



Astro News

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"Forging the shape of military space for the 21st century"

Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., March 9, 2001

Milstar II launch improves communication for warfighter

Master Sgt. Tim Helton
Public Affairs

Secure communications became a greater assurance to warfighters when a Milstar II satellite successfully launched into orbit aboard a Titan IV-B rocket Feb. 28.

The satellite, with the new medium-data-rate communications payload, will provide survivable, jam-resistant and worldwide secure communications for strategic forces through unique onboard signal and data processing capabilities.

"In the communications business, they don't come any more important than Milstar," said Brig. Gen. Craig Cooning, Air Force program officer for space, and the mission's spacecraft commander. "I call it the FedEx of communications systems. When it absolutely, positively has to be there, this is the system."

The \$800 million satellite was officially put into the correct orbit and working

properly approximately six hours and 35 minutes after launch. It will go through a 120-day test period before being designated operational.

"The testing period includes software uploads, payload functionality testing and antenna calibrations," said Christine Anderson, MILSATCOM program director. "We will also be testing the payload interface with joint service terminals including the new Army, Air Force and Navy medium rate terminals."

One of the advantages of this Milstar satellite is the addition of the MDR, which is designed to send real-time voice, video and data to military personnel in the field at a rate of 1.5 Mega bits per second. This is an increase from the low data rate on the two previous Milstars of 75 bits per second.

"This allows the warfighter to transmit and receive informa-

tion at an extremely high rate of speed," said Anderson.

The Milstar's first real test is to help the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood in their quest to become a "digitized force."

In the past, the Army's movement was limited, based on terrain, said the general. "With the Milstar, the Army can move at will across the battlefield in any direction that their on-field commander wants them to move."

Although the launch was a success, it did not come without delays.

The launch was initially scheduled for April 2000, but due to problems found on the satellite, the launch vehicle and like systems at the factory, it was delayed nearly a year. The most recent delays were in the final days before launch in which the \$455 million Titan had a defective airborne telemetry system.

"We're focused on mission success. It was important to



A Titan IVB, with its Milstar II payload, lifts off the pad at Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla.

Courtesy photo

ensure the launch vehicle was 100 percent ready to place this important communication satellite into the correct orbit," said Col. Mike Dunn, Launch Programs director and mission director.

"We have one chance to get a launch correct. We can't just shut it off and try tomorrow. It's important to the warfighter and the American people that we get this satellite into orbit the first time," Dunn said.

AFPC commander 'spreads the word'

By Peggy Hodge
Public Affairs

"The most pressing personnel issue facing Air Force leadership today is retention," said the Air Force Personnel Center Commander, Maj. Gen. Richard "Tex" Brown, during a "spread-the-word" visit to Los Angeles AFB Feb. 20-23. "The Air Force's total force is so well-educated and well-trained that

they're being sought after by corporate America and the defense

industry. One of our biggest struggles and concerns is retaining these people in the Air Force."

During an interview with Astro News, Brown talked about what the people here at SMC can do to help the Air Force in meeting its retention goals.

"I ask that people here at the Space and Missile Systems

See AFPC, Page 4

Town Hall/Community Expo set for March 16 at Ft. Mac

By Tim Dougherty
Astro News Editor

Got something on your mind? Or maybe you'd just like to find out what's new with housing, the commissary, medical clinic, the BX or the fitness center. On March 16 at the Fort MacArthur Community Center, all personnel assigned to the Los Angeles AFB will be able to ask questions, get information and have

fun as the 61st ABG will host a Town Hall and Community Expo.

"A town hall is a great way to find out what's on the minds of the folks in our community," said Lt. Col. Terry Regan, deputy commander of 61st ABG. "I'd like to encourage everyone to attend this event. The only way we can meet the needs of our people is to find out what those needs are."

Col. Phil Parker, 61st ABG

commander, will host the Town Hall which runs from 6 to 7 p.m. Microphones will be set up in the Ballroom so individuals can ask questions directly to the base commander.

"The key to solving problems is communication, that's exactly what the Town Hall is all about," Regan said.

The younger members of the community are invited to a Family Carnival from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Community Center Patio. The carnival will include a free "moon bounce" along

See Town Hall, Page 3

Even in 'sunny' California, beware winter weather

By Jim Powderly
Base Fire Chief

The high winds, heavy rainfall, mudslides and hazardous road conditions are making this one winter we won't soon forget. To help better prepare us in the event of a winter disaster, the California Office of Emergency Services has offered the following advice.

Before the Storm

Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.

Check your homeowners or renters insurance for flood insurance coverage — if none exists, purchase.

Store supplies at work, home and car in handy locations:

- First-aid kit and essential medicines.
 - Food (packaged, dried, canned, or food for special diets).
 - Non-electric can opener.
 - Keep some cash on hand.
- ATM machines may not be working.

– Portable radio, flashlights and extra batteries (stored in water-tight plastic bag).

– Store drinking water in closed, clean containers in case water service is interrupted. Allow one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.

Keep your car fueled. If electric power is cut off, filling stations may not be able to operate.

Know safe routes from your home or office to high, safe ground.

Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials handy for waterproofing.

During the Storm

Avoid areas that are subject to sudden flooding.

Do not try to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. Even water as low as 6 inches deep may cause you to be swept away by strong currents.

Do not try to drive over a flooded road. This may cause you to be both stranded and trapped.

If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

Avoid unnecessary trips. If you must travel during the storm, dress in warm, loose layers of clothing. Advise others of your destination.

Use the telephone only for emergency needs or to report dangerous conditions.

Tune to local radio or television stations for emergency information and instructions from local authorities.

If flooding is likely, and time permits, move valuable

household possessions to the upper floors of your home.

If advised by local authorities to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by floodwater. Establish an out-of-state family contact so that friends and relatives will know whom to call to get information about where you are. Before leaving, disconnect all electrical appliances.

After the Storm

If you were advised to shut off gas, do not turn it back on yourself. Rely on utility crews.

Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with floodwaters.

Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking. Have wells pumped out and the water tested before drinking.

Avoid disaster areas. Your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations, and you may be in danger.

Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. If electrical equipment or appliances have been in contact with water, have them checked before use.

Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately to the electric or gas company, police or fire department.

Stay tuned to radio or television for information and instructions from local authorities.

Watches, Warnings

When a flood watch is issued:

– Move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.

– Fill your car's gas tank in the event an evacuation order is issued.

When a flood warning is issued:

– Tune in for information and advice from local radio and TV stations.

– When told to evacuate, do

so as quickly as possible.

When a flash flood watch is issued:

– Watch for signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moments notice.

When a flash flood warning is issued:

– If you believe flash flooding has begun, evacuate immediately as you may have only seconds to escape. Move to higher ground and away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades.

If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

A wide range of natural disasters occur in California each year, and they can have a devastating effect on you and your home.

As you can see, with a little prior planning, you can greatly reduce your chances of hardship. For more information on winter safety contact the Los Angeles AFB Fire Prevention Office at 363-2395.

Action Line 363-2255

The Action Line is your direct link to Col. Phil Parker, 61st Air Base Group commander. Its purpose is to make Los Angeles AFB a better place to live and work. If you have an issue that needs to be resolved, discuss it first with your supervisor or First Sergeant. Call the Action Line at 363-2255 if you can't find a solution

through your chain of command. Your call will be recorded and, if you leave your name and number, you will get an answer to your question.



- Base Exchange – David Clore 640-0129
- Base IG – Lt. Col. John Woodcock 363-0802
- Chaplain – Lt. Col. Gary Garvey 363-1956
- Civil Engineering – Lt. Col. William Saunders 363-0287
- Commissary – Al Cherry 363-6140
- Comm. Sqd. – Lt. Col. Lori South 363-0798
- Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office – Leonard Gonzales 363-1565

- Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office – TTY for hearing impaired 363-6862
- Family Support Center – Tom Sanders 363-5365
- Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline 363-2020
- Housing – Randy Farley 363-8340
- Logistics – Maj. Ronald Graham 363-0351
- Medical – Col. Mark Wisniewski 363-5005
- Mission Support – Lt. Col. Maureen Hurley 363-1230
- Privacy Act/FOIA– Jesusa Cruz 363-2576
- Public Affairs – Lt. Col. Robert Potter 363-0030
- Security Forces – Maj. Lyle Cary 363-0032
- Services – Gary Van Dusen 363-0430
- Military Equal Opportunity Office – Capt. Elizabeth Vallery 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

Astro News

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Submit news to:
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LOSANGELES.AF.MIL**
Call 363-0303 for more
information.

Air Force ROTC

Becoming an officer in the Air Force takes lots of hard work, but thanks to a new Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps program, many opportunities are available. This program allows enlisted members or civilians who are close to finishing their degree to become Air Force officers in one year. Selected airmen will be discharged from active-duty, will enlist in ROTC and will become full-time students.

This program is first-come, first-served until all slots are filled. Selection is on a fully qualified basis.

Several prerequisites apply to this program. To find out if you qualify, attend an informational seminar March 29 at 9 a.m. in Building 219, Room 1080. The seminar will be hosted by the Base Education Office.

YOFAM resources

The Air Force Materiel Command Year of the Family program is going strong at the Los Angeles AFB. Two web sites for information on YOFAM programs and quality of life initiatives are accessible at www.losangeles.af.mil.

The Los Angeles AFB YOFAM link can be visited from home or the office, while the AFMC site is only available when logged onto a ".mil" domain.

If you have community issue or concern you need to have addressed you can send an e-mail to the Community Action Information Board at famvisions@losangeles.af.mil. Everyone is welcome to attend the next CAIB meeting May 10 at 1 p.m. in Building 219, Room 1507.

OSC scholarships

The Los Angeles AFB Officers' Spouses' Club is now accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors who are military or Department of Defense civilian dependents (all ranks). Applicants must have a 3.0 or better grade point average. The application deadline is extended to March 12. Contact Denise Knebl at 833-2400 for an application or more information.

MILSATCOM awards Command and Control contracts

By Maj. John Garrett
MILSATCOM Program Office

MILSATCOM Command and Control System-Consolidated Demonstration contracts were awarded to Integral Systems, Inc. in Lanham, Md., and TRW in El Segundo, Calif., Feb. 7.

These awards represent the first step in an innovative two-phase contract designed to reduce risks associated with introducing commercial off-the-shelf based command and control systems into Air Force Space Command's satellite control architecture.

"CCS-C effectively leverages recent advances in the commer-

cial marketplace to provide a solid command and control foundation for all legacy and emerging MILSATCOM satellites including Wideband Gapfiller Satellites and Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellite families," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Robinson, CCS-C program manager.

"When complete, CCS-C will provide a consolidated command and control capability for Milstar, DCSC III, NATO IIID, Skynet-4, WGS and AEHF satellites, up to 36 satellites in total."

The basic contract for the phase one demonstration will culminate in a competitive "fly-

off" of the contractor's existing satellite command and control systems modified to meet the unique demands of a military satellite control environment. The "fly-off" will involve commanding and controlling of a live, decommissioned communications satellite. Phase two, which consists of priced options, will complete development of CCS-C and sustain the system through 2010. Selection for the demonstration was based on proposals for the entire demonstration, development and sustainment effort. The government plans to exercise phase two options for one contractor via a competitive downselect process in early

2002. The total value of the phase one contract combined with phase two options is \$150 million with phase one valued at approximately \$3.5 million.

CCS-C represents a major advance in military satellite command and control replacing 1980s vintage Command and Control System with a modern system that's more "user friendly" and much cheaper to maintain.

"The commercial marketplace has made major advances in this area, and all proposals received were competitive. However, the proposals that were selected represented the best overall value to the government," Robinson said.

Putting a song in your heart

The 45-member Air Force Band of the Golden West presented a free concert at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach last month. Pictured from right to left: Staff Sgt. Matt Baloun, Staff Sgt. Nancy Sheehan and Airman First Class Vladimir Tchekan, demonstrate their musical prowess with intricate slide motions on the tenor trombone. Approximately 300 people from the community enjoyed "A Pacific Commemoration" which featured a variety of West Coast works including marches, film and show tunes. During their California tour, the band was well received as they performed in venues including Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm in front of approximately 6,000 people.

(Photo by Shaad Madison)



Town Hall, from Page 1 with games, prizes and a snack bar. The children will also be able to hunt for the St. Patrick's Day Leprechaun's Pot 'o Gold. Families can also register for their Year of the Family Bingo card. The object of the YOFAM Bingo game is to participate in as many base activities as possible over the next three months. Participants will compete for prizes.

The Community Expo will include displays from nearly 30 base activities to include Outdoor Recreation, local

schools, the Fitness Center, the Civilian Personnel Office, the Health and Wellness Center and much more.

"We're going to provide information on some of the exciting Outdoor Recreation programs planned for the near future, and we'll show off some of the great equipment available for rent such as skis, camping gear, camping trailers, mountain bikes and more," said Roy Durtschi, Outdoor Recreation director. "The moon bounce that will be set up for the Family Carnival is an Outdoor

Recreation product and is also available for rent. Many people don't realize exactly what we have to offer."

To wrap up the day of

events, a St. Patrick's Day party will be held in the Harborview Lounge from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. This party will be for everyone over 21 years of age.

Town Hall/Community Expo event schedule

5 p.m. Displays open
6 - 7 p.m. Town Hall with Col. Parker
7 p.m. Gang awareness demonstration
6 - 9 p.m. Family carnival
8 p.m. - 1 a.m. St. Patrick's Day party.
For additional information, call 363-8225.

Black Employment Program hosts Lunch and Learn seminar March 14

Kathy Gaskins, a member of the Senior Executive Service and the director of Space and Missile Systems Center Systems Acquisition directorate, will be the featured speaker at the Black Employment Program's Lunch and Learn Seminar titled "Special Issues Affecting Women in the Workplace" March 14 at 11:30 a.m. in Building 125, Room 1338.

Light refreshments will be served. This event is open to all SMC employees both civilian and military. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Teri Mathis at 363-2027, Dorothy Brown at 363-0821 or Norma Jackson at 363-3994.

As director of SMC/AX, Gaskins is the functional manager for program management, engineering, acquisition logistics and a number of acquisition support functions.

For more information on Gaskins, see the Feb. 23 issue of the Astro News, page 3.

AFPC, from Page 1
Center point out to those they work with and those they supervise what's good about being in the Air Force. Many factors are difficult to evaluate and hard to put a dollar value on such as why the Air Force is a good place to live and work.

"There are a lot of intangibles — from the services organizations that provide us clubs, to our athletic facilities to medical and dental care facilities — those things we often take for granted that make up the great Air Force Family we are. These are the things we need to remember and emphasize and talk about," explained Brown.

Brown said to retain our young people, especially in the critical career fields, the Air Force is offering bonuses.

"We're targeting the enlisted ranks with what is called the Selective Reenlistment Bonus. The bonus is determined by job, driven by critical need and it will target those who we know are being targeted by corporate America and other federal agencies that can pay more salary. We are trying to

offset the financial reward that might be outside the Air Force with some financial gain inside the Air Force.

"We can pay our young officers more than the enlisted force, but we still can't pay what corporate America can. We have targeted our pilots with a bonus that has been successful, and we are now

*"Our recruiters bring in more recruits than any other service because we've got the best product."
(More on the recruiter selection process, Page 7.)*

locking in a resource of pilots who we know will stay with us for an extended period of time. In the future, we will have to consider such bonuses for other critical needs."

Brown also explained how the Expeditionary Air Force concept affects operational tempo.

"In the last 8-10 years, the Air Force has gotten much smaller. We've reduced our force from approximately 550,000 blue suiters to 350,000. At the same time, we have increased the number of taskings, deployments and contingencies — our ops tempo.

"What we have found is we are about three times more deployed. We can't do a lot about these taskings since they are required to meet the missions of our nation. But we can help make the individual better prepared.

"We took a look at our force and divided it into EAFs. Each EAF is assigned a three-month

window of vulnerability and that time frame is when an individual should be prepared to deploy. What this has done is put a planning factor into what had been a very unstable system. It doesn't change ops tempo, but this concept has made the individual better prepared."

Brown said that nearly as critical as retention is recruiting. The Air Force changed its method in selecting recruiters.

"Two years ago for the first time in our history, we did not meet our recruiting goals. We are paying a lot of attention at very senior levels to recruiting.

For the first time, we have tremendous Air Force ads, and they are paying great dividends.

"We have increased the recruiting service to over 1,400. And we're going to increase that number to 1,650 before this year is over — that's what we determined to be the right number of recruiters we need to recruit about 36,000 new young Americans to come into the Air Force.

"We have been given the authority for the first time to take non-volunteers. Historically, it's always been a volunteer-only assignment. We have yet to take a non-volunteer. If need be, we can take a non-volunteer to reach 1,650 recruiters for the sake of our next generation," Brown said.

Brown likes Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan's idea to have every senior NCO spend three years as a recruiter and go out and talk to young Americans about the Air Force.

"I think it's the right approach. Our recruiters bring in more recruits than any other service because we've got the best product."

Tech. Sgts allowed 22 years service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Air Force personnel officials recently announced the decision to change technical sergeant high year of tenure from 20 to 22 years of service effective July 1.

Enlisted tenures are governed by the Total Objective Plan for Career Airmen Personnel and were last revised in 1991. At that time, technical sergeant length of service was reduced from 23 to 20 years — the same as staff sergeants. The impending force drawdown was a major factor in deciding to keep both E-5 and E-6 HYT maximums at 20 years. By doing this, involuntary separation programs were, for the most part, avoided, said Senior Master Sgt. Larry Welch, superintendent of force structure plans at the air staff.

With force drawdowns

done, and having returned to an era with more stable end-strength, a review of enlisted HYT rates was accomplished in 2000. The review indicated that, while overall HYT rates were on target, some fine-tuning was in order for technical sergeants, Welch said.

"There were several compelling arguments for increasing tech sergeant HYT to 22 years," he said. "First, it's an opportunity to reward tech sergeants for career advancement and let them stay in the service longer. Second, it establishes a natural HYT bridge between staff sergeant HYT of 20 years and master sergeant HYT of 24 years service.

"Finally, input from the field indicates our enlisted members support the change," Welch said.

"This is the right thing to

do," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch. "The change will help us retain our experienced NCOs longer, which will affect mission accomplishment, and the Air Force will be a better place for that."

Although this change is effective July 1, all tech sergeants, regardless of Air Force specialty code, are now eligible to apply for the fiscal 2001 Temporary HYT Extension Program. This will allow tech sergeants with HYT dates before July 1 to apply for a HYT extension to the 22 years of service point, according to Welch.

People can contact their local military personnel flight for more information. Implementation guidance is forthcoming from the Air Force Personnel Center.

Congratulations

Selections to E-8

The Air Force recently announced selections for promotion to Senior Master Sergeant. Congratulations to the following Space and Missile Systems Center personnel who were selected:

Robert Andrade, SMC/MT; Jessie Edwards, SMC/CWO; Mark Freedman, SMC/AD; Mark Hall, SMC/TM.

There were 16,203 Master Sergeants in the Air Force eligible for promotion and 1,354 were selected, or 8.3 percent. At SMC, there were 33 eligible with four selections, or 12.1 percent.



Civilian promotions

The following civilians at the Los Angeles AFB were recently promoted or selected to a higher graded position:

Patricia Brown, James Jimenez, Sally Petersen and John Peterson.

Civilian Awards

Outstanding Civilian Career Service Awards were recently presented to Joyce Pingel and Gail Vranicar. Brian Polanco recently received a Notable Achievement Award.

Paula Bryant, Karen Cox, Lisa Dyer, Sara Echt, Sally Petersen, Susan Suete, Mary Smith, Deborah Thumser and Elizabeth Tua'au recently received a Time Off Award.

AECP seeks applicants

The Air Force Airman Education and Commissioning Program is looking for airmen to become commissioned officers. The AECP allows active-duty airmen to earn

baccalaureate degrees as full-time students.

Upon degree completion, AECP graduates attend Officer Training School and are commissioned as second lieutenants. Contact Henry Bennett at 363-3643 to see if you are qualified.



Double
your
intake.

After reading the Astro News, check out more Air Force news on the web at: <http://www.af.mil/news>

Parent/Teen workshops set for April 21 at Ft. Mac

By John Ryan
Public Affairs

The Family Advocacy, Services, Family Support Center and Chaplain offices at Los Angeles AFB have combined resources to promote a full-day of Parent/Teen workshops at Fort MacArthur April 21. The workshops will cover a variety of topics. The event is open to all members of the Los Angeles AFB community and will be held on the second floor of Building 37 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"This year we are celebrating the Year of the Family in addition to the month of the Military Child and Child Abuse prevention Month. We thought that workshops and activities for the entire family would be a great way to make a positive impact on the lives of Los Angeles AFB families," said Elisa Parr, Family Advocacy Treatment Manager.

Register by April 1 to receive free childcare at the Fort MacArthur Child Develop-

ment Center for children.

Parents and teens will enjoy a full day of workshops. The day will begin with registration at 9 a.m. and at 9:40 a.m. guest speaker Juliet Funt, daughter of Allen Funt creator of the Candid Camera television show will offer an exciting presentation emphasizing the impact of language in communicating.

Several workshops for parents and teens will be offered following the guest speaker. For parents there are workshops on Practical Parenting Strategies; How to Get Stress Under Control; Balance Restored and more. There are also workshops designed for both the parent and teen or just the teen: Using Creative Arts to Build a Family Esteem Team; Contraceptive Choices, Healthy Eating and Disordered Eating; How much do you really know about Alcohol and Anger Management for Everyone.

For more information or to register contact Elisa Parr or Martha Hathaway at 363-1251.

Thrift Shop open every Thursday

The Los Angeles AFB Officer's Wives Club Thrift Shop, located next to the Health and Wellness Center in Area B, is open on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Consignments are taken from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

The profits made at the Thrift Shop are given back to

the community in the form of donations to schools, scholarships, sponsorships and many other important programs. Stop by for more information on the various programs.

The Thrift Shop has lots of bargains from books to clothes. Don't forget, Thursday is Thrift Shop Day!

Base Honor Guard performs at Staples Center



Photo by Joe Juarez

Pictured in the big screen at Staples Center front to back: 1st Lt. Eric Staub, 2nd Lt. Gina Tracey and Senior Airman Jerry Hernandez, carry the colors off the court prior to the tip-off of the Los Angeles Clippers vs. Denver Nuggets game March 6. Not pictured is 1st Lt. Kevin Rivero. To honor the Honor Guard, all Los Angeles AFB personnel are invited to the Honor Guard Recognition Luncheon March 23 at 11:30 a.m. at the Club. Contact Staff Sgt. Romnell Ramos at 363-2193 for more information.

TRICARE News

Effective April 1, Medicare-eligible military beneficiaries 65 years of age and over will have access to the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program. Created by the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act, the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program allows Medicare-eligible beneficiaries to obtain low-cost prescription medications from military hospitals and clinic pharmacies, the National Mail Order Pharmacy

and TRICARE network and non-network civilian pharmacies. To be eligible for TSPP, Medicare-eligible military services beneficiaries 65 and over must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. In addition, beneficiaries who turn 65 on or after April 1 must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to use the mail order and retail pharmacy benefits. Beneficiaries who are 65 before April 1

do not have to enroll in Medicare Part B to receive the TSPP benefits. However, the Department of Defense encourages you to consider enrolling in Medicare Part B to have comprehensive health care and to be eligible to take advantage of future TRICARE benefits that will begin Oct. 1. To find out about enrolling in Medicare Part B, contact the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213.

Change in recruiter selection makes people wonder: am I next?

By Master Sgt. David Losleben
Recruiting Service Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFPN) —

Upon hearing about the new Recruiter Selection Program, many enlisted people in the Air Force may ask themselves the question, "Am I next?"

Although the vast majority of recruiters are volunteers, qualified airmen who are "hot" for new assignments could fill positions that don't have eligible volunteers.

"The opportunity of being selected for a recruiting position is actually quite small," said Master Sgt. Lee Ann Roberts, Air Force Recruiting Service acting chief of the recruiter selection team. "For example, if there are 40 positions available for filling and 30 of these are filled with qualified volunteers, only 10 positions will be filled by individuals selected from a pool of 13,000 potential airmen."

The Air Force is currently increasing its enlisted accessions recruiting force to 1,650, with

only a small percentage of this number remaining to be filled. The selection process takes place every two months.

"The main criteria for selecting someone for recruiting duty is permanent change-of-station eligibility," said Master Sgt. Tommy Bell, Air Education and Training Command mission support and recruiter assignments chief. "Once the individual is identified, their commander is contacted through the military personnel flight. The individual must complete the newly revised recruiter information package where they fill in basic personnel information, obtain medical and dental statements, financial information and disclosure statements. Their commander must then complete the recruiter decision support tool (if not already accomplished) which consists of quality force issues, general areas of concern and a recommend/nonrecommend section."

"Individuals will be initially identified by AETC," said

Master Sgt. Cristi Warren, AFPC special duty and first sergeant assignments superintendent. "Those selected to become a recruiter must go through a screening process by AFRS. If the screen is successful, the AFPC career field functional manager will examine the individual's career manning levels to determine if they can be released from their current Air Force Specialty Code.

An AFRS recruiter selection board screens all applications and makes selections for recruiter duty, Roberts said. The Emotional Quotient Inventory is conducted to assess the applicant's potential to become a recruiter. Once the written portion is completed, depending on the individual's location, AFRS will conduct a face-to-face or over-the-phone interview. AFRS will then make the tentative recommendation.

"Candidates must also be financially stable," Roberts said. "The duty should be compatible with family needs

because of time demands and periodically being away from home. The person must be goal-oriented, enjoy a challenge and be capable of making their own schedule."

The screening also includes basic eligibility requirements, Roberts said. These requirements can be found at the Web site www.rs.af.mil/rtr.htm. Servicemembers complete recruiting school at Lackland AFB, Texas. Recruiting currently is a four-year controlled tour, although the Air Force objective is to lower that to three years.

"Recruiting offers service members unique opportunities such as largely setting their own daily work schedule," Roberts said. "Direct supervision is limited. You get the opportunity to live with and interact more closely with civilians. If there's an opening, a person can volunteer for a duty location. If you enjoy the opportunities a position in sales has to offer, this is probably the closest you'll come in the Air Force. Another factor is

you can usually make a large positive impact on a person's life by getting them in an Air Force career they're interested in."

"Senior Air Force leadership has recognized that it is important for enlisted servicemembers to get experience outside of their regular career fields," said Chief Master Sgt. Jay Markus, AFRS command chief master sergeant. "This experience helps give them a more complete view and better understanding of the Air Force as a whole."

Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, BAFRS commander, emphasized the benefits of being a recruiter, saying, "Those selected for recruiting duty will have experiences and opportunities that reach far beyond the flightline or office environments. In working their assigned areas, recruiters will find themselves in an office complete with the tools needed — to include a laptop, cell phone, fax, copier, business cards and more — quite a difference from other duties."

Beverly Hills on the cheap



Clockwise, from top right: 2 Rodeo official greeter Gregg Donovan puts a happyface on Beverly Hills. A typical palm tree-lined street in Beverly Hills is home to countless celebrities. Donovan points out his picture in a city guide carried by some Japanese tourists.

By Tim Dougherty
Astro News Editor

Beverly Hills, Calif., is home to the rich and famous and the shopping center of the well-heeled, but it is certainly not off-limits for those of us with caviar appetites but Big Mac budgets. In fact, the stores and restaurants of the exclusive 2 Rodeo retail district at the corner of Rodeo Drive and Wilshire Boulevard have gone out of their way to try to adopt a friendlier image.

The wildly successful motion picture "Pretty Woman" portrayed Beverly Hills merchants as snooty and rude. To combat that image, the marketing department of 2 Rodeo recruited former concierge Gregg Donovan to be the official greeter of 2 Rodeo.

"My first priority is to get a

smile from the people I see," Donovan said. "I'm successful on 99 people out of 100."

Donovan can say "hello" in over 40 languages. He is constantly asked to point out the hotel from "Pretty Woman" and he also helps tourists with limousines, restaurant reservations or directions. He also knows a great place for a \$6 hamburger.

"Not everything in Beverly Hills is outrageously expensive. In fact, there's a great place around this corner for cheap hamburgers," he said.

To find Donovan and ask him about the \$6 hamburger, take Interstate 405 north past the Los Angeles Airport and exit on Wilshire. Head east to Rodeo Drive. Plenty of reasonably priced parking is clearly marked and readily available directly off Rodeo Drive.

Photos by Joe Juarez

Chapel Youth group 'felt the hunger' during 30-hour famine

By Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Walker
Base Chapel

The Los Angeles AFB Chapel Youth Group, Christians in Action, recently found out what it's like to go hungry for 30 hours as they participated in the World Vision "30-hour famine."

"We all felt the hunger and realized what the homeless and hungry have to feel everyday. Needless to say, it was a significant eye opener," said Nathan Walker, the vice president of CIA.

The famine began for Walker and 11 other CIA members on Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. During the fast, the group kept busy by playing games, doing homework and watching movies. The next day while they were still fasting, the group headed out to the Rainbow Thrift Shop in San Pedro, Calif., to help them relocate to a new building across the street.

"Our jaws dropped when we stepped inside because the

store was mammoth. Slowly we started boxing up the merchandise and walking it across the street to the new location of the next Rainbow Thrift Shop. It took about two hours," Walker said. The Rainbow Thrift Shop helps support a local shelter for battered women and children.

With the Rainbow Thrift project completed, many of the young minds started thinking about food.

"While we were working on the Rainbow Thrift Shop project, we were all fine. But towards the end, we started thinking about the food again. We thought about how close to the end of the famine we were, and how it was almost time to eat. The last hour is definitely the hardest because you are literally counting the minutes until it is over," said CIA President Ashley Parker. However, Parker knew she could soon eat again.

"The people we were doing this for do not have the luxury of knowing that after missing

three meals they can eat again. That is what I think makes this so easy, knowing that I'm not really starving. If I really had to go for a long time without being able to eat, I do not know what I would do," Parker said.

Famine participant Jaylssa Hamilton was surprised she could go as long as she did without food.

"I didn't think I could make it but I did. The famine gave me a better understanding of what it's like to go hungry. I'm very happy for what I have," Hamilton said.

Jared Walker, a group member, had to work at his part-time job during the 30 hours of fasting. "I was doing fine until my boss asked me to stock the candy and soda shelves. It made me think of the many children who can not afford the things I was stocking. I stayed with my fast, but it wasn't easy," Walker said.

Through donations and pledges, the CIA collected over \$1,200. The money was sent to World Vision to sponsor needy



Courtesy photo

CIA members work on arts and crafts to keep their mind off hunger. From left to right around table: Laura Parker, Danielle Ali, Jaylssa Hamilton, Jalisa Sykes, Ashley Parker and Dionna Ali.

families through both emergency relief efforts and long-term development projects in countries such as the United States, Tanzania and Peru. In Peru, \$200 could support a family of five for an entire year. Their donation could effectively feed and shelter up to six families for a year.

In addition to the Walkers,

Parker and Hamilton, members of the CIA who participated in the 30-Hour Famine were Dionna and Danielle Ali, A.J. and Ryan Burse, Natasha Graves, Ryan Marsh, Laura Parker and Jalisa Sykes. Youth group leaders Valerie Hunt and Capt. Alvin Burse directed the group and provided supervision and support during the famine.

Astro News deadlines

The Los Angeles AFB paper, the *Astro News*, is published every other week on Friday. The editorial office is located within the Space and Missile Systems Center Public Affairs Office in Building 105, Room 4049, in Area A. The telephone number is 363-0303.

Deadline for article submissions is Friday at noon the week before the publication date. Articles should be sent via e-mail to the editor at:

SMC.PA.Astronews@losangeles.af.mil

Photos can be mailed to the following address:

SMC/PA – Astro News editor
2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467
El Segundo, Calif. 90245-4659

Publication date

Submission dates

April 6 March 30
April 20 April 13
May 4 April 27
May 18 May 11
June 1 May 25
June 15 June 8
June 29 June 22

Space-A destinations for March

March 2001 departures				
Date	Flight #	Space-A showtime	Departure Time	Destinations
11, 18, 25	MC71	5:35 p.m.	8:35 p.m.	Seattle, Osan, Kadena
12, 19, 26	MC87	7:50 p.m.	10:50 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa
15, 22, 29	MC79	7:30 p.m.	10:30 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena
March 2001 arrivals				
Date	Flight #	Arrival time	Arriving from	
14, 21, 28	MC88	1:50 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa	
10, 17, 24, 31	MC80	3:35 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena	

Notes: No scheduled departures on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Passengers with confirmed reservations can check in six hours before departure. No scheduled arrivals on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. For more information, contact the AMC ticket counter at 363-0714 or 363-0715.

Youth Center

“YOFAM” 2001 Year of the Family membership sign-up. Sign up now for before- and after-school programs, summer camps, family events, teen scene and much more. Call 363-8565 for information.

Extended child care

The Child Development Center will implement a new child care initiative to extend the hours of child care to accommodate for extended duty hours. Extended duty is defined as temporary shift change, unplanned longer duty day, unplanned weekend duty, short-term temporary additional duty if no other parent available, dual military or single parent deployment. For more information, contact Iris Alexander at 363-5950.

Family Child Care

The Seal Beach Naval Facility has openings in their Navy licensed family home day care homes. For more information, call Kathy Richards at 562-626-7899.

Los Angeles AFB is striving to expand family child care services in homes of military and retired military members. If you are a spouse who lives either on or off base and are interested in becoming a licensed family child care provider, contact Hyechong Froschl at 363-8334 or stop by the Child Development Center at Fort MacArthur, Building 31. Providers: Amy Gonzalez can provide child care from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, for children ages 3 and up on a full, part-time and drop-in basis. For more information, call 514-1938. Johvon Tidwell can provide child care from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays to Fridays for children ages 2 and up on a full, part time and drop-in basis. For more information, call 547-9762. The above providers are the only individuals authorized to provide child care in the Fort MacArthur, Pacific Heights and Pacific Crest areas.

RV storage

Los Angeles AFB offers two recreational vehicle storage facilities located next to the FamCamp in Lawndale and at Fort MacArthur. Storage fees are \$30 per

Mountain bike trip set for March 24



Photo by Teri Mathis

No place local to go mountain biking? Think again! Roy Durtschi tunes up one of the mountain bikes available at Outdoor Recreation in preparation for a mountain bike trip scheduled for March 24 to the Portugese Bend area of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The cost is free and includes a guide. The trails are fun and the view is incredible. Bring lots of water and some

quick energy snacks as the ride is very strenuous. The trip departs from Fort MacArthur in front of the Community Center at 8 a.m. and will return around noon, depending on the group. Rent a bicycle from Outdoor Recreation for \$10, and it will be brought for you to use on the ride. For more information or to sign up, call Outdoor Recreation at 363-2753.

month for RVs more than 23 feet and \$20 per month for RVs less than 23 feet long.

The Fitness Center

The Fitness Center offers one-on-one free individualized fitness programming. We have certified personal trainers that offer the following services: fitness assessments, personal fitness planning, fitness goal setting, programs to lower cholesterol, strength training, cardiovascular training, proper use of equipment and proper lifting techniques. Research has shown that exercise helps prevent many types of disease, helps people sleep better and relieves depression. Individual appointments can be made by calling 363-6815, or you can ask at the front desk for a trainer during your workout.

Teddy Bear Tea

The Community Center and volunteers from the base

community are sponsoring a Teddy Bear Tea for children up to five years old. The tea is free and scheduled for April 5 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Community Center. There will be live entertainment, photo opportunities and tea and treats. Reservations may be made by calling Kelly Beck or Shelly Beres at 519-7876.

Gymnastics offered

Gymnastics classes are being offered at the Fort MacArthur Fitness Center at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

YOFAM Bingo

Families are reminded to attend the Town/Hall Community Expo on March 16 to pick up a Year of the Family Bingo card. The game consists of three cards with a variety of base activities in each square. The object of the game is to participate in as many activities as possible to win great prizes

such as a trip for a family of four to Disneyland, a trip for two to Catalina Island, a DVD Player or \$100 in cash! Prizes will be given out at the July 4th Bash. For more information, please call 363-8225.

Worship schedule

Roman Catholic: Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays at 4 p.m., Mass at 4:30 p.m. Mass at 9 a.m. Sundays. Continuing Christian Development is held in Building 37 at 10:15 a.m.

Protestant: Sunday School at 9 a.m. in Building 37. General Protestant worship at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Chaplain Maj. Jim Walker at 363-6433.

For information on baptisms, call Chaplain Maj. Randy Roberts at 363-1871.

Prayer Luncheon

Los Angeles AFB Chapel will host the National Prayer Luncheon featuring Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Lorraine Potter,

Air Force Deputy Chief of the Chaplain Service, on March 15 at 11:30 a.m. in The Club Ballroom. The luncheon, titled “Living Together in Unity,” coincides with the president’s National Prayer Breakfast. In addition to the featured speaker and Italian buffet lunch, God’s Women of Treasure will provide music during the event. Tickets are available through the Chapel Office at \$5 with the Chapel returning your \$5 at the buffet line. Chaplain Potter is a native of Warwick, R.I., and is an ordained minister of the American Baptist Churches.

Women mentoring

On March 14, following the National Prayer Luncheon, Chaplain Potter will present a Town Hall for women in the Daedalian Room at The Club at 3 p.m. The Town Hall will focus on women in leadership positions.