

THUNDERBOLT

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Photo By: Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz

Military Appreciation

U.S. Special Operations Command Joint Service Color Guard presents the Colors at the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Banquet March 17, Tampa, Fla. The banquet honors all who serve and is a highlight of the year for the Chamber.

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Taking care of our own; some team standouts

by Col. Lenny Richoux

6th Air Mobility Wing commander

The 6th Air Mobility Wing recently sent assets to support the operation in the Mediterranean Sea, in line with one of our top Air Force priorities-Partner with joint and coalition teams to win today's fight. An operation like this is what we've trained for and worked up to be able to rapidly support.

The Air Force has carried out critical duties while being engaged in continuous combat for more than 20 years, and our Wing has fully supported missions in various areas of operation all over the world.

While we are doing that, we are fulfilling another top Air Force priority-Develop and care for Airmen and their families. This week we sponsored the Deployed Spouses Dinner in Brandon. We provided childcare services and dinner for an overall night for friends, MacDill leadership and community resource specialists to sit down with our spouses and family members to interact in a comfortable setting, giving them the assistance they need.

Special thanks to **Ms. Liz Waters, Ms. Gayle Cook, Lt. Col. Carrie Omdal**, all those in the **6th Force Support Squadron** who worked on making this a great evening for the spouses, and to the squadron commanders who got the word out to the spouses and signifi-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz

Col. Lenny Richoux with downtown Tampa in the background.

cant others of our deployed servicemembers. The 6th AMW groups will continue sponsoring quarterly Deployed Spouses Dinners and will support them on a rotating basis.

Kudos also go to 6th Maintenance Group's **Staff Sgt. Jeromy Millsap**, who coordinated with airfield operations to secure more than \$6,000 worth of mobility items. He ensured

equipment didn't hinder aircraft ramp traffic or taxiing aircraft.

I also want to recognize the 6th Security Forces Squadron, commanded by **Lt. Col. Kenneth Ohlson**, for its selection as Best in the U.S. Air Force for a second year in a row.

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



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Air Force Base
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MacDill Thunderbolt

Publisher: Denise Palmer
Editor: Nick Stubbs

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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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Down the drain?

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66 a magic number

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F-4 pilots recall MacDill past



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Events, movies, more...



NOAA readies hurricane hunters for 2011 season

by Nick Stubbs
Thunderbolt editor

Hurricane season kicks off June 1, and that means the tempo is rising at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, a longtime tenant unit at MacDill.

NOAA technicians are busy running through final maintenance checks on the P-3 Orion hurricane hunter aircraft which are the front-line of the NOAA hurricane flying operations. Equipped with sophisticated radar systems and monitoring equipment, NOAA is required to have at least one of its two Orions ready for duty June 1, said Jim McFadden, lead NOAA scientist at MacDill.

Affectionately named after Muppet characters, Kermit and Miss Piggy, the P-3s will be on-line this season to fly into any storm, though typically the official start of Hurricane season is quiet, said Mr. McFadden. The big storms usually wait until August and September to make an appearance, he noted.

"We're getting ready, but it doesn't really get going until after June 1," he said.

When it does, NOAA will be ready with the aircraft, equipment and manpower.

"Our aircraft have all the navigation and radar equipment of Air Force planes and more," said Mr. McFadden, who can't say enough about the venerable P-3s, which started out in their history as U.S. Navy submarine hunters.

The P-3s in the NOAA stable are not surplus or converted sub hunters, but were specifically built to order for hurricane duty. Officially known as the Lockheed WP-3D Orion, the planes are suited to the task, as their airframes allow for a rear, tail-mounted radar dome, which augments another on the plane's belly. Its four turboprop engines provide the reliability and power to handle the toughest weather conditions.

Scientists aboard use GPS dropsondes released into storms to monitor winds, pressure, humidity and other factors, all of which is transmitted to computers before they drop into the sea. The information provides scientists with the data they need to help predict the growth and path of threatening storms. The hurricane monitoring flights can be intense, as the planes slice through high winds, violent



Photo by Nick Stubbs

(TOP) Joseph Klippel, left, and Dewie Floyd, NOAA flight engineers, examine the engine of Kermit, a P-3 Orion Hurricane Hunter. (ABOVE) the cone on the back of the P-3 houses radar equipment.

down and up drafts between 1,500 and 10,000 feet - altitudes where storms often are in full rage.

"They are excellent aircraft and have a great track record over the last 35 years," said Mr. McFadden.

Dewie Floyd, lead flight engineer on Miss Piggy agreed. The NOAA P-3s have the right stuff for the job, and NOAA's rigid maintenance standards ensure they are always ready and able when needed.

"They're sturdy and reliable," he said. "They're great planes."

The P-3s work in tandem with NOAA's Gulfstream G-IV jet, also based at MacDill. It flies higher and faster, and is the other half of a

See NOAA, Page 10



Photo by: Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz

Fast on their feet

Airmen at MacDill Air Force Base run in the women's history month 5K team trivia competition run March 16. The teams were graded on their speed as well as their ability to answer questions on women's history.



Make sure; Only rain in the drain

by Eric Vichich

6th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight

With the rainy season fast approaching, the familiar sights and sounds of summer will soon be upon us; large white storm clouds building on the horizon, booming thunderclaps, bright lightning strikes, and heavy rains soaking the base in a matter of minutes. Inevitably, the clouds clear, the thunder and lightning fade into the distance, and the shining sun and chirping birds make you almost forget the downpour just occurred. So where did all that water go? The base's storm sewer system is working hard to get that water off the base's streets and parking lots and into canals or the bay.

Rain falling on buildings finds its way into gutters and downspouts where it joins rain that has fallen on streets, parking lots and other hard surfaces. The rains can be so heavy that some of the water may not even be absorbed by grassy areas. All of this runoff travels downhill until it enters the base storm sewer system. A large network of drains, pipes, swales, ditches, ponds, and canals transports the water out to Tampa Bay. This efficient system keeps MacDill's roadways safe and free of flooding, but can also transport trash and other pollution into Tampa Bay. Storm drain inlets tend to keep this pollution out of sight and out of mind. Leaves, grass clippings, trash or other pollutants entering the storm drains can foul the pristine waters of Tampa Bay. While many of us know not to throw trash directly into the storm drains, it's easy to underestimate the ability of runoff to carry pollutants long distances. Anything that comes into contact with rainwater is capable of producing stormwater pollution. Trash, fertilizers, pesticides, paint, oils, fuel and more can all be transported out to the bay during a rain event. Even things that might seem harmless, like dirt piles and pet waste, pose a threat to the aquatic ecosystems around the base.

As Florida's largest estuary, Tampa Bay supports more than 200 fish species and the most diverse waterbird nesting colonies in North America. Mangrove islands, shallow seagrass beds, oyster bars and mud flats provide food and shelter for the myriad plant and animal species found here. As residents, we enjoy fishing, boating, and swimming in the bay



Courtesy graphic

Protecting Tampa Bay and its fish and wildlife is the goal of sound drainage systems and practices. With the rainy season approaching, everyone must mind what goes down the drain.

year round. Keeping pollution out of the storm drains protects water quality which benefits everything from fiddler crabs to us. MacDill is committed to protecting the waters of the base and the bay. Help by ensuring only rain goes down the drain!

For more information on preventing stormwater pollution, contact Eric Vichich, 6th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight at 828-0460.

Join the Celebration at MacDill AFB Exchange Mobile Center Kiosk

by Marianne Blair

MacDill Exchange

Sixty-six is the magic number to celebrate as the Army & Air Force Exchange Service opens the 66th Exchange Mobile Center Kiosk in April. The kiosks feature the hottest phones from AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon, a variety of service plans and great accessories, all at competitive prices.

The MacDill AFB Grand Opening Celebration includes special promotional pricing on

some of the newest 4G phones as well as on tablets like the Dell Streak 7 and Motorola Zoom. The pricing will be effective from April 15 through the 28. Shoppers can also enter to win a 55" Samsung Flat-screen HDTV, \$1,000 Exchange gift card, Kinect unit for Xbox 360 or one of dozens of other prizes to be given away at each location. No purchase is necessary to win, but shoppers must enter in person to be eligible.

In addition, on Saturday April 16, the MacDill AFB kiosk offers in-store 66-cent specials

on items such as burgers and soft serve from Burger King, ice cream cones from Baskin Robbins, king-sized Hershey bars, Frito packs, Keebler cookies and more. Representatives from AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon will be available to demonstrate phones and answer questions, and other fun in-store activities are planned.

"There's no better time to shop and save for that new smart phone or tablet you've been wanting," said the Exchange's General Man-

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KIOSK

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ager Nicola Carter “The kiosk at MacDill AFB is the place to go to find the latest handset, coolest accessory or just to ask that wireless question no one else can answer.”

With a selection of phones from three major cellular service providers – AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon – shoppers can see and compare a variety of each brand’s most popular cell phones, tablets and service plans, with knowledgeable associates who provide expert assistance.

Shoppers who want a cellular phone without a contract have Exchange options as well. Verizon, T-Mobile and AT&T offer special pre-paid phones with no commitment or credit check.

The 66th Celebration pricing is valid from April 15th through the 28th; in-store drawings are from noon until 3 pm on Saturday, April 16th. Shoppers must visit the MacDill AFB kiosk in person to enter.





NOAA

From Page 3

dynamic data-collection duo. Together they provide more data about active storms than any other source in the world – a critical factor in helping save lives and property during hurricane season.

P-3 Orion specs

Type Engines: Four Allison T56-14 Turbo Prop Engines rated at 4,600 Shaft horsepower

Crew: Two Pilots, Flight Engineer, Navigator, Flight Director (meteorologist), 2 or 3 Engineering/Electronic specialists, Radio/Avionics specialist, and a up to 12 Scientist or Media personnel.

Max. Takeoff Weight: 135,000 lbs.

Ceiling: 27,000'

Rate of Climb: Up to 3000 FPM depending on aircraft gross weight and density altitude

Operational Airspeeds: 170 - 250 KIAS

Electrical: 4 Generators (3 are engine driven, 1 Auxiliary Power Unit)

each generator yields 120 volt, 3 phase, 400HZ power 90 KVA max power

Max. Gross Weight: 135,000 lbs max takeoff weight 114,000 lbs max landing (103,880 is normal)

Empty Weight: Approximately 73,000 lbs depending on scientific gear installed

Maximum zero Fuel weight: Approximately 77,000 lbs.

Useful Load: Approximately 62,000 lbs

Fuel Load: 58,000 lbs.

Type Fuel: JP4, JP5, JP8, JET A, JET A-1, JET B

Standard Fuel Burn: 4500 - 6000 lbs/hr depending on altitude and airspeed

Maximum Range and Duration: LOW ALTITUDE - 2500 NM OR 9.5 HRS

HIGH ALTITUDE - 3800 NM OR 11.5 HRS

Dimensions (external): Wingspan = 99' 8"

Length = 116' 10"

Height to top of fin = 34' 3"

Top of fin to lower skin = 24' 4"

Additional Standard Equipment (Cockpit): Skywatch Collision Avoidance System (TCAS)

Altitude Alert System





Photo by Nick Stubbs

Lester O'Brien, left, Frank Perella and the F-4E fighter in Memorial Park that both men flew when it was a trainer at MacDill.

Ex F-4 jocks recall flying MacDill icon from the past

by Nick Stubbs
Thunderbolt editor

For most passersby, the F-4E Phantom fighter jet that sits in Memorial Park on MacDill Air Force Base is an historical relic from another time. For Tampa Bay residents Frank Perella and Lester O'Brien, the green and tan camouflaged jet represents the time of their lives.

Both men flew the very plane that rests in the park while stationed at MacDill 40 years ago. Mr. Perella was a F-4 student when he arrived at MacDill first in February of 1971, and Mr. O'Brien an F-4 flight instructor who came to MacDill in June of 1970. Both would fly in combat in Vietnam, their paths nearly crossing when Major O'Brien punched out of his F-4 in the mountains of North Vietnam. When their tours were up they came back to MacDill. After leaving the Air Force, they discovered they lived on the same street in Tampa.

Mr. Perella ended up moving out of state for years, but after returning to the Tampa area, looked up his old instructor, and the two are now golfing buddies.

"We've got a lot of history together," said Mr. Perella, as he stood with Mr. O'Brien in the shadow of the F-4 at Memorial Park. Painted in the colors of the 56th Tactical Fighter Wing, formerly of MacDill, the plane stirred memories that came forth as tasty recollections, each bit savored in mutual understanding before being excitedly replaced by the next.

"Do you remember the time...?" "What about that...?" "Whatever happened to...?"

Anyone listening in to the two ex back-seaters would find no opportunity to enter the conversation. But, after a few minutes the tone morphed to one of reflection, as both men settled and slowed their breath, much the way they did in Vietnam when a mission was over and they turned their F-4s toward home.

Throttled up, the faster the F-4 went, the quieter it seemed to get, recalled Mr. Perella.

"It wasn't really quieter, I suppose, but it was just something about the feeling you got the faster you went," he said. "It was like a peaceful feeling of serenity comes over you; there was nothing like that feeling."

Speed, Mr. O'Brien agreed, was the F-4's strong suit.

But all-out power came at a price, and F-4 pilots soon found out that they were no match for the maneuverability of the Soviet-built MiG 17, 19 and 21 fighters they faced.

"We were not as nimble, but we had ways of compensating for it," said Mr. O'Brien, who was involved in several air-to-air confrontations in Vietnam.

The tactic U.S. pilots adopted was to fight along vertical planes, using the F-4's power to out climb the MiGs, which had the edge in flying horizontal and turning. Come at the enemy from above or below, and the F-4 was hard to beat, said Mr. O'Brien. Try to fight on the horizontal

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Photo by Nick Stubbs

Perella, left, and Lester O'Brien sit in Memorial Park and recall days at MacDill during and after the Vietnam War.

against the MiGs “and you’d get shot down.”
 outnumbered, there was yet another option thanks to the speed of

else failed, you could get out of any problem with the afterburn-
 id Mr. O'Brien. “They couldn’t catch you.”
 other thing the F-4 had going for it was that it had a reputation
 of a “tank,” said Mr. O'Brien, who noted it could take a lot of hits
 ep flying.

as built tough,” Mr. Perella said. “They could take a lot of battle
 e, and they didn’t blow up.”

they did go down. Mr. O'Brien was hit by anti aircraft fire and
 ‘punch out” in the mountains in enemy territory. Another time a
 ical failure forced him to parachute out, though fortunately in
 y territory.

r, Mr. Perella, who also was an Air Force major, learned that he
 alert to assist with the rescue mission of Major O'Brien, who
 cued, but not before spending a harrowing night hunkered down
 ounded by enemy in the dense, mountain forest.

Perella was more fortunate over his tour.

nd 187 missions and (was) not hit once,” he said. “I went through
 eally hostile stuff, but here I am.”

men credit the F-4 for helping them make it through the war.

he F-4) had its faults, but overall it was a great plane,” said Mr.
 , who noted that as better navigation equipment, radar and com-
 were added over the years, it only got better.

ually, though, the venerable F-4 gave way to the F-16 Fighting
 which set the standard for speed and maneuverability when it
 proved by the Air Force in 1976. It was the start of a new era,
 e end of one for Majors Frank Perella and Lester O'Brien, both
 n left service by the dawn of the 1980s – and the start of vastly
 ed electronics and computer systems that would make flying an
 y new experience.

a whole other world now,” Mr. Perella said.

ht and day,” Mr. O'Brien nodded.

two former fliers strolled out of Memorial Park, their conversa-
 ling off as they reminisced about old buddies from their unit at
 l, some laughs over exploits and memorable layovers, and plans
 r next game of golf.

Some F-4 facts and history



Courtesy photo

The 4453rd flightline at MacDill with some F-4Cs, predecessor of the F-4E in Memorial Park.

by Nick Stubbs

Thunderbolt editor

MacDill's Phantom

The F-4E Phantom II 66-302 at MacDill's Memorial Park is a former U.S. Air Force Thunderbird demonstration jet. The plane was retired from shows when the Thunderbirds adopted the T-38 for its team in 1973, said Frank Perella, a former F-4 pilot and scheduling officer at MacDill during that time. One factor was the fuel crisis of the early 1970s, said Mr. Perella. The T-38 was more fuel efficient.

The MacDill plane served as a trainer for a time. It was never equipped with armaments, said Mr. Perella, who recalls flying the plane during his time at MacDill.

According to the aircraft card on record in the MacDill historian's office there is no direct mention of the plane serving in the Thunderbirds, but that the plane arrived at MacDill first in February of 1968 as part of the 15th Tactical Fighter Wing. It left the following year to serve with the 1st Air Defense Squadron, followed by the 4525th Fighter Weapons Wing and then the 57th Fighter Weapons Wing before returning to the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing at MacDill in 1975. It was dropped from inventory and transferred to museum status in 1977.

Other Phantom facts

The F-4C was the Air Force model to first see service in Vietnam in 1964. In 1965, two combat ready F-4 fighter wings, the 12th and 15th Tactical Fighter Wings, based at MacDill, were deployed to Vietnam. The 12th remained permanent in Southeast Asia, while the 15th would return to MacDill as a training wing.

In 1970, the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing moved to MacDill replacing the 15 TFW and continued F-4 training. The 56 TFW replaced the 1 TFW and continued F-4

See F-4, Page 18

Retiree Activities Office - A message from the director

by Col. Billy Graham (USAF Ret.)

Retiree Activities Office director

Recently, we lost a counselor whom many of you might have known over the last 20 years. Lt. Col. Glenn Eggleston passed away Feb. 13 after a long illness. Glen was our Director at the Retiree Activities Office for 19 years, retiring only last year due to his health. He was instrumental in establishing the tax service program at the MacDill RAO, the only RAO in the Air Force that actually has the capability to do so. A former B-26 pilot in World War II, he was well known at both the RAO and the passenger service terminal. The free tax service he started is in full operation now. Presently, there are no more appointments available; however, we accept walk-in clients Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., until the April 18. Remember, members in uniform have priority.

You might have noticed a change in your retired pay recently. DFAS has implemented the new IRS tax tables, which include a higher Federal Income Tax Withholding. The tax credit contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 - designed to act as a special stimulus payment to help kick start the economy - expired Dec. 31, 2010. As a result, tax tables have now reverted to previous levels. According to DFAS, the new tax tables affected more than 1.56 million military retirees and in most cases caused a decrease in net pay.

See **RAO, Page 17**

Law Enforcement Day a hit at MacDill



Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz

A visiting law enforcement officer fires a pistol at the MacDill Combat Arms Training and Maintenance range. Officers also shot skeet and had a chipping and putting contest at the Bay Palms Golf Complex while at MacDill March 18.

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

More than 200 line-level officers and investigators from various law enforcement agencies attended “Law Enforcement Day,” the collaboration event hosted by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations March 18 at MacDill Air Force Base.

“We really appreciate the hospitality. It allowed us to make lots of good contacts and networking. The barbecue was delicious! Hopefully we will become training partners,” said a Tampa-based U.S. Federal Air Marshal, whose identity is confidential, about her first visit to MacDill.

Col. Lenny Richoux, the 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, addressed the group during breakfast at the Bayshore Club. They were briefed about the wing’s mission, as well as OSI’s mission. Following breakfast the group met at Lewis Lake for a luncheon.

The unique group of visitors was comprised of approximately 60 different agencies, which included various heads of local, state and federal agencies, including prosecutors and judges.

Friendly competition included a chipping and putting contest at the Bay Palms Golf Complex, small-arms shooting at the Combat Arms Training and Maintenance range and skeet shooting.

“We wanted to show our appreciation for the local law enforcement and their support,” said special OSI agent Gerry Bloechle. “As well, give them an opportunity to see MacDill and what we do here.”

“Hopefully this will become an annual event, maybe again this year in conjunction with the air show in November,” said SA Bloechle.

RAO

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Information regarding the recent change in tax tables is available at the DFAS Web site.

(Go to the Web site www.dfas.mil, click on the 'Retired Pay' tab - when the page is displayed, you should see 'News and Events' on the left side of the page, click on the link labeled 'Did your tax withholding change?')

A new service for World War II veterans has recently opened a chapter in this area for the Honor Flight Network. The network provides flights to Washington so that these members of our "Greatest Generation" can visit the memorials in Washington, D.C., dedicated to their service and sacrifice. Further information is available at www.honorflight.org. To sign up, go to www.honorflightwcf.org. The contact person is Lt. Col. Richard C. Koch, USAF (ret) at 727-522-5676. Former Senator Bob Dole is the national spokesperson for this organization.

Many of you have made inquiries regarding the whereabouts of military memorabilia on display near our RAO kiosk in the Food Court. All of it was removed during the remodel of the Food Court. Some items were relocated to sites around the base, such as the new clinic and squadron briefing rooms. Some were sent to the Armed Forces Military Museum at 2050 34th Way North, Largo, Fla. You may call the museum at 727-539-8371 for operating hours.

F-4

From Page 13

training until 1979, when F-16 aircraft came to MacDill.

The McDonnell twin-engine F-4 Phantom II fighter was first adopted by the U.S. Navy, entering service in 1961 as the Navy's fastest, highest flying and longest range fighter. It remained in production until 1985, and established 16 speed, altitude and time-to-climb records. It also set the world altitude record for the time - 98,556 feet. In 1961, it set the world speed record at 1,604 mph.

In addition to the Navy, it was adopted by the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Marines.

The F-4 saw combat in Vietnam and as recently as Operations Desert Storm and Shield. The F-4 became the choice for Navy Blue Angels and the Air Force Thunderbirds precision flying teams. Some F-4s remain in service today in air forces around the world.

First Flight: May 27, 1958 (prototype YF4H-1)

Wingspan: 38 feet 5 inches

Length: 58 feet 3 inches

Height: 16 feet 6 inches

Ceiling: 56,100 feet

Range: 1,750 miles

Weight: 55,597 pounds

Power: Two 17,900-pound-thrust GE J79-GE-17 jet engines

Speed: 1,485 mph (max.)

Accommodation: Two crew

Armament: 15,983 pounds of weapons, including 20 mm nose-mounted M-61 "Vulcan" cannon

Information obtained from the MacDill.af.mil and Boeing.com Web sites.



2011 Army Ball Golf Classic

Friday, April 22nd 2011
Bay Palms Golf Course
MacDill Air Force Base, FL
(registration begins at 11:00 a.m.)
Shotgun Start: 1pm

Enjoy 18 holes of golf, riding cart
snacks and dinner, entry into all contests



In support
of the
2011 Army Ball

**Contests
include:**

- Putting, - Longest Drive, - Closest-to-the-Pin
- Hole-In-One, - Raffles & Door Prizes
- Silent Auction

Military &
Gov't I.D. Card
\$55.00

All Others
\$75.00

To register,
www.armyballtampa.org

or call
813.826.9377

For more
information or to sponsor

Marcus Varnadore 826.6772
Marcus.varnadore@socom.mil

Contact:



Ground breaking ceremony

Building Homes for Heroes, in partnership with William Ryan Homes, is leading the effort to build a new home for Army Sgt. Joel Tavera and his family. The ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. March 25 at 20007 Outpost Point Drive, Tampa, Fla., (Grand Hampton Development). Building Homes for Heroes is a nonprofit organization that supports the needs of severely wounded or disabled veterans and their families through building mortgage free homes. In March 2008, Sergeant Tavera's Humvee was hit by five rockets. The blasts killed three men. Sergeant Tavera was thought to be dead as well. Sergeant Tavera pulled through but lost sight in both of his eyes, his right leg, four fingers on his left hand, and suffered serious head trauma and critical burns to 60 percent of his body. Tavera received The Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his courageous service. His parents have remained by his side. For more information visit www.building-homesforheroes.org.

Mini Fire Prevention Week

The MacDill Fire Department will host a Mini Fire Prevention Week March 28 April 1. This week is dedicated to teaching the MacDill community sound fire prevention and good fire safety habits. The various events are to emphasize the importance of knowing what to do and who to call in case of an emergency.

The activities scheduled are as follows:

- ◆ March 28 from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. – Base Exchange static and interactive displays of fire equipment
- ◆ March 29 from 4 – 6 p.m. - Dorm static and interactive displays of fire equipment
- ◆ March 30 from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Base Exchange static and interactive displays of fire equipment
- ◆ March 31 from 4 – 6 p.m. - Dorm static and interactive displays of fire equipment
- ◆ April 1 - Dining facilities and Medical Clinic visits

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Richard Golen at 428-4032.

MacDill Officers' Spouses' Club awarding scholarships

The MacDill Officers' Spouses' Club will be awarding two \$500 academic merit scholarships this year to a graduating high school senior and a military spouse. Requirement information and application form are available on www.macdillosc.com. Application information and forms are also available at the Airman and Family Readiness Center on MacDill and at the MacDill Family Resource Center in Brandon. Applications are to be returned to MOSC via U.S. mail and postmarked no later than April 25 for consideration.

Airman's Attic Easter Raffle

The Easter Bunny has already dropped off some special prizes for the Airman's Attic Easter Raffle. Stop by Tuesday or Friday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and drop your child's name in the buckets. The names will be drawn on April 19th at 10:30 a.m. Make time to visit and shop around before then.

4th Annual Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Tampa Chapter is hosting The 4th Annual Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament April 8. All proceeds from the tournament will be used to support Operation Helping. For more information, contact Shawn Keefe at (941)706-4149.

MACDILL COMMUNITY



EVENTS

Friday

MacDill Lanes Family Fun Center

\$30 for 2 people from 5-10 p.m.
1 pizza, 1 pitcher (beer or soda), 2 games and 2 pairs of shoes.

Saturday-Sunday

Bay Palms Golf Complex

Kids Play FREE! (8-17yrs) after 12 p.m. No registration necessary with a paid adult.

Bay Palms Golf Complex

Club Championship. Shotgun start at 8 a.m. Call 840-6904 to sign up.

Saturday

Arts & Crafts Center

Scrapbooking Party from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 828-4413 to sign up.

Monday & Wednesday

Bay Palms Golf Complex

2 for 1 Golf after 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday

Bay Palms Golf Complex

FREE Active Duty Clinic from 12-1 p.m.

Wednesday

EFMP (Exceptional Family Member Program) Informational Resource Fair

From 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Youth Center.

MacDill Lanes Family Fun Center

Wacky Wednesday's - 9 Pin No Tap Format. \$1.50 per game from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

MacDill Family Resource Center

Key Spouse Meeting from 6-8 p.m.

For more information please visit our website at www.macdillfss.com



Photo by Nick Stubbs

Goin' greener

A bit of beautification is taking place along MacDill roads, with the addition of iron fencing, lights, plants and trees. Here a work crew from Raulerson Landscaping plants crepe myrtle trees March 18 along South Boundary Boulevard. Shrubs planted along the fence to the left eventually will engulf the metal railing for a more natural look.

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.

Just Go With It (PG-13)

Saturday - 3 p.m.

I am Number Four (PG-13)

Saturday - 7 p.m.

I am Number Four (PG-13)