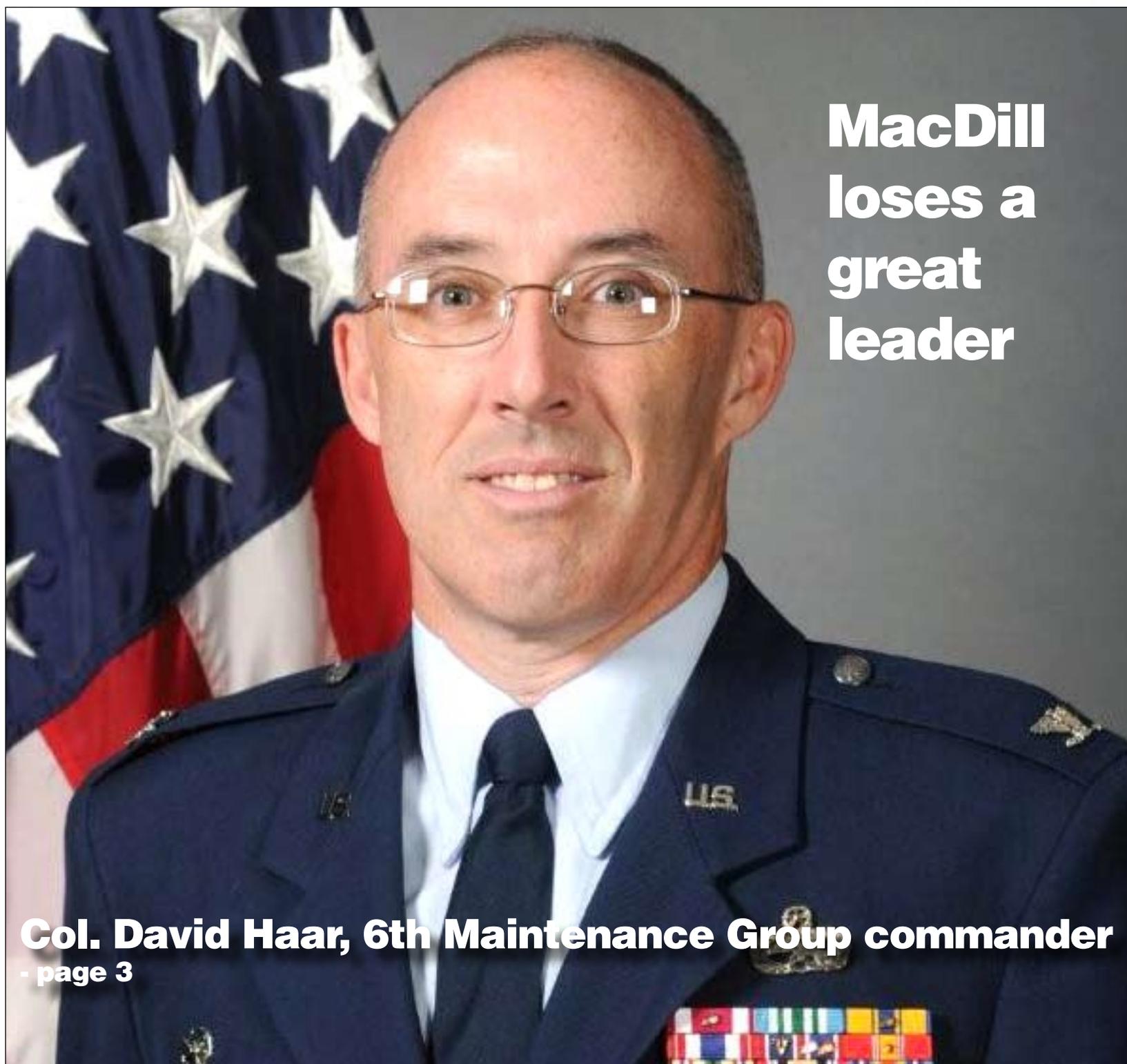


# THUNDERBOLT

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**MacDill  
loses a  
great  
leader**

**Col. David Haar, 6th Maintenance Group commander**  
- page 3

# COMMANDER'S CORNER



## Farewell to a great leader; thanks to this week's standouts

by **Col. Lenny Richoux**  
6th Air Mobility Wing commander

I want to thank you for the support I've seen you giving each other after the sudden passing of our Maintenance Group Commander, **Col. David Haar**. Thanks for the support you've given Colonel Haar's family-his wife **Teri**, and his daughters, **Melissa** and **Elizabeth** when they truly needed it. Dave was my friend and he was a standout father, son, husband, officer and commander. He served our nation well, and we will miss him terribly. He meant a lot to us, and with the Operational Readiness Inspection he and the 6th Maintenance Group did remarkably hard work to make sure we were inspection ready.

Colonel Haar's memorial service will be held Feb. 1, at 1 p.m. in Hangar 3 here on the base.

About 650 of MacDill's Airmen are returning from the ORI deployment site in Savannah. They were tested on their ability to survive, operate and launch/recover aircraft. The inspection in Savannah began Jan. 22. **Col. Dave Co-**

**hen**, 6th AMW vice commander and **Col. Ted Mathews**, 927th ARW, vice commander did an exceptional job integrating the active-duty and reserve components. Their hard work has raised the bar on our readiness.

All deployers are expected back at MacDill by Saturday morning, in time for Gasparilla. Be safe and take care of one another as we relax and recover.

You've heard me ask you to take care of each other before, but continue practicing being good wingmen for each other. Human capital is irreplaceable. I appreciate the leadership that's being demonstrated and I encourage you to keep the same momentum and esprit-de-corps.

Thanks for attending last week's ORI kick-off pep rally with **Mr. Raheem Morris**, head coach for the Tampa Bay Bucs. We had a great time.

Thanks to all the Airmen, especially **Master Sgt. Bryan Gatewood**, who had a part in setting that up and making it a success.

Another shout-out goes to the 6th Medical Group's **Mr. Bert**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nancy Hooks

**Col. Lenny Richoux**, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, and **Lt. Gen. Robert Allardice**, 18th Air Force commander, have breakfast with MacDill Airmen Wednesday.

**Gore**, the acting Clinical Laboratory Flight commander, for recently completing Air Command and Staff College-another example of excellence from the 6th MDG.

Thanks also to the Wing Protocol Team, **Ms. Cleo Ekladyous**, **Mr. Brian Stevens**, **Tech. Sgt. Tracy Bisarra** and **Tech. Sgt.**

**Michelle Jeffries**, who planned a visit by the 18th Air Force Commander **Lt. Gen. Robert Allardice**. General Allardice visited MacDill to offer condolences to the Haar family.

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



### 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](mailto:macdillwingcommander@macdill.af.mil)



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### MacDill Thunderbolt

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**Editor:** Nick Stubbs

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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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Saving gas - on a large scale

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Col. Haar remembered

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Events, movies, more...

## Several events set for Black History Month

Thunderbolt staff report

Four events will anchor a month of celebration for Black History Month in February at MacDill. Things will get under way with a fun run and walk, followed by a talent show, luncheon and health fair.

All events are free, with the exception of those who want to eat at the luncheon. Several MacDill members working on the Black History Month committee, listed below, will serve as points of contact for the events.

**Feb. 2**  
**Fun Run / Walk**  
**7 a.m.**  
**Short Fitness Center**



**Feb. 4**  
**Talent Showcase**  
**11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**Bayshore Officer's Club**  
**Feb. 18**

See **HISTORY**, Page 22

## MXG commander passes away

Col. David Haar: Jan. 4, 1966 - Jan. 21, 2011

by Master Sgt. Bryan Gatewood  
6th AMW Public Affairs

Col. David Haar, 6th Maintenance Group commander, passed away Jan. 20 from natural causes.

“Colonel Haar’s life and service has left a significant impact on this base, and on behalf of the MacDill family, I want to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy during this time of sorrow,” said Col. Lenny Richoux, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander.

One thing that will be missed is Colonel Haar’s ability to prepare his group Airmen as “war fighters.”

“Since his command began here at MacDill, he would ask ‘what’s your war-time mission?’” said Chief Master Sgt. Tyrone Schmidt, 6th Maintenance Group superintendent. “He received various responses, but finally the work force understood and replied, ‘deployed PAR Team member,’ ‘CAT commander support staff’ or just simply ‘aircraft maintenance, sir.’”

Not only did he prepare his Airmen as war fighters, but he wanted them to do it smarter. The colonel was a firm believer in Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AF-SO21) principles and guided continuous process improvement.

“His leadership was key during the KC-135 pre-flight procedures to improve the quality and timeliness of the important aircraft inspections,” said Chief Schmidt.

This process was validated during the Wing’s 2010 Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection, where the Wing received an “Excellent” rating and more recently being used by his Airmen during this week’s ORI.

“Colonel Haar’s clear sight picture of our daily mission requirements and how that fit



File photo

**Col. Larry Martin, then 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, passes command of the 6th Maintenance Group to Col. David Haar June 25, 2010, at MacDill Air Force Base.**

in the war-fighter mission is what ensured our everyday readiness,” the chief said.

Colonel Haar entered the Air Force in 1989 through the University of Notre Dame AF-ROTC program, where he was a distinguished graduate. He held positions at the wing, center and major command. As an aircraft maintenance officer, he had experience with the B-1B, KC-135, RC-135U/V, and C-130E/H/J working on the flight line, in the back shop and quality assurance environment.

Colonel Haar deployed multiple times in support of Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

A memorial service in honor of Colonel Haar is scheduled for 1 p.m. Feb. 1, in Hangar 3. For more information, call 813-828-2025.

Colonel Haar is survived by his wife Teri, and two daughters, Melissa and Elizabeth.



## MacDill utilizing multi-pronged approach to saving aircraft fuel

by Nick Stubbs  
*Thunderbolt* editor

Drivers who stay aware of their right foot, keep their engine tuned and adjust their car's tire pressure, can save a few cents a day in gas costs. When the professionals that plan the flying missions at MacDill Air Force Base get frugal, it can save thousands of dollars a day.

A KC-135 Stratotanker makes even the worst gas guzzlers on the street look like fuel-sipping super hybrids, the big, old birds drinking fuel faster than most gas station pumps can dispense. That's why the 6th Air Mobility and 927th Air Refueling wings constantly monitor and plan with an eye toward greater fuel efficiency and savings.

The efforts at MacDill operate under the overall Air Mobility Command directive to maximize fuel savings while maintaining the mission, said Capt. Ryan Reed, 6th Operations Support Squadron, the man in charge of keeping an eye on fuel consumption.

So far, changes in procedures and policies over recent months have added up to thousands of pounds of fuel saved, he said.

"The single biggest thing that has saved us here (MacDill) has been moving a lot of the (flight) training to the simulator," said Captain Reed. "It costs us about \$500 per hour to train on the simulator, compared to about \$5,000 per hour flying a KC-135."

It's a balancing act, he said, as the KC-135 flight simulator on base must be supplemented by "real" flight time.

"There are certain things in training that require the real thing, but by doing more in the simulator and flying only when necessary, we save a lot of fuel," said Captain Reed.

More savings are realized by flying higher than in the past. The thinner atmosphere means less drag on the air frame, reducing the amount of power needed to propel the plane. MacDill's tankers also carry fewer pounds of fuel when they take off, the reduced weight cutting down on the fuel needed to carry the load.

"That means we have less wiggle room," said Captain Reed, referring to dealing with contingency situations that might require rerouting or spending more time in holding patterns waiting to offload fuel.

"It's a trade-off," he said. "The pilots don't



Photo by Nick Stubbs

**Staff Sgt. Benjamin Carlson, NCOIC of the 6th Air Mobility Wing Fuels Lab, examines a sample of jet fuel. Preserving the precious liquid is what is behind constant monitoring and planning at MacDill, ensuring no more is used during KC-135 missions than is needed.**

have the (fuel) buffer they used to have, but it means they take off with less weight and return with less than they used to."

Carrying less applies to both the plane's supply as well as that carried to refuel aircraft. Captain Reed said measures are taken to ensure no more fuel is carried to a receiver aircraft than they are willing to take, as in the past it was common for aircraft to request more than they needed, meaning the tanker had to return with a heavier load than necessary.

Other factors that have added up to big savings at MacDill include less time running aircraft engines on the ground, careful monitoring of fuel usage on each mission and making adjustments when needed.

"Tracking is another area where we save," said Captain Reed, who added the wing increasingly looks at the ways commercial air-

lines economize for ideas on saving more fuel.

"You'll see commercial airlines taking magazines off to save weight," he said. "That attention to detail is something we are doing in our tracking."

The process will be ongoing, with adjustments for maximum savings without interfering with the mission always the objective, said Captain Reed, who added small savings will have to do until the day when the aging KC-135s are replaced with a modern tanker.

While the engines on the 50-year-old KC-135 fleet are newer and more efficient, the air frame itself is heavier and less efficient. There are more malfunctions and maintenance issues with older planes, which means more planes have to return early from missions, requiring additional landings and takeoffs, or push harder to make it to the destination on time.



# EDUCATION

## Education conference offers MacDill members unique opportunity

by Nick Stubbs  
*Thunderbolt* editor

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Life is learning, and that may go double for members of the military, who will get the opportunity to explore a plethora of education options Feb. 14 through 18, when the City of Tampa will host the Council for Civilian and Military Educators Conference at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel.

The options are many, these days, with the Internet and tailored lifestyle programs developed to provide maximum flexibility for students with busy lives. Those options will be showcased among the more than 90 schools exhibiting at the conference. Among them will be the Department of Veterans Affairs and DSST-Credit by Exam Program/Prometric.

Having so many programs on hand in one place offers a unique opportunity, said Kathren Rodriguez, chief of education and training at MacDill.

“It’s going to give the MacDill community an opportunity they may never get again,” she said. “Schools from across the country will be there, and educators from a broad spectrum; It’s really a big to-do.”

It is the first time the conference has been

See **CONFERENCE, Page 8**



## CONFERENCE

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From Page 6

to Tampa, Ms. Rodriguez said, making attending easy for MacDill members.

All military, DoD civilians and spouses are invited to attend the free conference. The president's reception is Feb. 14, which coincides with the opening of the exhibit hall from 6 to 9 p.m. Those attending must RSVP to [education-02@us.af.mil](mailto:education-02@us.af.mil) or by calling 813-828-7321 by Feb. 10.

There will be free parking at the public garage across from the Marriott, and food will be served at the event.

For more information, visit the CCME Web site at <http://www.ccmeonline.org/>. To view the exhibitors list, visit <http://www.ccmeonline.org/sponsorshipsexhibits.aspx>.





# A message from the director

by Col. Billy Graham (USAF Ret.)

Retiree Activities Office director

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By now, most of you have noticed that there was no Cost of Living Allowance again this year. After our 5.8 percent COLA in 2009, the Consumer Price Index - the index that our COLA is derived from - took a nosedive and was a negative CPI for a couple of years. It now appears we will get a COLA in 2012 (January), but there is no way to determine what it might be, since the present Congress is going to make some changes to the formula that determined the amount of the CPI. Retirees under the age of 65 can expect a "moderate" increase in TRICARE fees in 2012. TRICARE For Life beneficiaries will not be affected.

Did you know that your PharmaCARE Center at MacDill is the largest Clinic Pharmacy in the Air Force? It processes more than 4,000 prescriptions every week! The Center is manned half by volunteers; and half by active duty members, DOD civilians, and contractors. The Drive-Thru Pick-up area has streamlined their procedures so that your wait there has been greatly reduced. It is still a good idea to pick up your prescription later in the day when the traffic is lighter. There are two prescription drop boxes - one is located at our Kiosk in the Food Court, and the other is located inside the PharmaCARE center. According to MacDill Pharmacy Services, prescriptions placed in the drop boxes by noon are available for pick-up through the drive-thru the next duty day. Prescriptions dropped off after noon will be available through the drive-thru after two duty days. All prescriptions must be picked up within seven calendar

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## RAO

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days or they will be returned to stock. For more information on Pharmacy Services here at MacDill AFB such as hours of operation, days closed, fax prescription services, transfers, etc., stop by and speak with a Pharmacy staff member.

The Florida License on Wheels now comes to MacDill AFB once a month, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, and will be parked in the Exchange parking lot.

As a reminder, a hands-free device is required when using a cell phone while driving on base. If you must use a cell phone and do not have a hands-free device, pull over. This rule is strictly enforced by the MacDill 6th Security Forces Squadron. Roadways are aggressively monitored by Security Forces members for any drivers using a cell phone without a hands-free device.

Our tax season has now begun. You can get a tax assistance appointment by calling 813-828-0248. The hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. The actual filing of taxes will begin Feb. 1. Walk-ins are taken at 9 a.m. for military in uniform; all others are generally accepted in the afternoon. Our tax schedule can fill up very quickly, so make your appointments as early as you can. There are counselors available after April 18 (the last day for tax filing this year), but you still need an appointment.

If you would like to help us, drop by the RAO main office next to the commissary or visit one of our counselors at the Exchange Food Court Kiosk, or call us at 813-828-4555. We are always in need of counselors and can certainly use your help. By working with us, you never can tell whom you might see again - like old friends you haven't seen in decades!



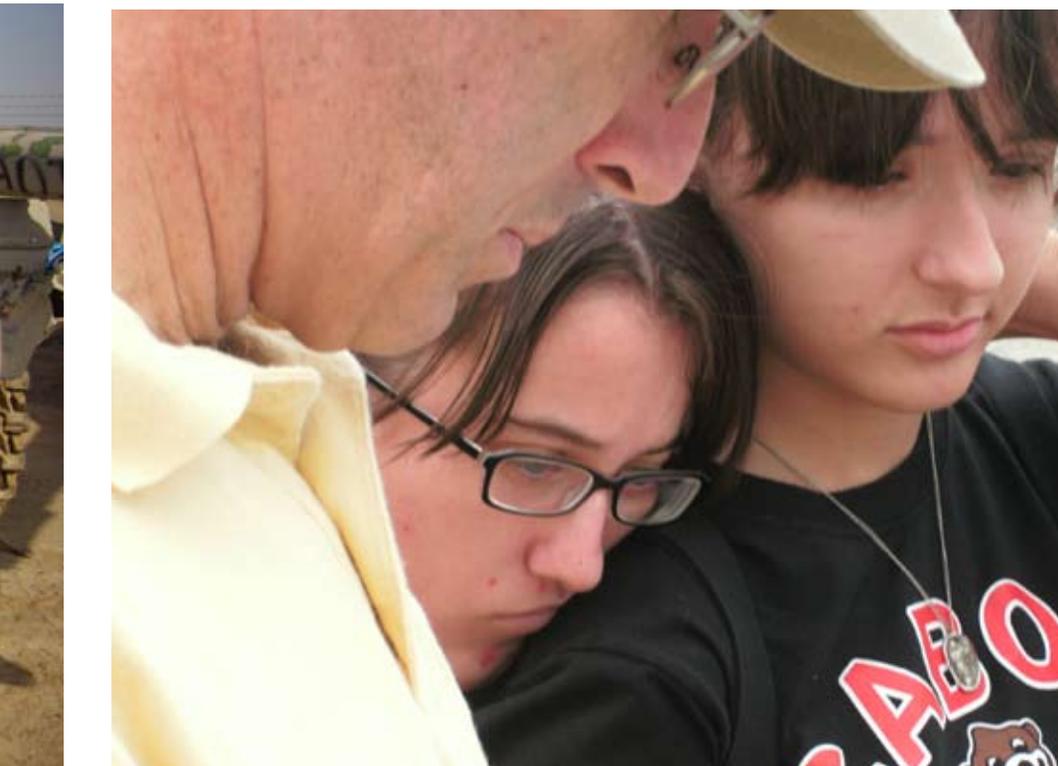


Courtesy photos

## Col. David Haar remembered

Col. David Haar was a dedicated leader of the 6th Maintenance Group and was active in the MacDill community. He deployed multiple times in support of Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. The photographs here tell a story of a man who exemplified the concept of service and commitment to country, family, friends and those under his command. He entered the Air Force in 1989 through the University of Notre Dame AFROTC program, where he was a distinguished graduate. He held positions at the wing, center and major command levels. As an aircraft maintenance officer, he had experience with the B-1B, KC-135, RC-135U/V, and C-130E/H/J working on the flight line, in the back shop and quality assurance environment.









# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



## Ode to Nobody

by James E. Tokley, Sr.

'Just a name among the many. . .  
Nothing special or unique.  
Doubtless, you would even notice  
if you passed him on the street. / T'was  
Just a name among the many.  
One more minute grain of sand./ One  
who could not make the moment.  
Yet, the moment made the man!  
His name was Michael; then was Martin, Jr..  
Martin Luther King,  
But in reality, his real name could have been most anything./ &  
Who would dare to have predicted  
that a lonely little child  
with a ripe imagination, was to lead the rank and file?/ Who  
would have dared let on to experts  
(who know all about such things)  
that a Moses Man was coming, namely  
Martin Luther King?"/ "Who

is this fellow?" I could hear them,  
as they laughed themselves to tears./ "And  
Just to think we've searched for nothing, but a no-man,  
All these years!  
Has he no formal introduction? / What's  
His parents' pedigree? / In fact,  
What makes him think he's able to set anybody free? / Behold  
This lowly colored preacher,  
From a Southern Baptist church!  
Is he the one to bear our cross?/ How,  
in God's name, could he be first?"  
For,  
He's just one among the many. . .  
Nothing great about this man, who  
is descended from a people who were slaves upon the land.  
& Yet,  
He rose on wings of sunlight to assume the "Captain's Seat"/ &  
Fight  
For universal freedom, in a war without retreat./ He  
was just one among the many human beings like you and me/  
who  
had he known about his fate, would have denied his destiny.

***Fuel Your Future***

***Air National Guard***







# HISTORY

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**Black History Month Luncheon**  
**11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**Bayshore Officer's Club**  
**Meal Cost: \$12**

**Feb. 23**  
**Health Fair**  
**10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**BX**

For more information, contact:

Maj. Cassandra Fonseca - 828-9880  
Master Sgt. Kevin Francis - 827-9400  
Senior Master Sgt. Patricia Gaspard - 827-6393  
Tech. Sgt. Latrice Washington - 827-9531  
Master Sgt. Nathan Tate - 827-9020  
PO3 Michael Brzezinski - 827--5576  
Senior Master Sgt. David Cox - 828-2438  
Angela Boykin-Scruggs - 826-9334







# MACDILL COMMUNITY



## EVENTS

### Friday

#### Career Fair

Bayshore Club from 12 to 3 p.m. More than 60 companies will be represented. Bring your resume. Hosted by the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

### MacDill Lanes

Family Fun Friday! 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. Games! Prizes! Snack Bar specials.

### Sunday

#### MacDill Lanes

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

### Tuesday

#### Airman & Family Readiness Center

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

### Base Library

Anime & Magna Club Sapporo Snow Festival at 6 p.m.

### Wednesday

#### Marketing Yourself for a Second Career

From 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Bayshore Club. A FREE lecture for Officers & Senior Enlisted planning to separate in the next 1-5 yrs. (Spouses invited too!) Presented by Col Dan Koslov, USAF (Ret). Sign up by calling 828-0138.

### Newcomers Reception

From 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Base Chapel. Meet the Wing Commander and other base agencies.

*For more information please visit our website at [www.macdillfss.com](http://www.macdillfss.com)*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nancy Hooks

**Capt. Seth Storms, 6th Operations Support Squadron ADO, cheerfully picks up his 22-month-old son, Easton Storms, at MacDill Air Force Base, upon returning from a two-month deployment at Al Udeid last week.**

## 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.**

**Tron: Legacy (PG)**

**Saturday - 3 p.m.**

**Tron: Legacy (PG)**

**Saturday - 7 p.m.**

**The Tourist (PG-13)**