

THUNDERBOLT

www.macdillthunderbolt.com



Photo by Senior Airman Rylan Albright

A Grande Opening

Commanders, Airmen, civilians, and other distinguished guests from the medical field cut the ribbon Nov. 6 for the opening of the new 252,000-square-foot MacDill Medical Clinic. A wide variety of guests from the MacDill Air Force Base and Tampa communities, attended the celebration of the official opening of the new state-of-the-art medical facility.

COMMENTARY



The MacDill Community

By Lt. Col. Jeff Krusinski
6th Force Support Squadron

By the time you read this I will be deployed to Iraq serving as the Deputy Expeditionary Mission Support Group Commander at Joint Base Balad. While I am gone I will be missing the MacDill community, which I have grown to love over the past two years. Allow me to reflect upon what the MacDill community means to me and how much pride I take in serving the world's greatest customers each and every day.

The first aspect of our community is active duty and reserve uniformed members—without us, there just simply would not be a MacDill AFB. Here, the term “blue suiter” does not apply because we are truly more than that as you see members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Coalition Partners wearing the uniform each and every day to fulfill our important mission. Our military members have made incredible sacrifices since 1990 and especially since 2001. No other period in our history has seen a force that has been away from home for such a long period of time.

The next aspect of our community is our beautiful families. They may not be on base every day, and some live outside of the local area; but it is important for the people of MacDill AFB to recognize the contributions and sacrifices that family members make so that their loved one can serve our great nation. Last week was a focus week for the Year of the Air Force Family where we had many great events for families to include a Tops in Blue concert. The Year of the Air Force Fam-

ily runs until July 2010 and we will be showcasing special events geared toward families to show them how much we care.

Let's not forget our civilian employees who provide us with an incredible amount of expertise and continuity to ensure our important mission does not miss a beat despite heavy permanent changes of station or deployment cycles. Our Air Force thinks enough of our civilian force to include them under the definition of “Airman,” and that's very deserving when you consider the experience and skill sets these folks bring to the table. Did you know that approximately 50 percent of civilian employees are family members of veterans or active duty, or are veterans themselves? So the next time you get a drink from a bartender at the club, or have an appointment with a civilian customer service representative, just know that they or their loved one probably served right alongside you at one time or another.

And last but not least, we are very privileged here at MacDill AFB to have such a large and active retiree population. Many live in the local area and some come down just for the winter to include 800 or so “Fam Campers” that will be driving their RV's on base within the next couple of weeks. They are constant reminders of the proud heritage we are faithful to and they continue to give back to our community through their loyalty at our clubs and other Morale Welfare and Recreation activities, and through their countless volunteer hours that bring \$2 million in free labor to the base every year. My two favorite retirees are Roz and Richard who live locally, volunteer on base and never miss a Friday



Lt. Col. Jeff Krusinski

night at Seascapes. I see them everywhere I go and it is so nice to talk to them and hear what they think about our latest events.

I brag every chance I get to my peers across the Air Force about the great community we have here. I tell them how we are able to sustain Seascapes, Surf's Edge Club and the Bayshore Club while some bases cannot sustain one club. I tell them how we enjoy 36-holes of golf at Bay Palms while some bases have decided to close their golf course.

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MacDill Thunderbolt

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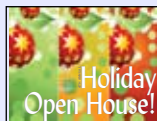
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Your T-bolt Today

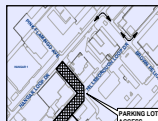
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Air Force updates guidance for wear of PTU

by Brad Jessmer

Air Force Uniform Office Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNS) — Air Force officials have updated guidance for wear of the physical training uniform, replacing previous guidance published in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

According to a message released from Air Force A1 and signed by Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, deputy chief of staff for Manpower and Personnel, effective immediately, individual items making up the PTU and improved PTU are considered uniform items.

Air Force officials said this means strict attention must be given to every item of the PTU, just as with items on the Airman Battle Uniform or service dress uniform. However, individual items of the PTU may still be worn with conservative civilian attire during personal PT or when off-duty.

Wear of the PTU is mandatory during physical fitness assessments and while participating in organized PT events, as designated by the commander. Unit commanders will determine the PTU configuration.

If PTU/IPTU items are worn during personal PT, the following is required:

- During periods of low light, reflective belts and armbands are required when wearing the optional running shorts. Reflective accessories are optional when wearing the standard PTU, which already includes reflective material.

- Footwear is to remain conservative. No bright colors or excessive ornamentation is to be worn.

- Socks must be white, but small trademark logos are acceptable.

- The PTU jacket must be zipped at least halfway between the waistband and collar. Sleeves will end within 1 inch off the wrist.

- The PTU running pants waistband will rest at or within 2 inches of the natural waistline. Both pant legs will extend below the ankles and will be zipped to within 1 inch of the bottom

- Both the PTU shorts and running shorts will rest at or within 2 inches of the natural waistline. . NO SAGGING!!!!

- The short sleeve PTU shirt will be tucked



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lakisha Croley

Air Force officials recently updated guidance for wear of the physical training uniform and the improved PTU. These changes, issued by Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton, deputy chief of staff for Manpower and Personnel, are effective immediately.

into shorts or running pants at all times. Do not remove or cut sleeves.

- The long sleeve PTU shirt will be tucked into the PTU shorts or running pants at all times. Do not push up, remove or cut sleeves.

- The optional IPTU sweatshirt will extend no lower than 6 inches below the natural waistline. Do not push up, remove or cut sleeves.

- Undergarments must be appropriate and worn with all uniform combinations.

- Short or full-length spandex may be worn under both the PTU and IPTU, but colors must only consist of black or dark blue.

- Headgear may be authorized by commanders, but may only consist of either a solid black or dark blue baseball cap with the Air Force symbol or "U.S. Air Force" logos. Headgear is to be worn outdoors only.

- Bandanas are not authorized unless due to a medical waiver condition.

- Cold weather accessories may be worn outdoors only.

- The knit watch cap will be plain solid black, dark blue or sage green without any lo-



Arts and Crafts Center, auto and wood shop—an on-base treasure

by Nick Stubbs
Thunderbolt editor

The holiday season is upon us – a time for home and family, a message close to the hearts of the folks at the MacDill Arts and Crafts Center.

The center is encouraging all MacDill members to visit during its open house days between Nov. 30 through Dec. 4. The event is a tradition, and the staff pull out all the stops to ensure there is plenty to see, lots of creative gift ideas, not to mention warm wassail and snacks.

Shopping on base helps support MacDill, but also helps those looking for something more than the ordinary gifts this holiday season. Many of the items are particularly appropriate for military members and family, making the Craft Center a specialty shop of sorts for servicemembers. There are other advantages, said Tammy Zell, center manager.

“We do have things you might not find off-base at most stores,” she said. “If you do find them, they usually will cost more, and of course there is no tax here to pay.”

The center anticipates the Trackster cars will be a hot item this season. A toy and game played on-line, the center has some of the first series of cars made, making it an obvious choice for those looking to

collect.

“If they are just getting into it and want to get their hands on the first run of them, we are a must stop,” said Ms. Zell. “You are not going to find these anywhere else right now.”

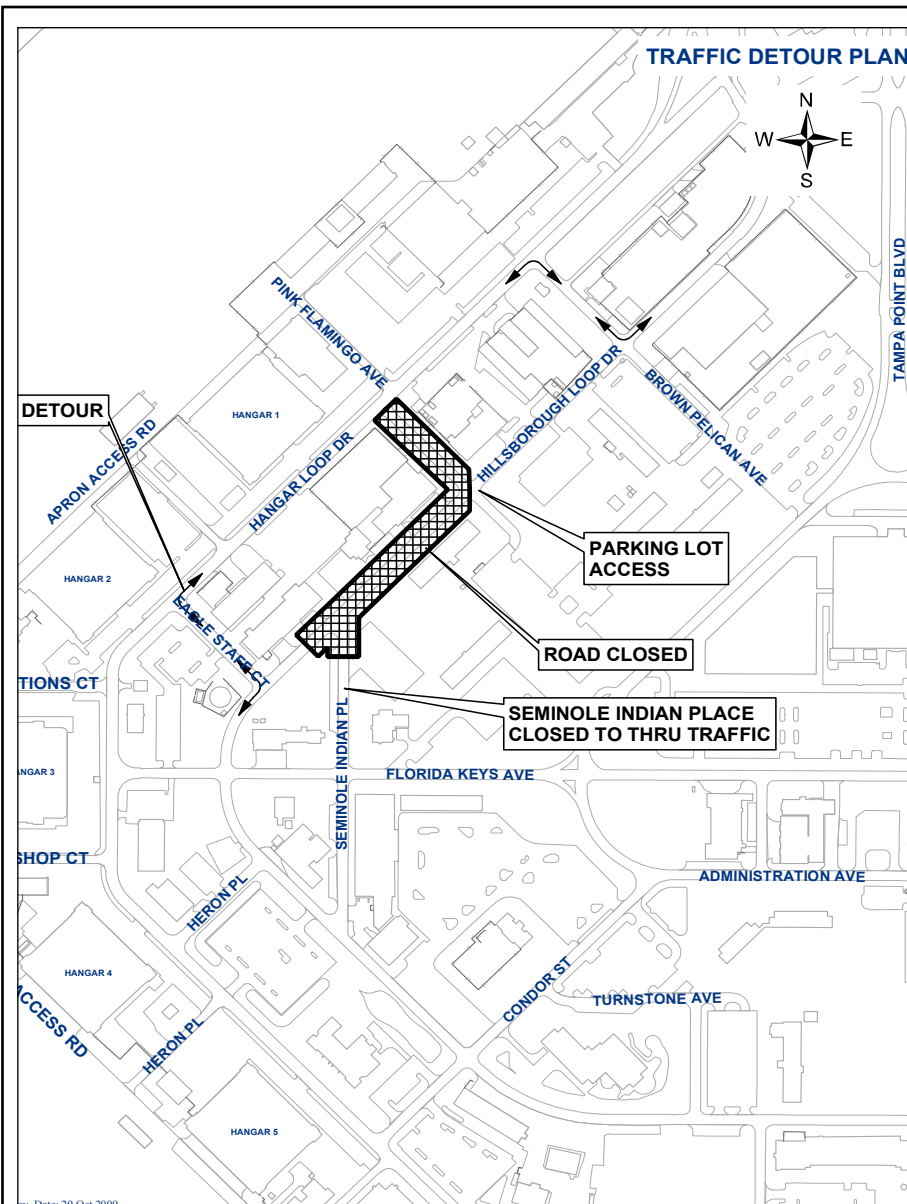
There will be special prizes for the first 60 visitors on the first day of the open house Nov. 30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a choice of a free Trackster car or Kookies animal. On Dec. 4, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the Auto Hobby Shop open house will present free Snap-On tools and Advanced Auto Parts gifts while supplies last. There will be additional drawings throughout the week.

The open house is a great way to draw attention to the shop and all the services it offers, said Ms. Zell, who says each week “someone wanders in who didn’t realize we were here, or what we have to offer.”

In addition to goods, the center has a framing shop, awards shop, wood shop and a wide range of auto maintenance services and do-it-yourself auto repair options.

“It surprises me to find out that people don’t know about us,” said Ms. Zell, adding the discovery of the center often is a pleasant surprise for base patrons. “Once they find out about us, they tend to come back.”

For more information, contact the Arts and Crafts Center at 828-4413.



Hillsborough Loop Drive pavement and drainage improvements

Construction on the next phase starts Nov. 16

Road construction by the 6th Civil Engineers continues into the 2nd phase of the repair of the Hillsborough Loop Drive.

The first phase of Hillsborough Loop Drive repair is between Brown Pelican Avenue and Pink Flamingo Avenue and scheduled to be completed soon. The next phase of construction from Pink Flamingo Avenue to Seminole Indian Place starts Nov. 16 and will take about three months.

We appreciate your patience during the construction period.



Guard, Reserve members, eligible to nominate employers for award

by Maj. Melissa Phillips

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. – This Veterans Day, members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families across the nation have the opportunity to nominate supportive employers for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. Nominations will be accepted at www.FreedomAward.mil through January 18, 2010.

National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have provided exceptional support of military employees above the federal law requirements.

Almost one-half of the U.S. military is comprised of the National Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these citizen warriors with their civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support to their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

The 2009 honorees ranged from AeroDyn Wind Tunnel, LLC, a small automotive racing wind tunnel testing company in North Carolina to large businesses including Microsoft and AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals to Santa Ana, California Police Department, a public sector employer.

Past recipients of the Freedom Award have provided significant support including full salary, continuation of benefits, care packages and family assistance to employees fulfilling their military obligation.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996

under the auspices of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense Agency, to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. “There is much excitement surrounding the 15th anniversary of the Freedom Award,” noted acting ESGR Executive Director Ms. Polli Brunelli, “and we’re enthusiastic to begin selection of the 2010 recipients from amongst all of the heartfelt nominations that will be submitted by thousands of proud Citizen Warriors.”

ESGR was established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation.

For questions regarding the Freedom Award nomination process, please visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Maj. Melissa Phillips, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-380-9262.



"RESCUE" IS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE ...

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

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

MacDill Mental Health 827-9171

ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY

PTU

From Page 3

gos.

- Gloves will be plain solid black or dark blue without any logos.

- Scarves and earmuffs will be solid black or dark blue, and may wrap around either the top or rear of the head.

- Green or black fleece is not authorized with the PTU/IPTU.

- The IPTU running suit top or bottom may not be mixed with the current PTU running suit top or bottom.

- The lining of the PTU/IPTU shorts may be removed, but no other uniform alterations are

authorized.

- Headphones are authorized inside fitness centers or designated running areas, unless prohibited by the commander.

- Personal grooming and appearance standards apply during physical fitness activities with one exception: Long female hair will be secured but may have loose ends.

- Proper military customs and courtesies to honor the flag during reveille and retreat will apply. Saluting due to rank is not required when wearing the PTU.

The few exceptions to this policy are at the

discretion of commanders for accessions, professional military education or academic training when unit distinction is required, such as identifying instructors from students. Temporary adjustments may also be authorized when safety is a concern or in a deployed location.

Any long-term exceptions to this policy must be submitted through the respective major command to Headquarters Air Force A1 for approval.

Any questions regarding this policy should be addressed through the proper chain of command.

BRIEFS



Settlement of Estate

Lt. Col. Jennifer Uptmor, 310th Airlift Squadron commander, regrets to announce the death of Master Sgt. John A. Radcliffe formerly assigned to the 310 AS, MacDill AFB. Maj. Jarin Thayn, 310 AS, has been appointed as the Summary Court Officer to handle the disposition of personal property of Sergeant Radcliffe. Anyone indebted to or having a claim against the estate of Sergeant Radcliffe should contact Major Thayn at (813) 651-4109.

Retiree Appreciation Day

November 14 is designated Retiree Appreciation Day. A health fair will be held at the Base Clinic, 3250 Kemke Ave providing blood pressure checks, cholesterol screenings, and pertinent information from the HAWC, Pharmacy, TRICARE, Dental, Nutrition and Immunization services from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Information booths will be available in the Main Base Exchange food court and will include information on casualty assistance, survivor benefits, space-a-travel, family services, and recreation services from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Legal Assis-

tance in writing/updating wills will be provided by the Legal Office from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. No appointment is necessary, in by noon and leave with an executed will, anticipate a two to three hour wait. The Casualty Assistance Office will review retiree's pay records and ID Cards will be renewed in building 373 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The Base Dining Facility will provide a pay-as-you-go brunch between 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Free Early Thanksgiving Dinner

Relax and receive an early Thanksgiving home cooked meal Nov. 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Brandon Elks Lodge, 800 Centennial Lodge Drive, Brandon FL 33511. All Active Duty and their family are invited. Limited seating so reservations are required. Call the MacDill Family Resource Center at (813) 655-9281 or (813) 654-2730 or MacDill Airman and Family Readiness Center at (813) 828-0145 to make your reservations. There will also be family pictures, crafts for children, goody bags, a clown and entertainment.

See **BRIEFS, Page 23**

Fallen Soldier comes home



Photo by Senior Airman Rylan Albright

Members from the Army Honor Guard prepare to lower the casket of U.S. Army Spc. Eric N. Lembke upon arrival to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Nov. 5. Specialist Lembke died of wounds suffered when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device on Oct. 23 in Afghanistan. Specialist Lemke was assigned to the 569th Mobility Augmentation Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, Fort Carson, Colo.



Photo by Senior Airman Rylan Albright

U.S. Marine Lt. Col. (ret) Daniel W. Hall Jr. waves an American flag while waiting for the procession bearing the remains of U.S. Army Spc. Eric N. Lembke to pass by in Tampa, Fla., Nov. 5. Bay area residents lined the route to pay their respects the fallen hero.



Photo by Senior Airman Rylan Albright

Members from the Army Honor Guard salute and pay respect for fallen hero, U.S. Army Spc. Eric N. Lembke upon arrival to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Nov. 5.

An Airman remembered



The flight suit of Master Sgt. John Anthony Radcliffe is displayed during the memorial service in his honor, Nov. 7, at MacDill. Sergeant Radcliffe was the operations superintendent and evaluator flight engineer assigned to the 310th Airlift Squadron. He passed away Oct. 22 after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Kristin and son Ian.



A plaque and photograph of Master Sgt. Anthony Radcliffe was on display throughout the ceremony.



Senior Airman Jessica Eddings, member of the Base Honor Guard, stands in the distance awaiting her time to bestow the military honor of playing TAPS during the memorial service.



Master Sgt. Kajali Gobern, a member of the base Honor Guard, carries the urn Nov. 7 during the memorial service for Master Sgt. John Radcliffe.



Photo by Senior Airman Nancy Hooks

Open waters

MacDill AFB opened its shores to military and civilian fishers Nov. 8. It was the first time since Sept. 11, 2001, that MacDill has allowed open fishing to the security zone. About 20 boats went out to enjoy the opportunity to fish and enjoy the scenic stretch of coast along the south shore of MacDill.



Honoring Vets

Col. Larry Martin, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, salutes the memorial wreath during the 16th Annual Tampa Bay Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 7. Colonel Martin was the Grand Marshal for the parade which featured many middle school and high school military ROTC students. Julia Martin, wife of Colonel Martin, waves to the crowd, while members of the MacDill AFB Honor Guard lead the parade.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph L. Swafford Jr.

Good partners

Members of the MacDill Air Force Base Honor Guard present the colors during the Community Covenant signing ceremony in Tampa, Tuesday. The Community Covenant program is designed to foster and sustain effective state and community partnerships with the military to improve the quality of life for servicemembers and their families.

COMMENTARY

From Page 2

I tell them how the entire base pulls together to deliver an annual two-day Airfest when some bases can barely pull that off every other year. I tell them how we are building a \$750,000 car wash using profits earned through AAFES and our MWR fund, which

is a direct credit to the loyalty of all of our customers. Quite simply, our MacDill community works together and plays together to make this base fun and enjoyable for everyone regardless of the “uniform” they wear.

One thing I have learned after 19 years

in uniform is that the military is a family. We have extremely high demands for our uniformed members and with that comes the expectation that they and their family members will be taken care of while serving, and for those who

retire, for the rest of their lives. I challenge you to find a corporation anywhere in the world that even comes close to matching the combination of benefits and programs that we offer in the military to our employees,

their families, and to retirees and their families. I’m proud to be the commander of the 6th Force Support Squadron, a 675-person organization that has the privilege to deliver many of those benefits and programs to the warf-

ghter, their families, civilian employees, and retirees each and every day on this great military installation we call MacDill AFB.

I’ll return in six months, and I can’t wait to get back home to you all!

BRIEFS

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Free Quilting Classes

The MacDill Chapel Quilters is offering free quilting classes Mondays at 9 a.m. in Annex 1 at the base chapel. For more information contact Sue Freeman at (207) 310-3751.

Retiree Activities Office

The Retiree Activities Office need volunteers to prepare federal income tax returns for active duty, retirees, and their family members. If you are interested in volunteering one or two days a week, call the RAO at (813) 828-4555.



MACDILL COMMUNITY



EVENTS

Friday

Skeet Range

Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot
from 8:30am - 2 pm.

Surf's Edge Club

NEW "Meals in Minutes"
Lunch Buffet – Seafood from 11
am – 1 pm.

Surf's Edge Club

Membership Dinner from
5:30-8:30 pm.

Saturday

Bayshore Club

Mongolian BBQ from 5:30-9
pm

Tuesday

Surf's Edge Club

NEW "Meals in Minutes"
Lunch Buffet – Soul Food from
11 am – 1 pm.

Wednesday

Short Fitness & Sports Center

Turkey Trot 5K Run - 18 No-
vember. Sign up at 0645; Start at
0715 at the Fitness Center. An
official King of the Road Event
– sponsored by Stadium Toyota
& USAA* *No federal endorse-
ment of sponsor intended.

Surf's Edge Club

NEW "Meals in Minutes"
Lunch Buffet – Homestyle from
11 am – 1 pm.

Thursday

Surf's Edge Club

No Lunch Buffet. Boomers
Bar & Grill open.

Surf's Edge Club

Texas Hold'em Tournament
– Buffet at 5:30 pm, Tournament
at 7 pm. Win a TV! (A \$200 val-
ue)



Photo by Senior Airman Nancy Hooks

Reaching full potential

Maj. Gen. Mitch Mitchell, United States Air Force Reserves USTRANSCOM Mobilization advisor, speaks passionately about helping Airmen reach for the stars at a Human Resources Development Council convention here, Nov. 4.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Protestant services

Sunday - 9 a.m., Traditional Service

10:30 a.m., Religious Education, Noon, Gospel Service

Tuesday -Noon, Promise Keepers

Wednesday - 10:30 a.m., Women of the Chapel

Thursday - 11:30 a.m., Officers' Christian Fellowship

For more information regarding the Chapel or Chapel services, call 828-3621.

Catholic services

Saturday - Mass, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday - Mass, 10:30 a.m.

Monday to Thursday: Mass, 12:10 p.m.

Saturday - Sacrament of Reconciliation, 4:30 p.m., (or by ap-
pointment)

Jewish and Islamic services

Call 828-3621 for information

AT THE MOVIES

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

Friday - 7 p.m.

Zombieland (R)

Saturday - 3 p.m.

Surrogates (PG-13)

Saturday - 7 p.m.

Love Happens (PG-13)