



The 12th Edition

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Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force Supplement to the *Desert Airman*

Friday, November 8, 2002

News Briefs

Holiday Party

The Twelfth Air Force Holiday Party is 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 in the Officers' Club.

Dress is holiday casual and music after dinner will be provided until 10 p.m. The menu includes a family-style turkey and ham dinner.

Ticket Prices:

- E-1/GS-1 to E-5/GS-4 = \$10
- E-6/GS-5 to O-2/GS-10 = \$15
- O-3/GS-11 and up = \$20

(E-5s and below can contact MSgt Smith at 8-4274 for discounted tickets.)

Contact the following for more information or to purchase a ticket:

- ☐ Staff/A-1 – TSgt. Brazier at 8-4729
- ☐ A-2 – Lt. Forte at 8-6945
- ☐ A-3 – TSgt. McPherson at 8-1396 or A1C Forero at 8-2400
- ☐ A-4 – Capt. Eakins at 8-3938
- ☐ A-6 – MSgt. Sharp at 8-2013
- ☐ TOG – MSgt. Pino at 8-0053 or Capt. Littleton at 8-6792

Long weekends

November has two extended weekends: Veterans' Day is Monday, Nov. 11 and the Air Combat Command directed Family Day is Friday, Nov. 29.

Everyone is encouraged to enjoy the extended weekends in a fun, but safe way using some of the following tips:

1. If you drink, designate a driver before going out or call the AADD program at 850-2233.
2. When planning an outing, apply personal risk management to ensure you return home safely.
3. Avoid extended driving periods, take frequent breaks to stretch and don't try to "make that extra mile" before stopping for the night.
4. Above all – keep an eye out and avoid putting yourself into unsafe situations, use the wingman policy – it pays!

LAOC expands understanding of AOR

Course gives details of Latin American history, cultural differences

By TSgt. Karin Wickwire
12th Air Force Public Affairs

Almost 100 Twelfth Air Force members and several students from the University of Arizona's Center of Latin American Studies took part in a Latin American Orientation Course, conducted by the



TSgt. Karin Wickwire

Michael Gold-Bliss (standing) a private consultant specializing in business strategies, security and political systems, discusses the transitioning Latin American Militaries to a mixed audience of Twelfth Air Force members and students from the University of Arizona's Center of Latin American Studies.

U.S.A.F. Special Operations School. The course was Oct. 28-31 in the Twelfth Air Force Headquarters Building.

The Latin American Orientation Course focuses on Latin American culture, history, politics and terrorist case studies with an emphasis on regional understanding and how to work effectively in the region and with Latin Americans. It provides a comprehensive regional introduction for analysts and people who may travel to or be assigned in Latin America countries.

This course is especially effective for the people of 12th Air Force, which is the designated air component of the U.S. Southern Command – the unified command with a geographical area of responsibility covering Central and South America and the Caribbean. As the air component, Twelfth Air Force is known as U.S. Southern Command Air Forces, and is responsible for all U.S. Air Force activity in the Area of Responsibility.

For some of the Twelfth Air Force members this course was an eye-opener.

"LAOC opened a whole new perspective of the AOR to me," said A1C Daniel Forero, 612th Combat Operations Squadron. "I didn't realize the extent of the poverty there or how much something that happens in one country could affect the neighboring countries or the United States."

Amn. Erica Williams, 612th COS, had similar thoughts.

"Until this class I hadn't really paid attention to what was happening in the news. LAOC taught me a lot about what's going on in our AOR and about the governments of these countries," said Amn. Williams.

See LAOC, Page 3

Three 12th AF units star in 'Day in the Life'

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

Three units from Twelfth Air Force were among the more than 110 units selected as part of a global effort to capture a day in the life of the U.S. military. Twelfth Air Force units that were highlighted were the 355th Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.; 49th Fighter Wing, Holloman AFB, N.M.; and 478th Expeditionary Operations Squadron (EOS), Manta, Ecuador.

On Oct. 22, top military and civilian photographers captured 24 hours in the U.S. armed forces at sites throughout the United States and across the globe.

Their work that day will be compiled with images taken by about 25 other military photographers and 90 civilian pho-

tographers. The result will be "A Day in the Life of the United States Armed Forces," a coffee-table book to be published in May 2003.

The photographers shot at about 70 sites in the United States and 55 international sites around the world. ABC News sent 12 to 15 video crews to document the day, and about 25 military video crews also filmed.

Lewis J. Korman and Matthew Naythons, veterans in the entertainment and publishing business, are the book's co-creators and authors. Korman said they anticipate creating "a collection of the most insightful and revealing images from the best photographers in the world."

See PHOTOS, Page 2



U.S. Navy PHC Johnny Bivera

Javier Narvaez, the midnight meal chef, prepares an omelet for a mid-shift worker at Forward Operating Location Manta, Ecuador.

478th EOS aircraft locates fishing boat crew

Search, recovery efforts rescue 27 people

An American KC-135 tanker deployed to the 478th EOS in Manta, Ecuador, conducted a successful Search and Recovery mission at the request of the Spanish Embassy to locate the stranded crew of the Spanish fishing vessel Eli on Oct. 25.

The Eli had been abandoned after an engine room fire had disabled the ship. The crew of six Spaniards and 21 Ecuadorians took refuge in the trawler's auxiliary boat and radioed in a distress call. At the time of the distress call, the Eli, a 1,300-ton tuna boat, was some 500 miles southwest of Isla Isabela, in the Galapagos islands.

Manta-based personnel from Conservas Isabel S.A., the owner of the Eli, had picked up the ship's SOS and alerted local authorities but Ecuador had no assets nearby to conduct a rescue and the wreck was actually in the Peruvian Rescue Coordination Center area of responsibility.

The U.S. Embassy's MILGROUP Search-and-Rescue officer and U.S. Coast Guard attache began coordinating rescue efforts with the FOL and with the USCG RCC in California, respectively.

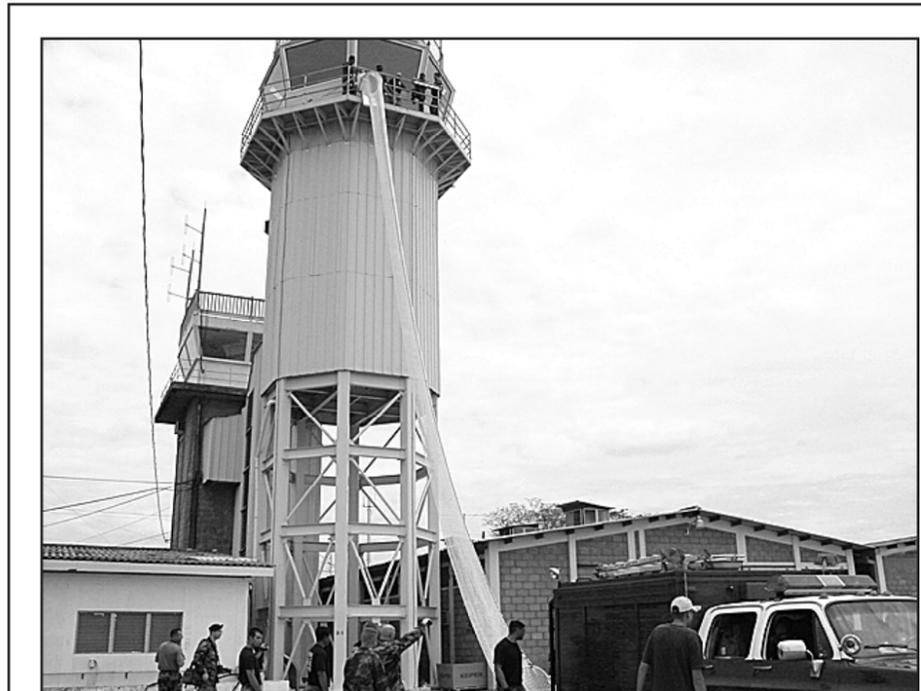
Using a computer database that tracks merchant vessel movements on the high seas, the USCG RCC determined the merchant vessel Mol Valparaiso was approximately seven hours from the estimated location of the disabled Eli.

With Embassy agreement, the FOL launched a long-range, night-vision equipped KC-135 aircraft to search for the missing crew. Three hours after take-off, the plane spotted wreckage from the Eli, and shortly thereafter, the crew's small vessel.

Using vector coordinates provided by the KC-135, the Mol Valparaiso steamed toward the lifeboat, rescuing all 27 crew. A second fishing trawler belonging to the same Spanish company offloaded them and headed back to Manta port, due to arrive Oct. 29.

FOL Manta has participated in SAR missions before but this was the first in which its efforts paid off in lives saved.

(Editor's note: The information in this article was taken from the official message from the U.S. MILGROUP in Quito, Ecuador.)



Courtesy Photos



Safety chute

Top: Efforts to improve job safety for the air traffic controllers at 612 Air Base Squadron Soto Cano Air Base control tower led to the installation of the Baker Life Chute on Sept. 25.

Left: The 95-foot device allows the controllers to escape from fire by sliding down the chute, slowing as needed by outward pressure of the feet and hands over the head.

PHOTOS

Continued from Page 1

Naythons said that while the book would capture the routine and heroic operations that safeguard democracy, their goal "is to open a window into the soul of the armed forces – the personal, human side that is not on display in the evening news."

The goal was to have 125 of the world's most respected photographers working on the project, Naythons said, and the military photographers fit right in. "They know the territory and they know how to shoot," he said. "And they can get behind the scenes to get the human story in this."

Naythons said that when Defense Department officials showed project officials military photographers' portfolios, "it was very quickly apparent that the military photographers are as good as any civilian photographers working today. There are some great images being produced by the men and women in the armed forces."

Harper Collins Publishers, working with EpiCom Media, acquired the rights to produce the book. HarperCollins officials said the photographers would document the lives of elite units and freshly minted recruits, of cadets, generals, chaplains, medics and military police. They'll photograph service members at desolate outposts, strategic bases and in the cockpits of fighter planes.

"This kind of sweeping inside portrait of our armed forces, captured simultaneously around the world has to



U.S. Navy PHC Johnny Bivera

A deployed security forces airman guards the U.S. Navy P-3 aircraft used for intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance flights from Forward Operating Location Manta, Ecuador.

be unparalleled," said Cathy Hemming, president and publisher of HarperCollins General Books Group. "Cumulatively, these journalists and the book's creative team will provide us with a deeper appreciation and understanding of the men and women serving in the military."

HarperCollins published "A Day of the Life of Australia" in 1982 and "A Day in the Life of America" in 1986. A series of similarly formatted and titled books followed on the Soviet Union in 1987, China in 1989 and Hollywood, 1992.

For more information on the Day in the Life project, go to www.daymilitary.com.



The

12th Edition

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SALUTE!

Congratulations to 12th AF warriors who recently were – or soon will be – promoted to the rank indicated and those who were recently awarded medals recognizing their accomplishments

Promotees

Airman 1st Class

Danielle Del Prete,
Tasha Diaz, Michael Grandpre



Senior Airman

David Harbin, Rebecca Lanagan,
Jennifer Marshall,
Alexandria Mashur, Sarah Sabins

SrA Below the Zone

Rachael Nutter

Staff Sergeant

Etani Fisher,
Daniel Salvestrini

1st Luitenant

David King

Captain

Saskia Trujillo

Medal Recipients

Meritorious Service medal

Capt. Robert Burton
MSgt. William Haught
MSgt. Luis Rivera
Maj. Edward Thompson (2nd OLC)

AF Commendation medal

SSgt. Barbra LaBossiere
TSgt. James Boles (2nd OLC)

AF Civilian Achievement Award

Ty Barbbery

Top of the 12th

A1C Amy Gonzales is a Track Data Technician in the 612th Combat Operations Squadron.



A1C Gonzales

“It’s rare to see the professionalism, maturity and motivation in such a young airman,” said TSgt. Christi Higgins, NCOIC, Defensive Operations Branch. “She is so eager to learn everything about the Air Force. I will not be surprised to one day see A1C Gonzales become first female Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.”

Years of service: 1 year 5 months

Hometown: Grapevine, Texas

Primary Duties and Responsibilities: As Primary Training Instructor for Defensive Operations I train and help certify new airmen on their duty position. During deployment I identify enemy aircraft on our radar system.

Favorite aspects of D-M: I would have to say my favorite aspect is that I’m not too far from my hometown, but just far enough to miss it.

If you could change one thing to improve D-M, what would it be? I would change the flow of traffic at the main gate.

What motivates your winning attitude? My friends and family play a major role, without their encouragement I wouldn’t have the confidence that I do.

LAOC Continued from Page 1

One thing both airmen did take away from the course was the importance of force protection measures when traveling in the AOR.

I will be taking force protection measures very seriously if I ever travel down range, A1C Forero said. “If I’m told not to do something, I will take it seriously – there’s a reason for every rule.”

And the visuals of what happens when people didn’t follow to rules really emphasized the importance of what not to do, what to wear and how to not stick out, added Amn. Williams.

What stuck out in the course for 1st Lt. Robert Forte, 612th Air Intelligence Group, was the cultural differences.

“I really enjoyed the course, there was a lot of information I didn’t know, such as the history of some things and the differences in Latin American culture,” said 1st Lt. Forte. “Much of what I had learned during the course now makes sense looking back on some of my personal experiences.”

“My wife is Colombian and usually runs late for everything,” he explained. “Now I have a better understanding that this tendency is really a cultural thing and am going to try to be more patient.”



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