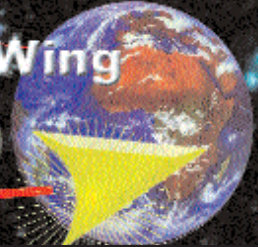


MISSILEER



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Photo by 1st Lt. Warren Comer

Range Squadron becomes 1st ROPS

Col. Gregg Billman, 45th Operations Group commander, left, and Lt. Col. Cindy Grey, 45th Range Operations Squadron commander, right, unfurl the squadron's flag after the deactivation of the 45th Range Squadron on Monday. The activation of the 1st ROPS is part of the 45th Space Wing's transformation. The 5th Space Launch Squadron will also be activated Friday on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The transformation of the wing will align operations and acquisition operations throughout the wing.

Wing undergoes historic transformation

By Capt. Susan A. Romano
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 45th Space Wing activated and deactivated units within the wing this week, streamlining and centralizing launch operations.

Officially titled the Launch Wing Transformation, the 45th SW officially deactivated the 45th Maintenance Group, the 45th Range Squadron and Detachment 8, Space & Missile Systems Center while activating the 45th Launch Group, the 1st Range Operations Squadron on Monday and the 5th Space Launch Squadron on Friday.

"The changes are vital and important to how we do business," said Brig. Gen. J. Gregory Pavlovich, 45th SW commander. "This is not a reorganization, but a transformation to better meet the needs

of the mission."

The move aligns the acquisitions and operations functions at Patrick Air Force Base under the 45th SW commander. With Lt. Gen. Brian A. Arnold, the commander of SMC, now owning the launch mission, Brig. Gen. Pavlovich assumes increased responsibilities for launch execution and mission success. There is no change to total manpower as a result of the transformation.

"The noticeable change is that in the traditional launch squadron, there is now an engineering officer," said Col. Michael Baker, 45th LCG commander. "This integrates the mission assurance function and focus into the squadron."

Before the transformation, SMC's Detachment 8 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, oversaw how well the mission was progressing, worked with the respective launch squadron to perform

the mission assurance function, and then reported its findings to the SMC commander at Los Angeles Air Force Base.

"The 45th LCG is a blending of teams bringing the wing in line with what Mr. Peter Teets, undersecretary of the Air Force, sees as a renewed focus on successful payload delivery on orbit," said Col. Baker. "From a standpoint of mission success, those at the working level will be able to work more effectively, also benefiting contractors because they'll only have to interface with one government entity."

The ceremonial deactivations and redesignations will take place at a later date. Details about that ceremony will be released as they become available. (1st Lt. Warren Comer contributed to this article)

START ... Get it!



By Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich
45TH SW COMMANDER

December greetings! It is hard to believe that it is already the final month of the year, but here we are. It'll be 2004 before we know it, especially with everything that is going on this month and, of course, the holidays. Despite the busy schedule, it is easy to get into the holiday spirit because of people like Don and Lou Shuffstall, who help us remember what the spirit of Christmas is all about. Retired U.S. Army Col. Shuffstall and his wife unknowingly mobilized their neighborhood to the great cause of supporting our airmen. When they suggested that the neighborhood take up a collection to help gather holiday donations for airmen at nearby Patrick Air Force Base, the response was overwhelming. They quickly raised \$1,000 for the cause. What an outstanding contribution to our ongoing efforts to ensure every one of our military families has the resources to enjoy the holiday season.

More good news came in the form of recognition from our numbered Air Force for one of our own. I'm proud to let you know that Mary Seabold from the 45th Medical Group won the Civilian Category I award for 14th Air Force for the third quarter (July through September). Kudos to Ms. Seabold who, with the 45th Medical Operations Support Squadron, does great work for us daily in the Family Practice Clinic.

So we're off to a good start - donations, awards, and, at last, our newly transformed organization which went into effect Monday. Among other things, this transformation aligns our acquisition and launch operations under the 45th Space Wing. As such, Col. Mike Baker, formerly the commander of the Space and Missiles System Center detachment here, becomes the new 45th Launch Group, or 45 LCG, commander. The 45th Maintenance Group deactivates and Col. Byron Presley, who served as commander as we tackled tough issues like our continuous range modernization effort, takes over as the director of staff. You can read all about the changes we've implemented on front page. As you look over the new structure of the wing, it's important to remember that this isn't just a reorganization - it is truly a transformation to better meet the needs of the mission.

Another way we're working to better meet the needs of the mission is through Force Development. Brig. Gen. (s) Robert Worley, the mission support director for Air Force Space Command, is leading the briefing team for AFSPC and helping educate folks throughout the command about the force development program. His briefing was an informative primer as this Air Force-wide initiative takes shape. We'll continue to highlight this important total force program, which includes officers, enlisted members, career civilians and Reserve and Air National Guard forces. Force development is the future of the Air Force. Fortunately we're well ahead of the game. Thanks to our START performance plan we've been working force development issues hard - especially in the area of our civilian force. So, as a result of your input from last year's CSAF Quality of Life Survey, we're leading the way in civilian force development. Check out the story on Page 7 about how the Air Force is running test programs to allow civilians to attend enlisted professional military education schools. Here at Patrick we've already expanded our professional development courses to include civilians - we have the Officer and Civilian Professional Development Course and Enlisted and Civilian PDC.

Also happening this week was the kick off to our final exercise for 2003. I know what you're thinking ... now is a crazy time to have an exercise, but it is something that has to remain a priority for this wing. There is never a perfect time to take a chunk of time out of our schedules for base exercises.

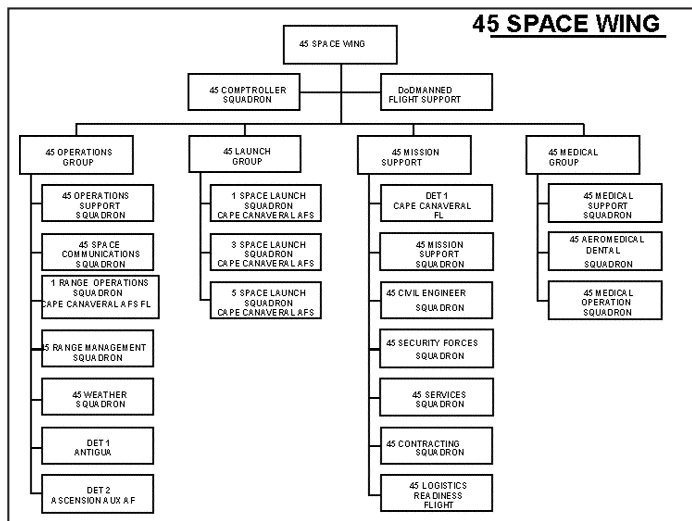
We're all busy, but what you have to understand is that it is important training. We don't know when the next contingency will take place, when another terrorist event could hit, or what we may be called upon to do. No team walks on to the field on Sunday without practice - that's what makes the team gel and helps each member understand how their actions impact the success of the team. It is the same for us. We have to be primed for our day-to-day operations and prepare for our deployments.

Don't just take my word for it. - Ask

Airman 1st Class Nadeem Trudeau, 45th Security Forces Squadron, who recently participated in the mobility exercise at Camp Blanding in October. Shortly after that exercise, Airman 1st Class Trudeau voluntarily deployed to serve with the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Kirkuk Air Base in Iraq. As you know, there is still a lot of instability in the region and one night recently they were attacked, taking on live fire and mortar rounds. Fortunately, he was unharmed. After the incident he e-mailed his supervisor, Tech. Sgt. David Mitchem, thanking him for the training he'd received at the Camp Blanding exercise. That training enabled him to instantly react and take appropriate actions to protect himself and his air base, and quickly file accurate SALUTE enemy contact reports over the radio. He was praised for his quick response in feeding that critical information about the incident - size, activity, location, unit, time, and equipment - up the chain of command. Airman 1st Class Trudeau continues to serve in harm's way, so he'll be relying on his training each and every day.

What a great lesson not only on the importance of training, but also a great reminder to all of us about our priorities when we are called to practice our air expeditionary skills. So we need to train and exercise and we need to do it regularly - no matter how busy we are. Stick with it, train hard through this round and we'll have the holidays, including several family days, to wind down.

Keep up the good work and God bless!



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Thanksgiving Day cheer

Above, airmen from the 45th Security Forces Squadron enjoy a Thanksgiving Day meal at the Riverside Dining Facility while Col. Greg Billman, 45th Operations Group commander, left, serves meals to airmen, families and military retirees. Leaders of the 45th Space Wing and their mission partners traditionally serve Thanksgiving Day meals to thank everyone for their hard work, dedication and support to the military.

'One click, one call' for pay, personnel issues

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — A one-stop customer service phone number and Web page are up and running, linking several call centers and online resources Air Force people use when managing personnel and pay information.

A single phone number and a companion Web site now make it easier for Air Force active-duty and reserve component military, as well as U.S. appropriated fund civilian employees to find what they need quickly, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

Customers can find answers to questions by calling toll free (800) 616-3775 or visiting www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst. Until now the burden has been on Air Force people to determine which agency handles a particular issue before contacting customer service by phone or on the Web. Customers will be able to access any of the following support services by using the new number and Web site:

- Air Force Contact Center for general military personnel inquiries, including discrimination and sexual harassment concerns and assistance in navigating the virtual military personnel flight application.
- Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver for Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel inquiries.
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Cleveland Contact Center for Air Force military pay inquiries and assistance with the myPay application.
- AFPC Technical Assistance Center for technical support for applications such as vMPF, assignment management system, AFPC Secure and PC-III.
- AFPC Recruiting Service Center for civilian appropriated fund job opportunities.
- AFPC Benefits and Entitlements Service Team for civilian appropriated-fund benefits and entitlements.

This latest evolution in customer self-service is the product of revolutionary cooperation between different agencies inside and outside of the Air Force, officials said. (*Air Force Press News*)



Commander Q&A: Col. Michael Baker 45th Launch Group

Q: What is the mission of the 45th Launch Group?

A: Our mission statement is simple and direct: Satisfy our nation's requirement for space access through total commitment to mission success.

Q: How will the transformation of the 45th Space Wing enhance mission effectiveness?

A: This transformation is the merging of two first-class teams, the operational and maintenance-focused space launch squadrons and the mission assurance focused Detachment 8 team. This union eliminates seams and synergistically increases efficiencies and effectiveness.


Q: Will this change benefit the wing and those working at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station?

A: This change absolutely benefits our wing and our people. The elimination of seams within our launch community, especially at the working level, offers us an opportunity to make every one of our people more mission-effective and increase job satisfaction for all of our folks.

Q: What's your vision for the future of the 45th LCG?

A: One of the primary goals is to create a seamless partnership with the program offices at Los Angeles Air Force Base that acquire our launch vehicles and launch services, as well as with our launch vehicle and spacecraft contractor partners at CCAFS. Also, launching a nationally critical satellite or payload is a true team effort, involving team members from all across the United States.

Wing holiday events



Wing holiday party

The 45th Space Wing holds a Tropical Holiday Party Dec. 13 at the Patrick Officers' Club.

Cocktails start at 6 p.m. at the MECO Beach patio with dinner at 7 p.m.

Enjoy Caribbean Island-style heavy hors d'oeuvres and entertainment features a live steel drum band and karaoke.

The event is \$20 for club members; non-members pay \$22 and those E-1 to E-5; GS-01 to GS-05 and NF 1 and 2 pay \$10.

Dress is sharp Florida casual (collared shirt/khakis for men and pantsuit/dress for ladies).

Tickets must be purchased in advance and the last day to purchase tickets is Wednesday. Purchase tickets through unit first sergeants. For more information, call at 494-4511.

Chiefs bash

The Space Coast Association of Chief Master Sergeants holds its annual Children's Christmas Party Dec. 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the NCO Club. Children of NCO active-duty and retired members of the NCO Club and children of all deployed troops are invited.

Register by calling Joe Pannitto at 253-2629.

Meet Santa, elves

The 4th Annual Santa's Workshop is Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. - noon in the Family Support Center.

Disney celebration

A Disney holiday celebration event is Dec. 14, 1-5 p.m. at the Patrick Youth Center gymnasium in South Housing. Disney characters will be available for photos and prizes will be given away.

Santa's workshop

Santa will set up his workshop at the Family Support Center Dec. 13 10 a.m. - noon. Children will be given toys and free refreshments will be available. Children are encouraged to bring their camera and take a picture with Santa and his elves. Call Larry Fulk at 494-5676.

Tree-lighting ceremony

This year's tree lighting event is Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. in Memorial Plaza with entertainment from the Patrick Youth Center until 6:15 p.m. International recording artist, Ms. Kelly-Lynn is making a special appearance along with "Santa and Mrs. Claus."

Disposable cameras will be available for those attending until supply is gone. Refreshments will be served and the Holiday Card Lane Contest and Office Decorating Contest winners will be announced.

The evening ends with a free holiday movie, "Brother Bear," courtesy of the Army & Air Force Exchange Service. Call 494-4270 or 494-5608 for more information.

Airman found guilty at Special Court-Martial

By Capt. Jason Smith

45TH STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE OFFICE

Airman 1st Class Denita Jenkins, 45th Medical Support Squadron, was sentenced to eight months confinement, a bad conduct discharge, reduction in grade to E-1 and two-thirds forfeiture of pay and allowances Nov. 24 in a Special Court-Martial at Patrick Air Force Base.

She pled guilty to numerous offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. After accepting her plea, a military judge found her guilty of the charges of larceny, wrongful appropriation, forgery, writing checks with insufficient funds, obtaining services by false pretenses and dishonorable failure to pay a just debt.

The charges of larceny, wrongful appro-

priation and forgery involved Airman 1st Class Jenkins wrongfully taking debit cards from two fellow airmen and then illegally using them to acquire merchandise at local retailers by forging the victims' names to the debit slips. The bad checks were written with the knowledge that she would not have sufficient funds in her account at the time of presentment, and with the intent to defraud the payees who accepted the checks. Airman 1st Class Jenkins obtained services by false pretenses by using a fellow airman's name and social security number to activate a home phone service for her own use.

Finally, the dishonorable failure to pay a just debt was for permissible charges she incurred on a fellow airman's cell phone account, but which she failed to reimburse for over four months.



Photo by Jim Laviska

Airmen receive support

Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich, 45th Space Wing commander, is presented a check for \$1,000 by retired Army Col. Don Shuffstall and his wife, Lou, during a wing staff meeting Monday. The money will be used to help airmen and their families during the holidays through the Patrick Air Force Base First Sergeants' Association. The Shuffstalls coordinated the donations from their neighbors on Goldrush Avenue in Indian River Colony Club.

Employees lauded for recycling efforts

By Terri Bracher
45TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

In recognition of America Recycles Day, the 45th Space Wing and ARC Brevard, Inc. recognized 19 individuals for their outstanding service to the wing's recycling program. An open house and awards presentation was held at the Material Recycling Facility Nov. 21 and also included a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the new storage areas.

ARC Brevard, Inc., through a National Industries for the Severely Handicapped contract, joined the wing's recycling team in April 1995. During this celebration, Col. Ev Thomas, 45th SW vice commander, and Mr. John Schweinsberg, Jr., CEO and president of ARC, recognized ARC employees for their hard work and dedication.

Although the wing has been recycling for years, the program began in earnest in

1993 when white paper and aluminum cans were collected. Since then the project has expanded and now includes 14 items including all paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, metal cans, oil, oil filters, toner cartridges and CD-ROM disks.

Since 1993, the amount of paper recycled at wing facilities increased by 45 percent and cardboard recycling increased 356 percent. A total of more than 16,000 tons of material was recycled and not disposed of in landfills, saving the wing \$500,000 in landfill fees. In addition, more than \$1,300,000 was recovered from wing recycling efforts.

While these numbers are impressive, the program still needs everyone's cooperation. Use recycling containers located in office buildings, recreation centers, housing and throughout Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Rules on foreign visitors to 45th Space Wing installations

All visits by foreign nationals to Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and 45th Space Wing installations along the Air Force Eastern Range require approval by the 45th Space Wing Plans and Programs office. Contact your unit's security manager or 45th SW/XPI at 494-8563 for a copy of the foreign visit request form.

Also, a 30-day notification before the visit must be made to the 45th SW/XPI office.

Sponsors are responsible for escorting their guests at all times. If you do not have the proper credentials, the foreign visitor will not be authorized on base.



Civilians earn their 'stripes'

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — The noncommissioned officers academy here is one of two Air Force test sites allowing civilians to learn the ropes of leadership by working side-by-side with enlisted airmen.

Robins and Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., are part of a yearlong trial phase that could change the way professional military education is handled in the future, Chief Master Sgt. Orlando Justice said. He is the Robins NCOA commandant.

"Robins was selected for two reasons — sustained record of excellence at the academy and an environment rich in civilians in leadership positions over enlisted personnel," he said. "One force, one fight. If that's the way it's going to be, then we need to give everyone the same tools to succeed — that's the premise. But more specifically, it's just good common sense. If this training is essential for military leaders of enlisted personnel, then it only stands to reason that the civilians in leadership positions need the training, too."

Paula MacLeod, a contract specialist with the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center contracting directorate, was chosen from a field of her peers here, and is scheduled to be the first civilian to graduate from the academy Dec. 11.

"I think this will be helpful," she said. "Last week we went over leadership. I had seen it before, but only because I'm working on my master's degree. Civilian employees don't get this type of training until they're at the GS-12 and 13 level, so the military is kind of ahead of us in that respect."

The six-week course covers everything from leadership and writing enlisted performance reports to physical conditioning, counseling and drill and ceremony.

Having civilians in the program is a positive move, said Tech. Sgt. Mark Tolston, a fellow student who works in the FA-22 program at Lockheed Martin.

"(MacLeod is) getting training on counseling," he said. "She's learning the best way to write (evaluations), and getting some insight into writing bullet statements. If she's going to be supervising enlisted personnel, it's good that she's learning this stuff."

The benefits go both ways, said Tech. Sgt. Paul Roby, with the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron.

"(MacLeod is) teaching us a whole lot that we wouldn't be getting if she weren't

in the class as well," he said. "It's a real trade off of information." Marisa Quiterio, who works in the nuclear weapons directorate at Kirtland, is reaping the same trade off of information as MacLeod, said Chief Master Sgt. Steve Sargeant, Kirtland NCOA commandant.

"The interaction between the students and civilian is fantastic," he said. "If it wasn't for the obvious absence of a uniform, her presence would be transparent."

"I have to admit it was a bit strange seeing Ms. Quiterio standing in formation during retreat," he said. "But I also concede she had one of the sharper salutes. I give her a lot of credit, her enthusiasm is unmatched and her determination to experience everything her military counterparts do is phenomenal. I am proud of her commitment and service."

Although the education phase is the same, there are some things that are different for the civilians attending the course, Justice said.

"Within the confines of this course there are some things civilians aren't required to do — physical conditioning, command inspections and drill and ceremony," he said. "It's my hope and my expectation that they will voluntarily take on the full experience. She's doing it all."

"There were a few minor modifications to in-processing," Justice said. "The rules for using the fitness center are different for civilians. We also addressed the instructors. We had to adjust our teaching lingo so that it fits both the military and the civilians."

The program will allow civilians to reap the benefit of world-class leadership and management training as well as gain a tremendous insight on the enlisted corps, Sargeant said.

"I realize this is only the first of seven classes used for the test," Justice said. "But if this is any indication of what's to come, we have a new way of developing our civilian leadership in the future."

Civilians eligible for acceptance to the academy during the test program include wage supervisors grades 1 to 8, wage-grade employees in grades 9 to 12, wage leaders in grades 1 to 6, and general-service employees in grades 6 to 9. For more information, e-mail Linda Golden at Linda.golden@robins.af.mil. (Courtesy of *Air Force Print News*)



Tax statements available on myPay Web site

ARLINGTON, Va. — Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials have compiled a schedule of dates when servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay.

Military members and Department of Defense civilian employees will have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For assistance, users can call myPay customer support at (800) 390-2348.

myPay provides a secure method for users to manage their pay account information, officials said. Available around the clock, customers can make changes online, instead of visiting a finance office.

Officials are projecting the tax statements will be posted on myPay during the following periods.

- Military annuitants: Dec. 13 to 18
- DOD civilians: Dec. 24 to 29
- Army, Air Force and Navy reserve components: Dec. 26 to Jan. 1
- Military retirees: Jan. 1 to 5
- Marine Corps active duty and Reserve: Jan. 13 to 21
- Army, Air Force and Navy active duty: Jan. 16 to 26

"During 2003, more than 1.2 million users viewed their tax statements on myPay, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online," said Pat Shine, director of DFAS' military and civilian pay services business line. "Timely access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information."

Calls announced

A Civilian Call is Dec. 18 at 8 a.m. in the Base Theater and 11 a.m. in Hangar F at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station

An Officer's Call is scheduled for Dec. 19 at the Officers' Club at 3:30 p.m. An Enlisted Call is scheduled for Dec. 19 at 3:30 p.m.

Donate blood to help save life

First Lt. Greg Lowermilk, 920th Rescue Wing, and his wife Lisa are asking everyone on Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station to donate blood to help their son, Geoffrey, who will have open heart surgery on Dec. 17.

They need individuals with an A+ blood type to go to the Space Coast Blood Bank at 956 South U.S. 1 in front of the Carnival Mall in Rockledge or 800 East Seminole Ave. off of U.S. 1 near the Burger King.

Anyone donating specifically to Geoffrey Lowermilk should state that they are making a direct donation. Ms. Lowermilk also needs those participating to e-mail her at dllmilk@yahoo.com stating full name in the message to be turned in for proper transport to Tampa to be used during the surgery.

For more information on donating blood to the Space Coast Blood Bank, call 638-2052, or in Melbourne by calling 768-8585.

Join decorating contest

All residents in North and Central Housing are invited to take part in the annual wing Holiday Decorations Contest.

To enter, submit name and address to the Housing Office, Bldg. 1060, e-mail Angela Clarrington (in global) or fax entry to 494-4031 by Dec. 12. Judging will be held Dec. 16.

Don't place decorations on the roof, second story or attach anything to the exterior of the house that will cause damage. No nails or screws.

The Housing Office recommends using plastic suction cups, clips, hooks, tabs or light clips to hang lights around windows and doors. For more information, call Angela Clarrington at 494-2594.

Take a class

The Family Support Center offers the following classes: Job Search, Wednesday 9-11:30 a.m. and Pre-separation Briefing, Thursday 9:30-11 a.m. To sign up, call 494-5675.

Space conference held

United Space Alliance, in concert with NASA and various companies, hold the

sixth annual Tenology for Information Security Conference at the DoubleTree Hotel in Cocoa Beach Tuesday Thursday.

Conference topics and session include vulnerability scanning, web applications security, cyber terrorism, privacy and disaster recovery and continuity of operations.

The price of the three-day conference is \$625 with a discounted price available for NASA and government contractors.

To register call 1-800-707-7181 or visit www.tisc-03.com.

Family Support Center closes

Due to an official function, the Family Support Center will be closed Dec. 15 at noon.

Painter to sign Hummels

M.I. Hummel artist Thomas Gunter will appear at the Main Exchange Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. to demonstrate the art of painting hand-crafted Hummel figurines.

See KSCVC for free

The Kennedy Space Center Visitor's Complex is giving free Maximum Access to all badged KSC and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station employees until Dec. 24. Additionally, employees may purchase up to four Maximum Access tickets at half price for family and friends.

KSC and CCAFS employees may also receive a 30 percent discount at all Visitor Complex retail locations; including the Space Shop at the main complex and the gift shop at the Astronaut Hall of fame.

FSC has readiness NCO opening

The Family Support Center has a Readiness position available for any technical sergeant or highly qualified staff sergeant.

Applicant must have a strong background in readiness, personnel management, mobilization, relocation, transition assistance, financial matters, spouse employment and family work life.

Applicants must submit a resume to the FSC by Monday.

For more information. ca; 4945675.

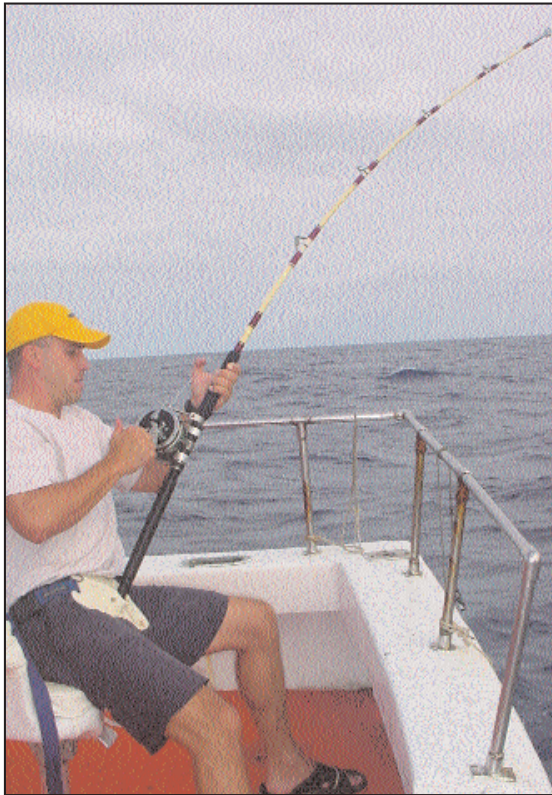
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Photos by 1st Lt. Warren Comer

Diana Henry, cook at Ascension Auxiliary Airfield's Volcano Club, prepares a take-out box of chicken and french fries for a customer. The Volcano Club offers a variety of "American-style" foods, providing customers with a feeling of home. On Friday nights, Ascension AAF employees, British Royal Air Force members and invited guests enjoy their favorite music, dance and relax after a hard week of work.



Tech. Sgt. Rob Padar pulls in a 50-pound yellowfin tuna in the South Atlantic Ocean near Ascension Island. A two-hour fishing trip normally brings in over 200 pounds of fish. Many of the world's largest fish can be caught in the waters off Ascension Island.

Ascension AAF

Home away from home

By 1st Lt. Warren Comer

45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Finding something fun to do on an island nearly 700 miles from any other populated area in the world sounds impossible, but not at Ascension Auxiliary Airfield.

Bringing fun-in-the-sun to a whole new level, Ascension Island has a variety of recreational adventures that includes hiking, fishing and diving.

Ascension AAF is a short tour for military personnel that are joined by many different DoD contractors for a long period as well. Many quality of life enhancements have been made to the field for those working on the island to ensure they can relax when work weeks often entail more than 10 work hours a day.

Ascension AAF is the farthest eastern tracking and telemetry location along the 45th SW's Eastern Range, used to launch the space shuttle and rockets carrying various payloads into orbit from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, a mere 5,000 miles away.

Boasting a small recreation complex on the north side of the field, the small group of airmen and DoD contractors play softball, basketball, racquetball, volleyball and tennis while enjoying all the simplicity of a fast-food style restaurant inside the field's own "Volcano Club."

There is also a fully-equipped gymnasium where individuals can use workout machines as well as free-weights.

"The ocean is the best thing about this place," said Maj. John Lansberry, Ascension AAF commander.

Fishing is one of the more popular activities, especially when fish like wahoo and tuna are plentiful in the South Atlantic Ocean. It's abnormal for a fishing trip to come back into harbor without a catch.

"For a person who hasn't really gone fishing before, Ascension has really opened me up to it," said Tech. Sgt. Rob

Padar, chief of quality assurance at Ascension AAF. "Catching fish like wahoo and tuna that can be more than 55 pounds, really gets me looking forward to any day I can get out on the fishing boat."

There are also two popular beaches where islanders can spend a day relaxing on the sand. English Bay, located on the northwest side of the island, is the popular sun tanning location. The beach consists of a very wide stretch of sand with volcanic rocks jutting along the coastline that provides beach-goers some surprising breaks along the shore.

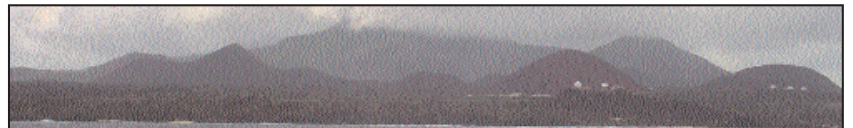
"Volleyball there is great, it provides everyone an opportunity to get away from it all," said Laura Atkins, contractor with Computer Science Raytheon based out of Patrick Air Force Base on a temporary assignment to Ascension AAF. "The people are great and I really enjoy spending time at Ascension."

On Saturdays, people working at the field join Royal Air Force personnel stationed on the island in what's called a "Hash," a hiking excursion that everyone may take part in. A hiking location is chosen by the hosts of the week and individuals climb the small volcanic hills together. They finish the Hash off with a cook out and social hour.

"You can converse with others from the RAF and residents of the island," said Tech Sgt. Padar. "It's a great way to get together outside the workplace, share life experiences and interests."

At the end of November and into December, islanders view the Green Sea turtles nesting on the islands. During this time, beaches are marked with numerous holes where the turtles lay their eggs on their favorite nesting location.

Ascension Island, while remote in its location, provides airmen and DoD contractors with a quality of life not found at many state-side installations. What the island lacks in every day amenities, makes up for in outdoor recreation and an international flavor.



Ascension Island, while a small dot on many world maps, has a variety of recreational activities. From fishing, diving, hiking, sunbathing and spending time at Ascension AAF's Volcano Club. Boredom isn't a factor.

TO SERVE AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

By Ida Barry
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

She can't be missed.

She is the first full-pledged law enforcement officer wearing her khaki uniform, badge and pistol with the authority to detain, write tickets and arrest those violating the natural and cultural resources at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Mabel O'Quinn, a 45th Civil Engineer Squadron conservation officer, last month, became the first 45th CES conservation officer to graduate from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Natural Resources Police Training Academy in Brunswick, Ga.

"There were attendees from the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Tennessee Valley Authority Police and DoD components," Ms. O'Quinn said. "The three-month long course was very intense."

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center is the nation's lead organization for interagency training of federal law enforcement personnel.

The programs are designed to develop specialized law enforcement knowledge and skills and encourage networking among federal, state and local agencies.

The in-depth training encompassed numerous course hours in behavioral science, defensive driving, enforcement operations, enforcement techniques, financial fraud institute, firearms, legal, security specialties and physical techniques, according to Ms. O'Quinn.

The basic law enforcement training she received as a security specialist in the Air Force and then as a CCAF contract worker provided her with knowledge of federal, state and local laws.

"My job is to enforce all federal laws dealing with all the cultural and natural resources at the Cape," Ms.

O'Quinn said. "The legal training portion provided me with what I am allowed to do and what laws I can follow to enforce protection of the wildlife, endangered species and the archeological resources protection act."

"Patrolling the area will prevent the resources from being pilfered," said Clay Gordin, 45 SW environmental planning and conservation chief. "She will be a great asset to the environmentalist's with burn controls."

In a mutual aid agreement with Space Gateway Support she will provide backup support when necessary according to Mr. Gordin.

Not only did she acquire more than 663 hours of classroom instruction and arduous field training in a three-month training course, she also grabbed the FLETC "Director's Award" for the Natural Resources Police training, Sharpshooter on the Practical Pistol Course Award and the Physical Fitness Award for scoring 75 percentile level or higher in the four evaluated areas of flexibility, upper-body strength, speed and agility and cardiovascular endurance. This ranking of 75 percent represents all previous students to attend FLECT.

"Her performance was just outstanding," said Mr. Gordin. "We are all very proud of her achievements."

"We had numerous hours of instruction in physical techniques, firearms and patrol driving as well as a lot of law enforcement routines," Ms. O'Quinn said. "However, there is nothing routine in this kind of work"

What is the best part of her job?

"Being out and about patrolling and conserving that aspect of my job and enforcing those laws to ensure we try and protect those endangered species, artifacts and history at the Cape," Ms. O'Quinn said. "These must all be protected and maintained at all times."

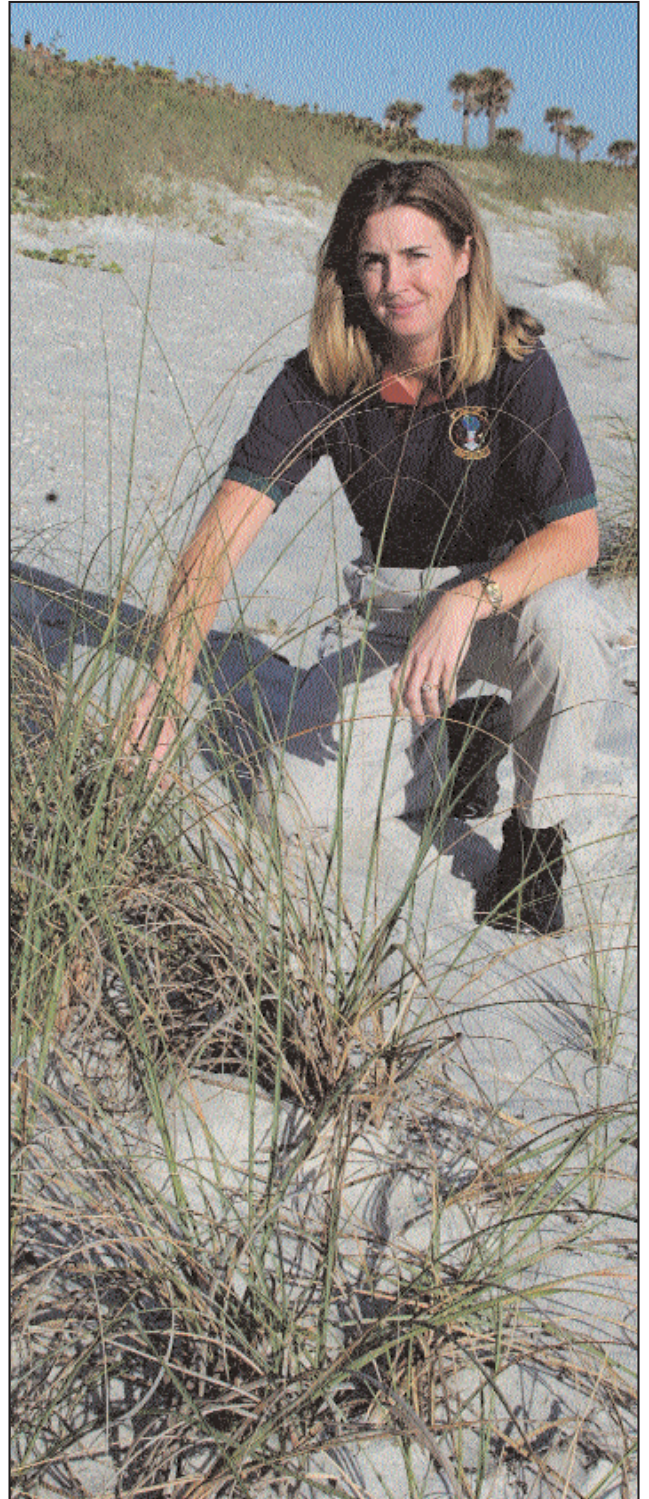


Photo by 1st Lt. Warren Comer

Mabel O'Quinn, 45 Civil Engineer wildlife conservation officer, and recent graduate of Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, patrols the beach area and other cultural and natural resources from pilfering or destruction of endangered species.



Youth Ministry at 6 p.m. at South Patrick Chapel.

Catholic

Daily Mass 11:30 a.m. in the Seaside Chapel.

Saturday: 4 p.m. confession and 5 p.m. Mass in the South Patrick Chapel

Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Mass in the South Patrick Chapel and 11:30 a.m. Mass in the Seaside Chapel.

Religious Education: 10:15 a.m. at the Education Center for pre-K - 6th grade, grades 7-12

Protestant

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Seaside Chapel.

9:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School in Seaside Chapel

10 a.m. Grades K-12 at South Patrick Chapel. Van transportation provided for base children.

11 a.m. Contemporary Service in the South Patrick Chapel

Wednesday: 5:30 p.m. Fellowship dinner in the South Patrick Chapel.

Holiday Chapel Calendar

Dec. 7 Second Sunday of Advent

Dec. 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Mass at 11:30 in Seaside Chapel and 7 p.m. in South Patrick Chapel

Dec. 9 Advent Reconciliation Service, 7 p.m. in South Patrick Chapel

Dec. 14 Third Sunday of Advent, Lesson and Carols Service, 3 p.m. in South Patrick Chapel

Dec. 20 Hanukkah, Contact Barry Chefer, 494-6063

Dec. 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Catholic Masses
5 p.m., Christmas Vigil Mass, South Patrick Chapel

11:30 p.m. Midnight Mass, South Patrick Chapel
7 p.m. Candlelight Service, South Patrick Chapel

Dec. 25 Christmas

10 a.m. Catholic Mass, Seaside Chapel

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

Vigil Mass for the Blessed Virgin Mary, 5 p.m., South Patrick Chapel

Protestant "Watch Night", 10 p.m., South Patrick Chapel

Jan. 1 New Year's Day

10 a.m. Catholic Holy Day Mass, South Patrick Chapel

Tis' the season

Massey Brooks secures a Christmas tree to his parent's minivan Monday at the Space Coast Company Grade Officers' Association's annual Christmas tree sale. The sale began Friday and will run through Dec. 19 at the South Housing Sports Complex. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday from 5-8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Trees are \$7 per foot. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Special Olympics. The association is still recruiting volunteers for the sale. Reserve a time slot by calling 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Kreft at 494-5959.



Photo by 1st Lt. Warren Comer

Sports briefs

Got hoop dreams?

Try-outs for the Patrick's Varsity Basketball Team is Saturday, from 12-3 p.m. at the Patrick Fitness Center. For more information contact Tech. Sgt. High Smith at 494-2687.

For kicks

Cheer on the Patrick AFB Varsity Soccer Team Sunday at 1 p.m. when they face the

Chargers, a local area soccer team. The game will be at the soccer field in South Housing.

Get WarFit in water

The Patrick Fitness Center offers Waterfit classes. The classes are every Tuesday and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. at the Fitness Center Lap Pool. The classes are designed for all fitness levels. Aqua-joggers and waterbells will be supplied.

Coach youths

Patrick's Youth Program is recruiting volunteer adult coaches for the 2004 Little League baseball, girls softball and tee-ball programs.

Those interested must complete an application at the Youth Center and attend a mandatory training class, which includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation before the season practice begins.

For more information, call 494-3770.

You make the calls

Officials are needed for Patrick's youth/intramural basketball. New and experienced officials must be at least 16 years old.

For more information, contact Michael Green at 537-5808 or Sam Hall at 536-0097.

Bowling winners announced

Winners of the Turkey Bowl competition were: Women's Division - Isabel Sylvester, Jennifer Parks and Aeran Priaulx.

Men's Division: Chris Stone, Red Sylvester and Don Priaulx.

The 2003 Foxy Bowl Trophy was awarded to Susan Barnhart.

Register for racquetball

The South Housing Racquetball courts are open. Reservations can be made Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Call the Youth Center at 494-4747 to make reservations.

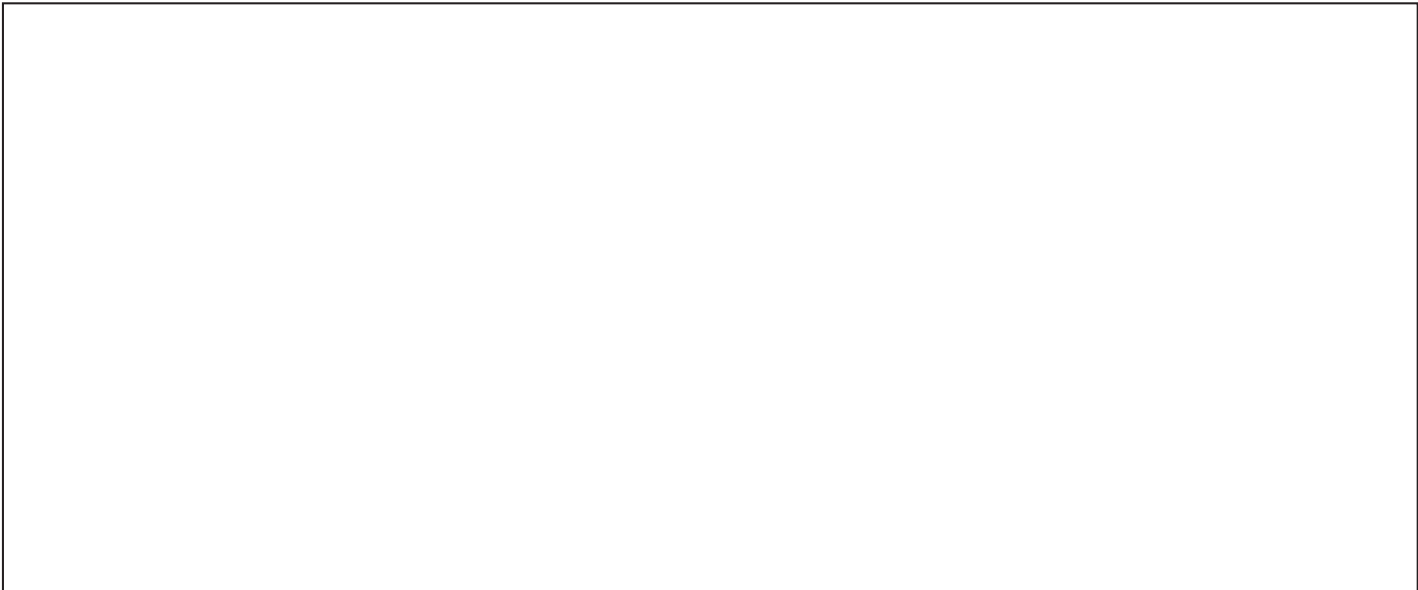
Call Naomi Parish at 494-4534 for details.



Photo by 1st Lt. Warren Comer

Well dressed

Sporting the Patrick AFB Varsity Soccer Team's new uniform, Sean Sullivan runs down on a member of the Palm Bay Prime Tuesday during a varsity soccer game at Patrick's South Housing sports complex. The team's current record is 1-2.



Voice your opinion

Air Force Services Marketing is mailing Customer Feedback Surveys to collect marketing information about on-base Services programs compared with off-base counterparts. Surveys for active-duty, reservists and DoD personnel will be received at their workstations. Retirees will receive their surveys at home.

Survey results enable local Services organizations to make informed decisions on program emphasis and resource allocation. For more information, call Charles Nolan at 494-8063.

Advisory Board meets

Family Member Support Parent Advisory Board meeting is Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Services Academy training room in Bldg. 425. Call 494-7442 for more information.

Bowling offers special

Bowl the stress away at Rocket Lanes Bowling Center Dec. 15, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. After keeping score all day, the lowest score for a man and a woman wins. Call 494-2958 for more information.

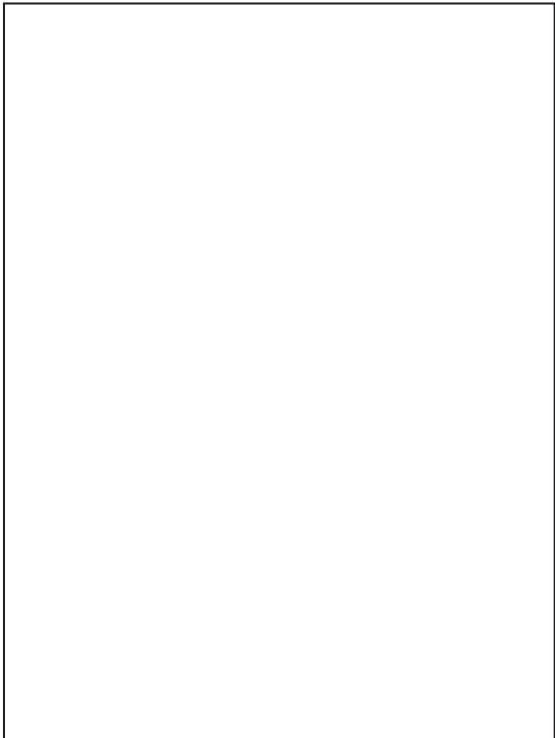
Library presents holiday event

Patrick Base Library holds a special family night Thursday, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Call 494-6881 to register or for more information.

Donate toys for kids

Patrick Youth Center toy collection continues through Dec. 13. The Youth Center is accepting unwrapped new toys, gifts items and holiday gift-wrapping paper donations appropriate for youth ages birth to 18. Items are to be distributed to Patrick Air Force Base organizations and Brevard County special needs youth. Call 494-4747 for more information.





At the movies

Friday - *Kill Bill* An assassin named the Bride is shot by her boss at her wedding. The wedding guests are also shot. She survives, though, waking up exceedingly angry after a four-year coma and decides to hunt down and kill every assassin who was responsible, saving Bill for last. Stars Uma Thurman, David Carradine. Rated R (strong bloody violence, language and some sexual content).

Saturday - *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* Five people find themselves stranded in a small Texas town, where they encounter a chainsaw-wielding maniac known as Leatherface. The killer has spent years sawing people up and constructing masks out of his victims' skin, with everyone in town looking the other way. With no one to help them, the outsiders must find a way to escape before meeting a grisly death. Stars Jessica Biel, Jonathan Tucker. Rated R (strong horror violence/gore, language and drug content).

Sunday - *In the Cut* Franny, a New York City professor, dives into a passionate, possibly dangerous affair with a police officer who is investigating the murder of a young woman in her neighborhood. Stars Meg Ryan and Mark Ruffalo. Rated R (strong sexuality including explicit dialogue, nudity, graphic crime scenes and language).

Thursday - *Brother Bear* Kenai, a young Native American's older brother, is killed by a bear. During the young man's attempt to avenge his death by killing the bear, the Great Spirits transform the young man into the thing he detests most - a bear. Animated, voices of Joaquin Phoenix and Jeremy Suarez. Rated G.

Movie times are 7:30 unless otherwise noted. Tickets for adults are \$2.50, children 11 and younger pay \$1.50.

Riverside Dining Menu



Saturday Brunch - Creole shrimp, doubly-good chicken, *savory-baked chicken, Swedish meatballs

Saturday Supper - *Baked fish, barbecue chicken, doubly-good chicken, Hungarian goulash

Sunday Brunch - Cantonese spareribs, grill mustard chicken, oven-fried fish

Sunday Supper - Steak loin strip, stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets

Monday Lunch - *Baked stuffed fish, pot roast, *roast loin of pork

Monday Dinner - Cannelloni beef, *chili mac, Southern-fried chicken

Tuesday Lunch - Salmon cakes, *teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan

Tuesday Dinner - *Country captain chicken, meat loaf, turkey a la king

Wednesday Lunch - Southern-style catfish, barbecue ribs, southern-fried chicken, pork chops

Wednesday Dinner - Barbecue spareribs, *lemon-herb chicken, stuffed pork chops

Thursday Lunch - Chalupa, burritos, chicken breast Mexican, chicken enchiladas

Thursday Dinner - Glazed Cornish hen, Jaegerschnitzel with mushroom sauce, *roast loin of pork

Dec. 12 Lunch - Mexican-baked chicken, stuffed green peppers, Swiss steak with tomato sauce

Dec. 12 Dinner - *Lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian sausage

Menus are subject to change. For more information, please call dial-a-menu at 494-2845. *Healthy choice.



Events

Sat., 7 p.m., "Light Up Palm Bay Holiday Night Parade." The parade will start at the intersection of Minton and Malabar Roads and head east on Malabar.

Sat.-Sun., Holiday Craft Fair in downtown Cocoa Village. One of the largest craft fairs in Florida with more than 350 craft exhibitors.

Event is free. Call 631-9075.

Dec. 12, 7 p.m., 27th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Palm Bay Community Center at 1502 Port Malabar Blvd. NE. Admission is free. Call 952-3443.

Dec.12-14, 5:30-9:30 p.m., Holiday Nights At The Zoo at the Brevard Zoo in Melbourne. Program includes tons of real snow fall as the park is transformed into a winter wonderland, illuminated holiday fantasy train ride, candlelight kayaking and holiday tree park with marshmallow roasting. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for children ages 2-12 and \$1 off for members. Call 242-9453.

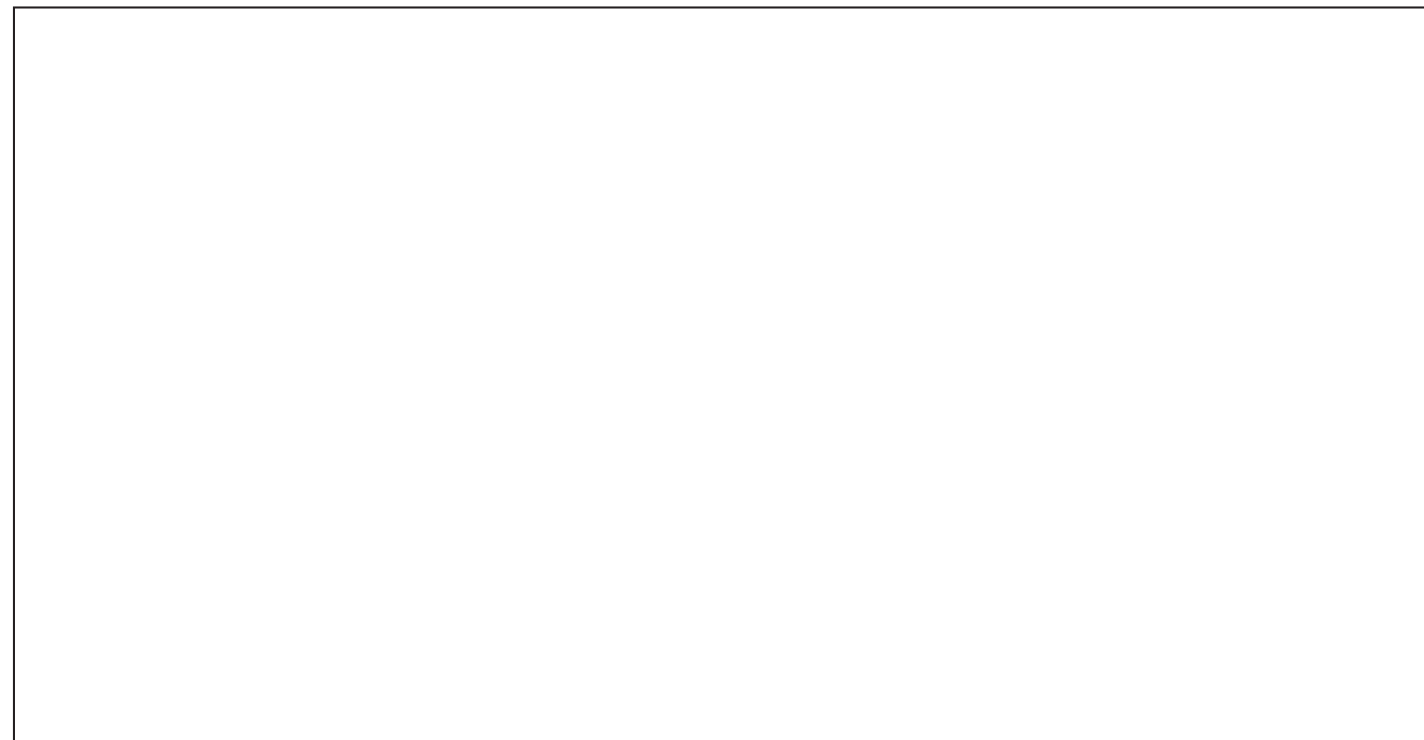
Dec. 13, 9 a.m., Breakfast with Santa at Sandrift Community Center, Titusville. Event includes breakfast, filled stocking, and photo with

Santa. \$5 per child. Registration required, limit 150. Call 264-5037.

Concerts

Dec. 10-11, 7:30 p.m., Holiday Concert by the Melbourne Community Orchestra at the Melbourne Auditorium. Admission is free. Call 768-6289.

Dec. 14, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., 2nd Annual Flutes and Voices of Christmas Concert. The first concert is at the Suntime Methodist Church at 7400 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne, and the second performance will be at the Eastminster Presbyterian Church, corner of Fifth Ave. and Riverside Drive, Indialantic. Program features 62 musicians and singers of The Space Coast Flute Orchestra and The Indialantic Chamber Singers. Admission is free but donations are accepted. Call 773-2511.



Action Line: 494-6550

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'sline@patrick.af.mil or click global at Commander's 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.



**Brig. Gen.
Greg Pavlovich
45th SW
commander**

45th Mission Support Group

Col. Steve Werner
494-6607

45th Civil Engineer Squadron

Jack Gibson
494-4041

North and Central Housing

Caroline Jamba
494-2593

South Housing

Pam Brown
777-8282

45th Services Squadron

Lt. Col. John Sproul
494-8081

Military Personnel

Maj. Dianne Dzialo
494-2035

Commissary officer

Ronald Rogers
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

Maj. Lynden Skinner
494-6202

Financial Services

John Brett
494-7171

45th Medical Group

Col. Gilbert Hansen
494-8100

Ground Safety

Paul Compton 494-4023

Inspector General

Lt. Col. Frank Miles
494-4373

Q: I went to the veterinarian to get some Frontline Flea medicine for my cat. They could not give me a satisfactory answer to why they charged me \$2 service charge just to get a Frontline package, which didn't take about a minute.

Additionally, the cost of the medication has gone up from \$4.50 over the last 3 months. There's got to be an explanation.

A: Thanks for your question about the pricing policy of the Veterinary Clinic. As a pet owner, I too want to ensure quality care at the lowest cost for our pets. The vet clinic provides good value for the price.

The Clinic is a self-supporting operation that generates minimum revenue to offset overhead and supply expenses of the clinic. A \$2 surcharge is **congressionally mandated** for all monetary transactions that are conducted at the clinic. This surcharge is in lieu of your typical appointment charge — \$20-45 — you would be responsible for at an off-base clinic.

The resale prices are provided at discounted rates based on pricing from vendors.

Occasionally, cost increases affect the resale price, and that's what happened to the Frontline you purchased.

Even after the increase from \$19 to \$23.50, you realize a significant savings from similar products at off-base vets. The vet clinic conducts market research on an annual basis with local veterinary clinics to ensure prices offered on base are competitive at a savings to our personnel.

