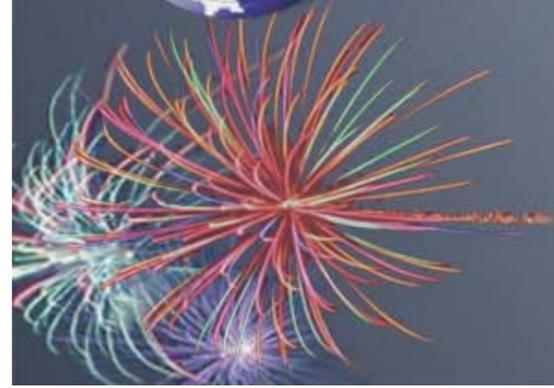


THE GUNFIGHTER



Commander's Hotline

This Hotline is your direct line to me.

It's your opportunity to make Mountain Home AFB a better place to live and work.

I review every response to Hotline questions, but functional experts prepare most responses.

If possible, you should first contact the organization responsible for the problem or function.

Your first sergeants, commanders and agency chiefs want to help, so please let them try.

If you do not know how to proceed or if you have already tried your chain of command, then do not hesitate to contact the Hotline at 828-6262 or CommandersHotline@mountainhome.af.mil.

Not all Hotlines are published, but if you leave your name and phone number or e-mail address, I will make sure you get a reply.



Col. Charles Shugg

Col. Charles Shugg
366th Fighter Wing commander

Last DUI:

(As of noon Wednesday)

366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Days without a DUI:

30

AADD made 37 saves in June, 167 in 2004

SECAF, CSAF send Independence Day message

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- The following is an Independence Day message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

"Happy birthday, America!

"For the last 228 years our nation has been the beacon for peace, freedom and opportunity around the world. America earned that reputation through courageous

acts of patriotism by our founding fathers and through bravery on battlefields from Bunker Hill to Baghdad.

"On Sunday, we'll celebrate with family and friends the joys of peace and the blessings of freedom.

"As you celebrate, please

remember those who paid the ultimate price

defending the values established by our forefathers in forging our great nation.

"This Independence Day is especially meaningful as we support the rebirth of Iraqi sovereignty and defend freedom far from home. Today, Airmen are deployed all over the world, engaged on all fronts in

the Global War on Terrorism, carrying

freedom's torch.

"Please remember our deployed Airmen in your thoughts and prayers on the 4th of July.

"America looks to you as their representatives of pride, strength and perseverance in times of peace and war. We're proud of you and salute your great service. We wish you and your families a safe and happy 4th of July!"



ACC commander reflects on cost of independence



Gen. Hal Hornburg

The following is an Independence Day message from Air Combat Commander Gen. Hal Hornburg:

"When our founding fathers adopted the Declaration of Independence 228 years ago, they sent an enduring message to the world – that all peoples, groups, races and nations have an un-

alienable right to live free from the yoke of tyranny and oppression.

"Today, we pause to celebrate that bold step toward Liberty and, in the spirit of the holiday, should look to the symbolic birth of our great Nation as a source of hope and inspiration.

"We should also pause for a moment to reflect on the sacrifices of our brothers- and sisters-in-arms who, from Valley Forge and Normandy to Afghanistan and Iraq, have fought and fallen in the name of freedom – not just for

Americans, but for all people.

"We will also honor you today and all the noble work you do here at home and abroad to further the cause of liberty for all mankind. Your willingness to sacrifice and your professionalism, patriotism and warrior spirit have never faltered.

"As President George W. Bush has said, you truly '... reflect the best of our Nation.'

"Cynthia joins me in sending our best wishes for a safe and joyous Independence Day."



**Interested in writing an editorial?
Call the public affairs office at 828-6800.**



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Commander

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SrA. Chawntain Sloan
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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless indicated.

Deadlines: All articles intended for publication in The Gunfighter must be submitted to the 366th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs Office, 366 Gunfighter Ave., Bldg. 512, Suite 314, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho 83648, by noon Friday. All submissions will be considered for publication based on news value and timeliness. Every article and photograph will be edited for accuracy, clarity, brevity and appropriateness. All articles will be edited to conform with the AP Stylebook and Libel Manual as stipulated in Air Force Instruction 35-101.

Coverage: Coverage of upcoming events should be arranged in advance by calling the public affairs office at 828-6800 or by sending an electronic message to pa.news@mountainhome.af.mil.

Classified Ads: Free classified advertisements of a non-commercial nature are published in The Gunfighter on a space-available basis. Free advertising is limited to Air Force people (active and retired), Department of Defense civilian employees and their family members. Ad forms are available in Bldg. 512. Deadline for free classified advertisements is 5 p.m. Monday.

Rack 'em up – Annual Gunfighter winners

Welcome to Gunfighter
Co
v

Air Force Awards 3



Air Combat Command Awards 20



12th Air Force 3

Newsline

Roadway construction

The 366th Civil Engineer Squadron is repairing the traffic light at the intersection of Hope Drive and Gunfighter Avenue Friday. Stop signs will be placed in the intersection. Everyone should use caution. For more information, call the 366th CES at 828-6494.

Independence Day celebrations

The base chapel young adult group is hosting a barbecue to celebrate Independence Day Sunday starting at 5 p.m. at the pavilion across from the dorms. There will be live entertainment, a three-on-three basketball tournament, volleyball, music, fellowship and more. To volunteer to sing or dance, call Ms. Terrie Tyus at 832-1495. For more information about or to sign up for the three-on-three basketball tournament, call SrA. Brandon Guy at 828-6194 or SrA. Kevin Reid at 828-4210. For more information about the barbecue, call the chapel 828-6417.

There will be a fireworks display over the Mountain Home City Golf Course downtown July 4 starting at about 10:15 p.m. People interested can view the show on the number one fairway of the golf course.

Holiday hours

July 4

Commissary	Closed
Base exchange	11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Anthony's Pizza	Closed
Robin Hood	Closed
Popeye's	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Shoppette	7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Burger King	Closed
Theater	Showing at 7 p.m.

The barber shop, beauty shop, laundromat, Moxie Java, wireless store, GNC, flower shop, alterations and dry cleaning are closed.

July 5

Commissary	Closed
Base exchange	11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Anthony's Pizza	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Robin Hood	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Popeye's	Closed
GNC	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Shoppette	7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Burger King	Closed
Theater	Showing at 7 p.m.
Laundromat	7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The barber shop, beauty shop, Moxie Java, wireless store, flower shop, alterations and dry cleaning are closed.

Legal office closure

The Gunfighter legal office will be closed July 9 for an official function. An on-call judge advocate can be reached at 599-3919 in case of emergency.

Tech support specialist wanted

The base education office is looking for a technology support specialist with two to five years experience in hardware maintenance (network connector and RAID server) and the ability to install, troubleshoot and maintain software (Windows 2000 operating systems, Office XP, FrontPage, Windows 2000 server and Microsoft SQL). Excellent customer service skills and verbal communication skills are essential. Appropriate related professional work or volunteer experience of at least one year is highly desirable. Knowledge of and experience with Air Force computer and network security regulations is mandatory. Knowledge of the Air Force Automated Education Management System and the Air Combat Command automated sign-in tool is preferred. Past experience should be demonstrated by resumes and a list of past performance to include verifiable professional references. Contact A1C Beau Barnett, base contracting office, at 828-2116 for a statement of work and bid package. The individual awarded the contract must be able to obtain a favorable National Agency Check for a position of trust. Resumes, transcripts and bid packages must be turned in to A1C Barnett at 366 Gunfighter Avenue, Suite 498, no later than 4 p.m. July 9.

Front page illustration by Amn. Dixie Manzanares

Gunfighter spreads wings, soars with Thunderbirds



Capt. Brian Farrar, 390th Fighter Squadron, does a preflight inspection before his final flight as a Gunfighter Wednesday. Capt. Farrar leaves this month to train for his new position as Thunderbird Six.

Photo and story by SrA. Chawntain Sloan
Gunfighter public affairs

A Gunfighter was one of three pilots recently selected to join the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds as an aerial demonstration pilot.

Capt. Brian Farrar, 390th Fighter Squadron F-15 pilot, was formally notified June 16 by Gen. Hal Hornburg, Air Combat Command commander, that he would assume the position of Thunderbird Six.

"I was thrilled," said Capt. Farrar, "I certainly didn't expect it. As I thought about the qualifications of the other semifinalists and finalists, any name given would not have been a surprise."

"There is no one more deserving," said Lt. Col. David Slade, 390th FS commander. "His outstanding officership and superior flying capabilities combined is why he was chosen. He has been an outstanding, model Air Force officer for as long as I have known him. He epitomizes the Air Force core values."

Capt. Farrar was among dozens of candidates who applied for three available demo pilot slots – Thunderbird Two, Four and Six. A formal announcement regarding the openings was sent out last fall. The announcement dictated that applicants must meet certain criteria including a

minimum of 1,000 flying hours and current qualifications in a jet fighter or trainer aircraft.

Qualified applicants then had to submit a written recommendation from their commander along with an application package, which included performance reports, a resume, flying history and four additional letters of recommendation.

After reviewing the packages, the current Thunderbird officers narrowed the pool down to 12 semifinalists.

Capt. Farrar and the other semifinalists traveled to Nellis AFB, Nev., home base of the Thunderbirds, for an interview with the wing commander and air warfare center commander. Afterwards, they spent the weekend on the road with the Thunderbirds, accomplishing more interviews and getting a behind-the-scenes look at what the Thunderbirds do and how they do it.

Upon receiving notification of selection as a finalist, Capt. Farrar returned to Nellis AFB with five other fighter pilots for second interviews and an introduction to the Thunderbird team's activities while at their home station. The finalists also flew with the Thunderbirds.

From the six finalists, Capt. Farrar and two others were selected to fill the three openings.

Capt. Farrar said he applied for the Thunderbird Six position, which is the opposing solo, as his first choice.

"The solo position was attractive to me from a flying standpoint because of the variety of maneuvers the pilot gets to perform," said Capt. Farrar.

Capt. Farrar will leave this month for Luke AFB, Ariz., where he will train to become qualified to fly an F-16. Upon completion of the two and a half month course, he will go to Nellis to participate in the Thunderbirds' winter training session.

Capt. Farrar is scheduled to perform as Thunderbird Six in March during the team's first public show of the season.

"Becoming a combat pilot was my first and initial goal when I joined the Air Force," said Capt. Farrar. "Along the way, I also realized that as a Thunderbird I could broadly provide a positive image of our Air Force while doing what I love. I am thrilled I get the opportunity to really represent excellence displayed by Airmen out there everyday."

Celebrate Nation's birthday, practice firework safety

By Ms. Karen Rogow
Gunfighter safety office

It is time to celebrate the Nation's birthday. The American traditions of cookout and fireworks help many celebrate this special occasion. However, when people are injured while using fireworks, it can turn a joyful celebration into a painful memory.

Although legal consumer fireworks that comply with the Consumer Product Safety Commission regulations can be relatively safe, all fireworks are hazardous and can cause injury.

The following are examples of injuries from legal fireworks:

- A six-inch fountain that shot colored fireballs injured a 4-year-old girl. When the fountain tipped over, the victim was struck in the chest by a fireball. She sustained second and third degree burns to her chest and neck. She was hospitalized for three weeks for burn treatment and skin grafts.

- A 15-year-old male tied together the wires of 10 sparklers. The sparklers ignited quickly and burned down very

fast, finally exploding in his hand. The victim sustained a five-inch long laceration to his hand and forearm, exposing the muscle. Also, debris from the explosion was lodged in his hand and arm. The victim had plastic surgery and has recovered.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that in 2003 about 9,300 people were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with fireworks. Over half the injuries were burns. Most of the injuries involved the hands, eyes and head. About half of the victims were under 15 years of age.

Before using fireworks, make sure they are permitted in the state and local area. In the state of Idaho, the legality of fireworks varies from county to county. However, fireworks are not allowed in Idaho state parks, camping areas and many areas in the foothills due to fire dangers.

Although fireworks are allowed in Elmore County, they are prohibited on base. Fireworks that leave the ground such as bottle rockets are also banned in Elmore County.

Here are some helpful recommendations to help use fireworks more safely:

See **SAFETY**, page 5

SAFETY from page 3

■ Older children should only be permitted to use fireworks under close adult supervision. Do not allow any running or horseplay.

■ Do not allow young children to play with fireworks under any circumstances.

Sparklers, which are considered by many to be an ideally safe firework, burn at very high temperatures and can easily ignite clothing. Children may not understand the dan-

ger involved.

■ Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from houses, dry leaves or grass and flammable materials.

■ Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on fireworks that don't go off.

■ Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Douse and soak them with water and throw them away.

■ Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.

■ Never ignite fireworks in a container.

■ Keep unused fireworks away from firing areas.

■ Store fireworks in a dry, cool place. Check instructions for special storage directions.

■ Never have any portion of the body directly over a firework while lighting.

Heatstroke: *People aren't the only ones that get it*

With the warm temperatures here, do not forget the family dog, cat, rabbit or other pets kept outside. Walking the dog is another factor to take into consideration. Taking it for a morning or late afternoon walk is more sensible than during midday when it is scorching, especially during the summer months. It is shameful to see a dog drooling, with his tongue hanging out and panting heavily as he walks alongside his master.

In addition, remember the sidewalks become hotter as the day grows longer. People

can endure the midday temperatures, but a dog is less tolerant. Responsible dog owners must take vital precautions to protect them from overheating.

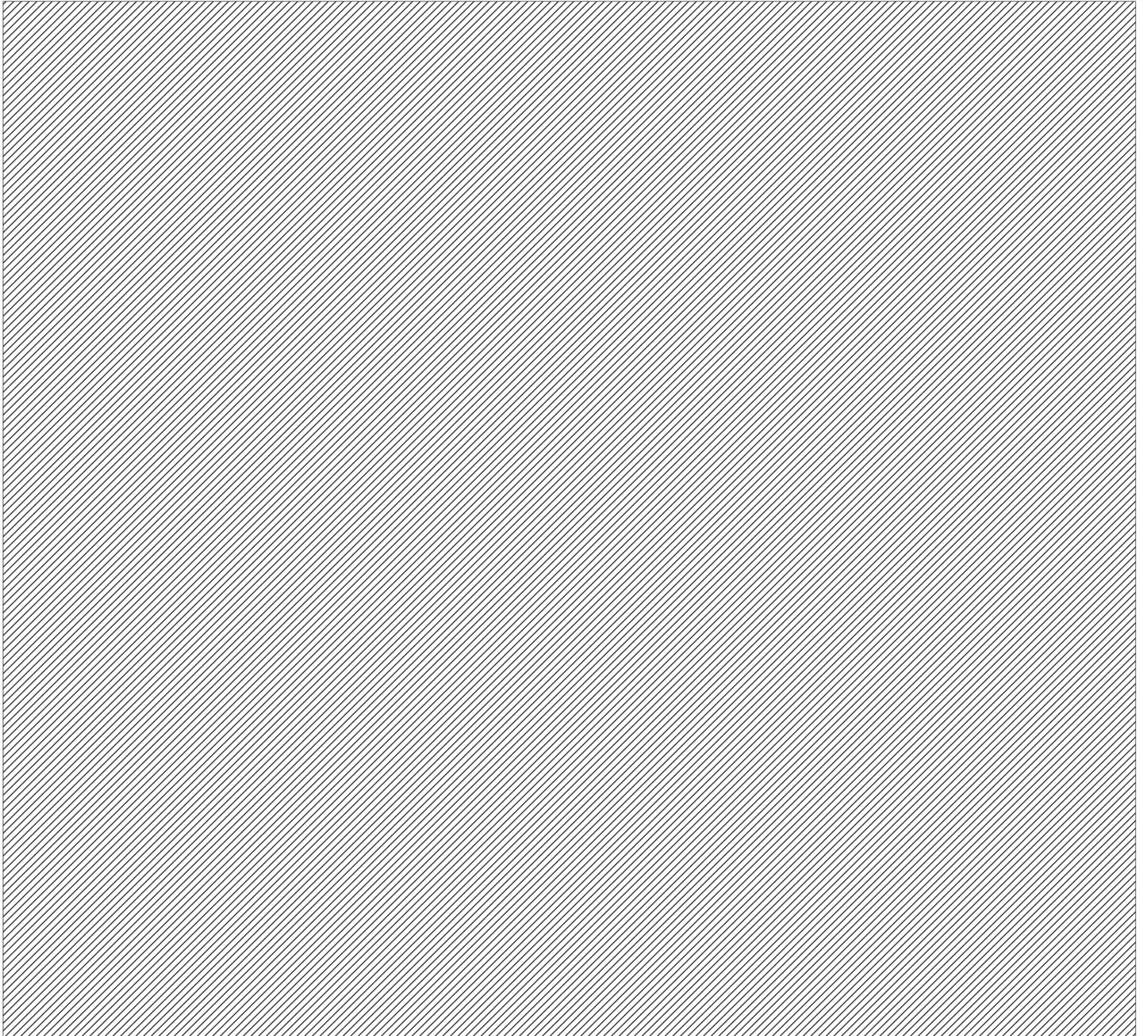
When exercising on a warm or hot day, and the dog starts to pant heavily, stop and give it water in the shade. People who condition first cannot expect their dog to keep up. A puppy or small breed dog takes 10 steps to a human's one step, so halfway down the block, the dog can become exhausted. Do not go too far or too fast since they are growing; they need their energy to

grow. Wait until they are six to eight months of age to exercise with them.

Dogs have an inefficient cooling system compared to humans. A dog primarily sweats by panting. However, if something such as a muzzle interferes with their ability to pant, a dog may overheat quickly. Signs of elevated body temperatures are rapid panting, bright red gums and tongue, vomiting, watery and bloody diarrhea, staggering and thick saliva. These are all signs of an impending heatstroke. If a dog is not treated immediately, coma, respiratory col-

lapse and even death can occur.

Overheating can occur anytime an animal is subjected to warm temperatures, humidity or exercise. Do not leave a pet in a car or truck even with the windows down. Temperatures rise rapidly in a vehicle – up to 160 degrees or more within minutes. Have plenty of fresh cool water available and check the animal often when it is outside. Remember, heat stroke can occur in the shade too. For more information about heat exhaustion, call the base vet clinic at 828-2221. (*366th Services Squadron*)



The Mountain Home AFB Honor Guard

Now is the time to join

By SSgt. Jodie Jasken
366th Fighter Wing

For decades, American men and women have lived in tents under undesirable conditions, fighting for what Americans believe.

Our grandparents and parents sacrificed even more during World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War, serving extended tours with little communication to families and loved ones back home.

These brave men and women helped make the world what it is today, but unfortunately, sometimes they are forgotten.

Today's American veterans receive very little in the way of thanks from those of us who are free because of them.

One thing veterans can count on is a final military farewell upon their death. Congressional law states, "Anyone who served and was separated under anything but a dishonorable discharge is considered a veteran and eligible for an honor guard team to provide military honors during the funeral service."

The type of honors provided by the base honor guard depends on whether the person retired from service, but ranges from a two-person team folding a flag to a ten-person team performing a flag folding ceremony, pall bearing and 21-gun salute.

Team member specifications are the same Department of Defense-wide; these services are performed in the identical manner by base honor guard teams throughout the country.

The Mountain Home AFB Honor Guard team currently has 16 members. With a base population of over 4,000 active-duty members, this number seems far lower than it should be. While the team does not cover events for all of Idaho, they do cover an almost 100,000 square mile area which includes parts of Nevada and Oregon. Simply put, if a veteran dies within a five hour radius from Mountain Home AFB, the base honor guard performs the military honors due the individual.

It's easy to see why this job, combined with requests for retirement and retreat ceremonies, change of commands and off-base functions, has overwhelmed an undermanned team.

It's important to note the impact the base honor guard makes not only on the base



Photo by SSgt. Christopher Gish

Members of the honor guard post the colors during a change of command ceremony. The base honor guard is currently looking for 64 new members, officers and enlisted.

community, but on the Air Force as well. The honor guard's services speak directly to the family of the deceased who waited at home for their loved one to return from war or spent their lives moving around the world. It is the Air Force's way of thanking them for their loved one's service to the nation and letting them know we appreciate their support. This may be the only time the family is told by the military they are appreciated, so it means a lot to them.

A military funeral is also a rare, up-close peek at the military for many civilians who only know what they see on television. By representing the Air Force admirably, the honor guard team assures that serving in our Armed Forces is still a great honor.

In the last two years, there has been an increased rumbling about manning our base's honor guard team. It's been years since the base has had an honor guard team at 100 percent. Shouldn't honoring veter-

ans be one of our highest priorities?

Please don't wait until you're less busy to join the team. We need you today. We're looking for 64 new members, and the time to join is now.

A training week will be held for all interested personnel July 26 through 30 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Bldg. 2607. For more information, call SSgt. Bobbi Russell at 828-2874 or Lt. Shane Schmitt at 828-2946. To sign up, contact your first sergeant.



Photo by SSgt. Christopher Gish

Above and Left: Members of the honor guard perform a flag folding ceremony. A flag folding ceremony is typically performed during a veteran's funeral or retirement.



Photo by SSgt. Bennie Davis

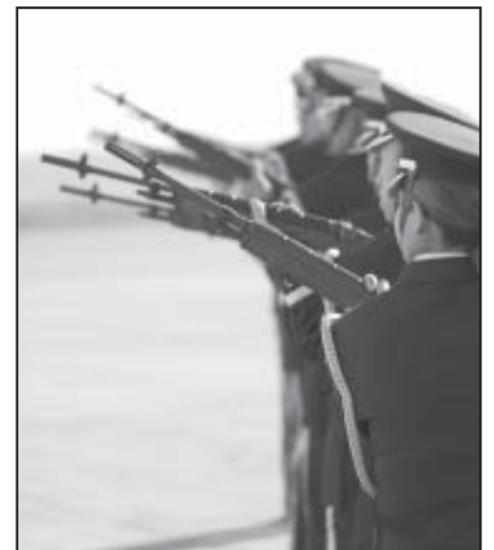


Photo by SSgt. Bennie Davis

Members of the honor guard provide a 21-gun salute during a funeral in honor of a lost veteran.

Wild Boars stampede Alaska

By 1st Lt. Lucas Ritter
Gunfighter public affairs

The 390th Fighter Squadron recently returned from Northern Edge '04, a joint exercise in Alaska that integrated all branches of the military.

More than 160 aircraft from around the Department of Defense were involved in the exercise, from F-14D Tomcats to SH-60F Seahawk Helicopters to the F-15C Eagles of the 390th Fighter Squadron's "Wild Boars."

"We've been planning for months," said Lt. Col. Rick Hedgpeth, 390th FS operations officer. "It's a challenge we took on, and we performed it well."

The 390th FS was brought in to Northern Edge to be the "red air" bandits and provide to the other pilots realistic threats. This role for the squadron meant that they had to change the way they think about flying tactics.

"We have to plan new objectives, as we can't use our standard tactics or weapons," he said. "We have to think like the enemy."

The main focus of planning red air tactics is improving the tactical abilities of the U.S. military.

"We have to challenge them," Lt. Col. Hedgpeth said. "We have to be the best 'bad guys' we can."

This exercise did not just provide the 390th FS a chance to play a new role, but a chance to train with the other services.

"The joint operability was probably the most important thing we accomplished," said Maj. John Binder, 366th Fighter Wing plans and programs. "The Marines who controlled the airspace use different terminology than we do. It was a great opportunity for us to train as we would fight in combat."

Northern Edge also gave the aircrew involved a chance to see how the fight played out in real time with the tracking system that was used. The range had an air combat maneuvering instrumentation system that uses pods in the aircraft and nodes on the ground to track flight information.

"With so many aircraft in the air, it can be tough main-



Photos by SSgt. Dave Donovan

A1C Steve Morden, crew chief for the 390th Fighter Squadron, does a preflight inspection before a launch during Northern Edge '04. Approximately 9,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen served as part of a joint task force during Northern Edge '04

taining distances and altitudes," said Maj. Binder. "With this tracking system we were able to see where all the planes were at any given time. It was invaluable when it came debriefing the missions."

A typical day at Northern Edge proved to be a long one for everyone involved. For the aircrew, the 12 plus hours were spent in the preflight briefs, two-to-three hour flying missions, and then debriefs to review the tapes and get all of the pertinent information. For the maintainers and support personnel, it was about constantly making sure the aircraft were ready for the fight.

The 390th FS was able to take their own maintainers for this exercise. This provided the support personnel a chance to train and work away from home station.

"Things are usually less organized during a (temporary duty) because you aren't at your home station where tools and equipment are readily available," said A1C Joe Loper, a crew chief for the 390th FS. "This means there is a greater dependency on people and allows you to show your worth to the unit."

Because Northern Edge was a joint exercise, it gave the maintenance group a chance to live and work with maintenance support from other services. They were able to see how effective the Air Force is at what they do on a daily basis.

"No matter where we go or what we have to do keep airplanes in the air it is for certain that we are the world's elite, said A1C Loper. "No one – absolutely no one – flies, fixes or fights better than us."

Despite the long days and busy work schedule, the Airmen of the 390th FS did get a chance to enjoy some of what Alaska had to offer.

"We were able to give some incentive rides to our maintainers who do a fantastic job for the squadron," said Maj. Binder. "We also had the opportunity to do some great salmon fishing."

Northern Edge '04 was a fully integrated, large-scale joint training exercise that involved more than 9,000 Airmen, Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Coast Guardsmen from around the world.



An F-15C from the 390th Fighter Squadron receives a final check as another F-15C takes off from Elmendorf AFB. The 390th participated in Northern Edge '04, Alaska's annual joint service exercise. The exercise was designed to simulate joint operations, techniques, procedures, command and control relationships, and enhance interoperability among the services.



Capt. James McGrew and A1C Steve Morden, 390th Fighter Squadron, perform a preflight inspection before launch.