

THUNDERBOLT

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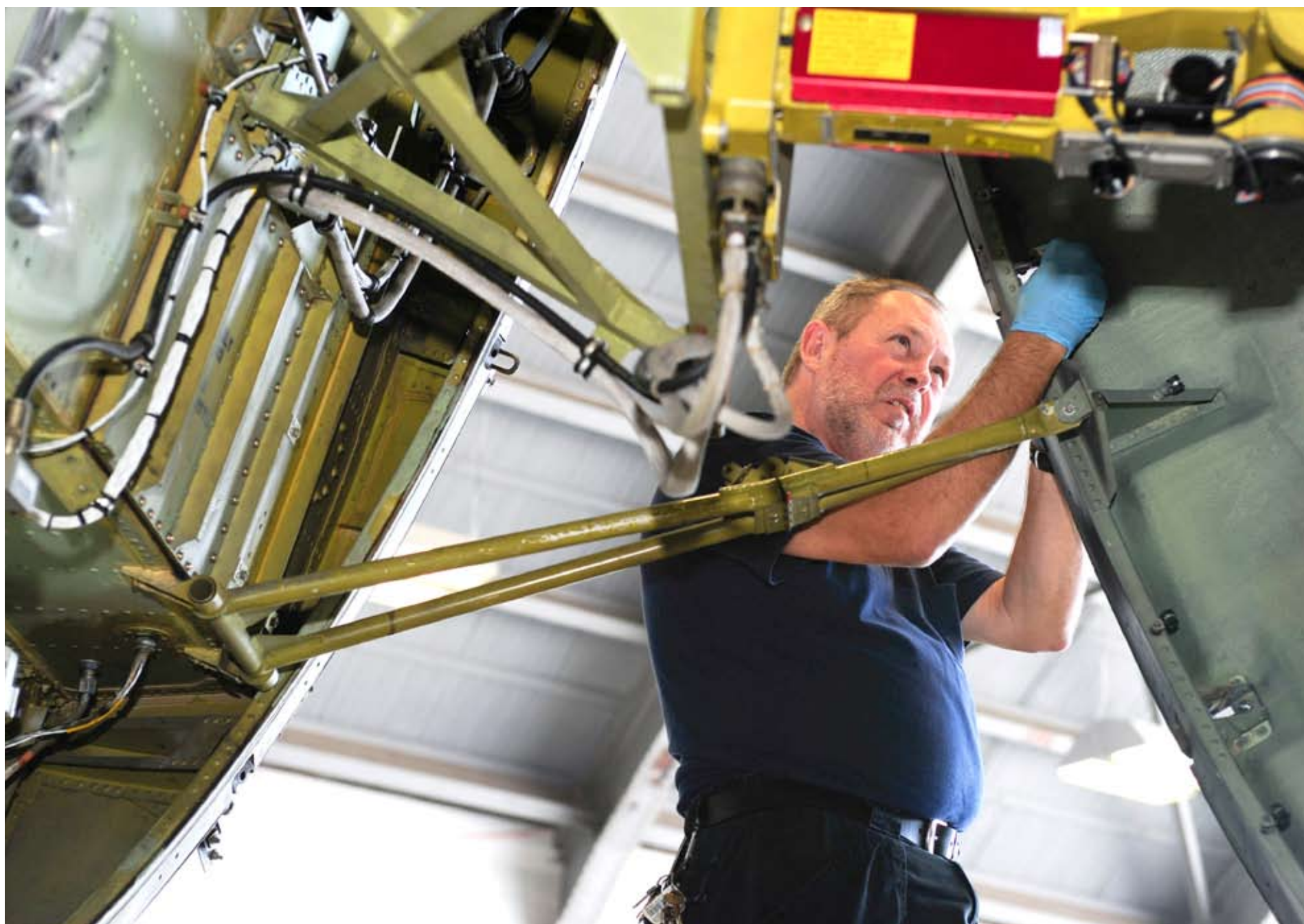


Photo by Senior Airman Linzi Joseph

Hurricane ready!

Randy Mitchell, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration crew chief, replaces a latch on the nose radome of an WP-3D Orion in the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center at MacDill Air Force Base recently. The airplanes of the AOC are flown in support of NOAA's mission to promote global environmental assessment, prediction and stewardship of Earth's environment. At this time of year, the focus is on the hurricane season, which began June 1.

COMMANDER'S CORNER



4th a time to reflect on our founding; some Team MacDill standouts

by Col. Lenny Richoux

6th Air Mobility Wing commander

I hope you all had a safe and wonderful holiday break earlier this week.

And I hope that as many as could, took advantage of the family day. It was well-served.

During the holiday, I marshaled a local parade and can't express to you enough how much your service and presence here means to the people of greater Tampa Bay. There's a lot of gratitude here for what you do for your nation, this state and the outstanding cities in which we live.

The holiday presented us with time to reflect on our nation's founding history, and it offered us time to remember our military brothers and sisters who are currently deployed. I hope you had a chance to support those families they left behind.

Let's make it a practice to support the families of our deployed counterparts. Let's also maintain our plans that support our own families' well-being.

We are more than two months into Florida's hurricane season. Let's be mindful of the risks and the dangers posed by weather we could potentially encounter. We should also ensure our summer plans include mitigation for any impact bad weather will have.

Like with many things we can procrastinate, there's a temptation to side-step the necessity to think about potential disasters. Let's have a plan in place before a possible hazard becomes an immediate emergency. We can and should be proactive, and make the necessary contingency plans.

We received great news last week on the promotion front. Congratulations to all of our technical sergeants who were selected. Great job! I look forward to each of you stepping up to the challenge of greater responsibility and leadership.

This week presented us with the opportunity to recognize a few other leaders. I want to thank two of our finest group commanders as they depart. 6th Medical Group Commander, **Col. Dennis Beatty** and 6th Mission Support Group Commander, **Col. Donald Barnes** both have served this base with distinction, and they leave a remarkable legacy. Thanks to their families for supporting them during their tours here. We will welcome the inbound commanders of the 6th MSG and 6th MDG this month.

I can't stress enough the importance of the positive impressions we make on inbound personnel by being good sponsors. There's a lot of transition going on here, and I'm getting good feedback about the way you are reaching out to newly reporting personnel and giving



Photo by Airman Basic David Tracy

Col. Lenny Richoux addresses the audience during the 6th Medical Group change of command Tuesday.

them and their families the help they need for smooth integration into the MacDill family. I want to thank 6th AMW's **Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz** who was the recipient of June's "Outstanding Sponsor Award" given by the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

6th Medical Group's **Senior Airman Paola Bustamante, Staff Sgt. Christina Smith and the 6th MDG Booster Club** earned recognition for their dedication and hard work in raising \$4,200 for Operation Helping Hands and supporting our wounded warriors.

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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MacDill Thunderbolt

Publisher: Denise Palmer
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.



Your T-bolt Today

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Bronze Star awarded

News/Features: page 4



Got maps?

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Remembering Khobar Towers

Diamond Sharp: page 14



This week's standout

MacDill Community: page 17



Events, movies, more...

Col. Rocco assumes command of 6th MDG

by Master Sgt. Bryan Gatewood
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Colonel Robert F. Rocco assumed command of the 6th Medical Group in a ceremony here July 5 from Col. Dennis Beatty. Colonel Lenny Richoux, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, presided over the ceremony.

“I am honored to be a part of the 6 AMW and Team MacDill. I’m grateful for the warm welcome afforded my family and me,” said Colonel Rocco. I look forward to building upon the healthcare relationships MacDill and the 6th Medical Group have with the Air Force Medical Service, the VA, central/south Florida’s regional network partners and am excited about a very bright healthcare future for MacDill and those of us who call the Florida Gulf Coast home.”

Colonel Beatty is heading to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to be the Air Mobility Command deputy Surgeon General.

Colonel Rocco is coming to MacDill from Bethesda, Maryland where he served as chief, WRNMMC Integration Division, Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical (DoD). As the new 6th MDG commander he expects Airmen under his command to stay focused on the primary mission areas centered around four words: Prevent, Heal, Prepare, Deploy.

“Prevent - The Air Force Medical Service’s approach to mastering a wellness lifestyle for our Airmen, retirees and their families ... it’s also the cornerstone of ensuring a fit and ready force able to deploy at a moments notice.

“Heal - Primarily what our patients expect. When they aren’t feeling well, they’ll call the Medical group and have certain expectations. Meeting the basic needs of our patients is what separates good medical groups from great medical groups.

“Prepare - Our missions here at MacDill are complex and our medics must use our time



Photo by Airman Basic David Tracy

Col. Lenny Richoux, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, passes the guidon to Col. Robert Rocco as he accepts command of the 6th Medical Group during a Change of Command Ceremony July 5, 2011 in Hangar 3 at MacDill Air Force Base.

wisely to ensure we are ready to successfully accomplish what ever missions we are presented.

“Deploy - Our bottom line as Airmen is we train hard to perform our duties in austere environments around the globe. I expect my Airmen to prepare for that challenge professionally and personally. This includes ensuring their families are full partners in the process so when deployments happen our families are ready,” explained the colonel.

During his first commander’s call, the colonel said, he will thank everyone for the warm welcome and quickly getting him up to speed on the complexities of the 6th Medical Group. He will also answer three questions he says, most people are thinking — Who is this guy? What does he believe? And, what does he expect?

“As an Airmen myself, those were the questions I most wanted answered from the commanders I served with,” said Colonel Rocco. “I believed if I understood what made my commanders tick I could best accomplish the missions of my unit and best guide those with

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1 1

Critical Days of Summer

Mowing safety

A 28-year-old Staff Sergeant was mowing his yard with a push mower. When the side discharge of the mower became clogged with grass, the sergeant held down the “cut-off” lever (so the engine remained running) with his left hand while he reached with his right hand to free the grass clog. Simultaneously, his son was riding a mini-scooter toward some hedges with sharp branches, so the sergeant began yelling at his son to turn away. The sergeant lost situational awareness with his right hand and it entered the mower blade area, resulting in amputation of a finger.

Bottom Line:

Only use a power mower with a control that stops the mower if the handle released. This control should never be disconnected. Do not allow children younger than 14 to use riding mowers. Do not allow children younger than 12 to use walk-behind mowers. Make sure that sturdy shoes are worn while mowing



Defense Logistics Agency will put you on the map

by Nick Stubbs
Thunderbolt editor

Napoleon Bonaparte said, “An army travels on its stomach,” but even the well fed can’t get to where they are going without a good map.

Good, current maps are the stock and trade of the Defense Logistics Agency at MacDill Air Force Base, and too few realize the service exists, said Army Staff Sgt. Tiffany Broussard, an accounting specialist with the DoD agency.

Located in an office on the opposite side of the street from Hangar 4, the office is staffed by four Army personnel and one civilian, and serves much of the southeastern region of the U.S. It provides electronic and paper copies of land maps, along with nautical and aerospace charts.

The charts and maps are free to U.S. military and government agencies, and 11,000 printed and electronic products are in stock at the MacDill office, which serves as the Tampa regional distribution center. Products are provided in classified and non-classified versions, and distributed based on the security clearance of the person or agency seeking them.

“The Coast Guard is our biggest customer, followed by U.S. Central Command,” said Ser-



Photo by Nick Stubbs

Army Staff Sgt. Tiffany Braussard and Charletta Hentley examine one of the thousands of maps in inventory at the DLA.

geant Broussard. “If we don’t have it, it’s available through Richmond (Virginia, the central distributor for the DLA).”

The DLA maintains an inventory of 73,000 products, covering every square inch of the

world. While many of those maps and charts have remained the same for years, others are updated frequently to serve the logistics and intelligence needs of today.

See **DLA**, Page 16

911th Air Refueling Squadron maintainer awarded Bronze Star

by Staff Sgt. Terrica Jones
916th Public Affairs Office

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. — A squadron maintenance superintendent was presented with the Bronze Star Medal during a ceremony here June 21.

The Bronze Star is awarded to an individual who, while serving in any capacity with the armed forces of the United States in a combat theater, distinguishes themselves by heroism, outstanding achievement, or by meritorious service.

Col. Lenny J. Richoux, commander, 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill Air Force Base, presented the award to Senior Master Sgt. Dallas Turner, 911th Air Refueling Squadron, which is part of the 6th AMW and operates as the active duty associate to the 916th Air Refueling Wing here.

Senior Master Sgt. Turner distinguished himself apart from his comrades with brave and praiseworthy achievement and services during his tour in Afghanistan in which he led 48 air advisors to mentor 400 Afghan Airmen in a combat zone.

His leadership enabled several aircraft to fly 6,000 training and com-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Terrica Y. Jones

Col. Lenny Richoux, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, pins the Bronze Star on Master Sgt. Dallas Turner, 911th Air Refueling Squadron.

See **BRONZE**, Page 16

Combat Dining In: Airman perspective

“The Enlisted Combat Dining In was my first military event I’ve attended in my military career. I was expecting a formal military banquet with dinner and an awards ceremony. The most memorable parts of the event were the fire truck spraying everyone in its way, the obstacle course with everyone dodging water guns and the water balloons, and the grog bowl. Watching people having to drink a cup of nasty stuff turned out to be very funny. The Wing free-for-all water fight was a fun experience as well. Overall, the Combat Dining In was a great opportunity for everyone to wind down and do things we’re normally not allowed to do in uniform. I would recommend every enlisted member assigned to MacDill attend at least one Combat Dining In while stationed here.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tanika Belfield

*Senior Airman David Pham
6th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron*



2011 Enlisted Combat Dining In

29 July 2011 – 17:00

Tickets: \$10

BRING IT!



COMMENTARY



Take pride in riding ‘shotgun’ for a nation

by Lt. Col. Scott McKim
87th Medical Support Squadron

“Shotgun.” You were walking through a parking lot, with a group of friends or co-workers. After hearing that, you realize you’ve been preempted. That person just laid claim to the most prime piece of real estate in the vehicle — the front passenger seat. You, on the other hand, are getting in back. If you have a small frame, you’re not going to be able to see where you’re going very well, but it’s not otherwise going to be a huge inconvenience for you. Plus, you’ll be pretty safe in the back. If, however, you don’t fit in these child-sized back seats, it is going to be uncomfortable. Hopefully it’s not a long ride. It’s good-natured fun to call shotgun, and chuckle at your friend who is 6-feet, 4-inches as he folds himself into the back seat of the Dodge Avenger and it probably doesn’t make you reflect on the Air Force Core Values.

When I recently heard that phrase, I thought back to my father, how much he enjoyed watching western movies and how ironic it is that riding shotgun today is a far cry from the original version. Most people know, “riding shotgun” alludes back to the days of stagecoaches and the bandits who robbed them. Whenever people or goods were transported by stagecoach, two people would sit on top - the very important driver and the other guy, holding a gun, protecting the passengers. That version of riding shotgun is quite different than the modern day. They were surely compensated, but there was no one to see their efforts unless something went wrong. And, there’s no evidence that riding shotgun was even used as a prestigious title until after stagecoaches no longer existed. They exposed themselves to the elements over the often harsh and hostile terrain, assumed greater leadership responsibilities, risks, and hardships for the benefit of those in the stagecoach and the people receiving the goods at the destination. There’s an analogy here to what we refer to as “service” that’s worthy of aspiring to. The new version involves getting the most amount of legroom, visibility, overall comfort, and deferring the responsibility for what happens solely to the driver, at the expense of someone else. Leadership, and the way we serve, can take both forms. Fortunately, we rarely see the modern



Lt. Col. Scott McKim

day “shotgun.” More often than not, it takes the same form that it did in the days of the stagecoach.

I’m sure most of us at some time or another during our travels have had a complete stranger approach us and say “thank you for your service.” They’ll often follow that up with, “I’ve got a daughter in the service” and will continue on to share that member’s story. There are millions of people who, if they met you, would reach out a hand and say thank you. That is a personal thank you, and it’s a collective one, because of the people with whom we serve. The people we serve alongside are frequently in harm’s way, often far from home. They assume great personal risk, work long hours, perform difficult physical labor, or mentally intense tasks. They endure these hardships for their fellow warriors, for their families and for their country. Looking at them, there is no indication of concern for the fact that not all share in their hardships or sacrifice. There’s no discussion of compensation or entitlements. There’s no request for recognition, but they do appreciate that sincere “thank you.”

The original shotgun riders represent service. Service before self if you will. To all of you, who put on the uniform every day and “protect the stagecoach,” thank you for your service!

Khobar Towers 15 years later

A Team MacDill survivor remembers

by Nick Stubbs

Thunderbolt editor

Fatigue. It was the feeling Air Force Master Sgt. Leighton Reid had every night in the seven-room office and living quarters he shared with other members of his disaster preparedness team. But tonight he would get to bed before midnight, an unusual blessing.

The pet cats he'd made of strays, the cats he wasn't supposed to have, were on the balcony when he stepped out to have a smoke before turning in. He scanned the terrain from his perch, dug into a pocket for his lighter and noticed a car in the parking lot nearby. It flashed its lights a couple of times. By now he'd fished through every pocket and the lighter he always had with him was not there.

"Strange," he thought to himself – the lighter and the car.

He stepped back into the apartment to fetch the lighter, which was on a table, when he noticed something else strange. His laptop computer was turned on, when he was sure it had been off. He heard a truck pull up outside as he sat down in front of the computer to shut it down. It was taking a "miserably" long time to shut down, Sergeant Reid thought to himself – "come on, come on," he urged the Windows 95 software. "You're too slow."

"Crack, crack, crack," outside. Three shots from an M-16? Air Force security police who guarded the buildings were shooting at something, he thought. But they were not rifle shots. They were detonators going off. It was 9:50 p.m., June 25, 1996, the moment 5,000 pounds of explosives went off outside building 131 at the Khobar Towers housing complex, Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

The blast sent debris and a shockwave through the balcony doors and windows from behind where Sergeant Reid was sitting at his computer in building 133, adjacent to 131. He tried to get to the floor, but it seemed he couldn't move, though he actually was making his way to a lower position. As he dropped, he could hear and feel a large shard of glass whizz inches from his head. It went through a wood door on the other side of the room and lodged in the concrete wall beyond.

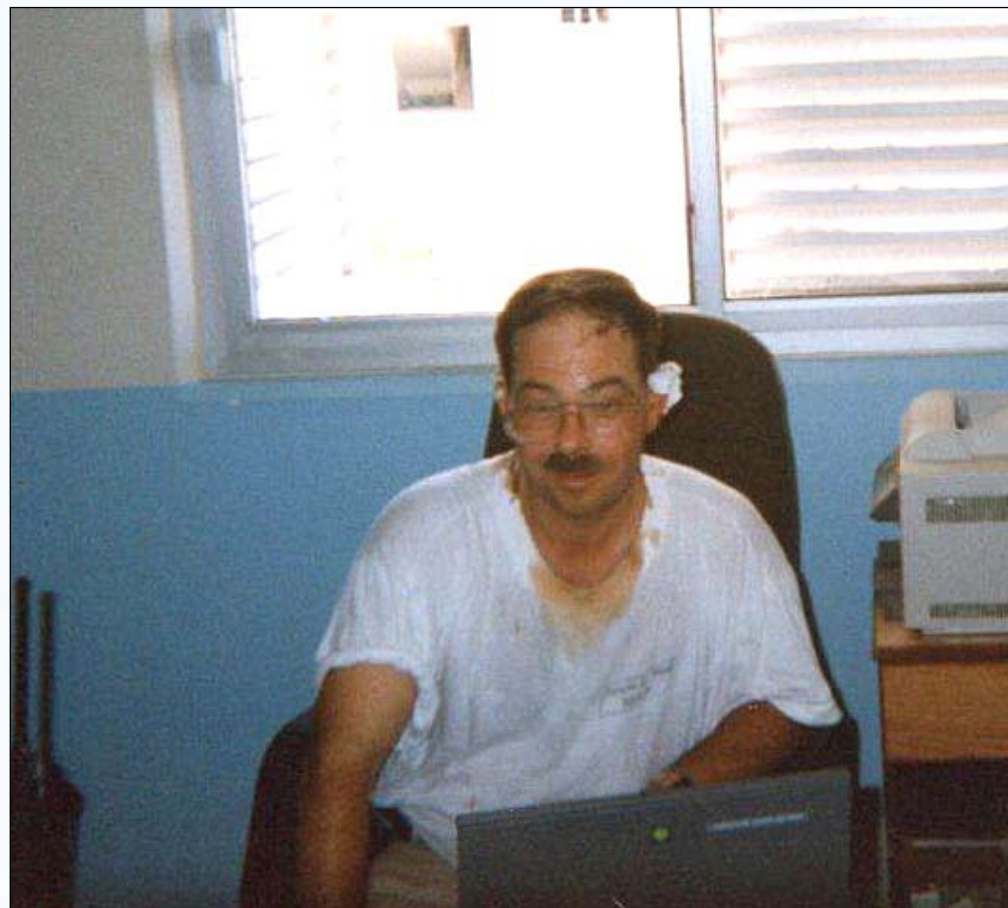
By now Sergeant Reid realized he was under the desk, as the impact of the massive concussion wave caught up with him.

He came to about 30 seconds later, screaming and shouts for help ringing in his bloody ears, inky dark but for the erratic, dancing light from burning trees outside. Hell was there. And briefly last week, on the 15th anniversary of that fateful day, the memory of Hell was there again.

"It's something I go through – something all of us who survived it – go through every year," said Mr. Reid, who is a civilian working in the disaster preparedness office of the 6th Civil Engineer Squadron at MacDill.

His hand is on the mouse of his computer, as he guides the cursor around the Facebook page dedicated to the survivors of the Hezbollah Al-Hejaz terrorist attack. On it are dozens of pictures posted by survivors and their family members – pictures of the good times, and pictures of the aftermath. There are videos of the scene after the blast,

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Master Sgt. Leighton Reid at his desk and laptop computer at the Khobar Towers housing complex. Reid was shutting down the computer when the truck bomb of June 25, 1996 exploded.



Master Sgt. Leighton Reid with Lt. Col. James Traister, Security Police Squadron, after the blast.



Photo courtesy of Leighton Reid

owers, Khobar, Saudi Arabia. He
lodged outside his window.



Photo courtesy of Leighton Reid

ron commander, on the morning



Photos courtesy of Leighton Reid

(Above) The crater left from the truck bomb, packed with up to 5,000 pounds of explosives, was 35 feet deep and 85 feet across. (Left) Building 131 at the Khobar complex took the brunt of the blast, and was where most of the casualties occurred. (Below left) Air Force investigators survey the damage to one of the units.



KHOBAR

From Page 10

but most important, there are the names of the 19 Airmen who were killed.

“He had a sucking chest wound,” Mr. Reid said of the young Airman he was tending moments after the blast. “You hear about sucking chest wounds, and you try to remember what you do for one; you cover it up, so that’s what I did.”

Did the Airman make it? Did he live?

Mr. Reid’s head shakes back and forth, as his chin drops to his chest. His left hand rises like a comforting stranger, the fingers pressing into his eyes to stop an outflow of tears. Fifteen years and it hurts like yesterday.

The next sunrise would be the second of three Sergeant Reid would see before sleeping again. The golden glow revealed the transformation that took place overnight. Concrete rubble, twisted metal and shattered glass littered the area. A crater 35 feet deep and 85 feet across marked the spot where the tanker truck loaded with explosives was sitting. The terrorists were not suicide bombers. All drove off minutes before the explosion.

“It (the bombing) gave me an entirely new perspective on life,” said Mr. Reid. “I see every day as a gift now.”

Mr. Reid also doesn’t keep things from people. He tells them what he thinks and how he feels.

“Life’s too short to do anything else,” he says.

It’s what happens to some people when they escape such a brush with

death, Mr. Reid guesses. He wonders about the tiny twists of fate he experienced. Why wasn’t his lighter in his pocket? Had he been on the balcony smoking, he surely would have been killed by the blast. Had his computer not been on and taken so long to shut down, he would have been on the balcony when the truck exploded.

Cleaning up his Khobar Towers room afterward, he found the laptop computer he was sitting in front of when the blast ripped into the room behind him. Imprinted on the lcd screen was the outline of his head, both ears clearly visible.

The thought of it makes him chuckle a little.

“Windows 95 saved my life,” he joked. “If it wasn’t so slow, I probably wouldn’t be here.”

Despite the horrific memories, Mr. Reid said he and everyone on the scene learned the real value of training and resourcefulness. Self aid buddy care and all the other training the Air Force had given them “kicked in automatically,” he said.

“Everyone was helping each other and using their training,” Mr. Reid said. “It saved a lot of lives.”

Sergeant Reid retired from the Air Force a couple of months after the Khobar attack, going to work as a civilian consultant for the U.S. and Saudi military. In Saudi Arabia, on Sept. 11, 2001, he heard a broadcast report on the shortwave radio about a plane crashing into one of the towers of the World Trade Center in New York.

“The report was that it was an accident – a small plane crash,” he re-

DIAMOND SHARP

Senior Airman Velette Webb 6th Dental Squadron

Job title: Dental Laboratory craftsman

Home town: Idaho Falls, Idaho

Short-term goals: To become a certified dental technician, and to hopefully make staff sergeant

Long-term goals: To finish a Bachelor's degree

Advice to others: Keep your head up; when you want to frown, put a smile on instead



Settlement of Estate

Col. Lenny Richoux, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, regrets to announce the death of Maj. Charles Creech, formerly assigned to the 6th Operations Group, MacDill AFB, Fla. Lt. Col. Lance Hill is appointed as the summary courts officer to handle the disposition of personal property of Major Creech.

Anyone indebted to or having a claim against the estate of Major Creech should contact Lt. Col. Hill at (856) 366-5659.

MacDill Exchange takes hassle out of taking it home

by Marianne Blair

MacDill Exchange Public Affairs

MacDill AFB – The MacDill Exchange is taking the hassle and expense out of getting new furniture, appliances and mattresses home and installed by partnering with Sears Home Delivery.

Through the new service, shoppers making purchases prior to 3 p.m. often can schedule delivery for the very next day. A two-hour window is set the evening before the uniformed Sears crews deliver. Services range from \$79.95 to \$94.95.

“The Exchange’s motto of ‘we go where you go’ now includes going to military shoppers’ homes,” said the Exchange’s General Manager Nicola Carter. “From sofas to washers and driers to mattresses, this partnership ensures items arrive safely and are installed properly.”

In addition to delivery and installation, old appliances, mattresses and furniture are hauled away for \$10 per item, one for one (i.e. buy a new mattress, the old one can be hauled away). More technical installations or required assemblies can be arranged directly at the MacDill Exchange.

DLA

From Page 4

Aerospace charts change every three months, said Sergeant Broussard. Maps and charts detailing active regions of the Middle East also change frequently, providing the most current data available for military operations.

With so much useful data on hand, Sergeant Broussard is surprised that so many critical units and agencies on base are not aware the service is on site.

“We had someone from CENTCOM who had been trying to put together a presentation and had been here for six years before he found us,” she said. “We had everything he was looking for.”

NOAA is another big customer. The Homeland Security Agency uses the office, and the 6th Operations Group is another customer. One agency obtained current maps of Haiti following the earthquake there last year, helping it support the recovery and rescue efforts in the

BRONZE

From Page 4

bat sorties and 5,000 flight hours resulting in an Afghan Air Force record flying year while suppressing insurgent actions throughout Afghanistan.

Part of his mission included developing the next generation of professionally competent Afghan Air Force maintainers. While deployed in Afghanistan he oversaw the Afghan Air Force’s

island nation.

When the DLA office was established at MacDill in 1985, the majority of the products on hand were printed, but over the years the percentage of digital products has increased greatly. Digital maps and charts now go onto desktop and laptop computers, often traveling into the field with government agency and military personnel. Many of these products are used in conjunction with GPS devices and software and provide navigational capabilities.

“We want everyone to know we are here and what we can provide,” said Sergeant Broussard, adding that the DLA office can supply any need for maps and charts by coordinating through one or more of its 22 distribution centers worldwide.

The DLA office at MacDill is open weekdays and is on call after hours for priority needs. The number is 828-4515.

strategic manpower plan. He managed 1,000 positions spanning 15 specialties.

At the ceremony, Sergeant Turner shared his gratitude with the room of officers, enlisted, and guests, and reiterated the importance of family in every Airman’s life when they are in deployed locations away from their families.

Sergeant Turner is the third 911th Air

MACDILL COMMUNITY



EVENTS

Saturday-Monday Arts & Crafts Center

Open Scrapbooking from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Boss & Buddy!

Join us 3-6 p.m. at SeaScapes. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment, beach volleyball, horseshoes, games, kayaks, and complimentary pontoon boat rides!

Saturday

Brandon Military FREE Swim & Picnic

Brandon Sports & Aquatics Center, 405 Beverly Blvd, Brandon FL from 11:30a.m.-2p.m. All Active Duty Military families, Guard & Reserves invited. Burgers and Hot Dogs will be served from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. RSVP to 813-655-9281

Monday

Teen Auto Club

1 p.m. at the Auto Hobby Shop.

Monday-Friday Youth Center

Lego Camp from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Members: Free; Non-members: \$10.

Tuesday & Thursday Bay Palms Golf Complex

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

Tuesday MacDill Lanes

Club Appreciation Day at 5 p.m. FREE Unlimited bowling for 2 hours. Open to E-1-E-4 Club Members & their immediate families.

For more information please visit our Web site at www.macdill-fss.com



Photo by Airman Basic David Tracy

What the doctor ordered

Airman 1st Class Pablo Santamaria, 6th Medical Support Squadron pharmacy technician, uses a PharmAssist machine to fill a prescription at the 6th Medical Group. The machine helps fill prescriptions faster and more accurately for pharmacy customers.



Protestant services

Sunday - 9 a.m. - Praise Worship Service
Noon - 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



AT THE MOVIES

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

Friday - 7 p.m.

The Conspirator (PG-13)

Saturday - 3 p.m.

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG-13)

Saturday - 7 p.m.

The Hangover Part Two (R)

Tampa Solider killed in Afghanistan

Thunderbolt staff report

MacDill officials offer condolences to the friends and family of Army 1st Lt. Dimitri Del Castillo, a 24-year-old Soldier from Tampa who was killed in Afghanistan last month.

The Department of Defense says Lieutenant Del Castillo died from wounds he suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire June 25 in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Del Castillo was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.



6MDG

From Page 3

whom I was charged to lead.”

Colonel Rocco has three times served as a military medical treatment facility Administrator and he has commanded three medical squadrons to include a deployed squadron at the Craig Combined/Joint Theater Hospital, Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan and two clinic-based squadrons, at Hill Air Force Base, Utah and Ramstein Air Base, Germany respectively. While deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, he also served as multi-national Combined-Joint Task Force J1 working closely with numerous coalition/multinational.

When asked how he likes Tampa, Colonel Rocco said, “MacDill is an impressive base with an all-star team of mission partners. Tampa (and the surrounding communities) is an exciting area of our country offering so much to see and do. In our first week here my family and I visited the beach, theme parks, and great restaurants. My son summed it up nicely when he said, ‘living in the same town as Derek Jeter AND the Yankee spring training complex AND an NFL team, NHL team, and MLB team is pretty cool!’”

Colonel Rocco was commissioned into the United States Air Force upon graduation from Officer Training School in 1987. After ten years of service as a line officer, he received a competitive category transfer in 1996 and entered the Air Force Medical Service as a Medical Service Corps officer.

Colonel Rocco’s full biography can be found on the MacDill website at <http://www.macdill.af.mil/library/biographies>.