

# THUNDERBOLT

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BASHing aircraft threats



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AIRMEN MISSION COMMUNITY TEAMMATES

## BASHing safety hazards - page 10

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandon Shapiro

Lindsey Garven, ecologist and 6th Air Mobility Wing Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard manager, surveys MacDill's flightline for environment activity with her assistant Tango, a wildlife-chasing border collie, at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 5. Garven and Tango are entrusted with ensuring the area on and around MacDill's runways are free and clear of wildlife.

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# COMMANDER'S CORNER



## Take a stand!

by Col. Rob Rocco  
6th Medical Group commander

Every day, I pick up a newspaper or see an account of an American being celebrated for taking a stand. For some, the stand was for faith, for others, against injustice. For some, the stand was to defend freedom, for others to defend rights—even when the defense of those rights was not always clear to all segments of our society. I admire fellow leaders who took stands in support of doing what was right—even at the potential loss of their careers—especially when doing nothing or protecting the status quo was easiest.

Lately, I have come to respect a new group of people who are taking a stand. On the surface, there isn't anything particularly special about them. Some are my age, some my daughter's age and some, like my son, are getting close to a time when taking this

stand can mean the difference between life and death. These people who are taking a stand, are not all men or all women, not tall or short, maybe spiritual or maybe not. What they are, is a group of fellow citizens—Airmen or otherwise—who have taken a firm stand against misusing alcohol!

For the past year, hardly a week has gone by without a teammate on base or off earning a DUI. Each one triggers a painful chain of events, embarrasses a person and demoralizes a unit! And each reminds me of why I chose to take a stand.

Many years ago, a few days before I left for the Air Force, a close friend—returning from my going away party—got a DUI on a stretch of road that only seconds before I too was driving on. As I prepared to leave for my future, his parents were bailing him out of jail and while we've remained close to this day (and he has recovered) I've often wondered how my life would have turned out if I was the one arrested.

First, my Air Force career—

something I'd dreamed about since I was 7 years old—would have been over before it even started. Who wants a drunk officer anyway? I had an undergraduate teaching degree, but that would have meant nothing—who would hire a teacher with a DUI conviction? How would I have looked my parents in the eye and asked them to let me stay in my old room (in a house they had planned to sell). At the time, I was single—would a girl have given me the time of day if she knew I was DUI unemployable? How could I explain to her the selfishness of driving impaired and how my indiscretion put so many others on the road that night in danger? Worst of all, how would I feel today if I had caused an accident that injured or killed someone? What would it have felt like to be charged with manslaughter because I was too lazy to call for a cab, take the train, or toss the keys to one of my buddies—one of my buddies who didn't drink that night.

Financially, I was lucky that



Col. Rob Rocco

night. My Buddy though—the one who got the DUI—shared with me what happened to him. For the next 15 years, he estimated that the DUI cost him more than \$50,000. Not just increased car insurance expenses, but also lost employment opportunities from companies who simply wouldn't hire people with a DUI conviction. Fortunately, he

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Visit the official MacDill website at [www.macdill.af.mil](http://www.macdill.af.mil)



### 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).

### MacDill on the web



Website: [www.macdill.af.mil](http://www.macdill.af.mil)



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MacDillAirForceBase](http://www.facebook.com/MacDillAirForceBase)

### MacDill Thunderbolt

Publisher: Bill Barker  
Editor: Nick Stubbs

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Deadline for article submissions is noon, Wednesdays to appear in the next week's publication. Articles received after deadline may be considered for future use. All submissions are considered for publication based on news value and timeliness.

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



**Critical Days of Summer**  
May 24 to Sept. 3

## Storm safety facts

- ◆ At any given moment on earth, there are more than 1,800 thunderstorms.
- ◆ Thunderstorms always cause lightning and sometimes lightning will even strike miles ahead of the main storm.
- ◆ The strongest type of thunderstorm is the super-cell thunderstorm.
- ◆ The United States gets on average about 100,000 thunderstorms a year, mostly in the mid-western and southern states. (Florida is number one).
- ◆ Most of the time, straight-line winds from thunderstorms are responsible for damage during a storm (winds more than 100 mph)
- ◆ Large hail causes more than \$1 billion in weather damage to structures and crops across the United States annually.
- ◆ Lightning is the most dangerous part of the storm.

## Women's Equality Day

by Tech. Sgt. Dawan Woods  
6th Air Mobility Wing Equal Opportunity

Every year on Aug. 26, Americans celebrate Women's Equality Day.

Instituted by Rep. Bella Abzug and established in 1971, the date commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave American women full voting rights in 1920. This year, as we celebrate this major milestone in American history, let us not forget the struggles and sacrifices made by so many before us to make equality for women a reality in this country.

In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton began the 72-year battle for the 19th Amendment when she first presented the notion for women's right to vote at the Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y. She presented a Declaration of Sentiments, which

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## GSL: Patient safety just got safer



**Marquesa Moore, volunteer technician with the 6th Medical Support Squadron pharmacy, retrieves a patient's medication from an illuminated bin in the Global Script Locator at the 6th Medical Group on MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 19.**

story and photo by Senior Airman Michael Ellis  
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

"You can't put a price on safety," said Maj. Crystal Price, 6th Medical Support Squadron officer in charge of pharmacy operations.

The GSL system (installed at MacDill in April 2013) uses radio frequency technology to track individual bins that correspond to only one patient's prescriptions. Tech. Sgt. Michael Barton, 6th MDSS NCO in charge of pharmacy support, explained how, due to GSL, one employee can process 600 scripts in 15 minutes, saving several man hours a day.

"With the previous antiquated "brown bagging" procedures, mental fatigue was common, as technicians would visually and physically scan rows with hundreds of bagged prescriptions sorted by patients' last name and last few digits of their social security number," said Barton.

As a staff member scans a patient's identification card, a shelf within the GSL lights up indicating the location of the prescriptions. Staff members have unique micro-chipped badges that must be swiped in order to retrieve the illuminated bin containing a patient's prescriptions.

If someone attempts to access the GSL system without a special access badge, an alarm will sound. In addition, if a technician possess-

ing a badge opens a wrong drawer or removes the wrong bin that does not coordinate with the scanned patient's identification card, an alarm will also sound.

A software program can track prescriptions from the time they're generated, filled, stored, retrieved and signed for by a customer.

In addition to diminishing errors and an integrated automated tracking system, the GSL has "reduced prescription storage floor space from about 60 to 20 square feet," said Barton, also noting how workload capacity has simultaneously increased.

Outside agencies, such as the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, have recognized the success of the GSL system at the clinic. In the future, the pharmacy operating procedures may become the benchmark Air Force-wide.

Considering the 6th Medical Group processes an average of 634,000 prescriptions annually (in the Department of Defense's largest single-unit catchment area), safeguarding patient safety remains at the forefront of everything done to assist pharmacy technicians at MacDill.

The Global Script Locator system has already more than made up for its incurred cost by increasing efficiency and reducing patient hand-out errors (rated the most frequent operator error in pharmacy services). Ultimately, this innovation has increased patient safety.

# WEEK IN PHOTOS



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ned Johnston

Nineteen technical and master sergeants listen to a brief during a three-day First Sergeant Symposium Aug. 14, at MacDill Air Force Base. Attendees were taught the responsibilities and situations to expect while being a first sergeant.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tori Schultz

Army Col. Laroy Peyton, commander of Defense Information Systems Agency, passes the unit flag to Army Master Sgt. David Fleming, his senior enlisted leader, during the change of command ceremony, presided over by Larry Huffman, operations principal director of DISA, at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 16. The passing of the flag marks the beginning of Peyton's tour and the end of Army Col. Aubrey Wood III's tour as commander of DISA.



Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

Staff Sgt. Lynette Brandt, 6th Medical Operations Squadron aerospace medical technician, simulates providing oxygen to a mannequin during the Emergency Management Technician Refresher Course at MacDill, Aug. 15.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tori Schultz

Susan Haley, 6th Aerospace Medical Squadron health and wellness dietitian, demonstrates a clogged artery model to Airman 1st Class Kayla Gonzalez, 6th Force Support Squadron, at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 15.



## WOMEN

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From Page 3

was modeled after the Declaration of Independence and addressed issues that “troubled” women.

Women wanted the right to own property, to keep their own wages, to divorce, to gain custody of their children, to attend college, to vote, and to serve in the professions of theology, medicine and law. Of the issues presented, women’s suffrage was the most controversial. For 30 years, activists like Stanton fought without success to reconstruct the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to allow women the right to vote. In 1878, Stanton and Susan B. Anthony drafted the 19th Amendment and presented it to the U.S. Senate. The amendment stayed in the Senate for nine years and was rejected by a vote of 34 - 16 in 1887. Despite the decision, activists continued to fight for the cause.

Over the years, several organizations were founded to continue the push for women’s equality. In 1890, the National American Woman Suffrage Association was created. In 1913, the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage was founded, though the name was later changed to the National Woman’s Party. Members of the NWP were the first group of women to picket in front of the White House for women’s rights. In November 1917, picketers were arrested. Here is an excerpt of what these brave women endured while in prison:

“The women were innocent and defenseless... and by the end of the night, they were barely alive. Forty prison guards wielding clubs and their warden’s blessing went on a rampage against the 33 women wrongly convicted of ‘obstructing sidewalk traffic.

“They beat Lucy Burn, chained her hands to the cell bars above her head and left her hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air. They hurled Dora Lewis into a dark cell, smashed her head against an iron bed and knocked her out cold. Her cellmate, Alice Cosu, thought Lewis was dead and suffered a heart attack.

“Additional affidavits describe the guards grabbing, dragging, beating, choking, slamming, pinching, twisting and kicking the women. Thus unfolded the “Night of Terror” on Nov. 15, 1917, when the warden at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia ordered his guards to teach a lesson to the suffragists imprisoned there because they dared to picket Woodrow Wilson’s White House for the right to vote. For weeks, the women’s only water came from an open pail. Their food—all of it colorless slop—was infested with

## **Dorm leaders needed**

The 6th Air Mobility Wing is looking for an exceptional master sergeant and one staff sergeant to fill positions as Airman Dormitory Leaders. This is a two-year controlled tour with an option for a one-year extension in the 8H000 career field.

Applicants must possess the highest leadership and mentorship qualities, have a minimum of one year experience as a supervisor, a current passing score for the Air Force Fitness Program, and not on a duty limiting profile.

Applicants must submit a volunteer statement, route their application packages through their chain of command for a commander's release statement, supply copies of the last five Enlisted Performance Reports, a single-page SURF, and an AFPT score sheet. Applicants must have scored at least 47 (General) on the ASVAB.

Personnel applying for these positions must not be in a critically manned AFSC and must be releasable for duty by their AFPC Functional Manager. Submit applications to the 6th Civil Engineer Squadron, unaccompanied housing manager. The deadline to apply is Aug. 29. Please contact Chris LeCompte, 6th Civil Engineer Squadron, at 828-5962 or Richard Lee at 828-4674 for more info.

# DIAMOND SHARP

## Airman 1st Class Derek Finster 6th Dental Squadron



**Job Title:** Dental assistant journeyman

**Hometown:** Carbondale, Ill.

**Short-term goals:** Earn my certification for dental assisting

**Long-term goals:** To be accepted to dental school

**Advice to others:** Ask questions; seek to be more knowledgeable.

**Role model and why:** Other successful Airmen; they give me something to strive for.

**Why did you join the Air Force?:** To become third generation Air Force

## WOMEN

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worms. When one of the leaders, Alice Paul, embarked on a hunger strike, they tied her to a chair, forced a tube down her throat and poured liquid into her until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks until word was smuggled out to the press.”

This year, as we reflect on the accomplishments made by the pioneers of women’s equality, we must also remember the sacrifices and pain they endured in the pursuit of full equality. Women’s rights activists refused to take no for an answer. Let us use the bravery and experiences exhibited by these pioneers of women’s rights to expand our vision of social justice and equality for all. Whether male or female, get out and vote. Use this right, which courageous women fought so hard to achieve. The right was not given freely; women earned their constitutional right, though blood, sweat, and tears.





# Aircraft and wildlife: MacDill E

story and photos by Staff Sgt. Brandon Shapiro  
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

**H**ow does one woman, her dog, and a few environmental tricks-of-the-trade save lives and millions of dollars, all while ensuring the safety of MacDill Air Force Base's missions of air refueling and distinguished visitor transportation?

Strategically and uniquely through the Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard management program.

The objectives of the BASH program are straightforward: keep the airfield free and clear of wildlife so that launching and landing aircraft avoid potential wildlife strikes, and establish flight safety levels for pilots by gathering environmental field information.

Entrusted with this vital mission are teammates Lindsey Garven, ecologist and 6th Air Mobility Wing BASH wildlife manager, and her furry assistant Tango, a red and white border collie.

Though the year-round wildlife maintenance program can become tedious at times, it remains a critical piece of base safety.

Lindsey Garven, ecologist and 6th Air Mobility Wing Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard manager, documents wildlife findings from her rounds at MacDill Air Force Base.



Garven and her assistant Tango, a wildlife-chasing border collie, rest in front of one of the many KC-135 Stratotankers they protect, at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 5. Garven and Tango are entrusted with ensuring the area on and around MacDill's runways are free and clear of wildlife.



Garven and Tango survey one of MacDill's tidal creeks for wildlife that could pose a possible threat to base aircraft.



Garven, fires an explosive pyrotechnic round at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 5. Garven uses the pyrotechnics as a method of scaring wildlife and displacing them from MacDill's airfield.



# BASH works to ensure the twain shall never meet

Being that nearly one-third of MacDill's 5,700 acres are uninhabited and surrounded by water, it's prime habitat for dozens of Florida's native and migratory forms of wildlife," said Garven.

This fact is easily understood when one takes a few moments to look around MacDill's runways, which are commonly frequented by coyotes, badillos, raccoons, vultures, and gulls.

Finding ways to keep the wildlife "unhappy and uncomfortable" in these areas is ever-changing, as are the resourceful methods used to accomplish this mission.

From pyrotechnics and bird-chasing dogs to remote-controlled air-rafts and high-speed pursuits, MacDill's BASH wildlife management program uses a set of well-versed tactics to actively harass nuisances away from the runways and active taxiways.

"Without continual, persistent wildlife management on and around the airfield, the safety of our aircraft and flight crews are at risk," noted Garven.

"Although it may seem that a 1- to 2-pound bird could never hurt a massive, 250,000-plus-pound KC-135 Stratotanker, that's far from real-

ity. Just two months ago during routine touch-n-goes, officials attributed the downing of an F-16 fighter jet at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., to a bird-strike.

Such incidences resonate in the minds of BASH personnel, especially as the seasons change and new weather patterns emerge. Garven understands these seasonal changes and readies herself for the influx of predetermined bird and wildlife movements.

"The two main periods of concern are May-July and November-December," said Garven. "May-July brings the largest concentration of bird movement, while November-December brings the largest and most dangerous type of bird to the base – the vulture."

Fortunately, over the past four years and through the use of their compiled wildlife trends, the BASH program has been able to strategically reduce the number of bird condition threat levels.

"No matter what type of wildlife occurrence it is, the result can be tragic," commented Garven. "There is no way to completely eradicate the problem, but currently the threat conditions are down and that is exactly what we are looking for."



# NEWS/FEATURES

## Casting a family's memories in silver

by Airman 1st Class Sarah Breer  
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

It all started with a post to an online forum. He wanted others with an interest in silver to see what he had made.

Staff Sgt. James Ebbs, 6th Communications Squadron network infrastructure supervisor, posted photos of his latest creations about six months ago. He had just taken on a new hobby, silver casting.

Casting involves using molds, clay and sand to make a hollow copy of an object. The copy is then filled with molten silver and allowed to cool. Once it is cooled, the object has to be sanded and buffed to clean it and clear up any imperfections.

"I got into it because it's quiet and I don't have to rely on assistance from others," said Ebbs. "I enjoy it because it is forgiving – if I mess up casting something, I can melt it down and try again. I like to take on new challenges and items to cast."

He got a lot of positive feedback on the items he made, but none as positive, or life-changing, as what he got from a family in the Midwest.

"A couple saw a large bear claw that I had cast and asked me if I could make a matching set for them," said Ebbs. "What set this apart from any other request I've received in the past is that they wanted the claws to contain a portion of their child's ashes."

Their son was only 7 when he died in a tragic accident. Bears were his favorite animal.

Occasionally others asked him to cast specific items, such as a shark's tooth or a piece of carved jade. He had never been asked to do something so important as the set of bear claws.

"The request caught me by surprise, and for a while I wasn't sure if this was a challenge I was willing to accept," said Ebbs. "I told the couple that satisfying their request would require me to use techniques that I had to teach myself before I could take on this project."

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Sarah Breer

**Staff Sgt. James Ebbs works in his shop on a silver casting of his own design.**



## CORNER

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From Page 2

became a rather successful business man and almost put this behind him when one evening, he and his then teenage son had a very painful talk about the impact alcohol could have on a budding career. "Roc," he said, "I have never been more embarrassed than the night I sat at the kitchen table and explained to my son, that dad once got a DUI."

Still, he got off easy. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, every 15 minutes in this country, someone is killed or paralyzed because someone else didn't get the message: Alcohol plus Motor Vehicle plus stupidity equals nightmare!

For 26 years now, American leaders have told me that we are the very best, and the very brightest. Teammates, start proving it! Have the guts to do what is right. Have the guts to finally stop kidding yourself that no matter how much or how little you drink that getting behind the wheel is never, ever the answer. Have the guts to wait at least 12 hours and if you drank more than two drinks, wait a few more hours before you even think of driving! Have the courage to stop blaming the job, your spouse, your stress, your children, your parents, your boss or other factors in your life on why YOU elected to break the law and drive impaired. Yes, our business is a challenging one. But alcohol excess, a depressant I remind you, is simply not the answer.

The answer is simple: Please have the guts to take a stand against the misuse of alcohol; a stand against driving impaired; a stand against stupidity and a stand to do what is right! If we all take a stand, together, we can finally lick the DUI problem and focus on our jobs, our families, our futures and our lives!







# MACDILL COMMUNITY



## EVENTS

### Friday

#### SeaScapes Beach House

Friday Bash is from 4-8 p.m. Bar snacks and drink specials! Guaranteed \$100 club card drawing, Bar Bingo - \$1,000 jackpot and DJ!

Family Fun Night starts at 5 p.m. Food and drink specials! \$2 & under menu items for kids! Kid's activities! Free ice cream sundae bar (peanut free) with all meals!

### Saturday

#### Airman & Family Readiness Center

Deployed Family Event Scrapbooking; the monthly deployed family social will be a scrapbooking party at the Airman & Family Readiness Center, Building 18 from 12-2 p.m. This will be a great time to catalog summer memories in a fun and creative way. Bring any photos you'd like to include in your project. An assortment of craft supplies will be provided, in addition to light refreshments. RSVP is required by Aug. 23, 4 p.m. Call (813) 828-0145 or (813) 655-9281 to register.

#### SeaScapes Beach House

Steak & Date Night from 4-9 p.m. Creole seasoned or blackened rib eye with garlic roasted potatoes, fresh vegetable du jour and crispy french bread and butter \$15.95.

### Tuesday

#### MacDill Lanes & Family Fun Center

Brown Bag Lunch & Bowl from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bring your lunch and bowl for \$1.50 per game. Grab a to-go lunch at the DFAC right across the street. Single Airman Bowl free. Call 828-4005 for lane availability.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tori Schultz

## Grand tour

Col. Andre Briere, 6th Air Mobility Wing vice commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Mazzone, 6th AMW command chief, greet Congresswoman Kathy Castor, United States Representative, 14th District of Florida, at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 9. Castor went on a tour of the base and visited different agencies affected by furlough.



**EXCHANGE**  
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE



## CHAPEL SCHEDULE

### Protestant service

Sunday - 11 a.m. - Contemporary Service

### Islamic service

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

### Catholic services

Saturday - 5:30 p.m. - Mass

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Mass

Monday-Wednesday - 12:10 p.m. Mass



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



## SILVER

From Page 12

Ebbs taught himself what he needed to know. Carefully, over a few weeks' time, he crafted the claws.

"I was being asked to make something to protect a portion of the ashes of their child...I had to get it done perfectly the first time," said Ebbs. "There was no melting a mistake down and starting over."

He took the time to make sure the claws were perfect before putting the child's ashes into them. After nearly two weeks Ebbs carefully placed the child's ashes inside of the casted claw.

"I was a bit uncomfortable handling the ashes, but I knew the parents' desire to honor their son was stronger," said Ebbs.

Once the ashes were inside of the claws, he sealed them in with a bit of copper.

He finished the claws by sanding them down little by little, until they shined. Each claw weighs about 5.25 ounces. After a few weeks of work, he sent the claws to the family.

The mother and father of the child were overwhelmed when they received the claws.

"The contrast between the silver and the copper gives a great visual reference to exactly where the ashes are," said the father of the child.

Finished with the project, and ready for more, Ebbs felt moved by the special project he had just completed for the grieving parents.

"Seeing a hobby play even a minor role in bringing closure to a family tragedy is exceptionally humbling," said Ebbs of his experience.

Currently Ebbs has many projects on the horizon, with a combined weight of approximately a pound of silver to be molded.