



FLIGHT LINES

SERVING HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

Vol. 25 No. 08

482d Fighter Wing, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla.

www.homestead.afrc.af.mil

August 2006



Deployed charity march
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Bring your "A" game
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Getting it right



Photo by Lisa Macias

Maintenance Flight Chief Senior Master Sgt. Al Simmons, left, and Master Sgt. Arendel Elizee, center, review procedures for storage and identification of hazardous materials for aircraft with Senior Master Sgt. Michael Jacobsen July 12. Sergeant Jacobsen and other members of 10th Air Force Headquarters, Ft. Worth, Texas, visited to assess compliance on over 900 items for the Maintenance and Standardization Program.

SAV complete, get back to basics



Air Force Reserve photo

By Col. Randy Falcon
482nd Fighter Wing Commander

Last month our counterparts at 10th Air Force spent an entire week looking at our internal processes during the Staff Assistance Visit.

They gave us some great feedback, which I will share with you in four categories; the good, the bad, the ugly and the simple. Fortunately for us, this was an internal event, so our shortfalls can be corrected before the Unit Compliance Inspection without any negative press.

The good

Overall, this base has a positive, can-do attitude. All of you tackle your job and responsibilities with a sense of urgency, despite never-ending personnel shortages and budget constraints.

You rise to the challenge consistently, doing whatever is necessary to accomplish the mission, and the team chiefs from 10th Air Force took notice of that. This may sound cliché, but a positive attitude goes a long way and I feel that our success as a unit is attributable to that.

The bad

We need to learn from our mistakes. Past inspections and assistance visits have shown us where many of our deficiencies are, and many of you have failed to take note of those deficiencies. This leads to repeat write-ups, or what I call "repeat offenders." Folks, we know ahead of time what is expected of us during an inspection, and we should prepare accordingly. Worst of all though, are those of you that received write-ups in the past and received the exact same write-up during this visit. We need to make sure that we correct our deficiencies before our next big event, the UCI, which is scheduled for November.

The ugly

Sometimes it takes an outsider to show you that you need to get back to basics. The team chiefs noted several areas that are common sense to us, but we need to focus on them prior to the UCI.

Of importance, pay attention to customs and courtesies. This means we address each other by rank, salute commissioned officers, etc. You know the drill. We also need to maintain our standards of military appearance; good haircuts, sharp looking uniforms worn correctly with unit patches.

The simple

If you do something, make sure you document it appropriately. For example, we have an outstanding safety program at this base, and I know we train our people on safety hazards and the ORM process. But we must

document this training on an Air Force Form 55 or else we don't get credit for the work we're doing. Again, this is just one example of something very simple that we must not forget to do. Pay attention to detail and check your wingman's six to make sure we don't fail in areas like this.

As the 10th Air Force team chief told us when they arrived, this visit was to assist us. You've all received individual feedback in addition to what I mentioned above. So take these recommendations and let's improve so that we can show the UCI team that we are a world-class organization when they visit in November.

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct link to the leadership of the 482nd Fighter Wing for suggestions, praise or issues regarding Homestead Air Reserve Base for which no other solution exists. Your chain of command should always be your first option. However, this month the 482nd FW would like some specific feedback:

What would you most like to see improved or changed at Homestead Air Reserve Base?

Send your responses to:

actionline@homestead.af.mil

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Uniform board to release updates to AFI

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- An update to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Air Force Uniform Dress and Appearance, will soon be released, said Air Force officials.

A key feature of this updated instruction will be the return of heritage to the enlisted corps -- chevrons on the sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia.

"Over the years, we've made changes that made sense at the time, but had the effect of moving us away from our heritage," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. "Chevrons on sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia are historical symbols of the finest noncommissioned officer corps on the planet. We need to return that heritage to them and reconnect them to the great NCOs who went before them."

The circle around the U.S. was eliminated in 1991, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos of the Air Force Uniform Board.

"Yet, every uniform board since received requests to return that to the enlisted force, so it has been done," she said. "Wearing the circle on the lapel has a lasting heritage that dates back to April 27, 1918."

The change will include the removal of senior NCO shoulder boards from the blue uniform and from all upper garments, except the optional wool sweaters.

The implementation date for the circled insignia is Jan. 1, 2007, and the date for mandatory wear of chevrons on the sleeves is Oct. 1, 2006, Air Force officials said.

The updates will also include information about the new air staff badge and new space badge. Desert combat uniforms are now only authorized on civilian flights to and

from the area of responsibility. Also, Air Force personnel are not authorized to wear desert boots with the battle dress uniform.

As a reminder, Oct. 1 marks the mandatory wear of physical training gear. All Airmen will be required to have one running suit, two T-shirts and two pair of shorts. Also beginning in October, enlisted Airmen will receive an increase in their clothing allowance to offset the increase of the mandatory number of T-shirts and shorts from two sets to three sets in October 2007.

Air Force officials emphasized that Airmen should not wait until October to purchase these items. The revised AFI will clarify wear of the PT gear by specifying that when doing organized PT, the shorts and T-shirts will be worn as a set and not mixed with civilian clothes; however, at other times the PT gear, to include the running suit, can be worn with civilian clothes.

More clarification will be provided about sister service badges, as well as cell phone use in uniform. New guidance about the wear of flight clothing also is incorporated in the updated document.

The new AFI will be available for all Airmen soon.

"The Air Force Uniform Board, chaired by Air Force A1, reviews any matters related to Air Force uniforms involving possible improvements, and in turn, provides recommendations to the chief of staff for a final decision," Sergeant Athnos said. "It's a deliberate process that is focused on feedback from the field to better accomplish our mission."

Promotions

To Airman

David Laracuenta, 482nd FW

To Airman 1st Class

Kristy Ayala-Rosado, 482nd SFS

To Senior Airman

Leonardo Cajiga-Peralta, 70th APS
Varshay Ceaser, 70th APS
Joe Laria Jr., 482nd AMXS
David Page, 70th APS
Daniel Tidings, 70th APS

To Staff Sgt.

Michael Barney, 70th APS
Randall Black, 482nd LRS
Fernando Buitrago, 70th APS
Adam Cartwright, 482nd AMXS
Bryan Doucette, 482nd MXS
Robert Harrold, 482nd AMXS
Samuel Kuntz II, 482nd MSG
Carmen Martinez, 482nd CS
Nghia Nguyen, 482nd LRS
Moises Ostolaza-Davila, 482nd SFS
Erick Pacheco, 482nd SFS
Antoine Rolle, 482nd AMXS
Michael Turner, 482nd AMXS
Wesley Whitaker, 482nd SFS

To Tech. Sgt.

Leroy Daniels III, 482nd SFS
Timothy Haffner, 482nd CES
Heidi Knowlton, 482nd MDS
Richard Petty III, 482nd CS
Elisa Spink, 482nd FW
Ken Swortz, 482nd MXG

To Master Sgt.

Frederick Becking, 70 APS
Anthony Cherington, 482nd AMXS
Juan Colon, 482nd CES
Franciso Navarro, 70th APS

AF voting program helps Airmen exercise their right

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force personnel and their families serving around the world have the right to vote and the Air Force Voting Program's mission is to ensure they have the information and tools needed to exercise that privilege.

As a part of the program, every Air Force installation has designated voting assistance officers who can assist Airmen and voting age family members with the registration and voting process. Prior to deploying, Airmen receive voting materials needed to notify their state of new mailing address and continue to receive voting assistance from home voting officers and on site PERSCO teams.

"We want to ensure that every Airman's sacrifice of service does not interfere with his or her right to vote," said Mr. John Lawrence, Air Force Voting Action Officer at the Air Force

Personnel Center. "However, each person must accurately complete the absentee voting process from registering and requesting a ballot to submitting the absentee ballot."

Personnel serving away from their voting residence should use Federal Post Card Application Standard Form 76 to register and request absentee ballots. The SF 76 and 2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide, which lists the unique voting rules for each state, are available on line at www.fvap.gov or may be obtained from your base voting assistance officer.

To help ensure their vote counts, officials remind personnel to be careful when filling out the SF 76 as it is most often returned without action for the following reasons:

- Inadequate legal voting residence address: Address information was not sufficient to locate members voting precinct/ward/parish/etc.

- Inadequate current mailing address: Member moved or deployed without forwarding an SF 76, letting the state know his new address and the post office will not forward ballots.

- Writing illegible

- Failure to indicate party preference: Primary ballots will not be sent without a party designation

- Form incomplete: All information specified in the VAG must be completed

- Application sent to wrong jurisdiction (see addresses listed in the VAG)

- No signature

For more information on voting, or for assistance, contact your installation voting officer through your base telephone operator or visit the Air Force Voting Action site at www.afcrossroads.com/voteFund/Vote/default.htm.

Guidelines set limits on political activities

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga — People in Air Force Reserve Command might want to brush up on the rules that govern involvement in political activities.

Primary elections are under way in some states. General elections are in November.

While the same rules that apply to active-duty military members do not always affect reservists and Department of Defense civilians, it is important to know when and where these rules do apply.

According to the Air Force instruction that lays out rules on participation in political activities by Air Force members, Airmen in the active-duty Air Force and Air Force reservists on active duty for 30 days or more have the greatest number of restrictions.

"The Air Force restricts its members in their political participation in

order to help promote a more politically neutral Air Force," said Capt. Cinnamon Howard, a judge advocate at Headquarters AFRC.

For military members on extended active-duty and reservists on active duty for 30 days or more, the rules limiting participation in political activities follow two basic principles.

First, they cannot act in an official military capacity.

Second, they cannot openly or privately make speeches, write articles, or engage in electioneering or campaign activity associated with partisan politics. Partisan means a candidacy for any national or state office or a candidacy or issue associated with a political party - Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, etc.

For example, the Air Force allows its people on active duty to attend partisan political rallies in civilian clothes as a spectator only, not in

uniform, as long as they do not actively participate or make speeches during the rally, even in an unofficial military capacity.

In an unofficial capacity, they may write letters to the editor of newspaper expressing personal, nonpartisan views on current political issues.

Also, they can make monetary contributions to a political organization favoring a particular candidate. They cannot give money directly to any candidate.

The rules are less restrictive for DOD civilians. While the main principle of not acting in an official capacity still applies, DOD allows its civilians more freedom to engage in partisan politics in their private lives.

If they are not members of the Senior Executive Service and are acting solely in a private capacity,

See POLITICS, pg. 11

Deployed Homestead reservist organizes charity march

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Candy Knight
376th AEW Public Affairs

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan — In a show of camaraderie, teamwork and respect for history, Tech. Sgt. William Gordon, deployed from Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., organized a Mini-Nijmegen march here on July 23.

The event, sponsored by Manas' Enlisted Councils, was designed to simulate the Nijmegen International Peace March, a four-day, 100-mile march held annually in Holland.

"The purpose of this event is to celebrate the Nijmegen March and hopefully help build esprit de core among the team members and between the units," said Tech. Sgt. William Gordon, event organizer.

Seventy-six servicemembers from the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing took part in the Manas' Mini-Nijmegen and walked more than 15 miles on a rural route which took them through many sections of the base that are normally not accessible.



Airmen of the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing take part in a 15.5 mile walk during the early morning hours to commemorate the Nijmegen International Peace March, a four-day, 100-mile march held annually in Holland. Seventy-six servicemembers took part in the event.



Tech. Sgt. William Gordon, right, of the 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, and 1st Lt. Tobey Hockridge, 376th Air Expeditionary Wing, marches through a section of Manas Airport's "Bone Yard" during the Mini-Nijmegen march July 23. Sergeant Gordon is deployed from the 482nd Security Forces Squadron, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. Lieutenant Hockridge is deployed from Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

However, unlike the original march, the wear of Desert Camouflage Uniforms and 22-kilogram backpacks was optional.

But that didn't stop some members from "gearing up." Neither did the 90+ degree heat.

Participants also knew that they were helping to raise funds for the numerous charities sponsored by the councils.

"I felt a sense of accomplishment after completing the march," said Senior Airman Ilya Dayter, 376th AEW. "Knowing that I also helped raise money for a good cause makes the pain and blisters I have now worth it."

"This was a perfect combination of a great cause to celebrate great event and raise money for great causes. It

was great to see so many Airmen out there show camaraderie and teamwork and I am proud to have participated," said Maj. Mark Anarumo, 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron commander.

According to 1st Lt. Tobey Hockridge, 376th AEW, taking part in this event has inspired him to compete in similar events, albeit with more training.

"I intend on participating in the Bataan Memorial Death schedule for March 25. It is a 26.2-mile event through the desert in honor of those who survived and those who did not survive the historical event of the same name during World War II," he said.

Automated recall system coming soon

Communicator eases process, increases capability

By Jake Shaw
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 482nd Communications Squadron is expected to implement a new, automated system this fall that will streamline the recall procedures at Homestead Air Reserve Base.

“Communicator” as the system is known, will eliminate the need for key staff to manually call personnel for accountability purposes, according to Senior Master Sgt. Wanda Symons, 482nd Fighter Wing Chief of Military Personnel Programs.

In the past, when a recall was initiated for training or real-world scenarios, all base units were required to pick up the phone and manually call everyone on their roster to get accountability for unit members.

Now the 482nd Fighter Wing will have the ability to contact all unit members quickly to achieve a high rate of accountability, said Sgt. Symons.

Communicator requires just one person to enter a recall message and within a few minutes the system starts calling everyone in its database to pass on the message, said Senior Master

Sgt. Oscar Lopez, 482nd Fighter Wing Command Post Superintendent.

Communicator also delivers an accurate and consistent message to everyone who receives the call, according to Sgt. Lopez.

And it gives the wing commander the ability to measure the base’s mission capability, said Sgt. Symons.

With the peak of hurricane season fast approaching, base officials are stressing the importance of the new system, which should make it easier and faster to learn the status of all base employees in the aftermath of a storm.

To do your part, all military and civilian employees at Homestead ARB must make sure their contact information is updated on the unit’s recall roster.

When you receive a call from the Communicator system you will hear the following message:

“This is the 482 Fighter Wing Emergency Notification System. Please press a key at any time to retrieve an important message.”

Hurricane Accountability

For the current status of the base after a hurricane has passed or to report your location/status, attempt to use the following emergency call-in numbers:

Information Line
1-800-945-5328 or (305) 224-7691

Base Command Post
1-800-330-8149 Ext 7023

In the event the base loses communications, use the following resources to report accountability:

NAFCAT
1-800-828-4624 Ext 5160 or 3079

Official AFRC Web Site
<http://www.afrc.af.mil/>

* Inform your unit of your plans prior to a storm’s landfall and make contact NLT 48 Hours from crisis onset.

Quick Quotes

How do you pass the time when the power is out after a hurricane?

I like to read when there’s daylight and just sleep when it’s dark.



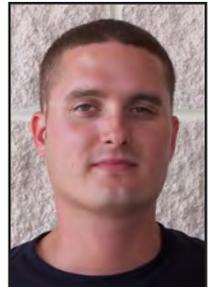
Senior Airman Dionne Dukes
482nd MSG Admin Support Specialist

I’ll probably play a lot of poker on my cell phone.



Senior Airman Jennifer Hawley
482nd MSG Workgroup Administrator

I watch satellite TV and eat ice cream. (Editor’s note: Senior Airman McCarthy has invested in a portable generator)



Senior Airman Patrick McCarthy
482nd MXG Crew Chief

I’ll try not to suffocate from the heat, and I’ll barbecue a lot!



Ms. Claudia Bortz
482nd CES Real Estate Specialist

FEMA makes use of former, current Air Force assets

By Dan Galindo
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is making a hangar at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. one of South Florida's main hubs of recovery operations for hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Adjacent to the runway of Homestead Air Reserve Base, the 121,000 square foot hangar is in an ideal spot for recovery efforts.

"The beauty of the hangar is the location," said Jeffrey Bezore, staging area group manager from FEMA Headquarters Logistics Cadres in Washington, D.C. "It has the potential to airlift assets into and out of the staging area as well as typical ground transportation."

Although the hangar is Miami-Dade County property, the FEMA Long-Term Recovery Office in Orlando has a temporary, year-to-year agreement to use the hangar as a staging site for relief supplies, according to Bezore.

"The hangar is now in a static contingency role," Mr. Bezore said. "It's available for us to easily move in a team and receive response resources for transfer to the state based on their operational needs."

During the previous two hurricane seasons, FEMA teamed up with Homestead Air Reserve Base to use the hangar as a staging area in response to multiple hurricanes. Now



FEMA courtesy photo

Sgt. Steven Laughlin of the Florida Army National Guard's 50th Area Support Group wraps pallets of ice at a hangar, formerly part of Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., during recovery efforts after Hurricane Wilma in October 2005. FEMA now uses the site to pre-position food and water in the event of a natural disaster. (Below) Trucks at the hangar prepare for loading.

FEMA has proactively pre-staged food and water resources to distribute in the immediate aftermath of a storm until more commodities arrive.

Mr. Bezore said that if a hurricane strike is expected, recovery teams can now set up operations prior to a disaster declaration by the President. As many as 30 people from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Forest Service and Department of Transportation would converge on the site.

But there are many other ways the

Air Force Reserve has helped with the FEMA operation.

"In the past the base has been fantastic," said Mr. Bezore. "The commander has welcomed us into his preparedness planning process during past events so that we can complement our separate, yet adjacent, operations and minimize conflicts."

Last year, the 482nd Fighter Wing also helped recovery teams with fuel

See FEMA, pg. 8



Photo by Lisa Macias

Reserve personnel center expands online services

DENVER — In today's virtual world, people can shop, perform bank transactions or complete college classes online.

The people at the Air Reserve Personnel Center here are working to offer similar conveniences to members of the Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard through the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve, a Web portal located on the ARPC Web site at

<http://arpc.afrc.af.mil>.

The next capability scheduled to be launched by the center will be retirements and associated processes on July 31. These new capabilities will help people conduct transactions online without having to visit a military personnel flight in person.

On March 31, the center gave

people the capability to correct their duty history online. In addition to correcting their duty history, customers can also do the following:

- Obtain their 20-year letter (re-issue);
- Send a letter to the promotion board;
- Receive board counseling;
- Acquire a mortgage letter;
- Correct their points history;
- Request a copy of a finalized NGB 22, Report of Separation and Record of Service;
- Get current awards and decorations information;
- Make a personnel data update;
- Find out about current points;
- Choose a Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan;

- Request a copy of a finalized Defense Department Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty;
- Get retired pay assistance;
- Request copies of previous enlisted performance reports or officer performance reports; or
- Sign up for TRICARE Reserve Select.

Members can stay informed about the latest vPC-GR information by creating a new account on vPC-GR and electing to receive the vPC-GR online subscription-based e-mail. To get to it, visit the Air Reserve Personnel Center Web site at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil> and click on the vPC-GR logo. (AFRC News Service)

FEMA, from pg. 7

for back-up generators, medical supplies, lodging, and material handling equipment. Soldiers from the Florida Army National Guard's 50th Area Support Group, a tenant unit at the base, also supported efforts by loading pallets of supplies into tractor trailers.

In addition to pre-staging supplies, FEMA is also using the site for training disaster recovery teams. In late July, teams trained for several days on shipping and receiving the initial response resources, and they trained on new command-control systems and reporting technology.

While FEMA does not yet have a permanent agreement with the county to use the hangar indefinitely, FEMA is currently funding repairs to the hangar. So far, the agency has repaired the electrical system, and officials hope to have water services at the site repaired in the future.



US Air Force file photo

“Off we go...”

An Air Force Reserve Command WC-130J Hercules from the 403rd Wing at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., takes off to hunt a tropical cyclone. To date, there have been two tropical storms that have formed in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. The 403rd is the only Department of Defense unit with the designated mission of flying into hurricanes to gather critical data for the National Weather Service.

2005 Air Force Climate Survey results in Responses show significant improvements over 2003 survey

By Lt. Col. Virgil Hamaty
Wing Performance Manager

The Air Force Climate Survey is a tool used by commanders at all levels to help measure how well their individual units are performing. The surveys are conducted every two years, and the results from our most recent assessment at the 482nd Fighter Wing in 2005 shows how well we've improved.

A climate survey identifies positive and negative factors that affect mission accomplishment and lets unit leaders determine how to take action. The survey is made available online and participation is strictly voluntary.

More than 560 reservists and civilian members of Homestead ARB participated in our 2005 assessment in October and November of last year. As you look at the results below, you'll see a comparison of our 2003 results with the 2005 results.

There were 12 major areas of consideration with 51 subcategories in

the 2005 assessment. Nine of the major areas, including 38 subcategories were repeats from the 2003 assessment. Of the repeated areas, seven showed improvement. However, the two declining areas regarding what participants thought of their units' job performance and professional development atmosphere and opportunities were still high above the 75% threshold.

In this latest assessment, the Air Force added three new major categories measuring members' organizational commitment, perceptions of senior leadership and perceptions of immediate supervisors. In all three of the new categories, responses met or were well above 75 percent.

The two major categories that did not meet baseline standards according to members' responses regarded unit flexibility and recognition. Our base leadership has certainly taken notice of this and, as it always strives to do,

will make every effort to do right by you.

The numbers shown below are just a few of the significant improvements we've made at the 482nd Fighter Wing in the last few years. Across the board this survey shows that we are looking for ways to improve, and most of us feel like valued members of our unit. Additionally, the survey shows that management at all levels strongly supports continued professional training and they provide us with the right tools to do our job.

This is another reason for members of the 482nd FW to be proud. We are a professional organization that continues to strive for excellence. We are continually improving, and the reason is you and your hard work. The next UCA is scheduled for late 2007.

The entire list of results is available through the Homestead ARB public drive at <P:\FW\CCX\2005 climate survey>

Most Significant Improvements			
<input type="radio"/>	Circle indicates highest level of improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Squares indicate percentages below 75% target
Climate Factors	% Agree		
	2005	2003	
My job is designed so that I know when I have performed well.	91%	84%	
I have a sense of personal fulfillment at the end of the day.	84%	77%	
I am a valued member of my unit.	90%	85%	
My morale is high.	<input type="radio"/> 79%	55%	
I am allowed to attend continuing professional training (workshops, etc.)	79%	70%	
I feel free to suggest new and better ways of doing things.	87%	81%	
I have adequate time to do my job well.	80%	71%	
We have enough people in my workgroup/team to accomplish the job.	<input type="checkbox"/> 73%	51%	
I have the right tools/equipment to accomplish my job.	79%	74%	
I have enough time to accomplish my daily workload during my duty hours.	<input type="checkbox"/> 74%	63%	
My unit encourages appropriate risk taking.	<input type="checkbox"/> 72%	65%	
My unit challenges old ways of doing business.	<input type="checkbox"/> 72%	63%	



Photo by Dan Galindo

Cadets from Homestead High School's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program show off their military bearing before a tour of the Mako F-16 ramp on July 19. For the past several years, Homestead HS AF JROTC cadets have gathered for a week-long summer enrichment camp, learning about the Air Force and Air Force Reserve missions, way of life and opportunities. This year more than 30 students attended.

City of Homestead Councilwoman Lynda Bell presented 482nd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Randy Falcon with the city council's National Military Appreciate Month in Homestead proclamation June 3 at the Falcon's Nest Club. The Homestead proclamation makes May 1 though June 14 a special time to honor the sacrifices of our military members in the defense of our freedoms at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. and nationally. The city council selected the six week period to include many of the patriotic observances during May and June. Victory in Europe (VE) Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Loyalty Day, Armed Forces Day/Week, Memorial Day, Navy Day, Army Day and Flag Day are all celebrated during those months as well. In 2004, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution declaring May as Military Appreciation Month across the country.



Photo by Dan Galindo



US Coast Guard courtesy photo

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ezra Colinco, a Supply Specialist with the Coast Guard's Maritime Safety and Security Team Miami dries his eyes after being sprayed with pepper spray. The MSST members were all subjected to the pepper spray as part of "empathy training" which teaches security professionals what it feels like to be hit with the disabling weapon.

Civilian volunteers wanted

Have you ever wanted to participate, but never had the chance? The 482nd Logistics Readiness Squadron is now providing that opportunity to civilians on base through the Mobility Augmentation program. Volunteers will help move, palletize, and process cargo during exercises and mobility events. Positions available include: Forklift operators, document processing, passenger processing, security, load teams, working with scales, and more. Experience is helpful, but not necessary. Everyone will receive training. If interested, please contact Lt. Col. Charles Mood by e-mail at charles.mood@homestead.af.mil or Senior Master Sgt. Larry Washington at larry.washington@homestead.af.mil

Fitness Center hours

The fitness center's hours have changed until further notice. The new hours are Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. The center is now closed on Saturdays and Sundays, and hours are unchanged for primary UTA weekends.

Retention Manager vacancy

The 482nd Mission Support Group has an immediate opening for a Retention Manager to administer the Air Force Reserve career retention program. The incumbent will work closely with the wing retention manager, group and unit commanders as well as unit retention managers, first sergeants

and family readiness. All nominees must state interest in the position no later than Aug. 7. You must also be prepared to submit a typed, one-page essay outlining "Why I am the best choice as the MSG Retention Manager." If interested, contact Master Sgt. Tina Davis at (305) 224-7359.

Mandatory TIP training

The Secretary of Defense has mandated all DOD military, civilian and contract personnel complete "Trafficking in Persons" (TIP) training no later than Sep 30. Members will also be required to complete annual refresher training thereafter. Human trafficking is the third largest criminal activity in the world, and the Air Force has a zero tolerance approach. The Air Force has developed computer based training (CBT) on Awareness Training for Combating Trafficking in Persons, located online at <https://golearn.csd.disa.mil>. Upon registering, choose "Course List", then expand the "Ancillary Training" folder. Select "AF-DOD Combating Trafficking in Persons". There is no need to print certificates. Training completion will be tracked electronically.

Outdoor Rec has it all

Don't forget that the Outdoor Recreation office has moved into the Fitness Center. Grills, sleeping gear, trailers, and both sports and water equipment are readily available. Outdoor Rec can also provide tickets to local theme parks. Sea World, Busch Gardens, Universal Studios, Island Adventure,

and Disney are available. For details, please call (305) 224-7092.

Club membership drive

Air Force Clubs will conduct the "A Thousand Things To Do" membership campaign from Sept. 1 through Nov. 30. and will be open to all active duty, reserve, civilian and retiree eligible non-members. There will be two all new 2007 H3 "Hummers" with one going to a new member and one H3 going to a current member. New members are those who join an Air Force club between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30 and were not members anytime during the period of June 1 to Aug. 31. Current members are those individuals who were a member of an Air Force club as of Aug. 31.

SVS rewards program

Chase Bank is offering their Military Free Cash (MFC) rewards program, which provides two points per dollar on card purchases made on base in Services activities. Other qualifying locations include the Base Exchange (except gas = 1 point), and the Commissary. They are also offering one point per dollar for all charges off base. The card has a 0% intro rate for 12 months on purchase and balance transfers. Prize drawings will be conducted at the AF Services Agency under the supervision of the Agency Office of Legal Counsel. Winners must meet the eligibility requirements for club membership. The member's account must be "active" and not in a delinquency status.

POLITICS, from pg. 4

DOD civilians can manage a political campaign, endorse or oppose a candidate in a political advertisement, and speak at a political rally on behalf of a candidate. All of these actions are forbidden for people on active duty for 30 days or more.

Finally, no one can engage in any political activities "inside the fence line" of any military installation

or in any federal building.

"It's important that military members carefully follow political activity guidelines," Captain Howard said. "Failure to follow those rules could result in punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 92, Failure to Obey a Lawful Regulation."

For more guidance, military people can go to AFI 51-902, Political Activi-

ties by Members of the U.S. Air Force. Civilian employees can refer to a May 31, 2006, memorandum signed by the deputy secretary of defense. The memorandum is about Civilian Employees' Participation in Political Activities. It's on the Web at www.defenselink.mil/dodgc/defense_ethics/. (AFRC News Service)

Bringing your "A game" to the playing field

Attitude is a big part of HIS game

Story and photo by Jake Shaw
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

If attitude, encouragement or enthusiasm could win games, HIS softball team would be unbeaten. In his playbook, bringing your "A game" to the field means bringing your attitude with you.

Over the past 25 years HE's pitched consistently for his teams, sometimes through injuries like a separated shoulder. And HE's been known to autograph a softball and then give it to the coach of an opposing team when HIS team wins a game.

HE can be heard during games shouting, "FEAR ME." And when HE records a strike out he pumps his fist and adds a swagger to his step to add insult to injury.

"I don't feel sorry for anyone that strikes out in a slow-pitch softball game," HE said.

Watching HIM, listening to HIM, you'd think he's Roger Clemens striking out 20 people in a Major League Baseball game.

Make the mistake of hitting a dribbler (ground ball) to HIM and he'll surely tell you, "not this time," as HE makes the throw to first base and sends you walking shamefully back to the dugout.

"Intimidation is not really a part of my game, but I like to talk it up on the field, get inside my opponents' heads and try to psych them out," HE says.

"It helps to raise the confidence level of my team and it makes us all play better, HE says, and "it makes the game more interesting when you stir the pot a little bit and create some rivalry," HE adds.

And stir the pot HE does.

Whether he's heckling his own team, his opponents or both, HE's always talking out there, said Carmen Martinez, a teammate.

"HIS attitude is bigger than the

game itself," said another teammate who asked to remain anonymous.

But maybe it's not a bad idea to reach for a psychological advantage on the field.

"Your opponents are constantly trying to take advantage of your weaknesses, so you have to show them you're fearless," said Martinez.

And there are lots of competitors looking for that advantage in the league this year. Among HIS opponents, a group of fighter pilots and a group of special forces troops, and then there's that team that boasts a lineup of home-run hitters that occasionally draw intentional walks to stop them from knocking it out of the park. Compared to HIS team, which consists of some "veteran" players and some "well-rounded" players, the other teams seem to have a huge advantage.

But don't underestimate HIS effect on HIS team and opponents, on and off the field.

HIS teammates consider him to be the spirit of the team.

"HE's our cheerleader," said Martinez. "He keeps us focused when we're down," she added.

He may be a "veteran" and he may not be the most physically intimidating player in the league, but he goes out there and has a good time and



does his best to make sure his team plays well, HE said.

"And my team will make a good showing in the playoffs. In fact, they [league officials] should just give MY team the first place trophy and let the other teams play for second place."

Right now HIS team is in good standing, with a record of 6-1 according to a league official.

Fighter pilots, special forces and home-run dingers beware; attitude can win games, and that's a lesson we can all learn from HOPPY.

So remember to bring your "A game" when you come to play at HOPPY's field.

(Editors note: Larry "HOPPY" Hopkins, a Department of Defense Police Officer, is the pitcher for the 482nd Security Forces softball team here at Homestead Air Reserve Base.)