



# FLIGHT LINES

SERVING HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

Vol. 24 No. 4

482d Fighter Wing, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla.

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April 2005

## Command Chief moves to 10th AF



**What's a FSTR?**  
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*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean*

After more than five years as the 482d Fighter Wing Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Lawrence Chang was recently selected as the new 10th Air Force Command Chief. See pages 6-7 for photos of his farewell dinner.

# Every Airmen has a great story to tell



*Air Force Reserve photo*

**By Col. Randall G. Falcon,  
482d Fighter Wing Commander**

Since I received the honor of commanding the 482d Fighter Wing, I've taken the opportunity to speak with many of you. What I've learned has been quite revealing.

One thing I can say is that each of you has an impressive story. The words spoken were generally filled with courage, dedication, principle and humor. I am very impressed with what I've seen the past few months.

And as with any unit, some comments are good and some are blemished. But everyone's conversation has been positive and constructive. I can say that I learned quite a lot.

Your opinion is valuable to me and it's your opinion I seek. In my conversations around the base, I've received brilliant insight into operation and leadership at all levels of Homestead Air Reserve Base.

I encourage you to examine what you do and how you do it and share that insight with your chain of command. In the coming months, I look forward to meeting and listening to all of you whether at your squadron commander's call, at the Falcon's Nest Club or wherever we may meet.

This base and the successful and efficient completion of our mission depends on each of us working hard and seeking improvement. The 482d Fighter Wing is already a world class success and with your initiative we'll be even better.

## Deserving Airman Commissioning Board

Knowing the requirements, deadlines is crucial -- are your deserving Airmen ready?

**By Master Sgt. Tina Davis**

The 482d Fighter Wing is seeking candidates who are qualified and interested in entering the commissioned ranks as a Second Lieutenant.

In July, the wing will hold a Deserving Airman Commissioning Board for two commissioning opportunities: Personnel Officer (MEO - 26P3) and Personnel Officer (PERSCO - 36P3).

Eligible enlisted members who demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities are encouraged to submit their application by June 4, and be prepared to meet the board during the July Unit Training Assembly.

The Air Force Officer Qualification Test (AFOQT) examination will be administered on April 23 & May 16. You must sign-up by April 10 for the AFOQT.

### Basic Eligibility

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be medically qualified
- Have a baccalaureate or higher degree
- Meet Air Force fitness standards
- Be under the age of 35 at time of commissioning
- Successfully complete the AFOQT

### Important dates

- April 10 - sign up for AFOQT
- April 23/May 16- take AFOQT
- June 4 - submit complete application to MPF
- July UTA - meet selection board

Contact Career Enhancement at (305) 224-7135 for more info

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# Leadership rules for all to follow

*Story and photo courtesy of Col. Herb Brown, 482d Maintenance Group Commander*

Being a leader is really not hard, if you remember and practice the basic rules of leadership. These are the rules that I follow:

1. Always take care of your people. (ALL OF THEM)
2. Never make your people do anything that you are not willing to do yourself.
3. Allow your people to do their job.
4. Be there for your people when they need you.
5. Praise in public, chastise in private.
6. Hold your people responsible for their actions.

I believe that if you follow these basic rules, your people will take care of you and the mission.

An experience I had when I was a young soldier, taught me some of these personal leadership traits.

This happened many moons ago while I was at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, going through Special Forces training. The 82nd Airborne Troops use to come through our area looking for mischief. And yes, we did the same to them.

Anyway, one particular day, a few of my buddies and I were passing through the 82nd Airborne's area. Someone noticed a brand new jeep parked out front of this hut. We all agreed it would be a good idea to take the jeep apart, and leave it in a pile of metal.

Like I said, it sounded like a good idea at the time.

Well, we went and got some tools, placed a lookout, and went to work. About 15 minutes into our project, while I was under the jeep, I noticed I was the only one working and making noise.

When I looked over my shoulder, I saw these nice, shiny low quarter shoes. Now being a bright young soldier, I knew no self-respecting paratrooper would be caught dead in those types of shoes.

So, as I climbed out from under the jeep, this full bird colonel was looking down at me, and he motioned for me to join the rest of my little team of soldiers. As I got up, I noticed that they were all standing in a straight line at the position of attention. So again, like a good little soldier, I joined them.

This colonel was about 5'3 and when he started to chew on our butts, you couldn't put a flat piece of paper between where his mouth stopped, and our belt buckles began. Boy was he angry!

Now, our team sergeant, Sgt. Lear, was 6'5, big and mean. We could hear him approaching to assist the colonel with the mayhem destined for our little bodies.

But to our surprise, when he came over, he got between us and the Colonel, looked down at the Colonel and said; "Sir! No one chews my men's butts but me! Now, if you want to chew somebody's butt, you can chew on mine!"

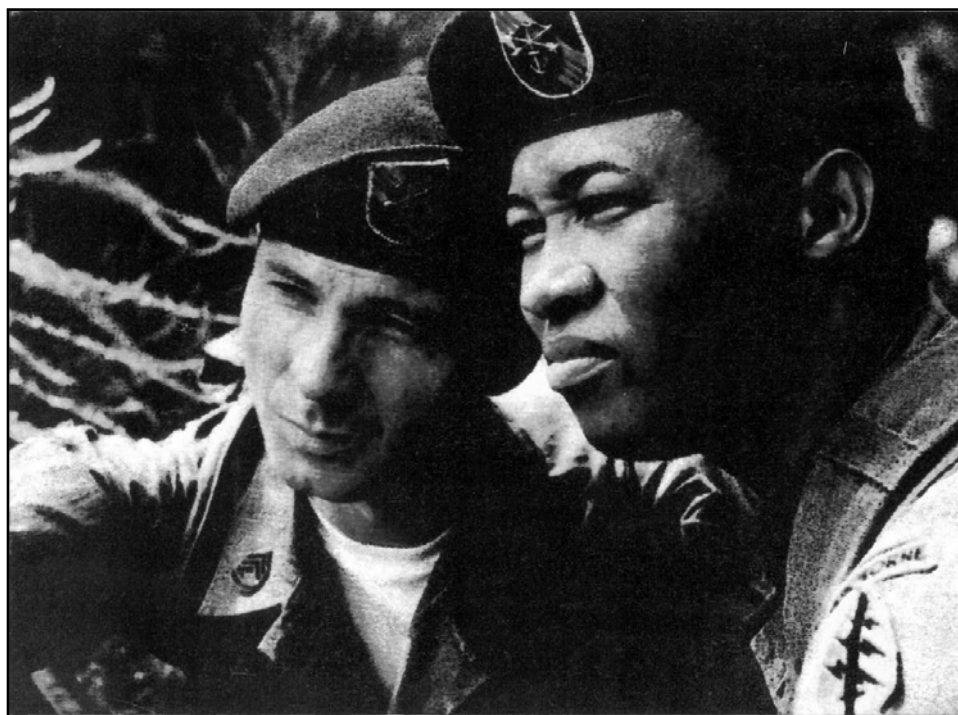
That colonel looked up at Sgt. Lear and said, "Fine Sergeant." Sgt. Lear then turned around looked at us and said, "You men get back to our area double-time and I'll deal with you idiots when I get back!"

We took off running and as we looked back over our shoulders, that little Colonel was chewing Sgt. Lear's butt big time. Now our little group faced a tough decision. Should we go AWOL, commit mass suicide, run to the hospital and start trauma treatment early? The list went on and on and it just kept getting worse.

Well, after about 30 minutes and a lot of anxiety waiting for our death sentence, in walks Sgt. Lear. As he walked by, all he said was, "If you idiots pull another stunt like that, and get caught again, I WILL kill you all!"

And that was it. I guess he didn't like the 82nd Airborne any more than we did.

But with his example he taught me to always take care of your people and to be there when they need you. That was almost 30 years ago and I never forgot that lesson.



**Col. Herb Brown (then Army Special Forces Staff Sgt. Brown), at 19 years old in 1967. With Col. Brown is Staff Sgt. Eduardo Rodriguez. The two had recently returned from Vietnam, where Col. Brown was a sniper and Sgt. Rodriguez was his spotter.**

# Not your old Disaster Preparedness anymore

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Michael A. Ward  
Air Force News

SOUTHWEST ASIA - Remember the Air Force disaster preparedness program? That was sooooo 1990s, but apparently some people are still living in the past.

Times have changed, and civil engineers everywhere are trying to get people to move into the 21st century. Disaster preparedness is out. Full Spectrum Threat Response program, is what is happening now.

"People are still calling it disaster preparedness," said Senior Master Sgt. Doug Senters, 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron readiness supervisor at a forward-deployed location here. "When I start talking about FSTR here, I'm surprised at the number of people who are hearing of it for the first time."

The newer program replaced the disaster preparedness program after the 2001 terrorist attacks. The Air Force readiness community, which had been poised for more than 50 years to deal primarily with Cold War threats, found it needed to deal with a wider variety of potential problems.

"FSTR teams are still trained and equipped to respond to commonly known physical threats such as major accidents; hazardous material incidents; natural disasters; and nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional weapons incidents," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Pitchford, 380th ECES commander. "But, after 9-11, we expanded our training to better respond to a newer and broader range of threats including acts of terrorism, weapons of mass destruction incidents and threats from improvised explosive devices."

Sgt. Senters said the goal of the expanded program is to help commanders and first-responders protect people, facilities and resources by minimizing damage and recover base operations after a natural disaster, hostile attack or major accident or incident.

The program is designed primarily to support response activities on installations in the United States and overseas; however, assets can be extended into U.S. civilian communities at the request of civilian authorities if there is an imminent and potentially grave concern, Sgt. Senters said.

The program also supports other federal emergency management programs, and response teams also work closely with state, local and civilian emergency response agencies.



**SOUTHWEST ASIA — Tech. Sgt. Ivan Candelario holds a biological agent testing kit. He is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 380th Expeditionary Readiness Flight's logistics section. The readiness flight is responsible for managing the Full Spectrum Threat Response program for the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing. This program is the successor to the Cold War-era disaster preparedness program.**

# SOC SOUTH planners gear up for Fuerzas Comando '05

Story and photo by Sgt. Maj. Mike Novogradac, SOC SOUTH Public Affairs



**A Chilean police officer (left) works with Master Sgt. James C. Wargo and Chief Petty Officer Jorge M. Lopez, both SOC SOUTH J-6 communications planners.**

Special Operations Command South (SOC SOUTH) planners recently returned from a second trip to Santiago, Chile to devise a game plan for Fuerzas Comando '05.

FC05 — which tests counter-terrorism capabilities of selected units in Central and South America — is just one part in a larger series of exercises U.S. Southern Command conducts annually to enhance multinational and regional cooperation, according to Maj. Jorge Cintron, lead planner for the June 16 - 23 event.

“We begin planning about one year out,” Maj. Cintron said, “for an exercise that will involve about 325 troops from 19 nations.”

Each nation sends a five-man assault team and a two-man sniper team. A judge from each nation will

also work alongside judges from their U.S. and Chilean cohorts, Maj. Cintron explained.

A series of events including a physical fitness test; weapons qualification; a confidence course; close-quarters combat; a rucksack march; water event and an obstacle course should fatigue each team, said Maj. Cintron.

The sniper teams will also be tested for physical fitness, along with tasks designed to stretch their skills in range estimation, marksmanship and their ability to stalk and take out a target.

“Each country already knows the tasks, conditions and standards that will be evaluated during the competition,” said Maj. Cintron. “Right now, they should be preparing themselves for June.”



Beside the special operations skills competition, Maj. Cintron said a senior leader seminar will also focus on the Global War on Terrorism.

“Because of the Global War on Terrorism, we are trying to stay focused on counter-terrorism units and their capabilities to enhance those skills.”

“But, not only is the focus on countering terrorism important,” he added, “we will also be expanding our relationships with our partner nations. We will develop and maintain alliances and regional relations through fun and tough military competition.”

Maj. Cintron was also the lead planner for FC04 and said he was inspired by how the country teams worked together and competed.

“Fuerzas Comando is a friendly competition among soldiers,” he said. “They all come to do their best and it is just like a Super Bowl.”

“The soldiers competing are truly the best of the best — the absolute best representing their countries — and the competition is by no means easy,” he added.

“Last year, competitions were held in El Salvador and the U.S. won second place. Lots of media attention also makes it a little tougher.” Elements of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group from Fort Bragg, N.C. will represent the U.S. during FC05.

# Until we meet again

## Command Chief takes job at 10th Air Force

By Jake Shaw

After twenty one years of service at Homestead Air Reserve Base, including five years as the 482d Fighter Wing Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Lawrence H. Chang has moved on to become the 10th Air Force Command Chief at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Those close to him endearingly called him a “stalker.” But according to Master Sgt. Maureen Murray, Chief Chang was a different kind of stalker – he was a good one. If an Airman from the 482d Fighter Wing needed something, Chief Chang started stalking people – until the Airman was taken care of.

Then again, if you were an NCO, Chief Chang’s stalking was relentless. Just ask Senior Master Sgt. Charles Clunie, who was picked as Chief Chang’s replacement as 482d Fighter Wing Command Chief.

“You weren’t safe anywhere. He’d find you at the

mall, at the BX and he’d call you at your civilian workplace too! How’s your CDCs coming along, and when are you going to your next PME?” Sgt. Clunie was victimized by Chief Chang’s stalking on numerous occasions.

Chief Master Sgt. Fred Hennagan is another long-time friend of Chief Chang. During Chief Chang’s farewell dinner on March 19, Chief Hennagan presented him with a memento, and said a few choice words. Chief Master Sgts. John Breslin and Barbara Jackson also had some “interesting TDY” stories to tell, but if you’d like to hear those stories they’ll have to tell you in person.

After the Chiefs had their fun, Senior Master Sgt. Stan Hammack asked the crowd if anyone else would like to say a few words about Chief Chang. Little did Sgt. Hammack know that almost the entire crowd was prepared to say something about Chief Chang (see photo next page), and they lined up one by one to present him with gifts to remember his many years at the 482d Fighter Wing.

But, in true “Chief Chang” fashion, the outgoing Command Chief got the best of the crowd, by surprising some of them with mementos and a video presentation of his own. One of the presentations Chief Chang made was his personal Chief artwork (see photo next page), which he presented to Tech. Sgt. Francisco Navarro to hang in the office of the Base Honor Guard.

Finally, Chief Chang played a photo presentation accompanied by the inspirational song, “The Wind Beneath My Wings,” in a tribute to his fellow Airmen at Homestead ARB. The night’s presentations were filled with kind words from true friends who have worked together for nearly as long as some of our younger Airmen have been alive.

According to Barbara Vaughn, who worked with Chief Chang for more than 8 years, “Chief Chang’s ceremony recapped a lot of the history of this base. It’s bittersweet to see him leave.”





*Photos by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean*



**Above: When Senior Master Sgt. Stan Hammack asked if anyone had something to say about Chief Chang, he had no idea how many people would come forward. Left: Chief Chang surprised the crowd by making presentations to several units and individual Airmen during the ceremony. Among them was this presentation to Tech. Sgt. Francisco Navarro of the Base Honor Guard.**

# Have you seen the club lately?

Story and photo by Jeff Carney  
482d Services Marketing Director

The Falcon's Nest Club's recent renovations have updated the entire facility, increasing its value to the base, to members and to customers.

Not all of the changes were cosmetic. One of the big changes came with the addition of a new Services Squadron chief that brought a lot of experience and energy with him.

"When I got here about a year ago, I saw a lot of untapped potential," said Mr. Jess Holcomb, 482 Services Chief. "I think that it sometimes takes a new view and perspective to bring about new ideas and approaches. We started changing things immediately, and I feel that those changes have been positive, but we still have some more left to install."

Over the recent months, the transformation that took place at the club has provided Homestead Air Reserve Base patrons with a facility that has a much improved atmosphere. A rigorous effort has gone into improving the quality of the food as well as the variety.

"The quality of the food was one of the first things I wanted to address," Mr. Holcomb said. "Customers voiced that concern to me from the beginning, and I wanted to immediately change the club's image and please the customers. The quality of our food is outstanding now. Our chefs do an unbelievably good job."

Not only has the appearance of the club improved with the recent influx of labor and money, but entertainment to the lounge area has already been a success for customers.

"We have a state of the art jukebox with high definition sound



**New furniture, new carpet and new paint were only part of the club's recent facelift. But don't take anyone's word for it - stop by and see for yourself.**

that downloads music off of the internet and keeps a huge selection of music for our customers ranging from country music to oldies to current pop."

"It has it all," said Deborah Lippincott, Falcon's Nest Club Manager. "All of the customers really like it and will spend a lot of time just looking over the selections; there are so many. It's been a hit but so has our new pool table. We haven't had it as long, but it gets used every afternoon."

Club dues are only six dollars per month compared to as much as seventeen dollars per month at some other bases. There are also programs designed to provide discounts and special incentives for being a member.

"There's never been a better time to be a club member, Ms. Lippincott

said. "The program is called "Members First" and it really does put members first. Members get discounted lunches, and our lunches provide something for everyone. We have a salad bar, daily specials and the full buffet. You also get free bar food every weekday from 4 till 6 p.m. Whenever we have a special function, club members get discounted prices for them as well."

Lippincott continues, "Our club not only has an improved appearance, it's improved everything that we can provide for our customers. I really encourage everyone to come out and take advantage of what we have to offer."



# 4th Quarter Award Winners



Above: Senior NCO of the Quarter, Senior Master Sgt. Larry Webster, 482d Maintenance Squadron.



Junior Officer of the Quarter Capt. Joe "Sloppy" McGill and NCO of the Quarter Staff Sgt. Cindy Abreu, both of the 93d Fighter Squadron, stand with Lt. Col. Rob "Mumbles" Polumbo, 93d Fighter Squadron Commander.

*(Photos by Jake Shaw)*



Col. Dennis "D2" Daley, 482d Mission Support Group Commander stands with Airman of the Quarter Staff Sgt. Natasha Jamass, 70th Aerial Port Squadron and Ana Zalesky of the Homestead/Florida City Military Affairs Committee.



Civilian of the Quarter, Mani Kelsey, 482d Services poses with Col. Randall Falcon, 482d Fighter Wing Commander.

## Air Force Assistance Fund

The Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign runs until May 7, asking airmen to contribute to any of four Air Force-related charities. The charities benefit active duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Air Force people, surviving spouses and families. Charities receive 100 percent of designated contributions. The secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force recently announced a \$5.2 million goal. In 2003, Air Force personnel gave \$5.9 million to the fund. Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible. For more information, visit <http://afassistancefund.org> or call the 482d Fighter Wing Family Support office at (305) 224-7329.

## Air Force One Source

Air Force Family Support Centers offer you access to Air Force One Source online, where you can find help to cope with life's little - and not so little - issues. Visit Air Force One Source for help with the following life issues: finance, legal, health, midlife and retirement, parenting and child care, education, emotional well-being, managing people, addiction and recovery, and disabilities. To logon, visit the website at [www.airforceonesource.com](http://www.airforceonesource.com) Enter the user id 'airforce' and the password 'ready'.

## CFC Success!

Congratulations to all who participated in this year's Combined Federal Campaign. Your contributions pushed our total to 126% of our goal.



Above: Barbara Vaughn, Col. Herb Brown and 2nd Lt. Christy Shaw accept an award for exceeding the base's goal during the 2004 campaign.

## Promotions

### Airman

Michelle Adorante, 482 MDS

### Senior Airman

Melissa Collazo, 93d FS

Ruth Lane, 70<sup>th</sup> APS

Sergio Pantoja, 482d MXS

Eric Izquierdo, 482d SFS

Agustin Blanco, 482d SFS

Stuart Garner, 482d SFS

Giovanny Feliz, 482d AMXS

Elizabeth Lesh, 482d MDS

Randall Pasquarelli, 482d MXS

Jason Rogers, 482d MXS

### Staff Sgt.

Anthony Ricks, 482d CES

Thomas Cougill, 482d COMM

Alexis Payne, 482d COMM

Victoria McMillan, 482d COMM

Mayra Williams, 482d SVS

Fabian Keen, 482d SVS

Natasha Karn, 93d FS

Matthew Kimber, 482d AMXS

Matthew Kazee, 482d MDS

John Johnson, 482d MDS

### Tech. Sgt.

Charles Knell, 482d MXS

### Tech. Sgt.

Jamie Clark, 482d MXS

Daniel Bowie, 482d MXS

Jason Winer, 482d FW

Cindy Abreu, 93d FS

Adolfo Gonzalez, 482d AMXS

Adam Kosowsky, 482d AMXS

Clive Williams, 482d AMXS

Matthew Thornton, 482d AMXS

Ishman Davis, 482d MDS

### Master Sgt.

George E. Welch III, 70<sup>th</sup> APS

Nelson Martinez, 482d CES

Steven Marsh, 482d MXS

### Senior Master Sgt.

Linnett Halliday, 482d MDS

Jeffrey White, 482d LRS

## Retirements

### Tech. Sgt.

Raphael Acosta, 482d CES

### Master Sgt.

Guy Gilbert, 482d SFS

Janice Derico, 482d MXS

## Women in Aviation International

Women in Aviation International is an organization that promotes the tremendous accomplishments of women in all aspects of aviation and the career opportunities that are available for females with a passion for aviation. From the pioneers who flew in the Women's Auxiliary Ferry Squadron in World War II to women who fly B-1B Bombers to women CEO's of our airlines this organization supports their achievements. Women in Aviation is dedicated to ensuring that any female who has a burning desire to fulfill their dreams in any area of aviation are given a chance by having corporate sponsors commit over a half million dollars in scholarships. This includes flying lessons, maintenance schools and a college education in all areas of aviation. For more information visit [www.wai.org](http://www.wai.org).

# SOCSOUTH volleyball team sweeps base competition

Story and photos by Sgt. Maj. Mike Novogradac  
SOCSOUTH Public Affairs

What began small turned out large in more ways than one for SOCSOUTH's volleyball team over the course of a 14-week season.

For starters, a 16-1 record is hard to beat.

Then, as if to top that, the team began the season with six, then ended with 14 members.

The only thing stopping the continuous momentum was the season's unavoidable end.

"When we began the season," said assistant coach Staff Sgt. Kevin Alvarez, "we started just for fun and to represent SOCSOUTH."

"But once we started winning so many games, I think we started playing to win the tournament.

"And then we took practice very seriously," he continued. "We continued to practice and practice — we never let up."

SOCSOUTH's only loss came when ... because of deployments and temporary duty elsewhere ... just five members showed up for a game early on.

"A lot of us just couldn't make it to that one game," Sgt. Alvarez explained. "You need six to cover the court and we only played with five, so that affected us because the court is pretty big and we had a tough time covering all the possible areas the ball could go."

Sgt. Alvarez claimed no team on base ever came close to beating SOCSOUTH.

"Nobody came close except for the Coast Guard," he said. "And I heard they started practicing more often once they heard we were practicing so much."

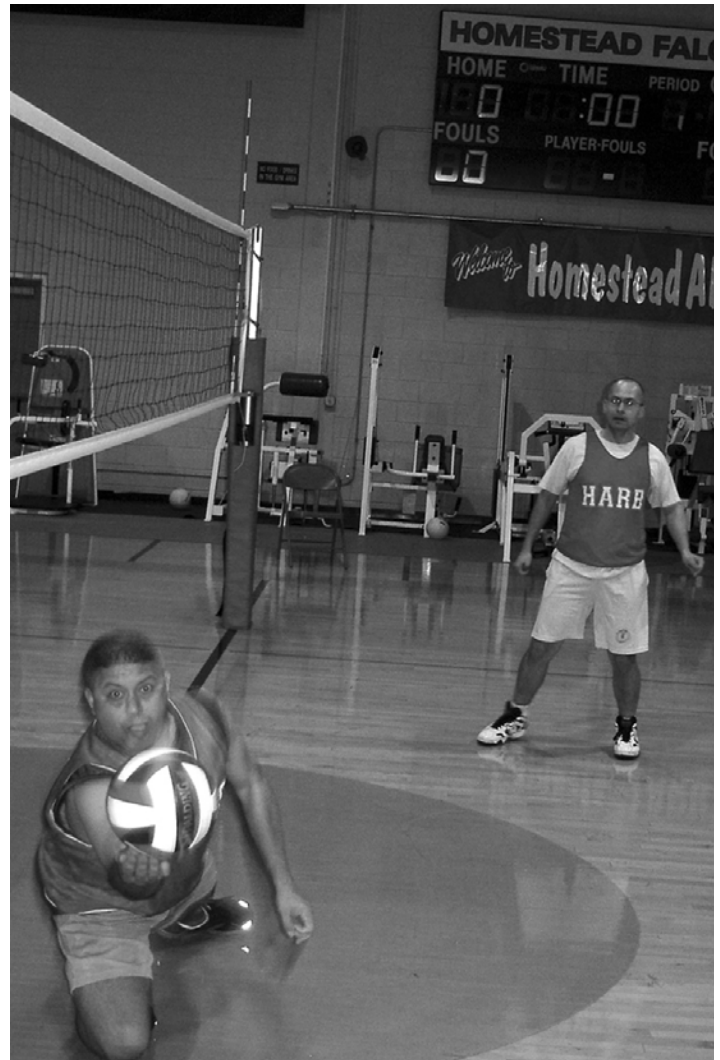
Although faithful Monday and Tuesday practices before every Wednesday game was key, Sgt. Alvarez also said a few players made a difference.

"1st Lt. Angel Davila of the command group was a really good defensive player," he said.

"Then, Maj. Jorge Cintron of the J-3 was always backing everybody up. If somebody missed the ball or made what seemed like a huge mistake, he was there motivating them by saying, 'Shake it off ... forget about it ... you're doing great.'"

Still, practice was key.

"We lost that one game when we missed one player," said Sgt. Alvarez, "so you never know what's going to happen. But, all-in-all, we were kicking butt all of the time."



SOCSOUTH head coach Chief Petty Officer Jorge Lopez, J-6, dives to make a save.

## Team members

Coach — ITC Jorge Lopez, J-6  
 SSG Kevin Alvarez, 112th Sig. Det.  
 MAJ Jorge Cintron, J-3 PLEX  
 1SG Alfredo Rodriguez, CMD GRP  
 SFC Marcus Wooten, J-6  
 SFC Jacinto Jones, 112th Sig. Det.  
 SFC Betty Fleming-Jones, Reserve Affairs  
 MSG Jeffrey Roman, J-2  
 Mrs. Marilyn Ortiz, J-5 AIS  
 Mrs. Lisa Jusino, Family Member  
 MSG Silvio Herradora, J-4  
 Mr. Reyes Typaldos, J-8  
 1st Lt Angel Davila, CMD GRP  
 Maj Longinos Gonzalez, J-2  
 SFC Luis Flores, J-3 FP

# Profiles of reserve members

The Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) profiles outstanding members of the 482d Fighter Wing as motivational success stories and to set an example for the Air Force Reserve community.

*By Master Sgt. Julie Hudson, 482d LRS and Staff Sgt. Mike Johnson*

Tech. Sgt. Emelia Johnson, who many 482d Fighter Wing members may remember as Tech. Sgt. Diaz, came to the U. S. from Cuba at age 3 with her family during the Mariel Boat Lift of 1980. She was the first member of her family to graduate high school, and that was just the beginning for Sgt. Johnson. She is very close to her family and, as she puts it, her "life revolves around her 3 nieces and 4 nephews."

Sergeant Johnson started her career in the Air Force in 1997 at Minot Air Force Base where her professionalism, devotion to duty and work ethics were immediately recognized. In 1997, during her first year of active duty, she was selected as the 5<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron Airman of the Year. The next year she earned a CCAF degree in Applied Logistics. Following that, in 1999, she was 1 of only 3 recipients of the Air Force Wide Logistics Officer Association Scholarships. In reward for her academic success and ambition, the Wing Commander picked Sgt. Johnson to visit the Air Force Academy. But it is more than just career related functions that motivate Sgt. Johnson.

A caring person, she volunteers much of her time to people and her community. Throughout her tour at Minot, for example, she spent every Thanksgiving escorting senior citizens to holiday feasts and activities.

Always one to excel, Sgt. Johnson did well with her education. Having overcome many hardships early in life, she seems to have set a standard for herself that goes hand in hand with Air Force philosophy – Above and Beyond.

She was determined to be the first person in her family to earn a college degree, and she was successful. After graduating at the top of her class from high school, she enrolled in college and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Management/Health Care from Park University in 2000.

In 2000, Sgt. Johnson joined the Air Force Reserve and came to the 482d Fighter Wing. Her devotion to duty was evident here at Homestead, too.

In addition to wing deployments, she volunteered to support several Air Expeditionary Force requirements to include Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; Sembach Air Base, Germany; Rhein Main Air Base, Germany; and Akrotiri, Cyprus. She was an exceptional representative of Air Force Reserve Command and the 482d Fighter Wing at each deployment, receiving certificates of appreciation and even an award package from one of the deployed Chiefs of Supply.

Responding to the needs at home, Sgt. Johnson volunteered for activation to support Operation Noble Eagle in 2003. She also attended and graduated from the in-residence NCO Academy. She somehow balanced all this with college and a successful full time job!

Sgt. Johnson has been a tremendous asset to Homestead and the Air Force. Due to her initiative, integrity and excellence, she received a PEP promotion to Tech. Sgt. in 2004. Her contributions at Homestead had a direct impact on the success of the Logistics Readiness Squadron in the 2004 Operational Readiness Inspection as she studied and prepared for the litany of requirements.

Sgt. Johnson's sister and parents still live in South Florida. She and her husband, an Air Force Reserve recruiter, are presently in California at Travis Air Force Base with hopes of returning to Florida soon. But Sgt. Johnson's devotion to those she loves extends beyond the scope of family. Overcoming odds and finding success in America had an impact on her. Not only did Sgt. Johnson grow to love her country, she has chosen to dedicate her life serving it as a member of the Air Force.

More recently, Sergeant Johnson applied for a commission, and despite keen competition, she was selected! She starts Officer Training School on May 24 and will graduate as an Active Duty Navigator. She is also presently enrolled in a Master's Degree in International Business program with only four classes remaining.



*Photo by Staff Sgt Mike Johnson*

**Tech. Sgt. Emelia Johnson, a former member of the 482d LRS, was recently selected for a commission. She immigrated from Cuba at age 3, was the first in her family to graduate high school, and she is now near completion of her Masters Degree.**