

THUNDERBOLT

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AIRMEN



MISSION



COMMUNITY



TEAMMATES



Problem solvers at work - page 8

Photo by Airman 1st Class Tori Schultz

Staff Sgt. Joshua Osvold, 6th Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technologists, drills holes into an Improved Nose Wheel Snubber Brake at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 12. The KC-135 Stratotanker uses the snubber brake to eliminate noise and vibration when the landing gear is retracted.

COMMAND CORNER

Making time for your Airmen

by Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Mazzone
6th Air Mobility Wing command chief

Editor's note: Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Mazzone is now the 2nd Bomb Wing command chief, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

No matter how often somebody states that time goes quickly, and to make the most of the time you have, generally speaking people tend not to consider those statements with much seriousness.

I've been an Airman for almost 24 years. Yet it seems like yesterday I was standing in the airport saying goodbye to my family, on my way to Basic Military Training. My time in the Air Force has flown by like an F-22 Raptor past the Wright Flyer, and today I find myself wondering "Where did it all go?" I mention this so you'll understand why I chose this topic for my last article in the *Thunderbolt*; make the best of the time you have!

Too often we look back at an event or situation and wish for more time. It's in our nature to scrutinize ourselves and figure out how we could have done things differently or better. Subsequently, we tend to make excuses about how little time we had. I wish I would have paid attention to the people who told me, "there will never be enough time, so place value in the precious amount you have." Instead, I've had to learn the hard way like a lot of others. It's imperative we remember this as we move to positions of leadership. Our Airmen are pulled in several directions—forced to wrestle with life's demands. So much is asked of them and they continually deliver solid results, but at what cost? Quite often they're sacrificing time with family and friends, or other opportunities in life, to keep up with what leaders ask of them.

It's important for leaders at all levels to take a hard look at what we have our Airmen doing. Don't do a "touch and go" and hope things will magically become better just because you showed your face in the work center. Instead, ask questions to find out what a day in the life of your Airmen is like. Allow them the opportunity, on their turf, to ex-

plain some of the things taking up their time. You may be surprised at what you hear. Aside from their daily tasks, they have numerous other requirements competing for their time, including the multitude of mobility and ancillary training events we're expected to maintain. This may be the perfect opening for you to provide some mentoring on time management and organizational skills. Or, you may learn about a "requirement" that doesn't make sense and is begging to be deleted.

Accomplishing your unit's mission will always be a priority. Leaders should provide Airmen with their expectations, enable help them to maintain their training and readiness, and still give them sufficient time to regenerate. It's our responsibility to look for "time traps" and keep our Airmen from falling victim to them. This doesn't come easy. It takes communication at all levels and ironically it also takes time. In my opinion, Airmen of all ranks are grateful for these efforts. In turn, the mission is accomplished more safely and efficiently, and our Airmen are afforded the opportunity to spend time doing the things that make them happy, while simultaneously allowing them to reset for the next task.

As you read this, I'll be signing in to my new duty station. I'll remember many things about MacDill Air Force Base, but above all I'll remember the amazing people with whom I served. Thank you for your professionalism, and for making my tour memorable. I had a great "time!"



Chief Maser Sgt. Thomas Mazzone



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. Email macdillwingcommander@us.af.mil.



MacDill on the web

Website: www.macdill.af.mil
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MacDillAirForceBase
Instagram: [macdill_afb](https://www.instagram.com/macdill_afb)
Twitter: [@macdill_afb](https://twitter.com/macdill_afb)

MacDill Thunderbolt

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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.

NEWS/FEATURES

‘There I was...’

by **Tech Sgt. Jessica Fleurimond**
6th Contracting Squadron contracting officer

On Oct. 6, 2013, I started my deployment traveling journey which took me from Tampa, Florida, to Norfolk, Virginia, and then on to Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan.

Upon arriving at Manas AB, we were bused over to the PERSCO office where we received our in-processing briefing and instructions. I spent almost 96 hours at this location awaiting my rotation to the final destination, Kabul, Afghanistan. Upon arriving at Kabul, I made contact with my unit, which was located at Camp Phoenix, roughly 10-15 minutes away from the airport. They did not have anyone readily available to pick me up, so I had to start my networking and managed to convoy over with the Office of Special Investigations team. My nerves were pretty calm up until we drove out of the ISAF compound gates and started our trek to Camp Phoenix; the Afghan people, roads, cattle, etc.,

were so surreal and I couldn't believe that I was actually there with full battle rattle on and ammo in my M-4 and M-9. Needless to say I became a nervous wreck, but kept my composure.

Upon arriving at Camp Phoenix, I was dropped off at the helicopter pad at which point I waited for my sponsor and an Army master sergeant to come and grab me. Throughout my deployment, I was assigned to the Regional Contracting Center, Capital, and my main job was as a contracting specialist for construction contracts throughout the Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, and Shindand Air Base areas. It was a joint environment, so my coworkers ranged from U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy personnel, military, civilians and contractors. We worked seven days a week, 12-hour days with Fridays and Sundays being half days. I managed 20 contracts valued at \$2 million, supported five forward operating bases and 58,000 coalition security forces. I also awarded seven facility upgrade projects valued

See 'There I was...', Page 14



Courtesy photo

Various scenes from Tech. Sgt. Jessica Fleurimond's deployment to Afghanistan, where she served as a contracting specialist for construction contracts throughout the Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, and Shindand Air Base areas.

MacDill Airmen join together to make wish come true

by **Airman 1st Class Tori Schultz**
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

As a child, some of life's mysteries are hard to explain, yet understand, but with the support of friends, family and the community, life's most burdensome problems can sometimes be set aside.

Such is the case of MacDill's most recent distinguished visitor, Molly Little, a family loving 5-year-old, who was diagnosed with a terminally inoperable condition. Molly is the daughter of Tech. Sgt. Peter Little, 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron NCO in-charge of air freight

In a collaborative effort to show support to a fellow Airman and give Molly an evening to forever remember, numerous units from around MacDill joined together to make her dreams a reality.

In order to make it as memorable as possible, the 310th Airlift Squadron contacted the Little's to find out what would make the moment unforgettable.

What did they come up with? Molly was to be a MacDill distinguished visitor, have dinner on a Disney-themed G-5 Gulfstream aircraft, have her favorite meal catered to her, and watch her favorite movie.

The 310th AS assembled a crew to make the mission a success and to ensure that their "5-star service" guarantee was upheld. They paid attention to the most minute of details. "Everything was perfect."

One of the most memorable moments for Molly was when she was served her "very first banana split." When approached, her eyes lit up and she had a big smile on her face.

As the day wrapped up there was one more surprise in store—an executive style phone call directly to the aircraft from one of her most beloved family members, her grandfather.

"Guapo," Molly excitedly yelled as she answered the phone. "Guess what I'm doing?"

At journey's end, Molly was given her very own 6th Air Mobility Wing patched flight-suit and a gracious thank you from Lt. Col. John

See **MOLLY**, Page 14



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tori Schultz

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Boots, 310th Airlift Squadron flight attendant, serves Molly Little, 5, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Peter Little, 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron NCO in-charge of air freight, her first banana split at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 1. Molly was served her favorite meal, chicken fingers and French fries, during her distinguished visit for an evening event.

WEEK IN PHOTOS



Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell



Photo by Senior Airman Vernon L. Fowler Jr.



Photo by Senior Airman Vernon L. Fowler Jr.

(Above left) Col. Daniel Tulley, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, speaks to Airman Leadership School class 14-F during their graduation ceremony at Surf's Edge Club on MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 21. (Above) Airman 1st Class Robert Ontiveros, 6th Communications Squadron zombie, awaits the runners of the Air Force Sergeant Association's Zombie Run at MacDill Air Force Base, Friday. Runners were given ribbons and required to navigate the course without losing their ribbons to the zombies. (Left) Col. Andre Briere, 6th Air Mobility Wing vice commander, and Col. Daniel Tulley, 6th AMW commander, talk to Maryellen Elia, Superintendent of Hillsborough County School District, at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 19. Elia received a one-year base access pass from the commander and visited the faculty and students of Tinker Elementary.

DIAMOND SHARP



Airman 1st Class Yenshim Watanabe 6th Contracting Squadron

Job Title: Contract specialist

Hometown: Gloucester, Mass.

Short-term goals: Develop myself to be more professional and efficient in my workplace; complete all end-of-year contract requirements with ease; improve my physical fitness capabilities (better run time)

Long-term goals: Complete my CCAF degree; complete bachelor's degree in business administration; travel the world and retire as a chief in the Air Force; become an effective, dependable leader whom people can look up to

Advice to others: "The distance between your dreams and reality is called "DISCIPLINE." Focus on your end goal, and don't let the little things get you down or pull you away from the important things in your life.



Settlement of estate

Maj. Michael Guy, 6th MXS, regrets to announce the death of Staff Sgt. John W. Taylor, formerly assigned to 6th MXS, MacDill Air Force Base. Maj. Sean Chickery has been appointed as the summary court officer to handle the disposition of personal property of Taylor. Anyone indebted to or having a claim against the estate of Taylor should contact Chickery at 827-9460 or (210) 833-2791.

A call to men- ending violence against women

by Senior Airman Melanie Bulow-Gonterman
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

With the recent topic of sexual assault being a hot button in the military, MacDill Air Force Base is taking proactive steps to encourage a culture of dignity, trust and respect.

Ted Bunch, co-founder and director of The National Association of Men and Women Committed to Ending Violence against Women, visited MacDill to speak with service members Aug. 18.

Two presentations were held, one in the morning for the 6th Air Mobility Wing and the second in the afternoon for the combatant commands.

The 90-minute presentation invited conversation, inspired concrete solutions, and practical approaches toward ending men's violence against women. Bunch touched on the socialization of men in society and the negative stigmas against women.

"A Call to Men is not intended to indict men,



Photo by Senior Airman Melanie Bulow-Gonterman

Ted Bunch, cofounder and director of The National Association of Men and Women Committed to Ending Violence against Women, interacts with an Airman during a presentation held at the base theater, MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 19.

but rather invite them to get off of the sidelines and become part of the solution," said Bunch.

KC-135 upgrade to save time, money

story and photos by Airman 1st Class Tori Schultz
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

The KC-135 Stratotanker has been a part of the Air Force aerial refueling mission for more than 50 years. It provides aerial refueling support to Air Force, Navy, Marines, and allied nation aircraft.

Airmen from the 6th Maintenance Group come to work every day to keep the KC-135 stationed at MacDill Air Force Base in the air and completing the mission. Innovation and new ideas have allowed MacDill to be a pilot base for the Improved Nose Wheel Snubber Brake.

The KC-135 uses a snubber brake system that eliminates noise and vibration when the nose landing gear is retracted.

Throughout the years, the brake arm has experienced fatigue cracks around the mounting holes due to limited surface area for stress distribution. Maintenance personnel must remove the brake arms every two years, during periodic aircraft inspection, to receive a dye penetrant inspection. The dye penetrant inspection identifies if there are any cracks on the spring arm. The part is replaced every seven years due to this deficiency.

“Having to replace this part cost \$350,000 in parts and labor every year,” said Jeff Sorenson, mechanical engineer of the KC-135 program office at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.

Air Force Life Cycle Management Center/Legacy Tanker Division has designed the INWSB to address this deficiency. The mounting portion of the spring arm is now thicker and wider to help prevent cracking.

Air Mobility Command Test and Evaluation Squadron will conduct a Logistics Service Test to evaluate the operational effectiveness and suitability of the INWSB.

AMCTES will conduct the test in two phases. The first phase is during August, and will consist of the 6th MXG personnel installing one set of INSWB arms on one KC-135 aircraft here at MacDill. Once modified, the aircraft will have no mission restrictions.

The second phase will consist of normal aircraft operations with routine inspections for a period of six months and no less than 50 sorties. At the end of the testing period, the INWSB arms will be removed and receive a dye penetrant inspection.

This evaluation will track sorties, landing gear cycles, and maintenance actions for the duration of this test.

“The INSWB will save the Air Force about \$330,000 every year and remove inspections entirely,” said Sorenson.



Staff Sgt. Joshua Osvold, 6th Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technologist, and a command test and evaluation squadron command test director of aircraft hydraulics system are working on the Improved Nose Wheel Snubber Brake at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 12. AMCTES are conducting a Logistics Service Test.



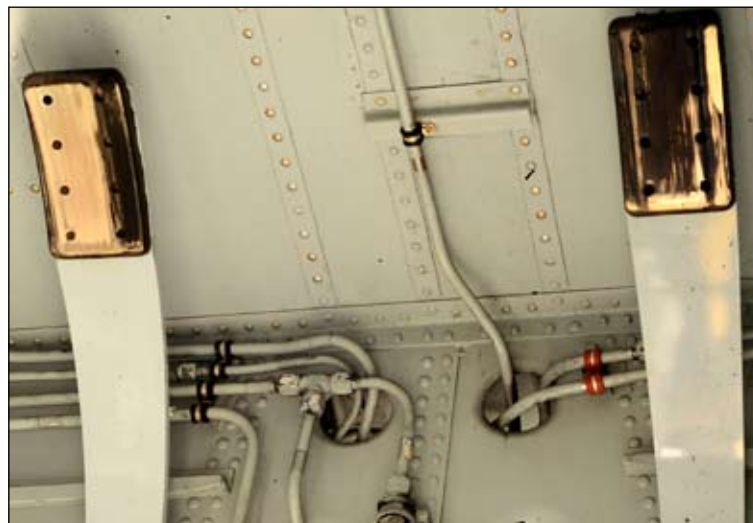
Senior Airman Stephen Rodgers, 6th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, climbs the side of the nose well at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 12. Rodgers went inside the nose well to install the Improved Nose Wheel Snubber Brake.



Tech. Sgt. Arron Owens, Air Mobility Comms, check the fitting of an Improved Nose Wheel Snubber Brake (INWSB) during a Logistics Service Test to evaluate the INWSB.



Airman 1st Class Cecil Sweeney, 6th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, takes a brake liner off a snubber brake at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 12. The KC-135 Stratotanker uses the snubber brake to eliminate noise and vibration when the landing gear is retracted.



Two snubber brakes sit on a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 12. The KC-135 Stratotanker uses a snubber brake system consisting of two brake linings attached to two spring arms that contact the nose landing gear tires after gear retraction to eliminate noise and vibration.



Staff Sgt. Martin De Jesus, 6th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, measures the clearance between the top of an Improved Nose Wheel Snubber Brake and the ceiling of the wheel well on a KC-135 Stratotanker at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 12. Maintenance personnel follow technical orders to ensure continuity while performing maintenance on an aircraft.

down a ladder from the in-
e well to tighten bolts on an

BRIEFS



New schedule for Military Personnel section

Starting Sept. 1, the 6th FSS Military Personnel Section will be improving the customer support section, which includes DEERs and ID cards, by moving to a more upgraded appointments system.

Mondays:

- ◆ Walk-ins only from 7:30 a.m.-11 a.m.
- ◆ Appointments from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. (except third Mon, closed at noon for training)

Tuesday-Friday:

- ◆ Walk-ins only from 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Appointments from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- ◆ Walk-ins will be limited to the following:
 - ◆ Mission essential CAC problems (i.e. CAC lockouts/pin resets)
 - ◆ ID cards expiring within two weeks
 - ◆ Lost or stolen ID cards
 - ◆ Addition of a newborn child
- ◆ All other issues will require an appointment which can be made at tinyurl.com/macdillidcard.

Catholic Religious Education

Registration for the 2014-2015 school year (grades kindergarten to confirmation) has started, and follows the 9:30 a.m. mass in Annex 2, and by appointment. There is a donation of \$30 for each child or \$45 for two or more children to help defray the cost of religious education books and supplies. Classes will begin Sunday, Sept. 7 and will run from 10:45 a.m. to noon in Annex 2. Contact Diane Baggerly at 828-8565.

Virtual reality training is the first step to fire chief



Photo by Airman 1st Class Danielle Conde

Students from the Fire Officer II Class participate in a practice scenario on a virtual reality system called the Advanced Disaster Management Simulator, Aug. 18, at the Crash Fire Station at MacDill Air Force Base.

by Airman 1st Class Danielle Conde
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

In our current generation of gamers, virtual reality is now playing a significant role in providing realistic training for military personnel.

Following this trend, a traveling team of in-

structors from Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas conducted a two-week Fire Officer II training at the Crash Fire Station on MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 5 through 20.

Given the nature of the course, only 12 students from MacDill, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, Scott AFB, Illinois, and Travis AFB, California, were selected by their training chiefs to attend.

The Fire Officer II class is a virtual and classroom combined training course recognized by the National Fire Protection Association that includes interactive exercises to improve one's strategic planning and operations, personnel development, and organizational communications.

"Fire Officer II class is the first step for company officers in learning how to become fire chiefs," said Michael DeJacommo, a fire officer instructor from the Department of Defense Fire Academy located at Goodfellow AFB.

While the course has been around for years, it wasn't until 2013 that the virtual reality system, Advanced Disaster Management Simulator, was introduced into the curriculum.

"Before the new technology, the students were only provided with maps and pictures," said De-

Jacommo, who added that now they are able to navigate through streets and go inside buildings on a fictitious base, called Norma Brown AFB. The virtual model exposes the students to different aircraft, locations, and every hazard that can be imagined.

In addition to the more realistic scenarios from the simulations, the joint-classroom environment provided the students the opportunity to understand how other bases deal with certain aircraft and facility emergency situations.

"It's great working with firefighters from other bases because it is similar to going on deployments where we are working with people from different backgrounds, and being pushed out of our comfort zone," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Anderson, 6th Civil Engineer Squadron NCO in-charge of logistics.

According to Anderson, future firefighters should understand that mistakes will happen during the ADMS training because the scenarios can be hectic, but it is important to learn from them and push forward.

All 12 students successfully completed the course, and will go on to continue their training to become fire chiefs.

MACDILL COMMUNITY



EVENTS

Tuesday-Friday

Boomers Bar & Grill

All-U-Can-Eat Lunch Buffet from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. \$8.99 Buffets feature two entrees, soup and salad, sides, rolls and butter and assorted desserts. Club Members show your card to save \$1. Use a MacDeal Buck to save an additional \$1.

Wednesday

Surf's Edge Club

4-8 p.m. free bar snacks, drink specials, bar bingo (\$2 a card/cash), trivia, DJ, guaranteed \$100 weekly club card winner.

Thursday

Base Theater

Free Movie: "Brave" at 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome and feel free to bring your own food and drinks.

Diner's Reef closed for HVAC renovation. Where to Eat? For more information, menus and hours of operation, log onto tinyurl.com/macdilleats

Beginning Sept. 1

Pass & ID will implement a limited walk-in schedule. Walk-in's will only be accepted Monday 7:30-11 a.m. and Tuesday-Friday 7:30-9:30 a.m. All others will be seen via the appointment scheduler. To schedule an appointment log onto www.tinyurl.com/macdillidcard or call 828-2278.

Find out what's going on MacDill log onto www.macdillfss.com



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brittany Liddon

Rays admins visit

Members from the Tampa Bay Rays administrative department pose for a photo with a KC-135 strato-tanker during a tour at MacDill Air Force Base, Aug. 22. During the tour, the group visited the air traffic control tower, military working dogs, crash fire station, a KC-135 static display and more.



CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Protestant service

Sunday - 11 a.m. - Contemporary Service

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - FAMCAMP Service

Islamic service

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

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



EXCHANGE
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

‘THERE I WAS...’

From Page 3

at \$721,000 to help build up the Kabul economy. I got the opportunities to go outside the wire a few times to conduct site visits on my construction projects and while nerve wrecking, it provided me with a greater insight on the tasks at hand, who was working it, and ensured the contractors were abiding by the terms of the contract. Getting to actually interact with the Afghan contractors and see how they work was quite interesting, and the language barriers were definitely present in some cases. My longest site visit took me all the way to Shindand AB, Afghanistan, which is located in the northwestern part of the country. I got to see snow there.

We did not have much off-duty time, but I made time to work out (Cross-Fit), study for promotion testing, and completed six semester hours toward my master of business administration. I also volunteered with Operation Outreach, where we built fuel donuts for 1K Afghans to provide them a heat source during the brutal winter months. I served as the unit train-

ing manager ensuring two contracting sites were spun up in areas such as contracting, suicide prevention/awareness, SAPR, and FW&A. Lastly, I served as the “morale booster” for our unit ensuring that my deployed counterparts were taken care of mentally, spiritually, and socially by putting up decorations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The days, hours, and months, were long and exhausting, but I can say that my pre-deployment training, the huge support I received from my unit, friends, and family helped me get through this deployment. I can’t forget to mention the number of familiar faces I got to see throughout that journey. It’s definitely a small Air Force. My most memorable moment that really touched my heart was when our senior enlisted leader, an Army master sergeant, recited our Airman’s Creed and two lines into it starting shedding tears. He recited that creed like it was his own and made us all feel it. That I will never forget!

MOLLY

From Page 3

Hartigan III, 310th AS commander.

“We were surprised and uplifted that people we didn’t even know wanted to plan something so special for Molly,” said Little. “Our goal as a family is to make as many happy memories with Molly as we can; this was a beautiful opportunity to do so. We are thankful for our little girl and thankful that she is a gift from God; we are thankful for all the

hands that played a part in this special day for Molly—it is one we will never forget.”

On June 17 Molly was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, an inoperable, terminal tumor on her brain stem. Molly completed her radiation treatments Aug. 15. People are able to follow Molly’s journey on www.prayformolly.com or on Facebook at Pray for Molly.