

THUNDERBOLT

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**After 42 years
Vietnam vet gets Purple Heart
at MacDill Air Force Base - page 14**

Photo by Nick Stubbs



Leadership for the Millennials

by Lt. Col. Jamie Dermer

6th Operation Support Squadron commander

Recently I returned from a conference which focused extensively on leadership. Throughout the week, we discussed a wide range of leadership perspectives, but one speaker's message really struck me as timely. The discussion centered on how the "Millennial generation" thinks and communicates. The Millennials, also known as "Generation Y" or the "iGen," were born after 1980 and definitely have a set of attributes very different from the World War II or Baby Boomer generations. These differences keep leading me back to a single question. Can the same style of leadership span generations and still be effective on a text messaging, instant gratification, technology focused group?

As most of us have experienced, traditional leadership principles such as developing a vision, caring for your Airmen, executing the mission, maintaining a positive attitude, leading by example, listening, empowering, and being fair and consistent have proven valuable to nearly every leader. This list is far from comprehensive, but simply taking the time to truly understand our people goes a long way toward moving our organizations forward.

There is no doubt Millennials respond to different motivation factors. They are the most highly educated and diverse generation yet and that's where their advantage lies. Unlike any previous group, this generation's strength lies in its diversity. Not only are Millennials formally educated, but they're con-

stantly seeking information from alternative mediums that older generations typically bypass, ignore or don't even know exist. If you're over 40, ask yourself when the last time you posted to a blog, updated your Facebook page, tweeted someone or relied on Jon Stewart or Steven Colbert for your news. We must be prepared to communicate in an environment where e-mail is considered outdated and PowerPoint is code for nap time, yet also recognize the inherent vulnerabilities of completely embracing technology and becoming further disconnected.

Of course a proven cookie cutter approach to leading Millennials has yet to be discovered, but caring for them as individuals and finding common ground is highly beneficial. They'll work hard when appreciated and even harder when their supervisor takes the time to provide feedback. However, more than with any other generation, providing the initial motivation and properly framing the task is absolutely critical. People must understand their job and its importance to the unit mission in a manner in which they can personally relate.

One commonly held belief by Millennials is they don't have the power to change anything. Yet by empowering our Airmen, we take a huge step toward minimizing this misperception and simultaneously fighting a healthy dose of cynicism. There are several benefits to allowing a person to spread their wings on a project. By assigning accountability, our Airmen can take pride in a job well done or be confronted directly with areas needing improvement.



Lt. Col. Jamie Dermer

The Millennials are truly a gifted bunch, and as with any generation it takes a good leader to fight through stereotypes and adapt to the resources at hand. There's a lot to be gained by harnessing the power of a well educated, multi-tasking, technology savvy force. CU on Facebook!

Become a fan of "MacDill Air Force Base Public Affairs" on Facebook.

MacDill Thunderbolt

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Editor: Nick Stubbs

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



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Events, movies, more...



USSOCOM opens Dagger Hall, new Commando Center



Photo by Michael Bottoms

Adm. Eric T. Olson, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, cuts the ribbon for Dagger Hall and Commando Center as Acquisition and Senior Procurement Executive Mr. James Cluck, (right), and Director of Operations Brig. Gen. Mark Clark (left), look on during the opening ceremony of both buildings Monday.

by Mike Bottoms
USSOCOM Public Affairs

U.S. Special Operations Command's headquarters has two new additions with the official opening of Dagger Hall and the Commando Center Monday.

Adm. Eric T. Olson, commander of USSOCOM, James Cluck, acquisition executive and senior procurement executive for USSOCOM, and Brig. Gen. Mark Clark, director of operations for USSOCOM, hosted the ceremony

opening the new buildings, which will house operations, intelligence and Special Operations Research, Development, & Acquisition Center.

"This morning's event culminates significant planning, cooperation and hard work and serves as an outstanding testament to teamwork," Admiral Olson said. "With any project as large and complex as this, there are hundreds of individuals who play key roles and to those everyday men and women, I offer my sincere appreciation."

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6 AMW DUI Prevention Corner

DUI this year: 1 (Jan. 3)

DUIs last year: 11

Safety is a state of mind.
Accidents are the result of
an absent mind.



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)



Airmen, families to benefit from more than \$430K YoAFF grant

by 1st Lt. Kathleen Ferrero
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL. — The fights are growing increasingly heated for a young couple at Scott Air Force Base, and they both wish someone could give them some guidance.

At the same time, a group of tired Airmen returning from Afghanistan unceremoniously rolls up in a bus on Travis AFB to turn in their weapons and wishes someone was there to welcome them home.

Meanwhile, a C-130 crew chief at Pope AFB who constantly deploys was introduced to a fitness program that keeps him in optimum shape, and he wishes he could access the equipment he needs on base to keep it going.

Because AMC takes to heart Year of the Air Force Family, these wishes and more will soon be met.

The command recently doled out more than \$430,000 after approving 40 base YoAFF proposals intended to make life better for Airmen and their families.

“This was solely an AMC initiative. We wanted to do something to help families and provide
See YoAFF, Page 16



As part of AMC's ongoing commitment to provide Airmen and their families with the best possible services, AMC recently granted more than \$430,000 to fund Year of the Air Force Family initiatives.

Outstanding AMC Airmen recognized for achievement

by Gen. Raymond E. Johns, Jr.
AMC commander

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL. – Please join me in congratulating our Air Mobility Command Outstanding Airmen of the Year and First Sergeant of the Year.

These Airmen have done an incredible job serving our nation, and I'm inspired by their selfless, behind the scenes efforts that support our mission on a daily basis. It takes a great personal commitment on their part, and I couldn't be more proud of them.

I know each of our Outstanding Airmen will attest they couldn't have earned this honor on their own. Instead, it is the collective support of the entire mobility family that has propelled these individuals along their path of success. From supervisors who recognized their superlative efforts, to coworkers who encouraged them to stretch and grow, these Air Force leaders have gratefully benefitted from an extraordinary support network.

Speaking of support networks, we must never forget the families who kept the home front going when these Airmen were asked to pack their bags and deploy on a moment's notice. Military families are truly the

unsung heroes, and these Airmen simply could not have done this without them.

So please congratulate these fantastic Mobility Warriors as they represent the best of the best in Air Mobility Command:

AIRMAN CATEGORY:

Senior Airman Samuel A. Siewert, of the 437th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Charleston, S.C.

NCO CATEGORY:

Tech Sgt. Mary L. Richardson, of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, Calif.

SENIOR NCO CATEGORY:

Master Sgt. Joseph T. Kazimer, of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

FIRST SERGEANT CATEGORY:

Master Sgt. Danny L. Davis, of the 43rd Airlift Wing, Pope AFB, N.C.

BRIEFS



Perfect 300

Tech. Sgt. Charles Comer, 6th Medical Group, bowled a perfect game (his first) during Tuesday Night league bowling April 6.

Coastal Clean-up Event

As a pre-Earth Day celebration, the Environmental Flight is hosting a Coastal Clean-up Event April 17 from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Participants meet at the base marina, and will

receive a free T-shirt and lunch. All ages welcome; bring hat, sunglasses, closed-toe shoes and sunscreen. For more information or to participate, contact Eric Vichich at 828-0460 or by email at Eric.vichich.ctr@macdill.af.mil.

Month of the Military Child

In celebration of Month of the Military Child, Services Stay Connected kits are being issued to families who are eligible and sign-up

for a DePLAYment Tag Pass Pack. The Stay Connected kits contain items to help parents and children stay in touch and connected during deployments. Benefits of the DePLAYment Tag Pass Pack include opportunities for FREE bowling, Link-Up 2 Golf lessons, framing classes, canoe & kayak lessons, ITT/ODR trips and tours, Youth Program sports registration, Ai-

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SOCOM

From Page 3

Dagger Hall is a 96,000 square-foot building and will house USSOCOM's Global Mission Support Center, a new battle bridge and will consolidate the Inter-agency Task Force.

"Dagger Hall will enable the headquarters new GMSC to more effectively co-

ordinate operational issues that span the geographic combatant command boundaries," said Admiral Olson. "It will help merge USSOCOM's operational and service-like responsibilities and support the outstanding relationships that the regional working groups have devel-

oped with the theater special operations commands."

Commando Center is 110,000 square feet and the new home for the Special Operations Research, Development, & Acquisition Center which is composed of five program executive offices, the Special Operations

Forces Integration Laboratory, and the Science and Technology Directorate.

"Commando Center will centrally locate hundreds of USSOCOM's acquisition professionals into the headquarters compound effectively consolidating these experts from various

on- and off-base locations," said Admiral Olson. "Dagger Hall and Commando Center not only represent a construction project, but more importantly, they represent USSOCOM's continued focus on tomorrow's challenges."

The admiral then described the knife to be used to cut the ribbon and officially open the buildings.

"I do have a special knife here today and it is a forty-year-old Randall knife, hand-made in 1970 by W.D. 'Bo' Randall for a Special Forces operator named 'Dave,'" he said.

The admiral recounted that the knife did a 13-month tour in the Military Assis-

tance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group in 1970. In the late 1970s it was part of a POW recovery effort in Korea. Dave retired in 1993, and the knife was re-sharpened, engraved and given to a SEAL 2001 as a gift. The SEAL took the knife with him in October 2001 to Operation Enduring Freedom. The knife has since gone on five deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa. Finally, the knife made it to the headquarters in 2009 and will go out on another deployment to Afghanistan this month.

The storied knife easily cut the ribbon and opened a new era in the headquarters.

BRIEFS

From Page 6

kido Martial Arts classes, hourly child care and more. To receive a Stay Connected kit or DePLAYment Tag Pass Pack, families must provide a copy of the sponsor's orders verifying a TDY for 30 days or more, or 365 PCS, to an Active Operation (which includes Haiti) between July 1, 2009 and July 30, 2010. Stay Connected Kits and DePLAYment Tag Passes are issued at the Airman and Family Readiness Center and the Brandon Family Support Center. For more information, call 828-0145.

Union Representation

Bargaining Unit Employees are reminded that under Section 7114(a)(2)(B) of Chapter 71, Title 5, U.S.C., employees have the right to be represented at any examination in connection with an investigation if: A) the employee reasonably believes that the examination may re-

sult in disciplinary action against the employee, and B) The employee requests representation. For more information, contact 6 FSS/FSMC at 828-4511.

Airman and Family Readiness Center Closure

The Airman and Family Readiness Center will close May 21, from 9:30 a.m. until noon, for an official function. If you have an emergency, call 828-0134.

Base Pool Closure

The Base Pool is closed for repairs. Reopening date to be determined.

927th cuts ribbon on new headquarters building

by Capt. Shane Huff

927th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Approximately 100 people attended the official ribbon-cutting ceremony today to recognize the opening of the new 927th Air Refueling Wing headquarters building. In attendance were many local civic leaders and honorary commanders from the 6th Air Mobility Wing and the 927th Air Refueling Wing, as well as active-duty and Reserve military members from both wings.

Guests of honor included Mrs. Digna Alvarez, Regional Director for U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, Mr. Mark Huey, Economic and Urban Development Administrator for the City of Tampa, Mrs. Vivian Reeves,

President and CEO of Reeves Imports and Honorary Commander of the 927th ARW, Mrs. Rhea Law of Fowler White Boggs Law Firm and Honorary Commander of the 6th AMW, Col. Larry Martin, Jr., commander of the 6th AMW, and Col. Douglas Schwartz, vice wing commander of the 932nd Airlift Wing from Scott Air Force Base, IL, and former 927th Operations Group commander.

The 927th ARW commander, Col. Kenneth D. Lewis, Jr., brought words of greeting and appreciation to those in attendance of the ceremony. He reflected on the new facility which is a \$7.2 million Base

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Photo by Tech. Sgt Denise Hauser

Col. Larry Martin, Mrs. Law, Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Reeves, Col. Schwartz, Col. Lewis, and Mr. Huey cut the ribbon to the 927th Air Refueling Wing's new headquarters at a ceremony held April 9.

927th says farewell to Col. Lewis, welcomes Col. Pavey

by Capt. Shane Huff

927th Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs Office

During a change of command ceremony April 10, Col. Kenneth D. Lewis, Jr., relinquished command of the 927th Air Refueling Wing to Col. David P. Pavey. Maj. Gen. Eric W. Crabtree, commander of 4th Air Force, was the presiding official for the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by local civic leaders, honorary commanders, mission partners from the 6th Air Mobility Wing, friends and family, and the men and women of the 927th Air Refueling Wing.

Colonel Lewis assumed command of the 927th ARW April 27, 2008. Within the past two years, Colonel Lewis has seen the wing grow from ap-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Hauser

Colonel Pavey addresses the 927th Air Refueling Wing for the first time as their new commander.

proximately eight people to 800 people, excel in two major inspections, and perform a flawless first-time deployment since the wing's transfer here from Selfridge Air National Guard Base,

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Vietnam vet's long quest for Purple Heart ends with MacDill ceremony

by Nick Stubbs
Thunderbolt editor

The Purple Heart Medal had been in Staff Sgt. Jerry Kmiecik's possession since it was pinned on in November of 1968, after his head and shoulder were riddled with shrapnel near Binh Thuy Air Base, Vietnam. For him the memory of the day he and Senior Airman Mike Donovan were nearly blown to bits will



Photo by Nick Stubbs

Former Staff Sgt. Jerry Kmiecik is congratulated by Col. Larry Martin in a belated Purple Heart ceremony Saturday at MacDill Air Force Base.

never be forgotten, but he learned in 2005 that the military had long forgotten.

While Sergeant Kmiecik was given the medal itself in Vietnam, it never was recorded officially. There was no paperwork or record, and it was that way for 42 years, until April 10, 2010, when in a small ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Col. Larry Martin, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, pinned the Purple Heart on Mr. Gerald Kmiecik and handed him the paperwork that goes with it.

It was the end of a chapter in Mr. Kmiecik's life, and while he could have left the matter along, the oversight mattered to the Fort Meyers resident for a couple of reasons, not the least of which was that he earned it. The other was that it improved his status with the Veterans Administration, which could be beneficial in matters related to medical treatment.

"I never realized there was a problem," said Mr. Kmiecik, who learned there was no record of the medal or injury recorded when he registered with his local VA office.

He began writing letters to the Purple Heart Review Board, and joined a group called the Vietnam Brotherhood, which assisted him in trying to obtain the medal.

It was a long struggle, but after recovering hospital records that detailed the injury and established a place and time, an official Purple Heart was granted.

"It's a relief, and I'm glad I can move on with other things now," said Mr. Kmiecik following the ceremony Saturday, at the 6th Operations Group auditorium, where friends, family and fellow Vietnam vets were gathered. "It's been an ordeal."

Colonel Martin said, "It was our honor to help Sergeant Kmiecik celebrate and remember his service to the nation." "It's been a long wait," he added.

The resolution of the Purple Heart award provides just a bit more closure for Mr. Kmiecik, an important thing for many Vietnam veterans, particularly those brushed closely by death, or who saw their brothers fall. Their relationships with that place and time in history are bittersweet, life-shaping and life-changing sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse, but for Staff Sgt. Kmiecik, a little of both.

By and large he embraces the better parts of the experience.

"I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world," he said of his service in Vietnam. "Some of it is hard, but I wouldn't trade it."



Staff Sgt. Jerry Kmiecik (left) and Senior Airman Mike Donovan at Binh Thuy Air Base, Vietnam. The two were wounded when a grenade was tossed by men from a passing scooter.

It was a drive-by grenade

by Nick Stubbs
Thunderbolt editor

Staff Sgt. Jerry Kmiecik and Senior Airman Mike Donovan were walking along the side of a road in a town in the Mekong Delta region, Nov. 17, 1968, when the explosion threw them to the ground.

Their bodies fed by adrenaline and their brains rapidly accessing the stored lessons of their training and all their experiences in Vietnam, they both thought they were under a mortar attack.

Dazed, they scrambled behind a nearby wall, awaiting the next shells to explode. They didn't come.

Both men, whose job it was to arm F-100 jets at Binh Thuy Air Base, soon realized the motor scooter carrying two Vietnamese had tossed a grenade.

"When it (the scooter) went by I saw out of the corner of my eye something roll by, but I thought it was a rock or something," said Mr. Kmiecik. "We figured out later that it was a grenade."

The two injured men looked each other over, Airman Donovan telling his sergeant that blood was gushing from his head.

"I didn't know until he told me," said Mr. Kmiecik. "There was so much going on."

Within moments there was even more going on. A U.S. officer nearby was shooting his .45 pistol into the air to try and get everyone in the area to stop in their tracks. South Vietnamese police officers were firing their carbines into the air for the same purpose.

The two injured men were then scooped up by some Vietnamese and rushed to a nearby medical center. Mr. Kmiecik

YOAFF

From Page 4

some resources to our bases so they could support their communities,” said Ms. Shannon Dauber, executive director of the AMC Community Action Information Board. “Every base got some funding.”

For example, the AMC CAIB granted MacDill Air Force base more than \$18,000 to pay for seven of its proposed ideas.

Plans for the MacDill community include an on-base beach luau for single Airmen; customer service training for child and youth program specialists; classes that demonstrate to teens and single Airmen how to cook nutritional, budget-friendly meals; and activities during Month of the Military Child.

“We were so excited when we found out that these proposals were approved,” said Ms. Dora Mays, who oversees YoAFF at MacDill AFB. “It’s going to allow us to do some programs that we otherwise wouldn’t be able to do.”

She said MacDill is planning more programs for singles and teenagers, because these groups easily get overlooked at military bases.

“For the healthy and time-saving cooking classes, we’re going to get some crock pots, and we’re going to get some cookbooks and teach tasty and nutritional meal planning on a budget for single Airmen and adolescents that are transitioning out of their parents’ house,” Ms. Mays said.

A total of 85 grant proposals were submitted. Judging criteria included how well proposals tied in to YoAFF goals; whether they were doable; the impact they would have on Airmen and their families; and whether an appropriate source of funds was available.

The Air Force has a long-standing tradition of taking care of its people. During Year of the Air Force Family, July 2009-July 2010, the Air Force is assessing the quality and usefulness of existing programs and identifying potential gaps in service delivery of family support programs and benefits.

Approved AMC YoAFF Grants

MacDill AFB

Playgroup Seasonal Parties - \$410
Friday Family Fun Night - \$2,500
Month of the Military Child Events - \$4,000
Singles Meet & Greet Luau - \$5,000
Airman and Family Readiness Staff Conference - \$5,000
Healthy, Time-Saving Cooking - \$360

Charleston AFB

SportsPlay Fitness/Helios Multigym - \$45,000
Youth Financial Education - \$5,000

Dover AFB

Quarterly Wingman Day Events - \$8,000

Fairchild AFB

Family Relationship Programs - \$34,500

Grand Forks AFB

Building Relational Strength - \$2,740
Frontline Supervisor’s Training - \$2,000
Hug-A-Hero Dolls - \$6,000
Making Memories - \$8,000
Enhancing “Sound” Relationships - \$16,800

Little Rock AFB

Yellow Dress Presentation - \$3,000
Airmen Ministry Center Furnishings - \$35,000
Interactive Enhancements - \$24,000

McChord AFB

Family Fun Run - \$3,250

Parenting Class - \$750
Youth Football Camp - \$500
Build a Teddy Bear Campaign - \$10,000
HAWC Walk Pedometer Program - \$4,000
Building Resilient Families through Education - \$4,500

McConnell AFB

Playground Expansion/Redesign - \$78,000
Suicide Prevention Training - \$10,300
Single Airmen Parent Retreat - \$6,000
Responsible Alcohol Use Program - \$9,200

McGuire AFB

A Block Party in a Basket - \$9,000
Military & Family Life Counselor Program - \$9,000

Pope AFB

Populate the New Airmen Campus - \$25,000
Cross Fit Stations Surrounding Flight Line Run - \$25,000

Scott AFB

Suicide Awareness Day - \$2,500
Chapel Marriage Enrichment Seminar - \$6,000

Travis AFB

Red Cross Certified Babysitting Course - \$3,000
Travis Hometown Community Passport - \$2,500
Welcome Home Warrior Reception - \$7,000
Fit Families with Special Needs - \$8,750
Safety Awareness Family Education Network - \$3,200

Fuel Your Future

Air National Guard

927TH

From Page 10

Realignment and Closure project housing the 927th Wing Staff, 927th Mission Support Group Staff and 927th Force Support Squadron, as well as provide modern training classrooms.

This new facility has been a work in progress for two years. Lockett-Farley architectural firm were responsible for the building design, while David Construction and TEM Group constructed the building. Special recognition were given to Colonel Schwartz, Ms. Joanne Gray and Master Sergeant Jeffrey Obgenski for their efforts in executing this building project.

This weekend marks the first unit training assembly during which Reservists from the 927th ARW will officially be using the new building for financial, personnel, and training services.



NEW COMMAND

From Page 12

Mich. Colonel Lewis and his family are moving to San Antonio, Texas, where he is assuming command of the 433rd Airlift Wing, Lackland Air Force Base. In his words of farewell he thanked many people in attendance in the ceremony, especially giving thanks and recognition to the men and women of the 927th ARW for being “The Premier Wing.”

Colonel Pavey, his wife Shawna and son Ryan are coming to the 927th from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., where he was the 446th Airlift Wing Operations Group commander. During his first speech as commander of the 927th, Colonel Pavey expressed appreciation to Colonel Lewis and to Colonel Larry Martin, commander of the 6th Air Mobility Wing, for the great associate relationship that has already been built between the active-duty and Reserve wings. He also gave special recognition to the community partners and honorary commanders in attendance for their presence and support. Colonel Pavey recognized the great work the 927th has accomplished since its stand up at MacDill and made it clear he is not coming here with a special agenda to change the work that has already started.

“Let no mistake be made; you are the ones doing the work” said Colonel Pavey. “I look forward to working with you and to being an advocate for you.”

Colonel Pavey said he is very proud and humbled to be here, and he would not be able to accomplish anything without the support of his family.

In an act of farewell to Micki Lewis, and an act of welcome to Shawna Pavey, Command Chief Master Sgt. Nina Watkins presented flowers to both spouses on behalf of the 927th ARW.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Special to the Thunderbolt

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child. This is a time to focus on the protection and care of our most vulnerable and trusting family members.

Child Abuse Prevention Month has been observed each April since its first presidential proclamation in 1983. Since that time, individuals and organizations have joined together every April not only to raise the public's awareness of child abuse, but to educate society on how to prevent it.

The physical and emotional abuse of children yields harmful consequences for society: a growing body of evidence links child abuse and neglect with drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, youth violence and chronic health problems. It's therefore critical to focus on preventing child abuse and neglect before it starts.

Here are a few tips on how to be the best parent you can be:

- Be a nurturing parent. Children need to know they are special and loved. Educate yourself about a child's development process so you can have reasonable expectations about what your child can and cannot do.
- Dealing with a crying baby. It can be frustrating to hear your baby cry, especially when nothing you do seems to calm your baby. Learn what to do if your baby won't stop crying, but never shake a baby.
- Monitor your child's television and computer use. Watching violent films on TV or playing violent computer games can harm young children. Not only does it scare them, but it also teaches children that aggression is a good way to handle frustration and solve problems.
- Spend time playing with your children ... or read to them instead!
- Report suspected abuse or neglect. Call Family Advocacy at 827-9172.

Family Advocacy offers many voluntary services for new and expectant parents through the New Parent Support Program. For more information, contact Family Advocacy at 827-9172.

GRENADA

From Page 14

remembers being laid on a table in a dirty operating room, Airman Donovan on the next table over. They were alone.

“It was getting dark and looking up I could see stars through a hole that had been blown through the ceiling,” said Mr. Kmiecik. “I remember Mike was screaming, ‘don’t let them put a needle in me; don’t let them touch us’ because he didn’t know who had us and if we could trust them.”

Mr. Kmiecik was dizzy and near passing out, but recalls mustering all his strength to slide off the table and lift Airman Donovan up.

“I said, ‘I’m not going to die here,’ and pulled myself together,” said Mr. Kmiecik .

The two struggled out of the building and down the outside steps toward the street when U.S. Soldiers drove up in jeeps and quickly rushed them to the 3rd Army hospital in Saigon.

Shrapnel was removed from Mr. Kmiecik’s head and shoulder, while Airman Donovan’s stomach wounds were treated.

Mr. Kmiecik spent three or four days at the hospital recovering before heading back to Binh Thuy.

“A week later they told me to put on some clean fatigues, that I was going to get a Purple Heart in an hour,” recalled Mr. Kmiecik. “They gave me a medal, but there was no paperwork.”

Mr. Kmiecik finished up his service, left the Air Force and in all the years since assumed his record reflected a Purple Heart awarded for his injuries until he discovered otherwise in 2005.

MACDILL COMMUNITY



EVENTS

Friday

Airman & Family Services Flight

Month of the Military Children's Parade at 9 a.m. Come out to cheer on the children! For more information call 828-3332.

Surf's Edge Club

NEW "Meals in Minutes" Lunch Buffet – Seafood from 11 a.m. until 1p.m.

SeaScapes Beach Club

Live entertainment by Tommy "Bahama" Arnold at the Tiki Hut starting at 6 p.m.

Sunday

Short Fitness & Sports Center

Come out & watch! Full Power Meet (squat, bench and deadlift) or single lift contestant 10 a.m.

Tuesday

Surf's Edge Club

NEW "Meals in Minutes" Lunch Buffet will have Soul Food from 11a.m. until 1p.m.

Wednesday

Youth Center

Celebrate the Month of the Military Child with FREE lunch at the Youth Center to all members from 1:30 until 3p.m. Dance in the gym after lunch.

Surf's Edge Club

NEW "Meals in Minutes" Lunch Buffet – Homestyle from 11a.m. until 1p.m.

Thursday

Surf's Edge Club

NEW "Meals in Minutes" Lunch Buffet – Mexican/Spanish from 11a.m. until 1p.m.



Photo by Lisa LaConte

Play time

Ethan Scott, 5, with his mother, Capt. Lisa Scott, SOCCENT, explore the items in the Services Stay Connected Kit and discovers the flashlight on the key ring. In celebration of Month of the Military Child, Services Stay Connected kits are being issued to families who are eligible and sign-up for a DePLAYment Tag Pass Pack. The Stay Connected kits contain items to help parents and children stay in touch and connected during deployments. Benefits of the DePLAYment Tag Pass Pack include opportunities for FREE bowling, Link-Up 2 Golf lessons, framing classes, canoe and kayak lessons, and much more.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Protestant services

Sunday - 9 a.m., Traditional Service
10:30 a.m., Religious Education, Noon, Gospel Service
& 9 a.m., service, FamCamp Multipurpose Center

Wednesday - 10:30 a.m., Women of the Chapel

Thursday - 11:30 a.m., Officers' Christian Fellowship

For more information regarding the Chapel or Chapel services, call 828-3621.

Catholic services

Saturday - Mass, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday - Mass, 10:30 a.m.

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

Saturday - Sacrament of Reconciliation, 4:30 p.m., (or by appointment)

Islamic services

Friday - 1:15 p.m.

Jewish services - Call 828-3621

AT THE MOVIES

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

Friday - 7 p.m.

SHUTTER ISLAND (R)

Saturday - 3 p.m.

No showing

Saturday - 7 p.m.

THE CRAZIES (R)



Bayshore Avenue construction

- ◆ City of Tampa Public Works Department will be rehabilitating a sewer line on Bayshore Boulevard.
- ◆ Bayshore Boulevard between Averill and Helen is closed for two weeks beginning April 5.
- ◆ All personnel use MacDill, Dale Mabry, and Port Tampa Gates to enter/exit the base.