

# THUNDERBOLT

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310th AS comes home - page 12



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vernon Fowler Jr.

Logan Arvizu, son of Staff Sgt. Jeremy Arvizu, awaits his father's return from a deployment April 2, at MacDill Air Force Base. More than a dozen people from the 310th Airlift Squadron returned from an historic three-month deployment.

# COMMANDER'S CORNER



## Staying on point amidst challenges

by Col. Scott DeThomas  
6th Air Mobility Wing commander

Some call it the “fog of war,” but I like to call it daily chaff. You know, the distractions that can sometimes lead to increased tension and anxiety in the workplace or on the homefront.

If you follow the headlines, you know the many effects of sequestration are definitely adding to the stress on Air Force members. Furloughs, reduced flying hours, and cuts to TDYs are just a few of the recent examples. While all of these are serious subjects and definitely impact our Airmen, I ask that each of you, step back and continue to focus on safety and caring for one another. Don't let the water cooler discussions or headlines from various news outlets discount your role in leading this great Air Force. Instead, use that energy in a positive way.

Let's start by turning our attention to spring and the impending summer trips to the beach. Use those opportunities to get out, exercise, and to build your resilience to the daily stressors. Our 18th Air Force commander recently challenged our wing commanders to encourage our Airmen to lead a healthy lifestyle. The word lifestyle truly encompasses the many facets of living healthy. It's not just the daily runs or trips to the gym, but the diet and choices

each of us make to ensure a well-balanced life. It also includes filling your four pillars of resiliency to build the complete package, especially to help counter the many challenges we face daily.

This summer, make sure to take steps to ensure the success of those arriving to MacDill. Concerned sponsors and supervisors are critical to the success of our military families and our mission. Think back to when you arrived at MacDill. Did you have a great sponsor? Did they set you up for success? The mission is completed by military members, and military members are at their best when their family members are prepared. Take the time to set our newest members of the MacDill family up for success. You will be remembered.

Speaking of setting yourself up for success, it was recently announced that tuition assistance has been continued, helping everyone meet their education goals. We also learned that there are numerous other opportunities to continue your education: Pell grants, scholarships, GI Bill, CLEP and Dantes to name a few. We are the greatest fighting force the world has ever seen, partly because we are the best trained and educated force. Stay in school, stay competitive for promotion, and help keep the Air Force on top.

And don't forget to support our community



Col. Scott DeThomas

right here on base. Many of you have a deployed member in your organization. Are you staying in touch with that member? Have you sent him or her a care package? Have you contacted their family to ensure they have what they need? Building a vibrant community on

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### COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The Action Line provides two-way communication between the 6th Air Mobility Wing commander and the MacDill community. A 24-hour recording service is provided so personnel may submit questions, concerns or comments. Call the Action Line at 828-INFO (4636) or email [macdillwingcommander@us.af.mil](mailto:macdillwingcommander@us.af.mil).

### Commander's vision

To view Col. Scott DeThomas' remarks on his vision for MacDill AFB, go to [www.macdill.af.mil](http://www.macdill.af.mil) and then click on “Col. DeThomas' priorities, mission, and expectations video” in the upper left corner.

### MacDill Thunderbolt

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Events, Chapel, more...

## MacDill welcomes new Airman

### Public affairs staff report

MacDill Air Force Base would like to welcome all of the new Airmen and congratulate them on beginning their journey.

#### 6th Aerospace Medical Squadron

Airman 1st Class Shaskiona Redden – Fayetteville, Ark.

#### 6th Civil Engineering Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jordan Oswald – Richmond, Va.

#### 6th Contracting Squadron

Airman 1st Class William Haselden – Summerville, S.C.

Airman 1st Class Davyd Moyer – Breman, Ohio  
Airman Dartanian Thomas – Fayetteville, Ark.

#### 6th Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Sergio Perez – Long Beach, Calif.

#### 6th Medical Support Squadron

Airman 1st Class Kabria Nicholson – Pascagoula, Miss.

#### 6th Operational Support Squadron

Airman Dalton Dishman – Monterey, Tenn.

#### 6th Security Forces Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jonathan Strivings – Rochester, N.Y.

## Commentary

# The Doolittle Raid remembered

by Col. Robert Rocco

6th Medical Group commander

I'll admit it, I'm a history geek. I enjoy the black and white documentaries on the History Channel. Even as a young boy, I marveled at the accomplishments and bravery of the World War II generation.

In 1972, while living in California, I attended an air show and watched a fly-by of a B-25. The narrator explained that the pilot and crew of the B-25 would recreate the famous Doolittle Raid launched against Japan some 30 years earlier. I thought what those pilots were doing was cool and knew then that it must have taken guts to fly the original raid while enemy gunners had you in their sites.

I also saw the Blue Angels during that air show, but all I talked about for weeks after was that B-25 demonstration. I'm sure my dad, a former Army tank driver, couldn't wait for his then 8-year-old son to switch gears and talk about anything else. Now, as an old colonel, I look back on that day some 41 years ago and still think what that crew did over the skies of California was pretty cool.

What 16 crews did over Japan on April 18, 1942, was more than cool—it was incredible in every sense of the word.

Today, we casually do everything on our smart phones, stand in line for a double latte and more often than not, complain about something meaningless. Think back to what it must have been like 71 years ago! Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle and 79 fellow Airmen were sailing west on a mission to Japan on the aircraft carrier the USS Hornet. As they proceeded, they came across a fishing boat radioing Tokyo that a war ship was sailing west. Doolittle ordered to commence immediately what would become the famous Doolittle Raid.

Since the raid had to launch two hundred miles farther from the island than expected, the B-25s would not have the luxury of a round trip, or for that matter, a guarantee of a safe landing in China, the planned end point. Instead, after dropping their bombs, the pilots were ordered to continue flying west and hoped to “ditch out over China when the fuel



Col. Robert Rocco

tanks ran empty.”

Can you imagine that? We spend hours building resiliency in our Airmen so that we can pass a fitness test and THESE Airmen took off from aircraft carriers 600 miles from Japan with orders to drop bombs, fly west and ditch out over China when the fuel ran out! We routinely lay the “hero” tag on people for a tough job under trying circumstances. These 80 Airmen knew what they were doing, volunteered to do it and all 80 of them volunteered expecting to die. Those guys were true heroes!

Thanks to the incredible efforts of Army Air Corps and Navy crew members aboard the Hornet, 16 B-25's successfully took off that day from the deck of the USS Hornet aircraft carrier in less than an hour. They flew low to avoid enemy radar and all bombed their targets in six cities. Most planes encountered anti-aircraft fire and some encountered enemy fighters in the air. All but one of the airplanes crash landed, and 67 of the 80 Airmen who launched from the Hornet escaped capture and death. The plane that didn't crash landed

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## Erase the hate: Holocaust survivor brings his story to MacDill



**(Left) Members of Team MacDill listen to Philip Gans, (right) Holocaust and concentration camp survivor, April 11 during a Holocaust observance at the base chapel. Gans talked about his life during World War II and erasing hate from the world.**

**story and photos by Airman 1st Class Sarah Breer**  
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

While the world focused on the fighting between nations during WWII, something more horrific than war was going on in death and concentration camps across Europe.

Adolf Hitler was implementing his Final Solution — the extermination of many groups of people considered inferior, undesirable or dangerous.

During the Holocaust, 17 million people were killed in prison camps, including about six million Jewish people. Prisoner Philip Gans survived, and brought his story to Team MacDill members at a Holocaust observance held at the base chapel April 11.

Born in 1928, Gans was 15 when he and his family were arrested by Nazi soldiers on July 24, 1943, his father's birthday. The family had been hiding for a year.

After being arrested, the Gans family was held at the Westerbork detention camp in Holland for about a month. From there the family was transported to Auschwitz.

Gans' name changed to a number, which is tattooed on his left forearm: 139755.

Gas chambers at Auschwitz II took the lives of his mother and sister. Gans, his brother and father were sent to Auschwitz III, a labor camp. During his time in the camps his brother and father would die at the hands of their captors.

Humanity disappeared.

Gans described his day-to-day life at the camp, as well as some of his most impactful experiences. He wore clothes that were not the proper size or made for the weather. His shoes were made of wood and gave him blisters because they had no laces. He spoke of being beaten, starved, and nearly frozen during the winters. He witnessed people tortured and

saw others executed. The decomposing bodies of those who tried to escape hung in the camps as a warning.

Gans told the crowd he survived because he remembered the words of his father.

“One night I asked my father a question, I don't remember the question now,” Gans recalled, waving his hand in front of his face. “He said, ‘we'll talk about it when we get home.’ You see, he always expected to survive the camps. He never gave up hope.”

So the younger Gans refused to give up hope.

While at Auschwitz III he did whatever he needed to in order to stay alive, but made a point to help his fellow prisoners.

One day another man was too sick to go to work. Gans stayed behind in the barracks where they slept to take care of him. When guards noticed they were missing, they beat both of them with a hose. Gans was able to proceed to work, so they let him go. The other man could not go to work, and he was killed.

Tech. Sgt. Roger Zehr, 6th Operation Support Squadron survival, evasion, resistance and escape specialist, attended the event to learn more about Gans' survival experience.

“I attended for two reasons, to hear the unique story of Mr. Gans and to further educate myself on the topic of captivity,” Zehr said. “I strongly believe that we owe it to Mr. Gans to take a little bit of time out of our schedule to hear his message. As a SERE specialist I also owe it to my students to take advantage of every opportunity learn about captivity.”

In 1945 Gans and fellow prisoners embarked on a march to avoid approaching Allied forces. Any prisoner who stopped marching, even for a second, risked being shot

“My shoes were wooden, and I kept wire in them to keep them tight,” Gans recalled. “I bent to tie the wire and realized I was last in line. I

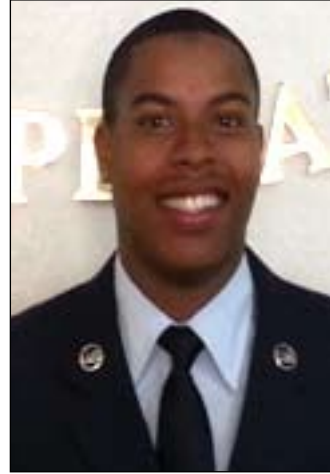
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# DIAMOND SHARP



**Airman 1st Class Issac Butler  
6th Operations Support Squadron**



**Job Title:** Airfield management operations coordinator

**Hometown:** Killeen, Texas

**Short-term goals:** I want to obtain my associate's degree from the Community College of the Air Force in aviation management and earn senior airman below-the-zone.

**Long-term goals:** Eventually I would like to start a family.

**Advice to others:** My advice to others goes back to the core values of the Air Force: "Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do."



# BRIEFS



## **The Mobility Forum now online**

The Air Mobility Command magazine, *The Mobility Forum*, is now available online. Visit AMC Public Affairs webpage or go to: <http://www.amc.af.mil> to access the magazine. Articles are also featured on AMC's Facebook page and Twitter account.

## **Mentor wanted**

The 6th Air Mobility Wing is looking for a sharp staff sergeant to fill the position of Airman Dorm Leader. This is a two-year controlled tour with an option for a one-year extension in the 8H000 career field. Airman Dorm Leaders are dedicated professional airmen charged with ensuring the quality of life, safety, and security of our residents as well as ensuring our facilities are maintained at the highest level possible. Applicants must possess the highest leadership and mentorship qualities; have a minimum of 1 year experience as a supervisor, a minimum ASVAB score of 47 (General), a current passing score for the Air Force Fitness Program, and not on a duty limiting profile. Applicants are required to submit a volunteer statement, Commanders release statement, copies of last five Enlisted Performance Reports, a single page SURF, and an AFPT score sheet. Estimated start date: June 15. Submit applications to the 6th Civil Engineer Squadron, Unaccompanied Housing Manager. The deadline to apply is April 22. Contact Mr. Chris LeCompte, 6th Civil Engineer Squadron, at 828-5962 or Mr. Richard Lee at 828-4674 for more information.

## **Lunch and Learn Parenting Classes**

During the month of April the new parent support program is providing parenting classes for parents of children ages one to five years old. The classes are all from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and will be held at the base chapel, participants should bring their lunch. For more information or to register

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## **HOLOCAUST**

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caught up so that they wouldn't shoot me."

Allied troops liberated Gans and his fellow prisoners in April 1945. Gans was 17.

Gans wrapped up with a closing message:

"Erase the word hate from your vocabulary, because that is what started it all," Gans said.

After his speech, Gans met with those in attendance and spoke to people. Tears clouded eyes as person after person thanked Gans for sharing his story. Photographs of the Holocaust were spread out on tables, and one woman put her hand over her face and gasped as she viewed a picture of a mother, her young child and her baby in a mass grave after liberation.

Holocaust observances and guest speakers like Philip Gans serve to keep the history of the Holocaust alive, bring a message of the dangers of hate, and the hope that the lessons learned will prevent future tragedies.

## **CORNER**

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From Page 2

base starts with taking care of our own.

Stress is ever abundant and comes and goes. Being resilient and lending a hand to others in need cements the foundation of Airmanship. Remember, every new day is a chance for us to take care of ourselves, our families, and our brothers and sisters in arms. We have the best trained Airmen, supporting the most honorable mission - protecting the United States of America - while living in the most military-friendly community in the world. It is a great time to be in the United States military.





Tiffany Arvizu patiently awaits her husband, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Arvizu, 310th Airlift Squadron communication system operator, to arrive April 2 to MacDill Air Force Base. The 310th AS returned to MacDill from a three-month long deployment.

## A big welcome home for 310th AS

story and photos by Airman 1st Class Vernon Fowler Jr.  
6th Air Mobility Wing public affairs

The 310th Airlift Squadron returned home April 2 to MacDill Air Force Base from a three-month deployment.

On Jan. 27 approximately 15 members of the 310th AS deployed. Each member volunteered for what would be the unit's first deployment tasking.

Despite the difficulty of being separated from loved ones, members of the 310th AS recognized the importance of the mission and responded accordingly. Their C-37 detachment provided airlift support to the International Security Assistance Force commander in Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Kurt Kremser, 310th AS director of operations, was among those who deployed.

"This was my seventh deployment, but my first with my children," said Kremser. "It was tough."

Just before the members were set to return, their families gathered at Hangar 3 to prepare signs and balloons before going to the flightline to greet the aircraft.

Smiles were shared among the spouses, children and other loved ones as they awaited word that the aircraft had landed.

Gladys Fitzherbert, wife of reservist Joshua Fitzherbert, Gulfstream avionics technician, waited in the crowd for her husband to return.

"I'm very excited," said Fitzherbert. "I can't wait for his arrival."

At approximately 5 p.m. the plane landed and its passengers exited. The waiting crowd greeted them with clapping, cheering and happy faces.

Families found their loved ones, mingled and exchanged handshakes and hugs before dispersing and going their separate ways.

"It was a good team effort and I'm very proud of the 310th Airlift Squadron," said Kremser. "It's good to be back."

Kremser's words easily summed up the deployment and the feelings and efforts of all the members involved.



Joshua Fitzherbert, Gulfstream avionics technician, waits for his father, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Fitzherbert, 310th Airlift Squadron communication system operator, to arrive April 2 at MacDill Air Force Base. The 310th AS returned to MacDill from a three-month long deployment.



Meredith Barnett and her son, Wade, wait in a crowd to greet their husband, Capt. Christopher Barnett, 310th Airlift Squadron communication system operator, to arrive April 2 at MacDill Air Force Base. Approximately 15 members of the 310th AS returned to MacDill from a three-month long deployment.



...ician, embraces his two daughters, Sophia and Alana, ...S and five civilian contractors returned to MacDill from



...anticipation of the arrival of the C-37A carrying her hus- ...quadron pilot, and other crew members April 2 at MacDill ...the 310th AS volunteered for a three-month deployment.



Cameron and Andrew Kelly greet their father, Tech. Sgt. Jason Kelly, 310th Airlift Squadron instructor communication systems operator, on the flightline at MacDill Air Force Base April 2. The 310th AS provided airlift support to the International Security Assistance Force commander during their three-month deployment.

## **BRIEFS**

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for the classes call 827-9172.

- April 18: Taming toddler tantrums
- April 25: Mama wears combat boots (single parents)

### **Spouse Social Media Awareness brief**

The Spouse Social Media Awareness brief, sponsored by the U.S. Central Command Family Readiness Group, will take place April 25 from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. in the CENTCOM Reception Center. The briefing is open to ALL spouses from ALL services and ALL commands within MacDill Air Force Base. Parking will be available for those who RSVP to attend. Reserve your seat by emailing [fre@centcom.mil](mailto:fre@centcom.mil) no later than April 23. Seating is limited. Attendees will learn the effects of electronic media and cell phone usage. The brief will cover the importance of monitoring children's social network sites activities.

### **National Prayer Breakfast**

MacDill Air Force Base's 2013 National Prayer Breakfast will be held April 30 at Surf's Edge Club. The guest speaker will be Dick Crippen, 6th Air Mobility Wing honorary vice commander. The event will run from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. It is free, but space is limited, please make a reservation by April 16 with Staff Sgt. Peter Flores or Staff Sgt. Katherine Patterson at 828-3621.

### **Tax assistance**

The Retiree Activities Office at MacDill Air Force Base will offer walk-in tax assistance services to active duty members, military retirees and dependents beginning May 2, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call the RAO at 828- 4555 for more information. The Brandon AFRC offers tax assistance by appointment only.





## "RESCUE" IS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE ...

If life has you thinking there's no way out,  
it's time to call in the professionals.

Your base chaplain, mental health counselors, and the people  
at **1-800-SUICIDE** (784-2433) are ready to help.

*MacDill Mental Health 827-9171*

**ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY**





## COMMENTARY

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From Page 3

in Russia. It took more than a year after the raid for that crew to make it home. It took two more years for the only four living prisoners-of-war to be repatriated.

The news of 16 B-25s over Japan lifted the spirits of a nation that had known nothing but defeat since the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. The raid provided a much needed boost in morale, not only for the Americans, but for our allies around the world as well--especially those in the Pacific.

With a successful raid over six major cities, Japanese leaders were forced to re-think their strategy and pulled many front line forces back to defend their homeland. This act, along with countless others, provided opportunities throughout the Pacific for Marine, Army and Navy Air Forces to exploit Japanese weak-

nesses and transition from a defensive to offensive strategy.

Even though it took 26 months for the next wave of American bombers to head back to Japan, Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle and his Raiders were a much needed spark in bringing the fight to the Japanese, eventually leading to their surrender in September 1945.

As of this writing, only five of the 80 Raiders are still alive. Sadly, few Americans remember the sacrifices made by the Doolittle Raiders and their World War II brothers and sisters in arms.

Today, April 18, on the 71st anniversary of their raid, I encourage you to raise a glass in their honor and make a toast of thanks to 80 brave American Airmen. They did their duty, and we honor them by doing ours. Hear, hear!









## EVENTS

### Friday

**Month of Military Child Parade**  
Begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Child Development Centers (Bldg. 381 & 395), continuing down Hangar Loop Drive toward the Short Fitness Center. Come out and cheer the children on!

**Airman & Family Readiness Center**  
PASS – Parent Advocates for Students & Schools from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. The PASS program is an AMC initiative to provide peer-to-peer support for parents of school aged children. A&FRC is OPR with co-responsibility between SLO, EFMP and P&WL.

**Seascapes Beach House**  
Family Fun Night at 5 p.m., with family food and drink specials! \$2 and under menu items for kids! Kids activities! Free ice cream sundae bar (peanut free) with all meals!

**Youth Center**  
Fashion & Talent Expo from 6-8 p.m. Please join us for the fun!

**Sunday**  
**Bay Palms Golf Complex**  
Club Member Appreciation Day – free golf and cart. Must show valid club card when check-in at Pro Shop.

**Monday-Friday**  
**Month of the Military Child**  
Annual Children's Art Auction – Bidding begins on April 22 and ends at noon April 30. The highest bidder wins! Call 828-0195 to view art.

**Tuesday**  
**Base Library**  
Special Earth Day Story Time at 10:30 a.m.



Photo by Airman 1st Class David Tracy

### Getting along!

Members of team MacDill participate in a discussion during a True Colors class at MacDill Air Force Base, April 10. The class, facilitated by Dora Mays, Airman & Family Readiness Center community readiness consultant, teaches participants about their personality types and how to better understand friends and co-workers.



**EXCHANGE**  
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE



## CHAPEL SCHEDULE

### Protestant services

Sunday - 11 a.m. - Contemporary Service  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - FamCamp Service

### Islamic services

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

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

### Catholic services

Saturday - 5:30 p.m. - Mass  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Mass

