

THUNDERBOLT

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6th/927th AMXS keepin' 'em flying - page 11



Photo by Nick Stubbs

COMMANDER'S CORNER



On getting refocused; some well-deserved recognition

by Col. Lenny Richoux
6th Air Mobility Wing commander

Thank you all for taking time on Monday for a Wingman Day. I asked our KC-135 operations and maintenance to take a no-fly day for a hard look at our processes and safety. This was done to underscore the importance of safe mission accomplishment. We can't do the work of the enemy for them by bending metal or injuring personnel. Nothing is more important than readiness and the mission. Thanks for taking a day to re-focus on our mission. For those who could not use Monday as a Wingman Day, your command will provide that opportunity before the end of February.

I also want to echo General Ray Johns, commander of Air Mobility Command, in thanking you for taking care of one another over the holidays and over the past year. For the second consecutive year, the Air Force experienced zero fatalities due to motor vehicle mishaps during the Christmas and New Year holiday periods. AMC and MacDill AFB had zero fatali-

ties for the entire holiday period this year – Thanksgiving through New Years. I attribute this record to your analog leadership—face to face, personal interaction with your people and knowing when they need a hand.

As we approach the Operational Readiness Inspection, scheduled from Jan. 21-30, I ask you to continue to look after one another as we simulate deployment and operations in a non-permissive environment. This will be a tough test but one which we are well-prepared to execute — in an OUTSTANDING manner.

The 6th Operations Group recently recognized **Capt. Joshua Shultz, Capt. Thomas Bockrath** and **Airman 1st Class Matthew Scott** of the 91st Air Refueling Squadron for their contributions to air refueling missions in the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility. Their accomplishments demonstrated the 91 ARS' air refueling capability which enabled not only our projection of air power, but also multinational interoperability. Additionally, 91 ARS crew chiefs **Staff Sgt. Brannen Scarazzo** and **Air-**



Col Lenny Richoux, 6th AMW commander and his wife Michele welcome local civic leaders to their home on MacDill Air Force Base to express their appreciation for the support that Tampa Bay communities afford the base and to celebrate the new year. Guests enjoyed a Cajun-themed event and traditional Cajun foods.

man 1st Class Matthew Smith with Security Forces Squadron's **Staff Sgt. Dustin Maglinti, Senior Airman Brandon Couture, Senior Airman James Crouse** and **Airman 1st Class Alexander Morley** were integral in the safety, security and functionality of this mission.

Also, during this busy week, today we are celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a luncheon program. I am thankful to the main program organizers,

6th Medical Group's **Capt. Bostella Walker** and **Master Sgt. April Way**. Dr King's efforts to protect American Civil Rights have also made the U.S. Military a better place for all to serve.

Congratulations to **Mr. Rudy Wyatt**, who runs MacDill's Antiterrorism and Force Protection Program. He, along with Office of Special Investigations, Security Forces and so many others who

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COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The Action Line provides a two-way communication between the 6th Air Mobility Wing commander and the MacDill community. A 24-hour recording service is provided so personnel may submit questions, concerns or comments. Call the Action Line at 828-INFO (4636) or e-mail macdillwingcommander@macdill.af.mil



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MacDill Thunderbolt

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News items for the MacDill Thunderbolt can be submitted to the 6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs office, Bldg. 25, MacDill AFB, FL 33621, or call the MacDill Thunderbolt staff at 828-4586. Email: thunderbolt@MacDill.af.mil.

Deadline for article submissions is noon, Thursdays to appear in the next week's publication. Articles received after deadline may be considered for future use. All submissions are considered for publication based on news value and timeliness.

Every article and photograph is edited for accuracy, clarity, brevity, conformance with the "Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual" and Air Force Instruction 35-101.



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Events, movies, more...



Correction

A story titled "Building a flying hospital" in the Jan. 7 issue of the Thunderbolt, misidentified a squadron. The correct squadron is the 45th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

MacDill Airman wins AF award

letter from Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter
Air Mobility Command

Air Mobility Command captured two of the 2010 Air Force Outstanding Security Forces Individual Awards. Congratulations to the winners, their supervisors and fellow Airmen that made their accomplishments possible. As you can imagine, with all the great things Security Forces are doing across the Air Force in both the deployed environment and at home station, these were extremely competitive awards and it is great to see such honored recognition for the amazing work that your Defenders are doing in support of AMC's global mobility operations. The following AMC individuals were selected as Air Force winners:

Support staff senior Non-commissioned

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Photo by: Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz

Col. Lenny Richoux, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Derrick Crowley, 6th AMW command chief, hold the ribbon as the dormitory managers and dormitory residents use extra large scissors for cutting during the ribbon-cutting ceremony at dorm Building 375, Jan 6. A dayroom and wingman cafe were opened for the dorm residents, as well. Both were completed by bay orderly Airmen and volunteers.

MacDill moms get new support group

by Tech. Sgt. Mike Tateishi
Special to the Thunderbolt

A new Mothers of Preschoolers chapter started at the base chapel, Jan. 13. MOPS is an international organization designed to offer social, emotional and spiritual support to moms while also providing parenting skills. There are about a dozen MOPS locations around Tampa already, but the MacDill chapter plans to offer something the others don't specialize in.

"We're not only going to be able to address some of the challenges mothers of preschoolers are dealing with, but they will also be able to get the support they need from a deployed spouses perspective," said Chaplain (Maj.) David Buttrick, 6th Air Mobility Wing chaplain.

Chaplain Buttrick said a lot of spouses may want to come because their husbands are deployed and want to connect with others in similar circumstances. Not only deployments, but life in general for a mom in the military setting can be overwhelming at times.

That may be a reason for such a high interest in the new chapter.

"We have 40 ladies already signed up and it hasn't even started yet," said Chaplain Buttrick.

The "P" in MOPS may stand for preschoolers, but Heidi Spencer, the MacDill MOPS co-coordinator, said that any military mom or military spouse with an infant to preschooler is invited to attend.

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Daughter of MacDill chaplain makes harrowing journey

by Nick Stubbs
Thunderbolt editor

Most people pedal a bike for fun and recreation, but it was the very serious business of combating the sex slave trade that motivated the daughter of one of MacDill's own to make a harrowing, cross-country winter bike journey.

Janna Buttrick, college student and daughter of Chaplain (Maj.) David Buttrick, 6th Air Mobility Wing, arrived at MacDill Last week after leaving Lincoln Neb. the week before Christmas. The journey, dubbed "Janna's Fighting the Traffic Tour," was to raise funds and increase awareness of Tiny Hands International, a non-profit organization, and its work to saving young girls from being forced into sex slavery. Her goal was to raise \$2,300, enough money to help save 100 girls from becoming sex slaves.

"I'm very proud of her. She works hard and wanted to use her time off to make a difference."

- Chaplain (Maj.) David Buttrick

The final tally isn't complete, but two weeks into the trip, \$1,500 had been raised, and it's hoped that when all the figures are compiled, the goal will have been achieved. It was money earned the hard way.

"It was definitely challenging," said Ms. Buttrick of the trip, which took place over the historically harsh holiday winter that impacted the route she followed. "It was crazy weather, with snow, ice, rain, wind, tornadoes and cold, but it was amazing, and there were beautiful days mixed in."

The weather at times was brutal, she said, her muscles straining to push her 120-pound, fully loaded bike through as much as eight inches of snow on bike trails. The nights were equally daunting, with she and her travel partner camping out.

The weather and heavier than expected ride kept her from making it to MacDill, her chosen destination, by the new year, but she pushed on, each day chronicled on her Web blog, jannasadventure.blogspot.com.

"I'm very proud of her," said Chaplain Buttrick. "She works hard and wanted to use her time off to make a difference."

Chaplain Buttrick went on to say that his daughter has always been a giver, and has done missionary work, including in Chad, Africa. She came to appreciate the magnitude of the sex slave trade in Nepal, and could not sit by without getting involved, he said.

Ms. Buttrick left Tampa Tuesday to head back to Lincoln and Union College.

"I'm planning of doing another (bike) tour," said Ms. Buttrick. "There's still more that has to be done to help these girls."



Courtesy photos

(Above) Janna Buttrick, college student and daughter of Chaplain (Maj.) David Buttrick, with her fully loaded bike at the start of her journey from Lincoln Neb. to MacDill. The trip was to raise awareness of the sex trafficking of girls and to raise money to help save them from the fate. (Left) Janna on pace, before the weather turned nasty.

NEWS/FEATURES



A race to the finish: MacDill Cub Scouts prepare for annual Pinewood Derby

Cub Scout Pack 56 at Mac Dill is preparing for its annual Pinewood Derby Jan. 29. Boys who are at least 7 years old, or who are in first through fifth grades, can join the pack and participate.

Pinewood Derby is an event where the boys are given a block of wood and wheel kit which they design into a race car. These cars are then raced against each other on a track, and trophies go to the fastest cars. There will also be a contest for best car design.

The Cub Scouts and their parents meet Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in the base Chapel, Annex 2. The Scouts are planning to visit the Wood Shop at the Arts & Crafts Center on Jan. 18 to have the cars cut. The Jan. 25 meeting will be used for painting and finishing the Derby cars.

For further information about joining the pack, or about this year's derby, contact John R. Gray, cubmaster, at JohnRGray@bellsouth.net or leave your questions or detailed messages at (404)401-6619.

Union representation

Bargaining Unit Employees are reminded that under Section 7114(a)(2)(B) of Chapter 71, Title 5, U.S.C., employees have the right to be represented at any examination in connection with an investigation if: a) the employee reasonably believes the examination may result in disciplinary action against the employee, and b) The employee requests representation.

Platt Street Bridge construction could impact MacDill traffic



Photo courtesy TBO.com

Special to the Thunderbolt

Hillsborough County has given the notice to start work on the re-building of the 84-year-old Platt Street Bridge in downtown Tampa. The drawbridge carries one-way eastbound traffic over the Hillsborough River out of South Tampa. The project is expected to be completed by Spring 2012. Drivers who use this bridge are encouraged to start identifying detour routes around the bridge, as the construction will cause delays.

Starting in approximately two weeks, lane closures will begin on the bridge. The project will proceed in three phases:

a) one lane will be closed for the first four months of the project on the north (left) side of the bridge, with an additional intermittent lane closure as necessary.

b) then, one lane will be closed on the south (right) side of the bridge for the following four months, with an additional intermittent lane closure as necessary.

c) lastly, in late summer or early fall, the bridge will close entirely for 105 days to allow the contractor to open the drawbridge and perform replacement work on its components.

The County will be placing variable message boards along Bayshore Boulevard to warn drivers of the expected delays on the bridge and to allow them to seek alternate detour routes.

See **BRIDGE WORK, Page 16**



USASOC awards Medics of the Year

by Senior Airman Anna-Marie Wyant

U.S. Special Operations Command

Two U.S. Army Special Operations Command medics were recognized as the top Soldiers in their career fields at the Army Special Operations Forces Medic Conference, last month, at the Marriot Waterside Hotel, Tampa.

Army Sgt. 1st Class James C. Birchfield from the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was officially named the Special Forces Medical Sergeant of the Year during a ceremony at the close of the ARSOF Medical Conference. Army Sgt. Jonathan Peney from the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment was selected



Courtesy photo

Army Col. Peter Benson, USASOC command surgeon, pins a Meritorious Service Medal on Sgt. 1st Class James Birchfield at the close of the Army Special Operations Forces Medical Conference last month.

as the Special Operations Combat Medic of the Year. Sergeant Peney was killed in action June 1 while deployed to Iraq. His wife Kristin and mother Sue accepted the award on his behalf at the SOMA conference mess night.

Sergeant Birchfield, whose wife and daughter were present for his award presentation, was nominated for the award because of his

outstanding service while deployed to Iraq, said Army Maj. David Bowling, 5th SFG (A) company commander. Major Bowling said Sergeant Birchfield, an experienced medic, was personally responsible for training other medical personnel on his deployment. He said by sharing medical knowledge with others, Sergeant Birchfield successfully trained several Soldiers who went on to save lives.

Col. Peter Benson, USASOC command surgeon, presented the award to Sergeant Birchfield and said he knew the award would be received with humility, maybe even too much.

“Our medics are universally humble to a fault,” Colonel Benson said.

Upon receiving his award, Sergeant Birchfield certainly proved the colonel’s assessment of USASOC medics.

“It’s an honor to represent my unit,” said Sergeant Birchfield, “but far more medics in special ops deserve [the award] more than me. I just did my job every day.”

Major Bowling disagreed with Sergeant Birchfield.

“His supervised treatment saved lives both directly and indirectly,” the major said. “He won’t say that he did anything special, but he really did.”

Sergeant Peney’s performance was equally impressive. He graduated from Ranger school just nine days before deploying to Afghanistan, and although he was not tasked to go, he voluntarily deployed with his unit, showing his loyalty to his team and country.

Capt. Andrew Fisher, a physician assistant who deployed with Sergeant Peney, described Sergeant Peney as a great medic and Soldier who constantly did his best and continued to improve.

“He was always a step above,” Captain Fisher said. “He was always trying to do more.”

Captain Fisher said Sergeant Peney showed true bravery in his last mission. While their unit was in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, they were ambushed, and a team member was shot. Captain Fisher said Sergeant Peney was the first to rush through enemy fire in an attempt to save the Ranger’s life. While administering aid to the wounded Ranger, Sergeant Peney was also shot. Captain Fisher, who initially attended to Sergeant Peney’s wound, nominated Sergeant Peney for the award due to his selfless heroism on this occasion and many others. He said he is glad Sergeant Peney was named Special Operations Combat Medic of the Year, a title he truly deserves.

“It’s a great feeling knowing [USASOC] is able to recognize him, knowing what he did for his unit and his fellow Soldiers,” Captain Fisher said. “It’s nice that all the medics from his company were present [for the award ceremony].”

Selecting these awardees was no easy process, said Master Sgt. Rick Hines, U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne), who was a member of the board that reviewed the award nominations and selected the winners.

“It was very competitive, but we ended up with a clear consensus,” Sergeant Hines said. “(Birchfield and Peney) definitely stood out as going above and beyond.”

Sergeant Hines said the awards are important because they highlight the outstanding actions of dedicated individuals who raise the bar for other Soldiers.

“The award recognizes our medics for doing extraordinary things,” he said. “It holds up an example for all of us; this is what we should strive for in our field.”

Final weeks to nominate for 2011 Employer Support Freedom Award

Special to the Thunderbolt

ARLINGTON, Va. – The beginning of the new year marks the final two weeks for Guard and Reserve members and their families to nominate supportive employers for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. During the 2011 nomination period, Guard and Reserve members have nominated military supportive employers in all 50 states, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

To date California, Texas, Florida, New York and Ohio are the top five states submitting nominations for the award, indicating strong support by the state’s employers for its citizen warriors. The Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and Air National Guard have the most nominations among the seven service branches.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of their employees

who serve in the Guard and Reserve. Nearly one-half of the U.S. military is comprised of the Guard and Reserve, making the role of U.S. employers in support of employees in the military increasingly important.

Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers that have provided exceptional support to Guard and Reserve employees beyond the federal law requirements. Nominations may be submitted at www.FreedomAward.mil

See **NOMINATE**, Page 6



Photos by Nick Stubbs

Maintaining performance

Maintaining safety

Maintaining mission success

There's a lot riding on the work done by members of the 6th and 927th Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons, which is why maintainers are among the most methodical of any Air Force professionals.

A recent visit to the flight line found them doing what they do best: Keeping MacDill's aging KC-135 tankers flying safely.

Clockwise from left is Tech. Sgt. Leon Snow, a hydraulics systems journeyman, who is checking out the operation of the nose gear. Senior Airman James Greene operates the gear from the cockpit, while Staff Sgt. John Stramiello, electrical/environmental technician, records system checks. Ensuring the aircraft had hydraulic pressure for testing the gear was Senior Airman Hector Hernandez, who is shown here attaching a hydraulic line. Airman 1st Class Ben Graeff displays a sample of the all-important grease that keeps the moving parts of a tanker moving.



NOMINATE

From Page 4

through Jan. 17. The names of all nominated employers will be announced in the spring and the 15 Freedom Award recipients will be announced in early summer. The 15 recipients for 2011 will be honored in Washington, D.C. at the 16th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony in September.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, to recognize exceptional support of Guard and Reserve members from the employer community. In the past 15 years, 145 employers from across the nation have received this prestigious award. Established in 1972, ESGR's mission is to develop and promote employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members.

For questions regarding the Freedom Award nomination process, please visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Maj. Melissa Phillips, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-696-1171, ext. 519 or by E-mail at *ESGR-PA@osd.mil*.

MOPS

From Page 3

One of the largest obstacles for moms being able to attend meetings without being tugged at her every 30 seconds, is finding something for their little ones to do.

Spencer addressed that in the form of “MOPETS classes”— a Sunday school meets vacation Bible school of sorts. Children in MOPETS are in a separate classroom and get a Bible story tailored to their age.

They also get playtime, with games, crafts and a snack while moms are meeting.

Nearly 20 grandmothers of military retirees living on MacDill in the FamCamp answered the call to volunteer and instruct the children while moms are in class and networking, said Buttrick.

The first meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13 at the Base Chapel at 9:30 a.m. The meetings last a couple hours, and everything from breakfast to refreshments for the moms and little ones is provided. Meetings continue the second Thursday of the month through May. The meetings are free.

In addition to the structured meetings, the group plans to meet the fourth Thursday of the month at a kid-friendly location such as the zoo, a park or a location downtown.

“By meeting twice a month, we’re allowing for more opportunities for connections to take place,” said Spencer.

For more information about MOPS, contact the MacDill chapel at (813) 828-3621.

COMMANDER’S

From Page 2

assist at the individual unit level were instrumental in MacDill being named the 2010 DoD Annual Antiterrorism (AT) Award winner – Large Fixed Installation. I am proud of your work to keep our base safe.

I want to also express thanks to Ambulance Services Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, **Tech. Sgt. Arthur Linton** who recently passed a car-versus-pedestrian accident involving a homeless woman when he was off-duty. He stopped to help and after his assessment, he initiated basic medical assistance. Due to his care the victim who was determined to be deceased regained a pulse. After follow-up care, the victim survived.

Lastly, a hearty congratulations goes to **Master Sgt. Fitzroy Howe**, 6th Security Forces Squadron, winner of the 2010 Air Force Outstanding SF Support Staff NCO Award.

You are doing amazing work in support of our nation.

I am proud to serve with you in the finest Air Mobility Wing on the face of the planet!

BRIDGE WORK

From Page 8

During this construction process, the sidewalks across the bridge will be closed on the following schedule:

a) the sidewalk on the north side of the bridge will be closed for the first four months (but the sidewalk on the south side will still be open).

b) then the sidewalk on the south side of the bridge will be closed for the next four months (but the sidewalk on the north side of the bridge will be open).

c) lastly both sidewalks will be closed during the final 105 days of complete closure.

5. Additionally, during the entire construction project, the section of the riverwalk under the bridge will be closed. However, barring any unforeseen circumstances, the navigable waterway under the bridge will remain open during the project. The complete rehabilitation of the bridge is required as it has outlived its normal useful life span, and needs to be upgraded to current standards. When the work is completed, the bridge will be restored to its original functionality and historical appearance.

6. Questions or concerns can be directed to the Hillsborough County Public Works Department at (813) 272-5275. Updates will be disseminated as received.

AWARDS

From Page 3

Officer: Master Sgt. Fitzroy E. Howe, 6 SFS, MacDill AFB

Flight Level senior Non-commissioned Officer: Master Sgt. Donald R. Hart, 628 SFS, Joint Base Charleston

All award winners, their unit commanders and security forces managers are invited to attend the 2010 Security Forces Awards Banquet during the Worldwide SF Symposium, April 25 through 29 at Lackland AFB, Texas.

MACDILL COMMUNITY



EVENTS

Friday

Bayshore Club

Membership Breakfast from 6:30-8:30 a.m. Free for club members! Non-members: \$6.95

Arts & Crafts Center

FREE Open Scrapbooking from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Come for as little or as long as your schedule permits.

Sunday

MacDill Lanes

Penny-A-Pin – Sundays in January from 1-8 p.m. Bowl a 75, pay 75 cents; Shoes \$2.

Tuesday

Airman & Family Readiness Center

Spouse-2-Spouse from 9:30-11 a.m. Open conversation about issues relating to deployments and an opportunity to meet new friends.

Base Library

Tween/Teen Anime Club – Coming of Age Day at 6 p.m.

Wednesday

Fitness Center

Fit Over Fifty from 9-10 a.m. Learn equipment orientation, proper form & technique, resistance training, cardiovascular fitness and flexibility.

Thursday

MacDill Family Resource Center (Brandon)

Exceptional Family Member Program Parent Meeting at 10-11 a.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m. This group is a great way to network with other parents and share resources.

For more information please visit our Web site at www.macdillfss.com



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tanika Belfield

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, the Catholic Archbishop of the Military Services, U.S. Army, with Col. Lenny Richoux, commander, 6th Air Mobility Wing, Lt. Col. James Ledbetter, a 310th Airlift Squadron pilot, and the base chapel staff during his visit at MacDill Air Force Base Jan. 7.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Protestant services

Sunday - 9 a.m. – Praise Worship Service
9 a.m. – FamCamp Traditional Service (Nov.-March)
Noon – Gospel Service

5:30 p.m. - Mass

Sunday - 10:30 a.m. - Mass

Monday to Thursday: 12:10 p.m. - Mass

Catholic services

Saturday - 4:30 p.m. - Confession

Islamic services

Friday - 1:15 p.m. - Prayer Service

AT THE MOVIES

\$4 for adults / \$2 for children 828-2780

Friday - 7 p.m.

Burlesque (PG-13)

Saturday - 3 p.m.

No Showing

Saturday - 7 p.m.

The Next Three Days (PG-13)