

# THUNDERBOLT

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AIRMEN



MISSION



COMMUNITY



TEAMMATES



MacDill Airman awarded Bronze Star - page 4

Photo by Senior Airman Melanie Bulow-Gonterman

Tech. Sgt. Andre Peters, 6th Security Forces Squadron military working dog NCO in charge, was awarded a Bronze Star for his deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. As the Regional Command-West military and contract working dog program manager, he was credited with the removal of 212 pounds of homemade explosives, nine improvised explosive devices, eight heavy assault weapons, 2,500 rounds of ammunition, and \$4.7 million worth of narcotics, used to fund terrorist combat operations.

# COMMANDER'S CORNER



## Fellow mobility leaders and teammates

by Lt. Gen. Darren W. McDew

18th Air Force commander

As Airmen in the world's most revered Air and Space Force we have many obligations to our ourselves, our fellow Airmen, and to our Nation. One of our core responsibilities is to capitalize on the skills and abilities of ALL of our Airmen... reinforcing a culture of dignity and respect.

More than 150 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation beginning a civil rights movement; providing a pathway for our country to follow. A century later, civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech in the shadow of president Lincoln's own Memorial and galvanized a Nation.

This month, as we celebrate African-American history by recognizing the contributions of the African-Americans that laid the foundations for the world's greatest fighting force, I

ask that you take a moment to reflect further. Consider the herculean contributions, sacrifices, and service of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, the Buffalo Soldiers, and the Tuskegee Airmen in the midst of adversity realizing their successes came DESPITE an environment that lacked equality, respect and appreciation for all of its military members. Then, consider what is possible when we live up to our Nation's most sacred ideals that started with President Lincoln.

Our military leads the Nation in embracing the strengths of all of our people. We recognize that the men and women who wear the uniform, and the civilians who work beside them, are brothers and sisters. While I ask you to use this month's commemoration as a time for reflection, I know that our culture of respect for all must exist EVERY day.

Help me make sure that it does!

Finally, as always, thank you for your continued service and dedication to our fellow Airmen, our command, and the world's finest Air Force!



Lt. Gen. Darren W. McDew

Have news? Send it to the MacDill Thunderbolt at [thunder.bolt@us.af.mil](mailto:thunder.bolt@us.af.mil)

Be sure to visit MacDill Air Force Base on the web at [www.MacDill.af.mil](http://www.MacDill.af.mil)



### COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The Action Line provides 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 email [macdillwing-commander@us.af.mil](mailto:macdillwing-commander@us.af.mil).

### MacDill on the web



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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MacDillAirForceBase](http://www.facebook.com/MacDillAirForceBase)

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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.



## Providing care: Senior Airman Taryn Summers

by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Novak, United States Special Operations Command, lay in the middle of the road waiting for care after his motorcycle had collided into a car early Tuesday morning outside of the Dale Mabry gate of MacDill Air Force Base.

Senior Airman Taryn Summers, 91st Air Refueling Squadron, arrived on the scene unaware of the events that had taken place only a few moments earlier but was ready to provide care.

“When I parked my car, he was surrounded by a group of elderly women who were trying to provide care; I immediately made them aware that I was a certified EMT and took charge of the situation,” said Summers.

Novak commented that he was suffering from pain in his legs; however, Summers wanted to verify that this was the only thing he was suffering from.

“I conducted a blood sweep and checked him for broken bones,” stated Summers. “I discovered that his femur may be broken and that his ankle was bruised and swollen.”

Lt. Col. Richard Briscoe, United States Central Command, arrived on the scene and assessed the situation.

“Senior Airman Summers was in charge of the situation. Tampa police and medical were still en route, but SrA Summers had triaged the man for wounds, and directed a civilian to keep the man’s head and neck stable,” commented Briscoe. “When I asked if anyone had performed Self Aid and Buddy Care, she mentioned that she had and that she was also an EMT. Since she was doing great as the first-responder,

See **CARE**, Page 22



Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

**Col. Scott DeThomas, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, coins Senior Airman Taryn Summers, 91st Air Refueling Squadron, during a Wing Staff meeting at MacDill Air Force Base, Feb. 5. Summers provided emergency first responder care to a motorcycle accident victim Feb. 4.**

## Nation’s fourth highest medal – well deserved

6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

By Senior Airman Melanie Bulow-Gonterman

Tech. Sgt. Andre Peters, 6th Security Forces Squadron military working dog NCO in charge, was awarded the nation’s fourth highest medal, the Bronze Star Medal, by the Department of the Army in August 2013, prior to returning to MacDill Air Force Base.

Peters, a Chicago native, enlisted in December of 1999 as a Security Forces member. In September of 2002, he graduated from the MWD handler apprentice course. He has deployed six times, four of which pertained to the MWD section.



**Tech. Sgt. Andre Peters**

“Receiving the Bronze Star Medal was such an honor,” said Peters. “I was in shock, but very thankful when I was awarded the medal.”

A Bronze Star Medall is awarded to individuals who, while serving in any capacity in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, distinguish themselves apart from their comrades by heroism, outstanding achievement or by meritorious service not involving aerial flight.

Peters was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his six-month deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom as the Regional Command-West military and contract working dog program manager, Herat Province, Afghanistan, from March 13, 2013 to September 5, 2013.

“My mission was to fulfill all requests for Explosives Detection MWD assistance for Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, foreign military, and various U.S. government agencies in western Afghanistan,” stated Peters. “I also coordinated the utilization of

See **MEDAL**, Page 22

# WEEK IN PHOTOS



Photo by Senior Airman Melissa V. Paradise

Senior Airman Carlos Reyes, 6th Security Forces Squadron marine patrolman, fires a LM51 shotgun as a warning shot for a vessel entering the restricted waters around MacDill Air Force Base during a training exercise Feb. 3. The training exercise was conducted and filmed for a Department of Defense instructional video.



Photo by Senior Airman Melanie Bulow-Gonterman

Staff Sgt. Adam Chambers, 6th Security Forces Squadron military working dog trainer, fires a paintball gun in the prone position during a 6th SFS paintball tournament, Feb. 7, at MacDill Air Force Base. The event was held by the key spouses and 6th SFS training section.



Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

Lt. Col. Thomas Brown, 6th Comptroller Squadron commander, gives Senior Master Sgt. Nyle Smith, 6th Air Mobility Wing staff agency superintendent, chief master sergeant stripes during the Honorary Commanders' luncheon at MacDill Air Force Base, Feb. 5. Smith was selected for promotion to chief through the supplemental promotion cycle.



Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

Col. Scott DeThomas, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, passes the guidon to Col. Kevin Franke, 6th Medical Group commander, during an assumption of command ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base Feb. 4.



# TRICARE Service Center to close April 1

## *Thunderbolt staff report*

Keeping up with the rapidly increasing number of TRICARE beneficiaries who most often turn to a laptop or cell phone when they have questions, walk in service at the TRICARE Service Center (TSC) will no longer be available as of April 1. Find out more at [www.tricare.mil/TSC](http://www.tricare.mil/TSC).

Patients of the 6th Medical Group will have a wide variety of secure, electronic customer service options available through [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil). The new "I want to....." feature puts everything beneficiaries want to do online right on the front page of [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil).

When walk-in service ends, beneficiaries who want to get personal

assistance from the Managed Care Support Contractor can call Humana Military at 1-800-444-5445 for enrollment, benefit, and claims assistance. All health care, pharmacy, dental and claims contact information is located at [www.tricare.mil/contactus](http://www.tricare.mil/contactus). Beneficiaries can get 24/7 TRICARE benefit, enrollment information at [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil).

TRICARE beneficiaries can download health care forms and send them by U.S. mail.

Although the Managed Care Support Contractor Humana Military will end their TSC services at MacDill April 1, the 6th Medical Government Beneficiary Counseling & Assistance Coordinators will remain in place. Beneficiaries who do not use a computer and are not covered by Humana-Military will receive full staff support.

Call 827-9900, Option 3, for more information.



# MacDill's first recycle team

by Airman 1st Class Tori Schultz  
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

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Airman 1st Class Brandi Graves, 6th Comptroller Squadron financial analyst, came to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., from technical school and noticed things were different from what she was used to, especially when it came to recycling.

"In tech school we had a recycling team in our squadron that picked up recyclables once a week," said Graves. "When I got here, I noticed only one recycling bin by the dumpsters that was overflowing every week, and I wanted to figure out a way to recycle more."

Graves contacted Eric Vichich, 6th Civil Engineer Squadron contractor, and they started working out a plan for the dorms. In the future, each dorm will be receiving two more recycling bins to contain the recyclables until pick-up. Graves and Vichich are also working on getting every dorm resident their own personal bins for their rooms.

"Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. the team will meet up at the new dorms and work our way to the old dorms," said Graves. "Dorm residents can put their recyclables outside their door to be picked up, and I will record the weight for each



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tori Schultz

**Dorm residents from the 6th CDorm put loose recyclables into trash bags at MacDill Air Force Base, Feb. 5. The team picked up a total of 105.2 pounds of recyclables it's first day.**

dorm so we can have a contest."

Feb. 5, kicked off the first recycle team pick-up. Volunteers from the dorms came together to pick up recyclables and dispose of them properly.

"The team collected 105.2 pounds of recyclables their first night," said Graves. "I felt accomplished, excited, and anxious to see what the increase would be next week."





# AFSO21 large aircraft parts storage

by Captain Allen Batiste

6th Logistics Readiness Squadron

The 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron is a unit with many moving pieces as it supports the logistical needs for all of MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. In doing so, the Airmen of the 6th LRS often times perform high risk tasks. One such task is the manual maneuvering of large KC-135 Stratotanker parts such as booms, aircraft rudders, and ailerons.

Currently the parts are downloaded from the back of a flatbed truck onto an elevated warehouse dock at the 6th LRS cargo receiving area. In the past 18 months this task has been performed over 90 times.

Unfortunately, this high risk task took the life of a 6th LRS Airman in January of 2013 and was therefore deemed a Class A mishap. This resulted in the 6th LRS completing a review of all high risk processes that could result in the loss of life or serious injury. For each of these tasks, Job Safety Analysis was developed that specifically detailed how to safely perform an operation. These JSAs were attached to all

high risk equipment. The purpose of the checklist was to give Airmen and supervisors another tool to assess risk associated with identified high-risk tasks. This was used as a “Best Practice” across the 6th Mission Support Group for implementation in other units.

However, there was still a significant risk that remained. Large aircraft parts were still being stored in buildings with an elevated warehouse dock; the same site of the Class A mishap last January. The squadron initially looked at modifying the elevated dock to include a new railing system, removal of structural pillars for safer forklift operations, and a widening of the dock all together. These upgrades would have cost over 260 thousand dollars as well as hinder day-to-day operations. The 6th LRS then looked into alternate storage locations for these large aircraft items.

This is where the process improvement principles of Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century came into play.

Clarify & Validate the Problem: The 6th LRS had difficulty maneuvering large aircraft parts into the current warehouse due to its de-



Photo by Senior Airman Melissa V. Paradise

**Senior Airman Branden Jones, 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron flight service center, directs a forklift to pick up large aircraft parts at MacDill Air Force Base, Jan. 30.**

sign, which contributed to a fatality in January 2013.

Break Down the Problem/Identify Performance Gaps: The warehouse was originally designed to house fighter aircraft parts which are significantly smaller than parts for the KC-135. This caused personnel to have to maneuver these large parts in constricted spaces

See **AFSO21, Page 14**





Senior Airman Cherrelle Warren, 6th Medical Operations Squadron aerospace medical technician, sings the National Anthem at the annual awards ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Friday.



## Annual award winners honored

Annual award nominees from various units around the 6th Mission Support Group stand for a photo at the annual awards ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Friday. These nominees won in their respective category at the group level and were competing for a wing level award.



Annual award nominees from various units around the 6th Operations Group stand for a photo at the annual awards ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Friday. These nominees won in their respective category at the group level and were competing for a wing level award.



Col. Scott as Mazzoni stands for a photo at the annual awards ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Friday. He is competing for a wing level award.



Photo at the annual awards ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Friday. These nominees received a medallion to acknowledge their year-long excellence on and off the job.



Annual award nominees from various units around the 6th Operations Group stand for a photo at the annual awards ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Feb. 7. Nominees received a medallion to acknowledge their year-long excellence on and off the job.



Annual award nominees from various units around the 6th Maintenance Group stand for a photo at the annual awards ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Friday. These nominees won in their respective category at the group level and were competing for a wing level award.



Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Thompkins, 6th AMW command chief, presents George Gwozdecky, Tampa Bay Lightning assistant coach, and Ben Bishop, Tampa Bay Lightning goaltender, with a framed certificate at the annual awards ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Friday.



Annual award nominees from various units around the 6th Medical Group stand for a photo at the annual awards ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Friday. Nominees received a medallion to acknowledge their year-long excellence on and off the job.

# AFSO21

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From Page 3

in close proximity to the edge of the elevated warehouse docks.

**Set Improvement Target:** Minimize large aircraft part movement by 50 percent and find alternate storage locations to accommodate the size of the parts, quick access to the flight line, and the ability to be secured at all times.

**Determine Root Cause:** No available guidance for movement of certain large aircraft parts and not enough maneuvering dock space in current storage location.

**Develop Countermeasures:** After a recent reconciliation of the Mobility Readiness Spares Package, the required storage space for these items was reduced. The items are currently stored on the first floor of Hangar two. The 6th LRS took this opportunity to modify some of this space to meet the needs of storing the large aircraft parts. This location met all of the improvement targets as well as avoided the spending of 260 thousand dollars in warehouse dock modifications. But most importantly, it creates a safer operating environment by keeping all the parts at ground level.

**See Countermeasures Through:** With the help of the 6th Civil Engineer Squadron, modifications were completed on the MRSP storage area to accommodate the large aircraft parts. The 6th LRS completed several dry runs to test the new process as well as trained personnel on how to properly move these large aircraft items without incident.

**Confirm Results & Process:** The large aircraft parts are now stored in a secure location under the surveillance of Material Management personnel; these assets are readily accessible to the flight line and maintenance personnel, and the overall handling of these assets has been reduced by over 50 percent, due to the more convenient and logical location.

**Standardize Successful Processes:** The JSA has been updated to accommodate the new process as well as training records have been updated on all 6th LRS personnel involved in movement of the large aircraft parts.

AFSO21 is continuing to become standard operating procedure across the Air Force in regards to process improvement. In terms of this issue facing the 6th LRS, it provided techniques to come up with a solution that is assured to save money, time, and lives.



# DIAMOND SHARP



**Senior Airman Fredrick Beacham  
91st Air Refueling Squadron**



**Job Title:** Training shop

**Hometown:** Jackson, Miss.

**Short-term goals:** Achieve the rank of staff sergeant

**Long-term goals:** To improve my knowledge and professional skills in my career field, so that I may make a positive impact through my work ethic and abilities

**Advice to others:** View every problem as an opportunity to prove yourself.

**Role model and why:** My father, because he never complained about anything, and he was always grateful for what he had

## **Free tax help**

The Retiree Activities Office's tax season has begun. Free filing assistance on a walk-in basis is available any day between Feb. 3 and April 15 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. each day except holidays. The RAO office is right next to the Commissary. Personnel in uniform will be accommodated any week day between 8:30-11 a.m. Call the RAO at 828-4555.





# Job Opening at DCC

The Davis Conference Center has an opening for a Staff Sgt. or Tech. Sgt. Any AFSC (5- or 7-skill level) may apply, with a report date of April 1. Duties include tasks required for the daily operations of the DCC:

- Support to event planning activities, including meeting set up, rearranging conference rooms, and posting informational signs
- Responsible for identifying and reporting

maintenance issues

- Works with Events Manager and Conference Coordinator to execute daily schedule
- Communicate directly with management staff on conference center projects

You will receive DCC familiarization training on customer service and audiovisual operations. Because of its technical nature and the investment in training required, applicants are expected to remain in this position for one year.

## **Qualifications:**

- Possess excellent customer service skills
- Able to communicate with guests in a professional manner
- Ability to make sound decisions and multi-task
- Professional demeanor and appearance

## **How to apply:**

Contact Kevin Thompson, DCC director, at 828-6601; e-mail: [ernest.thompson@us.af.mil](mailto:ernest.thompson@us.af.mil). Individuals must obtain their unit commander's approved release.





# MACDILL COMMUNITY



## EVENTS

### Friday

#### Short Fitness Center

The Cupid Shuffle 5k Run starts at 7 a.m. Medals for top performers and smoothie tokens giveaway.

Call 828-4496 for more info.

#### SeaScapes Beach House

BBQ Friday! Offering BBQ specials for the Air Force Flyin' High BBQ Challenge from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

#### Surf's Edge Club

Sweetheart Dinner, four-course meal which includes a glass of wine or champagne. Members \$26pp; spouse \$28pp; Non-members: \$30pp. Two seating times available 5 and 7 p.m. Call 840-2020 to reserve your table.

### Saturday

#### MacDill Lanes & Family Fun Center

Famarama Bowling. Fun starts at 5 p.m. Kids bowl for \$1.50 a game from 5-8 p.m. Call early to reserve a lane at 828-4005.

### Thursday

#### Base Education Office

Troops to Teachers in Room 202 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. There will be representatives from Hillsborough County to answer any questions on teaching in Florida. If you are transitioning or just want more information on Troops to Teachers, please RSVP to <http://www.proudtoserveagain.com>.

#### Surf's Edge Club

Membership Dinner from 5-8:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Club members: free • Spouse: \$14.95 • Non-Members: \$16.95.



Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

### Survival lesson

Tech. Sgt. Robert Colliton, 6th Operations Support Squadron survival, evasion, resistance and escape instructor, gives members of the Town N' Country Youth Council emergency rations during a tour of MacDill Air Force Base, Feb. 7. A tour of the SERE shop consisted of a briefing on the type of training received and requirements and a demonstration of defensive and offensive hand-to-hand combat.



## CHAPEL SCHEDULE

### Protestant service

Sunday - 11 a.m. - Contemporary Service

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - FAMCAMP Service

### Islamic service

Friday - 1:30 p.m. - Muslim Prayer Service

Call the chapel at 828-3621 for more information or visit the chapel web site at <http://www.macdill.af.mil/macdillchapel>.

### Catholic services

Saturday - 5:30 p.m. - Mass

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Mass

Monday-Wednesday - 12:10 p.m. Mass



**EXCHANGE**  
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

**Be sure to visit the official MacDill Air Force Base web site at [www.macdill.af.mil](http://www.macdill.af.mil)**

# CARE

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From Page 3

I turned my attention to directing traffic and ensuring the scene was as safe as possible.”

Briscoe mentioned to Summers how lucky the victim was that she took the initiative to get advanced medical training, and thought to himself how glad he was that she was in our Air Force.

“I was impressed with how calm and confident she was during the entire event,” stated Briscoe.

When the medics arrived, Summers relayed her exam findings, and they deduced to the same conclusion as Summers, commenting that Novak’s injury was in fact a broken femur.

“This is the first time I have taken on a real life trauma situation alone,” stated Summers.

“I usually work with a team or a class on medical emergency scenarios.”

Summers has no military medical background. She works as an ex-

# MEDAL

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From Page 3

contract working dogs inside various forward operating, contingency operating, and fire bases.”

During his tour, he was credited with the removal of 212 pounds of homemade explosives, nine improvised explosive devices, eight heavy assault weapons, 2,500 rounds of ammunition, and \$4.7 million worth of narcotics, used to fund terrorist combat operations.

“His instrumental leadership ensured the safe return of all North

ecutive assistant at the 91st ARS; and prior to this assignment, she was an executive assistant at the 6th Operations Support Squadron.

The flame that pushed Summers to take an emergency medical technician course at Hillsborough Community College was her two small children.

“My two children are daredevils; so when my oldest son, Bradley, broke his arm I panicked as a mom and the training I received from the military went out the window,” commented Summers. “I didn’t want that to happen again; so about a week later I enrolled into a 16 week EMT course.”

Summers efforts did not go unrecognized; Col. Scott DeThomas, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, coined Summers for the services she provided to Novak.

Summers stated, “To be completely honest the recognition is a bit overwhelming. I only really did what I was trained to do.”

Atlantic Treaty Organization and coalition forces during the 128 combat missions he planned and participated in,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ilya Basyuk, Special Operations Task Force-West first sergeant.

“I was just doing what every person is expected to do, which is take care of your people and complete the mission,” expressed Peters. “I was fulfilling my duties as a service member, nothing extraordinary for me.”