

THUNDERBOLT

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6th AMW change of command - page 12



Photo by Airman 1st Class Melanie Bulow-Kelly

Airmen of Team MacDill render the first salute for Col. Scott DeThomas, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, July 27, at MacDill Air Force Base, Lt. Gen. Mark Ramsay, 18th Air Force Ccommander, was the presiding officer at the 6th AMW change of command.

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Meet the new 6th AMW commander

Col. Scott DeThomas assumed command of the 6th Air Mobility Wing, July 27. He took time out to introduce himself to the MacDill community and answered a few questions from the *Thunderbolt*.

Thunderbolt: What do you expect of the Airmen under your command?

DeThomas: Be fit, be ready, and be part of the solution to the challenges we face today and in the future. Finally, I expect the highest level of professionalism and care from each of you. You are all valuable members of this great team, please remember to always take care of one another.

Thunderbolt: Who are your favorite leaders and role models and why?

DeThomas: I do not have one favorite leader, but there are definitely some common traits I attribute to the many great officers, enlisted, and civilian leaders I've been exposed to over my career — honesty, integrity, humility, compassion for our Airmen and their families, empowerment of peers and subordinates to lead, respect for each other, and willingness to make tough decisions after weighing all the options and inputs from the experts.

Thunderbolt: What does it mean to you to be new commander?

DeThomas: Extremely honored and humbled by this selection and opportunity to lead this great team of mobility warriors at the 6th Air Mobility Wing alongside our total force integration teammates at the 927th Air Refueling Wing, while providing world-class support to our teammates across the base and to be part of this great community of Tampa.

Thunderbolt: When you hold your first commander's call what is the first thing you are going to tell your Airmen?

DeThomas: Thank you. Thank you for your service and sacrifice and the many contributions you and your families provide on behalf of this great nation and the finest Air Force on the face of the planet. The second thing would be "great job" in your efforts to remain conspicuously compliant over this past year, your efforts are evident throughout the wing — keep it up!

Thunderbolt: What are your thoughts about MacDill and living in Tampa?

DeThomas: Ecstatic! My family and I are



Col. Scott DeThomas

extremely excited by the chance to live on such a beautiful base with an incredible mission and Airmen, and a fantastic community, all striving to make the team better — a perfect storm for mission success.



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 email macdillwingcommander@us.af.mil



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MacDill Thunderbolt

Publisher: Terry Jamerson
Editor: Nick Stubbs

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'There I was...'

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Meet the JCSE commander

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New Airmen welcomed

RNC convention readiness information coming

The upcoming Republican National Convention will impact Team MacDill members in a variety of ways, including traffic rerouting that will affect travel times to and from MacDill. There also are important responsibilities related to service members and political activity.

The *Thunderbolt* will be publishing relevant information for all Team MacDill members beginning Aug. 9 and leading up to the convention, which will be held in Tampa Aug. 27-30.

Watson takes command of the JCSE

by Whitney Williams

Joint Communications Support Element

On July 27 U.S. Marine Corps Col. Stephen Corcoran relinquished command of the Joint Communications Support Element to U.S. Army Col. Kirby Watson in a ceremony at JCSE headquarters, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Corcoran was the first U.S. Marine Corps commander in JCSE's 50-year history.

As one of the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command's three subordinate joint commands, JCSE provides rapidly deployable, en-route, early entry and scalable command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities across the full spectrum of operations in order to facilitate rapid establishment of joint force headquarters. JCSE can deploy globally within hours of notification to provide communications packages tailored to the specific needs of a full joint task force headquarters and to a joint special operations task force.

U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Scott A. Stearney, the commander of the JECC and the presiding officer at the ceremony, spoke of JCSE's many accomplishments the past three years under Corcoran's superb leadership.



U.S. Army Col. Kirby Watson assumes command of the Joint Communications Support Element at MacDill, July 27.

"By all measures the last three years have been as successful as any period in the last 50 years," Stearney stated. "The reason for this

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Resiliency Region

Our teen daughter is starting to date

DEAR WING MA'AM: Our teen daughter is starting to date. Although I absolutely dreaded the idea of her dating, the day has come and I want to make sure I am preparing her and myself for this new stage in her life. ~ Colonel Daddy Dearest

DEAR COLONEL DADDY

DEAREST: Teen dating can be tough and not just for teens.

Relationships in early adulthood give teens great practice that will help them develop healthy partnerships in the future. Modeling healthy



communication with your daughter will teach her how to express how she is feeling, disagree considerably, and speak her mind freely.

Let your daughter know she has every right to expect to be treated with respect, fairness and equality. In a healthy relationship, each partner keeps their own identity, has their own interests and friends. Additionally, your daughter and her future boyfriend should be able to trust each other.

Showing trust does not include invading her privacy, getting angry about her other friendships and acquaintances or stalking. Her boyfriend should never encourage her to stop doing things or seeing people she cares about.

Dating will help your teen build the skills, self-esteem and confidence to find and maintain strong relationships in their adulthood. Don't forget you can model a "healthy relationship" by demonstrating loving behaviors to your spouse.

Dear Wing Ma'am is written by Capt. Christy Cruz, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Wing Ma'am works as the Resiliency Program manager and clinical therapist at MacDill

AFB. If you want to ask Wing Ma'am for advice, please send your questions to 6MDOS.sgoh@us.af.mil. Letters are kept anonymous. Rights are reserved to edit published letters for

style and length. Not every question can be answered. This column seeks to educate readers and should not be used as a substitute for seeking professional assistance.



'There I Was...' Experiences in Tigerland

by Capt. Daniel Morris
6th Logistics Readiness Squadron

There I was... driving a Humvee through the swamps of Louisiana in the middle of the night using nothing but night vision goggles to navigate the rough terrain.

It was quite an interesting experience. In fact, every day in Tigerland was interesting. In preparation for my deployment to Afghanistan, I was sent to Combat Advisor training on Fort Polk, Louisiana, affectionately referred to as Tigerland since soldiers began training there in preparation for the war in Vietnam. The training lasted almost three months and made all the difference in preparing me for my deployment.

When the training began in August, I wasn't sure what to expect and didn't know anyone else attending the training. It didn't take long before our class began bonding and getting to know each other. Each day presented a new set of challenges and we had to work together in order to get the most out of the training. Through the weeks our class learned several valuable skills to take us through each of our unique deployments to Afghanistan. We started with more than 40 hours of Dari language training. Next we received an in-depth Combat Life Saver course. Each person walked away CLS certified. We also learned about Afghan cultures and religious beliefs became familiar with the programming and operation of each radio used in the area of responsibility, and the operation and maintenance of each vehicle and weapon system

we may encounter while deployed.

Finally, and perhaps the most useful part of the training, was the intensive mounted combat patrol course. This combined several of our previous lessons and equipped each of us to fill the various roles associated with convoy missions, including being a truck commander and convoy commander.

Each section of the training was taught by the soldiers assigned to the 162nd Infantry Brigade. Most of the instructors were veterans of several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. It didn't take long for our class to figure out the invaluable knowledge and the experience of these soldiers was perhaps the best sources of knowledge in preparing for our deployments. The instructors were there to help each and every day and most weekends. They put in just as many hours as the students and really wanted each of us to absorb the lessons being taught.

The best part of the training wasn't the knowledge we received, though. The best part of the training was the networking each of us did with our fellow Airmen. Our class was composed of almost 80 percent Air Force personnel (including two outstanding Airmen from our own 6th Communications Squadron) and these Airmen were some of the best I've ever had the privilege of working with. Everyone was professional. Everyone was motivated. Everyone took the training seriously. Each one of us worked together each and every day to maximize our time in training. We all knew that this was the time to make any mistakes, not on the battlefield.

Once we graduated, we all went to different assignments all over Afghanistan. When we finally arrived in Afghanistan we all knew we could count on our Airmen brothers and sisters for anything we needed, anytime. It was this invaluable networking tool that really was the



Courtesy photo

Capt. Daniel Morris (left) with fellow service members during his deployment to Afghanistan.

most beneficial part of the training.

I saw my classmates everywhere while deployed, and even worked with a few of them on a daily basis. On top of that, the bonds I formed with the other logistics readiness officers proved to be most beneficial relationships I made while deployed. There were only four of us and we were all deployed to different locations throughout the AOR, however, we were in constant contact with one another. Whether we were discussing the Afghan Decrees, sharing our experiences as advisors, or calling to ask for advice on how to tackle the several logistical challenges associated with the Afghan theater, they proved to be the most valuable bonds formed during the 79 days of training at Fort Polk.

In conclusion, even though my time in Tigerland was long and sometimes difficult, I wouldn't change the training I received when I was there. The bonds each of us form when training to deploy will last your entire deployment and you never know when you will run into someone you already know.

Meet the new JCSE commander

U.S. Army Col. Kirby Watson assumed command of the Joint Communications Support Element, July 27. He took time to introduce himself and answered a few questions from the Thunderbolt.

Thunderbolt: What do you expect of the service members under your command?

Watson: I expect the service members of JCSE to continue to do exactly what they are doing today,

provide world class communications support to our customers anytime and anyplace we are called to serve.

Thunderbolt: Who are your favorite leaders and role models and why?

Watson: I am a fan of President Abraham Lincoln. He lead our country through one its toughest challenges in our history, and he did it as a caring, humble leader.

I worked for President George W. Bush, whom I have a lot of respect for as well. He also lead through a challenging time for our country and did it with one of the strongest sense of service that I have ever seen. These are traits we can emulate and adopt as we grow as leaders.

Thunderbolt: What does it mean to you to be a new commander?

Watson: The opportunity to
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U.S. Army Col. Kirby Watson

Team MacDill welcomes new Airmen

The following first term Airmen arrived at MacDill directly from technical school, becoming the newest addition to Team MacDill.

6th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

- ◆ Airman Basic Aston Hemley, Newark, N.J.
- ◆ Airman 1st Class Travis Masker, Port Jervis, N.Y.
- ◆ Airman 1st Class Robert Oliver, Summer Ville, S.C.
- ◆ Airman 1st Class Stephen Rodgers, Warren, Ore.
- ◆ Airman 1st Class Trenton Scalf, San Diego, Calif.
- ◆ Airman 1st Class Nathaniel Whitley, Stockton, Calif.

6th Communications Squadron

- ◆ Airman 1st Class Derek Daniels, Helena, Mt.
- ◆ Airman 1st Class Joshua Han-

son, Burnsville, Min.

- ◆ Airman 1st Class Monty Musquiz, Plainview, Texas
- ◆ Airman Xiong Yang, Eureka, Calif.

6th Force Support Squadron

- ◆ Airman 1st Class Maycoll Hurtado Zamora, Wesley Chapel, Fla.

6th Maintenance Squadron

- ◆ Airman 1st Class Andrea Colbert, Columbus, Ga.

6th Medical Operations Squadron

- ◆ Airman 1st Class Gerald Brinson, Jacksonville, Fla.
- ◆ Airman 1st Class Brittney Reiland, North Pole, Alaska

91st Aerial Refueling Squadron

- Airman 1st Class Darhon Hambrick, Hermitage, Tenn.

MEET

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serve as a commander at any level is a great honor as well as a great responsibility. Citizens have given us care of the things that mean the absolute most to them, their sons, daughters, mothers and fathers. It is hard to over-emphasize the privilege it is to command the great service members of our country.

Thunderbolt: When you hold your first commander's call what is the first thing you are going to tell your troops?

Watson: The first thing I will tell them is I am very proud of what they and their families have done for JCSE, their services and their country. I am proud to have the opportunity serve beside them once again.

Thunderbolt: What are your thoughts about MacDill and living in Tampa?

Watson: MacDill AFB and Tampa, Fla., are great places to raise a family. My family started day one by meeting the great people of Florida in our neighborhood, at the family YMCA and our local church. We are excited to be members of this wonderful community.

Thunderbolt: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Watson: wife, Amy, and I are thrilled to be part of the MacDill community. We look forward to the opportunity to meet and work with our fellow family members on base and in the Tampa area.

JCSE

From Page 3

success is the culture that's reinforced by all echelons of leadership within (the Joint Communications Support Element)."

Stearney went on to explain some of JCSE's most notable achievements including a large role supporting the drawdown of forces from Iraq following the completion of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. JCSE members were some of the first boots on the ground following the initial flow of U.S. forces to Iraq in 2003 and maintained a constant presence in the country for the next eight years.

Corcoran, who will retire following his tour at JCSE, took a few moments to thank his fellow team members for the generous support he received while leading JCSE.

"To the [Joint Communications Support Element], I have nothing but sincere gratitude for your focus and professionalism," Corcoran said. "You have given me every muscle fiber and every brain cell in the task that never ends the preparation for the chaotic and the unknown."

Watson joins JCSE from the U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence where he served as the director of Concepts, Requirements and Doctrine Division.

Watson graduated from Lycoming College in 1988 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He has commanded the White House Communication Agencies' Special Missions Command, the 56th Signal Battalion, which operates in South and Central America in support of U.S. Army South, and was assigned as the deputy brigade commander of the 21st Signal Brigade.

Watson holds master's degrees in Organizational Management and Strategic Studies from the University of Phoenix and has attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College as well as the U.S. Army War College.

His personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Joint Commendation Medal and the Army Commendation Medal, among others.

6th AMW Chan



Photo by Airman 1st Class Shandresha Mitchell

Lt. Gen. Mark Ramsay, 18th Air Force commander, passes the 6th Air Mobility Wing guidon to Col. Scott DeThomas during a change of command ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, July 27.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Melanie Bulow-Kelly

MacDill Air Force Base Honor Guard march during the 6th Air Mobility Wing change of command at MacDill, July 27. Col. Scott DeThomas is the new 6th AMW commander.



Lt. Gen. Mark Ramsay, 18th Air Force commander, passes the 6th Air Mobility Wing guidon to Col. Scott DeThomas during the 6th AMW Change of Command ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, July 27, during the 6th AMW Change of Command ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, July 27.

Change of Command



Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz

Col. Scott DeThomas, July 27, 2017, passing the 6th Air Mobility Wing guidon to Col. Scott DeThomas, July 27, 2017, at MacDill Air Force Base. The passing of the guidon symbolizes the changing of command.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Shandresha Mitchell

Leadership and members of Team MacDill render a salute during the 6th Air Mobility Wing change of command ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, July 27. More than 700 people attended the 6th AMW change of command.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz

Airmen and distinguished guests of MacDill Air Force Base gather in Hanger 3 for the 6th Air Mobility Wing change of command, July 27.

MILITARY JUSTICE



2nd Quarter Disciplinary Actions (Part 1 of 2)

From the 6th Air Mobility Wing Legal Office

During the last quarter, the MacDill Legal Office, 6th Air Mobility Wing judge advocate, conducted a Summary Court-Martial, processed 24 nonjudicial punishment actions under Article 15, Uniformed Code of Military Justice, and processed 11 discharges. These disciplinary actions involved service members in the 6th Air Mobility Wing and associated units at MacDill Air Force Base. Offenses included wrongful sexual contact, assault, driving under the influence, false official statements and failure to go, failure to obey a lawful order, disorderly conduct and discredit to service, dereliction of duty, drug abuse, and minor disciplinary infractions.

Summary Court-Martial

◆ An airman first class from the 6th Maintenance Squadron was found guilty by Summary Court-Martial of two counts of wrongful sexual contact. The Airman was sentenced to a reduction in grade to airman basic, 30 days confinement and was discharged.

Article 15s for Assault

◆ A technical sergeant from the 6th Contracting Squadron received an Article 15 for assaulting an airman first class by striking the Airman in the chest with broken glass and by striking the Airman's body with a belt. The technical sergeant also contacted the Airman in direct violation of a no-contact order. The technical sergeant's punishment consisted of a reduction to staff sergeant, forfeiture of \$1,497.00 pay, 45 days of extra duty, and a reprimand.

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JUSTICE

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◆ A senior airman from the 6th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for assaulting an individual by pushing the individual into a car door and squeezing the individual's hand. The senior airman's punishment consisted of a reduction to airman basic.

Article 15s for Driving Under the Influence

◆ A senior airman from the 6th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for driving under the influence of alcohol and reckless driving. The senior airman's punishment consisted of a reduction to airman basic, a reprimand and a discharge.

◆ A senior airman from the 6th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for driving under the influence of alcohol, being drunk on duty, and failure to deploy with the Airman's unit. The senior airman's punishment consisted of a reduction to airman basic, restriction to MacDill Air Force Base for 23 days, 22 days of extra duty, a reprimand, and a discharge.

◆ An airman first class from the 6th Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for drinking and driving. The Airman's punishment consisted of a reduction to airman basic, restriction to MacDill Air Force Base for 14 days, 14 days of extra duty, and a reprimand.

◆ An airman first class from the 6th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for failing to show up to work, driving under the influence of alcohol, and being drunk while on duty. The Airman's punishment consisted of a reduction to airman basic, a reprimand and a discharge.



EVENTS

Friday

Surf's Edge Club

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

Arts & Crafts Center

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

Surf's Edge Club

Friday Bash/AMC ICON Competition

Come out and cheer on the contestants and meet the celebrity judges. Happy hour starts at 4 p.m. Competition 5 p.m.

Friday Bash! 3-7 p.m. Bar snacks and drink specials! Guaranteed \$100 club card drawing. (Bar Bingo returns next week)

Saturday

Scrap Party

From 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cost: \$5. Join us for this special day of fun and festivities! Bring your scrapbooking supplies and photos and scrap to your heart's content! Soda and snacks will be on hand! Please register in advance so we can plan accordingly. All attendees will have their names put into a special door prize drawing valued up to \$25!

Tuesday-Friday

Base Pool

Open for Recreational Swimming from 2-6 p.m.

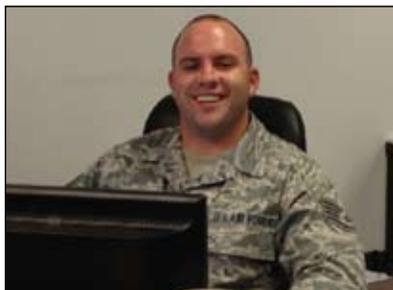
Tuesday

Airman & Family Readiness Center (Brandon)

Summer Fun for Kids (7-12yrs old) – Bullying project focuses on methods of dealing with a bully. Bring a snack and drink for each child. Call 655-9281 for more info.

DIAMOND SHARP

Staff Sgt. Matthew Dowden 6th Maintenance Squadron



Job Title: Program manager

Hometown: Anacoco, La.

Short-term goals: I'm getting married Sept. 29 and trying to lose enough weight to look good in my tuxedo. Also, I am striving to raise \$10,000 for our booster club by the year's end.

Long-term goals: My goal is to finish my bachelor's in business management, retire as a chief master sergeant, and raise a family.

Advice to others: Always ask the question. The worst someone can say is no.

Role model and why: Retired Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Desilet, he epitomized the way every leader should "take care of your people." As long as you were honest with him, he would break his back for you.

HONOR GUARD SPOTLIGHT

Airman 1st Class Dustin Tatem 6th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



Job Title: Crew chief

Why did you join the honor guard? It is an opportunity to honor the lives of other service members and help provide closure to their families. It is also a chance to show their families the appreciation we have for their sacrifice.

What special memories have you had in the honor guard? I will always remember the friends I have made here. We have some truly great people. During a detail, when it comes time to present the flag to the next of kin, you can see the genuine appreciation they have for you being there honoring their loved one; it's a very rewarding feeling.

Advice to others: When an opportunity to join honor guard comes, take it. It really is quite rewarding. Take every detail seriously. You are honoring those who served before you; all these people had different lives, families who loved them, each person is their own story and you are privileged to be with their families to honor them.



CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Protestant services

Sunday - 11 a.m. - Contemporary Service

Islamic services

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

Catholic services

Saturday - 5:30 p.m. - Mass

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Mass



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

