

MONTHLY SORTIE GOALS	
961st Airborne Air Control Squadron	
Monthly flying-hour contract	115.0
Hours flown	6.7
Monthly offset	6.7
33rd Rescue Squadron	
Monthly flying-hour contract	243.0
Hours flown	7.5
Monthly offset	-7.5
909th Air Refueling Squadron	
Monthly flying-hour contract	560.0
Hours flown	6.2
Monthly offset	6.2
44th Fighter Squadron	
Monthly sortie contract	498
Sorties flown	22
Monthly offset	1
67th Fighter Squadron	
Monthly sortie contract	482
Sorties flown	21
Monthly offset	1

Source: 18th MOS/MXOOP, as of June 2

THE KADENA

SHOGUN



Vol. 18, No. 22 Kadena Air Base, Japan Friday, June 4, 2004

WEEKEND WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly cloudy with rain showers
NE winds @ 12-18 knots
High: 84 Low: 77

SATURDAY: Mostly cloudy
NW winds @ 6-12 knots
High: 85 Low: 75

SUNDAY: Cloudy
NW-W winds @ 6-10 knots
High: 84 Low: 79

FRIDAY MORNING'S
COMMUNITYBANK
EXCHANGERATES
BUYING: \$1=Y111 SELLING: Y117=\$1

Kadena's Airmen Against Drunk Driving program reaches 2,000 milestone

By Capt. CK Keegan
18th Wing Public Affairs

A unique program that helps Airmen save lives and possibly their careers reached a milestone as the Airman Against Drunk Driving program tallied its 2,000th "save" over the Memorial Day weekend.

"This program brings a true team concept to Kadena," said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington, 18th Wing commander.

"It is taking care of our own people, and making sure we don't lose a single Airman because of poor judgment."

Staff Sgt. Eric Balest, 18 AMXS avionics specialist, has

used the program and was a volunteer this last weekend. When Sergeant Balest was in high school, he was hit by a drunk driver. Just a few months later he watched his friend, who was in a coma, almost die because he drove with a drunk driver who hit a tree.

"I survived and my buddy is OK now. We were some of the lucky ones," he said. "After seeing my friend and what he went through, I don't want to see other people drink and drive."

Sergeant Balest said people don't realize the consequences to their actions.

In 2002, 17,419 people in the United States died in alco-

"After seeing my friend and what he went through, I don't want to see other people drink and drive."

hol-related vehicle crashes, representing 41% of all traffic-related deaths.

"It's not just a letter of reprimand, or anything else the military might do. It's somebody's life."

Volunteers are not paid, and use their own vehicles to take people home.

There is no money involved, although Sergeant

Balest said people often try to give money.

He says no to the money and mentions the need for volunteers.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Rogers, 372 TRS education and awareness NCO in charge and a key AADD volunteer said they are always looking for dedicated volunteers, especially for holiday weekends.

His wife, Staff Sgt. Jeanna Rogers is responsible for scheduling and he said it's an enormous task.

"The schedule is always changing due to mission requirements on base, so it can be difficult to keep the 24 hours a day, seven days a week covered. But she makes

it happen."

Anyone over 18 can volunteer. People work in teams of two, so only one person needs to have a valid off-base driver's license.

The program has been running since 2002 and has been a success, with 2012 lives being saved – 21 just last weekend.

While AADD is available anytime it's needed, organizers say the best thing is to have a plan before going out. AADD will be the safety net if that plan falls through.

To use AADD, Kadena residents need to call 634-7520.

"Just dial the number," said Sergeant Balest. "It's simple."

Candy in Cambodia



A Cambodian boy runs to the back of a line after getting a lollipop from Airmen in Kep, Cambodia last week. The Airmen were part of a 20-member blast and resuscitation and victim assistance team on a two-week humanitarian mission to Cambodia. The Airmen are: Capt. (Dr.) Jason Rosenberg, a reconstructive plastic surgeon assigned to the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver, Airman 1st Class Shanna Sullivan, a surgical service journeyman from the 35th Medical Operations Squadron at Misawa Air Base, Japan; Master Sgt. Kristopher Krenzke, an independent medical technician with the 353rd Special Operations Group at Kadena and Master Sgt. Rita Greiner, NCO in charge of orthopedics with the 99th Medical Operations Squadron at Nellis AFB, Nev. For story and more photos see page 5.

AF to cut more from ranks

WASHINGTON (AFP) — As personnel officials review the last remaining applications for retirement or separation under the force-shaping program, a more extensive second phase of the plan has begun.

The new initiatives include expanded waivers for a number of programs including active-duty service commitments and transferring to the Guard or Reserve through the Palace Chase program.

Phase II requires commanders to consider a number of quality-force factors when considering Airmen for retention and widens the aperture on the Phase I initiatives, which netted almost 2,500 Airmen approved for retirement, separation or Palace Chase, said Maj. Gen John M. Speigel, director of personnel policy at the Pentagon.

The initial goal of force shaping was to have 16,600 Airmen leave the Air Force, 3,900 officers and 13,700 enlisted. Those numbers are projected to increase to almost 19,000 by Sept. 30, and to 24,000 by Sept. 30, 2005, because of record retention rates.

Phase I required individuals to have a minimum of 24 months on active duty before applying to Palace Chase. Phase II dropped the minimum requirement to 12 months. This modification expands the opportunity to another part of the population that might be interested in serving in the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve, officials said.

Further, the active-duty service commitment following a permanent change of station in Phase I could be waived up to 18 months. Phase II allows for a full waiver of the commitment, officials said. Phase II reduces the minimum mandatory time in grade to two years for a limited number of eligible people.

The CJR program has returned for the first time since 1999. Because of this change, a greater percentage of applications will be approved in Phase II, officials said. Additionally, as part of Phase II, enlisted accessions will drop by about 11,000 to reach authorized end-strength levels by the end of fiscal 2005. Thus, about 24,000 new recruits will join the Air Force rather than 35,000 as originally planned, officials said.



Take a 'public opinion bath' to get real pulse of troops

By Lt. Col. Peter Markle

18th Equipment Maintenance Squadron commander

I had one of those "significant emotional events" last week when I stood before my squadron and briefed the results of our unit climate assessment.

I only keep two books in my office, the *Promotion Fitness Examination* and *Lincoln on Leadership*. *Lincoln on Leadership* talks about the leadership actions of Abraham Lincoln and how our former President used to "take public opinion baths" by getting out amongst the troops on the front line.

President Lincoln opened himself up to criticism and feedback.

Based on personal experience, this takes personal courage to make yourself a personal target, but is nonetheless necessary for effective leadership.

Overall, our unit climate assessment was solid, but there was some feedback for me on how to improve the unit.

Taking a lesson from "Honest Abe," he would make himself accessible to the people often saying, "I call these receptions my public opinion baths...and though they may not be all that pleasant in all particulars, the effect, as a whole, is renovating and invigorating."

I get the same effect when I escape to my office and read a constant flow of e-mails and visit my

It's tough to hear that your troops are having to make due with less, but it's worse if you don't ask what you can do better. It's never easy to accept criticism that you could be doing better, but what a difference it makes.

unit's shops. By making yourself accessible to your troops, you begin to get honest feedback from them.

By being out there with them, they see that you are interested in them and it is then that communications start to flow.

I have also learned from the assessment that my personal style rubs off too cold and mission-only focused. It was tough feedback to hear, but it has been invigorating for me. I'm grateful to my troops who took the time to complete the survey.

Although you open yourself up to more criticism, people can make specific comments versus them saying, "I never see my shop chief or flight chief or squadron commander out on the floor."

A comment like that may be easier to stomach,

but it's more important to get out there and have the internal courage to take that "opinion bath." That's the only way you'll know where to make things better.

Last week, I managed to escape for an afternoon and I dropped in on my north side structures section. I was thrilled to find out they were working on a tanker and would be glad to have an extra set of hands... even unskilled ones such as mine.

When you're on top of a wing of the KC-135, there aren't too many other folks distracting you. I had a golden opportunity to get some straight talk from a few of my maintainers.

As a result of turning a few wrenches that afternoon, I got some straight talk about lack of rain gear, shortage of tools and a little discussion on completing career development courses. It's tough to hear that your troops are having to make due with less, but it's worse if you don't ask what you can do better.

As a result of that conversation, the squadron went out and purchased more than 100 sets of rain gear, tool orders are in the works and I hopefully squashed some rumors about pre-test interviews for CDC end-of-course tests.

In short, I took a "public opinion bath." It's never easy to accept criticism that you could be doing better, but what a difference it makes.

ACTION LINES

E-mail:

18wg.cchotline@kadena.af.mil



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington
18th Wing commander

The 18th Wing is very interested in ideas that can make Kadena an even better place to live, work and play. If you have a concern that you have been unable to resolve through

normal chains of command, then we'll look into it. Although not required, it's better to give commanders, first sergeants or the agencies with which you have the concern the opportunity to correct the situation first. When that fails, send us an e-mail. Include your name and telephone number so someone can get back to you, and a brief summary of your concern.

More space for our baby?

My husband and I are expecting our second child in October. We went to housing in February with the positive results, and they told us we would be put on the waiting list for the three bedroom houses. Now we're being told that we are on a "pass-by" status until we show the certificate of birth in October.

So we will not be able to move until after the baby is born. Why weren't we told about this earlier? To me, waiting until after the baby is born, is going to be so stressful. Even if it was a few weeks before the baby is due or born, that would be better than having to do everything after the event. I am asking for a little enlightening on this matter. Please help.

While we understand it would be convenient for you to move into a larger house before your child is born, by our regulations and policy, we do not move people into a larger home until they have actually earned the entitlement to that larger home. We cannot move you into a three bedroom unit until the

PHONE NUMBERS

AAFES Action Line.....645-4301
Base Exchange.....633-4570
Clubs.....634-3002
Commissary.....634-3640
Finance.....634-1996
Fraud, Waste & Abuse Hotline.....634-0404

birth of your second child.

The only exceptions to this policy are:

- If there are valid medical requirements to move the family early. Or,
- If the waiting list for the larger house is exhausted and larger homes are still available.

Your name is currently on our housing three-bedroom waiting list with an effective date of Feb. 19, 2004. After the birth of your second child we will be able to assign you to a three bedroom unit. We expect by the time your second child is born you will be very near, if not at, the top of the three bedroom waiting list. Therefore the wait should be very short.

It is likely that we will be able to assign you to a larger unit immediately after the birth. Bring the birth certificate to the housing office for verification and we will work to get your family into a three bedroom home as quickly as possible.

Should you need further assistance, please call Ronald Avery, chief of the assignment and terminations Section, at 634-4008.

Home Telephone Helpline.....634-4080
Housing Maintenance.....634-HOME
Kadena Services.....634-1719
Medical and Dental.....630-4785
Safety.....634-SAFE
Security Forces.....634-1397



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For editorial submissions, send E-mail to kadenashogun.newspaper@kadena.af.mil

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SHOGUN WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Staff Sgt. Matthew D. Hose

18th Munitions Squadron, day shift supervisor

Hometown: Miami

Reason for nomination: Sergeant Hose is one of the highest quality NCOs in the Air Force and excels professionalism in every situation

Time at Kadena: 5 months

Editor's note : *Shogun Warriors* are selected by unit leaders for their outstanding value to their unit and dedication to the Kadena mission. To nominate someone, send the name of your nominee to your unit commander or senior enlisted leaders.

Airman appreciation day



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather L. Tower

Lynsey Warner (left), 8, and Eboni Thornton, 8, race in a sack race as young Airmen watch during the Junior Enlisted Appreciation Day held at Marek Park May 28. The event also featured prize giveaways and a cookout.

CHANGES OF COMMAND: Lt. Col. Walter Schenberger will assume command of the 17th Special Operations Squadron from Lt. Col. Lewis Jordan at 10:17 a.m. today at the 353rd Special Operations Group maintenance hangar.

- Lt. Col. David Williamsen will assume command of the 18th Contracting Squadron from Lt. Col. Bryan Scott at 8:18 a.m. June 17 at the Offi-

cers' Club.

MEDICAL GROUP MINIMAL MANNING: The 18th Medical Group will have minimal manning today due to an official function. Service for urgent conditions will still be available during normal duty hours. For emergency assistance, call 911 on base, or 119 off base.

INTERPRETERS NEEDED: Japanese-English

interpreters are needed for the 2004 Special Olympic Games held at the Kadena High School June 12. To volunteer, call 634-3911 or 630-9188.

OPERATION KUDOS: Operation Kids Understanding Deployment Operations kicks off June 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children ages five to 15 are invited to learn how their parents gear up for military deployments through hands-on experience. Children will get dog tags, ID card, a mobility bag and a T-shirt for participating.

Sign up at the Schilling Community Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday or the Family Support Center on Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 634-3366.

MOTORCYCLE REQUIREMENTS: All motorcycle and scooter operators and passengers are required to wear international orange or lime green reflective vests during the day. The vest must have 138 square inches of reflective material and cannot be covered by a backpack or other items. Also, as a reminder, Airmen with motorcycles and scooters must attend motorcycle safety training every three years.

HEALTH CARE TOWN HALL: A healthcare town hall meeting will be held June 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Camp Lester's U.S. Navy hospital conference rooms B and C. Officials will explain new processes and initiatives at the hospital as well as an opportunity for customers to relay concerns to health care experts.

Okinawa News: Week in Review

By 1st Lt. Chrystal Smith
18th Wing Public Affairs

The following is a synopsis of articles about Kadena and U.S. military that appeared in the locally published newspapers Okinawa Times and the Ryukyu Shimpo between May 19 and 25.

□ The Okinawa Prefectural Government sent a warning about conjunctivitis on May 25 in Okinawa. Officials say the disease has been going around near Yaeyama since the end of March. Officials suggest people wash their hands often and avoid rubbing their eyes and faces.

□ A member of the house of representatives says he would prosecute drivers of Y-plate vehicles this week since there is a disregard for the garage certification law and the transportation law. Due to the alleged neglect of public officials to perform their duty, he will also ask the prefecture's public safety commission to suspend driving of Y-plate vehicles. Another member is requesting a prohibition on the use of all Y-plate vehicles until the issue is cleared up.



JUMPER: A U.S. Army parachutist leaps from a Combat Talon II during a high-altitude, low-opening jump over Phitsanoluk, Thailand during COBRA GOLD '04.

TAKEOFF: An MC-130P Combat Shadow takes off from Udorn Thani on a COBRA GOLD '04 mission.

RIGGERS: Master Sgt. Andre Baker, 353rd Operations Support Squadron, works with several Thai riggers from the 601st Special Operations Regiment, to pack a parachute at Udorn Thani, Thailand during COBRA GOLD '04.



Air Commandos flex muscle during Cobra Gold '04

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Michael Farris
353rd Special Operations
Group Public Affairs

UDORN THANI, Thailand - When Lt. Col. Joseph Hastings left Okinawa for Thailand nearly a month ago, he was charged with exercising the air component of all U.S. Special Operations Forces during Cobra Gold 04.

As Cobra Gold winds down, Hastings is pleased with what he's seen and learned. He said the experiences in Thailand have better prepared the forces for immediate response to hot spots around the Pacific theater.

"Our mission is to get shooters to the fight," he said, "and we did that with 100 percent success. We came together as a battlestaff in meeting that objective - proving we're able to deploy, set up operations and get bullets on tar-

gets quickly, quietly and efficiently."

While the exercise went smoothly, it wasn't without challenges. "We had our share of issues with weather, aircraft maintenance, supply and logistics issues, but were able to overcome each to get the missions accomplished," Hastings said.

One of the greatest Cobra Gold achievements was the full mission profile conducted May 21 which incorporated nearly every SOF unit deployed to the exercise.

The scenario was as realistic as possible and participants were given only 24-hours notice. Intelligence was updated continually until the point crews took off and the target was taken down.

"We proved our ability to adapt and overcome," he said. "We're smarter for it, and better able to understand each other."

"The 353rd SOG is a warfighting organization and we need to exercise that capability," Hastings said. "Every member needs to know his or her position in the unit and keep those skills sharp. We don't have time to train-up once a terrorist strikes. We have to be ready to go at all times."

Capt. Jeff Onan, 353 Operations Support Squadron, was the 353 SOG exercise planner. For him, Cobra Gold '04 began last October when he started coordinating with all the units and their planners.

"This is the largest Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise this year in terms of aircraft and personnel," he said. "Working with so many diverse users was a real test at times. Each unit has varying approval levels and different internal staffing schemes. It wasn't always easy, but we somehow made it work."

Captain Onan and his staff coordinated movements by U.S. Army, Navy and several Air Force units. Additionally, each movement through the exercise play areas required approval from the air cell in Nakon Ratchisima. With 353 SOG members scattered in five different cities throughout Thailand, command and control aspects were exercised on a daily basis. The SOG and attached units recorded nearly 450 flying hours over 200 sorties and provided platforms for 720 U.S. and Thai jumpers.

The MC-130s aerial refueled U.S. Army helicopters and received gas from Kadena's 909th Air Refueling Squadron. Additionally, the SOG flying units received valuable airborne training with Thai F-16s and the U.S.S. Essex, steaming in the Gulf of Thailand.

"Cobra Gold '04 has

allowed us to become better warfighters and has provided invaluable multinational training with friends and allies in the region," Captain Onan said.

"Moreover, the close relationship we've developed with the city of Udorn Thani is priceless."

The 353rd deployed members from the 1st SOS, the 17th SOS, the 320th Special Tactics Squadron, the 353rd Operations Support and Maintenance Squadrons.

Cobra Gold '04 is a regularly-scheduled joint-combined exercise and is designed to improve U.S., Thai, Singaporean, Mongolian and Filipino combined readiness and joint interoperability, enhance security relationships, and demonstrate U.S. resolve to support the security and humanitarian interests of friends and allies in the region.



TOP: Master Sgt. Rita Greiner leads a coloring book session for a pack of Cambodian children she's become an adopted mother to in a hospital compound in Kep, Cambodia.

CENTER: A Cambodian boy gets a lollipop from Sergeant Greiner as hundreds of children crowd in for a chance to get a treat from the motherly American.

BOTTOM: Although the lollipops ran out, Sergeant Greiner keeps up the goodwill by high-fiving several Cambodian children who crowded around her not only to get treats but just to get close to an American.



Senior NCO helps make Cambodian children smile

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Adam Johnston
18th Wing Public Affairs

BRAVA '04

CAMBODIA

Part 2 of 3-week series

KEP, Cambodia — Children here have already figured out that if they stop by the hospital here in the afternoon, they are almost sure to be in for some type of treat.

The first day it was coloring books. Then it was lollipops and high-fives. May 23 it was clothes.

But while the handouts have been random, there is one thing that has remained consistent: Rita.

Rita smiles, she can color, and when she hands out lollipops, she flavors them with a pretty cool high-five.

But Rita is not from here.

Normally she is Master Sgt. Rita Greiner, the noncommissioned officer in charge of orthopedics at the 99th Medical Operations Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

But for a few days, she has been the "adopted mother" of about 200 children here.

Sergeant Greiner is here as part of a 20-person blast resuscitation and victim assistance team.

On her way to Cambodia, she carried one extra bag.

"I brought one entire suitcase here filled with items just for the kids," she said. "I've always thought that the most important thing you can do for children is to make every child think they are

important."

Sergeant Greiner's gifts are not the only ones being handed out here. The thrift store at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, donated about 1,500 toys. A commander's spouse in Hawaii gathered six bags of children's clothes and two bags of shoes for the U.S. military medics to distribute here.

A couple of doctors from the team also brought along high-value medical reference books for donation. Veterinarian books will also be handed out here because farm animals are typically the most valuable possession a family can own.

"It's a very simple and easy thing to do," said Lt. Col. Diep Duong, team leader. "This means so much for the people who receive [the donations] on this end."

But it also seems to mean a lot for Sergeant Greiner. "I can't have children," she said. "So, it makes the contact with the kids so much more special. I'd love to take them all home with me."

But she knows she cannot and seems to cherish every moment with the children. "My favorite is the baby who cries every time she sees me," she said. "I love her, and I'm going to make her smile yet."



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Maritza Freeland



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Maritza Freeland



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Maritza Freeland

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Members of the Philippine Mabuhay Dance Troupe perform a tinikling dance Saturday during an Asian Pacific Heritage Banquet at the Rocker NCO Club. **SOMOA:** A woman dances a Somoan dance in traditional clothing. **GRASS:** Some costumes reflected the depth of culture across Asia. **KICK:** Students of the National School of Martial Arts strike at training targets during the banquet. **DRUM:** Members of the Kadena Kokusai Matsuri Daiko drum team perform during the banquet.



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Maritza Freeland



Air Force/ Staff Sgt. Maritza Freeland



Air Force/Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

The largest gathering of World War II veterans since 1945 assembled on the National Mall to witness the dedication of their long-awaited memorial May 29. More than 100,000 people were on hand as President Bush officially accepted the National World War II Memorial on behalf of a grateful nation. The 7.4-acre granite and bronze tribute took 17 years to complete.

Bush dedicates World War II Memorial

By Gerry J. Gilmore
*American Forces
Press Service*

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bush officially dedicated the National World War II Memorial on May 29 during a ceremony that featured more than 100,000 military veterans and guests.

"We will raise the American flag over this memorial that will stand as long as America itself," the president declared to the audience, many of whom were attired in their World War II uniforms.

More than 600,000 individual contributions paid for the \$195 million bronze and granite memorial, President Bush said.

Former presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, as well as former Sen. Bob Dole, actor Tom Hanks and

NBC newsman and author Tom Brokaw accompanied him at the ceremony.

Many people, President Bush said, "believed that democracy was finished" just before America entered the war on the side of the Allies after the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

At that time, totalitarianism seemed poised to engulf the world, he said, as the Nazis had marched into Paris the year before and Imperial Japan continued its territorial expansion in the Far East.

America and its Allies banded together to confront the Axis threat and its ideologies of death and oppression, President Bush said.

America entered World War II after a decade-long economic depression and with a standing army that ranked 17th in the world in size, Pres-

ident Bush said. To win the war on two fronts, Americans "had to work and save and ration and sacrifice as never before," he said. Citizens grew victory gardens and bought war bonds, he said.

American women toiled in factories or joined the military, while African-Americans and Japanese-Americans and others "fought for their country, which wasn't always fair to them," President Bush said. Civil rights advances that followed the end of the war "made us a better country," he said.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stood up to the world's dictators, President Bush said.

President Roosevelt "understood the character of the American people," and rejected the Axis powers' contention that they belonged to a

master race and therefore were fated to conquer and dominate the world, he said.

The 16 million Americans who put on uniforms to serve in the war "gave the best years of their lives to the greatest mission their country ever accepted," President Bush said.

U.S. forces fought with courage and bravery and "are remembered for their goodness and decency," he said. More than 400,000 U.S. servicemembers died in the war. The nation is indebted "to an entire generation of Americans," not only to those who died, but also to those "who fought and worked and grieved and went on," he said.

Those who served America in uniform during World War II "saved their country," President Bush said, and "thereby saved the liberty of mankind."

Program seeks foreign language, area experts

WASHINGTON — People with international skills are becoming more valuable to many organizations, and the Air Force is no exception.

The foreign area officer program develops line officers with certain skills used by the Air Force and Department of Defense in positions where they are needed, said Lt. Col. Mike Nolta, chief of the FAO program.

"DOD [officials] directed all services to develop this program ... to develop officers who have international skills in foreign language proficiencies, cultural understanding, regional specialization understanding and some in-country experience," Colonel Nolta said.

This development begins when officers identify self-obtained international skills, the colonel said. Sometimes these skills come from heritage, like growing up speaking the language, or from a combination of college studies and an opportu-

nity to live at an overseas location where those skills were polished.

"The Air Force program relies on these people expressing an interest in applying to the program voluntarily, and then the FAO program takes those who meet some minimum qualifications and tries to give them short-duration training they can do on a primarily permissive (temporary-duty) basis," Colonel Nolta said.

This short-duration training comes in many forms, like one-month immersion programs, he said. Other opportunities, such as regional studies seminars, are also available.

"It's designed to be a very flexible program that allows officers to, at a minimum, work on maintaining the skills they already have and ideally improving those skills, as their schedules allow," he said.

These training opportunities are one of many benefits for officers in the program.

"Last summer, I was scheduled to go to a language immersion program for six weeks in Austria," said Capt. Peter Kerr, Air Force public affairs action officer and FAO European specialist. "My entire job was to get immersed in the language and culture, and come out a fluent German speaker."

German is not the only language Captain Kerr is familiar with. He is fluent in Danish, can manage in Spanish, Italian, Norwegian and Swedish, and has a working knowledge of Greek and Hebrew. With a father in the Air Force, Captain Kerr spent nine and a half years in Europe growing up. He found the FAO program almost by accident.

"I stumbled across it on the Internet," the captain said. "It's also been written about on the bottoms of leave and earnings statements and other places; but it's a little-known precious gem in the Air Force if you ask me."

Officials approve wear of medal

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) — Air Force officials have authorized wear of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal which was approved by President Bush in 2003. The Department of Defense campaign medal applies to active-duty, Reserve and Guard servicemembers deployed abroad on or after Sept. 11, 2001, for operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

"The criterion is pretty clear, so members who believe they are eligible can begin wearing it," said Tech. Sgt. Jeff Simmons, superintendent of the Air Force Personnel Center's recognition programs branch here.

To qualify, an individual must have been assigned or attached to a unit in OEF or OIF and served 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in specific geographic areas.

The medal will only be awarded once, regardless of how many times an individual returns to serve in OEF or OIF. There are no service stars or other devices authorized; however, battle stars may be authorized for servicemembers who engaged in actual combat. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for battle stars.

Duty locations include these countries:

Afghanistan; Bahrain; Bulgaria (Bourgas); Crete; Cyprus; Diego Garcia; Djibouti; Egypt; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Lebanon; Oman; Pakistan; Philippines; Qatar; Romania (Constanta); Saudi Arabia; Somalia; Syria; Tajikistan; Turkey (east of 35 degrees east longitude); Turkmenistan; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan; and Yemen.

Other areas include:
— The portion of the Arabian Sea north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees longitude.

— Bab el Mandeb.
— The Gulf of Aden.
— The Gulf of Aqaba.
— The Gulf of Oman.
— The Gulf of Suez.
— The portion of the Mediterranean Sea east of 28 degrees east longitude.
— The Persian Gulf.
— The Red Sea.
— The Strait of Hormuz.
— The Suez Canal.

The medal follows the Kosovo Campaign medal in precedence and will be issued by local military personnel flights when it becomes available and will also be available through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service later this year.

Courtesy of AFPC News Service



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Rasheen Douglas
Maj. Gen. Edward Mechenbier (left) and Col. Gregg Sanders lay a wreath on one of two transfer cases containing the remains of servicemembers from the Vietnam War during a repatriation ceremony here May 29. General Mechenbier is the last Airman still serving who was a prisoner of war during Vietnam. He flew the Hanoi Taxi on this mission to bring his fallen comrades home.



Air Force/Master Sgt. Ken Wright
Airmen at Andersen AFB, Guam honor two servicemembers who died during the Vietnam War. The remains rested in the Hanoi Taxi, which became the first C-141 Starlifter to repatriate American prisoners of war from Vietnam on Feb. 12, 1973.

Airmen pay respect with repatriation ceremony

By Staff Sgt. Jess Harvey
36th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — The sun peeked through the clouds as the four flights of servicemembers, a colorful array of Navy whites, Air Force blues, battle-dress uniforms and flight suits, were called to attention.

A lone Soldier stood guard in the aft of the C-141 Starlifter, dubbed the Hanoi Taxi, with its doors swung open like an eagle's wings, harboring two transfer cases draped in red, white and blue.

That was the setting for the repatriation ceremony here May 29 as Maj. Gen. Edward Mechenbier stepped up to the podium to speak. He is one of the prisoners of war of Vietnam who returned home on the original flight of the Hanoi Taxi and who flew the same plane to recover the remains of his fallen comrades.

He opened by explaining what Memorial Day means.

"This weekend is a time of remembrance," General Mechenbier said. "A time to remember, not just these two, but to remember the names of those who are missing in action and to remember the families

who still wonder about the fate of loved ones."

He said he was one of the privileged servicemembers who was able to return more than 30 years ago.

"We were the lucky ones, those who survived, and [we] have the obligation to remember those who were not," said General Mechenbier, the only Airman still serving to have spent time at what was referred to as the Hanoi Hilton, a POW encampment, during the Vietnam War.

The general, a pilot with more than 3,500 flying hours, was stationed at Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam, when, on his 80th mission over North Vietnam, his F-4C Phantom II fighter was shot down. He was captured and remained a POW from June 1967 to February 1973, when he was one of 40 POWs to return on the first flight of Operation Homecoming flown by the Hanoi Taxi on Feb. 12, 1973.

"We rejoiced individually and as a nation as 591 POWs stepped on American soil during Operation Homecoming in 1973," General Mechenbier said. "At the same time, we were dismayed to learn the stories of torture and deprivation they endured.

"And we wondered, where are the rest? Why so few?" he said. "With today's ceremony, we hopefully will get to answer that question for two more fami-

lies in an ongoing effort to make a full accounting of all those lost during Vietnam."

He said there are currently more than 2,200 servicemembers still missing from Vietnam. From World War II, there were more than 75,000 missing servicemembers and more than 8,000 from the Korean War.

However, he asked those attending the ceremony to not think about those numbers.

"I'd rather you remember those numbers are fathers, husbands, brothers and sons," he said.

But for one Airman here, those numbers really struck a chord.

"He said not to focus on the numbers, but it's hard not to," said Senior Airman Ednerson Joseph of the 13th Air Force and an honor guard member. "Those numbers represent an amazing sacrifice."

For a civilian employee here, the general's speech and actions really hit home.

"I feel a deep gratitude for all the guys who served in Vietnam," said Richard Lamb of the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron and a native of Vietnam. His family left when he was 10 years old. He said they sacrificed a lot for the people of Vietnam, and he "just wanted to shake the general's hand."

Recruiting numbers decrease with force shaping

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) — Air Force recruiters will be searching for about 11,000 fewer people in fiscal 2005 as a result of the service's force-shaping efforts, officials here announced May 28.

Phase II of the Air Force's force-shaping program calls for enlisted accessions to drop by about 11,000 to reach authorized end strength levels by the end of fiscal 2005. The reduction in accessions will

result in an active-duty recruiting goal of about 24,000 for fiscal 2005, which runs Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 2005. Air Force officials said they expect enlisted accessions rates to return to normal levels in fiscal 2006.

"We hope to make this reduction as transparent as possible for recruiters," said Col. Bob East, vice commander of Air Force Recruiting Service here.

"Although we expect

monthly recruiting goals to decrease slightly, there are other aspects to the job such as training and marketing that must be sustained in order to resume normal accessions in 2006."

The accessions reduction announcement comes on the heels of a reduction to the current year's accessions goal announced May 17 by Air Force officials at the Pentagon. The enlisted accessions goal was reduced to 34,080.

Through May 26, 23,659 people have entered active duty. Another 11,523 have signed enlistment contracts to leave for basic military training this fiscal year.

"With almost one-third of our accessions scheduled to enter active duty this summer, it's important that they understand their jobs won't be affected by this reduction," Colonel East said.

Despite the reduction in accessions next year, Colonel

East said the Air Force will continue to seek people to fill jobs available in more than 150 career fields.

"We are still hiring," he said. "We continue to need America's best and brightest to fill highly technical jobs critical to the Air Force in accomplishing its mission around the world. We will target our efforts toward finding those with the capabilities and qualifications needed to fill these valuable jobs."

"Moe's Town"



Amelia Earhart Intermediate School drama class performed "Moe's Town" at the school cafeteria May 27. "Moe's Town," a Cinderella story with a "Motown" twist was wrote by Barbara Nelson, sponsor of the school drama class. "Otis," (left) played by Lily Garcia, sixth grade; "Moe," played by Daniel Nelson, fifth grade; "Cindy," played by Kelsey Price, fifth grade and "Diva," played by Allison Dawson, fifth grade.

Air Force/ Chiaki Iramina

ter. Call 634-3366 to register.
 ▲WELCOME WALK: Class meets from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.
 ▲SLEEP TIGHT AT NIGHT INVEST - ING: Class meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.

JUNE 18

▲CITIZENSHIP CLASS: Class meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.

JUNE 19

▲FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER BAZAAR: Meets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Falcon Fitness Center. Call 634-3366 for more information.
 ▲OPERATION KIDS UNDERSTANDING DEPLOYMENT OPERATIONS: Meets from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Children ages five to 15 are invited to learn how their parents gear up for military deployments firsthand. For more information, call 634-3366.

JUNE 20

▲POWER BOAT SAFETY COURSE: Kadena Marina holds boating classes every Sunday at 9 a.m. Call 634-6344 for details.
 ▲FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER BAZAAR: Meets from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Falcon Fitness Center. Call 634-3366 for more information.

JUNE 21

▲MONEY ON THE BOOKSHELF (PART 2 of 2): Meets from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 for more information.

JUNE 22

▲BUNDLES FOR BABIES: Meets from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.
 ▲SMOOTH MOVE WORKSHOP: Meets from 9 a.m. to noon at the Rocker NCO Club. Call 634-3366 for more information.
 ▲SPONSORSHIP TRAINING: Meets from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.

JUNE 23

▲UNACCOMPANIED NEWCOMERS TOUR: Meets from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-4626 to register.
 ▲WASHI CLASS: Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.

JUNE 24

▲KIDSCRAFTS CLASS: Meets from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-4626 to register.

JUNE 25

▲VETERANS ASSISTANCE SEMINAR: Meets from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.

JULY 15

▲SCHOLARSHIPS: Deadline for essay of 500 words or less on "What Freedom Means to Me" to qualify for top prize of \$6,000. For full rules, eligibility and contest details visit the Officers', NCO or Airman's Clubs for details or get an entry form at: www.p.afs.af.mil/clubs

SATURDAY

▲HEARTS APART YELLOW RIBBON TOUR: Meets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning at Kadena Information. Tickets and Tours. Spouses of deployed members are invited to this free tour to various Okinawan sites. Call 634-4322 to register.
 ▲TEEN HEALTH FAIR: Meets from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Teen Center Millennium. Rep-

representatives from Kadena's clinic will talk about pregnancy, obesity, drug awareness and more. Call 634-3866 to register.
 ▲BATTLE OF THE BANDS & CHILI COOKOFF: Begins at noon in the Rocker NCO Club parking lot.

SUNDAY

▲POWER BOAT SAFETY COURSE: Kadena Marina holds boating classes every Sunday at 9 a.m. Call 634-6344 for details.
 ▲YUI MONORAIL/KOKUSAI STREET TOUR: Begins at 9 a.m. at KITT. Take a ride on Naha City's monorail and shop on Kokusai Street. Cost is \$18 for adults, \$12 for children ages six to 12 and \$5 for children under age six. Call 634-4322 to register.
 ▲KIMONO SHOPPING TOUR: Begins at 9 a.m. at KITT. Look for traditional Japanese kimonos and experience a tea ceremony. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children ages six to 12 and \$5 for children under six. Call 634-4322 to register.

MONDAY

▲MONEY MANAGEMENT: Class meets from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.
 ▲SINGLE PARENT GROUP: Class meets from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.

THURSDAY

▲TEA CEREMONY: Class meets from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.

▲KIDS ON THE MOVE: Meets from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.
 ▲UNDERSTANDING MUTUAL FUNDS: Class meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.

JUNE 11

▲BRUSH WRITING: Class meets from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.
 ▲COMEDY SHOWCASE: Begins at 10 p.m. at the Banyan Tree Club. Call 634-0644 for more information.

JUNE 12

▲GIVE PARENTS A BREAK: Meets from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.
 ▲BATTLE OF OKINAWA: Begins at 9 a.m. at KITT. Take a historical tour around Okinawa reliving the Battle of Okinawa. Cost is \$28 for adults, \$19 for children ages six to 12, \$11 for children ages four and five and \$5 for children under age four. Call 634-4322 to register.
 ▲OCEAN OBSERVATORY TOUR: Begins at 9 a.m. at KITT. Explore the sea below at the Busena Resort Hotel. Cost is \$30 for adults, \$16 for students ages 16-18, \$17 for students ages four to 15 and \$5 for children under age six. Call 634-4322 to register.

JUNE 13

▲POWER BOAT SAFETY COURSE: Kadena Marina holds boating classes every Sunday at 9 a.m. Call 634-6344 for details.
 ▲SHURI CASTLE & SHIKINA-EN: Begins at 9 a.m. at KITT. Learn about the

Sho Dynasty through visits to Shuri Castle, Shikina-En and Enkakuji Temple. Cost is \$26 for adults, \$15 for students age seven to 15 and \$5 for children under age seven. Call 634-4322 to register.
 ▲OKINAWAN FOLK TALES: Begins at 9 a.m. at KITT. Learn more about Okinawa's urban legends through visits to mysterious sites. Cost is \$18 for adults, \$15 for students age seven to 15 and \$5 for children under age seven. Call 634-4322 to register.

JUNE 14

▲TRANSITION ASSISTANCE SEMINAR (PART 1 of 4): Class meets from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.
 ▲MONEY ON THE BOOKSHELF (PART 1 of 2): Class meets from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.

JUNE 15

▲TRANSITION ASSISTANCE SEMINAR (PART 2 of 4): Class meets from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.

JUNE 16

▲TRANSITION ASSISTANCE SEMINAR (PART 3 of 4): Class meets from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 634-3366 to register.

JUNE 17

▲TRANSITION ASSISTANCE SEMINAR (PART 4 of 4): Class meets from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center.

M O V I E S

Patrons should call Keystone Theater at 634-1869 or Butler Theater at 645-3465 to verify movie titles, showtimes and ratings.

Keystone Theater

▲ Tonight: Jersey Girl, PG-13, 6 p.m.
 Van Helsing, PG-13, 9 p.m.
 ▲ Saturday: Van Helsing, PG-13, noon.
 The Prince and Me, PG, 4 p.m.
 Van Helsing, PG-13, 7 p.m.
 ▲ Sunday: Van Helsing, PG-13, noon.
 Lady Killers, R, 4 p.m.
 Van Helsing, PG-13, 7 p.m.
 ▲ Monday: Shrek 2, PG, 7 p.m.
 ▲ Tuesday: Shrek 2, PG, 7 p.m.
 ▲ Wednesday: Jersey Girl, PG-13, 7 p.m.
 Troy, R, 7 p.m.
 ▲ Thursday: The Whole Ten Yards, PG-13, 6 p.m.
 ▲ June 4: Troy, R, 9 p.m.

Foster Theater

▲ Tonight: Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless, R, 7 p.m.
 Troy, R, 10 p.m.
 ▲ Saturday: Scooby Doo 2, PG, 1 p.m.
 The Passion of the Christ, R, 4 p.m.
 Troy, R, 7 p.m.
 ▲ Sunday: Scooby-Doo 2, PG, 1 p.m.
 The Passion of the Christ, R, 4 p.m.
 Troy, R, 7 p.m.
 ▲ Monday: Troy, R, 7 p.m.
 ▲ Tuesday: Laws of Attraction, PG-13, 7 p.m.

C H A P E L

Catholic

▲ Monday through Friday: Mass, Chapel 2, noon.
 ▲ Saturday: Confession, Chapel 2, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
 Vigil Mass, Chapel 2, 5 p.m.
 ▲ Sunday: Mass, Chapel 3, 8:45 a.m.
 Mass, Chapel 3, 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Protestant

▲ Wednesday: Bible Study, Chapel 1, 7 p.m.
 ▲ Sunday: Inspirational, Chapel 2, 8:30 a.m.
 Liturgical, Chapel 3, 8:45 a.m.
 Evangelical, Chapel 1, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
 General Protestant, Chapel 2, 10:30 a.m.
 Gospel, Chapel 3, 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday school, Bldg. 326 and Bldg. 327, 10:45 a.m.
 ▲ Hindu service: Mondays, Chapel 1, noon.
 ▲ Eastern Orthodox service: call 645-7486
 ▲ Jewish services: call 637-1027
 ▲ Islamic services: call 636-3219

Torch run



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Maritza Freeland

Airman 1st Class Matthew Leake, a patrolman with the 18th Security Forces Squadron at Kadena, holds the Special Olympics torch during a 13.5 mile relay run with other members of the 18th SFS Saturday. The torch run according to organizers signifies the beginning of the Special Olympics activities on Okinawa. Organizers say 13 teams participated in the run that lasted about two and half hours. Organizers say this year's Special Olympics will be held June 12 at Kadena and will include more than 700 athletes and 200 artists. Volunteers are still needed for the event and volunteers can sign up on Kadena's web site or call Senior Master Sgt. Patricia McLaughlin at 634-0802. A mass briefing for volunteers will also be held today at 1 p.m. at the Keystone Theater and June 10 at 10 a.m. at the Keystone Theater.

Lock in



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Maritza Freeland

Chris Austin bowls at Skoshi Bowl during a "lock-in" Saturday. The lock-in featured movies, games, pizza and refreshments.

Air Force women take second in volleyball, men take third

By Bud McKay
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

FORT LEWIS, Wash. (AFPN) — The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps fired shots at each other May 22 to 26 here during the 2004 armed forces volleyball championships.

Some of the shots were lobs; some of the shots were bullets.

But the Navy men and the Army women fired the best shots as they went on to claim the 2004 armed forces volleyball championships.

The tournament was a double round-robin, five-game format.

The Air Force women earned the silver medal with a 1-3 record.

They had to use a tiebreaker with the 1-3 combined Navy and Marine Corps team.

Going head-to-head, the Air

Force earned the second-place finish.

Even though they said they did not do as well as they would have liked, Michelle Kenner from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., said she was not all that disappointed.

"It's an honor to be able to compete and represent (our) service," she said. The Air Force men finished with a 3-3 record, the same record as the silver-medal Army team.

But using the head-to-head tiebreaker, the Army earned second place.

"There was still some good competition this year with all of the deployments," said John Napier, an eight-year veteran on the Air Force team who is from Northern Arizona University where he is an ROTC instructor.

"It's a toss up every year no matter what."

For the men, Jason McDonald from Dyess AFB, Texas, was named to the all-tournament team. Two from the Air Force's women's team earned all-tournament honors — Sarah Kotte from the U.S. Air Force Academy and Tamara Luckmeyer from Altus AFB, Okla. Four Airmen were selected to join the all-armed forces' team that will compete internationally.

Representing the Air Force men will be McDonald and Kyle Klinger from Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Continuing for the women will be Luckmeyer and Gina Marino from Scott AFB, Ill. Walter Anchors, a civilian from Lisbon, Ohio, who is the head coach of the Air Force's women's team, was selected to be an assistant coach.