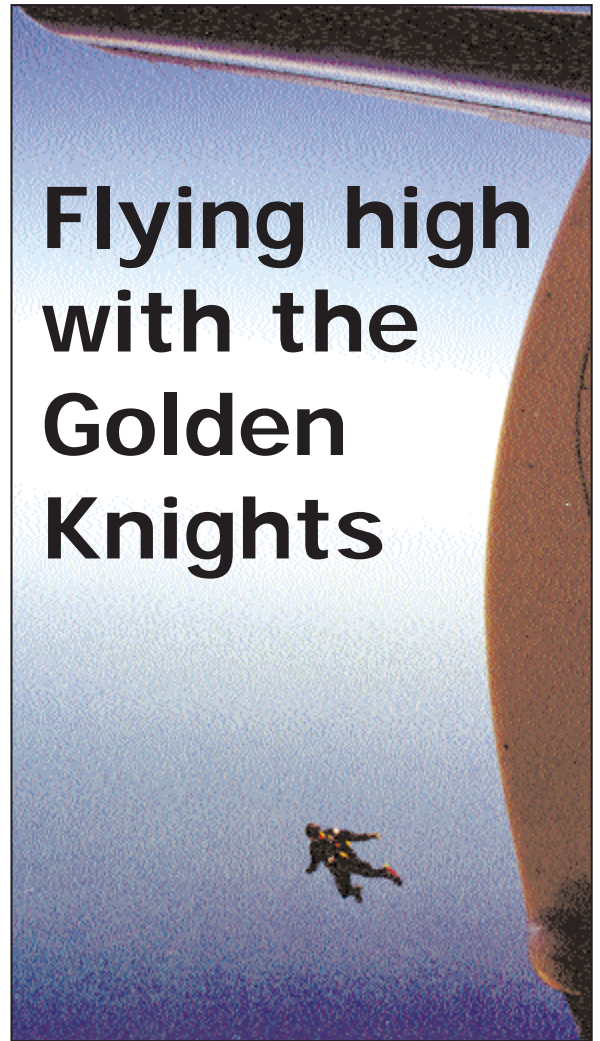
Between the earplugs, the jet engine hum and the wind lashing through the plane, it was hard to hold much of a conversation. Yet, the team chatted away with hand signals all their own - "I'm sleepy ... I'm pumped up for this ... want a mint?"

Teamwork. Hand signals are crucial to their mission. Before each jump, team members knelt by the open doorway and peered out, looking for the designated "ground zero." If the plane was flying too much to the left or right, the jumper would give a hand signal to the communications member standing midway in the plane who would repeat the signal to the pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Gerhard Turner. I knew we were in good hands because Chief Turner said he'd recently returned from a mission in Southwest Asia. This time turbulence was not from dodging stray bullets, but from our own turbulence while circling over the base.

When the target was in range, Sgt. Mark Owens, team narrator, was the first to "pop out." I always imagined they'd bend their knees and jump like we used to off the gym set pretending to be them. But with the greatest of ease, these experts stood in the doorway, hammed it up by saluting, and took a leisurely step into the abyss. After the first four flew away I found myself leaning toward the doorway. I was caught up in the beauty of it, but reality comes quickly when you're not wearing a parachute, so

I eased back in my sling seat and was grateful for the two seatbelts I was wearing.

I couldn't help but notice a slightly different Golden Knight. Staff Sgt. Cecilia "CC" Elliott is the only woman in the 10-person team, the first and only Latino woman and the eighth woman ever in the Golden



Flying high with the Golden Knights

Knights. Her teammates are like her brothers. "They treat me like I'm one of the guys, not different. I work hard at being just as good or even better than them," she said. Her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Mike Elliott, is on the gold team, the other Golden Knight demonstration team.

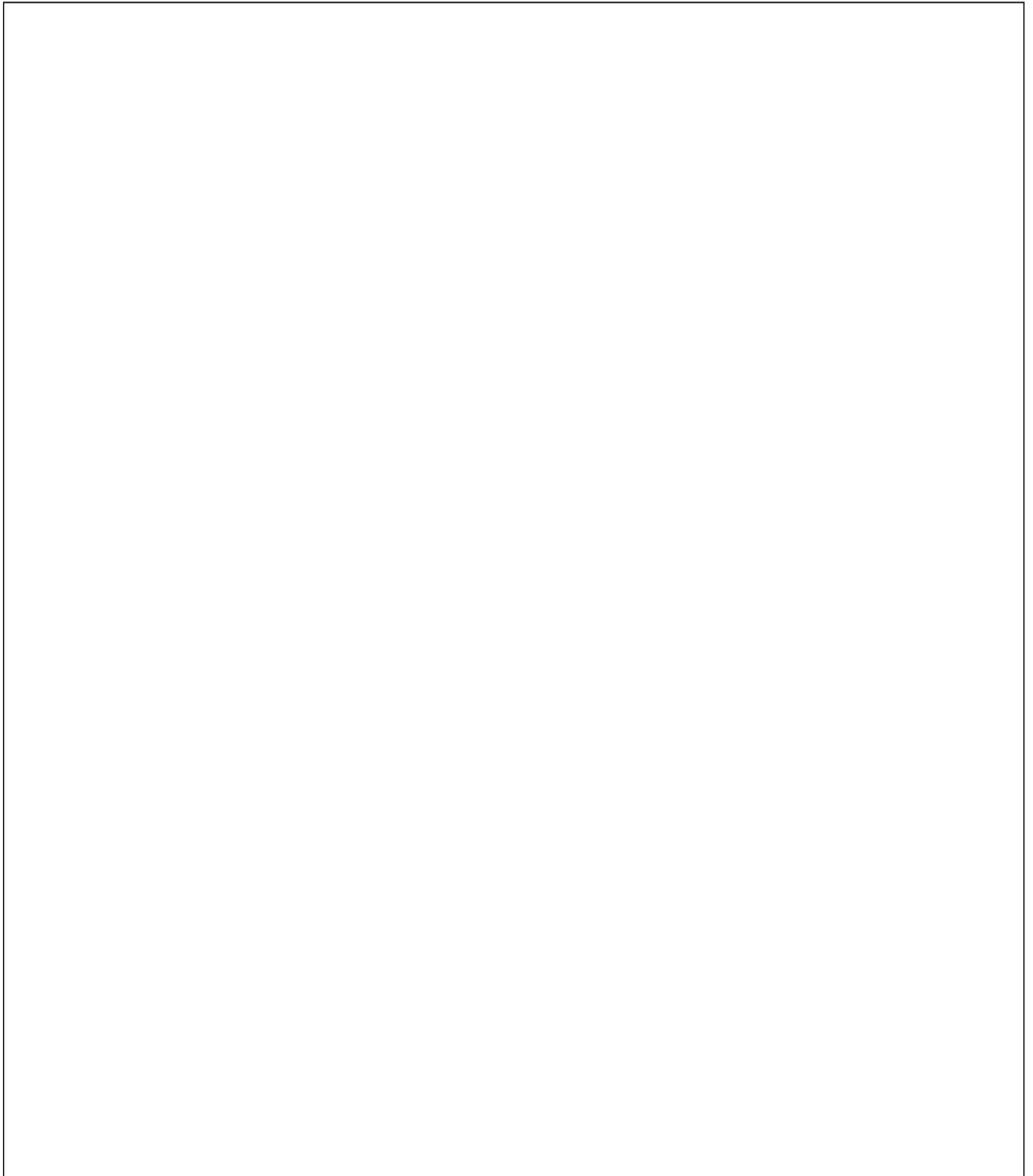
The demonstrators said they liked jumping at Patrick and were happy their "brothers" - the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and Navy Blue Angels - were appearing at the same show.

"You know, we're like carnival people going from town to town," said Staff Sgt. Russell Gray. "We get to know each other pretty well; it's like being one family. Even though we're in different services, there's no animosity." This big, talented family doesn't have fights, but they do play tricks on each other, according to Staff Sgt. Gray who declined to give an example.

They also play tricks on people like me who fly with them. One demonstrator frantically ran up to me at 10,000 feet and said, "Do you know what time it is," as if the mission depended upon it. I said, "It's 12:06." He said, "No, it's show time!" And that it was.

Army Golden Knights Fast Facts

- Based at Ft. Bragg, N.C.
- Criteria: Must have flawless military and civilian record, 150 freefall jumps.
- 3- 5-year term
- 7 teams: 2 demonstration (gold and black), headquarters, aviation, 2 competition and maintenance.
- 12-14 per demonstration team
- On road 275 days yearly
- 3-4 formations per dive average
- Fall an average of 120 miles per hour, 180 mph in a track position (arms, legs straight like a ski-jumper)
- Main practice: Yuma, Ariz. during winter (January - March)
- Soldiers from many military occupations, but many are from special forces and rangers





Friday *The Hours* A woman struggles with mental illness. Stars Meryl Streep and Nicole Kidman. (PG-13 for mature thematic elements and some disturbing images)

Saturday *Bringing Down the House* A divorced attorney reluctantly helps a prison escapee. Stars Steve Martin and Queen Latifah. (PG-13 for language, sexual humor and drug material)

Sunday *Dreamcatcher* Four young friends perform a heroic act, and in the process are transformed forever with special powers. Stars Donnie Wahlberg and Jason Lee. (R for violence, gore and language)

Show times are 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Admission is \$2.50 for ages 12 and older and \$1.50 for children 11 and younger.

Training children for triathlons

With the beginning of fitness month and the variety of events available, proper training for each event is important. Proper training is especially important, when it comes to children training for endurance events.

▲ Ensure children are training in proper shoes, great cushioning and support. Intense, high-impact activities affect their growth plates and soft bones. Cushioning is critical to prevent anterior tibia pain or shin splints.

▲ Keep them well hydrated and cooled when training outdoors. Children have poor thermal regulating capacities and can get easily overheated. Watch for flushed skin color, severe redness in face area, and off color lips for early signs of heat exhaustion.

▲ Immediately cool the child with cool water on the head and shoulder area.

Insist the child wear a light-colored T-shirt and a thin hat to further prevent dehydration and high body temperatures.

Call the Fitness & Sports Center at 494-4947 or the Patrick Youth Center at 494-4747 for information and to register children for the triathlon.

Get Cypress Garden refunds

Those who have purchased tickets at Patrick or CCAFS Information, Tickets & Travel offices for Cypress Gardens, receive a refund from IT&T now

through Thursday. Call 494-5158 for more information.

Bus up for bids

The 45th Services Squadron has a Ford 24-passenger bus up for sealed bids starting at \$7,500. Known items requiring repair are the charging system, rust door frames and a broken inside rearview mirror. No express/implied warranties are made regarding vehicle conditions.

Rights are reserved to non-award when bids are completed by May 23. Money order, credit card, or cash is accepted (no personal checks).

Send name, address, phone, and amount to 45 SVS/SVFL; Attn: VCO: Bldg 425, room 2-690, 1225 Jupiter Street, Patrick AFB FL 32925. Contact Ron Charbonneau at 494-7204 for more information.

Register for framing classes

Framing classes for April and May are: May 5, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; May 13-14, 6-9 p.m.; May 19, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; May 27-28, 6-9 p.m..

Cost for the class is \$25 plus materials, which must be ordered a minimum of 10 days prior to class date.

The Skills Center is seeking individuals interested in teaching arts and crafts classes. Call the center if interested.

Call 494-4270 to register.

Busy Fitness Month schedule covers May

By Staff Sgt. Joel Langton
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

If your New Year's resolution to get in better shape is already shot, then May might be the perfect time to get right back on track.

The 45th Services Squadron's Patrick and Cape Canaveral AFS Fitness Centers are offering 21 events for May Fitness Month 2003.

"May Fitness Month is when we put a special emphasis on promoting health and fitness in the military community," said Naomi Parish, May Fitness Month coordinator.

Ms. Parish began putting the event together in March and there are new events on tap this year. "For example, the water polo tournament is a new event in response to customer feedback," she said. "We'd had requests in the past to use the lap pool for something other than laps so we thought we'd try this."

The water polo tournament is Monday and Wednesday at 5 p.m.

To participate, call either fitness center and give them a

POC.

Another new event in the lap pool is aqua exercise. "We're trying to cover everything this time around," Parish said. "We also have an aqua exercise class and a Boot Camp Circuit Class for Spouses Day May 9 and a 3-mile walk for Senior Citizens Day on May 28 as we try to reach out to the entire community."

However, Ms. Parish said, they're not expecting record numbers. Last year, there were 1,100 people who participated. "With many troops either still deployed or having just come home, I understand that the focus right now is on spending time with family and this has reflected in our numbers at the Fitness Center," she said. "However, we are not going to cut back on what we offer and hopefully the active-duty, civilians and their family members in the Patrick and Cape Canaveral community will find the time to come out and participate in some of these great events."

For information on the events, call Patrick's Naomi Parish at 494-4534 or Cape Canaveral AFS's Chez Sanchez at 853-3966.

May Fitness Month Events

Date	Time	Event
May 1	7 a.m.	Armed Forces 5K Run/1.5-mile walk (CCAFS)
May 1	11 a.m.	Armed Forces 5K Run/1.5-mile walk (PAFB)
May 2	11 a.m.	Pedal, Paddle and Pant (PAFB)
May 5, 7	5 p.m.	Water Polo Tournament at PAFB Lap Pool
May 9	9 a.m.	Aqua-exercise in the Lap Pool
May 9	Noon	Circuit training workout in the PAFB basketball gym in observance of "Spouses Day."
May 12	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at PAFB gym
May 14	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at CCAFS gym
May 12-16	TBD	Tennis and Racquetball Challenge at CCAFS Fitness Center. Contact Cape Fitness & Sports Center for times
May 16	6:30 a.m.	WarFit 5Krun/1.5-mile walk at Patrick
May 16	7:30 a.m.	WarFit 5Krun/ 1.5-mile walk at Cape
May 16	11 a.m.	Squadron Fun Swim Relays at PAFB Lap Pool
May 16	11 a.m.	Duathlon at CCAFS only
May 19, 21	6:30 a.m.	Wallyball challenge at PAFB Fitness Center
May 19	10 a.m.	Wallyball challenge at CCAFS Fitness Center
May 22	11 a.m.	SWAP Walk - Stretch, Walk and a Potato
May 23	11 a.m.	10-mile bike ride, Cape and Patrick
May 28	6:30 a.m.	3-mile Walk for "Senior Citizens Day" at PAFB
May 28	8:30 a.m.	3-mile Walk for "Senior Citizens Day" at Cape
May 29	Noon	Triathlon Safety Brief and Clinic in the HAWC
May 30	11 a.m.	Mini-Triathlon at Patrick Fitness Center

For information on the events, call Patrick's Naomi Parish at 494-4534 or Cape Canaveral AFS's Chez Sanchez on 853-3966.

