Astro News

Base awards new civil engineering contract

The Los Angeles Air Force Base Contracting Office awarded a new base civil engineering contract Jan. 4, for the care and upkeep of the base.

The new contract covers civil engineering services at Los Angeles AFB and Fort MacArthur. The contracted company is TrendTec, which was formed in a joint venture between Trend Western, a previous CE contractor at the base, and JanTec, the base arts and graphics contractor.

In addition to providing maintenance to our facilities the new contractor will take care of grounds and landscaping.

"After work began this week, I was pleased to hear the words of one happy base member, 'Of all the bases that I have been to, the grounds at Los Angeles Air Force Base have always looked nice, especially at Fort MacArthur,'" said Col. Dieter Barnes, 61st Air Base Group commander. "Many of us do not realize how well we have it at Los Angeles Air Force Base."

For several months, many individuals and groups pulled together and cut grass and weeded various plant areas. Base members demonstrated their pride and willingness to take care of their workplaces. "As the 61st Air Base Group commander, I want thank all of the individuals who volunteered their efforts by adopting an area of the base," said Barnes.

In addition to the base civil engineering award, changes have also been made to the base custodial contract. Changes to the contract include ensuring the restrooms will be cleaned and supplied, and trash will also be picked up daily.

"I believe these changes will be welcomed by all of us," said Barnes. "The contractor here is determined to ensure the men and women of this base continue to maintain the highest standards." *(Information courtesy of the 61st Air Base Group commander's office and the Space and Missile Systems Center's Public Affairs Office).*

Photo by Airman 1st Class Chris McGiveney

Chris J. Palmer, a TrendTec gardener, removes leaves along the outside of Building 105. TrendTec is the new base services contractor tasked with taking care of the grounds at the base and housing areas.

Joint chiefs request more money for readiness

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Calling the president's proposed injection of $110 billion into the Pentagon's budget over the next five years a "good start," the Air Force chief of staff and other military service chiefs asked members of the Senate Armed Services Committee Jan. 5 to support a greater, sustained boost in funds for readiness.

The Joint Chiefs told the senators additional funds are needed to stem the continuing decline in readiness, reverse an alarming loss of people and combat increasing rates of aircraft cannibalization.

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, joined the chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the other service chiefs in requesting $30 billion more in Air Force spending dedicated to readiness over the next six years. This is in addition to billions of dollars the president has already proposed for fiscal year 2000 pay and retirement benefit increases.

"We very much appreciate what the secretary of defense and the President of the United States have done in support of readiness," Ryan said in his opening statement. "We ask for your support in a continued campaign to provide our airmen with the needed equipment and the training and compensation to match the difficult missions we ask of them for their sacrifices and service."

Ryan's pride in Air Force people was evident, "Our Air Force men and women, and their commanders, have done great work in keeping control of readiness declines despite heavy tasking and tough fiscal constraints. Nonetheless, the mission-capable rates have declined."

The general told the senators his three readiness priorities are people, equipment and the training to employ them. He said if he "could put a bubble around this that enables it all to happen, it would be leadership."

Above all, the service chiefs agreed, Congress must press ahead with the president's previously announced fiscal year 2000 overall 4.4 percent pay raises, additional targeted pay raises for mid-grade officers and noncommissioned officers and restoring retirement benefits to 50 percent of base pay for 20 years' service.

"Restoring the retirement system, narrowing the pay gap and implementing pay table reform, "Ryan said, "are

Joint Chiefs continued on Page 4

Time to consider SMC's New Year's resolutions

Brig. Gen. Michael A. Hamel
SMC vice commander

The end of one year and the beginning of a new one is a natural time to reflect on past accomplishments and to make plans and resolutions for the New Year. While many have made personal resolutions, it's also appropriate for the Space and Missile Systems Center – TEAM SMC – to reflect on the past and to consider the challenges, opportunities and directions we will pursue through 1999 and into the new millennium.

SMC has a rich history and we should be very proud of the role played by our organization over the past four decades of the "space age." SMC is "the birthplace of Air Force space" and the visionary pioneers who founded this organization in the mid-1950s have given us an extraordinary legacy. Born of the Cold War, the missile and space systems invented and developed here were instrumental in maintaining world peace and our nation's security during the last half of the 20th century. Virtually every space system and capability we manage today had its origins in programs of the 1950's and 1960's, such as the Space-based Infrared System, which grew out of the MIDAS program and the entire fleet of communications satellites. Further, the close association for decades between SMC and classified Air Force space activities in the national community has resulted in unrivaled space support to military commanders and users.

'We need to get back to basics and re-examine what we do as a center, what our customers need, what our strengths are and what new management approaches will best serve us.'
— Brig. Gen. Michael A. Hamel
SMC vice commander

1998 was a big year for SMC as new records were set for launches, and development was accelerated on the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle. Modernization of the GPS system, implementation of new MILSATCOM capabilities and numerous other achievements made 1998 a bellwether year. We reflect on the past to not only give us a sense of pride and accomplishment, but to also help us anticipate and shape the future.

In the coming year and the approaching millennium, we face numerous changes and challenges. Changes can create stress, but they can also be a source of rejuvenation – trials as well as opportunities. SMC has experienced many changes over the past decade – the formation of Air Force Space Command led to realignment of space responsibilities and the integration of space operations into the mainstream Air Force. The formation of Air Force Materiel Command, acquisition reform and streamlining, the establishment of PEO/DAC oversight, declining budgets, and growing demands for space capabilities have all affected our acquisition mission. Further, the explosion of information technology and the growth of commercial space businesses have dramatically accelerated the rate of change in our business.

So what does the future hold and how do we best prepare SMC for the challenges and opportunities of the coming millennium? We need to get back to basics and re-examine what we do as a center, what our customers need, what our strengths are and what new management approaches will best serve us.

We have long considered ourselves the Center of Excellence for Air Force space, but what does this mean? From my perspective, what makes TEAM SMC, including our Aerospace partners, unique is that we are the only organization dedicated to and with comprehensive technical competencies in all aspects of space development and acquisition. This includes planning, engineering, manufacturing, contracting, financial management, test and operations support. Further, we do this across the full spectrum of military space missions – launch, communications, navigation, weather, surveillance and control. We create the future concepts, define the architectures within which the systems must operate; assure the technical integrity, flight worthiness, safety and effectiveness of all Air Force missile and space systems; and provide the institutional technical support for all Air Force space programs. Other organizations in the DOD may have space expertise and develop certain satellite systems, but no other organization provides the full spectrum of comprehensive space development capability.

But the world today is far different than just a few years ago. Space needs have grown, while budgets have declined. Space is useful to the military user only if it is integrated into their operational architectures and capabilities. The days are gone when program offices could simply manage contracts for stove-piped systems. Further, the DOD and NASA no longer have a monopoly on space capabilities and technologies because the commercial and international space sectors have grown. All these factors dictate we must establish new alliances and partners to provide the leading edge, fully integrated space capabilities for operational military forces. SMC needs to strengthen our cooperation with laboratories, other military centers, civil space organizations and industry.

Key among these relationships will be our growing partnership with Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom AFB, Mass., to provide dominant Space, C2 and Information Operations capabilities to the warfighter. Strong SMC participation in the annual Expeditionary Force Experiment is just one goal for this alliance. Another example of cooperation is the joint work we are doing with the laboratories and the NRO to develop the Discoverer II, space-based radar demonstrator.

Another important trend is the growing synergy and importance of space and information operations in the military. War in the information age will be decided by the side that most quickly and effectively exploits information, as much as by who has the largest forces. Information dominance depends heavily on space-based assets, for space systems are omnipresent, always watching, always working to provide knowledge of world events and to support combat forces when necessary. Warfighters will increasingly depend on space to provide the information they need for decisive victory.

The rapidly growing commercial space sector will also have profound effects on how we provide space capabilities. This remarkable new business sector will offer a broad range of commercially available goods and services which can meet many military needs. As private investment in this business area grows, new technologies and production capabilities will be available to military space developers. We must work to insure that commercial space capabilities will meet military performance, availability and capacity needs. Developing strategies and initiatives to exploit these emerging capabilities will demand smart military customers; once again, SMC is uniquely positioned to lead Air Force efforts.

Finally, one of our greatest challenges is continuing to attract and retain the high quality people that make SMC such a unique organization. From our program managers and engineers, to our finance and contract professionals, to our Air Base support staff, we have an outstanding group. We can't take that for granted. We need to provide a quality work environment, give strong support to our families and recognize the fine work of people through awards, promotions and career opportunities. Taking care of our people is essential to our future.

So where does this bring us? As SMC enters the final year of the 20th century, we will need to define a new vision of who we are, what we do, and how do we do it. General Tattini has begun a process to define a new strategic vision for SMC. As the process moves forward, TEAM SMC will be asked to put their ideas and energy into defining this vision. While change is never easy, this center has always risen to the challenge. We have a tradition of innovation at SMC and I am confident we will be instrumental in assuring the Air Force remains at the forefront of controlling and exploiting space. It's imperative that all members of TEAM SMC understand our challenge and step up to the plate to help SMC enhance its role as the pre-eminent center of technical excellence for military space. We've got a lot of work to do.

Happy New Year and I look forward to working with TEAM SMC in what promises to be a most exciting year.

Astro News

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Chief's corner

We control our own readiness responsibilities

Editor's note: The following is a new editorial column appearing in the Astro News authored by the Space and Missile Systems Center's Command Chief Master Sergeant Don C. Cleveland.

Cleveland

As the new year rolls in, I thought this would be a great time to talk a little about recent congressional testimony that indicates our military readiness is not at peek performance. The critics argue that we are falling behind or because our weapon systems have aged well beyond their anticipated life expectancy. While we have little influence over the technical modernization efforts, we have total control over our own readiness responsibilities. Specifically, we are duty bound to maintain our physical readiness. Three areas we should examine are: immunizations, ergometry and physical health assessment.

The first area, immunizations, is critical to maintaining our health in a global environment. Typhoid is less common in the continental United States. However, in many Third World countries, typhoid is a real and present health hazard. Yellow Fever, Hepatitis B and A, rabies and meningococcemia vaccines are also examples of regular medical readiness requirements. If you're in any kind of doubt about the status of your inoculations, take your shot record to the 61st Medical Squadron Immunization Clinic to verify your medical readiness and get it on the central computer data-bank to prevent repeat shots in the future for a lost shot record.

Another readiness area is the annual cycle ergometry evaluation. A regular aerobic exercise routine will help ensure a successful ergometry examination. Your unit ergometry monitor can schedule you for a pretest if you are in doubt of your fitness. However, you must still complete an evaluation every year to determine your aerobic endurance per Air Force standards. You can visit he Health and Wellness Center staff in Building 244 or you call them at 363-6266.

The third area of personal readiness we control is our physical health assessment, or PHA. The flight medicine clinic and physical exams section accepts walk-in patients to complete the questionnaire. The short time you invest in answering a PHA will pay dividends to your future health. It is an annual requirement focusing on an age-related prevention approach to your medical care. This focused-rifle approach makes optimal use of yours and the medic's time to do what the statistics verify as needed for your gender and age.

A healthy force is a ready force. If you notice there is a drop in your unit's readiness posture due to incomplete personal actions, then I recommend you step forward and lead efforts to resolve the lack of readiness. The three areas mentioned do not demand vast amounts of time to maintain the readiness standards mandated by the Air Force. They add value to our physical wellness profile and promote a healthy life style. The HAWC has a physical education expert to address all personal physical fitness issues.

Examine your personal readiness status and take the lead to correct any shortfalls. You'll feel better in the long run.

Until next time, hang in there.

Chief Cleveland

News Briefs

Commissary lot resurfacing

The parking area surrounding the base commissary is scheduled for complete resurfacing beginning today. This work will take place in two phases with the estimated completion being in April. Patrons are asked to abide by posted signs and park at alternate designated areas. For more details call, Michelle Marquez at 363-8356.

XP becomes two-letter

A new plans and programs directorate is operating at Space and Missile Systems Center to better align SMC functions with those at Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Tattini, SMC commander, made the announcement Jan 8.

The new organization, XP, includes the office of strategic planning, manpower and quality offices, the commander's action group and the protocol office.

Tattini has named Col. Joseph Thumser, who was the SMC Contracting Office deputy director, as the XP director; Ed Salem, of XRP, is the deputy for the new organization.

National Prayer luncheon

The Los Angeles Air Force Base Annual National Prayer Luncheon is Feb. 11 at 11:30 a.m. in The Club's Ballroom.

The guest speaker will be Frank Pastore, director of Talbot Impact Ministries, Biola University and former Cincinnati Reds pitcher.

This luncheon is open to all Space and Missile System Center's personnel and their families and reserve and retired military members. The cost for club members is $6 and $8 for nonmembers. Tickets may be obtained through executive officers, first sergeants, orderly rooms and the 61st Air Base Group Chaplains' Division Office. For additional information, please call 363-1956.

Carpool sticker renewal

The Commuter Services Program Office is in Building 240, Room 11 until Feb. 1, where it will move to Building 229, Room 210. Personnel with closing year 1998 carpool stickers are valid until Jan. 31.

For more information call Capt. George Unsinger at 363-0351.

Action Line 363-2255

The Action Line is your direct link to **Col. Dieter Barnes**, 61st Air Base Group commander. The Action Line's purpose is to make Los Angeles Air Force base a better place to work, live and play. Of course the fastest way to resolve any problem is to ask the person who can actually fix it.

Question

What are the rules for carpool parking? I was told that some slots were reserved for specific offices. Is that true? I thought I could park anywhere.

Answer

Carpool slots are reserved Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. for anyone with a valid carpool permit. Anyone with a valid permit can park in any carpool slot at any time. The carpool slots are not individually numbered or reserved for specific cars or permits. For example, someone who works in Area A can park in any carpool slot in Area B while using Area B facilities.

Below is a list of people who can resolve your issue:

(Base Exchange) David Clore 640-0129
(Base IG) Lt. Col. Stephen Marchitelli 363-0802
(Chaplain) Lt. Col. Michael J. DiRenzo 363-1956
(Civil Engineering) Maj. Angela Alexander 363-1775
(Commissary) Al Cherry 363-6140
(Communications Sqd.) Lt. Col. Mark Hall 363-0798
(Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office)
Leonard Gonzales 363-1565
Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline 363-2020
(Housing) Tech. Sgt. Belinda Hines 363-8340
(Logistics) Capt. George T. Unsinger 363-0351
(Medical) Lt. Col. Mark P. Wisniewski 363-5005
(Mission Support) Maj. Doug A. Stiegleiter 363-1230
(Security Forces) Maj. Larry D. Bartlett 363-0032
(Services) Gary L. Van Dusen 363-0430
(Social Actions) Capt. Lisa D. Day 363-2806
TRICARE 363-0261
24-hour Crime Stop 363-2124

Try the system first. Work with your supervisor, first sergeant or commander — they are there to help. If you are not satisfied with the response or are unable to resolve a problem, call the Action Line. Your call will be recorded and if you leave your name and phone number, you will receive an answer.

Action lines of broad interest to the Los Angeles Air Force Base community will be published in the *Astro News*.

Joint Chiefs continued from Page 1

three tangible efforts that our people deserve and appreciate."

Ryan noted the effect of retirement improvements and military pay increases announced Dec. 21 by the secretary of defense and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

People are leaving because they are concerned about their retirement benefits, their pay is not comparable to civilian jobs, and their workload and the time they are away from their families is excessive, he said.

"All our people are looking forward to the actions that we take to provide fair pay and a retirement system. They don't just need it, they deserve it," said Ryan. "These moves respond to their concerns."

'Restoring the retirement system, narrowing the pay gap and implementing pay table reform, are three tangible efforts our people deserve and appreciate.'

— Gen. Michael Ryan
Air Force Chief of Staff

The next step, he said, is to ease the heavy tempo throughout the force. This, he said, extracts a high price on people and readiness.

Ryan testified that establishing the expeditionary aerospace force, set for Jan. 1, 2000, holds promise for relief by giving airmen predictability and stability.

"Our people ask for stability," Ryan told the senators. "That's one of the first things they talk about when you go out in the force, stability and taking care of the families, and then they'll go do whatever we ask them to do.

"People continue to be our most vital resource — they are the most critical component of readiness," Ryan said. "The intense demands we place on them as they perform Air Force missions around the world require highly-motivated, highly-skilled, professional airmen. However, today we are performing more missions with fewer people. Indeed, today's active-duty force is the smallest in the history of the Air Force."

Air Force officials stressed that the president's fiscal year 2000 defense budget, which is still under development, addresses many readiness concerns. Currently, the Air Force share of the overall DOD budget appropriation is $65 billion, which falls $5 billion a year short of fixing the readiness problems. The official proposal goes to Capital Hill Feb. 1. Maj. Gen. George T. Stringer, the Air Force deputy assistant secretary for the budget, said the added dollars are needed "to do the job our nation has given us and to take care of our people."

"As best we can tell, the president's budget proposal to Congress will give us an added $2.5 billion in fiscal year 2000, or half of the $5 billion we need," Stringer said. "Over the full six years, fiscal year 2000 through 2005, we'd receive about $20 billion more, or two-thirds of what we need."

That influx, he explained will take care of critical near-term readiness needs — especially with respect to people and modernization – and arrest the decline in current readiness trends.

People are the key to readiness, Ryan testified, and "we must ensure they have a quality working and living environment. We have a $4.4 billion real property maintenance backlog – and it's growing. We cannot continue to mortgage the infrastructure area of our force readiness -- where our force works and lives -- without significant long-term effects."

In the wake of large manning reductions, the Joint Chiefs agreed that the armed forces have too much infrastructure and too few people to man every site open today. The solution, they said, is more base realignment and closures throughout DOD. This would pave the way to upgrade infrastructure at the remaining installations.

If the Joint Chiefs' full requests were approved, Stringer, the Air Force senior budget officer said, "the next dollars will go toward improving our infrastructure, to include military family housing, and then to modernization enhancements in such areas as airlift, training, communications, space and selected weapon systems.

"We are truly concerned about the downturn in readiness," he testified. "We must reverse these trends through substantial and sustained funding for the needs of our force. If not, the concerns reiterated today could turn rapidly into a readiness crisis tomorrow.

Asked as the hearing neared its end what the essential components of readiness are, Ryan said. "I think it's confidence. It's the confidence in their capabilities to do what we ask them to do, and that involves equipment and training and leadership. And it's the confidence in the future that they'll stay with us because they know that we will continue to provide them with the means to do the jobs that they need to do.

"And finally," he said, "it's the confidence that we'll take care of their families when we ask them to go do that."

See related story on Page 5

Secretary Cohen announces proposal for pay increase

Master Sgt. Linda Brandon
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — With the full support of the president and Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of Defense William Cohen announced Dec. 21 a proposal for significant pay increases and retirement improvements for the fiscal year 2000 budget.

Air Force senior leaders lauded the announcement after working closely with Department of Defense officials to push for reform. "These changes reflect our commitment to the men and women who we've tasked with a very tough but vital mission," said Whit Peters, acting secretary of the Air Force. "It's just one example that we have taken their problems to heart and are working hard to solve as many of them as we can."

The DOD's pay and retirement package has three parts and is designed to attract and retain the type of high-quality force credited with the recent success of Operation Desert Fox.

"These reforms focus on readiness and retention concerns," Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff said. Ninety percent of the Air Force's enlisted force will face a reenlistment decision between now and 2001, and "they need to feel confident that we not only have their best interests at heart, but that the nation appreciates their service."

"Today's announcement should leave no doubt that we are committed to what's needed to continue to make an Air Force career professionally and personally satisfying," Ryan said.

The first improvement is a 4.4 percent across-the-board pay raise for fiscal year 2000. This will immediately put more money into every service member's pocket. Ultimately, it will also have a direct and positive impact on retirement pay which is based on basic pay.

This will be the largest pay increase since 1982 and is scheduled to be followed by annual increases of 3.9 percent through 2005. While this increase will not close the military pay gap with the civilian economy, it keeps everyone slightly ahead of private sector wage growth.

"This increase is the largest in basic military pay in nearly a generation and it compensates our service members adequately and fairly," Cohen said. The raise also ensures competitive entry-level pay.

The second improvement targets raises for noncommissioned officers and mid-grade commissioned officers. They range from one-half percent to 5.5 percent.

"This will enable us to do a better job of rewarding performance; compensating people for their skills, education and experience; and encouraging them to continue their military service," Cohen said.

"This isn't just about money, it's about people," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric Benken. "If the Air Force is going to continue to attract and retain the best and the brightest, they have to know their talents are recognized and we support their efforts to excel — that's the real bottom line."

The targeted pay raises are proposed to take effect July 1, 2000 and are in addition to the 4.4 percent raise everybody receives Jan. 1, 2000.

Part two also includes the first systematic reform of the pay table in 50 years. Over the years the pay table has been distorted to the point where some raises for promotion are disproportionately low while raises based on longevity are high. Pay table reform will reward skill and performance, making promotion more financially rewarding than simple longevity.

The third part of the package, improvement of the retirement system affects two-thirds of the men and women in today's armed forces.

"The retirement system that applies to service members who entered after 1986 is a major source of dissatisfaction," Cohen said. "They receive 40 percent of their basic pay when they retire after 20 years, while members who began their service prior to 1986 receive 50 percent."

This is a change made in the Cold War era following large pay raises. "Today, in this uncertain time of high demand and smaller forces, this retirement change — popularly known as "redux" — is undermining morale and it's hurting retention," Cohen said. "Therefore, we are committed to returning the 20-year retirement to 50 percent of base pay."

"The current retirement system is not an incentive for quality people to remain in the service," Ryan said. "We need to change it."

The total cost of the military pay raises for fiscal years 2000 to 2005 is $14.4 billion. Targeted raises are expected to cost about $4.5 billion through 2005. Changes to the retirement plan have no immediate costs. The first 20-year retirement affected by any changes won't happen until 2006.

Airman wins four of seven at Airman Leadership School

Airman 1st Class Chris McGiveney
Public Affairs Office

A Los Angeles Air Force Base airman swept more than half the awards at the Edwards Air Force Base Airman Leadership School, Calif., Class 99B graduation dinner Dec. 17.

Senior Airman Greg S. Whitt, a staff sergeant select with the Space and Missile Systems Center Staff Judge Advocate Office's Hospital Recovery Office, received the following awards from ALS:

- John L. Levitow Award for the most distinguished graduate of the class for outstanding achievement as a scholar and a leader
- The ALS Academic Achievement Award for scoring the highest in his class on all his tests
- A certificate for his paper on traditional military values
- A certificate for an enlisted heritage project background paper on the history of the Air Force Sergeants' Association

His team effort, professionalism, willingness to help others and academic knowledge made him the best choice for these awards, said Tech. Sgt. Paul L. Bastaich, Flight Chief of Edwards Air Force Base's Airman Leadership school.

The Airman Leadership School prepares senior airmen for supervisory duties and fosters a commitment to the profession of arms by teaching the roles and responsibilities of the noncommissioned officer leader.

Courtesy photo

Whitt

For Whitt it was a surprise to win the awards, considering the competition from his other 12 classmates.

"There were a lot of sharp people in my class," Whitt said. "There is a big sense of pride because these awards are very prestigious."

Whitt currently works in the claims department of the judge advocate office and works with attorneys and insurance companies off-base to collect insurance money owed to base clinics for care of military personnel in third-party accidents. Before working in the claims department, Whitt put together the base's Uniform Code of Military Justice briefing given to all military personnel here six months after entering the service and after reenlisting.

"He was a major player in getting the UCMJ briefing done here," said Marvin R. Martyn, SMC/JA's Law Office manager. "He's very reliable. In the back of my mind I knew he would come out and win (the awards)."

Whitt is also an active member of the base's Air Force Sergeants' Association chapter as its airmen activity coordinator and helps present junior enlisted issues to AFSA leadership.

Whitt's future goal is to become a military training leader at an Air Force technical school.

"The chance to interact with new people coming into the Air Force and new airmen's enthusiasm are the big draws," Whitt said. "It energizes you because they are pumped up to be in the military."

Leading L.A.

Staff Sgt. Gregory W. Call,

Courtesy photo

is the 61st Air Base Group's Directorate of Operation's superintendent of information management. Call helps maintain the base's operations center's continuous 24-hour service. He is responsible for the coordination and organization of all base support plans and management of the battle staff support team. As an augmentee for 61st Air Base Group Flight Operations, Call assists in supporting the arrival and departure of high level dignitaries such as the president and vice president of the United States to the Los Angeles area. He was also responsible for ensuring the successful arrival and departure of numerous commanders attending the Air Force Ball. This native of San Jose, Calif., has been in the Air Force for 14 years. Call also devotes some of his off-duty time to such organizations as the Heal the Bay Foundation and March of Dimes.

Congratulations

Officer promotions for January

Randy T. Olde to colonel; **Kenneth L. Robinson** to lieutenant colonel; **Jack R. Cooley** to major; **Christopher Biegun**, **Andrew E. Castillo**, **Richard Contreras**, **Larry D. Gunn**, **George A. Helmer**, **Christophe Rabourn**, **Don W. Swetz II**, **Nathan R. Thern** and **Bruce V. Wyrwitzke** to captain; and **Jeremy O. Kelley**, **David J. Laird**, **Michele A. O'Brien**, **David L. Ozmen**, **Kaysi A. Rehborn**, **Edward H. Simpson** and **Jonathan C. Whitney** to first lieutenant.

Enlisted promotions for January

Eugene Chambers and **Ulysses G. Cotton** to master sergeant; **Adalberto Acosta** and **Lori A. Short** to technical sergeant; **James M. Thompson II** and **John W. Jefferson** to staff sergeant; and **Dana S. Abbott**, **Joseph A. Baca III** and **Kimberly L. Hernandez** to senior airman.

Civilian promotions

The following civilians were recently promoted or selected to a higher-graded position: **Tanya L. Davis, Robert W. Lewis** and **Edwin D. Perez.**

Civilian awards

Gerald L. Verduft recently received an Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award.

Honor Guard Elite

First Lt. Lynda M. Wilson,

Courtesy photo

is the Space and Missile Systems Center's Defense Meteorological Satellite Program Contracts Test Branch chief and Warrior Flight commander of the Los Angeles Air Force Base Honor Guard.

The honor guard supports base details and local civic obligations and performs military honors covering all of Southern California. The base honor guard, along with Edwards AFB, Calif., March Air Reserve Base, Calif., and the California Air National Guard work as a cohesive unit to cover 80,000 square miles.

"It is no secret that honor guard responsibilities can expend much of one's personal time. However, for me, the personal rewards far outweigh the sacrifices, she said. "I appreciate and take great pride in the camaraderie and integrity within our honor guard."

Wilson also enjoys Bible study, horseback riding and anything with good, clean comedy.

New Air Force Materiel Command cost-cutting strategy uses base, community resources

Leigh Anne Redovian
Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs Office

If you've seen one Air Force base, you've seen 'em all, right?

Brig. Gen. Todd Stewart, Air Force Materiel Command's civil engineer, however, is asking the command to take a closer look at AFMC bases.

As the command's chief operating officer for Installations and Support, Stewart is behind the command's revolutionary strategy for making good use of capital assets no longer used by their host bases. From empty buildings and quiet runways to wasted electricity, Stewart is looking for ways to cut both investment and recurring operating costs while at the same time offering better facilities and support services to those who rely on them.

Partnerships with local base communities and commercial developers are at the heart of AFMC's new cost-cutting strategy.

"We are attempting to achieve real reductions in cost by working with our community public- and private-sector partners to make mutually-beneficial use of Air Force-owned land and facilities," he said.

In the past few years, closing or realigning bases has been looked at as the best way to save money on infrastructure and base support services. AFMC also has relied on competitive sourcing and privatization to cut its installation and support costs. Competitive sourcing involves a competition to determine whether commercial-type activities can be accomplished more economically by an organic (primarily civil service) work force or by a contractor. Privatization refers to the sale or conveyance of facilities or other physical assets for operation and maintenance by a contractor.

Even with these practices, there has been no real comprehensive strategy for cost reduction using capital asset management, Stewart said. In the past, the primary emphasis has been on reducing operating costs through competitive sourcing of commercial activities.

"We have to think outside the box and start operating like any big business," Stewart said. "The private sector has always looked at reducing both operational and capital costs — savings have to come from both."

While researching various cost-cutting strategies, Stewart said he challenged his own thinking about what an Air Force base should be and concluded not all AFMC bases should necessarily look alike or operate in the same way. Stewart contends AFMC needs to tailor the infrastructure and support for each of its bases to better fit individual, unique requirements. These installation and support plans will be described in a base template to be developed for each AFMC base. These templates will describe the "end state" for each AFMC base and will consider mission requirements, the needs of assigned personnel and support available in the community.

"These templates will describe how we want our bases to look and work downstream," he said. "They are our visions for the future."

According to Stewart, the templates will describe the missions and units to be assigned to each base, the infrastructure and other capital assets needed to support those missions and people and specific cost-reduction plans.

AFMC bases which host and support deploying aircraft will necessarily have greater numbers of military personnel assigned and will continue to rely heavily on organic support and infrastructure, Stewart said. Other bases not having significant deployment support requirements will have fewer military people assigned and will rely more on community support. The command is working to consolidate its mobility taskings to the extent practicable at its primary deployment support bases — Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.; Hill AFB, Utah; Robins AFB, Ga.; and Tinker AFB, Okla.

The remaining AFMC bases have been further categorized as "operational bases," or those bases with an active airfield, and non-operational bases. This will allow for better planning for infrastructure and support requirements.

Stewart said the operational bases — Edwards AFB, Calif.; Kirtland AFB, N.M.; and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio — will still require moderate levels of support.

Those remaining non-operational bases — Arnold AFB, Tenn.; Brooks AFB, Texas; Hanscom AFB, Mass.; Los Angeles AFB, Calif.; and the Air Force Research Laboratory's Rome Research Site — will have relatively fewer military people assigned and will rely on the community to a greater extent for their infrastructure and support service needs, Stewart said.

"If we can consolidate our military personnel at our primary deployment support bases, we will need fewer dorms, family housing units and other costly military-unique support facilities and services at our other bases," Stewart said.

According to Stewart, this realignment creates an opportunity to reduce installation and support costs by allowing more extensive privatization of infrastructure and competitive sourcing of commercial support activities.

In looking at the templates for the non-core mobility bases, it became clear the command could continue to provide quality infrastructure and support at lower costs by leveraging the value of underutilized land and facilities through partnerships with the community. This shared use of Air Force-owned, but underutilized capital assets has been termed the "city-base" concept.

The city-base concept relies more on the community and private sector for support and city services needed to support Air Force missions and people. The concept allows surrounding communities to develop unused portions of AFMC bases in exchange for rents or support services. The payments will underwrite Defense Department costs, freeing up funds that can be used for weapon system acquisition or other Air Force priorities.

Because of the diverse nature of AFMC missions and the communities supporting the bases, Stewart said each of the partnership agreements is likely to be different. "While our primary deployment support bases will probably look much the same way they do now, others will probably look and operate more like business or research parks."

Stewart said some opportunities to partner with the community in the use of underutilized Air Force assets may exist at every AFMC base, not just at the non-deployment support bases.

"Every dollar we get from allowing the community or the private sector to use underutilized land and facilities, is a dollar we don't have to ask Congress for," Stewart said.

The 3llth Human Systems Wing at Brooks AFB, Texas, is conducting a study of the development opportunities at that installation for the Secretary of the Air Force. The wing at Brooks is the Air Force agent for human-centered research, development, acquisition, education, training and operational support services for individuals and the total force. While the wing's current mission will stay the same, the study is exploring ways to reduce installation and support costs by making underutilized land and facilities on the base available for commercial development.

According to Stewart, the Air Force has only limited legal authority to implement the city-base concept and is looking to propose legislation in fiscal year 2000 to allow the Air Force to better manage its capital assets and reduce its installation and support costs through Air Force-community partnership arrangements. Stewart believes that such enabling legislation will be mutually beneficial to both the Air Force and the community.

Col. Michael Binion, director of the Human Systems Wing's Business Development Office at Brooks AFB, Texas, is overseeing the study there. Binion said the local community has been forward-thinking and proactive in working with the base to make the concept a reality.

"The community's goal is to preserve the jobs and the highly technical work that is done here," he said. "The community sees the work force at Brooks as a magnet for growth in San Antonio and the people here don't want to lose it."

Community leaders believe helping the Air Force reduce its base support costs will make it advantageous for the Defense Department to keep its mission at Brooks, Binion said.

San Antonio's Mayor Howard Peak chartered the Brooks Opportunities Task Force to work with the Air Force on the study in exploring ways to reduce its infrastructure and support costs at the base. This charter formalized an already good relationship between the city and the base, Binion said. The task force has further enhanced communication and cooperation between the Air Force and the community.

"What we do here is important to the Air Force mission," Binion said. "We want to be good stewards for the taxpayers by performing our mission in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible."

According to Binion, the AFMC at Brooks is helping the base identify ways to reduce its base operating costs and explore new opportunities while enhancing and preserving its mission.

"The key element to the study's success is our partnership with the city of San Antonio," he said.

The study is expected to be completed in time for the Secretary of Defense to submit it to Congress in March.

The command will develop a more specific plan for installation and support at Brooks and other AFMC installations, based on the results of the study and future congressional actions, Stewart said.

"Even as we are exploring new ways to cut our operating costs, we remain committed to excellence in those products and services we provide," Stewart said. "Working with our surrounding communities through these cost-cutting partnership arrangements will help us maintain and improve our installations and the support we provide to the missions and people who live and work there."

Youth Center gives back to local community

John Ryan
Public Affairs Office

Approximately 40 children, 5- to 10-years-old, from the Fort MacArthur Youth Center's School Aged Program, recycled 250 cans Dec. 3 and donated the $15 from the cans to the Marine Mammal Care Center in San Pedro, Calif.

A prior field trip to the center last summer sparked the idea of getting the children of Fort MacArthur involved in the community, said Jennifer Chambers, School Aged Program coordinator.

"We set up a competition between the children by dividing them into four groups," she said. Each child who brought in something to be recycled got a sticker. The team with the most stickers was declared the winner.

The children were able to see first-hand how the center nurtured sea lions who had been injured and baby seals that had been abandoned by their mothers.

Col. Dieter Barnes, 61st Air Base Group commander, and a group of children from the School Aged Program went to the Marine Mammal Care Center to donate the money from the cans the children had collected.

"This is a perfect example of us getting involved in our community even at the youngest levels while caring for the environment," Barnes said.

The center is a non-profit organization which helps return injured mammals to their natural habitat.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Gomez

Col. Dieter Barnes, 61st Air Base Group commander, and some of Fort MacArthur Youth Center's School Aged Program children donated $15 Dec. 3 to the Marine Mammal Care Center in San Pedro, Calif., by recycling 250 cans.

Mmm Mmm Good...

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Gomez

From left to right: Col. Dieter Barnes, 61st Air Base Group commander; Chinta Cooper, a Point Fermin Elementary School student; Susan Balmanno, Point Fermin school principal; and Al Cherry, base commissary officer hold a "check" worth 214,000 Campbell's soup "Labels for Education" from Los Angeles Air Force Base to the Point Fermin Elementary School in San Pedro, Calif., Dec. 3.

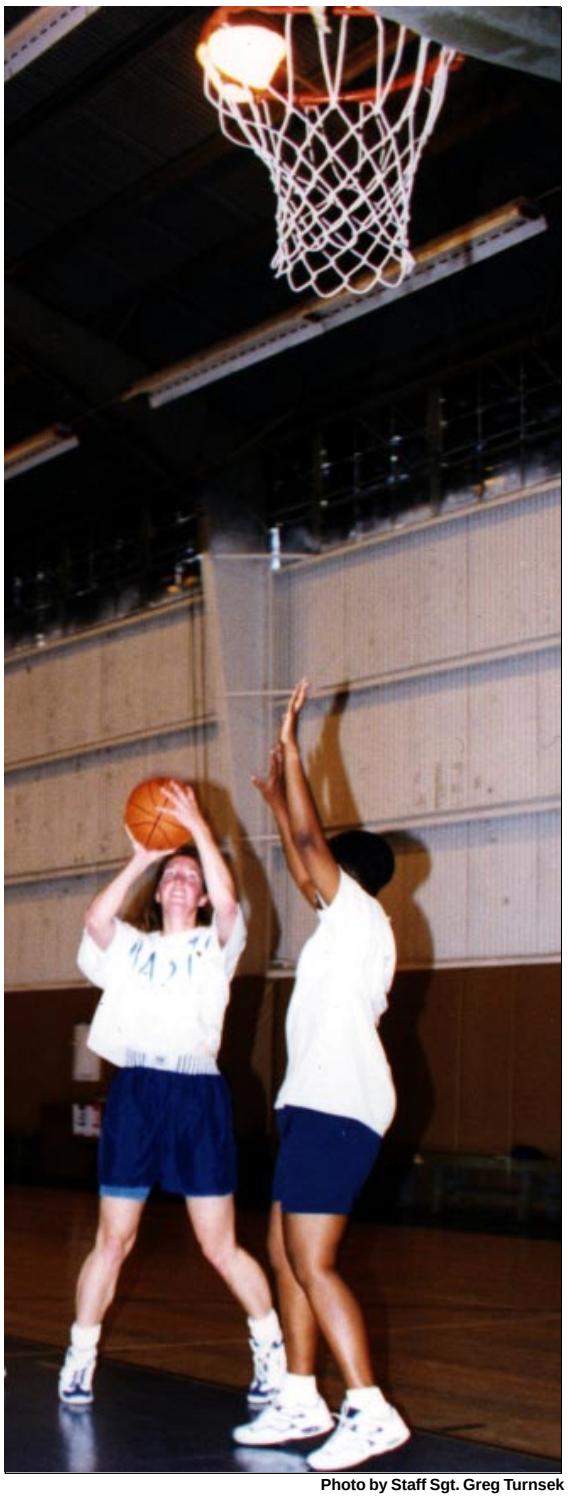
Donations from service members and retirees also were given out, Point Fermin and White Point elementary schools in San Pedro, Calif., each received 54,000 additional labels to be used to purchase a variety of educational equipment for the schools.

White Point Elementary School also received a "check" for 214,000 labels Dec. 16.

SMC *Today*

Got a good story? The staff of the video program, "SMC Today", would love to hear about it. To submit story ideas for "SMC Today", call Christina Whetsel at 363-0274.

Hoop it up...



Master Sgt. Paula Harris, from the Space and Missile Systems Center's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Program Office, defends the basket against Maj. Kelly Latimer, 95th Support Group Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., during a practice at the fitness center. The two players were practicing for the Air Force Materiel Command Basketball tournament. Members of both Edwards AFB, Calif., and Los Angeles AFB are teaming up to form an intramural woman All-star basketball team to compete in the tournament at Hill AFB, Utah from March 3 to 9. The team is currently looking for players. If interested call Staff Sgt. Joe Streets at 363-5754.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Turnsek

Astro 'Turf'

Don't save bike safety for rainy days

1st Lt. John Napier
Public Affairs Office

You call this the rainy season? Thanks to the nice weather, I've spent more time on the beach lately than in the summer! And what's the deal with the eastern part of the U.S.? I feel for my friends back east dealing with the cold – just for a minute, then I put on my shorts and T-shirt, hop on my bicycle and take a ride along the ocean. Los Angeles Air Force Base – what a great place to be stationed!

The subject today is tips on being safe while riding your bicycle along the bike path on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, otherwise known as the Strand.

If you're not familiar with the rules of the bike path, a few things along your journey may surprise you. For example, there are times when you'll have to get off your bike and walk. The Redondo Beach Pier comes to mind as the most obvious example. At all times, you must walk your bike through the parking structure to reduce the chances of you taking out a pedestrian. Also, riding your bike through the structure will result in a fine from Redondo Beach's finest. The last I heard, it's a $71 fine.

The other section where you have to walk your bike, at certain times, is near Pier Avenue in Hermosa Beach. Just watch for the flashing red lights around that area that indicates if you can ride through or walk your bike.

Always be aware of your surroundings along the entire path. There is the potential of encountering several obstacles during your trip. For example, watch for skateboards flying into your path near the Hermosa Pier. The skateboarders there have been known to fall off causing their boards to fly across the path.

Then, there's the surfer who has forgotten how long his long board really is. The front of the surfboard enters the path well before the surfer, introducing a potential hazard to bike riders. It's like the scene from the Three Stooges where Curly has a long piece of lumber on his shoulder and he keeps turning around to see what's behind him and he ends up tweaking Moe and Larry on the head.

Now that I think about it, maybe the biggest danger on the Strand are dogs. Or more to the point, what people fail to pick up after their dogs. And let it be known, I've seen some big dogs on the Strand.

Finally, there's some courtesy rules on the Strand. Slower traffic should stay to the right and all attempts should be made to stay in your lane. When passing a slower Strand user, the common thing to do is yell out, "On your left!" This is effective, but I prefer the old-fashioned method. I have an air horn that I like to use right before I pass. In fact, I've seen some folks jump right over the wall after I use my air horn.

Although these tips are not all inclusive, they do address the most common situations on the Strand. I hope these help your journey along the beautiful Pacific Ocean coastline. So get out and enjoy the weather while you can, we've got the other half of the rainy season to get through.

TRICARE — making it work for you

Maj. Lisa Johnson
Air Force Materiel Command's
Managed Care Chief

Although the congressionally directed military drawdown has reduced the number of military hospitals and their staffs, there is still great demand for health care through the Military Health System. With demand exceeding the system's capacity to deliver it, the rising costs of health care and the continuing requirement to maintain a trained and ready medical corps to support our troops, the Department of Defense introduced TRICARE.

TRICARE unites the health care resources of the Army, Navy and Air Force and supplements them with networks of civilian health care professionals. It is a unique system which provides improved access to health care and creates a more efficient way to receive care, offer enhanced services and provide more choices for health care.

TRICARE is now fully operational within the continental United States. Air Force Materiel Command's last two facilities, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, came on line this past year. Because AFMC's 12 bases are spread across the country, implementation of TRICARE has been unique and challenging for the command, having to work with eight different Lead Agents (the personnel responsible for implementing TRICARE within the regions) and five different civilian healthcare contractors (the people paid to operate TRICARE).

Implementation of TRICARE has resulted in many changes, not only for our patients, but also for the whole medical facility. Two changes, which have occurred, are the way patients make appointments and how medical claims are processed.

First, TRICARE Prime enrollees make appointments by calling a designated 1-800 number (this is the number printed on your TRICARE Prime enrollment card). TRICARE contract personnel answer the phone lines and schedule all appointments for Prime enrollees.

Most of the time phones are answered and appointments are booked in a timely manner, but at times patients may experience difficulties. If this occurs, it is important for beneficiaries to contact their TRICARE Service Center at the Medical Treatment Facility to make these personnel aware of the problem. Another individual to contact if this route fails is the military facility's Patient Representative. This person is normally a "blue suiter" who manages all types of concerns within the facility.

Beneficiaries, who are not enrolled in TRICARE Prime, may use TRICARE Standard, the Civilian Health and Medical Plan of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) or TRICARE Extra (network providers who accept a discount).

When patients see these providers, the provider must file a claim. Most claims are processed in a timely and efficient manner, but at times, and depending on what TRICARE region you live in, there may be delays. If at any time, you as the patient, receive a bill that you don't understand or that you think is in error, it is important for you to take this claim to the TRICARE Service Center. These personnel will assist you in resolving any disputes you may have. It is their job to do this, and it is vital for you to bring any unresolved or inaccurate claims to their attention.

TRICARE is here for you. It is not here to cause you pain and suffering. It has been a long and somewhat tumultuous journey, but we are constantly working to improve TRICARE. Please give the experts the opportunity to step in and handle your concerns in a timely manner so that we can continue to perfect TRICARE along its journey to an improved health benefit for you and your family.

Cost, access, quality shape TRICARE success

Douglas J. Gillert
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Reports from the Department of Defense's oldest TRICARE region show a high level of success in controlling costs, improving access and maintaining quality.

Next on tap for the survey this spring are Regions 3 (Southeast), 4 (Gulf South), 6 (Southwest), **9 (Southern California)**, 10 (Golden Gate) and 12 (Pacific), and a second look at Region 11. Regions 7 and 8 (Central) will be surveyed in 2000 and Regions 1 (Northeast), 2 (Mid-Atlantic) and 5 (Heartland) will follow in 2001.

A survey of more than 10,000 DOD health care beneficiaries in TRICARE Region 11 -- Washington, Oregon and part of Idaho -- measured the delivery of health care to some 340,000 beneficiaries between 1994 and 1998. TRICARE began in the area in 1993.

Dr. James Sears, TRICARE Management Activity executive director, called the survey "all good news."

"In a time when there's significant inflation in health care costs, they found no increase in cost to the government or beneficiaries," Sears said. At the same time, the survey reported that Region 11 medical providers maintained high-quality standards. "There's even (an increase) in perception (among survey respondents) of quality," he said.

In terms of access, improvements were noted in several categories, Sears said.

"They're getting their primary care when they need it, they're getting preventive services they need and they aren't using the ER as much. Not having to go to the ER to get their primary urgent or acute care is a sign of a healthy system.

Sears said he's particularly pleased with Region 11 beneficiaries' increased reliance on preventive health services.

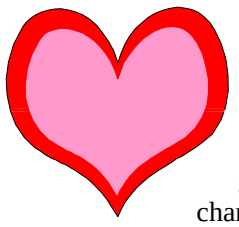
"That's a major goal we're after -- to keep people healthy so they don't have to use health care services as much," he said.

CNA Corp. and the Institute for Defense Analyses conducted the Region 11 survey and will perform similar surveys in each of the TRICARE regions over a four-year period, Sears said. Congress mandated the study, which looks at "before" and "after" data to determine TRICARE's impact on military health care.

Although the survey measured just one region, Sears said it reflects what he expects to find in every region.

"It's the same program we have put in place across the country," he said. "As the survey reaches all the other regions over the next two years, we anticipate similar results. There's no reason to think this program would be any less successful in other regions."

Outcomes from the Region 11 survey "are in the direction we want them to be," Sears said. "But we've got a lot of feelers out to learn how the program is doing. This study is just one of them." Annual and monthly customer surveys help Sears and his staff learn about and solve problems in the TRICARE system.



"Most of the changes we're making, where we're placing new or additional emphasis, are based on feedback we're getting from these multiple channels," he said. "We're using this information to improve the current structure and future contracts."

What this and other surveys tell Sears is that TRICARE is doing well where it has matured, in Southern California, for example.

"We just have no negative noise level of any significance from the places where TRICARE has been in place and operating for awhile," he said.

In Southeast, Gulf South and some other newer regions, problems that existed a year ago have been corrected, he said.

"We had problems with claims, networks and appointments. As of today, however, their networks are developed, they're paying claims and their telephone issues are history."

Sears said the same types of "hiccups" occur in every regional startup, and a similar maturing process eventually smoothes out the wrinkles. The Central region matured rapidly, he said, and he expects the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Heartland regions to improve quickly.

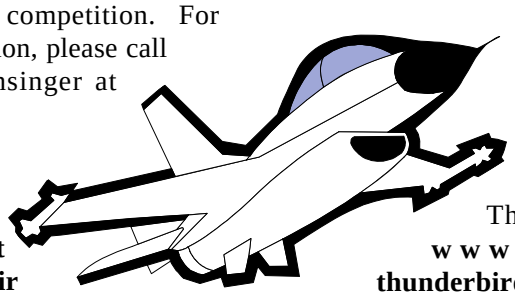
TRICARE has met with similar success overseas -- an area perceived to be a medical care trouble spot in the early 1990s, according to Air Force Maj. Brian Hurley, senior health analyst for military health systems operations at TRICARE. Surveys, he said, detected few claims turnaround problems and found high patient satisfaction with health care access and quality.

But surveys aren't the only tool DOD is using to gauge the health of health care. TRICARE management discusses health care issues regularly with the Military Coalition, a 5-million-member group of 26 military support associations, and the 3-million-member Military/Veterans Alliance. Sears has conducted meetings with the services' senior enlisted representatives to uncover and fix health care problems of enlisted members and their families. And Rudy de Leon, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, has started conducting regional town hall meetings with medics and patients.

TRICARE is accomplishing all it was designed to do, but that doesn't mean it can't be improved, Sears said.

"We want to continue showing improvement in every area, keeping costs down and ensuring every beneficiary, whether active duty or retired or family member, has quick access to quality care."

The Space and Missile Systems Center's Public Affairs Office is seeking military and civilian personnel who are interested in participating in the FIRST Competition. The program is designed to expose middle and high school students to engineers and the engineering profession. Specifically, mechanical engineers, electrical specialists, software specialists, machinists and a financial specialist are needed. For six weeks, Friday afternoons and Saturday beginning this month, students and engineers will work together to brainstorm, design, construct and test a "champion robot" for a national competition. For more information, please call Capt. Jodi Unsinger at 363-0303.



Base personnel must revalidate their carpool permit to receive a new decal valid through July 1 or Jan. 1, 2000 for one year club members. If you are no longer carpooling you must return the form with your carpool permit. The form must be signed by all members of your carpool and only one form per carpool is needed. Fill out the form completely, the information will be verified and a new decal will be issued to you. Your decal can be picked up at the Commuter Services Office, located in Building 240, Room 11. Please call the Commuter Services Office at 363-2222 prior to coming to the office for more information.

Unocal gift certificates for two dollars per day are available to Riverside and San Bernardino County residents who currently drive alone to work weekdays in morning rush hour traffic and have not been in a rideshare arrangement for the last 90 days. Commuters who begin ridesharing in a carpool, vanpool, buspool or on public transit/rail are eligible to receive the incentive for three consecutive months. For more information call Caralotta K. Beasley at 363-2222.

The Air Force Manpower and Quality Function is seeking qualified enlisted personnel to retrain into the career field. Anyone in a balanced or overage Air Force Specialty Code, in grades E-5 through E-7 are prime candidates. For more information call, Staff Sgt. Patrick Britton at 363-5374.

The Thunderbirds are scheduled to be at March Air Force Base, Calif., April 10 to 11; Nellis AFB, Nev., May. 8 and Nov. 19; Travis AFB, Calif., Jun. 27; and Edwards AFB, Calif., Oct. 9 to 10. For more information go to the Thunderbirds website at **www.nellis.af.mil/thunderbirds**.

The 61st Communication Squadron's Preferred Products and Technology Expo will be held at The Club Jan. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free expo will highlight many of the products and vendors on the Los Angeles Air Force Base's 1999 Preferred Products List.

The Expo is designed to be an educational forum where both military and civilian personnel can be updated on some of the latest advancements in information technology. Exhibitors will be on-hand to demonstrate products and answer questions. Some of the displays will be the latest in wireless communications infrastructure products; data systems audio-visual presentation systems; networking solutions; workstations, hardware, software and peripheral equipment; teleconferencing; and other products, services and solutions listed on the 1999 Preferred Products List.

All military and civilian personnel are invited and complimentary refreshments will be served. For more information please visit **www.fedpage.com/events**, e-mail **fbcwest@fea.net** or call **(800) 247-6353**.

The 1998 Space and Missile Systems Center's Annual Awards and Recognition Luncheon Banquet is Feb. 11 at the San Pedro Hilton Madeo Ballroom and starts at 6 p.m. The menu includes chicken marsala or fish, salad, vegetables, bread and desert. Tickets are $32 and attire for the banquet is mess dress or semi-formal for military and coat and tie for civilians. Contact the following organizational representatives for tickets: Base Clinic, **Staff Sgt. Ann Ingram** at 363-6958; Building 212 and 219, **Senior Master Sgt. Hugh Ali** at 363-3887; Building 219, **Judy Seballos** at 363-30667; Building, **1st Lt. Sarah Demers** at 363-0082; Building 105, **Staff Sgt. Karen Fabian** at 363-2244; Building 110, **Master Sgt. Florate Mopas** at 363-0056; Building 115 **Capt. Daniel McCutchon** at 363-0864; Building 120, **1st Lt. Dalal Estrada** at 363-3538; Building 125, **Master Sgt. Malcolm Decruise** at 363-2952; Building 130, **Tech. Sgt. Martin Hamilton** at 363-2153/2106; Building A-8, **Senior Airman Barbara Baker** at 297-2909, Fort MacArthur, **Tech. Sgt. Belinda Hines** at 363-8340; Building 80, **Staff Sgt. Eric Gundy** at 363-8616; and Detachments or GSU's **Staff Sgt. Fabian at DSN 833-2244.**

A revision has been made to the Base Curfew Policy by the Installation Commander. The new established curfew hours will be enforced seven days a week from 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

The curfew policy is intended to provide a safer community and better protects children from becoming victims of crime or becoming involved in delinquent behavior. Consistent with the Los Angeles Municipal Code, the base curfew restricts minors (children under the age of 18) from being outdoors or in public places unless accompanied by an adult. Exceptions to the base curfew policy apply only when a minor is attending an event, or going to or returning directly home from an event (such as a youth program activity, movie, school dance, etc.) or involved with an emergency such as a fire, natural disaster, or automobile accident.

Parents are still required to notify the base entry gate the child will be entering during curfew hours. In the event parents fail to provide pre-notification of a child's arrival time, a dependent/civilian misconduct report will be completed.

New curfew policies are being distributed via a policy letter which will be followed-up with a base publication. For more information call Marlynn Bonzoumet at 363-0813.

Electronic filing for 1040 EZ's will be at the legal office in Building 120 from Jan. 25 to 29 from 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Volunteers will help prepare and electronically file income tax returns for military members, their dependents, and retirees and their dependents. No appointment is necessary. Electronic returns take about two weeks and refunds go directly to your bank accounts.

You can file a 1040 EZ if your filing status is single or married filing jointly, you do not claim dependents or student loan interest as a deduction or education credit, under age 65, taxable income is less than $50,000 and your income consists of wages, and interest income not over $400 and you do not have any capital gains, dividends, rental income, etc.

Bring your W-2s, Form 1099-INT (for interest income), social security card number and a voided check so we can verify the routing number for direct deposit. For more information contact Capt. Robert Kearney at 363-6460.

Chapel Schedule

Roman Catholic

Saturday: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 3:45 p.m., Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: Mass at 9 a.m., CCD in Building 37 at 10:30 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday: Sunday School at 9 a.m., Building 37; General Protestant worship at 10:30 a.m.

All the above services are at the Fort MacArthur Chapel unless otherwise noted. Call the Chaplain Service division office at 363-1956 for more information.

Congratulations to Senior Airman Shaad Madison from the 61st Communication Squadron's photo lab who has been selected to compete as a performer in the 1999 Air Force Talent Competition at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Jan. 24.

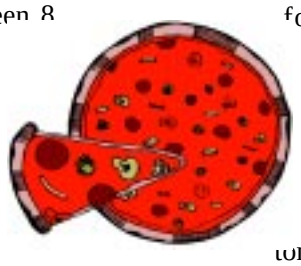
The Fort MacArthur Community Center has information packets for the annual Air Force photography contest, which ends Jan. 31, 1999. The contest is open to active-duty military and their family members. Call the community center at 363-8225 for more information on the rules, categories and requirements for submissions.

The Congressional Awards program is a noncompetitive program open to all 14- to 23-year- olds in the United States regardless of prior achievements, life circumstances, physical or mental abilities. The Congressional Award recognizes young people for achieving individual goals in four program areas: voluntary public services, personal development, physical fitness and expedition and exploration. Bronze, silver and gold medals are presented by United States Senators and members of Congress during local, state and national ceremonies. For more information on the program, or if you are 24 or older and would like to be an advisor, please call Shenethia Carter at 363-8225.

The Club 363-2230

The Club will host a Superbowl party Jan. 31 from 3 to 10 p.m. Come watch big screen football on one of our four televisions. Bring a friend and enjoy junkyard dogs, chili and chips. There is a $5 cover charge for members and a $8 charge for nonmembers. Prizes will be given away during the game.

Fresh pizzas can be ordered from The Club. Call The Club to place orders between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.



The Club sells tickets to local area attractions for discounted prices. Tickets are sold at the cashier's cage weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m.

The Club caters promotion parties, retirements, weddings or any other type of celebration. The Club can accommodate 25 to 200 guests. Call The Club for more information.

The Barber Shop in Area A is located in Building 120. It is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Club cards are accepted for payment. For more information call 363-1733.

The Club will host a "New Year's Resolution Dance" Jan. 30 from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. The price is $5 for members and $7 for nonmembers. The evening will feature disc jockey Mighty Mike and a special guest appearance from 69 Records recording artists B.O.L.D. There will be cash prizes for the best resolution.

Vet Clinic 363-8269

The veterinarian is scheduled to be at the Fort MacArthur Vet Clinic today from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 363-8269 to schedule an appointment. Please leave a message on days the clinic is closed. State your name, phone number, animal name and species as well as what kind of appointment is needed. The clinic will call you back with an appointment date and time.

Youth Services 363-8383

The youth basketball league kicks off tonight from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call the youth center to find out which teams are playing. The snack bar will also be open for all games.

The Teen Center will host a "Video Night" tonight from 8:30 to 10 p.m. The night is free to all members and $3 for non-members and is open to all teens, 13 to 18.

The next "Give Parents a Break" session is tomorrow from 1 to 6 p.m. at the youth center. The event is free for children of active duty military and civilians. Reservations should be made no later than today. Contact your commander, first sergeant, family support center or chaplain for a form. All children must also meet enrollment guidelines.

A Murder Mystery Night is tomorrow from 7 to 9:30 p.m. This event is for children, 5 to 12. The cost is $4 for members and $7 for nonmembers and includes snacks.

The teen center will host a "Teen Chatter Box" Jan. 20 from 7 to 8 p.m. The theme for this discussion is "Goals for 1999." The event is open to teens, 13 to 18 and is free for members and $3 for non-members.

A Polar Bear Plunge field trip to Cabrillo Beach departs the Youth Center Jan. 21 at 4 p.m. and returns by 5:30 p.m. Bring your bathing suits and a towel. This free event is for youth center members, 5 to 12. All participants will receive a survival certificate.

A "Back to the 50s" dance is Jan. 22 at the community center from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. for boys and girls, 5 to 8 and from 8:15 to 10 p.m. for youths, 9 to 14. The cost is $2 for members and $5 for nonmembers.

Child Development Center 363-8335

A free reading field trip to Borders bookstore from the Fort MacArthur Child Development Center is today from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Parents are invited to come along and may sign their children up with the classroom teachers. Permission slips are required.

The Fort MacArthur CDC will host a Create-A-Meal Luncheon Jan. 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Parents are invited to participate by submitting a recipe to create in their child's classroom. Dishes should be simple to make. Recipe ideas should be submitted to the classroom teachers by today.

The Fort MacArthur Child Development Center needs a new president to head up the Parent Advisory Board. All interested parents should call Delores Lowe or Gloria Aquilera at 363-8335 for details.

Family Child Care 363-8335

The Air Force provides free child development training for people interested in becoming a family child care provider. Licensing classes for new providers, and relicensing providers from prior bases are conducted on a quarterly basis. The next orientation classes are Feb. 22, 23. For more information, contact the family child care coordinator at 363-8335.

Thank you from Fort MacArthur CDC

Delores Lowe
Fort MacArthur Child Development Center Director

The Fort MacArthur Child Development Center will be submitting an application for re-accreditation in January.

We would like to thank all parents and staff for your continued support as our accreditation process involves the entire center.

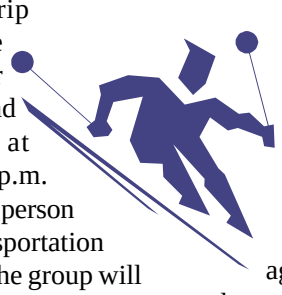
Many changes have already been made and will continue on an on-going basis. We ask for your patience as we purchase new equipment and materials to update our classrooms. In addition to new equipment, we will also be implementing a new curriculum in each room called the Marazon system. It is designed for babies to pre-teens age 12.

During the month of January, we are asking parents to come in and discuss this new program with your classroom teacher and find out how you as parents can best participate in this program. We have chosen this program because it focuses on the individual child and challenges the children with when and where they are going. The system focuses on the six domains of the child development: physical, cognitive, affective, social, creative and language areas. Most of all, the program promotes developmentally appropriate practices and teaches in a hands-on integrated learning environment.

Call 363-8335 for more information.

The Community Center 363-8225

The community center is taking a trip to Las Vegas Feb. 20 to 21. The trip departs the community center Feb. 20 at 7 a.m. and returns Feb. 21 at approximately 6 p.m. The cost is $41 per person and includes transportation and hotel room. The group will be staying at The Roadway Inn, located next to The MGM Grand. The price is based on double occupancy. The trip is for all military identification card holders and their guests, 18 and older.



Equipment Rental 363-2190

The base operates a family campground with 14 hardstand units with hookups for water and electricity. It is open year round and reservations are accepted. The camp is located two miles south of the base between Marine and Rosecrans avenues on Aviation Boulevard. The cost is $8 per day. Call to make a reservation.

The Equipment Rental Office offers the following ski equipment rentals:

- Skis are $5.
- Boots are $3.
- Poles are $3.
- Ski Rental Package, which consist of skis, boots and poles is $8.

Tickets & Information 363-2190

The Tickets and Information office has vouchers for lift tickets and skiing lessons for several ski and snowboard areas in California and Nevada.

Some ski resort areas have other options as well, such as cross-country skiing, sledding, inner-tubing and skateboarding areas. All resorts have rental equipment available. For specific details on each resort, call the resort directly or the Tickets and Information Office at 363-2190.

Auto Skills Center 363-1705

The Auto Skills Center's special for January is $10 off an engine tune up. Call 363-1705 to make an appointment.

The Area B car wash is open. The price is $1.50 for a wash and 25 cents for a vacuum. One of the two stalls is convenient for recreational vehicle washing. The car wash is located at Building 214, in front of the Auto Skills Center.

Numbers and hours of operation

Base Exchange	640-0129	Mon to Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Commissary	363-2767	Tue to Sat 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Shoppette	832-9611	Sun to Mon 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tue to Sat 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Class Six	322-7533	Tue to Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Gas Station	615-0295	Mon to Fri 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sat 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Youth Services	363-8383	Mon to Fri 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Pool		Closed; will reopen Memorial Day
Teen Center	363-8381	Tue to Thu 3 to 10 p.m. Fri to Sat 3 to 11 p.m.
CDC (Fort MacArthur)	363-8335	Mon to Fri 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
CDC (LAAFB)	363-1792	6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays
Equipment Rental	363-2081	Mon to Fri 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Auto Skills Center	363-1705	Tue to Thu 1 to 8 p.m. Fri to Sat 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Community Center	363-8225	Mon to Fri 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fitness Center (LAAFB)	363-6815	Mon to Fri 5 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. Sat and Sun 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Fitness Center (Fort MacArthur)	363-8361	Mon to Fri 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sat and Sun 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (
Tickets and Tours	363-2190	Mon to Fri 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Fort MacArthur Inn	363-8296	Mon to Fri 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sat and Sun 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Library	363-8265	Tue 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wed 3 to 7 p.m.
The Club	363-2230	Mon to Fri: Breakfast 6:30 to 9:30 a.m.; lunch 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; snacks 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; bar Fri 4 p.m. to 12 a.m.; office 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.