

Astro News

General Lyles heads to AFMC/CC post

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Officials at Air Force Materiel Command announced Feb. 18, that General George Babbitt, AFMC commander, will retire, and General Lester Lyles will assume command of AFMC in a ceremony planned for April 20 at the Air Force Museum.

General Babbitt has been AFMC commander since May 1997. He was commissioned in 1965 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Washington. He trained as an aircraft maintenance officer and served as officer-in-charge of fighter flight lines in the United States, the Pacific and Europe. He twice commanded aircraft maintenance squadrons and was deputy commander for maintenance of a European F-15 wing.

Prior to assuming command of AFMC, General Babbitt was director of the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Other assignments included deputy chief of staff for logistics, Headquarters U.S. Air Force; deputy director for materiel management, Defense Logistics Agency; director of supply, Headquarters U.S. Air Force; and director of logistics for both Headquarters Air Training Command and Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

General Lyles is currently serving as vice chief of staff of the Air Force in Washington, D.C. He began his Air Force career in 1968 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

He has served in a variety of assignments, including program element monitor of the Short-Range Attack Missile, Headquarters U.S. Air Force in 1974, and special assistant and aide-de-camp to the commander of Air Force Systems Command in 1978.

In 1981, he was assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base as Avionics Division chief in the F-16 Systems Program Office. He has served as director of tactical aircraft systems at AFSC headquarters and as director of



Photo by Teri Mathis

General Lester Lyles enjoys some traditional fare during the African-American Heritage celebration held here Feb. 11.

the Medium-Launch Vehicles Program and space-launch systems offices at the Space and Missile Systems Center. He became AFSC headquarters' assistant deputy chief of staff for requirements in 1989, and deputy chief of staff for requirements in 1990. In 1992, he became vice commander of Ogden Air Logistics Center, Hill AFB.

He served as commander of the Ogden ALC from 1993 until 1994, then was assigned to command the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base until 1996. The general became the director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization in the office of the Secretary of Defense in 1996.

Space systems benefit from balanced, harmonized budget

Lt. Col. Bob Potter
Public Affairs

The Air Force is focusing on today's key requirements while keeping an eye toward the future, said Gen. Lester Lyles, Air Force vice chief of staff, during a visit here recently.

Investments in space systems and science and technology research are on an upward trend according to the general in a Feb. 11 speech before more than 600 people gathered for the 50th annual National Defense Industrial Association dinner.

The general's remarks encompassed the

immediate past accomplishments of the evolving expeditionary aerospace force, weapons systems modernization, recruiting and retention and critical issues affecting the service's future.

According to General Lyles, there are a number of people, both in the government and in the civilian sector, who "think the Air Force is tactical aircraft oriented – that we only put money into platforms; that we don't put money into other things." He said Air Force leadership is "very concerned about turning that message around and changing that perception."

The Air Force's adaptive approach to its

budget is intended to send a clear signal that the service is serious about the necessary steps it must take to ensure its world pre-eminence well into the future.

"The message we want to send Congress is that we have a balanced and harmonized budget. What that means is we're not just putting money into things like the F-22, C-17, Joint Strike Fighter, CV-22, C-130J and ISR, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms or [unmanned aerial vehicles]. We're putting money into all those things and they're all very, very important. But we're also putting money into things like space," General Lyles said.

"Our investment in the next generation of space systems is one of the ways we are trying to address that particular misperception. We are now putting about 30 percent of our modernization budget into space systems. That's a steady upward trend from what it used to be over the last several years. Our key space programs are being fully funded as best we possibly can over the next several years, and we're trying to inject more space technologies research and development because we know

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Heritage observance encompasses all races, nationalities

General Lester Lyles

Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force

Editor's note: The following excerpts were taken from the general's African-American Heritage Month Observance Luncheon speech presented here Feb. 11.

One of the things I've discovered is that almost every year, I get the questions "Why do we have African-American Heritage celebration?" "Why is it so important?"

What brings it home and what is important to me is this celebration was essentially developed by Carter G. Woodson. This Harvard graduate was the author of Negro History Week—The Negro History Journal. He was the first one to chronicle what negro history—black history—is all about. What he started eventually evolved into Black History Month, and it became recognized nationally by President Jimmy Carter.

Growing up in Washington D.C., I attended Carter G. Woodson, Jr. High School. There was not a single textbook in that school that chronicled the history of Carter G. Woodson—even though the school was named after him. None of us had any way to find out about him—what did he lead? Why was he so important? Why was he such a historical figure? And why is he so significant to the African-American? This brought home to me what this month is about. It is making sure all of us understand, share in it and get educated about not just Carter G. Woodson, but many other people.

And as a result now of having Black History Month, everyone has begun to learn and understand the legacy that African-Americans have—the many historical figures we can look up to—names like Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, Ralph Bunch, Colin Powell, Martin Luther King, Thurgood Marshall—those are names all of us know today. We may not know their history or everything about their background, but we recognize their names and understand their significance. And this is all because of African-American Heritage Month.

As we look back on our history, we can all be proud, regardless of what our color, race or ethnic background is, because our history has given us dignity, it's given us heroes, it's given us role models and it's given us a rich legacy. I remember something I heard a couple of years ago—history should be looked at as a reference—not to be dwelled upon. We have to look to the future. And the future for us is the 21st century. And that happens to be the theme of this year's Black-History Month celebration. It is the African-American legacy and the challenges of the 21st Century. What are our challenges and how do we make sure we overcome them? I would like to highlight two of these challenges. One deals with the community at large and the other with the military.

When I say community at large, I'm talking about

all of us—it's not just the outside community for those of us in the military. We all live in the community, and we all have to deal with the community. And so things happening in the community impact and affect all of us. The biggest challenge I see here is how to keep our young men and women—our minority men and women—moving forward to new heroes, new role models, new mentors and giving them an opportunity to be heroes, role models and mentors themselves in the future. I think there are lots of things that need to be done to address that area, but one of the key things that is very, very important is to make sure we overcome the negative statistics that haunt our community and haunt our ethnic generation. Let me just mention some of them.

Homicide is now the leading cause of death among black youths between the ages of 15 and 19. A single parent is head-of-the-household in 62 percent of all black families—that's double the rate for white families and still 55 percent greater than for hispanics. Among adults, age 25 or older—about 76 percent of African-Americans have a high school diploma and 15 percent have bachelor's degrees or higher. In contrast, the numbers are 84 percent for whites and 25 percent with bachelor's degrees or higher. The medium weekly income for black men working full time is under \$500.—that's 77 percent lower than the average white male. And finally, black men remain the group with the lowest life expectancy. Even though born in 1996, black males are expected to live only to the age of 66. That's 17 years less than the average white male who will live to be 74, 75 or 76.

Those statistics should remind us all that we've done a lot, we've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. And one of the things I think is very important, particularly when we deal with our community to try to turn around some of those statistics, is making sure we have the right role models—the right heroes—the right kind of people for them to look up to. And it's not always just the famous people—it's not always the Martin Luther King's or the Colin Powell's—there are ordinary heroes, ordinary role models, and ordinary mentors that are available who can have a great impact on our lives.

To use a quote Martin Luther King used: "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michaelangelo painted or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry, he should sweep streets so well that all of heaven and earth will pause to say here lived a great street sweeper and did his job very, very well."

The second challenge I want to talk about is the military. We pride ourselves in the United States military, and in the Air Force particularly, for having overcome issues associated with racial discrimination. But we were all shocked this past fall when the Armed Forces Equal Opportunity Survey results came out. The survey was done a couple of years ago, and much to the chagrin of a lot of us including the Secretary of

Defense, Bill Cohen, it was held up because no one knew what to do with it. For two years, the results were not reviewed. When the results did come out, those results shocked people.

As an example, only 37 percent of African-Americans felt race relationships had improved in the military in the last five years. That means two-thirds of the people did, but still, 37 percent was higher than anyone thought was the situation. Less than two out of five African-Americans believe that to a large extent, race relations on their installations are good. Over three-quarters of African-Americans surveyed reported experiencing some kind of offensive encounter involving a DoD employee and involving racial slurs or something of that nature. Minority members are also more likely than whites to report being unfairly punished in whatever military community they are in.

These statistics tell us we have yet to achieve the goal of a discrimination-free military. And that is not lost with the leadership within the Pentagon. The Secretary of Defense stated in a November 1999 memo when he made sure these statistics and results got out to all the leadership in the Pentagon, "I am convinced this important survey can reform our actions as we work to improve our processes and improve our practices that are designed to ensure equal opportunity for, and fair treatment of, all men and women in uniform." His reaction, and the reaction of all the senior leadership in the Pentagon, has been very, very heartening to me, and they're now taking very positive action to make sure we turn around those statistics and make sure that equal opportunity—free of discrimination—is literally the standard everywhere in the military and that those surveys, if we do more of them in the future, will have drastically different results.

Let me go back very briefly to the theme for this year's celebration—African-American History Month—Year 2000—and the theme is The African-American Legacy and Challenges of the Twenty-First Century. As I look back on that theme, I think we can say yes, we can be extremely proud of our heritage, and we have many very positive legacies. And yet, we have challenges—challenges we still need to overcome. I am positive with the kind of attitude people have, by the kind of attention that all of you have, I know we can overcome the challenges in our community, and we can overcome the challenges in our military that we're all so very, very proud of.

Let me close with a quote made by a good friend of mine who is a minority—he is a Cuban-American—his name is retired Major General Carlos Perez. He made a statement to me I will never forget. "No minorities—none of us—are about taking over anything. All we ever wanted was just a chance—a fair chance." And to me, that sums it up. That's what our major challenge is for the 21st century—always make sure whatever we're doing, wherever we're going, whatever we're involved in, that we give everyone just a fair and equal chance.

Astro News

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Commander's call: An important part of communication

Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini
SMC Commander

The Air Force considers no leadership function more important than keeping it's people informed and involved through direct personal interaction. This March, I plan on holding a series of commander's calls to ensure we have the opportunity to adequately address some of the important issues we are currently facing in today's Air Force and specifically, at SMC. These commander's calls are intended to develop and enhance both our unit's cohesion and commitment. This particular forum will give me the opportunity to cover some of our more recent activities and achievements while proposing some of our goals and visions we have for the new year.

My experience tells me that the primary and perhaps only job as a commander is to create an environment that allows people to perform at their absolute best. I firmly believe that regular commander's calls are an important catalyst in creating a motivating atmosphere for our personnel to perform. They should also provide

more of the "big picture" philosophy and direction of the service. More importantly, these calls offer an forum for two-way communication between a commander and his or her people. Not only is it important for me as a commander to have an opportunity to express my own personal leadership philosophies, it gives me a chance to take the pulse of our talented organization.

The Air Force, at all levels, is experiencing an assortment of changes -- some deliberate and some unanticipated. I'm sure you are aware of some of these initiatives. Each of these challenges have the potential to directly affect us here in Los Angeles and I understand there may be some trepidation on how we approach these challenges. Promotion opportunities personnel retention, new TDY policies, assignment procedures, and acquisition reform are just a sample of topics I know people would like to hear my perspective.

You may notice on the attached schedule that we are holding several rank and grade specific sessions. This particular forum will help us address topics appropriate for each of the categories. I expect each session will provide an opportunity for a thorough question-and-answer time.

swer time.

We have a lot to be proud of at SMC and, indeed, we are still the center of space systems development for the Air Force. A great deal of our nation's tremendous space capabilities came directly out of our own program offices. As the Air Force transitions to the Air Expeditionary Forces concept for the new century, our challenge is clear: to continue to live up to our core values and carry out the duties and responsibilities laid out by our leadership. I salute your superb performance, which exemplifies our core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do, and I know our center's momentum and potential will lay the foundation for the next era of space development. Our nation's security is dependant on it. SMC's ability to mature as an organization is only made possible by the dedication and quality of the men and women who proudly serve here, and I encourage each of you to actively participate in these important commander's calls.

Again, congratulations on making 1999 a success, and I look forward to working with each of you as we forge the shape of military space for the 21st century.

Commentary: New Air Force symbol explained

Col. Ron Rand
Director of Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Four weeks ago, U.S. Air Force Online News carried a story about the development and testing of a new Air Force symbol and theme. Although a final decision on the symbol is pending, the secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief of staff are aware of the keen interest throughout the force in its ultimate shape, design and meaning. They also want all members of the Air Force family to understand the motivation behind the development of a new and unifying symbol and theme to represent Air Force people and all the important things they do for our nation.

This initiative is not about changing or re-inventing the Air Force. It's about ensuring our own people and the public we

serve have a clear, consistent understanding of who we are and the value we provide our nation. Because change always causes turbulence, we expect and welcome criticism and advice. To date, we've received input from all parts of the Air Force family and the general public — 10,000 people and counting!

Following is an explanation of what it means, as well as a site to provide feedback.

The U.S. Air Force symbol honors the heritage of our past and represents the promise of our future. It retains the core elements of our Air Corps heritage — the "Arnold" wings and star with circle — and modernizes them to reflect

our aerospace force of today and tomorrow. The symbol has two main parts. In the upper half, the stylized wings represent the stripes of our strength — the enlisted men and women of our force. They have been drawn with great angularity to emphasize our swiftness and power, and they are divided into six sections which represent our core competencies — aerospace superiority, global attack, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority, and agile combat support.

In the lower half there are a sphere, a star and three diamonds. The sphere within the star represents the globe. It reminds us of our obligation to secure

our nation's freedom with Global Vigilance, Reach and Power. The globe also reminds us of our challenge as an expeditionary force to respond rapidly to crises and to provide decisive aerospace power, worldwide.

The area surrounding the sphere takes the shape of a star. The star has many meanings. Its five points represent the components of our one force and family — our active duty, civilians, Guard, Reserve and retirees. The star symbolizes space as the high ground of our nation's aerospace force. The rallying symbol in all our wars, the star also represents our officer corps, central to our combat leadership.

The star has been framed with three diamonds, which represent our core values — integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. The elements come together to form one symbol that presents two powerful images — at once it is an eagle, the emblem of our nation, and a medal, representing valor in service to our nation.



U.S. AIR FORCE

Action Line 363-2255

The Action Line is your direct link to **Col. David E. Price**, 61st Air Base Group commander.



Its purpose is to make Los Angeles AFB 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.

Below is a list of people who can do just that:

- Base Exchange David Clore 640-0129
- Base IG Dorothy Brown 363-0802
- Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Garvey 363-1956

- Family Support Center Tom Sanders 363-5365
- Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline 363-2020
- Housing James Wirrie 363-8340
- Logistics Capt. George Unsinger 363-0351
- Medical Lt. Col. Mark Wisniewski 363-5005
- Mission Support Lt. Col. Maureen Hurley 363-1230
- Security Forces Maj. Larry Bartlett 363-0032
- Services Gary Van Dusen 363-0430
- Military Equal Opportunity Office Capt. Lisa Day 363-2806
- TRICARE 363-0261
- 24-hour Crime Stop 363-2124

- Legal Office Col. Scott Bagley 363-0916
- Area Defense Counsel Capt. Art Kirkpatrick 363-6776

Try your supervisor, first sergeant or commander. If you are not able 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.

News Briefs

AFMC/AFGE bargaining unit expands

Implementation of the provisions of the Master Labor Agreement occurred Jan. 31. As a result, negotiations have provided for immediate implementation of certain provisions dealing with representational time and the number of training days available for designated union representatives. Full implementation of the MLA provides specific authority for local negotiations concerning Alternative Dispute Resolution in resolving grievances.

"With the full implementation of the MLA, the immediate task was to provide appropriate contract training to supervisors and managers," said Ron Guillen, Chief, Workforce Effectiveness, Civilian Personnel Office. This was accomplished right after the first of the year for commanders and directors, and more detailed training will be provided to supervisors scheduled for late February through March.

"One of the major changes affecting Los Angeles AFB employees is the two-step grievance system from the four step process. This, in conjunction with Alternative Dispute Resolution, should expedite resolutions," said Guillen.

"Although we are under the MLA, AFGE Local 2429 will still be able to negotiate their collective bargaining agreement as a supplement to the MLA, only to the extent the local agreements are not inconsistent with, or do not conflict with, the MLA," said Debra Block, Acting President, AFGE Local 2429. "We have enjoyed a great partnership agreement with Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini, SMC commander, and his management team, and look forward to continuing these endeavors. All employees are encouraged to call me at 363-2104 if they have any questions concerning these agreements."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Gomez

Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini, SMC commander, and Sheila Hamilton tack master sergeant stripes on an elated Martin Hamilton, 61st Communication Squadron during his STEP promotion ceremony.

NCO STEPs into advance rank

A noncommissioned officer assigned here received an immediate promotion to master sergeant under the stripes for exceptional performer program Feb. 11.

Martin Hamilton, 61st Communications Squadron, multimedia support flight noncommissioned officer-in-charge, received the advanced rank through the program, which identifies exceptional individuals for instant promotion.

"Master Sergeant Hamilton embodies the core values that help make SMC the center for space excellence,"

said Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini, SMC commander. "His constant professionalism, outstanding service record and continual commitment to our mission stand as an example to all of us here at Los Angeles Air Force Base."

Hamilton's recent accomplishments includes quarterly and annual awards, involvement in numerous enlisted and community programs.

"It hit me when I was standing at Kelly Air Force Base during retreat during a TDY," said Hamilton. "I felt honored that (Lt.) General Tattini gave me this opportunity."

New VISA travel card policy takes effect March 1

Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — DOD policy is being finalized which will mandate federal employees, including military members, no longer use their personal credit charge cards for authorized expenses while on official government travel.

Use of the government Visa travel card by all federal employees becomes mandatory March 1, according to revised policies dictated by the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998.

"The policy has not been formally signed out, but it's important to get as much information out as possible. We want to provide our people in the field with the latest information we have," said Michael Weber, card coordinator for the Air Force.

The act created the requirement to enable the government to take advantage of rebates from charge card companies, and to help track travel expenditures, Air Force officials said.

Defense Department employees will be required to use the government travel card primarily for hotel costs, car rentals and air travel.

"These services were selected because all major airlines, hotels and car rental companies will accept the government travel card," said Weber.

"It may be difficult to use the card at some of the smaller merchant stores. For that reason, card use is not required for such expenses as restaurant meals and other miscellaneous items," he said.

The government gets a rebate based on the amount of charges against the card. "That rebate is used by (the Government Services Agency) for manning the program," Weber said, "and the (Air Force portion) of the rebate is given to each major command to be put in its travel budget."

Despite the convenience of using the government Visa card, its mandatory use has evoked some criticism. Questions have been asked about the charging of interest rates on overdue balances, especially on long deployments.

"By contract, the bank can't charge interest on overdue balances," Weber said. "That's why we don't call it a credit card — it's a travel card. With a credit card, if you don't pay your balance, interest automatically accrues. The travel card doesn't have that. After 120 days, you would be charged a \$20 late fee, but that's way late in the process."

Base finance offices have two ways of handling the financial interests of those deployed for longer than 60 days. They can either issue an advance up front for the entire amount entitled for that deployment, or they can send a monthly entitlement to the deployed person's checking account — making the money available to pay off the travel card's balances.

"You have to take some responsibility by planning in advance to make sure this card is paid along with your other personal financial responsibilities, such as rent or car payments," Weber said. "You can always call the 1-800 number on the back of the card and ask the bank how much you owe; or you could save your receipts,

total them up and send the payment in."

Failure to pay the bill in a timely manner can affect credit ratings. When applying for the travel card, service members are given some measure of privacy regarding their credit history. If objections are made to credit inquiries, simply check the block denying access to credit history on the application, and a restricted, limited card will be issued.

The restricted card — which looks like the standard version — must be activated by a designated member of the traveler's unit, and it carries a lower spending limit. If the bank is allowed to perform a credit check, the member's credit history will show only that the bank has looked, no other information — such as dollar values — will be posted, Air Force officials said.

Other concerns regarding use of the card center around privacy issues on spending habits.

"Some people are concerned about privacy, or giving their Social Security number," Weber said. "Bank of America, by contract, is not allowed to use any personal financial data except to administer the contract. The bank does not inform the Air Force of an individual's financial credit record."

Servicemember's Group Life Insurance: Is it for me?

Dina Williams
61st Mission Support Squadron

Editor's note: The following information is provided to help our readers understand the benefits of servicemember's group life insurance.

The principal role of servicemember's group life insurance is to ease the financial burden imposed on survivors when a member dies before achieving the financial strength needed to cover the expenses associated with death. The loss of income places a severe hardship on those financially dependent on the member. Even if a spouse works outside the home, the loss of an income is felt immediately. What was once a two-income family now becomes a one-income family with all the responsibilities being borne by the surviv-

ing spouse. The loss of income will certainly impose a standard of living far different to what they are accustomed.

A member who is unmarried may not feel the need to provide financial assistance to the parents because he/she feels the parents are financially secure. However, those parents will incur some expenses associated with the member's death.

SGLI is not expensive. The monthly contribution by members on active duty is 80 cents per \$10,000. That means that for the full amount of coverage, \$200,000, the amount deducted from the member's pay is only \$16. While the most popular enrollment amount is the full \$200,000, members may elect amounts from \$10,000 and upwards in \$10,000 increments.



When opting for an alternate insurance, members should learn all they can about the insurance they choose. Some have a

two-year contestability period and if the death occurs during this period, the insurance payment can be held up pending receipt of numerous documents. Obtaining documents such as police reports, autopsy reports, articles about the incident from newspapers, names and address of all doctors who treated the insured for

the past five years, and names of hospitals where the member was treated is often difficult and certainly time consuming.

SGLI premiums are the same for everyone, regardless of the risk factors involved and there is no clause for wartime deaths. Some private policies may not pay

in the event of a war casualty or if there is no war clause. The company may not have the financial resources to pay if war casualties are high. SGLI would receive Defense money to pay for any extra deaths resulting from wartime.

SGLI offers prompt settlement with easy and immediate access to the funds. An interest-bearing Prudential Alliance Account is opened in the beneficiary's name and the beneficiary can withdraw all or part of the proceeds immediately. If the beneficiary chooses, the funds can be left in the account to earn interest from the date the Alliance Account is opened.

Another important benefit of SGLI is the ability to convert to Veterans' Group Life Insurance after leaving the military.

Visit the Military Personnel Flight Customer Service Element to review your insurance coverage. For more information, call Dina Williams at 363-1234.

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that it is vitally important for the future of the United States Air Force," he said.

To institutionalize the necessary aerospace mindset to propel the service into the future, the general explained the service, in some respects, is "going back to the basics of ABC. But in this case, the ABCs aren't the building blocks – ABC stands for Aerospace Basic Course," the general said. "We are teaching our young people from airmen to officers that air and space are vitally important together.

"We're going to expand aerospace education. We're going to make sure that career paths for our people are developed so they get air and space expertise across the board. We're serious about ensuring aerospace is the true lexicon for the United States Air Force," said the general.

Aligned with this fundamental shift in institutionalizing the aerospace force mindset is the need to identify the message the service must broadcast to the American public in light of a serious decline in recruiting and retention.

"We're having a heck of a time recruiting people the way we did in the past. The civil sector economy is very robust, and that's great. There are other opportunities out there for people, and that's great also. But it's making it increasingly difficult for us to bring in the kind of people, the kind of talent we need for our [service] today, and certainly for the United States Air Force of the future," General Lyles said. "We missed our recruiting goals last year by some 1,700 airmen, and we're already behind by that amount this year and we're just into the first quarter."

The Air Force has launched an aggressive recruiting and retention program to attract quality people to the Air Force and convince those already serving to stay for a career.

"We're investing millions of dollars in recruiting and retention," the general said. Before and including 1998, there was no need for an Air Force advertising budget aimed at recruiting. However, "last year, we put \$78 million in advertising and we're going to have about \$60 million every year from now on to try to get the message across and to try to get people to understand the importance, the vitality, the greatness of the United States Air Force in order to get people to come into our great ranks," General Lyles said.

Additionally, the "We Are All Recruiters" program is being highlighted. "What we want people to do is to help us get the message out and not just depend upon the recruiting force, but to have everyone available out there to tell the story of how vitally important it is to serve our country in some capacity, and also the great opportunities we have in

General kicks off AFAF drive ...



Photo by John Bohon

Lieutenant General Eugene Tattini, Space and Missile Systems Center commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Don Cleveland, SMC command chief master sergeant, make SMC's first Air Force Assistance Fund donations for the 2000 campaign to Capt. Tony Hopkins, AFAF installation project officer. The campaign begins Monday and runs through March 31.

the United States Air Force," the general said.

On an ancillary subject, the vice chief of staff vocalized the concerns of Air Force leadership about historical decline in science and technology budgets. "I don't have to tell anyone in this audience that S&T over the last several years has been a victim, if you will, to having to pay other bills," he said. "In 1977, when Dr. (William) Perry was undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, the Air Force devoted over 2.5 percent of our top line to science and technology. When Dr. Perry left the Department in 1997 from the SecDef position, that number had fallen to 1.7 percent.

"In our current budget – the one we are operating in this year – our science and technology budget is only 1.5 percent of our top line. That's a 40-percent decrease from what Dr. Perry remembered when he was in his particular job," he said.

General Lyles expressed some optimism that the S&T budget trends begun to show signs of reversal and "for the 2001 budget, we hopefully have a science and technology budget that is now going up 2 percent of our top line – still not where we need it to be; still not the 2.5 percent or higher that we would like to have – but at least we now think we're on an upward trend."

SMC Annual Award winners

Editor's Note: The following information on each award winner was taken from their nomination package.

Company Grade Officer of the Year: **First Lt. Christopher Burner**

from Detachment 9 at Vandenberg AFB was the launch readiness manager for the inaugural launch of NASA's earth-observing satellite from an Atlas II booster from VAFB and the lead engineer for the \$250-million site development for the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle. In addition, Burner was the detachment's Combined Federal Campaign officer and a unit tax advisor. When he was off duty, Burner actively supported the local Meals on Wheels and Habitat for Humanity chapters.



Burner

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: **Master Sgt. Mark Hall**

from the Airborne Laser program office proved himself as an exceptional leader and manager by saving the ABL nearly \$70 million in immediate and long-term costs. Hall defined the program's initial baseline and laid the groundwork for the paperless acquisition of seven ABLs. His leadership abilities resulted in a periodic maintenance schedule that increased projected combat capability by 40 percent and a program critical for certifying the ABL's airworthiness.



Hall

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: **Tech Sgt. John Goodson**

from Detachment 9 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, implemented an Atlas II contractor/government emergency notification plan allowing technical experts to quickly field questions with minimal consultation. He also researched construction permit requirements that saved \$19,000 and avoided a 3-week launch slip. He instituted a cross-utilization of corrosion-control resources at a savings of \$500,000 and 15,000 manhours. He also developed cost and benefit analyses of facility upgrade proposals saving \$418,000, a 50 percent decrease.



Goodson

Airman of the Year: **Senior Airman Emuir Arceo**

from the 61st Communications Squadron, is the information management specialist for the squadron commander. Although a recent cross-trainee, he quickly assumed and became proficient in the squadron's most significant administrative programs, including OPR/EPRs, performance feedback, awards and decorations and the suspense system. Arceo's professional attitude and dedication made him a natural choice as a dignitary aide for five generals, including the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to assist the SMC commander at enlisted promotion ceremonies.



Arceo

First Sergeant of the Year: **Master Sgt. Harry Seballos**

from the 61st Mission Support Squadron took quick action and provided assistance to airmen in situations such as the death of a spouse, drug abuse and domestic violence. As vice president of the Top 3, he raised \$3,800 to assist airmen in need and recognition programs. He also earned his second Community College of the Air Force degree in Personnel Administration. In the community, Seballos distributed Thanksgiving baskets to 20 airmen and helped pass out Christmas toys to more than 1,000 children.



Seballos

Individual Mobilization Augmentee of the Year: **Lt. Col. John Capulli**

from the developmental planning directorate's plans and analysis division identified commercial alternatives for future military satellite communications programs at a potential saving of \$500, reduced up-front acquisition costs by 50 percent and saved more than 35 percent on current services procurements costs. He also spearheaded the directorate's IMA utilization program, resulting in maximum augmentee effectiveness. Capulli's community outreach efforts emphasize children, where he tutors math and science and teaches at the Southern Poverty Law Center.



Capulli

Mid-Level Civilian of the Year: **Bobbie Blount**

from the Airborne Laser program office was the SMC recipient of the Secretary of the Air Force Professionalism in Contracting award who led the Air Force/contractor integrated product team through a \$1.3 billion contract restructure by significantly decreasing cycle times and establishing an aggressive program restructuring schedule, resulting in contract modifications ready for award in 42 days. Blount's community involvement includes volunteering at the local homeless shelter and helping to plan Albuquerque's annual "Juneteenth" celebration.



Blount

Junior-level Civilian of the Year: **Susan Moore**

from the testing and evaluation directorate played a crucial role in the success of the directorate's Y2K preparations by testing and ensuring 100 percent compliance of all hardware and software. She also decreased costs of infrastructure support items by \$45,000 and established a resource center for computer hardware and software with projected savings of \$100,000. In her spare time, Moore volunteers at the Albuquerque Women's Shelter for Battered Women and the Rio Grande Nature Society.



Moore

Administrative Support-level Civilian of the Year: **Rasheedah Young**

is an office automation clerk in the plans and programs directorate who played a significant role in reducing the processing time of more than 5,000 documents, including staff packages, officer and enlisted performance reports and decorations by 25 percent. She also played a key role in the successful transition of responsibilities from the commander's action group to the information management section. In her spare time, Young tutors Compton Community College students in math and English, supports breast cancer awareness and research and several local churches and charities.



Young

Congratulations

AF Aide offers 'Bundles for Babies' seminar

Schirete Zick
Public Affairs

The next Bundles for Babies will be March 8 in Building 219, room 1507.

The two-hour family support center's program seminar, for active-duty expectant parents and parents of babies up to three months old, offers parents a foundation to build parenting skills.

"The seminar is interesting and beneficial to both parents. We discuss issues such as bonding and some very interesting facts about the babies. For instance, the baby recognizes its mother's voice even before birth," said Ruth Rosewitz, family support center's personal financial management program manager. "In the second hour, we go into financial preparation and balancing career with parenthood. I let mothers who already have a child and are expecting another share their experiences with those who are having their first child. It's more valuable coming from a military mother than a book or video."

At the conclusion of the seminar, participants receive a bundle of baby items that includes a blanket, a crib sheet, a

hooded towel, wash mitts, print diapers, sleep and play outfits, a stuffed animal with the Air Force Aid Society logo, a book discussing the baby's first year and the best seller *What to Expect When You're Expecting*.

If moms cannot make it, Rosewitz encourages dads to attend.

"I decided to go because I'm a first time father trying to learn as much as possible about parenting and anything that can help me become a better father," said Capt. Dave Spencer, SMC defense meteorological satellite program office, whose wife is expecting in June. "It gave me good information on the amount of money you need to set aside, what items you must have and those you don't need, and you get a great package for the baby at the end."

Technical Sgt. Michael Fox, Family Support Center, is another father that has attended the program.

"I wanted to learn about what to expect financially. For example, if one child costs \$200, how much does two children cost," said Fox. "Well, I learned that certain expenses didn't have to be repeated."

Another portion of the seminar ad-



Photo by Lou Hernandez

Family support center offers the above products to all attendees.

dresses time management.

"I thought I'd have four hours after I came home, but after spending three hours washing bottles and preparing formula, you have one hour to yourself. The program makes you aware of that, and by being aware, you become better prepared," Fox said.

Although the program is available to Air Force people, the Family Support Center has come to an agreement with

the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society to honor certificates issued by the center.

"Navy and Marine Corps members who attend can mail the certificate to Camp Pendleton and receive the Navy equivalent to the bundle," said Rosewitz.

The first program took place in February 1998. Since then, 78 people have attended. After this seminar, the next one will take place in July.

Blotter: Possession of drugs, thefts top base police responses

The following police activity information is from Feb. 5 to 11. All information was provided by the 61st Security Forces Squadron resource protection section.

Possession of cocaine

A wife of an Air Force member and her guest were detained for suspicious activity and possible intoxication at the Fort MacArthur 30th Street Gate. While conducting a check of the guest, security forces personnel found what appeared to be rock cocaine in the guest's handbag. The guest immediately fled on foot from the gate to an unknown off-base location, but was identified by his company identification card. The wife was later released to her husbands' supervisor. The Los Angeles City Police Department was notified. The incident is under investigation.

Government property theft

An Air Force employee reported the theft of a laptop computer, valued at \$4,150, from a government vehicle while at an off-base location in the city of Los Angeles. The incident is under investigation.

Shoplifting

A wife of an Army member, the daughter of a retired Coast Guard member and a wife of a retired Army member were detained for shoplifting on three different occasions at the base exchange. Security forces and El Segundo City Police responded to all three incidents. All individuals were issued suspension-of-base-exchange-and-commissary-

privileges letters, had their identification cards confiscated and were issued citations for petty theft.

Vehicle theft

A Civil Engineering employee reported a Cushman Electric Cart he was assigned had been taken by two teenagers at Fort MacArthur. The vehicle was later located parked adjacent to the teen center. The employee identified the teenagers who were inside the teen center. The teenagers were identified as sons of Air Force members. They were detained, charged with theft of a vehicle and released to their sponsors.

Medical emergency

An Air Force member reported her husband was experiencing a seizure at their Fort MacArthur residence. Security forces and Los Angeles City Fire Department paramedics responded. The husband was stabilized and transported to the San Pedro Peninsula Hospital for further treatment and observation.

Fraudulent California identification card

A civilian contract employee was detained in the Building 110 lobby for possessing a fraudulent California identification card while trying to gain access into the Area A Mall. The entry controller discovered the fake identification card and detained the individual. The individual was later escorted off the installation by security forces and released. The incident is under investigation.

Los Angeles AFB hosts teens

The third annual "Teens at the Table 2000" conference was held at the Fort MacArthur Community Center Feb. 17.

The 300 high school teens gathered to hear keynote speaker and facilitator Craig Zablocki talk on "Taking Your Dreams Seriously and Taking Yourself Lightly." The day's agenda included general sessions and workshops centered around "gathering at the table" to share concerns and explore effective processes in dealing with life in today's world.

Colonel David Price, 61st Air Base Group commander, provided welcoming remarks to the teens and stressed the importance of the teens from various schools in the San Pedro area coming together and communicating with each other on various teen issues.

In addition, the teens attended various workshop sessions. Areas of interest included topics on relationships and self-esteem.

Chamber President Mike Molina applauded the conference. "The San Pedro Chamber of Commerce is proud to play a role in the annual Teen Conference. The work of the Education Committee has brought about an increased awareness of the business community's responsibility to our young people. Through the teen conference and other opportunities for interaction with our youth, we are reminded of the special role youth play in our business life."

Sports Shorts

Weight lift competition

A bench press competition is March 22. Weigh-in is from 10 to 11:15 a.m. The competition starts at 11:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded for all individual winners. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ramos at 363-6816.

One-on-One Basketball

A One-on-One basketball tournament will be held from March 27 to March 31, based on the number of participants, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up at the fitness center or call Staff Sgt. Ramos at 363-6816.

Bowling

One woman and four men are needed for the AFMC All Star Bowling Tournament March 26 to 31 at Tinker AFB. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Gordovez at 363-6816.

Volleyball

The fitness center needs volleyball players and coaches for the AFMC All Star Tournament. The men's team is going to Hill AFB, Utah, April 19 to 25. The women's team is going to Brooks AFB, Texas, May 10 to 16. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ramos at 363-6816.

Softball

Players and coaches are needed for the AFMC All Star Softball Tournament. The men's team is going to Eglin AFB, Fla., July 5 to 11. The women's team is going to Robins AFB, Ga., July 26 to Aug. 1.

Watch and run...



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Gomez

A runner at the El Segundo Fitness Center listens to music from the new cardiovascular theater system while running on the treadmill. The system, which cost \$12,000, provides four television channels and three radio stations for each cardiovascular machine in the fitness center. Headphones are required to listen. Individuals can purchase headphones from the fitness center for \$5 or bring their own.

Volunteers needed

The Southern California Invitational Drill Meet needs military members to be line judges March 4 at Huntington Beach from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The annual event highlights junior and senior ROTC units from across the country competing for a sweepstakes trophy. For more information, call Cadet Dan Wallick at 213-740-1880.

Presidential Honor Guard scheduled to perform

The Presidential Honor Guard Exhibition Drill Team is scheduled to perform at the Southern California Invitational Drill Meet in Huntington Beach, March 4. Admission is free. For more information, call Cadet Dan Wallick at 213-740-1880.

Report writing workshop

An enlisted performance report and performance feedback workshop is March 3 in Building 219, Rooms 1440 C&D from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Chief Master Sgt. Don Cleveland, SMC command chief master sergeant will provide insight and key information on the mechanics of writing a good EPR and how to conduct an effective performance feedback. This forum is open to all military and civilian personnel. To sign up, e-mail or call Senior Airman Christopher McGiveney at 363-1357.

Home buyers seminar

The base housing office is sponsoring a home buyers seminar on Friday in the Southwest Room of the Fort

MacArthur Community Center from 7 to 9 p.m. The seminar speaker, Bruce Mulhearn, will discuss a variety of topics on how to become a home owner. Mulhearn will also provide a free credit check and loan qualification certificate. Real estate and loan associates will answer any questions. For more information or to reserve a place for the seminar, call Gloria Paulfrey at 363-8397.

Vehicle registration change

California law now allows spouses of nonresident military members to have their vehicles registered in states other than California. Previously, the nonresident military member had to be the owner or co-owner of the vehicle in order for the vehicle to be exempt from registration in California. For more information, call 1-800-777-0133.

Scholarships available

The Los Angeles AFB officers' spouses club is accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors who are military or DoD civilian dependents. Application deadline is March 1. For more information, call Kathy Hall at 514-8369.

Space Power Workshop

The 18th annual Space Power Workshop is April 10 to 13 at the Torrance Marriott Hotel. Registration is \$150 before March 17 and \$200 thereafter. For more information, call Jackie Amazaki at 336-4073 or visit www.aero.org/conferences/power.

Fort MacArthur Clinic hours

Primary care

Mondays 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday - Fridays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturdays - Acute Care with Primary Care Provider
8 a.m. to noon

Sick Call

Mondays walk-in 7 to 7:30 a.m., 1 to 1:30 p.m.

Tuesdays - Fridays appointment only, call 363-8307

Pediatric

Mondays - Fridays 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Important telephone numbers:

Front desk: 363-8330

Appointment desk: 363-8291 and 363-8292

Pharmacy: 363-8301

Laboratory: 363-8302

Bone marrow donor registration

Los Angeles AFB is sponsoring a bone marrow drive Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Club's Daedalian Room. A complete explanation of the program will be provided. Enrollment is voluntary. There is no cost or fee for enrollment. Donors must be an active-duty military member, Department of Defense civil service employee, member of the coast guard, reserve or national guard components of the United States Armed Forces. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Barbara Baker at 363-2244.

The Club 363-2230

A Saint Patrick's Day membership appreciation party is March 17 in the ballroom from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for members and their authorized guests. There will be prizes and giveaways and free Irish food. A disc jockey will play music and special Irish drinks will be available.

A picnic lunch will be served March 21 in the Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for members and their guests. The menu will feature chicken, potato salad, other salads, fruit and brownies. The price is \$5.95 per person.

Swing dance lessons are March 17 and 31 in the Atrium room at 4:30 p.m. Alli-Kat Kalli and Jeter-Bug will demonstrate and give free lessons

The bar is open Fridays at 4 p.m. Free snacks are available to club members. The disc jockey starts playing at 5 p.m.

Vet Clinic 363-8269

The Vet is scheduled to be in Friday and March 17. Call 363-8269 for an appointment. Messages may be left on the answering machine when the clinic is closed. Please state name, phone number, animal's name and species as well as

what kind of appointment is needed. The clinic will call you back with an appointment.

The Vet Clinic accepts VISA and MasterCard.

Barber Shop 363-1733

The shop's hours are Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Building 120.

Youth Services 363-8383

A T-Ball clinic is March 18. It runs from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 4 and 5, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 6-8, and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for ages 9-11. For more information, call Ronnie Wade at 363-8381.

The next Parents Night Out is March 17 in building 425 from 7 to 10 p.m. This event is for children 5 years of age (in kindergarten) through 12 years of age (in grade school). The cost is \$7 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Sign up by March 13.

Give parents a break is March 18 from 1 to 6 p.m. This activity is free. Contact your first sergeant, chaplain, youth flight director or commander for the criteria. Sign up by March 13.

Ronald McDonald Fun Run is May 21. No age requirement. All proceeds support Camp Ronald McDonald. Entry fees are \$15 per runner prior to April 28, \$20 after April 29. Sign up by April 24.

A spring fashion show is March 24 beginning at 7 p.m. at the community center. Kids of all ages can participate. Sign up at the youth center by March 10.

Family movie night is March 10 at the community center. The movie will be announced later. The snack bar will be open to purchase your snacks. The movie begins at 7 p.m. and is free.

The next teen chatter box is Friday at 6:30 p.m. and the teen council meets at 7:30 p.m.

Street Hockey begins March 25 at the teen center parking lot at 2 p.m.

Movie, pizza and float night is March 31 from 7 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$3

Youth activities is looking for instructors to teach ballet, tap, gymnastics and piano. For more information, call Rebecca Burns at 363-8381.

Youth activities are open to DoD civil-

ian employee's family members. For more information, call 363-8564 or -8402.

Los Angeles AFB Performing Arts Troupe--Want to develop your artistic side? Whether you are, or want to be, an actor, dancer, singer, artist, seamstress, director, choreographer, carpenter, lighting technician ,or stage mom/dad, sign up now.

Parents looking for a teen sitter can call the Teen Scene for the list of those that completed the "Teen for Tots" babysitting program.

Child Development Center 363-8335

The El Segundo CDC annual parent and teacher conferences are scheduled for March 7 to 10. Parents should sign up for individual times with the teachers.

The Fort MacArthur CDC Room 2 and 4 will go see Charlotte Diamond in concert Wednesday. The bus will leave at 8:30 a.m. and return at 2 p.m. The cost of the ticket will be \$5.50. Please sign permission slips in class.

Continued on Page 14

The Fort MacArthur CDC will create a quilt to hang in the lobby the week of March 13. The center needs spare material or fabric and any volunteers who would be willing to help sew the quilt. For more information, call 363-8335.

The Fort MacArthur CDC parent and teacher conferences are March 20 to 24. A sign-up sheet will be available in each classroom.

Family Child Care 833-8334

The next family child care orientation is March 14 to 16. For more information, call Nancy Feist at 363-8335.

The Community Center 363-8225

The community center takes a trip to the Staples Center to see the LA Lakers play the Miami Heat March 5. The trip leaves the community center at 1:45 p.m. and returns after the game. The cost is \$27 per person and includes ticket and transportation. This trip is open to all identification cardholders and their guests. Sign-up deadline is Friday. Payment is due at time of reservation.

A trip to see the Price Is Right is March 13. The bus departs at 11:15 a.m. from the community center and returns at 6 p.m. Sign-up by March 9. The trip costs \$6 per person. Two forms of identification are required to be admitted in the show.

A trip to see the Jamie Fox Show is March 14. The

cost is \$2 for transportation. The bus leaves the community center at 3:15 p.m. and returns at 8:30 p.m. This tour is for identification cardholders and their guests 16 years of age and older. Sign up by March 9.

The community center hosts "Mommy and Me" March 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This session is free. Moms (and Dads too) come on out with your toddlers for a morning of exercise and fun.

Family Bingo Night at the community center is March 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is 25 cents a game with a total of 10 games being played. Play Bingo for prizes, buy dinner from our snack bar.

The community center takes a trip to the Staples Center to see the LA Lakers play the Philadelphia 76ers March 31. The bus leaves the community center at 5:45 p.m. and returns after the game. The cost is \$27 per person and includes ticket and transportation. This trip is open to all identification cardholders and their guests. Sign up by March 30. Payment is due at time of reservation.

Fort Mac Hall 363-8412

Game night is March 7 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Building 425. The night is free and open to all identification cardholders ages 18 and over and their guests. Several board games as well as cards will be available or bring your own.

Outdoor Rec

A bike trip is March 4 at 10 a.m. beginning at the community center. The cost is \$5 if with a bike and \$12 with a bike rental. Rent the bike from Equipment Rental in El Segundo and they will transport it to the community center.

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.

Note: Some ski resort areas have options such as cross-country skiing, sledding, inner-tubing and even skateboarding areas. Equipment can be rented from the base equipment rental office or ski resorts.

Lift tickets for Big Bear \$27.50, Snow Summit \$31, Snow Valley \$28, Mammoth \$45 and Mountain High \$27.

A snow board package is \$8 and includes boots and board.

Auto Skills Center 363-1705

The March special is a tune up. The cost is from \$35 to \$55 based on size and make of vehicle.

The auto skills center is open Tuesdays through Thursdays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.