



FLIGHT LINES

SERVING HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

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

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September 2006



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Aloha Makos



Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Bucky Parrish

Lt. Col. Jose "Hoser" Monteagudo, 93rd Fighter Squadron commander, watches Staff Sgt. Adam Cartwright for pre-flight signals Aug. 11, 2006, here at Homestead Air Reserve Base. 482nd Fighter Wing pilots and maintainers headed to Hickam Air Force Base to train with the Hawaii Air National Guard in exercise Cactus Aloha. See page 6 for the full story.

Unit Compliance Inspection ahead; be prepared



Air Force Reserve photo

**By Col. Randy Falcon
482nd Fighter Wing Commander**

It is an honor to be the commander of the 482nd Fighter Wing. I believe our unit to be the most mission-oriented, war-ready organization in the Air Force Reserve.

That exceptional standing doesn't come easy. We train and inspect and then do it all over again. We put our hearts into it day after day and UTA after UTA.

Most recently our unit successfully deployed to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. Nine of our F-16s from the 93rd Fighter Squadron and supporting maintainers and support personnel participated in exercise Cactus Aloha. During Cactus Aloha, our Airmen performed their duties perfectly; duties and missions that mirror our wartime mission.

In November we host an AFRC UCI team. A different type of test, the team meticulously examines almost every aspect of our unit. Training records, maintenance records, deploy-

ment folders and many other items will come under their exacting scrutiny. It's long hours preparing for the UCI, but it's time well spent.

All this effort, all these training deployments, all these inspections, everything we do big and small work together to hone our skills as war fighters. It's a challenge to all of us and sometimes burdensome to our families as well.

But from my view, ours is a well trained, well lead unit of world class aerospace warriors and more than ready for next year's AEF rotation or any other war time challenge thrown our way.

Keep up the good work.

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct link to the leadership of the 482nd Fighter Wing for suggestions, praise or issues regarding Homestead Air Reserve Base for which no other solution exists. Your chain of command should always be your first option. However, this month the 482nd FW would like some specific feedback:

What quality of life improvements would you like to see at Homestead ARB?

Send your responses to:

actionline@homestead.af.mil



Voter Registration Drive

The Miami Dade Elections Department will have an Election Outreach Specialist available during the September and October primary unit training assemblies. The election specialist will help military, civilian or retired individuals register to vote for upcoming elections at the following dates, times and locations:

Sept. 9 - 10 at the BX Mart from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sept. 9 - 10 at the Falcon's Nest Club from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Oct. 14-15 at the BX Mart from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Oct. 14-15 at the Falcon's Nest Club from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information contact the Wing Voting Assistance Officers:

Lt. Col. Thomas Davis at (305) 224-7303 or

Lt. Col. Robert Delgado at (305) 224-7821.

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New procedures improve accountability in emergencies

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — If a national emergency occurs, Air Force Reserve Command has improved procedures in place for keeping track of its military people and their families.

The command developed the procedures to prepare for future disasters after hurricanes devastated the Gulf Coast last year.

“Our goal is to educate each individual on the importance of timely personnel accountability after any devastating event,” said David Holly, AFRC personnel readiness operations branch chief.

Under the new procedures,

commanders use a two-phase approach to account for their people. Each phase - pre and post - will be completed within 48 hours of notification to begin the accountability process.

People assigned to or living in an affected area must check in with the unit. They should check in at the first available opportunity, but no later than 48 hours after the start of the crisis. People on temporary assignment or on leave in a disaster area should report their location and status to their unit of assignment.

“Personnel accountability is a top priority for Air Force Reserve Com-

mand,” said Mr. Holly. “Our most important resources are our people and their families.

“In the event of a disaster, we need timely accountability of our people,” he said. “Since we must always be prepared to accomplish our mission, we need to know their status and availability.”

Reporting instructions are available on the command Web site <https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/>. People can link to the instructions by selecting the “Hot & New Items” icon, going to the drop down menu and selecting “Personnel Accountability.” (AFRC News Service)

Annual Combined Federal Campaign kicks off

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The 2006-2007 Combined Federal Campaign runs for six consecutive weeks Sept. 1 through Dec. 15 for both continental United States and overseas bases.

The Local Federal Coordinating Committee will establish exact dates and campaign goals in each geographic area; this information will be available through installation CFC project officers.

Last year, federal employees and military personnel reached into their pockets to donate a record setting \$268 million to the CFC. Contributions can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction.

Military and civilian personnel who are deployed or will be deployed during the campaign will participate in the overseas CFC at their deployed location where they will have access to the same national and international charities. Those people who wish to donate to local charities may

donate to charities at the deployed location, or if married, they may obtain a spousal CFC power of attorney to complete local contribution forms at their home base.

The CFC was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country. This annual fall fund-raising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees and military personnel to contribute to thousands of local and national nonprofit organizations.

On average, one in four federal employees or their dependents will benefit from the CFC charities this year alone, according to CFC officials. Donors may designate which charities receive their money by filling out a pledge card.

Local CFC project officers have more information. The CFC Web site is at www.opm.gov/cfc. (AFPC News Service)

Promotions

Airman

Rodney Bruno, 482nd MDS

Senior Airman

Liza Cardona, 482nd MDS

Oscar Lopez, 482nd CES

Badi Sheffey, 70th APS

Omar Martinez-Gonzales, 482nd LRS

Kevin Delarosa, 482nd AMXS

Matthew LaForest, 482nd MXS

James Halstead, 482nd MXS

Staff Sergeant

Joshua Passwater, 482nd MXS

David Brantley, 482nd CES

James Laubaugh, 482nd AMXS

Michael Greenburg, 70th APS

Joseph Vaughn, 482nd AMXS

Ryan Sattler, 482nd MXG

Stuart Garner, 482nd SFS

Technical Sergeant

Edwin Perez, 482nd SFS

James Anderson, 482nd SFS

Christopher Maddaloni, 482nd SFS

Samantha Paige, 70th APS

Jessica Castro, 70th APS

Kellee Rowland, 482nd SFS

Jimy Cardona, 482nd LRS

Luis Pacheco, 482nd OG

Master Sergeant

Joseph Busby, 70th APS

Trung Pham, 482nd CES

Ryan Kaono, 482nd LRS

Robert Hidalgo, 482nd CES

Joseph Bonura, 482nd SFS

Senior Master Sergeant

Joan E. Gordon, 70th APS

New director on board at Customs Miami Air and Marine Branch

*Story and photo by Jake Shaw
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

John Beutlich assumed command of the Customs and Border Protection Miami Air and Marine Branch here at Homestead Air Reserve Base June 11.

Mr. Beutlich, a 20-year veteran of Customs, takes over from Robbie Viator, who recently transferred after leading the Homestead branch for 3 years

As Director of Air Operations, Mr. Beutlich is responsible for 16 aircraft, 22 boats and nearly 100 enforcement personnel who patrol the sky and water in and around South Florida. The mission of the CBP Miami Air and Marine Branch is to protect the American people and critical infrastructure by using an integrated and coordinated air and marine force to detect, interdict and prevent acts of terrorism arising from unlawful movement of people, illegal drugs and other contraband moving toward or crossing the borders of the United States.

To be successful as an organization, the CBP Miami Air and Marine Branch must be able to adapt to challenges of the future, said Mr. Beutlich.

“We are reactionary to events that occur around us. Today the events are focused on Cuba, the Southwest border and terrorism; tomorrow that focus may shift and we as an organization will have to react and adapt to those changes,” he said.

Prior to his arrival at Homestead, Mr. Beutlich was a program manager assigned to the Customs Air and Marine Headquarters in Washington D.C., and he also spent a year on a special detail working for the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Mr. Beutlich, originally from Chicago, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Loyola University of Chicago in 1978 and he also holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

After graduating from Loyola University of Chicago, Mr. Beutlich was commissioned in the Army in 1978, and continued to serve for nine years on active duty. He accepted an inter-service transfer to the Navy Reserve in 1987 and started his career with Customs that same year. Mr. Beutlich retired from the Navy Reserve in 2000 as a Commander after 20 years of service.

While serving in the Army and Navy Reserve, Mr. Beutlich attended a variety of schools, ranging from electronic warfare to combined arms. He has also attended many courses in safety, firearms and marine law enforcement as a Customs agent.



John Beutlich, Director of Air Operations for the Customs and Border Protection's Miami Air and Marine Branch, stands with a new DASH-8 200Q Maritime Patrol aircraft at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. Mr. Beutlich assumed command of the Homestead-based Customs operations June 11, and the DASH-8 arrived soon after. The DASH-8 200Q is a twin-turboprop aircraft specially designed for quiet operation during surveillance missions.

As the boss, Mr. Beutlich prefers to manage his employees in a way that allows the pilots, marine officers and agents to get the job done without interference.

“I have a great group of people and supervisors who work for me. This allows me to manage issues, deal with higher headquarters and to trust orders given will be carried out. My job is to get them the tools they need to do their job while keeping them as unburdened as possible so they can accomplish their mission,” he said.

Civil Engineers bid farewell to a friend



Photo by Lt. Col. Thomas Davis

Master Sgt. David Alarcon, center, leads a formation during closing ceremonies in June of last year for Operation Para Los Ninos in San Vicente, El Salvador. Sergeant Alarcon, 45, passed away on Friday, June 11. He is survived by his father, step-mother, mother, sister and son. He previously served in the Army as a combat engineer and was a member of the Civil Engineering Squadron for more than 19 years.

A funeral procession was held recently for a 482nd Civil Engineer with an unforgettable smile; he touched many lives. MSgt. David Alarcon's flag draped casket was loaded into the hearse by his closest Civil Engineers at Saint Brendan's Catholic Church for a slow motorcade to Our Lady of Mercy Cemetery.

There a final salute was rendered as the honor guards' rifles went silent and taps was sounded to honor a man whose life was cut short. This was the final farewell for a 45 year old Master Sgt. assigned to CES for the past 19 years, most recently as the Supervisor of the Pavements and Equipment Shop.

David came to Homestead by way of the Army where he started his military career serving with the 3rd Armored Division as a Combat Engineer stationed at Butzbach (a.k.a. The Rock), West Germany. Soon after arriving at Homestead he deployed to Al Kharj Air Base, Saudi Arabia, with 49 other fellow Squadron members during Operation Desert Storm.

Among many other deployments over the years, David also participated in numerous New Horizon missions in South Central America and was on the Duration Staff at El Salvador in support of operation Para Los Niño's. There he was the Site Project Manager for the ground-up construction of a school building at La Esperanza.

David was also a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, and had an active interest all aspects of construction technology.

On Friday August 11, while he was boating with his father and teenage son just north of Key Largo, David anchored his boat just off shore and dove into the water but couldn't swim back. His son jumped in but couldn't reach his father. David's father also tried unsuccessfully to help. A nearby boat pulled David's son safely from the water and soon after the Coast Guard arrived but were not able to resuscitate David.

The Alarcon family will not be alone and will be surrounded by the love and support of all that knew him. He will be deeply missed by all those he has touched here at Homestead Air Reserve Base.

David is survived by his mother and father Rosa and Juan Alarcon, sister Erlylinda, his son Ryan and his mother Karen Weaver.

//SIGNED//

WALTER S. HORLACHER, SMSgt, USAFR
482 CES P&E Superintendent

DAVID L. ALARCON
1961 - 2006



Cactus Aloha pits Reserve F-16s against Guard F-15s



By Master Sgt. Ray Sarracino
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Pilots and support people from Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., trained with the Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Fighter Squadron in exercise Cactus Aloha last month.

Cactus Aloha was a dissimilar aircraft combat tactics training exercise, in which Air Force Reserve Command F-16s from Homestead were pitted against Guard F-15s. Each aircraft has distinct flying and fighting

capabilities, affording both units the chance to experience training against a different platform than their own.

The exercise provided lessons that the reservists of Homestead's 93rd Fighter Squadron and 482nd Maintenance Group can't frequently get at home.

"This type of training allows everyone involved, from pilots to maintainers to support personnel, the opportunity to work in a different environment, face unique challenges and be prepared to carry the mission wherever it's needed," said 1st Lt. Dan Moreno, 482nd Operations Group executive officer.

Among the maintainers, morale remained high, despite being on the road. Troops found their temporary home in Hawaii to be very welcoming.

"The weather and scenery have been great," said Tech. Sgt. Phil Vargas, an F-16 crew chief. "We've adapted pretty well to working here. The Hawaii Air National Guard personnel have been very hospitable."

The 199th FS hosts a number of units for "Aloha" exercises throughout the year. In fact, the Aloha name is carried through all of the exercises. The only difference is that when the 199th is training against other ANG units, the exercise is called "Sentry Aloha."

The logistics involved were mind-boggling. From coordinating transport, equipment, aircraft, people and facilities, to keeping up with, and maintaining all of it, required a small army of people on both ends.

"Cactus Aloha" liaison Chief

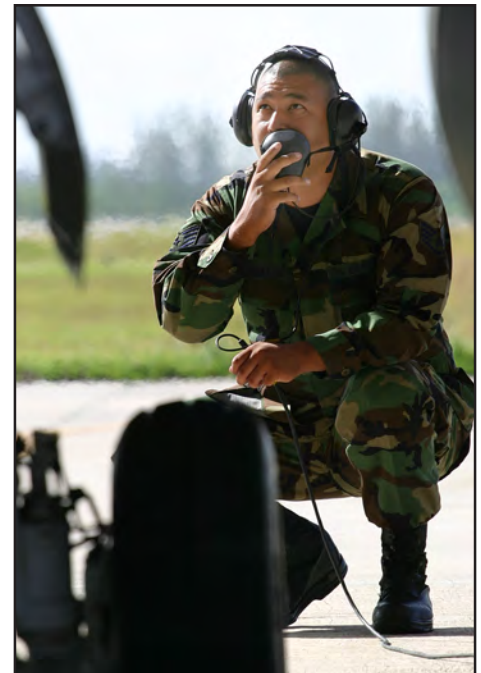


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bucky Parrish

Staff Sgt. Gabe Pedraza, 482nd Maintenance Squadron, examines the flight control surface movement during F-16 pre-flight checks Aug. 11 here at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. as some of the pilots began the nearly 5,000 mile flight to Hawaii.

Master Sgt. Craig Harimoto was among those helping to make the exercise more manageable. His laid back management style made a complex and challenging task look simple.

"This job is fun and interesting," Chief Harimoto said. "I came from a maintenance background, then wing safety, to this. All of these people have been good to work with."

Cactus Aloha ended Aug. 26, when the Homestead team and equipment headed back to Florida.



Photo by Master Sgt. Ray Sarracino

Senior Master Sgt. Honey Lane of the 482nd Maintenance Group marshals an F-16 during exercise Cactus Aloha Aug. 22 at Hickam Air Force Base.

482nd reservists in hands of experienced, proud crew

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Ray Sarracino 482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

8/14/2006 - 34,000 feet above Pacific Ocean — Crews who operate the Air Force’s fleet of cargo aircraft represent an important component of the nation’s national defense efforts.

The ability to move large amounts of people and equipment long distances in short periods of time allow for tremendous flexibility in how we fight and win wars.

The crew of the Aug. 13 flight from Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. to Hickam AFB, Hawaii for exercise Cactus Aloha was comprised of traditional reservists who have participated in some of the most urgent missions this century. Among the crew was loadmaster Tech. Sgt. Steve Stophel, 68th Airlift Squadron, 448th Air Wing.

Sergeant Stophel, a Dallas native, has been an Air Force reservist for about six years. He joined specifically to become a loadmaster and is proud of his position on the crew.

He said that becoming a loadmaster required a number of challenges, including about a year-and-a-half of training before joining the crew. Mention the C-5 and he will proudly rattle off the vital statistics

about the aircraft and what it can do.

For example, for the trip to Hawaii they topped off their wing tanks with 184,000 pounds of fuel. When needed for longer flights, the aircraft is capable of carrying 332,000 pounds of fuel. That’s roughly the weight of about 110 midsize cars.

When asked to name a particularly meaningful mission to him, Sergeant Stophel said that the evacuation of residents of New Orleans, La. in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina last year had made quite an impact on him. This was seconded by his colleague, SSgt. Joe Nichols, a San Antonio native who is also a loadmaster.

“A lot of people were in shock,” Sergeant Stophel said. “It was kind of scary for them. Many didn’t know where they were heading, but most were happy to be anywhere but in New Orleans.”

“They brought everything they could: Cats, dogs, whatever they could carry,” Sergeant Nichols added.

The C-5 usually consists of a crew of eight: 3 pilots, 2 engineers and 3 loadmasters, and this crew has traveled all over the world supporting the airlift needs of the U.S. military.

The “Galaxy” began its career during the Vietnam Era.



Flight engineer, Staff Sgt. David Ortegon, 68th Airlift Squadron, checks the C-5’s fuel load during the flight from March Air Reserve Base, Calif. to Hickam AFB, Hawaii, Sunday, Aug. 13.

Mako Tails

What’s your favorite thing about Hawaii?

I’m encouraged that my advice is sinking in. The troops have been hydrating and using sun-screen. I really feel they’ve been on board.



Tech. Sgt. Errol Johnson
93rd Fighter Squadron Medical Technician

It has been a pleasure to work with the Maintenance Group. I went to the Pali lookout and enjoyed the beautiful view.



Staff Sgt. Mary Harris
Information Management Specialist

It’s great to sightsee and the locals are really friendly. Plus the exercise has been great. Overall, it’s been a pretty positive atmosphere.



Senior Airman Ben Ziskal
Maintenance Group Logistician

The most fun thing for me was the visit to Pearl Harbor, the USS Arizona and the USS Missouri.



Master Sgt. Anthony Cherington
Wheel and Tire Shop Chief

From Hilo to Homestead and back again

482nd weapons loader takes work home... all the way home

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Ray Sarracino
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

8/24/2006 - Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii — When Hilo, Hawaii native Master Sgt. John Kawachika left home to join the military in 1987, he didn't anticipate that things would end up the way they did. After boot camp and tech school, the weapons loader's active-duty career brought him around the world on duty stations from Asia to Florida.

His latest military adventure has brought him back to where he grew up, about 4,800 miles east of Homestead, where he's helping the 93rd Fighter Squadron train with the F-15's of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Fighter Squadron for exercise Cactus Aloha, a dissimilar aircraft combat tactics training exercise.

Sergeant Kawachika's first stop on his globe-hopping itinerary was the now-closed England Air Force Base, La. for his first tour. There he began learning his craft in which he continues to excel. After Louisiana he spent time in South Korea, traveling regularly between Suwon and Osan. Then it was on to a stint at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., and finally closing out his active duty career was a tour at



Master Sgt. John Kawachika proudly displays the fruits of his labors, a properly mounted air-to-air missile, during exercise Cactus Aloha at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, August 17.

Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida's panhandle.

Not content with saying goodbye to his Air Force career, upon leaving active duty he accepted a position at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. as an Air Reserve Technician (ART) in the weapons flight in 1996. For those in the know, the Air Force Reserve's ART program allows people to work in the civil service, while maintaining a military career as a reservist. ARTs serve as full-time counterparts to reservists in a unit, and then serve in a military capacity during unit training assemblies (UTAs) and deployments.

Although he is still a reservist with the 482nd Fighter Wing, Sergeant Kawachika moved from the ART world to a new challenge in August of last year, when he took a job with the Miami-Dade Fire & Rescue Department in South Florida - a position that keeps him busy, yet still affords him the opportunity to remain part of the military.

Master Sgt. Kawachika is proud of his Hawaiian heritage and his Japanese ancestry, which he feels brings a unique perspective to his duties with the 482nd. The married, father-of-two also stays busy raising his sons who are in his words "hapa haole", meaning half-foreigner, because of life away from the islands.

As this Hilo native closes in on 20 years of military service in a place almost 5,000 miles from home, he says that "Hawaii no ka oi," ("Hawaii is number one") and that he hopes to return to Hawaii permanently in the future. For now, he's just happy to be part of the Homestead team, helping the 93rd sharpen its skills in the air, and on the ground.



Photo by Master Sgt. Ray Sarracino

Seized the Day

Master Sgt. Kim Sayer of the 482nd Maintenance Group takes the oath of enlistment from Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling aboard the USS Arizona Memorial Aug. 21 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. General Pawling is the commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing.

70th APS leads the way in Patriot Partner 2006

By Dan Galindo
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

More than 40 reservists of the 70th Aerial Port Squadron here at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. recently led a partial takeover of port operations at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. for operation Patriot Partner 2006.

The Homestead team coordinated all the logistics bringing together more than 130 Air Force reservists from six Reserve units to form the 333rd Consolidated Aerial Port Squadron from late July until Aug 5.

"We took over about 70 percent of the operations from the active-duty unit, the 437th (Aerial Port Squadron)," said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Hiney, 70th APS superintendent.

"The first week we worked side-by-side with the active-duty airmen, while we actually took over and ran the show after that," he said.

While the consolidated Reserve unit got valuable training from the experience, the mission served real-world needs. Reservists moved much of the cargo in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. They also moved life-critical supplies for humanitarian relief in Honduras.

For the 333rd CAPS, the job included working round-the-clock shifts, handling enormous amounts of aircraft, cargo and passengers in only two weeks.

Reservists working in Passenger Services handled close to 1,050 travelers; Cargo Processing specialists moved about 2,000 tons of cargo; And 333rd CAPS members in Special Handling and Ramp Services loaded and unloaded about 300 aircraft.

In addition, reservists filled roles in the Air Terminal Operations Center, load planning, fleet services, supply, and training and commander support staff sections.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Luis Delmoral

Tech. Sgt. Raymond Edwards pushes pallets of cargo inside of a Boeing 747 during Patriot Partner 2006. Sergeant Edwards and other reservists of the 333rd Consolidated Aerial Port Squadron moved nearly 2,000 tons of cargo, loading and unloading about 300 aircraft.



Photo by Master Sgt. Roberta Milanowski

Staff Sgt. Jorge Melendez, second from left, of Homestead's 70th Aerial Port Squadron provides training to other Airmen working in Passenger Services at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. during Patriot Partner 2006. Reservists from the 70th APS led five other Reserve units in a partial takeover of port operations at Charleston.

See PATRIOT, pg. 10

PATRIOT, from pg. 9

Working with several Reserve aerial port squadrons from around the U.S. and the active-duty unit at Charleston Air Force Base presented several challenges. However, the Homestead reservists more than prevailed.

“Blending is a little bit rough initially when you have so many people from different places,” said Master Sgt. Roberta Milanowski, NCO in charge of Cargo Processing. “Sometimes you have a top performer from one unit, and another stellar troop from another unit comes along, you have a sandpaper effect. It’s just a growing process.”

The 333rd clearly handled it well. The active-duty host unit recognized Tech. Sgt. Thomas McKee of Homestead’s 70th APS as this year’s Patriot Partner Outstanding Performer.

“The experience and other hands-on training will definitely help us do a great job when we get to the (Persian) Gulf next summer,” Sergeant Milanowski said.

The other Air Force Reserve units led by Homestead’s 70th APS were: the 25th APS from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.; the 27th APS from Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn.; the 53rd APS from Pope Air Force Base, N.C.; 73rd APS from Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas; and the 85th APS from Hanscom Air Reserve Base, Mass.



Photo by Master Sgt. Roberta Milanowski

Staff Sgt. Arturo Santiago processes forms in the Load Planning section in support of Patriot Partner 2006 at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. Reservists of Homestead’s 70th APS coordinated the operation for more than 130 reservists for five other Reserve units from across the US.



Courtesy photo

Making History

Commander of U.S. Central Command, General John Abizaid recognizes Homestead reservist and 482nd Fighter Wing historian Tech. Sgt. Robert Clark, left, with a commander’s coin for his outstanding performance. Sergeant Clark has been deployed to the Middle East performing as the USCENCOM Command Historian Forward since May 15. He will return to Homestead in late October.



Photo by Jake Shaw

Congratulations to the 2nd quarter award winners. Ms. Sharon Wilson, left, and Ms. Ana Zalesky of the Homestead/Florida City Military Affairs Committee were on hand Aug. 3 to congratulate the winners. Winners shown: Ms. Wilmary Aviles, Civilian of the Quarter, and Maj. Sean “Thor” Carpenter, Junior Officer of the Quarter. Senior Airman Melissa Collazo won Airman of the Quarter; Tech. Sgt. Barbara Hodges won in the NCO category; and Master Sgt. Estela Clunie won for Senior NCO.

Soccer and flag football

The fitness center is now taking sign-ups for both intramural soccer and flag football. Sign up at the fitness center or by email. Provide the sport you wish to join, your name, unit, work and home phone numbers and team preference. Coaches' meetings for both sports will be Sept. 20 in the Heritage Hall Conference Center, Bldg. 404. Soccer coaches meet at 1 p.m., and flag football coaches will meet at 2 p.m. The league is open to all DOD ID card holders and dependents 18 or older. Play dates and times TBD. Contact Derrick Sigler with any questions at (305) 224-7129 or email at derrick.sigler@homestead.af.mil.

Member only events at club

The Falcon's Nest Club will be having two Member's Only events on Oct. 13 and Dec. 1. Both events feature free food and prizes. One Significant Other will be allowed with a \$10 fee.

myPay a must for W-2s

The Air Force Accounting & Finance Office has ended hard copy mailing of W-2 Tax Earning Statements for all Active Duty, Guard and Reserve personnel. Please inform your troops who do not utilize myPay to obtain their W-2s to get a PIN before the end of the year so they can pull down their W-2 electronically to prepare their 2006 tax returns.

OPSEC applies to web logs

Blogs, or web logs, posted to public websites are increasingly used by military personnel as personal journals. Commanders must ensure subordinates are aware that, in accordance with DOD directive 5230.9, Clearance of DOD information for public release, and the joint ethics regulation, DOD 5500.7-R, personal blogs may not be created or maintained during normal duty hours and may not contain information on military activities that is not available to the general public. Such information

includes comments on daily military activities and operations, unit morale, results of operations, status of equipment, and other information that may be beneficial to adversaries.

Reserve dental program

National Guard and Reserve members, with at least 12 months remaining on their service commitment, and their families are eligible for the TRICARE Dental Program. For more information, access the TRICARE Dental Program online at www.tricare dental program.com or call toll-free 1 (800) 866-8499, 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday. Beneficiaries may also access the TRICARE Website at www.tricare.osd.mil and access the TRICARE Dental Program Fact Sheet as well as other fact sheets.

Civilian volunteers wanted

Have you ever wanted to participate, but never had the chance? Civilians on base now have that opportunity through the Mobility Augmentation Program. Volunteers will help move, palletize, and process cargo during exercises and mobility events. Positions available include: Forklift operators, document processing, passenger processing, security, load teams and more. Everyone will receive training. If interested, please contact Lt. Col. Charles Mood at charles.mood@homestead.af.mil or Senior Master Sgt. Larry Washington at larry.washington@homestead.af.mil

DD-214s available online

Veterans can now access their Form DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, through the National Archives Web site. The National Personnel Records Center is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records

system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded online.

Air Force ball and dining out

The U.S. Southern Command is sponsoring an Air Force dining-out and birthday ball, *Wings of America, Infinite Horizons*, on Saturday, Sept. 9. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with the commencement starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Mart Plaza Hotel on 711 NW 72nd Ave in Miami. The guest speaker is Pulitzer prize-winning author and humorist Dave Barry. For tickets, dress guidelines and pricing, please contact Lt. Col. Mata at (305) 437-3339.

Travel in comfort at MIA

The Military Hospitality Lounge has opened at Miami International Airport. Any person with a military I.D. in any travel status (show an airline ticket or a cruise line ticket) is eligible to use the center located in Concourse B on the fourth floor across from the bank and U.S. Post Office. The center is open 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., seven days a week, year round. In addition to providing a relaxing atmosphere for military travelers, the center's staff can help arrange reduced-cost accommodations for those who may be delayed in route, for those visiting family members receiving care at the Miami VA Medical Center, and for service members returning from deployment.

VFW POW/MIA Ceremony

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4127 is hosting a POW/MIA Ceremony Saturday, Sept. 16. Dinner will feature roast beef with all the trimmings and will be served from 6 to 8 p.m. Entertainment by The Reflections of Lake City will begin at 8 p.m. Post 4127 is located at 601 2nd Road in Homestead. For details, call (305) 245-4535 or contact CJ Heinbaugh at christopher.heinbaugh@homestead.af.mil

Services wins softball championship

By Jake Shaw

482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

In what could be considered an upset victory, the 482nd Services team won the 2006 intramural softball championship here at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. on Aug. 17.

Despite strong predictions from some players that Security Forces would win the championship, the 482nd Security Forces team finished in second place.

They were followed by the team from Special Operations Command South, who finished a respectable third out of six teams.

"The other teams talked a big game, but I think we proved that we

were the best team this year, just like last year," said Herb Tiedemann, Services coach. "And next year we're going for the 3-peat," he said.

On the road to victory the Services team outscored Security Forces 18-17 in two head-to-head games, and they also bested their SOCSOUTH opponents twice to win the championship.

Security Forces tied Services for the best playoff record at 3-1, but the run differential from their two games meant Services won the championship.

"I thought we were in trouble in the last game against SOCSOUTH," said Tiedemann.

"We were down 16-2 after three

innings, but somehow we came back and won the game. It was a great comeback, and that's the type of thing you have to do if you want to win a championship."

"I know at least one guy on the Security Forces team was disappointed that they didn't beat my team. Next year I'll get shirts for my team that say 'NO FEAR', just to show him that we don't back down from anyone – no matter how much trash they talk," he said.

The championship win was a repeat for Services, who won the 2005 softball championship and more recently the 2006 basketball championship.

Club membership perks heating up

Air Force Club membership just got more exciting as two club members will win a brand new H3 Hummer.

The two H3s are being given away to show Air Force Clubs' appreciation to its members. All new members who sign up for club membership during the annual membership drive from Sept. 1 through Nov. 31 are eligible to win one of the H3 Hummers. The second H3 will be given away to someone who was a member as of August 31.

"We are really looking forward to this year's drive," said Frank Black, Air Force Clubs division chief. "According to our younger members, the H3 is 'tight'. They think it's cool and are excited about the opportunity to get one free."

The H3 is Hummer's grandson, a mid-size suburban utility vehicle. It features heated leather seats, electric sliding sunroof, power windows and door locks and AM/FM Stereo with compact disk.

Another important club member benefit is the Military Free Cash Rewards Program. This is the pro-

gram where members can receive 2 percent cash back on every eligible dollar they spend on purchases made with their club card at the base exchange, except gas, which equals one point, commissary and in Air Force Services activities including the clubs, bowling centers, and golf course, to name a few. Members also earn one percent cash back on every eligible dollar spent off base when purchasing with the membership card.

"The Military Free Cash Reward Program is one of our most popular membership benefits," said Fred McKenney, Air Force Clubs operations branch chief. "People really enjoy getting money back on their purchase and it's easy and convenient to redeem points."

"To receive money back in addition to having the opportunity of enjoying all the great programming at our clubs is a real bonus for our club members," Mr. McKenney said.

Points can be redeemed by calling Card Member Services at 1-800-759-0294.

Additionally, people who sign up for club membership during this period are eligible to receive zero percent interest rates for 12 months on purchases and balance transfers with a "go to" rate of Prime plus 4.99 percent.

To sign up for membership stop by your local club or apply by calling 1-888-871-5608 and mention card code 5TH7.

Get toys or tickets at ODR

Miami Dolphin football tickets are now available through the Outdoor Recreation office, located in the Fitness Center. Also, theme park tickets for Sea World, Busch Gardens, Universal Studios, Island Adventure, and Disney are available. Keep in mind that all your renting and purchasing needs can be taken care of from there, too. Grills, sleeping gear, trailers, and both sports and water equipment are readily available. Whether you want to play in the water or on a grassy field, you'll find what you need. For more information, call (305) 224-7092.