

TIP OF THE

June 30, 2006

SWORD

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey

39TH AIR BASE WING

Team Incirlik

Safely Ensuring Freedom's Future

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Days until inspection

Tip of the week: Never say this is just an exercise. Train the way you plan on performing.

On the cover: The members of Team Incirlik play an important role in the Global War on Terror. This Independence Day remember we play a part in ensuring freedom's future. (Photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones)

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



By Col. "Tip" Stinnette
39th Air Base Wing commander

Lawnchair Larry

With the Fourth of July upon us, convention would have me write about America, independence and freedom. This article will not follow convention. Rather, I'd like to tell you why I have come to approach each weekend and holiday with a degree of trepidation.

What a difference a year makes. Last year I looked forward to weekends and holidays and yet this year I see them as merely opportunities to watch the Incirlik version of David Letterman's "Stupid Human Tricks" or an episode of "Cops."

Have you ever heard the story about Lawnchair Larry? It's a true story and chronicled by the Darwin Awards. Larry's boyhood dream was to fly. He joined the Air Force but his poor eyesight disqualified him from becoming a pilot. After he got out of the Air Force he would sit in his backyard watching jets fly overhead.

He then came up with the brilliant idea of tying 45 weather balloons, filled with helium, to a tethered lawnchair. His plan was to lazily float up to a height of about 30 feet above his backyard, drink a couple of brews, then pop a few of the balloons and float back down. Things didn't quite work out as planned.

When his friends cut the cord anchoring the lawnchair to his jeep he streaked into the Los Angeles sky like a shot from a cannon. He leveled off at 16,000 feet. So there he was drifting along with his beer and sandwiches across the approach corridor of LAX for several hours with planes calling in the unusual sight to the tower.

He eventually gathered up the nerve to shoot a few balloons and descended into a power line blacking out a Long Beach neighborhood for 20 minutes. Larry was promptly arrested by the LA police and the Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson said, "We know he broke some part of the Federal Aviation Act, and as soon as we decide which part it is, a charge will be filed."

Now, I have yet to see anything as extremely three dimensional (dumb, different, dangerous) as Lawnchair Larry here at the 'Lik,' but we have contributed our share of stupid human tricks. From climbing down water drain-pipes in the dorms, to picking fights with our Security Forces, to drunken ninjas running around the base and the list goes on ... I have it on good authority that we can be equally stupid off base. So let's see if we can connect the dots between Lawnchair Larry and us ... alcohol. That was pretty fast.

Over the last three weeks, USAFE has experienced a rash of off-duty mishaps ... seven to be specific. Some of these incidents have irrevocably changed the lives of those involved ... one was an Airman up at Aviano Air Base, Italy, who recently PCSed from Incirlik. Four of the incidents involved motor vehicles. Man, oh man, I pray every day that we are spared the tragedy of such a loss.

So, I don't look forward to weekends and holidays but I know you do. My wish for this four-day holiday: that you all be safe out there, that you be particularly careful and wise when using things with wheels, that you not concoct any ideas like Lawnchair Larry, and that you all return to work in the same or better shape following the holiday so that we can ensure freedom's future together!

FPCON
Charlie

INFOCON
Alpha-plus

DIGITCON
Alpha

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USAFE leaders thank dedicated warriors

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany—*The following is a joint message from Gen. Tom Hobbins, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander and Chief Master Sgt. Gary G. Coleman, USAFE command chief.*

Every year on this date, we gather with family and friends to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of our Declaration of Independence. We celebrate the men and women who, more than two centuries ago, took up arms to fight for their freedom.

The Fourth of July is a unique holiday — the only one celebrating our nation as a whole. As our nation’s birthday, Independence Day represents, according to former President Ronald Reagan, “the birth of patriotism.”

The unmatched drive and determination that possessed our founding generation still fuels the American spirit today. Our American military has been called on to serve and sacrifice around the world in the name of those ideals that first inspired us — hope, human dignity, justice, freedom. Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines have been suc-

cessful in that service all over the world. Because of their sacrifices, we have accomplished major victories in places like Afghanistan, where citizens held the country’s first democratic presidential election in October 2004, and in Iraq, which held free elections in January 2005. Despite the accomplishments that have been made, much work has yet to be done.

We have about 2,100 USAFE Airmen deployed to locations around the globe, separated from family and loved ones. Without their, and our, continued commitment to the effort, oppression and violent extremism would go unopposed.

How and when our fight against terrorism ends remains to be seen, but our history proves dedicated warriors are willing to risk everything to defend freedom.

The Fourth of July has become a family day. As you enjoy the summer activities, stay safe and watch out for one another. Revel in the time you spend together with loved ones, and remember that it was bought at great cost, and that we continue to pay the price to ensure freedom’s future.

CMSAF says farewell to Airmen



Photo by Senior Airman Larry Reid Jr.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, Gerald Murray, visits with troops during his visit here in March.

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) — In his latest “Chief’s View,” Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray discusses his four-year tenure as the 14th top enlisted person and thanks Airmen for their contribution to the war on terrorism.

“As I look toward retiring on June 30, I want to thank each of you for volunteering to serve our nation, for fighting the global war on terror and for continuing to keep us the greatest Air Force on this planet,” Chief Murray said. “Your

pride and professionalism inspires me; your competence and ability propels our Air Force. Because of you, we dominate in our domain ... air, space and cyberspace. You are the nation’s warriors and our Air Force’s greatest asset,” he continued.

“Chief’s View” is a one-minute television segment that airs globally on American Forces Radio and Television Service and the Pentagon Channel, and is available through the Air Force media player on Air Force Link.

YOUR TURN

What does Independence Day mean to me?

“It means getting together and celebrating the freedoms that other countries just don’t have.”

Senior Airman Darryl Morrison,

39th Maintenance Squadron



“It’s a day for families to get together and remember the people who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today.”

Senior Airman Esteban Quintana,

39th MXS



“Independence Day was by far Will Smith’s best movie.”

1st Lt. Thomas Sites,
385th Air Expeditionary Group



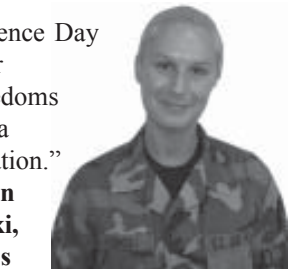
“Independence Day means celebrating what our forefathers fought for and the freedoms we enjoy.”

Master Sgt. Claudio Wedderburn,
39th Mission Support Squadron



“Independence Day celebrates our country’s freedoms and rights as a democratic nation.”

Senior Airman Talia Kosinski,
39th Logistics Readiness Squadron



To submit a question for “Your Turn,” call 676-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

Action Line

Base member questions extra pet billeting costs

Q: I, along with everyone else in Building 1077 (the pet TLF), was wondering why we pay an extra \$10 per day for what we were told was the additional cleaning charge for pet rooms. I watched the lady clean the room, and also observed them clean other rooms in another building and saw no difference. If the extra money is for potential damage done, then why do the inspection paperwork when you check in? I would also argue that the wear and tear on the room is negligible. None of this is refundable. I think a one time fee of \$50 for long stays or \$10 per day for short stays, whichever is less, would be better for the Airmen. It was my choice to move out of our house and into TLF early so that others could get into a house sooner. I knew the cost in advance however, I just think it is unfair to the younger Airmen who don't make as much.

A: The Hodja Inn is very pleased to offer pet friendly temporary living facility units here at Incirlik. Incirlik was the first in USAFE to offer pet friendly accommodations and has set aside the maximum allowable percentage, by Air Force instruction, of pet friendly units.

We are required to follow strict guidelines established by Air Force Inns. These standards are in place to ensure our accommodations remain in good condition and our other guests are not nega-

tively affected by this additional service.

As part of the Air Force Inns instruction for pet friendly units, pet owners are charged a standard \$10 per night fee regardless of the number of pets in the unit and duration of their stay. The fee is used to defray life-cycle additional cleaning costs and maintenance/replacement of required pet-friendly unit items. Per AF policy, additional cleaning is required for all pet TLFs. In addition to the daily cleaning, we conduct a top-to-bottom cleaning after every second occupant. Because of this additional cleaning (as well as normal wear and tear by the animals), the carpets, linens and furniture also need to be replaced more often.

The \$10 per night charge does not cover any damage (beyond normal wear and tear) a pet might cause to furniture, carpeting, draperies, etc., which is what drives us to do inspections. Pet owners are responsible for leaving the guest room in the same condition as it was issued to them. The Hodja Inn is confident we will be able to continue to offer this service as well as maintain top notch room accommodations for the Incirlik community.

Of course, members do have another option. They can utilize private pet sitters that offer pet care services around base. A list of these personnel and their contact information is available in the Vet Clinic and the Airmen and Family Readiness Center.

Korean War holds unique place in History

Courtesy of the 39th Air Base Wing History Office

The Korean War began Sunday morning in 1950 when at 4 a.m. the Communist-backed forces of the North attacked the southern half of the peninsula. This was the start of the first direct military confrontation of the Cold War and it proved to be costly.

Four million Koreans were killed, two-thirds of them civilians caught in the crossfire. The numbers of dead and wounded U.N. Peacekeeping Forces was also excessively high, but it would have been much worse if not for the achievements of the less than three-year-old U.S. Air Force.

Unfortunately, space does not permit a worthwhile explanation of the complex political showdowns that led to the division of Korea other than to say that Russia finally declared war against Imperial Japan just eight days before their surrender to the U.S. It was previously agreed upon during the Yalta Conference in February, 1945, that Russia could declare war on Japan after the defeat of Nazi Germany for the purpose of getting back some of the territory they lost to Japan after their humiliating defeat in the

Russo-Japanese War just 40 years earlier. However, there was never an agreement allowing Stalin to invade and occupy any portion of Korea.

In Stalin's mind, it was justifiable to invade Korea because he considered it to be a part of Japan following Japan's forceful annexation of the country in 1910. Therefore he wanted to get his cut of the 'war spoils' while the getting was good. In reality, the decision to invade the Korean peninsula had more to do with increasing Russia's sphere of influence and continued expansion of Soviet satellite states as a buffer zone for defense of Mother Russia.

The newly created United Nations was attempting to work out a diplomatic solution to the division of Korea while the U.S. and Russia both appointed semi-autonomous governments with North Korea being led by Kim Il Song. Kim, realizing that the U.S. only had a contingent of 500 advisors in the South, eventually convinced both Stalin and Mao to provide military support of his plan to easily overcome the southern forces, and he was correct. Within days of the attack the U.S. forces found themselves trapped at the southernmost port city of Pusan while Presi-

dent Truman had already ordered his air forces to begin the aerial portion of the war.

Historically, the U.S. always goes to war with a doctrine that worked in the last war. In WWII, the strategy was strategic bombardment against the enemy's war-producing industrial base which presented problems for this new war. The North had no industry to speak of so both Russia and China provided all the material needed. Also, attacking their industries was not an option for three reasons. First, Russia had recently detonated their first atomic bomb in August, 1949, meaning the U.S. no longer had a nuclear monopoly. Second, Truman didn't want to get China directly involved with its numerically-superior army. Lastly, it was greatly feared that any direct confrontation with either nation would start another world war. Therefore the decision from the start was that the war in Korea would be a limited war, a strategy of warfare fought in a way the U.S. had never done.

The ground war was basically stalemated along the 38th parallel for the final two years of the three-year war and, because strategic

See **Korean War**, Page 5

Airmen celebrate promotions, ALS graduation

The base congratulates the Airmen promoted in the month of June.

Promoted to Airman

Jacob Hall, 39th Maintenance Squadron, **Jared Hinde**, 39th MXS

Promoted to Airman 1st Class

Nathan Lipscomb, 39th Communications Squadron

Promoted to Senior Airman

Jacquelyn Sanford, 39th Air Base Wing, **Christina Brown**, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron, **Christopher Hendricks**, 39th Medical Group, **Lindsey Miline**, 39th MDG, **Catherine Pope**, 39th MDG, **Heidi Miller**, 39th Security Forces Squadron, **Joleen Dempe**, 728th Air Mobility Squadron, **Jarred Vardin**, 728th AMS

Promoted to Staff Sergeant

David Rodriguez Thillet, 425th Air Base Group, **Anthony Harris**, 39th ABW, **Ryan Hunter**, 39th CS, **Chad Howery**, 39th MXS, **Tsoon Lai**, 425th ABG, **Duvall Perry**, 425th ABG, **Jesse Killen**, 728th AMS, **Matthew Carrizosa**, Det 1, 425th Air Base Group, **Bryan Munday**, NATO

Promoted to Tech. Sergeant

Sacha Martinez, 39th Logistic Readiness Squadron, **Aileen Jenam**, 39th MSS, **Leah Shipp**, 39th Operations Squadron, **Tinisha Johnston**, 39th Services Squadron, **Patrick Korthuis**, 425th ABG, **Christopher Ginbey**, 728th AMS

Promoted to Master Sergeant

Steven Mullens, 39th ABW, **Kent Troyer**, 39th MXS, **Brian Lewis**, 39th SFS, **Mona Lipscombe**, 728th AMS, **Tommie Albright**,

Promoted to 1st Lt.

John Fogle, 39th OS, **Meghan McCormick**, 39th OS, **Nesli**

Sanchez, 39th OS

Promoted to Captain

Sabra Brown, 39th ABW, **Maurice Harris**, 39th CES, **Lori Mann**, 39th MXS

Promoted to Major

Daniel Stoner,

Promoted to Lt. Col.

Andrew Mann, NATO

ALS Grads

Congratulations to the 16 Airmen Leadership School Class 06-6 senior airmen who graduated Wednesday:

Kenneth Jahraus, 39th Communications Squadron, Academic Award Winner and Distinguished Graduate, **Terrance Turner**, 39th Air Base Wing, **John Mosier**, 425th Air Base Group, **Darryl Morrison**, 39th Maintenance Squadron, **Kichelle Rowe**, 39th Medical Group, John. L. Levitow Award winner **Shavis Randall**, 728th Air Mobility Squadron, **Casandra Marshall**, 39th Operations Squadron, **Aundrey Dykes**, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Leadership Award winner, **Brian Morris**, 39th MXS, **Timothy Colamarino**, 39th LRS, **Chauncey Hunter**, 425th ABG Det. 1, **Joyce Smith**, 39th LRS, **Jason Kulseth**, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron, **Timothy Beckham**, 39th ABW, **Jason Moore**, 39th Security Forces Squadron.

Newest Lt. Col.

Congratulations to Maj. Todd Cheney who was selected for lieutenant colonel.

Korean War

Continued from Page 4

bombardment was not a viable option, the Air Force's primary role was one of close air support and maintaining air superiority to protect the friendly ground forces from enemy air attack. This level of protection was made possible by suppressing enemy air operations within an area known as "MiG Alley."

MiG Alley was located along the Yalu River which separates North Korea from China and is where the majority of air-to-air fighting took place, most notably between the Russian MiG-15 "Fagot" and the U.S.'s F-86 "Sabre." Because the MiGs were illegally flown by Russian pilots out of bases in China, these pilots were under strict orders not to get too close to the 38th parallel nor to venture west over the Yellow Sea or east over the Sea of Japan.

Although everyone knew of Russian pilots flying out of China, Stalin didn't want to risk the possibility of one of them getting shot down in the forbidden areas and being captured by UN forces.

Meanwhile, the Chinese airspace was off limits to U.S. pilots. However, there were a number of occasions when U.S. pilots chased a MiG into China and/or strafed MiGs parked along their airstrips. This was in violation of the rules of engagement, let alone national sovereignty, but no formal complaints were made by either China or Russia, because their operating out of Chinese bases was also a violation.

Ultimately, the U.S. Air Forces proved their ability to establish and maintain air superiority with great success. So much so that not a single U.S. ground troop was killed as a result of enemy air attack – a fact that is upheld to this day. Because strategic bombardment was not used, one might think that overall casualties would be limited, and one would be wrong.

The ground fighting in *The Forgotten War* was fierce. The U.S. fired more artillery shells than all of WWII, European and Pacific Theaters combined. The first hot spot of the Cold War resulted in Communist forces

losing up to one million soldiers while the U.S. suffered 36,934 dead, 103,284 wounded and 15,317 POW/MIAs of which the POWs suffered a 37.8 percent death-in-captivity rate.

Today, the two Koreas are still at war but under the longest ceasefire in history. Having learned from a past mistake, the U.S. maintains a large military presence in the South as a deterrent. Although not categorized as being in imminent danger, this contingent stands at the ready facing the North which currently has the third largest standing regular army in the world, boasts a claim of possessing nuclear weapons and has demonstrated their use of intermediate-range missiles with which to deploy the devices.

NOTE: At the time this article was written, the People Democratic Republic of Korea (a.k.a. North Korea) was readying for the first test firing of their long-range ballistic missile to the contestation of many countries.

AF SDC approaches USAFE network users

By Capt. Jennifer Lovett
USAFE News Service

U.S. Air Forces in Europe is charging forward with the Air Force initiative to standardize all Windows-based computers by Dec. 31. This change will provide every USAFE network user with a standard PC configuration and enhance network security.

Desktop standardization is not new to USAFE users — USAFE implemented the Standard Integrated Desktop more than 24 months ago. “We have gained significant lessons learned from our experience that will aide significantly in this Air Force project, called the Standard Desktop Configuration,” said Master Sgt. Kelly Burkhard, USAFE Computer Systems Squadron technical support branch section chief.

Although the SDC significantly alters the configuration of the computer software, the transition will be relatively “painless.” Users may notice minor changes in the desktop environment and upgrades to common use applications. Additionally, the SDC will remove administrative privileges from the normal user

and prevent unauthorized downloads, upgrades, and software installations.

USAFE SDC implementation goals are: 15 percent command-wide by July 31; 70 percent command-wide by Sept. 30; 100 percent command-wide by Dec. 31.

Users are not required to prepare for SDC; however some precautions are advised.

“We recommend network users ensure all data to include .pst files be stored within ‘My Documents’ in user profiles and create a back up,” said Sergeant Burkhard.

Immediate manual installs of the SDC will be required for workstations that are currently exempt from the USAFE SID where exempt applications are compatible with the SDC. USAFE is engineering an automated tool to be used for all other workstations. This tool will run after duty hours. Affected users will be notified in advance to allow time for backing up data.

AF information technology officials said all Air Force bases should be operating with SDC by December.

For more information on AF SDC, go to <https://afecmo.gunter.af.mil/>.

Air Force Family Housing Survey

An Air Force-wide Family Housing resident satisfaction survey has been launched to determine resident satisfaction with family housing at installations around the world. Every resident of government owned housing will have an opportunity to participate in this program.

The survey asks residents to respond to questions related to the physical property, services and management’s performance. With the cooperation and candid responses of all residents, the Air Force will collect important information that will be used to identify areas where improvements are required. An executive summary of the survey results will be provided to senior leadership at the Wing, MAJCOM, and Air Staff, and used as a basis for decisions regarding the Air Force’s Military Housing Privatization Initiative, military construction needs, and the future of family housing.

The survey, which has been customized for Air Force residents by Air Force officials, will take approximately five minutes to complete. Each resident will be provided a preaddressed, postage-paid envelope to return the survey directly to CEL and Associates, Inc. All survey results are completely confidential and anonymous, so residents are encouraged to express their true feelings and thoughts.

Please take a few moments to complete the survey and drop it in the mail. Your input will help us provide the best possible housing for you and your family.

Team Incirlik, Ensuring Freedom’s Future

IN THE NEWS

ODC closure

The official document center will be closed Sunday through Tuesday and will reopen at the regular time Wednesday.

For details, call the ODC at 676-6301.

NSPS coming

Incirlik will spiral into the National Service Personnel System in January 2007. For an overview of key NSPS Human resources elements, U.S. GS employees are highly encouraged to review the NSPS 101 course at www.cpmis.osd.mil/nsps/nsps101.

For details, call Aquietta Grimmage at 676-6416.

Commanders radio show

Listen to Col. “Tip” Stinnette every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. on AFN radio 1590 AM.

For details, call AFN at 676-6491.

2005 water report

The 2005 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report will be available on the Source and also at bioenvironmental engineering July 1. The report is educational material regarding the quality, treatment and management of the base’s drinking water supply.

For details, call Staff Sgt. Renesa Smith at 676-6305.

Alcohol awareness class

The Alcohol Awareness and Intervention Class, available during Term I, every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. beginning Aug. 29 to Sept. 21. Registration is Aug. 7 to 25.

For details, call Central Texas College at 676-8399.

World Cup

The World Cup is being played in 12 cities across Germany from until July 9. The potential for increased criminal activity and violence exists.

For details, refer to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Force Protection Cell Website and the *Source*.

Critical Days of Summer

Holiday weekend brings safety concerns

By Lori Burling Alves

39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Fourth of July holiday weekend brings us to the 35th day of the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign, and safety teams are focusing on vehicle and water safety.

“We’re only about a third way through summer and U.S. Air Forces in Europe has had some tragic events involving vehicles and water sports,” said Tech. Sgt. David Zibbon, 39th Air Base Wing NCOIC of safety mishaps. “We’re really pushing people to take precautions when driving or participating in water sports.”

Seven separate incidents have occurred at bases in USAFE since the 101 campaign kicked off, resulting in three deaths and two people critically injured. Four of the seven incidents involved motor vehicles, including one motorcycle, and one of the incidents occurred during a snorkeling trip. One incident involved a child falling from an open window.

Incirlik Air Base has incurred one incident during the campaign in which a motor vehicle overturned on base, resulting in minor injuries. Speeding is believed to be the cause of the wreck, according to the 39th Security Forces Squadron.

“Most of these incidents are still under investigation so we don’t know if alcohol was involved or speeding or if they were just accidents,” Sergeant Zibbon said. “But we do know that they involved vehicles and water activities, so we want to give as much information and training that we can in these areas.”

The safety office is holding a Safety Bizarre at Arkadas Park today from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event will focus on vehicle, bicycle, water sports and fire safety. People will be available to give tips such as the proper way to use a fire extinguisher, how to check home smoke, the correct way to wear a life vest and much more. A golf cart course also will be set up for participants to learn the effect of alcohol when driving.

“They’ll be able to wear a pair of goggles that will blur their vision much like alcohol would do. It’s a way to show a sober driver how alcohol will impair them,” Sergeant Zibbon said.

Simply put — alcohol is a no go with summer water activities and driving, according to the safety office. Alcohol can impair a person’s ability to drive not only motor vehicles, but also jet skis and boats. It can also cause a great swimmer to be an average swimmer—affecting their ability to react, think and operate. Swimmers should also be aware of the waters they are in.

“Know the currents and know the depths of the water. A lot of accidents happen from diving in too shallow of water,” Sergeant Zibbon said.

For families headed to the beach for the four-day weekend, remember to examine your vehicle before leaving base, checking tires

and oil. Travelers should have a route mapped out and carry a cell phone. Travelers should also carry driving emergency and hospital cards with them at all times that direct, in both English and Turkish, where to be transported in case an injury or vehicle incident occurs off base. These cards can be picked up at today’s bizarre or the wing safety office.

“It’s all about knowing your limits — your limits with alcohol, your limits in the water, your limits while driving. We’ve seen it too often; an Airman drives back exhausted on the final day of leave and something happens. Don’t do it. Take the time to get some rest before making the drive back to base,” Sergeant Zibbon said.

Driving should also be a concern for families while on base. With school out for summer break, more children are on the roads whether playing basketball on a cul-de-sac or walking to the base pool.

“The streets on base are busier in the summer. We need to watch our speed, especially in the neighborhoods,” Sergeant Zibbon said. “Parents also need to discuss with their children where they can safely ride their bicycles or scooters and make sure they’re wearing protective helmets and pads.

“So far team Incirlik is doing well, but we can’t let our guard down. We still have a lot of summer left.”

For more summer safety tips, visit the safety office’s page on *The Source* or visit www.bicyclesafe.com.



Courtesy photo

An auto skills technician checks an engine during a scheduled vehicle check. Base members should get their vehicles checked before going on long trips.

Incirlik blotter

The blotter has nothing significant to report from June 21 to Wednesday. We are currently in DIGITCON Alpha. To review measures please see the page on the Source. Have a safe Fourth of July weekend.

(Blotter inputs provided by the 39th Security Forces Squadron.)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Lipscomb

Team Incirlik, Ensuri



Photo by Airman 1st Class Renae Saylock



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Gomez



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Gomez



Photo by Senior Airman Larry Reid Jr.

ng Freedom's Future

Khobar Towers changed AF focus on force protection

By Staff Sgt. Phyllis Duff
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN)— It was around 10 p.m. on June 25, 1996, when Staff Sgt. Alfredo Guerrero went to check the security post on the rooftop of an eight-story Khobar Towers apartment building at Dhahran Air Base, Saudi Arabia. He asked the sentry on watch if everything was OK.

Below them, residents in the rooms were settling in for the night. Most were with the 4404th Wing — protectors of the “no fly zone” in Southern Iraq in support of Operation Southern Watch.

Some Airmen were writing letters or calling home. Some were playing cards or shooting pool in the recreation room. Others were showering and a few were already asleep. For many, there were only a handful of days left on their tour before the “Freedom Bird” would fly them back home from their deployment.

As the two security policemen talked, Sergeant Guerrero noticed an olive drab gas truck following a white Chevy Caprice. Winding their way through the parking lot, the car came down the fence line and parked, flashing its headlights. The truck nudged its way up to the perimeter fence. A two-lane street ran between the fence and the building.

Two white-robed men wearing the traditional red and white checkered headdresses got out of the truck and ran to the car.

Sergeant Guerrero’s heart jolted. The sedan peeled out and was soon out of sight.

“At that point I knew that something pretty big was about to happen,” Sergeant Guerrero said.

In a split second, he radioed the control center about what was happening. As he called for an evacuation of the apartment building, his sentry was on it, running for the rooftop door. A second sentry, who had been guarding the other side of the building, followed suit.

Fists pounding doors and scuffling boots echoed down the corridor of the eighth floor.

“We need to evacuate! Get out now!” the sentries yelled.

The doors crashed open and a growing group of Airmen scuttled down the stairwell to the seventh floor.

In the apartment building next door, an Airman lay down to sleep. He pulled a scratchy Army blanket over his head to keep out the meat-locker cold of his air-conditioned room.

“Just two more weeks and I’ll be home,” then Staff Sgt. Bob Oldham thought to himself, his eyes getting heavy.

Then there was a massive boom. The explosion rocked Sergeant Oldham’s room and he froze. He thought the floors were collapsing as the intense sounds reverberated through the apartment complex.

Sergeant Oldham sat up in bed and went to get up.

“Ow!” he said as a shard of glass dug into his barefoot heel. “I decided it was time to grab some shoes and my dog tags and get the hell out of there,” said the former active-duty supply troop.

Outside, those who could helped the wounded and tended to the dead. The sergeant witnessed the rows upon rows of seriously wounded and bleeding. He attributes organization and everyone’s will “to keep it together” as a key factor in minimizing the death toll.

“Self-aid and buddy care, an annual training, is what saved the

victims. It’ll save your life and that’s the bottom line. You’d be surprised what comes back to you — how to apply bandages, splint an arm, treating for shock,” said Sergeant Oldham, now a master sergeant with the Arkansas Air National Guard.

After the tragedy, with three hours still left on his shift, Sergeant Guerrero went back to his post and continued his vigilant watch.

“People were looking at me like I was a ghost or something,” he said.

“As cops, we do this kind of stuff all of the time, and 99 percent of the time nothing ever comes of it,” Sergeant Guerrero said. “Eventually it’s going to count. That’s why motivation and practice — doing what you’re supposed to do — is so important.”

It has been a decade since the tragic terrorist attack on Khobar Towers. The target? Americans. Nineteen Airmen died in the blast and hundreds of servicemembers — including Saudis and those from other countries — were wounded.

The tanker truck, packed with an estimated 5,000 pounds of plastic explosives, blasted the face off Building 131, ripping the concrete face off the building housing America’s troops. It left behind a crater 35 feet by 85 feet.

And it left countless scarred hearts.

The attack changed the way the Air Force viewed force protection. Antiterrorism took the forefront in the Air Force.

“The mentality of the Air Force has changed. Everything has changed,” Sergeant Guerrero said. “It’s just sad that 19 people had to die for us to change our mentality.”

The main focus of antiterrorism efforts is to make people a harder target to reach, said Tech. Sgt. Bryce Van Devender, 37th Security Forces Squadron’s anti-terrorism department at Lackland AFB, Texas.

“The Air Force makes people less of a target by implementing random access measures, doing vulnerability assessments, giving awareness training, forming force protection and threat working groups, and creating structured emergency plans,” the sergeant said.

But Sergeant Van Devender said no amount of precaution will eliminate the threat to American servicemembers, no matter where they serve.



Courtesy photo

Nineteen Airmen died and hundreds were injured in the terrorist attack at Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on June 25, 1996.

Eating on the run

Service's unveils new mobile kitchen



Photos by Airman 1st Class Tiffany Colburn

Tech. Sgt. Jacquetta Smith, (far right) 39th Services Squadron mortuary and readiness manager, shows Col. "Tip" Stinnette, (left) 39th Air Base Wing commander, Col. Ken Stefanek, (right) 39th ABW vice commander and Capt. Michael Meek, (back) 39th SVS the different items inside the mobile kitchen June 21.



Staff Sgt. Liam Gannon, 39th SVS NCOIC of readiness, demonstrates how simple and efficient the mobile kitchen is.



The kitchen uses a tray ration heater to cook unitized group rations, which are a full meal.



Just put the food in the heater, for half an hour and there is a ready made meal for more than 40 people.

Incirlik Heroes

“You made my day!” Have you said this recently to someone at Incirlik? We want to know about it!

The *Tip of the Sword* will now feature a weekly spotlight on a person living the Air Force core value of service before self. This person may be someone who provided great customer care, a neighbor who helped out in a tough predicament, or a volunteer who’s making a difference and deserves a pat on the back.

“I would like to nominate Capt. Theresa Thomas, 39th Communications Squadron information systems flight. She is a phenomenal flight commander in the communications squadron. Every time I call her for Source, Web and public affairs support she always puts her troops right on the task and gives great customer service and a speedy response. She is very active in the Company Grade Officers’ Council, she’s mil-to-mil and a mom to three kids. She just does it all with gusto each day! She is a true example of Family, Fitness and Focus every day. She keeps it all in check.” — Capt. Denise Burnham, 39th Air Base Wing public affairs officer.

To see a valuable Incirlik team member — active duty, civilian, or family member — in the spotlight, contact Julie Halstead at 676-6755 or e-mail Julie.halstead@incirlik.af.mil.



Photo by Senior Airman Patrice Clarke
Capt. Theresa Thomas, 39th Communications Squadron information systems flight commander, helps Staff Sgt. Trissie Scott, 39th CS help desk technician, with an issue.



Photo by Senior Airman Larry Reid Jr.

Open for business

Airman 1st Class Amy Weis, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron traffic management office passenger travel clerk, (center) cuts the ribbon at Building 310 while base members stand by, during the dedication ceremony Tuesday. The new Logistics Readiness Squadron state-of-art deployment center will be used to support Incirlik deployers heading to Iraq, Afghanistan and various locations around the globe. The renovations cost \$1.3 million and took 18 months to complete. The deployment facility houses waiting rooms, an AAFES store, Internet and telephone cafes, a kitchen, showers, weapons vault and a distinguished visitor lounge. The project’s completion was a team effort between LRS, the 39th Contracting Squadron, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron and Aytekin Serol Construction.

SFS collars Women's Varsity 14-2



Photos by Senior Airman Patrice Clarke

Seana Creech bats while Rena Banes leads off on first. The 39th Security Forces Squadron team took the lead early and outscored the women's varsity team.



Delorice Hall, the Women's Varsity pitcher, throws her signature underhand pitch to an SFS member.



Brian Lewis swings at a pitch Tuesday night during the SFS and Women's Varsity softball game. The SFS ended winning the game 14-2.



ASK MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri, *Host Nation Adviser*

Traveling throughout Turkey

Question: Mehmet, I love traveling and exploring new places. I went to Kizkalesi (Castle by the Sea) last weekend. I understand it is a very popular place and it was so crowded. I want to see new places. What can you recommend?

Response: As we all know, the weekends become so boring and nature calls us to go out and see new places. Turkey has so many different places that you can see during every season.

Before I tell you anything about places to go and see; I highly recommend you use common sense and think of your safety and security. I would say always have a wingman traveling with you.

Since you have been to Castle by the Sea, I will tell you about other places to see west of Mersin; between Mersin and Anamur.

The road from Mersin to Silifke closely follows the coast, passing pine forests and orange groves. On one side lies the ruins of cities, basilicas and tombs, and on the other side a series of small secluded coves with sandy beaches.

Only 11 km west of Mersin, the sign of "Viransehir" will lead you to the ruins of the ancient Pompeiopolis. You will see a row of Corinthian columns that once lined the main street of the ancient city that was founded in 700 BC by Rhodians. Oh, before I forget, the historic and touristy sites in Turkey are marked with yellow sign boards.

You will see the ruins of old structures and aqueducts here and along the road toward Castle by the Sea (Kizkalesi). Do not skip the sign of "Kanlidivane." It is the ruins of the ancient city of Kanytelis with tombs resembling small temples and churches, and sacrogaphi dating from Roman and Byzantine times. The city itself and the ruins are all on the side of a deep chasm. 'Kanlidivane' means 'Bloody City' in Turkish and it gets that name from a tale. According to the tale, criminals used to be thrown into the chasm in the middle of the city and the wild animals like lions and tigers at the bottom of the



Photo by Senior Airman Robert Shannon Jr.

Kizkalesi offers visitors sandy beaches, campsites, and clear water and scenery pictured above. Don't stop there, continue on down the road and visit Cennet-Cehennem (Heaven and Hell).

chasm would kill the criminals.

Then you come to Kizkalesi, Castle by the Sea. It is 50 kms west of Mersin. As you know, it is a holiday resort and the ancient site of Korykos, with fine sandy beaches, motels and camp sites. The 12th century Castle of Korykos on shore faces another fort, Maiden's Castle, that stands on a tiny island 200 meters offshore. A sea wall used to join the two fortresses.

If you want to treat yourself with fantastic sea food, go to the little fishing village of Narlikuyu with fish restaurants lined up by the beautiful bay just beyond Kizkalesi.

Right before Narlikuyu, you will see the sign of Cennet-Cehennem (Heaven and Hell) to the right. Cennet (Heaven) is a naturally formed cave at the bottom of a 275 by 125 meter valley. The vale of the Heaven is so cool and has lots of trees. While going down the stairs, 444 steps, to the Heaven cave you don't feel the heat at all and you will see the ruins of a temple converted into a Christian chapel in the 5th century. You will find the spring of an underground river at the bottom of the Heaven cave. That river joins the sea at Narlikuyu bay. When you see ducks and geese in the bay while having your lunch, don't be surprised if you see the animals swim there and drink the sea water. They are not drinking sea water, they are drinking the fresh water of the underground river.

Cehennem (Hell) is another deep chasm. It is 50 to 75 meters wide and 80 to 120 meters deep. Since no grass or trees grow in that chasm, it is called Hell.

Well, if you ask me, that chasm is not hell;

going down to the heaven is o.k., but climbing up those steep stairs must be the hell.

While you are in the area, don't miss the deep Narlikuyu Cave nearby. The cave is full of stalagmites and stalactites and calcium carbonate. The humid air in the cave reportedly helps those who have respiratory problems. The Romans carved stairs going down into the cave.

In Turkish

ucak - plane
(oo - chak)

yolcu - passenger
(yall - ju)

deniz - sea
(den - niiz)

tatil - holiday
(ta - till)

yaz - summer
(ya - zz)

Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 676-6060 or e-mail mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil.

THE INCIRLIK GUIDE

July 4 celebration

There is an Independence Day celebration scheduled for 4 p.m. July 4 at Arkadas Park. There will be food and game booths, children's games, Kids Zone, volleyball, horseshoes, basketball and a fireworks show at 9 p.m.

Independence Day fun run

There will be an Independence Day fun run and walk beginning at 7 a.m. Tuesday at Arkadas Park. All are welcome.

For details, call the fitness center at 676-3630.

Bike race

There will be an Independence Day 8.2 mile bike race beginning at 9 a.m. Tuesday at Arkadas Park. All are welcome to race.

For details, call the fitness center at 676-3630.

Golf tourney

Come out to the 14th Annual Red, White and Blue golf tourney sponsored by the Pentagon Federal Credit Union at 8 a.m. July 8 at the Hodja Lakes Golf Course.

For more details, call the golf course at 676-

Chapel pilgrimage

The Chapel is sponsoring a pilgrimage to Cyprus over Labor Day Weekend.

For details, call the chapel at 676-6441.

Paintball

Incirlik's paintball field is now open seven days per week during daylight hours by reservation only. Cost is a \$5 field fee and \$12 for equipment rental.

For details, call outdoor recreation at 676-6044.

Early morning breakfast

The Sultan's Inn dining facility still offers early morning breakfast from 1 to 8 a.m. every Friday and Saturday. For details, call 676-3500.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Tech. Sgt. Dave Trichel

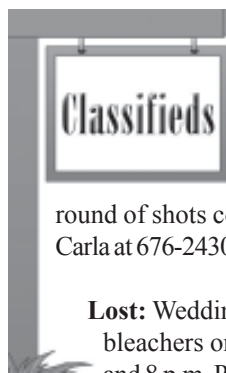
39th Services Squadron
Branch NCO in charge

Time in service: 21 years

Hometown: Natchitoches, La.

Time on station: one month

Hobbies: Sports, fishing and traveling



Desperate for good

home: Ten-week old female kitten who loves to play. She is black and white with green eyes. First

round of shots complete. For details, call Carla at 676-2430.

Lost: Wedding band, lost in gym bleachers on Monday between 6:30 and 8 p.m. Please call 676-6800 or the Hoja Inn 676-9357, room 76101.

For sale: 2002 BMW, manual, 325CiC convertible with hard top, titanium silver, black leather, with sports package. Car has 31,000 miles and asking \$28,000 obo.

For details, call 676-2438 (h), 676-6355 (w) or e-mail matthew.clark@incirlik.af.mil.

Openings available: Illuminare la via Family Childcare has immediate openings available. FCC is a great alternative to center-based child care. For details, call Stephanie Hammer at 676-5902 or visit www.illuminarelaviafccc.com.

Desperate for a good home: Ten-week old female kitten who loves to play. She is black and white with green eyes. First round of shots complete. For details, call Carla at 676-2430

Help wanted: VBR is currently recruiting for an administrative assistant with a minimum of two years general office experience, a

Why did you join the Air Force?

To get a start on life.

What do you like the most about Incirlik?

Small base with a big role, 'Shaken and Moven.'

How do you contribute to the mission?

I'm new here, so I haven't contributed too much. I have taken on a few special projects and hope to enhance the sports and fitness way of life. However, there seems to be many top-notch programs here.

What is your favorite motto?

"What doesn't kill you ... makes you stronger." In our daily lives we are often faced with serious trials and tribulations. Find that positive from every negative and you will be a stronger person.

What Air Force core value best describes you and why?

I would hope that all three describe me. But if I had to pick one, I believe my wife would say "Service Before Self." She says I'm never home.

working knowledge of Microsoft office, and a familiarity with standard office equipment and procedures.

We are also looking for a classified pick up and delivery vehicle operator with a valid U.S. drivers license and experience in vehicle operations and supply/cargo experience.

All applicants must be local U.S. citizens. For details, call VBR Human Resources at 676-9129, or visit Web site at www.vbr-turkey.com.

Plants wanted: Are you leaving and you have plants (indoor/outdoor) in need of a good home? We would be happy to take them for you. We have many pots to fill.

For details, please call 676-2226 or e-mail: kimnbill@gmail.com. Thank you!



This is the solution for the crossword published in the June 23 *Tip of the Sword*. For more information, call 676-6060 or e-mail the *Tip of the Sword* at tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil.



Photo by Capt. Joseph Manahan

The Çesme Peninsula, lapped by the waters of the Aegean Sea, lies west of Izmir, in Turkey's Aegean region. Çesme, meaning fountain in Turkish, derives from the many sources of water found in the area. It is one of Turkey's most beautiful stretches, surrounded by clear blue seas, with landscapes of cultivated fields of aniseed, sesame and artichokes dotted with fig and gum trees.

THE INCIRLIK GUIDE

School summer hours

The Incirlik Elementary/Middle School office will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until Aug. 7.

The office will be closed from July 15 to 31.

For details call, 676-3109.

Preschool play group

A summer play group for toddlers and pre-schoolers will meet at the community center ball room Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. beginning.

The pool activity will meet Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m.

For details, call Marvin Cox at 676-8016.

Club renovations

The Officer's Lounge and Piper Lounge are closed due to renovations which are estimated to be completed Saturday.

For details, call 676-6010.



Today

7 p.m. – Goal! The Dream Begins (PG-13) (1st run) – Starring Kuno Becker and Stephen Dillane. As an underprivileged Mexican-American immigrant growing up in the poor section of Los Angeles is naturally gifted, his amazing talent on the soccer field was wasted and he could only dream of playing on the world stage of professional soccer. (117 minutes)

9:30 p.m. – Benchwarmers (PG-13) – Starring David Spade and Rob Schneider. Gus and his nerdy buddies, Richie and Clark, are scouted by a millionaire nerd, Mel, who wants to form a baseball team and compete with the meanest Little League teams in the state. (85 minutes)

Saturday

5 p.m. – Phat Girlz (PG-13) – Starring Monique Imes and Godfrey Danchimah. An aspiring fashion designer struggles to find love and acceptance in a world full of “hot bodied” babes. (98 minutes)

7 p.m. – Goal! The Dream Begins (PG-13) (1st run) – Starring Kuno Becker and Stephen Dillane. (117 minutes)

Sunday

7 p.m. – Benchwarmers (PG-13) – Starring David Spade and Rob Schneider. (85 minutes)

Thursday

7 p.m. – Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) – Starring Molly Shannon and Anna Faris. The Scary Movie gang is back with send-ups of “War of the Worlds,” “The Grudge,” “Saw” and and much more. (83 minutes)

AT THE M1

Visit www.mybilet.com/show for listing

Movie listings are subject to changes. On-base listings are courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Web site at <http://www.aafes.com/ems/euro/incirlik.htm>; M-1 listings are courtesy of Tepe Cinemaxx Tepe Cinemaxx and their Web site at www.mybilet.com/show_place_detail.aspx?place_id=101. For more Oasis information and updates, call the movie recording at 676-6986 or the theater office at 676-9140.