

THUNDERBOLT

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Lives on the line - page 10

Photo by Airman 1st Class Shandresha Mitchell

Parachute riggers from multiple commands prepare and pack parachutes at MacDill Air Force Base, Sept. 18. This critical job leaves no room for error, as the lives of jumpers are on the line.

CUI - 47 days and counting: preparation tips, page 3

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Losing your future to sexual assault

by Col. Tom Posch

Air Force Legal Operations Agency

"I knew the minute our eyes met that she was the 'one.' We exchanged numbers and set up a date. It was planned to perfection. She was the 'one.' And then she Googled me. . .and told me never to contact her again. That's life as a registered sex offender. My face, my name, my address... for the world to see: Sex Offender."

This is a very likely future for an Airman convicted of sexual assault. I know.

Since 1994, I've both prosecuted and represented Airmen charged in "Blue-on-Blue" crimes and all manner of sexual assaults. It happens that my memory of 9/11 was witnessing the attack on America and tragic loss of life on the news ... as I prepared my dress blues for the arraignment and trial of a client charged in the rape of a fellow Airman.

I've spent the better part of 18 years advising commanders, prosecuting cases, and representing Airmen charged with violating the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Currently, I am the chief appellate defense attorney in the Air Force. I lead a team of lawyers who defend Airmen after they've been convicted at a court-martial. It's our duty, as required by Article 70 of the UCMJ, to represent these Airmen, search for legal error in their cases, and advocate for their convictions to be overturned and their sentences set aside or reduced. This includes Airmen convicted of sexual

assault, which I sadly say remains a large percentage of our docket.

As a matter of professional responsibility, it makes no difference to us whether or not our clients claim to be innocent or guilty -- our duty is to defend both equally well -- yes, even when they've confessed and pled guilty.

In plain speak, the Air Force is not our client, convicted Airmen are.

If you're concerned that my duties are in conflict with sexual assault prevention, don't be. In fact, the first thought I'll share with you is that there are not two sides to this problem. Yes, sides are taken in the courtroom, but nobody is "for" sexual assault or "against" accountability. "Zero tolerance" and potentially severe consequences for those who violate the law have been part of Air Force culture for many years. Accountability is the norm and not the exception. I see it every day at work and have for many years in different duties and settings.

Airmen convicted of a sexual offense face lifelong consequences. If the possibility of trial, conviction, jail, and a punitive discharge don't dissuade, consider the story at the beginning of this article. There's a high probability convicted Airmen will carry the label of "registered sex offender" for the rest of their lives. Sex offender registration allows federal and state law enforcement officers to monitor the location and activities of convicted sex offenders.

Airmen convicted of sexual assault at a court-martial are required to register in the state where they live, work, or attend school. Some states

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6th Air Mobility Wing shoutouts

◆ Senior Airman Laura Beckley, 6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs, for performing master of ceremony duties for the 12 Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet.

◆ Tech. Sgt. Charles Holbert, 6th Operations Squadron, for providing an outstanding Air Traffic Control tour to civic leaders.

◆ Sarah DeLorenzo, 6th Medical Group Key Spouse, for setting up a fall carnival for medical group families and Moms of Preschoolers.

◆ All Team MacDill first sergeants for hosting the Combat Fitness Challenge.

◆ Airman 1st Class Tyler Treadaway, 6th Maintenance Squadron, for leading his squadron's clothing drive and being part of the dorm council.



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

Publisher: Bill Barker

Editor: Nick Stubbs

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News items for the MacDill Thunderbolt can be submitted to the 6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs office, 8208 Hangar Loop Dr., suite 14, MacDill AFB, FL 33621, or call the MacDill Thunderbolt staff at 828-2215. Email: thunder.bolt@us.af.mil.

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 Style-



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Big welcome for WWII vets

News/Features: page 6



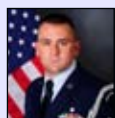
Fitness challenge

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Parachute packing a joint effort

Community: page 17



Events, chapel, more...

Get CUI ready

- ◆ Ensure that your Management Internal Control Toolset (MICT) deficiency “get well” plan is realistic and attainable.
- ◆ Complete Computer Based Training (CBT’s) such as Trafficking in Persons and Suicide Prevention.

‘There I was...’

Boots on the ground and armed

by Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Cruzmunoz
6th Contracting Squadron

“The day the Air Force has to carry a weapon in the front lines, that’s the day the war is lost.”

These were the words I remember hearing 21 years ago when I first joined my beloved Air Force. They were wrong.

Twenty one years later, there I was in Kabul, Afghanistan, responsible for providing senior enlisted leadership to 270 personnel, assigned to 29 forward operating bases throughout Afghanistan. Our mission was to provide life support services consisting of food, transportation, maintenance, housing, security, and all other necessities. We accomplished the mission by performing quality assurance, property oversight and contract management for the \$9 billion Logistics Civilian Augmentation Program contract on behalf of the Defense Contract Management Agency. The agency’s weapon of choice was the Air Force Airman, who accounted for more than 75 percent of the military individual augmentation force in the command.

As I traveled throughout Afghanistan and witnessed firsthand that we are all in. I was



Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Cruzmunoz at his deployed location in Afghanistan.

proud to see my Airmen, maintainers, fire fighters, training instructors and recruiters— in full battle rattle, armed with 9 mm handguns and M4 rifles, traveling by helicopters and convoys to outer bases and to the Afghan National Police and Army compounds executing the DCMA mission. These Airmen were tasked to perform

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AFSO21 efforts ongoing; producing results at MacDill

by Nick Stubbs
Thunderbolt editor

Air Force Smart Operations 21 (21st century) is alive and thriving at MacDill.

The program designed to net efficiencies, improve quality and save money across virtually any process or service in the Air Force, got under way at MacDill in 2006, when consultants operating under a three-year contract came to the base to help streamline operations across operations to cut time and costs, while improving quality. To do it, the AFSO21 team applied “lean” business principles, developed for private manufacturers to deliver more value to customers, while doing it with less work and expense.

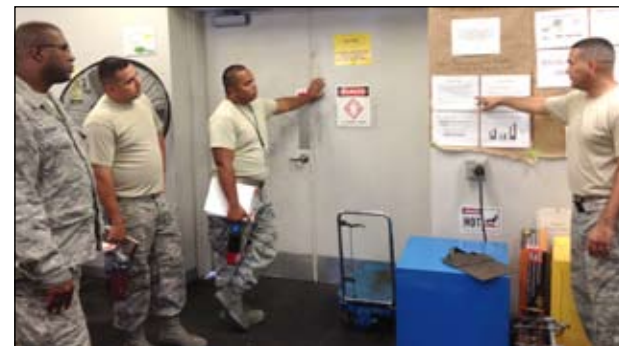
The program produced many gains at MacDill, such as substantially reducing “quick-turn” times for KC-135 Stratotankers, getting them ready for their next flight in less time. The pro-

gram also helped various units and agencies on base improve customer service levels, while saving those units time and money delivering those services.

The AFSO21 efforts could have faded away once the consulting contract expired, but MacDill picked up the ball and continues advancing it today, with dozens of AFSO21 efficiency projects under way or on the list for implementation in the future.

The AFSO21 office at MacDill is staffed by two military members, said Master Sgt. Steve Martin, AFSO21 superintendent, who currently is running the office on his own due the deployment of the other half of the staff.

That doesn’t mean the project is hampered by lack of manpower, however, as Martin has trained others on base to be AFSO21 experts, and trainers themselves who spread lean principles to others.



Courtesy photo

Members of the 6th Maintenance Squadron go over a checklist of problems being addressed by applying AFSO21, or lean principles.

“It’s about changing the culture,” said Martin of AFSO21. “You want them (Air Force members) not to think of it just as lean principles, but think of it as ‘just how things are done here’

See **AFSO21**, Page 12

NEWS/FEATURES



MacDill Airmen welcome home WWII vets

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Angela Ruiz
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

As the World War II veterans shuffled down the red carpet laid before them at St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport, their eyes widened, then got misty at the sight of the welcoming crowd there to greet them, Sept. 18.

Among the crowd were several young Airmen from MacDill, and Col. Scott DeThomas, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, to welcome home the veterans of a war that ended long before the young Airmen were born.

"I felt fantastic. I would have never thought a large crowd like this would come out," said Raybern Perry, a WWII veteran that enlisted in the Navy at age 17.

The seventh flight of Honor Flight of West Central Florida shuttled 77 veterans to Washington, D.C., something the group has done for 466 veterans to date. The trips allow veterans to visit the Washington memorials-- where they can reflect upon their history, their service and fellow service members who didn't come home.

The WWII veterans fought the largest, most widespread war in the world's history. An estimate of 40 to 65 million people died and hundreds of millions were physically and mentally wounded. According to the Honor Flight Network website, the WWII veteran survivors are passing away at a rate more than 900 a day and many have never seen the WWII monument.

Members of the welcoming crowd also experienced an awe moment as they got an opportunity to do what most will only be able to read about, to meet face-to-face and talk with a living monument-- these WWII veterans.

"My favorite part was seeing the faces of the first few men returning," said Senior Airman Jessica Kinser, 6th Medical Support Squadron medical laboratory technician. "I have a hard time putting into words how it made me feel. It was very humbling, and I was extremely honored to be a part of this. I will definitely be there at the next event."

The Honor Flight is always seeking volunteers and other support. Visit www.honorflightwcf.org.



2nd Lt. Elizabeth Scarberry, 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron plans and integration officer in charge, embraces a World War II veteran upon arrival with the seventh Honor Flight West Central Florida at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport Sept. 18. Seventy-seven WWII veterans were flown to Washington D.C. to tour the WWII memorial.



More than 300 people, including Airmen from MacDill Air Force Base, welcomed WWII veterans' home at St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport.

Combat challenge event builds teamwork, fitness

by Senior Airman Rachelle Coleman
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

More than 50 personnel joined together for the First Sergeant Combat Fitness Challenge at MacDill, Sept. 20.

Five events challenged Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Soldiers from units around MacDill. There were four teams from U.S. Central Command, four teams from the 6th Air Mobility Wing and two teams from U.S. Special Operations Command Central.

The challenge was held by the First Sergeants Council to push resiliency and teamwork using fitness. The council, comprised of all first sergeants on MacDill, is always searching for creative ways to build resiliency and camaraderie in fellow Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Soldiers. The fitness event was the result of this search.

“There are many reasons to hold this type of event,” said Master Sgt. Brad Welton, U.S. Central Command cyber network defense NCOIC, not the least of which is promoting teamwork, leadership and motivating service members.

MacDill is the only military installation to have two combatant commands, and while units

on MacDill may live together, their very different missions don’t allow for much time to mingle. The challenge provided the opportunity to stage a healthy competition.

“It also promotes fitness and the competitive spirit,” said Welton, who was in charge of organizing the event. “Our hope is to make this a quarterly event with different challenging events each time.”

Events included a Humvee push, mannequin carry, pushups, tire flip and a relay race.

“We had a great deal of help from logistics in CENTCOM, in fact we could not have done this without their help. They set up similar events like this in the past and we built upon their great model,” said Welton. “I think the event was a complete success; I saw a lot of smiles out there, and that is what it is all about.

“This was our first time at running an event like this and we now have some great ideas to make the next one even more successful.”

Team C3 from CENTCOM, led by Lt. Col. Michael Kupke, CENTCOM chief of security cooperation— health engagements branch, finished the event first, with a time of 38 minutes.

“It’s about teamwork and camaraderie,” said



Photo by Senior Airman Rachelle Coleman

Team C3, from U.S. Central Command, won the First Sergeants Council’s Combat Fitness Challenge at MacDill Sept. 20. Teams from CENTCOM, the 6th Air Mobility Wing and U.S. Special Operations Command Central competed in five events geared toward building resiliency and camaraderie.

Kupke. “We all brought a strength or two to the fight.”

“We rock, we set the standard, we are the champions (is what) crossed my mind after Friday’s event,” said Kupke of the team’s win.

The First Sergeants Council is hoping to hold another challenge soon.

CORNER

From Page 2

even require the offender to notify the registry if they are going on vacation in a different state. If the crime involved minors, state law may bar the offender from living or working near places where children frequent, such as a school, library, day-care center, or park.

Registration laws don't differentiate well between different types or degrees of sexual crimes, and some don't even try. Every state keeps a public registry of sex offenders. Many

jurisdictions make this information available via a website or app, and may include the offender's full name, photograph and address.

These laws are designed as public-safety measures rather than additional punishment, but they can carry with them a substantial loss of freedom and liberty. After serving their sentences, Airmen often find it difficult to find a home or a job, and registration also impacts their freedom of association with families, friends and loved ones. What may not have been that big of a deal at age 19, can drastically alter your way of life when you're in your

thirties and married with children. The consequences of a sexual assault conviction go far beyond the immediate sentence.

I share this perspective because prevention is better than prosecution. It's my hope that knowledge of the consequences may deter Airmen from a poor choice and a lifetime of regret.

It's important that Airmen think about the lifelong consequences of sexual assault now, not when having it explained to them by an attorney. This cannot be understated: sexual assault crimes last a lifetime for all involved.

Sexual assault crimes last a lifetime for all.

NEWS/FEATURES



New command established at MacDill

by Airman 1st Class Michael Ellis
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

Marine Corps Forces Central Command became a standalone command after a brief ceremony on MacDill Sept. 17 and will now be led by a three-star general.

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Robert Neller will lead the Marines assigned to the headquarters on MacDill supporting operations in the Middle East.

Neller previously served as the Director for Operations, J3, The Joint-Staff, Washington, D.C..

“This is important for the Marine Corps and for CENTCOM,” Neller explained in reference to how the creation of a standalone command benefits a leader - enabling one to provide their undivided attention to the mission.

“Up until now, there has been one officer who had two hats. By virtue of having two different jobs - you end up having to split yourself.

You can't be entirely focused on one assignment,” said Neller.

Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis, CENTCOM commander, was in attendance and also expressed the importance of the command.

In the wake of recent events and the attacks in the Middle East the importance and reasoning for establishment is apparent, Mattis explained.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandon Shapiro

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Robert Neller speaks with reporters following a ceremony establishing the new standalone Marine Corps Forces Central Command at MacDill.

Mattis finished with some encouragement by referring to the Marine Corps ethos over a decade ago during some turbulent times.

“The maniacs who attacked us on 9/11 thought that by hurting us, they could scare us. We don't scare.”



Petty Officer 2nd Class Joshua Goldsmith, United States Special Operations Command Central parachute rigger, secures a deployment bag to a canopy during parachute packing at MacDill, Sept. 18. Parachute connections are made using quarter-inch cotton webbing and are secured by tying a surgeon's knot.

Lives on the line

Photos by Airman 1st Class Shandresha Mitche





(Above) U.S. Army Sgt. Luke Allen, Joint Communications Support Element parachute rigger, packs the last portion of a parachute into a deployment bag at MacDill Air Force Base, Sept. 18. The joint parachute shop consists of service members from the Joint Communications Support Element, United States Special Operations Command, and United States Special Operations Command Central. (Left) U.S. Army Sgt. Luke Allen, JCSE parachute rigger, threads a parachute's suspension lines through loops on a deployment bag at MacDill, Sept. 18. The lines must be threaded properly to ensure proper deployment of the chute following a jump.



U.S. Army Sgt. Luke Allen, Joint Communications Support Element parachute rigger, adjusts a parachute's suspension lines during a parachute packing at MacDill Air Force Base, Sept. 18. The line continuity check is performed every time a parachute is packed to ensure no lines are crossed.

AFSO21

From Page 3

and have it ingrained in them.”

Thinking logically and methodically to identify problems and then solve them in the most efficient way isn't easy without the tools AFSO21 provides, said Martin.

Adapting is not natural, at first, he said, but after learning how to isolate problems and deal with them through proper analysis and the application of efficient solutions, the result is a shift in the way Airmen think.

“It's about getting to the root cause of the problem and solving that,” said Martin. “It's about getting at it where the rubber meets the road.”

The approach works, said 1st Lt. Timothy Gaydosh, operations officer with the 6th Maintenance Squadron. As the AFSO21 lead for his unit, he's worked closely with Martin to learn how to apply lean manufacturing principles and to train others in the ways of “lean thinking.”

“We have 30 projects in our group that are using the lean operating model,” said Gaydosh. All are “aligned with the goals of AFSO21, the group and wing,” for increasing production, increasing access or availability of assets, and increasing reliability and agility.

The positive side effects of accomplishing those goals are eliminating wasted time and cutting spending. A shining example has been gains seen through efforts to streamline the squadron's hazmat unit. Some \$12,000 in annual savings have already been realized, and the purchase, storing and disposal of the chemicals and lubricants the unit manages has been vastly simplified, said Gaydosh.

Gained efficiencies benefit the entire unit, said Gaydosh, noting that the savings in hazmat has allowed the squadron to maintain a larger inventory of essential spare parts, making for quicker repairs and faster turn-around

times in the maintenance of aircraft.

Other AFSO21 successes in the unit are a substantial reduction in what are called delayed discrepancies, or trouble items on planes that go on a list of maintenance problems for aircraft. A dozen to 15 items were typical before lean tactics were applied. Now, the average delayed discrepancies for a plane average six or less, said Gaydosh.

Another process that has seen major gains is the periodic (every two years) major inspections of KC-135 Stratotankers. The time for the inspections has dropped from 30 to 45 days to just 14 days on average, said Gaydosh.

Another AFSO21 benefit is that members are more enthusiastic about their jobs, opined Gaydosh.

“It's self management,” he said. “The goal is to allow people to achieve their own success” rather than just reporting a problem to superiors and waiting for a solution to be found for them.

AFSO21 for your health

by Nick Stubbs

Thunderbolt editor

AFSO21 is all about doing more for less money, but one AFSO21 project currently under way in the 6th Medical Group is primarily focused on improving health, and that's something you can't put a price on, said Capt. Karen Chisholm, 6th MDG clinic lab flight commander.

The clinic identified a problem of female Airmen skipping the annual mammogram requirement. The mammograms are important to insure the health of Airmen, as well as their readiness level, said Chisholm. Something had to be done, and AFSO21 was seen as a way to provide a solution.

Using lean principles, the root causes of the problem are being identified, and thus far fear and ambivalence have come to the surface as issues the clinic faces, but lack of awareness of the requirement also factors in.

Currently, a plan is being adopted to make Airmen aware of the annual requirement, as well as put them at ease

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THERE I WAS

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duties outside of their normal specialty and made sure our warriors received what they needed to deliver the fight to the enemy.

I continued to witness Airmen doing extraordinary things everywhere I traveled. At my deployed home base, two female Air Force medics weighing less than 100 pounds each carried 27-pound M-240 machine guns while conducting gunner duty on daily convoy operations. Each day their infectious smiles and can-do attitude made me proud, especially the day of their final mission.

These medics were returning home, now stronger than ever, because of their experience and earned the right to proudly say, "I am an American Airman, I am a warrior, I have answered my nation's call."

AFI 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure, calls for Airmen capable of adapting to evolving

Air Force requirements. We have now been at war for the last 11 years. Today's Airman joins the Air Force understanding that they might be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice. They join fully knowing that the question is not if but when they will deploy.

Even with this knowledge, the Airmen I spoke to never imagined being called upon to fulfill the type of missions they accomplished.

These Airmen never conceived traveling by helos and convoys to locations with only 12 people living on the side of a mountain, and being called to provide security for the team.

The front lines are no longer defined. The lines are now wherever the enemy dwells, and the enemy can be anywhere.

History shows Airmen can be called anytime, to go anywhere, to accomplish any mission.

Armed with this knowledge we must be ready every day.

We must take control over those things we can control. We can start by developing a flexible mind frame, ready to accept whatever mission we are called upon to do. We can focus on fitness, making sure our bodies are ready to carry heavy gear for long hours and travel long distances. Most important, we can start by owning the fact that our nation is counting on us, the American Airman, to fight and win our nation's war.

HEALTH

From Page 12

about the process, said Chisholm. In this case, such an education campaign will cost the clinic time and money, but in the end, AFSO21 goals will be achieved by helping ensure a more ready force and healthier Airmen, benefiting the 6th Air Mobility Wing and ultimately the Air Force overall, she said. Besides, in cases of the health and wellbeing of Airmen, money takes something of a back seat.

"Saving lives is more important than saving (money)," said Chisholm.

In the 6th MDG, AFSO21 has resulted in the drive-through pharmacy, cutting wait times for prescriptions significantly, said Chisholm. Another AFSO21 project in the works aims to reduce patient wait time for blood tests at the clinic.

Like many of the AFSO21 endeavors, discovering and solving the root of the problem often reveals ancillary problems that must be dealt with to provide a "total solution."

"Once you fix the root problem, other problems often pop up," said Chisholm. "That's why it is always good to look at it (an applied solution) for at least three months" to identify consequential problems.

Chisholm said she likes using lean principles to solve problems in her unit, and said "brainstorming ideas" with those principles in mind produces better solutions.



EVENTS

Win an iPad 3

You work hard, you play hard. Lifestyle matters at MacDill. The 6th Force Support Squadron wants to hear from you. Take our MacDill Quality of Life Survey, now thru Oct. 5. at <https://www.research.net/s/quality_of_life_2012>.

Friday

Arts & Crafts Center

Free open scrapbooking from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Youth Center

Tot Fair & Fun hosted by the Airman & Family Readiness Center from 9-11:30 a.m. Resources and fun for families with toddlers; all ages welcome. Partnering with the New Parent Support Program.

Surf's Edge Club

◆ Friday bash from 3-7 p.m. Bar snacks and drink specials. Guaranteed \$100 club card drawing, bar bingo, and DJ.

◆ Membership Dinner from 5:30-9 p.m. Members: FREE Non-members: \$14.95.

Saturday

Five dollar scrap party

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Arts & Crafts Center. Bring your scrapbooking supplies and photos, and scrap till your heart's content. Soda and snacks will be provided. Register in advance. All attendees will have their name put into a special door prize drawing valued up to \$25.

Wednesday

Airman & Family Readiness Center (Brandon)

Resume Workshop from 9am - 12 p.m. Create the resume that will get you the interview. Call 655-9281 to reserve a spot today.

HONOR GUARD SPOTLIGHT

Senior Airman Justin Puryear 6th Medical Support Squadron



Job Title: Health services management

Hometown: Lowell, Mass.

Why did you join the Honor Guard? I joined because I always wanted to pay respect to those who have served before me.

What special memories have you had in the Honor Guard? I once did a funeral for a special forces airman. His former Airmen, wearing their red berets, followed the casket along with almost 100 other community members and families. It showed what kind of person he really was, to have that many people attend his service. It made me proud to be there for him, his family and his friends.

Advice to others: Never give up — adapt and overcome. Every obstacle is a chance to excel in life.



CHAPEL SCHEDULE



Protestant services

Sunday - 11 a.m. - Contemporary Service

Islamic services

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

Catholic services

Saturday - 5:30 p.m. - Mass

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Mass

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

EXCHANGE

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

WEEK IN PHOTOS



Photo by Airman 1st Class David Tracy

Senior Airmen Erick Hernandez and Tyler Miller, 6th Maintenance Squadron aero repair technicians, prepare to hoist an aircraft during a Crash, Damaged and Disabled Aircraft Recovery exercise on MacDill, Sept. 24. Airmen perform annual CDDAR training to ensure aircraft removal in the event of a crash.



Photo by Senior Airman Melissa Paradise

Airmen 1st Class Trevor Sockman and Victoria Jacobo, 6th Medical Support Squadron, mingle with Robert Humberstone, honorary guest and St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport director of properties, during the annual civic leader reception at MacDill, Sept. 21.