

Change of Command

AIA/JC2WC under new leadership

by Staff Sgt. Kimberley Young
HQ AIA/PA
Kelly Air Force Base, Texas

Brig. Gen. James E. Miller Jr. assumed command of the Air Intelligence Agency/Joint Command and Control Warfare Center during ceremonies here Sept. 5.

Miller succeeds Maj. Gen. Michael Hayden, who is headed to Seoul, South Korea, as the deputy chief of staff for the United Nations Command and U.S. Forces Korea.

Maj. Gen. John Casciano, Air Force director of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and former AIA commander; and Marine Lt. Gen. Peter Pace, director of Operations, Joint Staff, officiated the ceremony.

Pace, speaking on behalf of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he wished he could tell everyone about the accomplishments of the JC2WC.

"You'd be proud of them. They do a wonderful, wonderful job for this country."

Casciano welcomed Miller and his wife, Leslie, "back to San Antonio and the Air Force operations team."

To the Haydens he said, "Thanks for a job superbly done for the people of this command.

"I know you'll take your next challenge in the same fashion as the first non-rated officer and the first of the new Air Force operators to serve as the Deputy Chief of Staff for U.S. Forces, Korea. I wish you good luck."

In farewell remarks, Hayden was proud of the personnel on the hill.

"You have pushed your art and your science to a new level.

"You can now act to affect the



photo by Gloria Trevino

Left, Lt. Gen. Peter Pace hands JC2WC flag to Brig. Gen. James E. Miller Jr..

environment, not just know the information battlespace, but also to shape it.

"That's what enables you to not only support the warfighter, but also to literally be part of the warfight."

He addressed Miller by saying, "Jim, you have a wonderful team. Throughout the hill and all the reaches of the agency and the center, you have a wealth of talent, patriotism and energy to draw upon.

"With your background here on

the hill and your operational experience, you will be able to add your own mark to this growing process," said Hayden.

"We've had a wonderful time here and we've made so many good friends," Hayden said.

"We owe so much gratitude to so many people. Let me just offer a general, but very, very heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you."

Choking back obvious emotion, Hayden said, "Thank you for letting me be part of it. It's been a great ride."

No stranger to Kelly, Miller said he and his family were pleased to be back with such a group of professionals and that this is a true homecoming.

Miller feels intelligence is the linchpin for all successful operations. "It's extremely important you remember what you do for a daily living — it has tremendous impact on our nation," he said.

AIA and JC2WC have reputations for doing outstanding work and Miller said he wanted that reputation to grow.

AIA is on the "cutting edge of some of the newest thinking in the U.S. Air Force and putting teeth into senior leadership's commitment to air, space and information superiority as part of the joint team," said Casciano.

Miller is up against "a challenge like no other he has had. I know Jim is ready to further AIA's and the JC2WC's reputations for excellence," Casciano concluded. ■

Opportunities for linguists at DLI



Senior Airman Michelle Goodman, Chinese target language instructor, elaborates on a vocabulary lesson.

The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center is responsible for providing quality language instruction and support to Department of Defense linguists and other government agencies.

The joint service institute provides several career opportunities for Air Force cryptologic linguists, including duty as a military language instructor or academic training advisor.

Military language instructors are assigned to the Air Force element and work alongside native instructors. Classroom instruction can range from lessons on a country's culture to intricate nuances found in a language's grammar.

"I enjoy being able to give back to the Air Force part of the training that I have received," said Staff Sgt. Michael Daughtry, a Korean MLI assigned to DLIFLC's Asian School II. "I also feel privileged to be in a posi-

tion to pass on my knowledge for the good of the mission."

Language instructors provide a structured study skills and language orientation course to Air Force students before they begin their class. They use their knowledge of language, culture, history and job experience to motivate and prepare Air Force students for

language study. The instructors also provide motivational language workshops and offer tutoring sessions.

"We are here to prepare and guide Air Force students through what will most likely be the most difficult academic environment of their lives," said Tech. Sgt. Matthew Arnold, noncommissioned officer in charge, SMART Directorate. "Our role is vital, since every graduate becomes another asset for field commanders to utilize in fulfilling the Air Force mission."

More than 800 students are assigned to the 311th Training Squadron, the larger of the two Air Force units on DLIFLC.

Headquarters Air Education and Training Command established the duty position of the academic training advisor to assist the unit's six military training managers responsible for military training and discipline. Some of these academic issues

are the status of classroom instruction, academic standing of assigned students and academic trend analysis.

Air Force linguists also hold staff positions, and are responsible for operational and planning support to the Defense Foreign Language Program. Duties include coordinating with outside agencies on foreign language training issues, supporting command language programs, and managing interpretation and translation support for Department of Defense customers.

"The most rewarding part of my job is knowing that I'm giving the first-line linguists in the field the tools they need to maintain or enhance their language capability," said Master Sgt. Martin Dooley, noncommissioned officer in charge of Programs Coordination.

All linguist positions at DLIFLC contribute to the goal of producing quality foreign language graduates to meet operational mission requirements in the field. This team has a positive impact on the DLIFLC mission and future Air Force linguists.

A high degree of language competency, superior leadership skills and a mission-oriented mindset are the prerequisites for duty on the Presidio of Monterey.

For more information on these challenging jobs at DLIFLC, contact the Air Force Element Superintendent, Chief Master Sgt. Al Dowling, at DSN 878-5496 or the 311th TRS First Sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Dale Weber at DSN 878-5730. ■



Photos by Boyd Belcher

New headquarters of the 67th Intelligence Wing.

Wing members have new home

by Senior Airman Jacquelyn Johnson
HQ AIA/PA
Kelly Air Force Base, Texas

The Air Force's newest warriors, information operators, moved one step closer toward achieving information superiority for America by dedicating a new \$3 million headquarters building for the 67th Intelligence Wing at Kelly Air Force Base recently.

The state-of-the-art facility will provide upgraded, worldwide communications capabilities for the wing, which has more than 8,000 people serving at 50 locations on every continent except Antarctica.

The wing's mission is information operations — to gain, exploit and attack an adversary's information while defending U.S. information.

The building dedication is one milestone in the wing's long history of intelligence and information operations.

"Whether it was over the coasts of Normandy during World War II, the frozen ridges of Korea, the sands of Desert Storm or a variety of contingencies today in Africa, Bosnia, southwest Asia or in the Pacific, the 67th has always met the challenge," said Maj. Gen. John Casciano, Air Force director of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and former Air Intelligence Agency commander.

"In fact, the rapidly evolving nature of technology and warfare today places the 67th Intelligence Wing on the cutting edge of information operations worldwide. Thus, the reason

for today's dedication," Casciano continued.

The building was named in honor of Col. Karl Polifka, who was commander of the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (predecessor to today's 67th IW) from Feb. 25 to July 1, 1951.

Polifka died while flying an F-51 visual reconnaissance mission west of Kaesong, North Korea.

"In dedicating our headquarters to a former wing commander, an early pioneer in aerial reconnaissance and a fellow Air Force warrior who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of this great country, the collective hearts of the men and women of the 67th swell with pride," said Col. Alan Thomas, 67th IW commander at the time of the dedication.

Thomas also mentioned the wing's plans to become America's first information operations wing.

"In transforming the 67th into an information operations wing, we take a significant step toward ensuring America's Air Force is prepared to engage and prevail in this new arena of conflict," Thomas said.

After thanking members of the 67th for naming the new wing headquarters building after his father, retired Col. Karl Polifka, Jr. unveiled a portrait of his father donated by his family for use inside the building.

"The building symbolizes the bridge between the past and the challenges of tomorrow. It represents the

direction the Air Force is heading ... to meet the information operations challenges facing our service and our country," Casciano said. "It is an investment in [the] future."

Ground has already been broken for a second 67th IW headquarters building. When finished, this new building will be named after Tech. Sgt. Ernest Parrish, an area specialist from Air Intelligence Agency's 381st Intelligence Squadron who was killed in an E-3 AWACS crash, September 1995. ♣



Left, Maj. Gen. John Casciano and retired Col. Karl Polifka Jr. unveiled a portrait of the elder Polifka donated by his family for use inside the building.

Commander presents 500 stuffed animals to SAPD

Brig. Gen. James E. Miller Jr., commander of the Air Intelligence Agency, Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, presented nearly 500 stuffed animals to the San Antonio Police Department in support of children in the San Antonio community.

The animals were collected by the members of the Security Hill Company Grade Officer Council during a one-week drive and presented to the San Antonio Police Department during ceremonies held on Security Hill Sept. 12.

The San Antonio Police Department uses the animals to comfort children who are victims of child or sexual abuse, for lost children taken to the children's center and as classroom incentives for children participating in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. ■



Photo by Gloria Trevino

From left, Police Sgt. Henry Alonzo and deputy San Antonio Police Chief Albert Ortiz accept the stuffed animals from Brig. Gen. James E. Miller Jr., AIA commander, while 1st Lt. Lisa Day, president of the SHCGOC, looks on.

“Sun Lab” room opens to students

by Staff Sgt. Verrell Jones
MRSOC

Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

The “Sun Lab” room, as referred to by the Medina Regional Signals Intelligence Operational Center operations training staff, is now complete with eight students and one instructor.

The terminals allow linguists and analysts real-time missions in a training environment, according to Cassandra Belfield, deputy chief of operations training.

“The purpose of having the Sun Lab is to emulate operations which give new MRSOC personnel coming from technical school hands-on training experience.

“Our goal here is to be able to train students before they go to the

operations floor so that they will be equipped with essential basic skills to facilitate follow-on mission specific training,” said Belfield.

The project started over two years ago as a joint effort between the National Cryptologic School and the Air Intelligence Agency.

However, with space limitations at the MRSOC, the project was held up until a suitable area was available. Now, students are able to receive a two-part training curriculum in computer familiarization and target knowledge.

The Sun Lab gives training instructors the flexibility and access to

up-to-date information in a classroom. In the past, the students trained directly on the floor and seating was limited or unavailable as the mission requirements dictated.

Featured capabilities of the terminals allow new systems training for software development.

Also, personnel can complete or enroll in NCS computer-based courses using the computers in the Sun Lab.

To support the diverse training curriculum, efforts are in place to purchase 10 additional disk drives that will alleviate or minimize downtime for software installation or removal. ■

Schools connected to Internet

Students now travel the information superhighway

by Capt. Jeff Whiddon
381st IS/SC
Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska

Members of the 381st Intelligence Squadron recently helped local schools get connected to the Internet as part of NetDay activities.

NetDay is a national volunteer effort to connect tens of thousands of schools, classrooms and libraries to the Internet. With a shared network in place and access to a world of information, students and teachers alike will benefit. Not only will they develop skills that will help them succeed in tomorrow's job market, but new learning tools and resources will be available at their fingertips.

President Bill Clinton put out a challenge "to connect every classroom and library in America to the Information Superhighway by the year 2000." Clinton asked for "parents, teachers, business people and volunteers from all walks of life" to "hold NetDays in all 50 states."

In answer to his challenge, 381st members formed a partnership with Ravenwood Elementary School in Eagle River, Alaska, to help ensure the teachers and students received the computer and information skills they need for the future.

Lt. Col. Donald Hudson, 381st IS commander, encouraged the school's parents and teachers to rally volunteers and find other local companies to co-sponsor Ravenwood Elementary

in the effort and help install and test the school's wiring infrastructure. Volunteers were assigned to teams with specific job responsibilities in preparation for the big day.

Tech. Sgt. Doug Bigley and Senior Airman Stacey Martin, both 381st tech controllers, organized all of the school's NetDay events. Using many off-duty hours and their network and circuit control experience, they planned and designed Ravenwood's wiring infrastructure.

The design, endorsed by Anchorage School District's engineers, not only knocked weeks off the normal NetDay schedule, but provided multiple network connections to each classroom at a smaller cost than previous designs for similar Anchorage schools.

Bigley and Martin, along with their wives, Anita and Jessica, worked many hours prior to NetDay laying string in classrooms, offices, hallways and ceilings to help volunteers see where the final cables should go. They also cut cables the exact length needed and labeled them for every segment of the network.

381st Logistics Flight members, led by Tech. Sgt. Mike Ulstead, also volunteered to help train and assist in the techniques of Category 5 wiring installation.

On Ravenwood's NetDay, over

100 volunteers came to link the school to the Information Superhighway. Mothers, fathers, teachers and 381st members climbed through ceilings, pulled cable, installed connector boxes and conduit in classrooms and equipped the school with routers and hubs.

Most volunteers had little experience with computers and networks prior to this day, but went away with pride and an appreciation for the new network and its capabilities.

Barry Geller, Ravenwood principal, said, "In these times of budgetary constraints, it is not likely that we could have achieved what we did on NetDay without volunteer assistance from organizations and individuals like yourselves. You played an integral role in allowing the school to be networked and Internet-ready."

Members of the 381st IS continue to support other NetDay installations, as well as assisting local schools by tutoring and mentoring students and administering computer networks.

"Combining the volunteer effort of NetDay with organized local, state and federal efforts is the most powerful and effective way to achieve what we all desire: a better, richer school environment for our children," said John Gage, chief scientist of Sun Microsystems and NetDay co-founder.

"Together, we have started a national movement to accomplish the first basic step: link our nation's schools, students, parents and teachers together to give them new tools to help their schools," said Gage. ■



“Labor for Lumber” in the desert



Members of the 4416th IS, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, erect framing for camouflage netting to complete the deck they built in front of a squadron tent.

by Lt. Col. Charlene Barnes
4416 IS/CC
Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia

Life at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia is austere, to say the least.

Deployed members sleep, eat, shower and work in the tents. There is little privacy and the ever-present dust is constantly forced through the pores of the tents and settles in and on every available object. Summer temperatures range from 115 to 125 degrees in the shade. In the sun, it is even hotter.

For members of the 4416th Intelligence Squadron, Provisional, most of their time is spent in tents. Living tents have around eight people in each, so there isn't much room left for socializing or recreation. Despite this, there is a closeness and camaraderie among the squadron members.

Each living tent has a vestibule area in front of it that is used as a common area for television and socializing. In the past, these have been dirt or gravel-floored and covered with camouflage netting. However, recently a team of 4416th personnel, led by 1st Lt. Chip von Heiland, 1st Lt. Jason Emmons, 1st Lt. Bryan

Tabrum and Staff Sgt. Denny Hale, set off with a goal: to build decks for each living tent assigned to the squadron. With the help of the First Sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Ed Cahoon, they obtained the lumber and other materials to build with.

Prince Sultan Air Base has a program called Labor for Lumber in which members of a squadron can work on base projects, such as decks for the pool or laundry tents and general purpose shelters for recreation facilities. Hours spent on these projects are totaled and lumber is given out to the squadron for its own projects.

The squadron initially helped with building pool decks, then Tech. Sgt. Jack Petrae organized a major effort to help build the base education center. Twelve people put in more than 100 hours installing plywood flooring and erecting internal walls. This first in-theater facility will provide the 4000-plus members of PSAB a facility to study, take tests and participate in on-line education opportunities. In return, the squad-

ron received enough lumber to finish putting comfortable decks in front of all 19 tents.

Construction involved the entire squadron. While the leaders set up a schedule and obtained tools and supplies, members of each tent assisted in the construction of the vestibule decks, resulting in new decks and expanded social areas.

“The best housing area on PSAB,” are the words used by both the 4404th Operations Group commander and the 4404th wing commander.

The most elaborate deck effort, belonging to the company grade officers, was selected as Tent of the Month for July, which garnered them an overnight trip to Eskan Villages in the Saudi Arabian capital city of Riyadh, complete with concrete billeting and real bathrooms.

Though they may not have much control over the heat and the dust, they're taking steps to improve their living environment and, in the process, live up to the squadron motto: “Making A Difference” in the lives of our people serving here year-round. ■

Working enlisted assignments

by Capt. Seanta Young
AIA/DPAS
Kelly Air Force Base, Texas

At the heart of the enlisted assignments process are two goals, to man the Air Force to meet its mission and secondly, to be fair to all personnel while still being sensitive to special individual needs.

The majority of Air Force personnel are stationed in the continental United States, while 10 percent are in Europe, 11 percent in the Pacific and one percent in the other category. Most moves are driven by sending and returning people from overseas theaters.

Of the people stationed in the continental United States, 50 percent are available for overseas duty for a variety of reasons including promotions, special duty assignments, mission deferments and high year of tenure.

Current manning policy drives decisions on requirements. Priority units such as the 89th Presidential Support and overseas long and short tours where dependents may occupy are manned at 100 percent.

Overseas dependent restricted tours are manned at 100 percent at the expense of worldwide manning.

If worldwide manning is below 100 percent, short tours will be fully

manned and other units will be below the average.

Remaining resources are distributed by the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, to major commands based on entitlement and the major command determines the distribution.

Because some Air Force Specialty Codes have more positions than people, not every vacancy will be filled.

A vacancy is a funded authorization, but an entitlement is a vacant position with a requirement based on Air Force-wide manning levels.

About 20,000 people are sent overseas and 18,000 return per year through the allocation process. The computer makes no-name allocations nine to 11 months in advance of overseas reporting based on worldwide manning levels.

The major commands review, validate and change allocations as needed. Then, the Air Force Personnel Center advertises them using the Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing that provides the AFSCs, grade and location.

Priority for overseas selection is permanent change of station eligible volunteers ahead of nonvolunteers, consecutive overseas tour volunteers over CONUS volunteers, CONUS volunteers by date arrived on station and nonvolunteers based on overseas tour history.

After 30 days, the Air Force Personnel Center matches names to requirements. The assignment flows to the military personnel flight and commander and the losing commander determines if the person is qualified or not for that particular job.

The computer counts returnees by AFSC and allocates them to the major commands. The commands again review, validate and change allocations as needed. There are still no names used for this process.

EQUAL advertises actual requirements for 30 days and the names are matched to spaces. The short tours are done ahead of split tours and long tours are done last.

Personnel who have no preferences will get whatever is left over. The assignments are loaded, certified by the commander and processed by the military personnel flight.

Through the EQUAL system, volunteers on rotational assignments can make informed choices.

Just because someone volunteers for an assignment, does not mean they will get what they volunteered for. If they do not prioritize the EQUAL requirements, their preferences will be wasted and they will get what is left over.

EQUAL Plus is used to advertise unique assignments including special duties, joint/departmental duties and chief master sergeant requirements.

These advertisements are more descriptive than the EQUAL ads, including qualifications needed for the job as well as location. Selections are not made until after the volunteer-by date has expired.

If the member is not notified of selection by his/her military personnel flight within 45 days, then a member can volunteer for another assignment.

This system is updated on a weekly basis and the member can only volunteer for one special duty assignment at a time. ■





Left, Maj. Gen. Michael Hayden, former AIA commander, presents Col. Gary Harvey with the 67th IW flag.

■ **Harvey takes 67th IW reins**

Col. Gary Harvey assumed command of the 67th Intelligence Wing during ceremonies at Kelly Air Force Base, Aug. 26.

Harvey takes command of an organization of 8,000 people who collect, analyze and report current information from a variety of sources and who are stationed on every continent but Antarctica.

"This is the time to set forth monumental progress in the way information shapes the battlefield for the other Air Force operators. We have the vision to harvest capabilities across the Air Intelligence Agency and deliver them to the other operators," he said.

Harvey succeeds Col. Alan Thomas, the 67th IW's third commander, who was reassigned to Air Intelligence Agency headquarters as special assistant to the commander.

■ **Habitat for Humanity**

The 497th Intelligence Group Top 3 participated in a two-day project helping to construct homes for Habitat for Humanity International at

Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.

HFHI, a non-profit housing organization, seeks to eliminate poverty-level housing and homelessness.

Whether hammering nails, sanding seams on drywall or just helping clean the project site, everyone involved felt it was a great opportunity for giving back to the community and team building among members of the 497th.

■ **More room to breathe**

The 544th Intelligence Group unveiled its new office spaces recently at an open house for family and friends at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

In addition to nearly 4,000 additional square feet of work space, the group also upgraded all of its personal computer systems, enlarged the secure facility and procured additional furniture to accommodate the move and anticipated growth.

■ **Breaking through the barrier**

A cryptolinguist from the 748th Military Intelligence Battalion helped open the lines of communication during a visit by Russian military environmentalists to the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Joya Gooden, platoon sergeant, alpha company, interpreted during the five day environmental conference while Americans and Russians discussed environmental issues of mutual concern to the nations.

Education, training and exchanging environmental information were emphasized.

"I love to interpret and I love to speak Russian," said Gooden.

"When I found out I was going to the conference I prepared by making a list of topics based on articles I could find to study terminology dealing with pollution and other environmental issues.

"There were two contract interpreters there for the initial confer-

ence itself. I interpreted at the smaller meetings and during the tours and social functions."

Gooden completed more than two years of Russian courses and has maintained the highest proficiency possible since 1987. She is dual qualified in Italian and has studied French for 11 years and Spanish for four.

"The doors with Russia are opening up. Now, I can sit across the table from a Russian diplomat missile officer who spent years under the ground with missiles pointed at us.

We're all friends who are destroying weapons of mass destruction so the world will be a safer place, not only military wise or politically, but economically as well."

■ **301st builds muscles**

Staff Sgt. Steven Higgins and Senior Airman Shawn Wolfe walked away with honors at the Atsugi Amateur Body Building competition Aug. 3.

Higgins placed second in the light heavyweight division, while Wolfe placed first in the middleweight division, in addition to garnering the Best Poser award and the overall men's title.

■ **Hole-in-one proves lucky**

A member of Det. 3, 18th Intelligence Squadron, won a 1997 convertible Ford Mustang at the 3rd annual American Red Cross Golf Tournament July 19 at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Staff Sgt. Craig Furman's first-ever hole-in-one earned him the car donated by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service New Car Sales.

■ **497th has new commander**

Col. Bruce McLane assumed command of the 497th Intelligence Group from Col. Joan Bullock in a change of command ceremony, held at the Bolling Air Force Base's officers' club, July 14.

"I have been very impressed with the expertise, professionalism and

dedication to service by the men and women of the 497th," McLane said. "I am honored to be your commander and to be a member of the great team."

McLane came to the 497th from the western European and NATO policy branch, strategic plans and policy directorate, office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



Left, Maj. Gen. John Casciano, Air Force director of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, hands the 497th flag to Col. Bruce McLane.

■ Ice hockey, Japanese style

Staff Sgt. Shawn McIntire, Detachment 3, 18th Intelligence Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Kevin Ryon, 3rd Space Surveillance Squadron, Misawa Air Base, Japan, have bridged the language barrier to play ice hockey in a local Japanese league.

"The language barrier really doesn't exist out on the ice and we have no problems working as a team," said Ryon.

"We have a blast playing with our Japanese teammates and they are a great bunch of guys," added McIntire.

The league consists of 12 divisions lettered A-L (A being for the most skilled teams and L for beginners) with five or six teams per division. Teams are allowed two American players and are located in Misawa, Hachinohe and Towada.

Both McIntire and Ryon have been playing in the B-division for two years. McIntire is the starting left wing and Ryon is the starting center. Each have been voted Most Valuable

Player for their team during tournaments and both have the honor of scoring hat tricks (3 goals in one game) this past season.

When asked how the Japanese league compared to the American style of play, McIntire said, "The style of play is a little different here than most Americans are accustomed to.

"The Japanese play more of a finesse game than a physical game, so it's skill, not size, that's needed in this league."

McIntire and Ryon both get a lot of support from their units and they are helping build on an already strong Japanese-American relationship.

■ Sutton ends 29-year career

Col. Lynn Wakefield assumed command of the 544th Intelligence Group during ceremonies at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo, July 16.

Wakefield comes from the National Security Agency, Fort George Meade, Md.

The 544th IG is responsible for providing administrative support, policy guidance and functional assistance to a 450-member, wing-equivalent group with 16 CONUS and overseas locations delivering global, space-related information to national



Left, Maj. Gen. Michael Hayden, former AIA commander, presents Col. Lynn Wakefield with the 544th flag.

agencies and warfighting commands.

After relinquishing command, Col. Stephen Sutton ended his 29-year career in a retirement ceremony.



■ The Great Pumpkin spotted

Two weeks before Halloween, the 'Great Pumpkin' arrives on the east side of Misawa Air Base, Japan, home of the 3rd Space Surveillance Squadron, Detachment 3, 18th Intelligence Squadron and GTE/Colorado Springs.

This extraordinary pumpkin is approximately 100 feet tall and weighs around 13,000 pounds.

How is that possible? The pumpkin, an antennal radome, is decorated with two eyes 12 feet by 12 feet, a nose 6 feet by 6 feet and seven blocks 3 feet by 2 feet for the mouth. A 75' cherry picker is used to hang the face on the radome.

The normally white radome is made to appear orange by placing red lenses over the four 1,500-watt and 10, 500-watt lights used to light up the dome.

Volunteers from all three organizations get together to make the pumpkin come to life.

The 'Great Pumpkin' made its first appearance in 1992, when the commander, Capt. Greg Presgard, decided to provide the community with something to make Halloween special for the children and the local population.

"It's a sight to see," says Barry Houchins of Misawa.

"We must have had more than 200 people visit us last Halloween, including three bus loads of Japanese nationals."

On Halloween night, unit volunteers are on site to hand out candy and take pictures of the children in front of the 'Great Pumpkin.'

Reading, writing, arithmetic



Home Education scores high marks for alternative learning

by Staff Sgt. Verrell Jones
MRSOC
Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

It's 6:30 a.m., the alarm sounds the start of another school day for Kathy Remus, mother of four. She wakes the children, prepares breakfast and sends them off to school — in the living room.

Home schooling is flourishing across the United States. According to the Department of Education, a 1996 study shows there are more "home schoolers" than the total of public school students in Wyoming, Vermont, Delaware, North Dakota, South Dakota, Alaska, Rhode Island, Montana and Hawaii combined.

Seeking solutions to sex, drugs and other mischief sometimes found in public schools, millions of parents have turned to home education as a remedy. The Remus' agree it was a question of quality education. "There were several reasons I decided to begin home schooling, but the main reason was when several schools in Washington state installed metal detectors because they found children carrying weapons," said Kathy.

"We want to keep continuity on what the children are learning because we move around so much being in the military," said Sgt. Tony

Remus, a communication specialist assigned to the 748th Military Intelligence Battalion, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "And something that we didn't realize when we started this (home education), was that the younger children are more interested in learning because they see the older kids learning."

Does home schooling work? Studies conducted by Dr. Brian Ray, president of the National Home Research Institute indicate that on average, home schoolers out-perform public school peers by 30 to 37 percentile points across the board on all subjects. Data gathered from eighth grade home schoolers suggest that those who have completed two or more years at home score substantially higher than those who have transferred from an institutional school into a home schooling program.

"I can teach our children at the pace they learn ... I enjoy teaching because I know what they are learning; it's one-on-one and I can control what they learn," said Kathy.

Currently, the states of Texas, Idaho, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey and Indiana do not require home-schooling parents to initiate any contact with the state's board of education. However, most states require parents to send notification, test scores and pro-

fessional evaluations of student progress. Few states require teaching qualifications of parents, state approved curriculum or required home visits by state officials. Many parents select a curriculum to suit the needs of their children, their family's lifestyle and applicable regulations.

A question often asked is, what about socialization? Many home school curriculums include activities such as field trips, scouts, dance class and volunteer work for interaction with people of all ages.

Supporters of public schools argue that education is more than forcing facts into a child's head, it is learning to work with others and interacting with people from different races, backgrounds and ethnic groups. Also, public school advocates say that children who work hard and have parents involved in their education academically excel regardless of where they were schooled.

As home schooling continues to grow, the NEA will be challenged to do better, according to Bob Chase, president of the National Education Association.

To restore the public's confidence in public schools, the board will look to raise standards for teachers and students, improve parental involvement, reduce class size and promote proven methods for increasing overall student achievement. ■



Hospitalized kids 'hide out' on Web site

by Brian Barr
Aeronautical Systems Center/PA
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Three computer monitors crowd Lt. Col. Jack Powell's desk amid the examination tables at the Wright-Patterson Medical Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, but most of the computers aren't hooked up to patient monitors - they're direct lines to the Internet.

Powell, an Air Force pediatric cardiologist, is mingling medicine and computer science in a unique Department of Defense funded research project that teams military and civilian hospitals in an effort to get pediatric patients on-line.

Checking out a hypothesis

"These are children who are stuck, almost trapped, in hospitals because of their illnesses and need for medical care," Powell said of the young patients now logging onto the project's home page, known as the Hideout, on the World Wide Web.

"The hypothesis was that if we provided these children a means of breaking out of that isolation, what would they do with that freedom?" The home page, due to run through 1997 with Department of Defense support, already is considered a success with some 2,500 "hits" a day.

Surplus military computers are used to connect pediatric wards in four hospitals - Wright-Patterson Medical Center; Children's Hospital in Dayton, Ohio; Oakland Children's Hospital and San Diego Children's Hospital both in California - while a server at the base's Medical Center is home to the web site. Two other hospitals in Cleveland and El Paso, Texas, also have expressed interest in joining the project.

The idea of using the Internet as a medical tool started several years

ago after Powell, an avid computer buff, helped establish, Kids Only, the children's site for America On-line, one of the nation's largest Internet services. When Prodigy, another on-line service, agreed to provide the hospitals free access to the Internet, Powell was able to get the web site formally established.

Open surfing

The web site targets hospital patients from ages 5 to 19, but is open to any web surfer. The site includes an on-line library of literary classics and children's folktales from around the world.

Although the site was established by adults wearing military uniforms, the plan always has been that children using the site would ultimately shape the style and content of the page, said Powell. "And we're now seeing that happen. We want the children to think of this as their web site: we want it to be their place," he added.

"What we've done is give them the tools and a piece of property on the Internet, and they're building their own playground. We're seeing it evolve and take on a life of its own," Powell said, "and it's been a joy to watch."

Of course, a handful of Wright-Patterson researchers also are watching the site for clues that might help hospitals in treating pediatric patients.

Building insight

When the project formally concludes at the end of the year, Powell anticipates being able to build on those insights.

"This will give the hospitals a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see

themselves through their patient's eyes, the children they treat every day," Powell said.

Once the final report is written, however, Powell also expects the Hideout to survive somewhere on the World Wide Web.

The address for the Hideout on the World Wide Web is <http://wpmc1.wpafb.af.mil/hideout/home.htm>.

■ Hazardous alert on cribs

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Cosco and the Consumer Product Safety Commission are warning Cosco crib owners that have a date code sticker of 0195 or higher, located on the bottom of the crib's end panel, to contact Cosco for instructions on proper crib re-assembly or arrange for in-home repair.

A list of model numbers and colors sold by AAFES include 10T06 multiple colors, 10T14 white and 10T94 white.

In assembly, the mattress platform was being used as a side rail, resulting in a 5-inch space instead of the CPSC standard limit of 2 3/8 inches, causing possible entrapment of a child.

The recall may affect more than 390,000 baby cribs manufactured since January 1995.

Customers in the United States should call Cosco at (800) 221-6736. Overseas customers should contact Cosco by writing to Consumer Relations, c/o Cosco Incorporated, 2525 State, Columbus, Ind., 97201-7494.



■ **Bubble gum and spit**

"Maintenance consists of Bubble Gum and Spit," testified Sylvia Kidd before the Military Installations and Facilities Subcommittee of the House National Security Committee. The director of Government Relations of the National Military Family Association was quoting a respondent to an NMFA survey taken in Germany in early May about the quality of maintenance for family housing.

The subcommittee heard testimony from several fellow congressmen and a panel of witnesses from military organizations. Chairman Joel Hefley (R-CO-5th District) stated the testimony presented has been best expressed by Kidd — "that when a soldier is deployed, he realizes his living conditions are not great. But he expects his family to be housed decently. This is not being done."

Kidd was asked if poor housing is affecting retention. She responded that it is. "We hear promises from the Department of Defense and then we see the budget which does not reflect those promises. I see those who actually love the military deciding to leave." The Chairman responded that we want fine, young people and yet "we give them the poorest living and working conditions. And we tell them, oh, by the way, you may have trouble with getting health care when you retire."

Representative Solomon Ortiz (D-TX-27th District), ranking member of the subcommittee, said, "we will begin to see retention problems if we don't do anything." Hefley's final comments reiterated that the committee "has not lost its interest in this. This is one committee in Congress that is bipartisan and is desperately trying to solve these problems." (Courtesy of the National Military Family Association) ■

New dental plan to cover military retirees

by Douglas J. Gillert
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Military retirees and their families will soon have access to low-cost dental insurance.

As early as Oct. 1, the retiree dental program will begin offering military retirees, their spouses and dependent children dental coverage to include basic diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental services, dental surgery and emergency examinations.

The exact date of availability and actual costs will depend on the contract, which has not yet been awarded.

"The request for purchase has gone out, but obviously it will take time for the company awarded the contract to market the program and enroll members," said Air Force Dr. (Col.) Marvin Bennett, senior Department of Defense dental consultant.

"The plan is quite simple, however, so it shouldn't be too difficult to start up. We're reasonably optimistic it will start on time."

Premiums withdrawn from monthly retiree paychecks, and member cost-shares will fund the plan, Bennett said. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will provide financial management. Because the contract hasn't been awarded, however, Bennett said he doesn't know how much the premiums will be.

The plan will offer three enrollment rates: single, two-party and family. Unremarried spouses of deceased retirees and some other limited enrollment categories also will be offered, Bennett said.

Premiums will cover one basic

examination and one cleaning per enrollment year. New members will be required to pay the first four months' premiums when they enroll and must enroll for a full year. Excluding exams and cleanings, they must pay a \$50 annual deductible before cost-share payments kick in, Bennett said.

After paying the deductible, they will be billed just 20 percent of costs for restorative care and sealants and 40 percent of costs for other services. The contractor will directly reimburse participating dentists for remaining costs.

The plan may offer a network of dentists, but it won't deny care received from non-network dentists, Bennett said.

"Because of the range of ages the program covers, it will offer a fairly broad spectrum of services," he said. "However, it may not be as desirable for some older folks, who tend to need crown and bridge work the plan doesn't cover.

"Before enrolling, people should carefully weigh the plan's benefits against their dental needs."

The contractor will send information and enrollment forms to prospective members. Health benefits advisers at military hospitals and clinics also will offer assistance, he said.

"The retiree dental program will give many military retirees access to low-cost dental work they haven't had before," Bennett said.

"It will take care of a large portion of our retiree population." ■



Francis Gary was shot down in a U-2 over the Soviet Union May 1, 1960.

CORONA Project

The start of something new

by Dr. Dennis Casey & Master Sgt. Gabriel Marshall
AIA/HO
Kelly Air Force Base, Texas

In the years after World War II, Joseph Stalin's actions in central Europe indicated that the Soviet Union would pursue a foreign policy of their own making on the world stage.

The Berlin Airlift and the Korean War in June 1950, signaled that the world might be shifting in the direction of bi-polarity, pitting capitalism against communism in a tense ideological struggle. The formation of the NATO alliance, the administration of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan also confirmed this. Soon, planners in Washington feared a Soviet invasion of western Europe and possibly a surprise aerial attack on the United States.

With an urgent need to gather information on Soviet intentions now paramount, President Harry Truman authorized the first flight over Soviet territory in December 1950. Information from these flights could disclose the status of the Soviet Air Force especially in those regions of Siberia closest to the United States.

After several technical glitches delayed the flights, intelligence reached Washington in the spring of 1952 that the Soviets were conducting air operations in Siberia giving the issue of

overflights new impetus. In October 1952, a SAC B-47B left Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, and flew over some 800 miles of Siberia, exiting Soviet territory at Provideniya. Its crew returned to Eielson Air Force Base with useful radar data and the confirmation of Soviet installations.

The B-47 flights continued for the next few years as several B-47s nearly fell victim to Soviet defensive actions. As a result, the Air Staff requested President Eisenhower change national policy to permit overflights of the Soviet Union.

As Soviet military expansion reached alarming proportions, the United States felt it necessary to continue with reconnaissance flights. The U-2 began operations in July 1956. Planners reasoned the U-2 would only carry out missions for about one year before advances in Soviet radar would allow the high-flying U-2s to be detected. From the onset, however, Soviet Air Defenses tracked every U-2 mission flown.

Sharp notes of diplomatic protest prompted President Eisenhower to halt the missions for a brief respite. Clearly another less vulnerable way of acquiring information would represent a tremendous advantage. The

answer came with the CORONA project.

The CORONA project began in October 1956. The initial plans called for the development of several systems to collect photographic and infrared intelligence. The plan contained three phases, two of which involved tests of the THOR missile and ATLAS. If all went well, phase three would follow quickly, proving the capability of the ATLAS booster to handle heavier payloads with operational launches beginning in March 1960.

Secrecy surrounded the CORONA project, but word soon leaked to the media that a military reconnaissance satellite program was under development and became known in the press as "Big Brother" and "Spy in the Sky." Because of the wish to keep the new program under tight controls, the photographic subsystem of the CORONA project fell to joint management by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Air Force.

Approved by President Eisenhower, CORONA kicked into high gear. Starting July 1, 1958, the schedule forecast the assembly of all equipment, its testing and the first launch within a mere 19 weeks. Those in charge of CORONA thought the first launch might come as early as June 1959.

At this juncture virtually everyone felt CORONA would only last a few months. After all, the project planners at the outset envisioned only a temporary and high-risk program that would meet the intelligence community's pressing need for photographic reconnaissance.

The recovery of the vehicle presented some terribly complicated problems in engineering as well as navigation. At a precise moment, the heat shield protecting the recovery vehicle would eject along with a cone housing the retro-rockets. Then a drogue chute and a main parachute would deploy to carry the vehicle safely to earth.

The main recovery technique called for an airplane to fly across the top of the descending parachute and capture the chute in a large hook suspended on the underside of the recovery aircraft.

C-119 airplanes were first used and later replaced by C-130s. If aerial recovery failed, the capsule supposedly would float long enough to allow recovery by helicopter.

Despite problems with recovery techniques and other issues, launch facilities at Vandenberg Air Force Base reported being ready in January 1959. Project personnel rushed to ready everything for a launch on January 21. The failure of the AGENA booster system on January 21 caused significant damage to the launch site.

The first set of launch attempts ended in failure. Of the 12 tried between February 1959 and June 1960, eight carried cameras and failed. Only four of the vehicles carrying cameras achieved orbit.

Discoverer II launched April 13, 1959 and achieved orbit about two hours after launch. It carried live animal specimens aboard. The Air Force abandoned its plans for recovery somewhere near Hawaii April 15. Preliminary calculations indicated the vehicle would probably come down in the Arctic region.

On its 17th orbit, the capsule ejected, but a timing problem caused it to leave orbit prematurely. It came down near the Spitsbergen Islands north of Norway. An extensive search of the area for the next several days failed to turn up the craft.

At the end of November 1959, the CORONA program had almost no successes to report. Eight THOR-AGENA combinations met their ends along with five cameras. Additionally, the Discoverer system had experienced major system failures. De-

spite the failures, additional funds were asked for to cover the cost of more planned launches. Also, recent Soviet development in missiles suggested that missiles with a 5,000-mile range were coming out of Soviet factories.

Other than Human Intelligence, the only intelligence available to the United States came from U-2 overflight missions. Hence, considerable urgency enveloped the CORONA project.

In May 1960, the U-2 ceased to be a viable platform from which the United States could glean

important strategic information about the Soviet Union when Francis Gary Powers was shot down by a Soviet missile near Sverdlovsk. The incident shocked U.S. officials and quickly pointed to a clear need to establish an operational space reconnaissance platform. The U-2 up to this point had provided vital information on the Soviet Union but was becoming a political liability.

Success came slowly to CORONA. From November 1959 to February 1960, research and development efforts accelerated to an unprecedented pace in order to discover solutions to the problems that plagued the Discoverer flights. Problems still remained.

Discoverer XIII brought a partial success to the troubled program. The August launch went off successfully, and the capsule ejected at precisely the right moment on its 17th orbit. The descent was normal, but the capsule came down 550 miles away from the intended impact area and a ship retrieved the capsule before it sank.

This was the first time man placed an object into space and returned it safely to earth.

Discoverer XIV, launched Aug. 18, 1960, brought success. The vehicle, loaded with 20 pounds of film, successfully achieved orbit and the camera operated satisfactorily. The satellite recovery vehicle ejected during the 17th orbit on schedule. A USAF C-119 of the 6593rd Test Squadron snatched the recovery vehicle on its third attempt.

By 1965 with the technical kinks worked out, CORONA, now configured with new cameras and hardware, brought far more successes than failures.

In the end, CORONA contributed very significantly to American intelligence. The program became the first to recover objects from orbit, the first to deliver intelligence information from a satellite and the first to employ multiple reentry vehicles.

Most importantly, by March 1964, 23 of the 25 Soviet missile complexes had been photographed. In June 1967, CORONA flights provided firm evidence of the success of the Israeli Air Force during the famed Arab-Israeli Six Day War.

CORONA became the first, the longest and the most successful of America's space programs.

The 145th and final launch took place May 25, 1972. The final recovery occurred six days later.

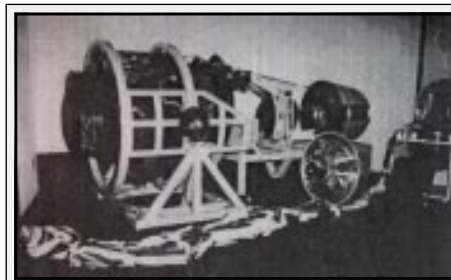
In all, 165 recoveries of CORONA satel-

lites took place — more than all of the other programs combined. CORONA photographed over 750,000,000 square nautical miles of the earth's surface.

Knowledge obtained from these flights between 1960 and 1970 proved invaluable in keeping the Cold War cold. CORONA played a central role in this busy decade of the Cold War and achieved what no other space program did or could. ■



Descent of the Discoverer film canister.



Discoverer satellite with attached film canister.