

# THUNDERBOLT

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## WE ARE ONE

Two squadrons coping and thriving after loss



# COMMANDER'S CORNER



## Getting through the tough times

by Chief Master Sgt. Vicki Gamble  
6th Air Mobility Wing command chief

There was a recent suicide in Air Mobility Command. There have been many more in the Air Force since January. This reality leaves many in the Air Force, including me, to wonder why. Are we doing enough as co-workers, supervisors and friends? Are our Airmen given enough training and support to cope with life when things don't go their way?

I've always thought mamas were pretty smart people, especially mine. When my sister and I were growing up we faced lots of adversity in our lives. As a matter of fact, I was always jealous of my friends that had boxes of Barbie dolls, while I only had one. The one I did own was a hand-me-down and was missing most of her "long luxurious hair" because the previous owner had so frivolously chopped it off.

Our social situation or lack thereof often bothered my sister and me. We would lie in bed at night and discuss our very forlorn situation. However, we never spoke of such things around my mama. Mama never tolerated feeling sorry for ourselves. Whenever she caught wind of our despair, my mama would tell us that, "happiness is between your ears." What she meant by that statement was my happiness was controlled by my thoughts. I didn't realize it at the time, but this mantra would

help me overcome several hurdles throughout my life.

Many years later, after being in the Air Force for a couple of decades, I made a great friend who was a chief master sergeant and an Air Force combat controller. While talking with him about his Airmen's training I tried to wrap my mind around how someone could put their bodies and brains through such pain and not only survive- but thrive. He said, "Vicki, getting through anything tough on the mind or the body just requires you to get through the moment. The moment only last a little while, but quitting last forever."

The thoughts he shared with me reminded me of my mama. Their messages were very similar. Every day is not unicorns and rainbows. Sometimes, life is not fair. Sometimes, feelings can overwhelm you. Sometimes, it seems that no one can possibly understand the terrible events that have happened to you. However, my mama and I would disagree with those thought patterns. You are not alone. Your Air Force family cares about you. You just need to get through the moment. Getting through the moment could mean reaching out for help with a mental health professional, talking to a friend, chaplain or supervisor and reinforcing your coping skills early and often.

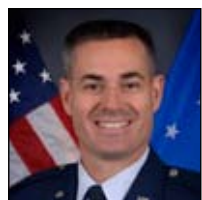
Even though your problems seem overwhelming and insurmountable, they are not. Put your problems in perspective. Most are



Chief Master Sgt. Vicki Gamble

not life threatening and you shouldn't allow them to threaten your happiness and life. You are important to your family, coworkers and the defense of this great country.

Nowadays, I own a couple hundred Barbie dolls complete with houses, cars, pools and even horses. It's sort of childish, but it is my personal material reminder that if I can "just get through the moment," I can accomplish anything.



### 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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## First USO established in more than 10 years

by Airman 1st Class  
Michael Ellis  
6th Air Mobility Wing  
Public Affairs

The breadth of MacDill/Tampa community expanded last week with the opening of the first USO established in the nation in the last decade.

Located at Tampa International Airport, the new USO will support the active duty and retired military community in Tampa, and is a welcome addition to the growing resources available to MacDill service members, said Col. Matt Molineux, 6th Operations Group commander.

“Tampa greets us with open arms, said Molineux. “They work with us day in and day out to make our relationship better and to find ways to be able to support all of the military that work on MacDill.”



Photo by Airman Basic David Tracy

Col. Matt Molineux, 6th Operations Group commander, speaks with Women Army Corps World War II veteran, Evelyn Martin Johnson, before the Tampa International Airport United Service Organization (USO)

## 91st ARW integral part ‘Total Force’ tanker team at Red Flag

by Capt. Teresa L. Sullivan  
99th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

**NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFNS)** — Aerial refuelers sharpen their skills through joint, allied and total force integration during Red Flag 12-3.

“The teamwork of active duty, Air National Guard and Reserve units has been outstanding,” said Master Sgt. Randy Bishop, 91st Air Refueling Squadron chief boom operator out of MacDill AFB, Fla. “Total Force Integration is what makes tanker success at Red Flag possible.”

Tanker operators are pushing the limits while working more closely with Guard and Reserve units by inter-flying six KC-135 aircraft and crews as a team. They’re responsible for refueling 48 aircraft, which consume 260,000 pounds of fuel per day during eight

sorties over the Air Force’s premier Nevada Test and Training Range.

During the exercise tanker operators strive to better accommodate and coordinate with a variety of receivers, to include Air Force and Marine aircraft from across the U.S., while working with Royal Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force aircraft and crews.

Exercises like Red Flag are designed to train the force for current and future conflicts.

“Red Flag helps me think on my feet and be prepared for the unexpected, in a rapidly changing environment,” said Capt. Duc Ho, 91st ARS flight commander, who has deployed nine times to Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and other areas of Southwest Asia. “We’re learning the receiver’s mission and the complex, fluid environment that we’re going to be operating in for future wars.”

The tanker team credits their maintainers for keeping the aging tanker fleet operational during Red Flag.

“Maintenance does a great job keeping these 50-year-old jets in the air,” said Captain Ho, who is participating in his second Red Flag. “We couldn’t launch without our incredible maintainers.”

The tanker team is honing their skills in the air and on the ground, while being mindful of their environmental impact and fuel savings.

“Our primary goal is to support our receivers, but we fly high to save gas,” said Captain Ho. “We use a lot of ground power stations, minimize taxi time and when we’re not needed we minimize our air time in an effort to save fuel. We take fuel saving very seriously, but of course we balance that with the needs of the receiver.”



“There I was...”

## Given an opportunity to serve, all stepped up

by Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Baxter  
6th Maintenance Group superintendent

One late September evening, I was contacted by the Air Force’s Chiefs Group informing me there is an opportunity for me to serve a one year deployment in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Without hesitation, I wanted to reply with a “YES”, but I knew this was something that I needed to discuss with my family. Although I may be the individual serving in another country, my family serves as well at home. This had to be a family decision. I discussed the opportunity with my family and we agreed to step up to the plate.

It’s December 2010, my family and I had made all the necessary preparations for a long year deployment. I was looking forward to the opportunity and new experience that I will be encountering. During the deployment, I would serve as the senior enlisted manager for 220 active duty, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard personnel maintaining 16 KC-135R/T air refueling aircraft flying combat missions in Afghanistan. In addition, I was appointed as the expeditionary maintenance group’s focal point for Air Mobility Command and Air Force Central Command manpower and equipment issues. Fortunately for me the assignment wasn’t too difficult; due to the people I worked with every day.

I had the privilege to work with the men and women who maintained the KC-135 aircraft flying 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Most planes are retired after 20 years, but the KC-135 has reached



Courtesy photo

**Through the toughest weather conditions, the team of maintainers from the Air Force Reserves and Air National Guard kept the KC-135 tankers flying missions 24/7.**

50 years of age. Keeping aircraft flying this long is nothing short of a miracle.

The miracle workers are the men and women who provide back shop maintenance support, scheduling, analysis, aircraft maintenance inspections and repairs. Depending on the time of year, they perform this incredible work in not so good weather conditions. The 376th Air Expeditionary Wing is located in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, which is north of Afghanistan and next to China. The temperatures in this region can get down to subzero degrees. These maintainers are launching, recovering and repairing the aircraft in snow, ice, and freezing winds out on the flight line. This doesn’t prevent them from keeping the aircraft

mission ready to safely fly over the skies of Afghanistan in support of our armed forces men and women on the ground.

The maintainers arrive in theater knowing they will be working 12-hour shifts the entire time during their deployment. Due to their tenacity in getting the job done, they actually work 14 plus hours. More often than not, the production management team find themselves faced with directing maintainers to end their shifts in order to return to their quarters to recuperate. The heart and spirit of these men and women is truly incredible. Their sense of accomplishment is when they see the aircraft taxi from its parking spot down to the end of the runway and



Courtesy photo

**Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Baxter proudly displaying the colors during his deployment.**

See ‘THERE I WAS, Page 12



# NEWS/FEATURES



## Cookout season approaching; safety a must

Courtesy of the 6th Civil Engineer Squadron

### Safety tips

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.



### Charcoal grills

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

### Propane grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

### Facts & figures

- In 2005-2009, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 8,200 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues per year, including an average of 3,400 structure fires and 4,800 outside fires. These 8,200 fires caused an annual average of 15 civilian deaths, 120 civilian injuries and \$75 million in direct property damage.
- More than one-quarter (29 percent) of the home structure fires involving grills started on a courtyard, terrace or patio, 28 percent started on an exterior balcony or open porch, and 6 percent started in the kitchen.
- Flammable or combustible gas or liquid was the item first ignited in half of home outdoor grill fires. In 50 percent of the home outdoor fires in which grills were involved, 55 percent of the outside gas grills, and 36 percent of gas grill structure fires, started when a flammable or combustible gas or liquid caught fire.



“They make it a priority to take care and support the military that is out protecting their freedoms; we are a part of their community and they welcomed us into the community with open arms.”

“It’s a welcoming atmosphere for them, they’re appreciated, their sacrifices are appreciated, and this is one tangible way of the entire community being able to get together to show their tangible appreciation,” said Walter Lamerton, Tampa USO chairman, about the new facility coming to Tampa International Airport. There hasn’t been a new USO established in the nation in more than a decade.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place at TIA March 15. Guest speakers were Florida U.S. Representative Bill Young; Al Carter, Department of Veterans Affairs chief of staff; Lamerton, and Col. Matt Molineux, 6th Air Mobility Wing Operations Group commander.

Construction for the new 1,100 square-foot facility at TIA is scheduled to be completed early July. By August the new USO should be furnished and fully staffed to support an estimated 800 military members, veterans and dependents daily.

Ironically, last Labor Day there were troops sleeping on the floor right in front of where the new USO will be, said Lamerton.

The estimated cost to operate the USO at TIA is \$400,000 annually.

Lamerton and his staff had to show the need for a USO and show that the community here is supportive enough to fund the expenditure.

“What better things can we do, then to help our military and veterans?,” said U.S. Representative Bill Young.

“It took a lot of work and effort ... it took a lot of people from the whole Tampa Bay community, the base and everywhere around to get together to engage the USO headquarter staff as wells as the airport staff and the community at the same time,” Lamerton said.

“Florida has the third largest veteran population in the world,” said Al Carter, adding that there are about 421,000 veterans within a 60-mile radius from TIA.

The VA is providing pivotal support in the effort to make the Tampa USO a success.

“We hope to partner with the USO and provide support to the veterans and the military in whatever capacity,” said Carter. The VA plans to provide aid ranging from: benefit support, fund raising activities or manpower support (getting volunteers to staff the facility).

“Having a place for military, hosted by former military and supporters of the military provides that at home atmosphere... it’s veterans supporting veterans,” said Carter.

**Visit the official MacDill web site at [www.macdill.af.mil](http://www.macdill.af.mil)**







## Boundary Boulevard Lane Closure

The far right lane of North Boundary traveling southbound, south of MacDill Avenue adjacent to the U.S. Central Command Memorial to a point 135 feet north of the North Boundary and CENTCOM traffic light intersection will be under construction March 20 to April 15 from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily. The far right lane will be closed due to this activity for the construction of two right turn lanes which will be entering the new CENTCOM parking lot.

## Youth Ministry coordinator needed

The MacDill Air Force Base Chapel is accepting bids for a part time Youth Ministry Coordinator, paid by the Chapel Tithes & Offering Fund. A minimum of two years experience in designing and leading a comprehensive ministry to youth is required. Bid documents can be picked up at the Base Chapel, Bldg 355, weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Resumes and sealed bids will be accepted through April 4. Interviews will be conducted April 5 from 1

to 4 p.m. at the Chapel. The sealed bids will be opened at noon, April 6, in the Chapel conference room and the basis for award will be “best value to the government.” Anyone with interest may attend. The Youth Ministry Coordinator is expected to start work on April 11. Applicants must be able to secure permission to enter a military installation (no felony convictions/arrests, drug free, etc.) and will be required to complete a background check. For additional information, contact Tech. Sgt. Anthony DeVole at 828-3621.

## Back to School medical services

The 6th Medical Group is providing physicals and immunizations for the upcoming school year. Make your appointments now by calling the 6th MDG at 828-2273. Just as a reminder: a parent or guardian must accompany child, immunizations are screened for all children, and physicals are required for all children (K – 12) entering Florida schools for the first time.





## 'THERE I WAS'

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From Page 4

then see the landing gear retract into the aircraft after takeoff as it rises over the Jengish Chokusu Mountains. At that moment, what a maintainer feels can only be described with one action and one word, head slightly moving up and down and the word that is spoken is "Yeah". Deep down, we know the aircraft are critical in accomplishing vital missions in support of our nation and helping save lives over Afghanistan.

On a bigger scheme of things, what the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing accomplish everyday can be viewed as a "huge wheel of success". On this wheel, everyone plays an important part, as one of the spokes, in keeping the wing's mission rolling smoothly. The cohesiveness of the Expeditionary Mission Support Group providing fuel for the aircraft, the Expeditionary Maintenance Group preparing a safe aircraft for flight, the Expeditionary Medical Group ensuring everyone remains healthy to execute their jobs and the Expeditionary Operations Group flying the aircraft over the skies of Afghanistan delivering fuel to fighter, bomber, and surveillance aircraft directly enables the wing to support AFCENT's critical air operations downrange.

During the deployment, I had an opportunity to experience a military-to-military exchange with the local country's noncommissioned officer academy. A few senior enlisted leaders along with AFCENT's Command, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Parson, visited Kyrgyzstan's Koi Tosh NCO Academy. This was an awesome experience. Our initial session was geared toward establishing a basic foundation to learn from one another.

With that said, we agreed the first order of business will be to tackle the language barrier. Therefore, numerous language workshops were held at the Koi Tosh NCO Academy as well as on base. This military-to-military exchange program was open to all U.S. military personnel assigned to the Transit Center at Manas. It became a huge success. Once we looked passed the technical advancements, we discovered both countries have many similar things in common, such as perseverance and leadership principles. One memorable workshop was when students from a local high

school visited the base to share valuable life experiences while serving in the U.S. and Kyrgyz's military. The airmen and soldiers in both our military services instilled in these students a sense of pride and honor to serve. Now of course all work and no play can eventually put an end to a program. Therefore, several friendly volleyball and soccer events were scheduled, to build on the Kyrgyz and U.S. relations on a more personal level. After the first segregated matches, teams were intermingled with military personnel from each country. The camaraderie shared between the two country's militaries has evolved into an awesome program and boosted U.S. and Kyrgyz relations tenfold.

One of the reasons I have served for so long is because I love my country and my family. I know that "freedom is not free". Thousands of men and women have made sacrifices in order to defend our freedom in America. Serving has given my daughter and sons the freedom to choose, the freedom to choose whatever they want to do in their lives. My family accepted the opportunity to contribute to their country and freedom as well. My wife, who has accepted this opportunity 28 years ago to serve her country by allowing me to enlist in the Air Force, has been by my side and deserves any recognition and promotion I've received.

She has been the father, mother, care provider to our children from infant to adulthood. In my absence, she has moved from one house to another, handled all financial matters, and ensured the family's spiritual needs were met. She has served her country with distinction. My son accepted the opportunity by not going off to college. He chose to remain at home and attend a local college so he could fill my shoes (man of the house) in my absence in order for me to serve. My daughter has provided encouraging support to her mother and brother while finishing high school as well as attending a local college, like her brother, until I return.

There is no way I could have accomplished our country's mission without my family's support. There we were, as a family, refusing to let an opportunity to serve our country pass us by.





Photo by Staff Sgt. Linzi Joseph

**Lt Col Laura Holcomb, 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, in front of one of her many areas of responsibility, the base mobility and supply armory, at MacDill Air Force Base, Mar. 16. The 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron received an outstanding rating on the Air Mobility Command Logistics Compliance Inspection in 2011.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Linzi Joseph

**Maj. Rofelio Grinston, 6th Maintenance Operations Squadron commander, and Master Sgt. Christopher Masson, 6th Maintenance Operations Squadron first sergeant, pause to reflect on the loss of a fellow Airman at MacDill Air Force Base, Mar. 13.**



**Staff Sgt. Dieudonne B...  
ment journeyman, insp...  
on MacDill Air Force Ba**

# Moving forward...In reflection

by Tech Sgt. Tanika Belfield and Airman 1st Class Michael Ellis

6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

Despite the many options and places to turn to when you need help dealing with overwhelming life situations, the reality is that many people know or will know someone who'll still be overwhelmed.

Support systems like the Base Chapel, the Medical Group's Mental Health and the Base's Military Family Life Consultants are often unnoticed. This is often because the thick veil of a problem blocks seeing the road to solution.

Base resources and fellow Wingmen are just an arm's length away and can help pierce the haze of depression and feelings of loneliness that can cloud one's judgment.

Members of the MacDill Air Force Base family recently shared personal experiences related to the loss of friends, coworkers, and Wingmen, and what they did to overcome the grief associated with the tragedies.

"He was not just a coworker, he was my friend," said Staff Sgt. Dieudonne Batawila referring to the loss of Airman First Class Marco Ford, a little less than a year ago.

"I was the team lead when he first got here so I was the one who showed him around and trained him. Anytime he had questions I was the first person he would come to."

Ford and Batawila were members of the 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron, responsible for maintaining the base supply of deployment equipment and weapons. They also shared another bond which made them close.

"I would always call him my immigrant brother. We both came in without our citizenship. So I was the one to walk him through the naturalization process."

Tragedy impacts personal and professional relationships. As military members, skills are refined and enhanced daily through on-the-job and upgrade

training. It can be hard to replace or fill the gap after the loss of a co-worker.

Staff Sgt. Jolene Storey was trained by Tech. Sgt. Angela Saunders, who was the 6th Maintenance Operations Squadron training manager.

After Saunders passed, Storey was the only one in the squadron who could succeed Saunders. So in addition to being the squadron's scheduler she also became the training manager. Storey shared mixed feelings.

"I'm sad about the situation. It's hard to lose a co-worker, and I was overwhelmed by the additional duties and responsibilities," she said.

Maj. Roefelio Grinston, commander of the 6th MOS, also recalls the impact Saunderson's death had on the squadron.

Grinston took command a few months after Saunders passed. After taking command, he had to brief the leadership about Saunders.

"As I read the statements and interviewed coworkers, I could picture everything that happened that day and everything leading up," said Grinston. "It was an emotional scar on the squadron."

Grinston never had the opportunity to meet Saunders, but when asked what he learned from the tragic loss, he emphasized his personal leadership style. "Listen and empower your Airmen to reach the established standards. Your people are the experts; they only need the motivation and objective," he said.

Lt. Col. Laura Holcomb commander of 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron knows about meeting objectives in the face of tragedy. Her unit garnered an outstanding rating on the AMC Logistics Compliance Inspection the same week Ford passed away.

"I was grateful to my wing and group leadership; and specifically Lt. Col. Caroline Omdal, she was very supportive of me. I got to witness the closeness of my unit, how much they all really do care about one another. When something

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Linzi Joseph

Staff Sgt. Jolene Storey, 6th Mission Operations Squadron unit training manager, recalls being overwhelmed with duties during a time of loss at MacDill Air Force



Photo by Airman Basic David Tracy

Maj. Roefelio Grinston, 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron material manager, inspects a Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) overboot at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., March 19, 2012.







## REFLECTIONS

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tragic happens, people really do care. The wingman concept is real; it's more than just a phrase," said Holcomb.

Team LRS also went on to bring home the coveted mobility team "Boom" award, and played a vital role in the successful closing and re-opening of the flight line. These successes showcased their resiliency and honored the loss of their AF family member.

The words of Lt. Col. Holcomb reflect her passionate leadership style, and drive the message home to all those who read this and could be succumbing to doubt or a troubled heart:

"You are important. You matter. More people care about you than you realize, both families (Air Force and biological) need you."

*6 AMW/PA would like to thank 6 LRS and 6 MOS for their courage and willingness to share their stories.*





# SPORTS

## Sports talk

by Mack Dill

Yes, we're right in the middle of March Madness. Yes, the bracket has been blown up with huge upsets dealt to Missouri, Michigan, Duke and Georgetown. Yes, this is shaping up to be a fantastic year for college basketball. So what's on my mind this week? Well, there's one thing really -- the NFL and Peyton Manning.

Let's talk about Mr. Manning.

This drama is too good to pass up, and who knows what will break between the time I write this and the time the Thunderbolt hits the streets. I'm just going to take a look into my foggy crystal ball and work some predictions.

Let's start with a quick review of what we

know for sure. John Elway has never been a fan of Tim Tebow. Tebow's success last year just made life so much worse for Elway because winning games just put the Broncos further down the draft order for this season. On top of that, Tebow sells tickets and jerseys. He's not so much a QB for the Broncos as he is a walking, talking ATM — money just follows him wherever he goes. And by the end of last season, Denver fans finally got the quote out of Elway that they've been looking for all season: "I think Tim has earned the right to be the starting quarterback going into training camp next season." Sure, we knew that quote had more holes in it than Tampa Bay's defensive line, but it was more than Elway has ever said before.

Now Elway has to deliver, but he's not a believer in Tebow. What can he do to get out

from under this Tebow-mania? Well, there's only one name that will soothe the mob mentality in Denver and that's Peyton. Yes, John Elway engineered yet another winning drive and scored Peyton Manning. Chances are good that not only will Tim Tebow NOT be the starting QB going into training camp — it's looking pretty doubtful he'll ever see the Broncos training camp again.

We'll talk about Tim's fate in a minute. First, let's look at this Manning situation.

Wow. Many thought that with San Francisco's big finish last year, despite an average quarterback, the 49ers would give Peyton the best chance to get back to the Super Bowl. Look at the dynamics of the situation a little more closely and you can understand why the

See **SPORTS**, Page 26





# DIAMOND SHARP



**Staff Sgt. Nathan Wierzba**  
**6th Logistics Readiness Squadron**



**Job Title:** Personal property supervisor.

**Hometown:** Plover, Wis.

**Short-term goals:** Complete retraining school for geospatial intelligence, obtain bachelor's degree in Transportation Management, and faster 5-k times, make technical sergeant.

**Long-term goals:** Make chief master sergeant or commission and achieve colonel, obtain masters degree in logistics.

**Advice to others:** Do not be satisfied where you currently are; strive to achieve.

**Role model and why:** Father; he was my inspiration to join the military. My dad retired as a lieutenant commander in the Navy Reserves. I would like to get my master's degree before he did, and make chief or a higher commission rank than he. He also set the standard high being the chief of police back home.

**Why did you join the Air Force:** My dad was in the U.S. Navy Reserves and I wanted to be like him, successful. When he deployed to Iraq in 2005 to 2006, that's when I took the leap into the Air Force.







# MACDILL COMMUNITY



## EVENTS

### Friday

#### Surf's Edge Club

Bonus! Membership Breakfast from 6:30-9 a.m. Club members FREE; Non-members: \$6.95

#### Boomers Bar & Grill

Friday Bash! 3-7 p.m. Bar snacks & drink specials! Guaranteed \$100 club card drawing, Bar Bingo, and DJ!

#### Surf's Edge Club

BBQ Buffet Membership Dinner from 5:30-9 p.m. Members FREE! Non-Members: \$14.95

### Saturday

#### Deployed Spouse Movie Event

The base theater will host an evening of socializing and fun. "Happy Feet 2" will be playing, and popcorn, candy and drinks will be provided! Spouses can connect with MacDill Key leaders and learn about available community resources. This event is open to any actively serving, guard, or reserve family currently experiencing or preparing for a deployment. RSVP IS REQUIRED. To register, contact the A&FRC Brandon at 813-655-9281 or A&FRC MacDill at 828-2721/0145.

### Monday-Friday

#### Surf's Edge Club

Global Tastes Lunch Buffet from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Cost \$8. Mon: Latin Tue: Italian Wed: Asian Thu: Mexican Fri: Americana.

#### SeaScapes Beach House

Daily Early Bird Dinner Special 4:30-6:30 p.m. Home-style favorite meal with iced tea or fountain drink \$7.

*Reminder... make your Easter Buffet reservations at the Surf's Edge Club by calling 840-2020!*



Photo by Senior Airman Melissa V. Paradise

## Smile!

A representative group of men and women from "Team MacDill" pose for a wing photo on the flightline March 9, at MacDill Air Force Base.



## CHAPEL SCHEDULE

### Protestant services

Sunday - 9 a.m. - Praise Worship Service  
9:30 a.m. - FAMCAMP Service (Bldg 2017)  
12 p.m. - Gospel Service

### Islamic services

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

### Catholic services

Saturday - 4:30 p.m. - Confession  
5:30 p.m. - Mass

Sunday - 10:30 a.m. - Mass

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

For all other faith inquiries or to view upcoming event information, call the Chapel at 828-3621 or visit the website at [www.macdill.af.mil/macdillchapel](http://www.macdill.af.mil/macdillchapel)



# EXCHANGE

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

## SPORTS

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**Major Jeff Kritsberg, of 6th Communications Squadron, shows off his \$100 gift certificate, presented by Colonel Dave Almond, 6th AMW vice commander, for his first place finish in the Championship division of the Bay Palms Club Championship Golf Tournament March 17 and 18.**

Broncos look so appealing. First of all, Denver is in the shaky AFC West. Between San Diego, Kansas City and Oakland – this division is pretty much up for grabs. I think what surprises me the most is that Manning won't be playing indoors very much next season. None of the teams in this division play in a dome. Early on, most experts thought he would insist on a team that plays indoors.

The second part of this package that may have swayed Peyton (and no, it's not the \$90 plus million deal) is the fact that Brother Eli sits over in the NFC. Staying in the AFC seems to be the practical choice, and who knows, maybe this is the year the Manning family meets in the Super Bowl?

All in all, this is a good fit for Manning. He'll still have his work cut out for him and Denver's schedule is one of the toughest in the NFL next year, but he should have plenty of targets to throw to. We'll get to spend Sundays watching him run his "check with me" offense.

Okay, back to Tebow. What's next for Timmy? Looking into the future I see him coming back home to Florida. While Miami may show

some interest, I'm not betting that he'll end up as a Dolphin. Locally, I think he'll get looked at by our own Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Is he a good fit? Nope, but he sells tickets. More likely though is a true homecoming to Jacksonville. The hometown hero will sell tickets, inject excitement into a failing offense and put the Jaguars back on the map for teams to watch. Believe it or not, one team that may be interested in Tebow is New England. Now that would be interesting. I could see that working as well. Ultimately, it doesn't really matter where Tebow lands. We've seen it time and time again – it's always on his feet.

So start marking your calendar for the start of football season. We already have plenty of drama and we're not even to the draft yet. This should shape up to be a great season.

And that wraps up another week of Sports Talk. Keep watching March Madness. Every game seems to bring a shock to the bracket and you won't want to miss the action. Sweet 16 action takes place on March 22-23, and the Elite 8 is on March 24-25. Keep watching and as always, I hope your team wins.