



News Notes

Town Hall meeting – Hickam Community Housing hosts a town hall meeting Thursday from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Hickam Community Housing community center. The meeting will provide information to HCH tenants on relocation from Earhart to Hale Na Koa. This meeting will also update tenants on happenings in their community.

Tripler and Hickam Shuttle Bus Changes – The daily shuttle service between Hickam and Tripler Army Medical Center and the Hickam base shuttle bus will be discontinued, Dec. 1. Customers requiring military taxi service for official use on or after the effective date must call vehicle dispatch at 449-1742 to schedule transportation.

Golf tournament – Hickam 5/6 club is sponsoring a golf tournament Dec. 1. Cost for the tournament, put on by the Hawaii 5/6 Council is \$34 for E1-E4, \$40 for E-5-O-3, \$42 for O-4 and higher. Cost is \$50 for DoD Civilians. A box lunch and rental cart are included in the price. All monies need to be collected by Tuesday. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Kimberly McCormack at 449-2029.

On-base education – Honolulu Community College and Moanalua Community School for adults offers evening classes at Hickam. For more information, contact Sandy Pinell at 421-4350 or Lester Tanji at 837-8466.

Toy donations for military tots – The Air Force Hawaii First Sergeants Association, along with the Hickam Federal Credit Union and Army Air Force Exchange Service are sponsoring the 2006 Operation Warm Heart Soldiers and angels tree campaign. People should stop by the credit union or the Hickam Main Exchange after Thanksgiving to sponsor a child.

In this week's Kukini



Makahiki, B1

- Classifieds** B6-10
- Crossword** B3
- Movies** B3
- Services** A7
- Sudoku** B3

President visits Hickam

By Tech. Sgt. Bryan Gatewood
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

President George W. Bush, First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stopped in to visit servicemembers stationed in Hawaii, Nov. 21 following his trip to Southeast Asia.

During the visit, 275 servicemembers from the Air Force, Marines, Navy, Army, Coast Guard and the Hawaii National Guard from throughout the island filled the Officer's Club to have breakfast with, and meet the president.

The president took the opportunity to thank troops and military members for

their service, shake hands and pose for pictures.

During his eight-day Asia-Pacific economic tour, President Bush met with leaders from the Pacific region and discussed common threats such as terrorism, possible pandemic outbreaks, and North Korea's nuclear program.

"I told them the United States of America remains committed to Asia

See **PRESIDENT, A3**

President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush greet troops upon their departure from Hickam.

Photo by Angela Elbern



Leadership runs 5-K



Photo by Senior Airman Erin Smith

Col. J.J. Torres, 15th Airlift Wing commander, leads a flight during a 5-K 'last man up' run through Hickam housing area. Base leadership kicked off Hickam's 15th Airlift Wing's Wingman Day with an early morning physical training session.

Pacific Air Forces Commander Addresses Internet Networking

Marine Sgt. Jeremy Vought
Armed Forces Network

First proposed in 1929 by a Hungarian writer in a short story titled Chains, the theory states that every person on earth is connected to every other person within six degrees. With the advent of the web, those connections are much easier as humanity is connected by the keyboard and mouse and through social networking vehicles such as MySpace and You Tube.

Yesterday, Commander of Pacific Air Forces, Gen. Paul V. Hester voiced his praises and concerns toward social networking on such internet sites and stressed that what people post might be distorted by someone else, or pieced together with other information that could jeopardize an individual, their family and their fellow service members.

The sites are many: MySpace, You Tube, Live Journal and Face Book. For today's service members the ability to keep in touch with friends and loved ones has never been easier, but with the growth of these networks comes the need to exercise caution with posting personal information online.

"I think you need to be careful as to how you release that information and document that information and show yourself fully to the world," Gen. Hester said.

With more than 130 million users on MySpace and 65 thousand videos uploaded daily to You Tube, Pacific Air Force leaders remind service members they

not only represent their service 24/7, but what is posted can also have an effect on operational security.

"We of course realize there is no off the job time in its purest form for those of us in the military, but nonetheless, we have private time away from the office setting and the flight line. At those moments we are in fact the same person, we must adhere to the same standards, we must adhere to the same rules as when you are on duty or on the job," Gen. Hester said.



Gen. Paul V. Hester

General Hester adds while social networking over the internet is a great resource to keep in contact with loved ones; troops must use good discretion treating the internet like the halls of a schoolhouse, where information no matter how seemingly harmless, could be harmful to a person and fellow service members.

"We need to consider that strongly," Gen. Hester said. "As you in fact release your private life to those who can do you harm and can in fact do your service harm if you release the wrong information on the World Wide Web."

When people can be connected in six degrees to anyone on the earth even information given openly to friends and family can easily fall into the wrong hands.

Hickam opens doors for Navy C-37A mission

By Senior Airman Erin Smith
Kukini, Editor

The Navy moved their Executive Transport Detachment to Hickam from Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Saturday.

The Navy C-37A business jet, replaces the DV-modified P-3 aircraft the unit used to fly and was greeted here by a formation of Air Force and Navy service members, helping show the integration of the Air Force and Navy personnel in the squadron.

"The 15th Airlift Wing Commander, Col. [J.J.] Torres and Col. [Jeffery] Stephenson, his deputy arranged this welcome for us and set up to show that we [have] joint [support]," said Navy Lt. Cdr. Brian Rosgen, officer in charge of the Executive Transport Detachment, Pacific. "It is really nice to see that we're all working together and it's been great. They've been a lot of help."

The detachment will share office and hangar space with the 65th Airlift Squadron, which also oper-

ates a C-37 A. The Navy aircraft will also be maintained by the same Gulfstream contractors who maintain the 65th AS aircraft. This integration makes this the first unit at Hickam not only to share office space, but a similar mission and aircraft with

See **MISSION, A5**

Air Force and Navy members greet the C-37A upon its arrival at Hickam. This shows the joint support provided in support of the new Navy mission here.

Photo by Senior Airman Erin Smith



Rescue from Lebanon

By Lisa Marie Samaha

My heart is warm with humility and gratefulness. Our region of the United States enjoys a magnificent U.S. military presence, but I never imagined that my children and I would need the rescue efforts of those same armed services.

On July 9, my college-aged children and I arrived in Beirut, Lebanon. On July 23, we made it safely home to Virginia. We are overcome with a renewed sense of the value of freedom and peace that our country enjoys, as well as the sacrifice that so many have made and continue to make for freedom and peace to endure as our reality.

From the earliest moments of turmoil in the Middle East, which began only three days after we arrived in the beautiful country of my ancestors, I reflected upon the belief that God had placed us there at that time for a reason.

For nearly 32 years I had been making plans to go to Lebanon, but the threat or reality of war was always a deterrent. This past February, though, I was invited to present my dental research at the American University of Beirut's Medical Center and I made plans to take my children with me.

The conflict in the Middle East seems senseless, making it easy for us to turn our minds and hearts away from its truth. Those who have emigrated to the United States from war-torn lands or have served in our military, surely have a greater empathy for the innocent lives traumatized and lost by such conflict. Although I am not acquainted with many, I have a more personal attachment to the civilians and military who have sacrificed in these pursuits.

Since the military is taking a lot of heat these days, I would like to tell of their heroic efforts in our time of need. Although the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon created a tremendous amount of confusion, frustration, and stress during the days of evacuation, the Department of Defense was redemptive. When the Marines arrived at Dbeyeh Port, order was manifest out of the chaotic screams and fears of thousands of tired and scared Lebanese Americans, many who had lived through years of war in Lebanon. They were desperate and frantic for their children to be protected from reliving their traumatic history.

The Marines who greeted us were

kind, gentle, reassuring, and efficient - a breath of fresh air in a sky overcast by bombings. They were concerned for our comfort and offered assistance in any way necessary. The Marines offered us strength, relief, and a sense of security that we had not known the previous 10 days. After processing us, they caringly transferred us into the arms of the Navy aboard the U.S.S. Trenton, based out of Norfolk, Va. To discover that these particular sailors were based in my hometown area offered an immediate sense of pride and attachment. After approximately 14 hours of carefully processing each of us, they offered the more than 2,000 U.S. citizens on the ship food, blankets, pillows, cots, and sheets. Amazingly, no one was hurt or lost aboard the crowded ship, which holds 1,300 at full capacity and was carrying 2,400 that day. Anyone who needed medical or dental care received help.

The sailors walked the ship from front to back to ask how they could help, and they always kept warm smiles on their fatigued faces. By the time my family boarded, all of the sailors' bunks were taken, and we were relegated to the open decks of the carrier. We took our rationed, scanty belongings and found a spot of decking to call our own for the 12-plus-hour voyage to Cyprus.

Absolute dark comes over a ship in wartime in the middle of the sea in the middle of the night. After night fell, people tried to get some rest. The lines all day had been long and hot, and the wait to get aboard had been grueling. I tried to rest on my crisp, white, government-issued sheet, but the beauty of the world about me was too good to let go. For the next few hours, while all was still and black, I lay awake, comforted by the peaceful embrace of the cool Mediterranean breezes and stunned by the extraordinary spray of stars in the heavens. It was at this time that I was overcome by a feeling of utter security. I felt so safe and so cared for. Surely, I thought, this was the experience of an infant held snugly, protectively in its mother's arms. This was peace. And my military created it for me.

Upon arriving in Cyprus, we waited for the Air Force to complete the rescue. They did not let us down. After further processing, we boarded a C-17 cargo jet and headed to Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany. During the noisy flight, I was overcome by the sheer number of people, struggling for much-needed rest.

The crew was again watchful and kind. Like the others, they were sensitive to the situation from which we had escaped. While my fellow "refugees" were asleep, I shared a bit of appreciation with the airman on watch. He asked me a poignant question, "Where are all the husbands?" I hadn't even given it a second thought because this is an ongoing reality for so many Lebanese women. They come for a summer in Lebanon with their children to give them the opportunity to experience the precious love of their grandparents and other relatives. Because of a family's commitment to its heritage, the children learn the language and rich customs of the Lebanese culture. At some point when they can take time from their work, the husbands join the family. The majority of refugees were women with many small children. They were encumbered with strollers, formula, diaper bags, and all other paraphernalia necessary for children. These women and children often required exceptional physical and emotional attention, which was freely given by our U.S. military.

At Ramstein, we were warmly greeted and offered another hot meal, as well as toiletries and phone cards. More processing followed and we were off again. At about 1:30 a.m. on July 23, our third day of travel, we touched down at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. Despite the hour, we were greeted by a myriad of smiling faces and a hot meal. The Air Force, the International Red Cross, travel agents, and immigrations and customs officials assisted us through more processing, bringing us closer to our final destination. My children and I were fortunate to have family members welcome us and drive us home to Newport News, Va.

Perhaps part of my role in this journey is to tell a story of the warmth of the people, the beauty of the land, and the trauma of war. Perhaps it is to remind each of us of the compassionate spirit of our armed services as they cared for the people of our country during the extraordinary rescue of nearly 15,000 American citizens from Lebanon. Within the first moments of our engagement with the U.S. military, I attached myself to them in an extraordinarily personal way. These were "my" Marines, "my" sailors, "my" airmen, and "my" Army.

Warmest regards, blessings, and peace to all.

Deployed Airmen deliver freedom, hope worldwide

By Col. Samuel Cox
436th Airlift Wing commander

Recently, I participated in the Falcon Heritage Forum at the United States Air Force Academy. The forum provides an opportunity for cadets to interact with people who have participated in operational missions, specifically, humanitarian airlift missions.

Forty guest speakers participated in the forum. This group included people who had been involved in a variety of missions including the Berlin Airlift, post 9/11 daily ration airdrops in Afghanistan, natural disaster assistance for hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Pakistani relief, Operation Baby Lift and combat rescue in Vietnam.

The most decorated speaker was Col. Joe Jackson, a Medal of Honor recipient who risked his life to rescue a 3-man combat control team in Vietnam. The most famous speaker was Col. Gail Halvorsen, a commander of hundreds of missions during the Berlin Airlift in 1948 to 1949. In the months preceding the Berlin Airlift, the Soviet Union had blocked all rail and road access to the city of Berlin.

In response, C-54 and C-47 aircraft were employed to deliver food and supplies to more than 2.5 million Berliners. Every day for more than a year an aircraft landed every three minutes to deliver 4,500 tons per day. To put this in perspective, consider this fact: the Dover Air Force Base Aerial Port is one of the largest in the DOD, and on average, we move between 200 and 250 tons per day -- about one-twentieth of the amount of cargo delivered to Berlin during the famed Airlift.

Colonel Halvorsen gained fame by rigging small parachutes to airdrop chocolate, gum and other sweets on the approach to Berlin. Over time, he became known as simply the "Candy Bomber."

Additionally at the forum, Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice discussed his role in the post 9/11, humanitarian airdrop missions in Afghanistan. In those tumultuous months, it became clear that the United States needed to provide assistance to the Afghan people while simultaneously battling and defeating the Taliban regime.

In Berlin and Afghanistan, life was not easy. The Berliners had endured the horrors of World War II, and the Afghan people had withstood years of oppression at the hands of the Taliban. In both situations, the life-sustaining supplies delivered by American forces meant more than mere survival. The supplies represented hope. A small piece of candy in Berlin and a yellow HDR in Afghanistan was a collective light that shined brightly into the future and provided a hope for democracy and freedom. These supplies symbolized the potential for a better road ahead.

Every time an Airman deploys, he or she is an integral part of the delivery of hope. Moreover, all of us who wear the uniform of the United States Air Force walk in the proud footsteps of Colonel Joe Jackson and Colonel Gail Halvorsen. Take this responsibility seriously and don't ever forget how important you are as a component of this formidable team.

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community.

I urge you to use the normal chain of command first. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call.

If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response.

I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail

to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.

Jay walking

Comment: I am writing regarding my frustration toward a person who stepped-off a sidewalk curb in an unmarked crosswalk.

On Vickers Avenue, between the Pacific Air Forces Building and the Aloha Conference Center parking lot, someone in uniform decided to step-off the sidewalk without checking to see if it was clear for him to cross. Luckily no physical or vehicle accident occurred, after abruptly stopping for this person to cross. What frustrates me is that the crosswalk was ten

feet away and that he was an AF officer. This type of unacceptable behavior not only is a safety issue but also gives officers a bad image. I called security forces to see what the policy is on jaywalking and their response was zero tolerance. Vickers Avenue is a very busy street and I understand people are in a hurry to get to the other side, however, people should adhere to the crosswalk rules. Would placing guard rails with crosswalk openings be possible to prevent illegal acts and possible accidents?

Response: I understand your frustration, however,

permanent guard rails along the side walk are impractical and not the answer. All vehicle operators and pedestrians share the responsibility of obeying the law and ensuring the safety of the Hickam Community.

Pedestrians should not attempt to cross a road until they have made eye contact with the drivers of oncoming vehicles and are positive the vehicle has come to a stop, and use the crosswalk when one is in the vicinity. Drivers should be prepared to stop when they see pedestrians approaching a crosswalk and constantly scan the area for unexpected haz-

ards. It's everyone's responsibility to stay alert and obey the rules of the road. One final point, let me clarify the information you received from our Security Forces Law Enforcement Office. There is no base policy on jay walking. The base follows the guidance in the Hawaii Revised Statute, drivers must yield right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks. However, if a pedestrian crosses at other than a crosswalk, they must yield right of way to all vehicles. In the end, we all need to work together to prevent roadway accidents. Thank you for bringing this to my attention.



Headline

Enlisted members are now authorized to wear the circled collar insignia on their service dress uniform. However, Jan. 1, wear of this insignia becomes mandatory. Enlisted members are reminded to proactively work to replace their current insignia.

Questions?
Contact your First Sergeant

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Deadline for copy is noon Thursday for the following Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300 - 500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

Crisis Response lines

- Hickam Family Support Center
449-0300
- Life Skills Support Center
449-0175
- Law Enforcement Desk
449-6373
- Base Chaplain
449-1754
- Military Family Abuse Shelter
533-7125
- SARC Hotline
449-7272

PRESIDENT, From A1

because we have key economic and national security interests in the region," said President Bush during his address to service members attending the breakfast.

He said the military has an important responsibility, and he thanked the members of the joint service audience for their service. He acknowledged PACAF's role in bringing humanitarian aid to victims of earthquakes and typhoons and providing airlift support to hot spots like East Timor.

"I want to thank you for your sacrifice. I particularly thank your families for joining you on this noble cause. You belong to the finest Armed Forces the world has ever known," the president said.

President Bush paid respect to members who have paid the ultimate price in the War on Terror.

"We remember their courage. We pray for their families and loved ones left behind, and we resolve to honor their sacrifice by completing missions for which they gave their lives."

Air Force members attending the breakfast



Left to right, President George W. Bush, Roger Monsarrat, Eloise Monsarrat First Lady Laura Bush pose for a picture upon the president's arrival. President Bush presented Mrs. Monsarrat with an award for her pet therapy work at Tripler Army Medical Center. She has worked with animals since 1983.

Photo by Angela Elbern

expressed their gratitude in being able to meet the commander in chief and other distinguished visitors in

such a personal setting. "I am greatly honored to have been given this wonderful opportunity to meet

and greet our commander in chief and he is everything I had previously believed him to be - a down to earth

and truly sincere person," said Staff Sgt. Tony Waddell, an information manager with Pacific Air

Forces.

Senior Airman Patrick Teel, a Team Hickam Airmen of the Year for 2005 and a PACAF communications commander's support staff member was selected to sit at the head table with the president and representative members from the other services.

"The president talked to us directly for about 10 to 15 minutes," Airman Teel said. "He told us he knew it [military service] was hard for us and hard on our families, but we were doing a great thing by bringing freedom to countries like Iraq and Afghanistan."

After breakfast, the president traveled to Camp Smith for a short meeting with Adm. William Fallon, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, before returning to Hickam for the flight home to Washington.

Staff Sgt. Misty Park, 293rd Combat Communications Squadron of the Hawaii Air National Guard summed up the visit, "I was glad to meet the president, Mrs. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. It will never be forgotten."

Team Hickam makes visit a resounding success



Photos by Vanessa Perez

Above: President George W. Bush and servicemembers from around Hawaii load up their plates during a breakfast at the Officer's Club.

Below: About 275 servicemembers from the Air Force, Marines, Navy, Army, Coast Guard and the Hawaii National Guard from throughout the island filled the Officer's Club to have breakfast with, and meet the president. During the visit, the president thanked them for their service.



President Bush shakes hands with Air Force and Navy members during the breakfast.



First Lady Laura Bush shakes hands with Chief Master Sgt. James LeVack, 15th Airlift Wing command chief.



The president and first lady talk to servicemembers and thank them for their service during the breakfast.

AF education programs develop rounded Airmen

By Tech. Sgt.
Shane Cuomo
Air Force Print News

The Air Force places a premium on knowledge-based Airmen.

In order to cultivate a learning-focused force, the Air Force continually establishes programs for the education of its Airmen. Serving as the starting point and synchronizing all the availabilities for Airmen, the Education Services Office is designed to satisfy their immediate educational needs in their academic field and in both their technical and vocational areas as well.

To help achieve this vision, the education office consolidated a lot of the Military Personnel Flight functions and

merged it with their education and training services.

"Before we were the base training and education services which just included the education portion and base training," said Agnes Borbely, Flight Chief for the 15th Air Wing Force Development Flight.

"Now we also have formal training, military testing, we have the Career Assistance Advisor and we have the First Term Airman Center. So we have expanded but education is still one of the major functions of the flight," she said.

The Community College of the Air Force is a worldwide multi-campus community college established to meet the educational needs of the Air Force Enlisted corps. The col-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Shane Cuomo

The education center offers various classes and programs on base to develop Airmen.

lege is one of several federally chartered and accredited degree granting institutions that awards an associates degree to students who successfully complete the pro-

gram designed for their Air Force specialty.

Airmen can earn academic credit for their CCAF degree from technical schools, duty stations and college campuses

throughout the world. Specific degree programs, in each Air Force specialty area, provide students with the necessary background information to perform as technical experts and competent supervisor in their career field.

To help guide Airmen through the process of attaining a degree, the education office has dedicated professional Air Force guidance counselors who assist Airmen in a broad spectrum of college courses, degrees and developmental course work.

They also assist by providing information and answering questions on programs such as, the Airman Education and Commissioning Program, Professional Military Education, the Reserve Officer

Training Corps and the Air Force Academy. And for those separating from the Air Force, they also offer assistance in career planning and college placement.

As every Airmen who has applied for a college course has found out, education is not cheap. The education office and their counselors are on hand to help students with getting financial aid. Airmen are allowed up to \$4,500 per fiscal year with a \$250 cap for each semester in tuition assistance. With guidance from the education office Airmen can also get various grants and loans.

"With these programs essentially an Airman can have their entire tuition paid for by Uncle Sam," said Borbely



Back it up!

Senior Airman Nick Kaslin, 535th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, checks for obstacles around his C-17 Globemaster III before it backs on a parking ramp at Kona International Airport.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo

Crime Scene

Vehicle lockout

An active-duty Army spouse reported their vehicle door locked with their child still inside the vehicle. A patrol responded and assisted opening the vehicle.

Damage to private property

An active-duty Army member reported their vehicle was damaged at their quarters. Damage consisted of six small dents on the top of the car, small scratches and chipped on the top of

the door frame and a six-inch tear in the weather seal.

Fire response

Security Forces received notification of fire alarm activation at Bldg. 1805, Mathies Hall. The cause for smoke was an electrical problem caused by a power surge.

Patrol response

An active-duty Air Force spouse reported a possible animal neglect in housing.

Patrol response

A civilian cab driver reported an active-duty Air Force member failed to pay a fare for a cab ride. The member was contacted and the fare was paid.

MISSION, From A1

the Navy helping lay the foundation for the future integration of Hickam and Pearl Harbor NAS.

"You'd be hard-pressed to find a unit on Hickam or Pearl Harbor more suited for this type of cross-service integration," said Lt. Col. Robert Howe, 65th Airlift

Squadron commander. "We share very similar customers, same aircraft types - and most importantly, the same no-fail mission focus. When you get right down to it, we have far more similarities than differences."

The Navy unit, called the Executive Transport

Detachment, Pacific, will consist of 24 pilots and enlisted aircrew members.

They will share office space with the Air Force's pilots and aircrew members from the 65th AS, which employs more than 50 pilots, flight engineers, communication system

operators, flight attendants, and administrative personnel.

The squadron routinely flies over 200 Distinguished Visitor missions each year to locations around the world, and has hosted such dignitaries as former

President George H. W. Bush. The addition of the Navy greatly enhances the mission.

"It doesn't really change the mission, it just expands it," said Col. Jeffery Stephenson, 15th Airlift Wing vice commander. "It

truly adds to the total force and makes a joint team. So, for the first time that I am aware of in our military Air Force history, we're going to have a Navy unit embedded with our active-duty Air Force unit here at Hickam AFB."

Air Force leaders address quality of life issues, changes

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Airmen can still expect high-caliber quality of life programs that will take care of them and their families despite the changes being made within the service, leaders here assured recently.

“Quality of life continues to be one of our top three priorities,” said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel at the Pentagon. “It’s an area we look at carefully, and we have a long tradition of providing for our folks. We are most concerned with what it takes to care for our expeditionary Airmen and their families.”

Like many other career fields and Air Force programs, the services organization faces cuts in personnel and funding due to the Program Budget Decision 720 directed by Congress. It is a situation that has forced leaders to re-evaluate the definition of quality of life, said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley.

“It’s very important for us to define quality of life,” he said. “In my opinion, it’s making sure Airmen have a quality workplace, (and) adequate housing on and off base and in the dorms. It’s providing childcare and libraries, and

Winter comes to Manas



Photo by Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Senior Airman Ryan Saunders blasts the snow and ice off a KC-135 Stratotanker Nov. 21 at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, prior to the aircraft's next mission. This was the first snow of the season at Manas, home of the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing.

ensuring Airmen have access to nutritional meals. But at the same time, we have to look deeper and determine what are benefits and what are perks.”

COMUSAFE reviews past year in command

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFP) – Allied and

coalition relationships, operations south and east, Airmen accomplishments and improving efficiency were at the forefront during the U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander’s Nov. 20 discussion of the past year in command.

Since Gen. William T. Hobbins took command Dec. 5, 2005, he has traveled to nearly 30 nations, demonstrating the importance of engagement and an interdependent mindset.

“(Working on military relationships) has been an extreme pleasure because these nations, many of them new NATO nations, want our involvement, want to learn from us, but, more importantly, we want to share our techniques, tactics and procedures on how we operate as Airmen,” he said. “It has been a great opportunity.”

(Story by Capt. Elizabeth Culbertson, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs)

Maintainers turn Rivet Joint

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFP) – A sergeant sits at the end of a table reviewing maintenance records. In the background, Airmen play video games as a college football game blares on a television.

The call that the RC-135 Rivet Joint is 30 minutes out comes down, and in an instant everyone drops what they are doing. It’s time to recover the aircraft after its long sortie.

It can take the Airmen as little as two hours to recover the RC-135 if little or no maintenance is needed, or 10 hours or more if an overhaul or any particular part must be replaced.

(Story by Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp CENTAF-FWD News Team)

Ellsworth cops take to the skies

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. (AFP) – In the remote forward-operating locations of Afghanistan and surrounding areas, Air Force aircraft often have to land on dirt-strip runways. Air Force aircraft might look like the proverbial sitting duck to an enemy combatant or rogue insurgent, but nothing could be further from the truth. Should a bad guy try to harm a mission-critical asset or its crew, he will be met by Airmen in flight suits totting some hard-hitting weaponry.

Some of Ellsworth AFB’s 28th Security Forces Squadron Airmen exchanged their desert combat uniforms for flyer garb as members of a flyaway security team, or FAST. These cops accompany flights to to remote areas to secure Air Force aircraft and members.

“The function of a flyaway mission is to provide security for aircraft and aircrew in locations where the Air Force deems security not adequate,” said Senior Airman Kyle Battell, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron response force leader at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

(Story by Tech. Sgt. Steven Wilson 28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs)

Editor's Note: To read the complete stories and find more Air Force News, go to www.af.mil.

Enlisted Club special notice

There will be no lunch buffet at the Enlisted Club and no lunch wagon service today due to Family Day. The Club opens at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 448-2271.

Casino night

Feeling lucky? This evening's Membership Night at the E' Club is Casino Night. Doors open at 7 p.m. to this adults-only event and Texas Hold 'em starts at 7:30. Members get in free and a spouse or one guest costs \$10, but tickets must be obtained in advance. For more information, call 448-2271.

New auto auto wash

Be one of the first to try out the new automatic car wash which opens Saturday at the Auto Hobby Center. For more

information, call 449-2554.

Chess Club meeting

It's the original mental martial art. Learn to strategize, stay out of check or just capture your opponent's queen any way that you can. The next Chess Club meeting is at the Community Center tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's free and open to all. For more information, call 449-2361.

Comedy night at the E' Club

It's a laugh a minute tomorrow evening at the Enlisted Club's Comedy Night. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the show starts at 9. Tickets are \$35 per person and a \$5 Members First Discount is available when purchasing tickets in advance. For more information, call 448-2271.

Holiday DVDs

for the deployed

Brighten the holidays for a

deployed loved one by recording a personal message on a DVD at the Community Center Tuesday or Wednesday. Call 449-3354 to reserve a time slot. The staff will notify you, when the DVD is ready to be picked up.

Open weave

Don't let that unfinished basket project turn into a basket case. Come to the Open Weave at the Arts and Crafts Center Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and work with the instructor to complete weaving projects. For more information, call 449-1568.

Tower lighting

It's the premiere Hickam holiday event. Come celebrate the holiday season during the Tower Lighting Dec. 1 at the Freedom Tower Mall. There will be children's entertainment at 4:30 p.m. and the Air Force Band of the Pacific plays at 6. Other festivities include youth essay winners, talent contest winners, food

booths and a special visit from Santa. For more information, call the Community Center at 449-3354.

Officers' Club First Friday M*A*S*H

The 15th Medical Group salutes Christmas at M*A*S*H during the Officers' Club Dec. 1 First Friday. The prescription for fun includes wheelchair races and that infamous game, "Operation." It's also the finale evening of the 2006 Club Membership Drive so there will be lots of prizes and giveaways. The Koa Lounge becomes the mobile surgical hospital from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 448-4608.

Rum tasting

Holiday food complements an array of fun and easy-to-make holiday rum cocktails such as daiquiris and Pirate's Coconut during the Officers' Club Rum Tasting Dec 1 from

5:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Koa Lounge. This is a Members Only event and membership cards are required. For more information, call 448-4608.

Sea Breeze winter hours

The Sea Breeze Restaurant will operate under a revised winter schedule from Dec 1 to Jan 31. The lunch buffet will be offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday only. Ala carte dinner will be served only on Friday and Saturday from 6 to 10:30 p.m. The Sunday Seafood Buffet will be open from 6 to 10 p.m. And the Sand Bar & Grill will operate Wednesday through Friday from 4 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 449-9900.

"Annie" dinner theatre

Meet Daddy Warbucks, a dog named Sandy and lovable Annie, at this Officers' Club dinner theatre event Dec. 2. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and

then board a bus for this Army Community Theatre production. Adult tickets are \$40 with a \$2 Members First Discount available. Tickets for kids ages 3-12 are \$35. For more information or reservations, call 448-4608.

Southeast Asia highlights tour

Spend four nights in Bangkok, Thailand, a city that sparkles with gold roofs from over 400 temples. Three nights in Siem Reap, Cambodia and three nights in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia complete this exotic Southeast Asia Highlights tour from Jan. 25 to Feb. 7, 2007. The price is \$2,495 per person, based on double-occupancy. For more information and a detailed itinerary, call Information, Tickets and Travel at 448-2295. The itinerary is also available online at <http://www.hickamservices.com/international-tours.asp>.