

THUNDERBOLT

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U.S. Central Command change of command - page 10



Photo by Senior Airman Melanie Bulow-Kelly

Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin, III, incoming commander of U.S. Central Command (center), shakes hands with Marine Corps Gen. James N. Mattis, outgoing commander, during the change of command ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base Friday. Mattis will retire later this year after more than 40 years of service. To their left is Army General Martin E. Dempsey, 18th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

COMMANDER'S CORNER



My 'C-' in Ethics 101 explained — this stuff really is important

by Lt. Col. Ira Perkins

21st Space Wing Staff Judge Advocate

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — My worst college grade was in ethics. Axiological ethics, deontological ethics, morals versus values — it all seemed kind of mushy to me. After receiving my “C-,” I skeptically reduced my personal ethics into a simple formula: if it feels good in my gut and doesn’t harm anybody else, it’s probably OK.

Clearly, there are caveats to such a general principle, but when I lecture on ethics, Airmen across the board typically have a similar definition of personal ethics that guides them to do what is right. Turns out, we all have a pretty good idea of what is right and what is wrong in our personal lives.

As a staff judge advocate, I’m now a government ethics advisor. This can be a thankless job. Unlike other areas of the law, where my clients are typically happy with the advice I give them, government ethics often requires answers that leave my clients quite befuddled. Specifically, I often have to advise my clients that government ethics rules prohibit an activity that is morally desirable under a personal-ethics formula. When I’m presented with a great wing initiative to solicit community leaders to raise money to cover babysitting for spouses of deployed Airmen, everyone anticipates the JAG to say “yes,” not “great idea but ethics rules prohibit the Air Force from officially soliciting gifts.” So, how

can the gut instinct of personal ethics be in such apparent conflict with the rules of government ethics?

Simply put, personal ethics and government ethics are different creatures in both origin and purpose. Personal ethics are about human relationships and aim to make us better people and as such, they are the kind of rules we tend to learn in kindergarten (be charitable, help your neighbor). Government ethics, on the other hand, exist only to ensure that the public can trust government employees to put the nation’s interest ahead of their own selfish interests. While certainly a far less lofty goal than personal ethics, the goal of government ethics to produce virtuous employees is rooted in the ideology of our founding fathers and is critical to the legitimacy of our republican form of government. History shows us why.

In 1775, our forefathers rebelled because they didn’t trust their government. While England’s constitutional monarchy was the most advanced government of the day, the colonist believed it contained a fatal flaw--the King and his ministers lacked public virtue and corruptly used power to promote their personal agenda. For instance, the King used his control of 17,000 government jobs to appoint loyal customs officials and judges. In fact, more than 200 of the 550 members of the House of Commons held a governmental position granted to them by the King. This created conflicts of interest, undue government influence

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6th Air Mobility Wing shout-outs

Senior Airman Zachary Hutchings, 6th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, is responsible for the safe and efficient flow of air traffic in one of AMC’s most congested and complex airspaces. Recently, Hutchings helped coordinate an emergency response after a KC-135 had a landing-gear malfunction.

During the two hours the runway was shut down, Hutchings pro-

vided real-time airfield status updates to key base agencies. He coordinated with the air traffic controllers at Tampa International Airport to divert inbound aircraft to neighboring airports, enabling their safe recovery. Hutchings also excelled during the recent Canadian F-18 training held at MacDill Air Force Base. His efforts directly contributed to over 300 successful, on-time training sorties flown by our NATO allies.



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.

Commander's vision

To view Col. Scott DeThomas’ remarks on his vision for MacDill AFB, go to www.macdill.af.mil and then click on “Col. DeThomas’ priorities, mission, and expectations video” in the upper left corner.

MacDill Thunderbolt

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Deadline for article submissions is noon, Thursdays 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 Label Manual” and Air Force Instruction 35-101.



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Events, Chapel, more...

MacDill CGOC 'making a difference'

by Capt. Karlo Mariano

Company Grade Officer's Council president

The Company Grade Officer's Council is an organization that brings all junior officers, O1 through O3, together for leadership development, networking, community service, camaraderie and fellowship throughout the 6th Air Mobility Wing. Team MacDill's CGPC is open to all services, including those associated with our mission partners such as U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command and Joint Communications Support Element.



Our meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. The meetings are typically held at Seascapes or the Golf Course banquet room. So far our activities have included visiting college campuses at the University of Florida, the Uni-

versity of South Florida and the University of Central Florida; speaking to ROTC cadets about the different career fields available in the Air Force. We also hold mentoring sessions with the 6th AMW commander and vice commander respectively.

Additionally, we welcomed a group of new lieutenants going through the Nursing Transition Program at Tampa General Hospital and shared our experiences on the move into the operational Air Force.

Our operating budget comes purely from fundraising events. We use those funds to donate towards various organizations throughout the wing. A few examples include donating 30 tickets for E-5s and below for the annual Air Force Ball and providing 30 Thanksgiving baskets to deployed Airmen and their families. We have also made monetary donations to the Gasparilla parade and a \$500 contribution to the 6th AMW Annual Awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding Airmen throughout the Wing.

A future project to enhance the leadership skills of young officers is the CGO Professional Development Panel. This is a one-day seminar scheduled at the end of May to men-

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Child Abuse Prevention Month; multiple parent support events scheduled

by Andrea Bowen

6th Medical Group family advocacy

April marks Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. It has been observed since 1983. The blue ribbon campaign began in 1989 and serves as a physical reminder to end child abuse. The initiative began with a grandmother's personal commitment to end child abuse by tying a blue ribbon to her van. Since its inception, the blue ribbon campaign has grown into a national community-based effort to protect children.

Things you can do for Child Abuse Prevention Month:

◆ Volunteer your time: Get involved with other parents in your community to keep kids safe. Volunteer for an after school organization or sporting activity in your neighborhood.

◆ Discipline your children thoughtfully: Never discipline your child when you are upset. Discipline teaches a child appropriate behaviors. Using privileges and time outs can assist with gaining control. We all need a break at times.

◆ Report Abuse: Trust Your Instincts- If you witness a child being

harmed, see evidence of abuse, or if a child tells you about abuse, make a report to your school district's child protective services, local police and on base Family Advocacy Program.

To combat child abuse and neglect, MacDill Family Advocacy has a program designed especially to address the needs of families — the New Parent Support Program.

The NPSP offers the following activities: Infant Massage, Playgroups, Home Visitation, Baby Basics, Bundles for Babies, support in dealing with child developmental stages, parenting and labor and delivery preparation. All activities are free for active duty members and their families.

New Parent Support Program will be hosting a Lunch & Learn Brown Bag Series:

◆ April 4th: Toddler Toilet Training

◆ April 11th: Learning to Love your child-personality and all

◆ April 18th: Taming Toddler Tantrums

◆ April 25th: Momma wears combat boots (single parenting)

Call Family Advocacy at 827-9172 for more information and to register.

NEWS/FEATURES

South golf course reopening

by Airman 1st Class Shandresha Mitchell

6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

The south course of the Bay Palms Golf Complex at MacDill Air Force Base re-opened Saturday, with 272 people in attendance for the celebration.

Senior leadership from the 6th Air Mobility Wing, Tampa Bay leadership and former New York Yankees players David Wells and Ron Guidry celebrated the re-opening.

The celebration was announced with a shotgun round in the morning and a second round in the afternoon. A putting contest was held before each shotgun start. All golfers were eligible to compete in a "Closest to the Pin Competition" on each of the par three holes. The event also hosted a drawing for a free annual advanced greens fee pass.

Each golfer received a commemorative ball marker and the winner of each foursome received a \$10 gift certificate.

Bay Palms Golf Complex south course was opened in 1986. The south course closed July 6 for remodeling. A few of the remodeling projects involved removal, resurfacing and restoration.

The Southwest Florida Water Management removed Brazilian pepper trees from the course, which are an invasive species not native to the area. The removal of the trees created wetlands for tidal flow that will help the estuary and will greatly reduce the mosquito population on the course.

State of Florida, MacDill AFB team for a win-win ecosystem restoration project

Courtesy 6th Civil Engineer Squadron

Have you been wondering what's going on around the north golf course? What's with all the excavation and earth moving around Lewis Lake? Well, interestingly, this construction activity is the culmination of nearly four years of planning and preparation; a joint effort between the State of Florida and the U.S. Air Force. Way back in 2008, MacDill AFB Air Force Base and the Southwest Florida Water Management District forged a cooperative agreement which paved the way for what eventually developed into an ecologic restoration and surface water improvement project.

The Surface Water Improvement and Management program is a branch of the SWFWMD dedicated to improving surface water quality while simultaneously restoring and enhancing wetlands and natural habitat. Since its inception in 1989, the SWIM organization has completed more than 87 ecosystem restoration projects restoring 3,042 acres of coastal habitat throughout the Tampa Bay area. Experts know that MacDill's unique location with more than 7 miles of shoreline at the tip of the interbay peninsula offers excellent opportunities for improving the health of Tampa Bay through restoration of its coastal communities. Restoration of coastal ecosystems improves surface water quality by enhancing, and often expanding, wetlands which naturally sequester pollutants. It also improves and expands the estuaries, or aquatic nurseries, which are a vital part of any marine ecosystem. The

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Shandresha Mitchell

Col. Scott DeThomas, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, gives opening remarks at the Bay Palms Golf Complex South course re-opening celebration, MacDill Air Force Base, March 23.

The greens were resurfaced with new Paspalum grass, a salt tolerant grass appropriate for the climate. Beach restorations were made on the southernmost tip of the course along with the drainage system.

To see the south course, visit 1805 Golf Course Ave. or call 840-6904 between 7 a.m. and sunset.



Improvements to Lewis Lake Recreation Area reconfigured the lake to increase stormwater retention time, enhance vegetative communities, and expand recreational opportunities.

BRIEFS



Water restrictions

Effective March 13 water restrictions will be imposed throughout Tampa and MacDill Air Force Base. Yards can be watered one day each week depending on your address. Watering must be done before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. For more information please contact Brad Baird at 274-8663 or call the Water Conservation Hotline at 274-8032 24-hours-a-day.

Recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Pinwheels for Prevention Kickoff is Tuesday, April 2 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. It is recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event will take place at the Glazer Children's Museum and includes a museum visit, safety tips, fun activities and more. The museum is located at 110 West Gasparilla Plaza in Tampa. For more information or to volunteer for this event, please contact Andrea Bowen at 827-9172.

Holocaust observance

Guest speaker Mr. Philip Gans, a Holocaust survivor, will speak at the base theater April 11 at 9:30 a.m. For more information on this Holocaust Observance titled "Never again: Heeding the warning signs," contact the base chapel at 828-3621.

Tax assistance

The Retiree Activities Office at MacDill Air Force Base offers walk-in

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Fuel Your Future



Air National Guard

CGOC

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tor young officers on a multitude of topics geared towards our growth into future commanders. You will also be seeing us in action through the months of April, May and June providing the Team MacDill community with first class meals at the dining facility.

If you are new to MacDill and would like to get involved in our activities, please contact 2nd Lt. Reginald Howard at regenald.howard.1@us.af.mil. A CGOC SharePoint site is also available and can be found on the left side of the 6th AMW homepage.



CENTCOM welcomes new commander

by Marine Corps Sgt. Fredrick Coleman
CENTCOM Public Affairs

In a ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base presided over by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, Gen. Lloyd J. Austin, III, assumed command of U.S. Central Command from Gen. James N. Mattis, Friday.

“Ten years ago, both Jim Mattis and Lloyd Austin were in the Iraqi desert, on opposite sides of the Euphrates River helping lead their troops in the drive to Baghdad,” said Secretary Hagel during his remarks. “Today, these battle-tested leaders share a single stage; one having completed a distinguished command and one ready to step into his place.”

Attendees at the ceremony included Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps; Gen. John F. Kelly, commander of U.S. Southern Command; Adm. William H. McRaven, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command; several NATO officials; chiefs of defense from CENTCOM coalition countries; and ambassadors to the United States. Also in attendance were several local, state and national representatives including U.S. House of Representatives members Hon. Bill Young from Florida’s District 13, and Hon. Kathy Castor from Florida’s District 14, and Tampa Mayor, Bob Buckhorn.

Secretary Hagel spoke on General Mattis’ leadership by noting the significant roles General Mattis has played in the CENTCOM AOR throughout his career, including leading a battalion of Marines during Operation Desert Storm, and commanding the longest assault from the sea in modern history at the head of Task Force 58 during the 400-mile inland push into Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks. Additionally, during the invasion of Iraq, General Mattis led 1st Marine Division on the longest overland assault in Marine Corps history as well as during the battle of Fallujah.

“Jim Mattis has been front and center in every major combat operation this nation has conducted for more than two decades,” said Secretary Hagel. “He’s earned the respect of all around him-above and below-because he loved his work and those he served with.”

General Mattis, who will retire later this year after more than 40 years of service, gave credit for his success as the commander of USCENTCOM to its service members, civilians and coalition forces.

“It’s been an absolute delight and pleasure

to serve alongside the U.S. and foreign Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen, Marines and civilians who work together here in Tampa [and] across the tumultuous region in the interest of peace,” said General Mattis as he spoke about the men and women of CENTCOM. “Lloyd, we’ve served side by side repeatedly and I can think of no one more prepared to command CENTCOM. I pass to you the finest war-fighting team on the earth.”

General Austin comes to MacDill AFB following his tour as vice chief of Staff for the U.S. Army and, as the various speakers noted, is no stranger to the USCENTCOM AOR or mission. General Austin served in a variety of command positions during Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom to include U.S. Forces-Iraq commander from September 2010 to December 2011; Multi-National Corps-Iraq commander from February 2008 to April 2009; and USCENTCOM chief of staff from September 2005 to November 2006. The general also commanded the 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, N.Y. from 2003 to 2005, and served as commander of Combined Joint Task Force-180 during OEF during his deployment with 10th Mountain Division.

Secretary Hagel attributed his readiness for the command position not just to his experience, but also his leadership.

“With his calm demeanor, strategic vision, regional experience and knowledge and proven judgment, and with the love and support of Charlene and their children, I’m confident General Austin is prepared to lead this command at a time of dramatic change, challenge and turmoil in its area of responsibility.”

In addressing CENTCOM personnel for the first time as its commander, General Austin praised the command’s ability to support a wide-ranging mission set.

“When we launched the initial invasion into Iraq in March of 2003, our military and in particular this headquarters – CENTCOM headquarters – was already in the midst of conducting operations in a separate theater in Afghanistan. And so our invasion into Iraq meant that our command would have to manage two campaigns and it did so for well over a decade. This speaks volumes about the quality of the people in this command – military, civilians and contractors.

“It has been the greatest privilege of my life to be able to wear the uniform of our nation and to lead and serve alongside America’s sons and daughters,” said General Austin. “I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve now as the commander of this world class organization.”



Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin, III, commander of U.S. Central Command, addresses members, civilians and distinguished visitors during the ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Friday. Austin comes to assume command of staff of the U.S. Army.



Photo by Senior Airman Melanie Bulow-Kelly

U.S. Central Command, addresses service during a change of command ceremony at CENTCOM following his tour as vice chief



Photo by Senior Airman Melanie Bulow-Kelly

Marine Corps Gen. James N. Mattis, outgoing commander of U.S. Central Command, receives a standing ovation from the audience. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Army Gen. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin, III, incoming commander, during a change of command ceremony Friday. Mattis will retire later this year after more than 40 years of service.



Photo by Senior Airman Melanie Bulow-Kelly

Coalition partners, along with members of Team MacDill, attend the U.S. Central Command change of command ceremony, Friday. CENTCOM's area of responsibility consists of 20 countries in the Central Asia region of the globe.



Photo by Senior Airman Adam Grant

Vigilance

Staff Sgt. Christopher Law, 6th Security Forces Squadron marine patrol team lead, looks through a pair of binoculars while patrolling the coastline of MacDill Air Force Base, March 18.

Are you 'friends' with alcohol?

by Capt. Jeremy Pallas, BSC

6th Medical Group alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment element chief

Alcohol Awareness Week begins April 1 at MacDill, and is held to emphasize the promotion of accurate health information regarding alcohol use and prevention of alcohol-related problems.

Most of us are familiar with the common social media terms of "friending," "liking" and "relationship status." Each of us may have different standards when it comes to "friending" someone or "liking" a page, but what are your standards when it comes to alcohol consumption? How would you describe your relationship status with alcohol? Here are some thoughts to consider:

If you are under 21 you should not be "friends" with alcohol at all. Unfortunately, 12- to 20-year-olds drink 11 percent of all alcohol consumed in the United States, with more than 90 percent of this alcohol consumed in the form of binge drinking. Binge drinking is dangerous and entails drinking five or more drinks for males or four or more drinks for females on the same occasion with the intent to get drunk.

If you "like" alcohol, you should avoid high risk consumption. The Cen-

ter for Disease Control reports that excessive alcohol use is the third leading lifestyle-related cause of death in the United States. Excessive alcohol use may also lead to unintentional injuries, intimate partner violence, risky sexual behavior or even alcohol poisoning.

The long-term health risks can impact your liver, stomach, intestines and neurological system. Avoid trendy or risky methods of consuming alcohol, such as inhaling alcohol through a "vaportini" or not knowing the amount of alcohol in your mixed drink when others prepare them for you.

If your relationship with alcohol is defined as "it's complicated," then consider the effects your drinking is having on your social, psychological, spiritual and physical health. Be careful not to underestimate your drinking pattern. Take time to evaluate the potential risks or harm your drinking could cause.

Take note socially: Have others criticized or commented on your drinking? Are you lying about your drinking habits to family, peers or co-workers? Do you find it increasingly difficult to talk to people or socialize without a drink?

Psychologically, do you find yourself drinking to manage life situations or emotions like anger or sadness? Do you find the previous night's drinking is a blur or have no memory of it? Spiritually, has your drinking interfered with your participation in religious activities or living your life with

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BRIEFS

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tax assistance services to active duty members, military retirees and dependents. Services are available on a first come, first served basis five days a week at the RAO on MacDill. The Brandon AFRC offers tax assistance by appointment only, but has no more appointments available for this tax season. Call the RAO at 828- 4555 for more information.

Air Force Assistance Fund

The Air Force Assistance Fund campaign has been extended through April. The AFAF campaign is an annual, on-the-job fund raising appeal conducted among Air Force personnel for the benefit of Air Force personnel. AFAF campaign contributions provide financial support to four AFAF affiliates. They are the Air Force

Village, the AirForce Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Village and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. Contact Maj. Justin Sandholm or Capt. Chris Wiley at 827-9137 or 828-7376 for more information.

Commissary hours for Easter holiday

The MacDill Air Force Base commissary will be open on March 31, the Easter holiday, with reduced hours. The hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. only.

Airman's Attic days of operation

The Airman's Attic will change their days of operation beginning April 9. The new days of operation will be Tuesday and Thursday. The hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Air-

man's Attic is open to E-1 to E-6 in all branches of service and their dependents with valid ID card.

The Base Exchange extended hours

Main store: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Furniture store: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Class Six: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Clothing sales: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Any questions should be referred to Aubrey Pemkiewicz at 828-3858.

SWIM

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SWFWMD has, in fact, partnered with MacDill AFB on two previous SWIM projects, completed in 1996 and 1999; however, the Phase III SWIM effort is by far the largest. Funding for the Phase III SWIM project comes primarily from the SWFWMD (\$1.8 million); however grants from NOAA (\$250,000) and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (\$200,000), as well as conservation funds from the Department of Defense were secured to support the project.

The Phase III SWIM project covers most of the southeastern portion of MacDill, including the north and south golf courses and the Lewis Lake recreation area. Work on the south golf course primarily focused on restoring more than 30 acres of degraded mangrove estuary essentially cut off from Tampa Bay years ago with construction of the golf course. The restoration work created a new tidal connection with the bay, removed dense stands of non-native vegetation (e.g. Brazilian pepper), and created more than 10 acres of new estuarine habitat. The project also improved many of the existing ponds on the south course by establishing tidal connections with Tampa Bay to create additional oligohaline (low salinity) habitat and by expanding the littoral (shallow water vegetated) areas of the ponds to increase pollutant uptake.

Everyone seems to agree that the work has dramatically changed the appearance of the south course. One golfer playing the south golf course proclaimed, “I really enjoy what you have done with the course by opening it up. It really created a spectacular view.”

Work on the north golf course concentrated on improving stormwater treatment. A weir will divert stormwater from the large north/south

drainage canal through a series of well vegetated, freshwater and estuarine ponds on the north golf course. By redirecting stormwater through the ponds, the water flow is slowed down. That increases retention time and provides longer contact with the aquatic plants that naturally adsorb pollutants from the stormwater.

The Phase III SWIM project also improved Lewis Lake, which is a permitted stormwater treatment system. The project increased the size of the lake, increased beneficial aquatic vegetation, and eradicated acres of nuisance, invasive plant species. The shape of the lake was modified so that water flow through the lake was redirected in a manner which increases retention time and improves pollutant uptake. Additional enhancements to the Lewis Lake recreational area include the creation of land bridges and fingers into the lake to increase fishing opportunities.

The Phase III SWIM project indirectly affects about 800 acres around the project area through increased habitat and water quality improvements. The construction footprint affected more than 100 acres, and the project restored 9.6 acres of wetlands, created 21.9 acres of new wetlands, and directly enhanced 15.7 acres of surface water across the north and south golf courses, and the Lewis Lake recreational area. Construction of the project began in July 2012 and is expected to be complete by March 2013. In total, the project excavated nearly 120,000 cubic yards of earth and replanted disturbed areas with more than 187,000 new native plants. The project team, which included representatives from SWFWMD, Bay Palms Golf Course, and the base Environmental Flight, was lead by Nancy Norton with SWFWMD.

MACDILL COMMUNITY



EVENTS

Friday

Boomers Bar & Grill

Friday Bash! 3-8 p.m. Bar snacks and drink specials. Guaranteed \$100 club card drawing, Bar Bingo - \$1,000 jackpot, Trivia and DJ.

Seascapes Beach House

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

Saturday

Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m. at the Youth Baseball Fields. Prize eggs, a clown, games, face painting and a visit from the Easter bunny. For more info call the Youth Center at 828-7956.

Seascapes Beach House

Beach on Fire from 3-9 p.m. Sassy Saturdays - Live band, drink specials, complimentary hors d'oeuvres served at 3 p.m.

Thursday

Airman & Family Readiness Center

Building a Better Credit Report from 12:30-1:30 p.m. The workshop is designed to help consumers understand and strengthen their credit reports. It also includes an overview of scoring and how it is used in consumer lending.

Base Theater

FREE Movie! "Monsters Vs Aliens" at 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome and feel free to bring your own food and drink.

Celebrate Month of the Military Child. Log on to www.macdillfss.com for events.



Photo by Senior Airman Melissa Paradise

Members of the Tampa Bay community pay respects to the remains of Army Spc. Zach Shannon as a motorcade passes by March 25 along Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa. Shannon, of Dunedin, Fla., passed away from injuries sustained as a result of a helicopter crash in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the Company B, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.



EXCHANGE
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE



CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Protestant services

Sunday - 11 a.m. - Contemporary Service

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - FamCamp 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>.



CORNER

From Page 2

in private affairs, use of position for personal gain, and complete lack of transparency necessary to sustain trust in the government.

Our founding fathers understood the root of the problem: all men lust for power, governments are comprised of men; therefore, all governments lust for power. To counter this truth, our founding fathers formed a republic that divided power against itself through three branches of government. But that wasn't enough. Since individuals within government were still capable of abusing power, our founders demanded that government employees put the needs of the nation ahead of their own interest — they demanded public virtue. Moreover, our vigilant citizens were warned to be on the watch against any abuse of government power that might impact their rights and liberties. Over the years, the demand for public virtue in federal employees has morphed into a code of ethics. Remarkably, the topics listed on the home page for the Office of Government Ethics (conflicts of interest, gifts, use of position/resources, outside employment) address the exact same concerns our forefathers had with the King's corrupt government.

A commander once applauded my history lesson, but fairly pointed

out, “we aren't fighting the Redcoats anymore - haven't we progressed to the point where the JAG can stop worrying about whether soliciting gifts from the community is a misuse of official position? Is that really what our founding fathers had in mind?” I directed my friend to a recent study that showed trust in government officials was at an all time low and that most Americans believe there is a lack of transparency in our government. To a skeptical public, an innocuous solicitation for a gift is an attempt to dispense favors with local leaders and begs the question, “if they can't follow simple ethics rules, how can we trust them on big issues like our current fiscal crisis?”

Ethics can seem mushy, that's why I got that “C-;” but I find most commanders quickly grasp the goal of government ethics because it is really quite familiar. Public virtue, putting the nation's interest ahead of personal interest, is really just “service before self” — a core value we live by every day.

In these trying times, let's maintain the public's trust in their Air Force, let's hue to our ethical standards and our core values — this stuff really is important!

ALCOHOL

From Page 14

purpose?

Finally, physically, have you gained weight or noticed you have trouble the next day recovering from a drinking episode? Look for any pattern in your “timeline” and evaluate if you need to change your association with

alcohol. Be clear about why you drink and how you would know if alcohol is a problem. For support, speak to your primary care manager, employee assistance program or contact the MacDill Alcohol, & Drug Abuse Prevention & Treatment program at 827-9170.