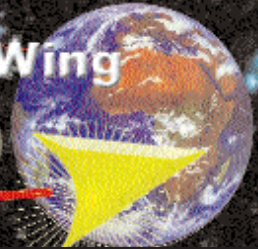


MISSILEER



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Get smart



New ID cards hold key information in embedded microchip
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Aiming high



Wing goes full throttle for upcoming air show 2003
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Spring forward



Set clocks ahead one hour before bed Saturday night

Wing launches vital to Operation Iraqi Freedom

By 2nd Lt. Nathan Vandrey
3RD SPACE LAUNCH SQUADRON

The 45th Space Wing is preparing for its second launch in six days.

When the Delta II launched from Space Launch Complex 17A Monday afternoon, a Titan IV-B sat poised on SLC 40 awaiting its turn to launch a MILSTAR Sunday at 9:50 a.m.

This Milstar satellite will complete the Milstar constellation.

The mission of the MILSTAR constellation is to provide secure, jam resistant, worldwide communications to meet essential wartime requirements for high priority military users. It allows the rapid transmission of essential military communications, anywhere in the world, without the use of ground-based gateway stations.

In other words, once data is uplinked to a MILSTAR satellite, it can be sent directly between other Milstar satellites in the constellation and then down to the intended recipient.

The MILSTAR constellation allows air tasking orders to be sent in six seconds, where they use to take an hour to be transmitted and received. The U.S. Navy coordinates its Tomahawk Land Attack Missile strikes over MILSTAR, and Army units maneuvering in Iraq have Milstar terminals used to receive imagery and voice communications.

The Air Force and Navy send real-time targeting information updates to B-1Bs, B-2s, B-52s and other aircraft via MILSTAR, even as the aircraft are en route to targets.

Each Milstar satellite was intended to provide service for 10 years before being retired, but service results from Milstar Flight One indicate that service time could be 15 years or more.

The only launch vehicle currently in the Air Force inventory capable of placing the 10,000-plus-pound MILSTAR into its 22,500-mile geosynchronous orbit is the Titan-IVB with a Centaur upper stage. And the only squadron in the world that can do that is the "Home of Heavy Lift," the 3rd Space Launch Squadron at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Commanded by Lt. Col. Anthony J. Cotton, the 3rd SLS provides a six-member launch crew, as well as a large support team, to ensure all the parts of the Titan-IVB/Centaur/MILSTAR mission are brought together professionally and safely.

The recipient of an "Outstanding" rating during the 2002 Headquarters AFSPC Inspection, the 93 military and civilian professionals at the 3rd SLS have made "3rd but FIRST" their motto and their daily goal.

"Outstanding is truly just the START when it comes to the dedicated professionals who make up the Titan launch team," said Lt. Col. Cotton.

"Members from the 3rd Space Launch Squadron, the 45th Range Squadron, the 45th Weather Squadron, the Space and Missile Systems Center, Lockheed Martin, Aerospace, Alliant Air Tasking Order, Aerojet, Boeing, CSR and the Cape Canaveral Group consisting of Jacobs Sverdrup, Space Gateway Services and numerous others all know the importance of this payload as it aids in our success against aggressors in Operation Iraqi Freedom," he said.

"The culmination of everyone's efforts will be the successful launch on Sunday."



The Delta II lifts off on a cloudless Monday at 5:09 p.m. carrying a GPS satellite. It will give warfighters precise 24-hour navigation services. (Photo by Carleton Bailie, the Boeing Company)

Outstanding is just the START!



By Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich
45TH SW COMMANDER

Good Friday! Thanksgiving Day is several months away, but when you live in America and work in the paradise also known as the Space Coast, every day should be Thanksgiving Day.

Even though we are a nation at war and these are difficult days, we should still make time to take inventory of all the positive things in our lives and say, "Thank you." Not only should we thank the Creator for everything we have, we should also take time to say thanks to the people in our lives who take care of us and inspire us. As the 45th Space Wing commander, there are literally thousands of people who fit those categories for me: All of you and your families who make our various missions happen at Patrick and the Cape, as well as the generous citizens of Central Florida who offer us unconditional support. I sincerely have to say: "THANK YOU!"

Our phones are literally ringing off the hook with people calling, asking what they can do to help our troops and their families while the war is being waged. These calls, along with U.S. flags flying, supportive messages posted on marquees, yellow ribbons tied around trees and patriotic banners displayed all over town energize our spirits and help us remember what we're fighting to protect and that our cause is just.

Those of you who work and serve at Patrick and the Cape — including members of our mission partners who bring their unique capabilities to the fight — are the heart and soul of that just cause, whether at home or abroad.

Within the 45th Space Wing, I'd like to snap a "tiger shark" salute to our in-place deployed members who helped launch Monday's flawless Delta II/GPS mission. Our Delta II team, led by Lt. Col. Brad Broemmel and his outstanding men and women of the 1st Space Launch Squadron, along with Det. 8 of the Space and Missile Systems Center, successfully launched the Delta II rocket that put the GPS spacecraft right on the spot.

You're familiar with what the GPS constellation does. And, I'm here to tell you that now, more than ever, so are our warfighters. I've said it before, but I'm going to say it again: Every single operational GPS satellite in orbit was launched from here. Arguably, the GPS constellation may be the single most important space-based asset our warfighters have. BE PROUD!

Speaking of spacecraft that sharpen the aim points

for our warfighters, the Air Force's last Defense Satellite Communications System satellite arrived at the Skid Strip Wednesday. DSCS provides high priority command and control communication. A DSCS was launched March 10 on a Delta IV. That was the first military payload launched on an Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle. We expect to launch the last DSCS on another Delta IV later this year.

While I'm on the subject of EELVs, I'd like to plug the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Air Force Association's annual Aerospace Tribute Night. This year's honorees are Boeing and Lockheed Martin. The AFA is saluting both companies for working with the Air Force to successfully establish our EELV program. A gala dinner is slated for April 25 at the Doubletree Hotel in Cocoa Beach. For more information or to RSVP, call Chris Bailey at 868-0288 by Thursday. Chris is one of those guys in the community who is a die-hard supporter of the military. I can't thank him enough for all that he does for us.

Between now and Aerospace Tribute Night, we're planning to launch a Titan IV-B carrying a MILSTAR spacecraft, an Altas III-B with a commercial payload and a Delta II boosting a NASA space telescope. Being part of this exciting, cutting-edge environment is another thing we should be thankful for. Four launches in three weeks. Wow!

Our Titan team, led by Lt. Col. Tony Cotton and his men and women of the 3rd Space Launch Squadron, is up next. It has worked over a year on a mission scheduled to put a MILSTAR communications spacecraft into orbit on Sunday. Several heavy hitters from the DoD will be visiting us for this launch including Adm. James Ellis, Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold and Brig. Gen. Tom Taverney. All are welcome for what I'm sure will be a brilliant display of space power.

They'll be here because of the significance of this mission. The MILSTAR constellation links command authorities with a wide variety of resources including ships, submarines, aircraft and ground stations. Another bragging point: All four MILSTAR satellites currently in orbit were launched from here. We'll make it five on the sixth. America is counting on us to deliver and we will. GO TITAN! GO MILSTAR!

While I was on console for Monday's launch, Col. Beverly Plosa-Bowser and Command Chief Master Sgt. Tony Manson made a special delivery. They surprised Master Sgt. Carl Dickens of our Security Forces Squadron with a brand new stripe, making him a senior master sergeant on the spot. What makes this extra special is that Senior Master Sgt. Dickens is a reservist and was selected for this promotion on our nomination to the Reserve under the Promotion Enhancement Program — equivalent to the active-duty STEP promotion program. WELL DESERVED!

Next Monday at 1 p.m. in Hangar C, we'll stand up our brand new 45th Range Management Squadron under the 45th Maintenance Group. Lt. Col. Clay Frasier will be the squadron's first commander. This

unit will direct daily operations and management of contractors on the Eastern Range, the launch complexes and payload facilities.

Four people who recently delivered for us big-time were Maj. Jason Mantaro, project officer for our Retired General/Flag Officer Forum Day last Friday; Lt. Col. Andy Baker and Mr. Art Festkos, project officers for our Retiree Day last Saturday; and First Sgt. Mike McCrea, who spearheaded last Friday's retreat ceremony. I've heard nothing but rave reviews about all three events. I appreciate the hard work of not only the project officers, but also everyone who pitched in to assist like our Protocol Office, Mission Support Squadron, Services Squadron, the troops who stood in formation and the various briefers and tour guides. You made all of us shine. WELL DONE!

Last weekend also saw dozens of our folks volunteer at the Port Canaveral SeaFest. Many base organizations such as the Company Grade Officers' Association, Chiefs' Group, 1st Sergeants' Council and the Junior Enlisted Council were well represented. Community service activities like this spark positive vibes between the base and the community. My hat's off to everyone who donated his or her time over the weekend.

Mrs. Pat Pawlak was a very special person who did a lot for us. She was a big supporter of our Air Force and could be found cheering on young warriors playing crud every Friday at our Officers' Club.


We're saying thanks to her and celebrating her spirit with a memorial crud tourney tonight at the Blockhouse at 5:30 p.m. Her husband, retired Col. Harry Pawlak is buying drinks for all participants and prizes will be awarded to the winning team. Please come out, have some fun and help us remember a great lady.

Our missions, coupled with special projects like these, keep us extremely busy. But please slow down enough to express thanks for the freedoms and privileges that come with living in this bountiful nation. Traditionally, Armed Forces Day is celebrated the third Saturday of May. But with what we're facing right now, we should salute our people in uniform on a daily basis.

More than 500 young men and women from the Space Coast are currently deployed to the Persian Gulf region fighting for us. The images we see on TV and the reports of casualties, MIAs and POWs are constant reminders that war is indeed hell. Prayer is one of the best ways we can support our deployed comrades and keep mindful of them.

So, we're offering a daily prayer service Monday-Friday from 12:15-12:30 p.m. at our Seaside Chapel at Patrick and our Cape Chapel in the E&L Building. Everyone's welcome. Let's never forget to pray for and with our deployed troops and their families ... and to give thanks for them, as well.

Thanksgiving and Armed Forces Day in April? Not a bad concept, especially with all that's going on in our world. Keep working hard, be safe, look for ways to relax and remain prayerful. God bless you and the United States of America.

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Honoring those who served before us

A local World War II Pearl Harbor veteran and various 45th Space Wing members pay respect to the American flag during the wing's retreat ceremony March 28 at Patrick's Memorial Plaza. The event, steeped in tradi-

tion, honored military retirees. It was held in conjunction with the wing's annual Military Retiree Day March 29. Thousands attended the Military Retiree Day, the largest of its kind in the nation. (Photo by Jim Laviska)

Wing offers options for supporting troops

Military officials have recently offered a number of options for those wanting to send packages to deployed service members, however, two options they don't have is "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs.

On Oct. 30, the Department of Defense suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs because of force protection concerns. Although these programs provide support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources.

There were two important reasons DoD did this. Force protection issues are critical now, less than two years after an Anthrax scare, and space is cramped on DoD airlift.

"We want friends, family members and others to send packages to their deployed family members," said Chief Master Sgt. Tony Manson, 45th SW command chief master sergeant. "However, the days of being able to just send to anyone out there are over for a variety of reasons."

Unsolicited mail, packages and donations

from organizations and individuals also compete for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, warfighting materiel and mail from family and loved ones.

To show support to the troops overseas, there's a number of ways local people can support deployed members. They include:

- ▶ If someone in your unit is deployed, mow their grass. If they have children, give their spouse a break and watch the little ones.

- ▶ Send a virtual thank you card to deployed troops at www.defendamerica.mil.

- ▶ Visit the local Veterans Administration hospital or facility. This is a great way to volunteer your services and show thanks to those who have served in past conflicts.

- ▶ Contact your unit's first sergeant and see what deployed members need.

- ▶ Call the base Family Support Center to see if spouses/families of deployed personnel are in need of help. Often, a donated oil change or home repair can make a big difference. The Family Support Center can be reached at 494-5675.

- ▶ Donate a phone card to help deployed

troops stay in contact with loved ones. Log onto www.operationuplink.org for more information.

- ▶ Donate to the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services at www.redcross.org/services/afes, or contact your local chapter of the Red Cross and can be reached at 494-2402.

- ▶ Make a donation to the Air Force Aid Society, or one of the other military relief societies, such as Air Force: www.afas.org; Army: www.aerhq.org; Navy/Marines: www.nmcrs.org or Coast Guard: www.cgmahq.org.

- ▶ Send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at www.operationdearabby.net

- ▶ Participate in "Operation USO Care Package" by donating \$25, which goes toward sending a care package along with a personal message through the United Service Organizations. Call 1-866-876-4483 for information.

- ▶ Check the *Missileer* for listings of community events and volunteer projects.

45th SW implements CAC

By 1st Lt. Eric Badger
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The new version of the military identification card is here. It is called the Common Access Card.

The CAC will take the place of the old ID card and possesses many new features to ensure security for Department of Defense cardholders.

The CAC's capabilities include the ability to replace existing building and controlled space passes, allow personnel to log on to their computers, encrypt and encode mail or electronically "sign" documents.

The new card will be used in some commands to conduct day-to-day business and is scheduled to replace the old ID card for active-duty members, civil service employees and certain contractors.

Much like the old ID, the CAC will display a color picture of the member complete with name and rank, along with an emblem indicating the branch of service in the right-hand corner.

The front of the card also has a small gold chip. The back of card contains a magnetic strip and bar code. Also on the back, there is a black and white photo of the cardholder as well as information on the cardholder's blood type, date of birth and social security number.

"The active-duty cards have more information on them than the cards for Civil Service employees and contractors," said 2nd Lt. Kimberly Olmsted, 45th Military Support Squadron chief of customer support.

According to Lt. Olmsted, the difference between the old ID and the CAC is not found in what both cards display, but what the CAC does

not display.

"The gold chip on the front actually has the capability to hold a great deal of information," she said. Some of the information stored on the chip include:

- ▲ Physical and logical access capabilities
- ▲ Public Key Infrastructure authentication
- ▲ Encryption
- ▲ Digital signing certificate

The gold chip also has the capability to contain deployment, meal card and medical/dental information.

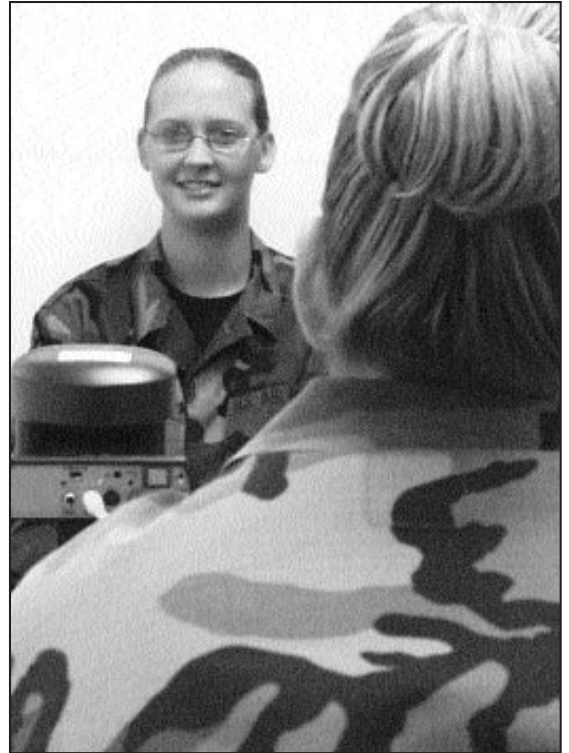
"The card is very secure," said Lt. Olmsted. "Only the member knows the PIN to access the PIN to access the card's information. No one can access the chip information if the card holder is not present."

The Air Force Personnel Center has set the deadline of October 2003 for all 45th Space Wing members to have the new card.

To accommodate this deadline, the Military Personnel Flight Customer Service Section will be open on Wednesdays to active-duty only with scheduled CAC appointments. Civilians and contractors will receive their cards after active-duty. The time will be announced.

The appointments are also scheduled during all other days of the week. MPF will service all retiree and family member customers every day except Wednesday. Active duty will continue to have priority.

For more information, call Customer Service at 494-6144.



Airman Basic Lauren Taylor, 45th Mission Support Squadron, smiles 2nd Lt. Kimberly Olmsted takes her photo for her new CAC. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joel Langton)



Five A1Cs selected for promotion

Five airmen first class were selected for promotion to senior airman below-the-zone.

They are Tricia Meinders, 45th Comptroller Squadron; Emmanuel Hernandez, 45th Civil Engineer Squadron; Christopher Sullivan, 45th Security Forces Squadron; Michael Lukens, 45th Security Forces Squadron and Chevis Stanley, Air Force Technical Applications Center.

Retired maintainer saves T-37 aircraft

By Staff Sgt. Joel Langton

45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It was another day at the flightline for Syd Myers, who has worked on flightlines around the Air Force during his 20-year Air Force career and for the last six months for a local contractor.

The retired master sergeant is now a transit aircraft servicer. However, at the end of the day, Mr. Myers was a hero, possibly saving a Moody Air Force Base, Ga., pilot's life and a T-38 aircraft.

"We handle all the transit aircraft here, park 'em, service 'em and launch 'em," said Mr. Myers. He could add that on March 10, he saved 'em.

A T-38 landed on the runway and taxied into the aircraft parking area at about 1 p.m. "I guided the plane in but I noticed smoke coming out of the back," said Mr. Myers, a retired master sergeant.

After putting chocks under the tires to hold it in place, he headed for the back of the plane. "With the smoke coming out, it just didn't look right, it wasn't the norm," Mr. Myers said.

It certainly wasn't the norm. Once back there, he saw flames coming out of the plane's intake and exhaust.

Capt. Roland Hillier, an instructor pilot from Moody AFB, didn't even realize his T-38 was on fire. He was climbing out of his plane after a short three-hour flight from Columbus AFB, Miss., where the plane had been sandblasted and received a fresh coat of paint.

Capt. Hillier was in good hands. Thanks to years of training, Mr. Myers knew exactly what to do. "I told the pilot that there was a fire in the back and I was going to attempt to put it out with a fire extinguisher," Mr. Myers said. "I told him to get out of the airplane as soon as possible. Once I got it out, I called the tower and called ground emergency."

"He (Mr. Myers) handled the situation perfectly," said the instructor pilot with more than 1,000 flying hours. "By the time the fire crews got out there, the fire was out."

Capt. Hillier said he was grateful to Mr. Myers. "He's a sharp guy. I'm glad he said something to me before he just pulled the fire extinguisher and started spraying. I think he made a really good call. He did everything exactly right," Capt. Hillier said.

Thanks to his actions, officials from Moody AFB sent two crew chiefs down within hours. They had the plane repaired and in the air within 24 hours.

No one is sure why it happened, but everyone is grateful to Mr. Myers whose quick actions made a potential catastrophe into a simple incident.

National Guard, Reserve eligible for TRICARE Prime

Guard and Reserve family members, if their sponsor is on active-duty (federal) orders for more than 30 days, are now eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime.

"Previously, sponsors had to be eligible in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and activated for 179 days or more before family members were eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime," Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs said. "The Department of Defense recognizes the contributions and sacrifices made by these families each and every day. Our commitment is to continue making improvements to the TRICARE benefit to enhance access and quality of care these families receive."

Guard and Reserve family members who reside with their sponsors in a TRICARE Prime remote location at the time of the sponsor's activation can now enroll in the TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members program.

To enroll, sponsors and their family members must reside at least 50 miles or

more away, or approximately a one-hour drive from the nearest military treatment facility. Sponsors and family members must also be in DEERS.

Contract changes are under way at TRICARE Management Activity to implement the new TPRADFM policy. Once the changes are accomplished, family members of the Guard and Reserve sponsors activated for more than 30 days may start using the TPRADFM benefit, which has no co-payments, deductibles or claim forms to file, and which offers providers who meet rigorous standards for providing quality health care.

Guard and Reserve family members who choose not to enroll in either the TRICARE Prime or TPRADFM program may still use the TRICARE Standard and Extra benefits, with applicable cost shares and deductibles. Call DEERS at the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll free at (800) 538-9552.

Family Support Center boosts morale for family members of deployed troops

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

At a time in our history when tension is high, especially among military families, there is an organization that is dedicated to ease that tension as well as offer a helping hand to those who may need it.

The Family Support Center, a part of the 45th Mission Support Squadron, has several programs that assist families of deployed personnel in order to make their lives easier and more bearable.

"Separation is never easy for a family, whether it's the military member's first deployment or tenth," said Tech. Sgt. Mark Tani, personal and family readiness NCO. "What we try to do is let families know we are here for them."

A highly successful FSC program is "Give Parents a Break." Parents are given a voucher for up to four hours of childcare at the Child Development Center for children between the ages of 6 months and 10 years. "This program is very successful because it gives parents a much-needed breather," said Tech. Sgt. Tani.

The center provides communications resources for families who are apart, including video teleconferencing, morale calls and e-mail systems. In addition to a fully operational VTC room at the Family Support Center, families can sign out portable VTC units. "We have three of the portable units and they are very popular," Tech. Sgt. Tani said. "It's essentially like having your own video phone in your home."

And there is the ever-popular morale call — voice-to-voice contact between the families. "Sometimes, there's nothing more soothing than actually hearing your spouse's or kids' voices," said Tech. Sgt. Tani.

Another program offered to active-duty families is "Car Care Because We Care." This program gives family members a voucher for a free oil and filter change and overall inspection of the family's primary vehicle. The work is performed at the base Auto Skills Center.

The flight also conducts several workshops that may appeal to families, including stress management, parenting workshops, financial management, and cooking classes. "We have these workshops to help meet the challenges of the military lifestyle," said Master Sgt. Kelly Halbisen, FSC superintendent. "We try to address as many individual and family concerns as we can."

Families are encouraged to contact the center at 494-5675 with questions or concerns. "We're here to help," said Master Sgt. Halbisen.

Paralegal praised as best in 14th AF

By Sue Walden
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hard work definitely pays off. Just ask 45th Space Wing Legal Office's Tech. Sgt. Pamela Bidel.

The NCOIC of the Civil Law Division won the 14th Air Force-level's Steve Swigonski Paralegal Airman of the Year and is in the running for the Air Force Space Command-level award.

Her expansive position as lead paralegal has her fingers in many pies. Drafting powers of attorney, screening clients for legal assistance, facilitating workshops, tracking wills and witnessing will executions are just some of the many things Tech. Sgt. Bidel does daily.

"I'm most proud of the paralegal training program I put together," she said. She created a master task listing, three Legal divisions' master training plans, tracking sheets and designed a training program based on the needs of the Legal Office and each individual. "Her program was singled out as the most aggressive training program by the 14th Air Force superintendent," said her boss, Master Sgt. Patrick Vilmenay, law office man-

ager and Legal's superintendent.

Initiative is the word that describes Tech. Sgt. Bidel, according to Master Sgt. Vilmenay. "She makes my job easy because she's so proactive; she's always taking the ball and running with it," he said.

Tech. Sgt. Bidel is also the wing staff unit deployment manager - yet another big task. As a matter of fact, it could be a job in itself. "I track 65 people in 15 agencies in the wing making sure their trained, have desert uniforms, have their shots - all those things that make them ready to fight the war. It's an important job and I'm proud to do it," she said.

Her bosses are proud of her performance and of her accolade. "Tech. Sgt. Bidel is the best of the best," said Lt. Col. Mark Land, Staff Judge Advocate. "The (award) is extremely competitive and you don't get that kind of recognition in the JAG department without exhibiting professional excellence day in and day out. Pam does exactly that - she runs the largest legal assistance program in Air Force Space Command and in my almost 20 years I've never seen anyone run that program better."



Staff Sgt. Pamela Bidel talks with retired family member Sue Cully at the Legal Office about writing a will Monday. (Photo by Sue Walden)

45th Legal Office wins prestigious LAMP award

By Sue Walden
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Patrick Legal Office has won 14th Air Force-level's 2002 Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Award.

The award, sponsored by the American Bar Association, recognizes individuals or groups for furthering the quality and effectiveness of the legal assistance program.

Statistics tell it all. The 45th Space Wing had the busiest Legal Office in Air Force Space Command in 2002 and serves one of the Air Force's largest legal assistance client populations.

Last year, the legal assistance team served 4,389 clients on a total of 6,332 office visits. The team prepared a whopping 6,228 legal assistance documents.

"This award highlights the efforts of everyone in the office," said Master Sgt. Patrick Vilmenay, law office manager and superintendent. "I'm very proud of everyone; it reflects how we handle our customers."

Customers mean everything to the Legal Office personnel. In fact, their motto is "Serving those who serve."

Lt. Col. Mark Land, 45th SW Staff Judge Advocate instills that concept daily to the team.

"(I tell them) to always remember the warfighter, their families and those in our retired community who have sacrifices so much so we can continue to enjoy the freedoms we have today," Lt. Col. Land said. "They have the right to expect our very best every day."

In addition to helping those at Patrick and Cape Canaveral Air Force station, the Legal Office also supports the Central Florida military community as well as serving geographically-separated units at Ascension Island, Antigua Air Station and Key West.

Their "Legal Readiness Road Show" program has taken them to many places where they've assisted many clients.

"They traveled to Orlando to draw up wills and powers of attorney to Marines who were deploying," said Tech. Sgt. Pamela Bidel, Civil Law NCOIC.

Even though some Legal Office members were deployed in 2002, the tax team assisted 900 clients - more than 80 percent more than the previous year - saving them \$75,500 in civilian tax service and preparation fees.

If clients can't come to them, they'll go to the clients.

Members of the Legal Office also provide assistance to home- and hospital-bound clients, and in some cases provide same-day service.

Awards like this represent every team member all the way up to the leaders who keep their fingers on the pulse of the unit.

"I think that 'attaboys' mean a lot, so I walk around a lot and tell them they're doing a good job often," said Master Sgt. Vilmenay. "I stay up on the issues their facing, problems they encounter and they know I'm there for them."

"I'm very proud of this award and I'm pleased to see our folks be recognized," said Lt. Col. Land.

Next stop - the Air Force Space Command-level competition.



Getting WarFit

Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich, 45th Space Wing commander; (from left) Chief Master Sgt. Tony Manson, wing command chief master sergeant; Maj. Dean Bellamy, executive officer to the wing commander and Randall Hubbard, Health and Wellness Center exercise physiologist, begin the 5K Run early March 28 during WarFit Day. WarFit is an Air Force Space Command initiative to enhance the Air Force Fitness Program and improve overall wellness of active-duty members. (Photo by Jim Laviska)

45th SCS, CONS bring home AFSPC awards

By 1st Lt. Eric Badger
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 45th Space Communications Squadron and the 45th Contracting Squadron continue to rack up recognition by adding a more Air Force Space Command awards to their holdings.

The 45th SCS recently garnered the Lt. Gen. Grant Award for best AFSPC communications and information squadron. The squadron also received the AFSPC Information Assurance Organization of the year award.

In the individual award category, Staff Sgt. George Black received the AFSPC Information Assurance Noncommissioned Officer of the year award.

"This squadron is a team of thoroughbreds," said Lt. Col. Albert Zelenak, 45th SCS commander. "All you have to do is provide direction, turn them loose and get out of the way. Earning the Grant Award just certifies what I've known since the day I got here - this squadron is the best."

Overall, the 45th SCS operates and maintains communications - computer systems, airfield facilities, enterprise network and range wideband communications to ensure space launch readiness. The squadron manages 45th SW communications plans, resources, systems integration and architecture.

The 45th CONS acquired four individual awards and the AFSPC Unit Award.

The 45th CONS overall responsibilities include awarding contracts for Patrick AFB and Cape Canaveral AFS infrastructure and national launch operations support. The squadron administers contracts for the operation and maintenance of the Eastern Range, tracking all DoD, NASA and commercial launches. They also provide war fighting and contingency contacting support for global joint services deployments and nuclear treaty monitoring.

"The men and women of the 45th Contracting Squadron put forth a tremendous amount of effort, pride and professionalism in everything they do," said Master Sgt. Tim Maizel, 45th CONS superintendent. "The annu-

al AFSPC contracting awards are a tribute to their skill, dedication and relentless pursuit of excellence. No award is won by the individual, but by the team. We are extremely proud of our award winners and our team."

The AFSPC individual award winners from the 45th CONS are:

Outstanding Contracting Senior Noncommissioned Officer

Master Sgt. Larry Simmons

Outstanding Contracting Officer

Capt. Joseph Peloquin

Outstanding Base-Level Quality Assurance Evaluator

Ms. Sandra Wilson

Special Recognition Award

Mr. Craig Davis

Military volunteers needed

Positions are available for master and senior master sergeants in the bilateral affairs office in the Office of Defense Cooperation in Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia and Moldova. Positions are open to active-duty and Reserve and Air National Guard members.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Cynthia Birriel at 494-6144.

Cape chapel opens

There will be a ribbon cutting for the new chapel at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Thursday at 1 p.m. The new chapel will be in the E & L building. Everyone is invited. For information, call Chaplain Searle at 494-4073.

MPF Closed

Military Personnel Flight Customer Service section is now closed every Wednesday to all retirees and family members. This time has been set aside for active duty appointment for the new Common Access Cards.

Due to the mass volume of cards being issued, customers will experience longer wait times. For more information, call 494-6144.

Housing office closed

The Housing Office will be closed Wednesday for privatization training. For emergencies, call beeper number 690-5975 or 690-4298. For additional information, contact Caroline Jamba at 494-4032.

Emergency data assistance

To establish an account with the Air Force Personnel Center to complete Emergency Data Cards date of rank and/or pay date is needed to finish this process.

Contact unit commander's support staff or military personnel flight to obtain this information. Due to security reasons TAC is unable to provide this information.

Take a class

Call the Family Support Center at 494-5676 for these classes: Personal Financial Management Program, Tuesday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Employment Orientation, Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - noon; Pearl Harbor: A Survivor's Story, Tuesday, noon - 1 p.m.; Adoption Class, Tuesday 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Sponsorship Training Bldg. 537, Room 118, Wednesday, 9 - 11 a.m.; ABC's of Resumés, Wednesday 8-11:30 a.m.; Pre-separation Briefing, Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Aquatics Preschool Safety Class at Fitness Center, Friday noon - 1 p.m.

Union has benefits

The American Federation of Government Employees local Chapter 2568 has been reorganized with a new executive committee.

The AFGE also have benefits to offer members: credit builder program, mortgage and real estate program, loan program, prescriptions by mail, legal service, dental program

and much more. Call 494-2030 or log on to www.afge.com for more information.

TREA meets

The Retired Enlisted Association Freedom Chapter 117 meets April 17 (third Thursday of each month) at 2 p.m. at the Brevard Veteran's Memorial Center, 400 Sykes Creek Blvd., Merritt Island, behind Merritt Square Mall.

Call 750-1081 or e-mail Maynard Robinson mrobinson@cfl.rr.com for information or questions

Retired wives meet

The Retired Officers' Wives meet at the Officers' Club April 25. Guest Speaker is Chris Lehnertz from the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation. Social time is 11:30 a.m., lunch starts at noon.

Call Dean Pittman at 777-3044, Elsa Doddington at 773-6905 or Britta Kuhlman at 773-8793 by April 23 for reservations. Do not leave messages on answering machines.

Boating safety class

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 42 offers an eight-session boating safety course on Tuesdays and Thursdays April 10 through May 6, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Palm Bay Community Center, 1502 Port Malabar Road, NE, Palm Bay, Fla. Cost is \$50 per person which includes all required material for this course.

Call Bill Miller at 779-1459 or Jim McGuinness at 254-0540 for details.

Boating safety offered

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 46 offers a one-day boating safety program from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 26 at Lee Wenner Park in Cocoa.

The cost is \$35 per person and includes all materials and lunch. It covers state and federal boating regulations, navigation aids and much more.

The course is National Association of Safe Boating Law Administration approved. Call 453-7409 or e-mail ghill5@cfl.rr.com for more information.

Space-A program tests

A one-year test has begun, to evaluate the expansion of space-available privileges for family members traveling within the continental United States. Family members of active-duty and retired will be allowed to travel within the CONUS when accompanied by their sponsors.

Family members will assume same travel category as sponsor. Retired members may sign up 60 days in advance but not earlier than April 1. Active-duty must be on leave or pass status to register, remain in that status while waiting travel and remain in that status during entire traveling period.

CAIB meets

The next Community Action Information

Civilians add 1% to wallet

Most federal employees will soon see a larger 2003 pay increase thanks to an amended Executive Order 13282 providing retroactive locality pay. The increase varies by locality from .9 to 1.7 percent and will be retroactive to Jan. 12.

Officials at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service should make retroactive payments to Department of Defense civilians in April and May based on information received from personnel systems.

Federal Wage System employees should receive their retroactive pay in their April 25 paychecks based on timely receipt of personnel records.

General Schedule and other covered employees should receive their retroactive pay by the May 23 paycheck provided personnel actions are received by late April. (*Air Force News Service*)

Board meeting is April 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the Command Conference Center, Bldg. 401. Forward agenda items to 45 MDOS/SGO no later than close of business Monday. Contact Maj. Carole Robbins at 494-0412 for more information.

Environmental audit

Air Force Space Command will conduct an external Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program comprehensive audit at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and the Malabar and Jonathan Dickinson Missile Tracking Annexes Monday - April 15.

An in-brief will be provided at 7 a.m. Monday in Bldg. 423, Room S-125 at Patrick. Cross talks with auditors and interested Cape personnel will be held every morning at 7:30 from Tuesday - April 14. At the conclusion of the audit, an out-brief will be provided at 10:30 a.m. April 15 at the Cape.

For more information, call Terri Bracher at 494-9262 or Brian Barfus at 853-3712 .

Tax Season almost over

The Patrick AFB Tax Center closes April 11. The service is available to all active-duty, retired, reservists and guardsmen who are on Title 10 (active-duty) orders, and their family members. The Tax Center only prepares basic 1040EZ, 1040A, and 1040 returns.

Guidelines prevent the Tax Center from preparing self-employment, small business, rental property (business or personal) returns, or returns involving depreciation or "recapture."

In addition, the Tax Center does not prepare state income tax forms. For tax assistance, contact a unit Volunteer Income Tax Assistant or Staff Sgt. Freeman at 494-4914 to schedule an appointment.

Off we go into the wild blue ... Air Show

Air Force's Thunderbirds
Navy's Blue Angels
Army's Golden Knights

Rare performance of all three
together highlight show



Air Force Thunderbirds perform precision aerial maneuvers in their F-16 Fighting Falcons during air shows to exhibit the capabilities of modern, high performance air crafts. (Courtesy of U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds)

By 1st Lt. Eric Badger
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The skies over Patrick Air Force Base will be teeming with the noise of roaring jets April 27 during Air Show 2003.

The 2003 Air and Space Expo, commemorating "A Century of Flight," will feature the world's famous aerial demonstration team, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds as well as the world-renowned U.S. Army Golden Knights. Plus - a spectacular Space Coast first - this show will also feature the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. It's rare that the three headliners perform on the same venue.

Many other aerial acts are scheduled as well, such as civilian and military from the Aero-Shell Team to the thunderous F-14 Tomcats and A-10 Thunderbolts, an F-117 Nighthawk fly-by and many more.

Gates open at 8 a.m. The opening ceremony at 9 a.m. marks the beginning of the event.

"We have an exciting and full schedule planned for this year's air show," said Lt. Col. Kurt Hall, Air Show 2003 director.

"I encourage everyone planning to attend to come early and stay late, as the wing is preparing for an expected crowd of more than 100,000 people."

Besides aerial demonstrations, static displays and a Kids' Zone, there will also be an exposition in 920th Rescue Wing hangar to demonstrate

"To further promote space, there will also be model rocket launches."

The Kids' Zone features activities especially for young toddlers to youth in their mid-teens.

Organizations represented at the Zone are Kennedy Space Center Visitors Center, Stepping Stones to Aviation, the 333rd Recruiting Squadron, the Base Youth Programs and Library, as well as Jay Jay from Public Broadcasting Service.

Vendor booths, manned by base booster club volunteers, will provide food and beverages, as well as souvenirs for visitors.

Due to expected high attendance, expect long lines and delays as parking is very limited.

The traffic will be directed to designated parking areas and visitors will be bused as close to the entrance of the air show as possible.

Check the Web site at www.patrick.af.mil for parking and other information.

South Housing residents are strongly encouraged to car pool. Check upcoming *Missileer* issues for designated pick-up points, bus shuttle schedules and more.

To kick off a successful 2003 air show, the Officers' Club will hold a wing appreciation party, April 26 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Members of the U.S. Army Golden Knights team will literally jump into the festivities at the club and the Aero-Shell team will perform aerial acrobatic maneuvers beachside during the party.



U.S. Army's Golden Knights Parachute Team maneuvers over Cocoa Beach in the wing's last show in 2001. They free-fall at speeds reaching 120 miles per hour. Ninety soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C. make up the team. (Courtesy of U.S. Army Golden Knights)



The U.S. Navy Blue Angels, stationed at Pensacola Naval Air Station, come within inches of each other in their F/A-18 Hornets during an air show. The Blue Angels perform in six Hornets plus the crowd-pleasing "Fat Albert," a C-130. The team consists of 16 officers, 110 enlisted members. Approximately 15 million attend Blue Angel air shows each year. (Courtesy of U.S. Navy Blue Angels)



Catholic

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

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

Lent

Meager Meal and Lenten Devotions - Tuesdays April 8, 15, South Patrick Chapel

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass in the South Patrick Chapel . 10 a.m. Sunday School for Pre-kindergarten - 6th grade at the Education Center, 6 p.m. for 7-12 grades at South Patrick Chapel. 11:30 a.m. Mass in the Seaside Chapel.

Protestant

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

9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday school in Seaside Chapel

9:45 a.m. Grades K-12 at South Patrick Chapel

10:30 a.m. Inspirational Service in the South Patrick Chapel

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

Riverside Dining Facility Menu

Saturday brunch - Cajun meat loaf, #crispy-baked chicken, rib eye steak

Saturday supper - #Fish amandine, pork chops with mushroom gravy, stir-fry chicken with broccoli

Sunday brunch - Chicken parmesan, sauerbraten, tuna and noodles

Sunday supper - Fried shrimp, #ginger barbecue chicken, #spinach lasagna

Monday lunch - #Baked chicken, simmered knockwurst, Swiss steak with tomato sauce

Monday dinner - Roast turkey, baked ham, fish and fries

Tuesday lunch - Grilled Salisbury steak, onion-lemon baked fish, yakisoba

Tuesday dinner - Barbecue beef cubes, #paprika beef, pork chop suey

Wednesday lunch - Chalupas, burritos, Mexican chicken breast, chicken enchiladas

Wednesday dinner - Country-style steak, fried chicken, #pita pizzas

Thursday lunch - Liver with onions, orange-spiced pork chops, tempura-fried fish

Thursday dinner - Pepper steak, #Mr. Z's finger lickin' chicken, ginger pot roast

April 11 lunch - Beef and corn pie, pea and pepper rice, #seafood Newburg, veal paprika steak

April 11 dinner - Yankee pot roast, #simmered corn beef, pineapple chicken

Menus are subject to change. For more information, call dial-a-menu 494-2845. Item with an "#" are healthy choice.

Music

Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Youth Musical Festival** at Melbourne Square Mall. Singers, dancers, musicians and ensembles. Food and refreshments available at a nominal cost. Free admission. Call 633-5541 or 642-7445.

Monday, 2 p.m. **Florida Rivers in Song and Story** at Cocoa Beach Public Library. Features Florida folk music, literature and art. Program is free. Call 868-1104.

April 18, **Brevard County Community College Jazz Ensemble** hosts Spring concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Simpkins Fine Arts Auditorium in Cocoa. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 632-1111, ext 62760.

Theatre

Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. **Broadway Bound**, play by Neil Simon, in Melbourne's Phoenix Theatre, 817 E. Strawbridge Ave. Tickets are \$12-\$18. Call 952-5717.



Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. **Sweet Charity**, musical by Neil Simon has a cast of 35 and orchestra, at Henegar Center for the Arts, 625 E. New Haven, Melbourne. Tickets are \$20-\$22. Call 723-8698.

Festival

Thursday, 12 p.m. **Indian film and food festival** featuring Indian film and cuisine. At

Cocoa Beach Public library, 550 N. Brevard Ave. Free to the public. Call 868-1004.

April 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Earth Day 2003 Family Fun Fest** at the Enchanted Forest, Titusville. Exhibits, presentations, walks and activities for the whole family. Free admission. Call 267-7367.

April 25-28, Sand Point Park in Titusville. **Family festival** that includes food and drinks, a carnival, live entertainment, raft race, arts and crafts, antique car show and other great activities. Admission and parking are free. Call 267-3036.

Sports

Friday, **Fireworks and baseball** at Space Coast Stadium in Viera; Winning and losing is an afterthought for the fans when Brevard County Manatees take on the St. Lucie Mets and the evening is capped off with a huge fireworks demonstration. Tickets are \$3-\$6. For more information, call 633-9200.

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, action@patrick.af.mil or click global at 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
Capt. Richard Rivera

494-7831
Commissary officer
Donald Pruitt
494-4060
AAFES
Mike Lovejoy
494-6455
Civilian Personnel
Robert Daniel
494-5238
Military Equal Opportunity Squadron
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

Outdoor Recreation upgrading

Outdoor Recreation will be closed Tuesday - Thursday due to computer upgrading.

Call 494-9691 for more information.

Children's Festival is coming

A base-wide Easter Egg Hunt and Children's Festival is April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Location is to be determined. Children enjoy water tag, bungee run, Cameron the caterpillar, an obstacle course and other activities. The library will perform a puppet show. Call 494-4747 for more information.

Turkey-to-go

Feeding a house full on Easter can be easy with the NCO Club's special Easter-feast-to-go for \$35. This pre-cooked meal includes a 10- to 12-pound turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, dressing, cranberry sauce, vegetables and fresh dinner rolls. The entire meal feeds six to eight people. Orders must be received by noon, April 11. Orders can be picked up Easter day between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Call 494-7491 to place your order.

Reduce stress with yoga

Take a yoga class every Thursday, noon - 1 p.m. and 4:45-6:16 p.m. in the Patrick Base Library Conference Room.

Cost is \$5 per class, \$25 for six classes. Bring a blanket, mat or towel, small cushion and wear loose, comfortable clothing. Register by calling 504-4512.

Rent paradise

Outdoor Recreation has three beach houses, each with three bedrooms and three baths, available for rent.

These properties are located on the Atlantic Ocean, where you can enjoy breath-taking views from your own private beach access.

Each house is fully furnished with linens, towels, dishes cable TV, a refrigerator, a stove, a dishwasher, microwave oven, barbecue grills and a washer and dryer.

Daily rates are \$175 (two-night minimum stay required). For reservations and information, contact ODR at 494-2042.

ODR has the bait

ODR has the equipment needed to make surfing or river fishing a success. Fresh and frozen baits are available. Anglers can purchase live clams for \$4 a dozen.

Frozen shrimp, mullet and squid are also available for purchase.

Need reels spooled with fresh line? Outdoor Recreation stocks premium

lines. A staff member spools reel from 6 to 25 pounds. Line is one cent a yard for six- through 15-pound test and two cents a yard for 20- and 25-pound test.

ODR also has rods and reels available for day and weekly rentals.

PADI Open Water Class

Outdoor Recreation offers a new Professional Association of Diving Instructors Open Water class beginning April 22.

Open Water is a performance-based course of approximately 28 hours, designed to teach students the foundational knowledge and skills needed to dive with a buddy independent of supervision.

The SCUBA diver only needs to complete the class, pool and open-water dives to achieve certification.

Open Water Dive class is only \$235. Price includes 28 hours of instruction from a master PADI instructor, two spring and two open-water dives, deluxe PADI student kit, SCUBA equipment rental and all boat fees for the open water dives.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to get a C-card.

Outdoor Recreation is now offering monthly SCUBA diving trips.

Register at Outdoor Recreation or call 494-2042 for details.

Soar with eagles

Join Patrick's Aero Club. Active-duty members receive 100 percent tuition assistance. Call 494-4356 for details.

Learn to SCUBA dive

Outdoor Recreation offers a Open Water Professional Association of Diving Instructors Dive Class April 21 - May 3. This two-week course is held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 6 p.m. Open water dives are on Saturdays.

The PADI Open Water Class is a performance-based course, designed to teach students the foundational knowledge and skills they need to dive with a buddy, independent of supervision.

SCUBA divers only need to complete the class, pool and open water dives to achieve certification.

Total cost of the course is \$235.

Price includes 28 hours of instruction from a master PADI instructor, PADI deluxe student kit, four open-water dives, SCUBA gear rental and free air fills for the duration of the course.

Slots are limited and available on a first come, first serve basis.

Register at Outdoor Recreation or call 494-2042 for details.

EELV program contractors honored at event

The Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Program contractors, The Boeing Company and Lockheed Martin will be honored at the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Air Force Association's 19th Annual Aerospace Tribute Night April 25.

The event honors those who have contributed greatly to America's space program. The emcee for the evening will be Edmond Gormel, a previous honoree. The event also raises funds for the Air Force Association's educational fund.

The EELV program is the U.S. Air Force's space lift modernization program developed in tandem with Boeing and Lockheed Martin. It's designed to field a national launch capability that satisfies both government and commercial payload requirements and reduce the cost of launching by at least 25 percent over the legacy Atlas, Delta and Titan launch systems.

A Gen. Ira C. Eaker Historical Fellowship will be established with the AFA's Aerospace Education Foundation in the EELV Program's name.

Every year since 1985, the chapter has honored individuals for their contributions

to the nation's space program. This is the first year that entire companies/launch teams will be honored.

Past honorees include Edwin Aldrin, Jr., Thomas Stafford, James McDivitt, Roy Bridges, Richard Covey, Ox Van Hoften, Donald Slayton, Forrest McCartney, Brewster Shaw, Robert Crippen, Robert Dickman, Thomas Moorman, Jr., the 45th Space Wing, Rudy de Leon, Jimmy Morrell, F. Whitten Peters, Edmond Gormel and Congressman DaveWeldon.

The tribute will be at the Doubletree Hotel, Cocoa Beach. Cocktails are at 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person.

The menu is seared chicken with tiger shrimp in Thai seasoning. Make reservations by calling 868-0288 by Thursday.

Checks, payable to "AFA," should be sent to: 152 St. Croix Ave., Cocoa Beach, FL 32931. Dress for civilians is black tie or dark suit.

Military members should wear mess dress uniform or equivalent. Those with dietary concerns should contact the hotel directly at 783-9222. For more information, call 784-2831



Thursday *How to Lose a Guy in 10*

Days A woman is on a mission to find a guy get him to dump her within 10 days. Too bad the target is Benjamin who has just made a high-stakes bet that he can make a woman fall with him in 10 days. Stars McConaughey and Hudson. (PG-13 for sex-related material)

Friday *Deliver Us From Eva* Hardened by her parents' deaths, Eva gives up her dreams so she can provide for her three sisters. The sisters honor and obey Eva's every decision, often at the expense of their self-absorbed boyfriends. Fed up, the three conspire to get rid of Eva. Stars LL Cool J and Gabrielle Union. (Rated R for sex-related dialogue)

Saturday *The Jungle Book 2* Animated, Mowgli gets restless and decides to return to the bare necessities of jungle life, leaving behind his new girlfriend Shanti, who's afraid of the dangerous wild animals. (Rated G)

Sunday *Adaptation* The true story of a plant dealer and three Seminole Indians who conspire to clone rare orchids and sell them at exorbitant rates to plant collectors. Stars Nicolas Cage and Meryl Streep. (Rated R for language, sexuality, some drug use and violent images)

All show times are 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. Admission is \$2.50 for adults age 12 and older and \$1.50 for children 11 and younger.



The Fitness and Sports Center just received a four-star award, one of the highest awards a fitness center can receive. Only 12 received the award. (Photos by Jim Laviska)

Fitness center snags four stars

By Staff Sgt. Joel Langton
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Patrick Fitness Center just received one of the most coveted awards in the Air Force Fitness community – a four-star rating.

However, they're a bit frustrated because they wanted a fifth star and they've already got the plan in place to ensure they snag their fifth star next year.

"We were a little disappointed because we were expecting the five-star but because of the age of our equipment, we lost points," said Luis Saez, fitness center director. Only 12 four-star ratings are given out in the Air Force and three five-star ratings.

"We also lost points on our training," Mr. Saez added. "We had to replace some members at the last minute and the new hires didn't have the training."

However, they're providing the training even closer to the grading period next year, and they're working to secure the funding for new equipment.

"We're hoping that Santa Claus will come and visit us," Mr. Saez joked.

The rating are part of an annual recognition program for centers that have demonstrated excellence in the areas of operations, programs, training, facilities and customer service.

The inspection consists of a 105-item checklist that the center staff grades themselves on.

The list covers everything from type of equipment, to the center director's education.

For example, they get 20 points if the



Mike Mendonca, personal trainer at the fitness center, offers Coast Guard Lt. Paul Stukus some fitness tips.

equipment is cleaned daily. Also, they're scored on number of activities the center hosts per year.

Then, the fitness center director and services commander must sign off and then it must be forwarded to the command via the support group commander. Eventually, it's forwarded to the Air Force level from there.

If a center gets a certain score, then the command staff must verify the score.

"We received this because of the level of service and variety of services that we provide," said Mr. Saez.



The 45th Medical Group's Mark Essick watches the ball sail down the 2nd Fairway during Wednesday's championship. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joel Langton)

Contracting takes golf title in shootout



The 45th Contracting Squadron's Craig Davis putts towards the cup. (Photo by Jim Laviska)

By Staff Sgt. Joel Langton
45TH SW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 45th Contracting Squadron won the base intramural golf championship 7-6 Wednesday afternoon.

The two teams tied 6-6 forcing them to go to a complicated tie-breaker system. It was the second time in the 3-game series the tie-breaker was used to determine the winner.

"We thought we had it won on the first nine but then it pretty much came down to the last hole," said Craig Davis, of the contracting team.

The 45th Contracting Squadron won the regular season title by two points.

"We just peaked at the right times," said Davis. "Some of our guys weren't playing very well at the beginning of the season but we all pretty well brought it together at the end."



Don Jackson, 45th Medical Group, lines up a putt on the first green. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joel Langton)

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