



Photos by SSgt. Kathy Myles

## Veterans remembered

Above: Members of the American Legion provide a 21 gun salute Monday during a Memorial Day ceremony held in the Mountain Home Cemetery.

Right: Following the ceremony, Ms. Cassandra Page and Mr. Edward Page take a moment to pay respects to his father, a former computer instructor at Mountain Home AFB. (See page 8 for more photos)



## Newsline

### Award winners

Congratulations to Amn. **Sean Fetke** for being selected as the First Term Airmen Center's Sharp Troop for Class 04R and Amn. **Nicholas Castle** for receiving the Class 04R Razor Sharp award for excellence in dress and appearance.

### Top 90's

Congratulations to A1C **David Carpenter**, 366th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, **Janilda Sherman**, 366th Fighter Wing, and **Philip Harrison** and **Joseph Victorino**, 366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. They scored 90 percent or better on their career development course test.

### Estate claims

Anyone who has claims for or against the estate of Amn. Tanna Preston, 366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, should contact Capt. Eric Tramel, summary court officer, at 828-1171 or (208) 724-6583.

### Recruiter/MTI team

The Air Education and Training Special Duty Briefing Team will brief special-duty assignment opportunities Tuesday in the base theater at 10 a.m.

### ACSC, AWC enrollment

Base training and education services is currently enrolling eligible officers and federal employees for Air Command and Staff College and Air War College non-resident seminars at Mountain Home.

Seminar meetings will be held weekly on base, starting in early August and running through June 2005.

For more information or to enroll, call 828-6363 or e-mail 366MSS.DPE@mountainhome.af.mil no later than June 30.

# Force Shaping kicks off Phase II

By 1st Lt. Laura Riley  
366th Mission Support Squadron

The Secretary of the Air Force authorized the use of numerous force shaping policies to help the Air Force reach its authorized end strength of 359,700 by the end of fiscal year 2005.

This means the Air Force needs to reduce its manning by 22,500 personnel by September 2005. To do this, Phase II of Force Shaping was implemented Wednesday and expands on Phase I.

The second phase has become more liberal for people who would like to separate early from the service or retire before the end of an active duty service commitment.

Under Phase I there were three main initiatives to release people from active duty: Palace Chase, limited active duty service commitment waivers and the enlisted date of separation rollback. Phase II incorporates these same initiatives but has expanded the criteria to reach more people. For example, now under Palace Chase, members need to have just 12 months time in service to apply versus the 24 months required under Phase I.

Under the limited ADSC waiver program, all Air Force Specialty Codes are eligible to apply. Previously, there were many AFSCs that were exempted as critically manned.

The Enlisted DOS Rollback program still allows com-

manders the authority to separate members within their squadron who hold certain unfavorable reenlistment codes.

In addition to the expanded programs, there are three more criteria in which people may be separated. Personnel who decline an assignment or in-residence Professional Military Education will be separated no later than 120 days from date of declination. Personnel who tender a retirement in lieu of an assignment will be allowed to retire. Enlisted personnel with more than 20 years of service as of June 30, 2005 who have an assignment limitation code of "C" must retire by June 30, 2005.

The blue to green program has also been established to allow Air Force members to transfer to Army active duty. All AFSCs may apply but must be in the grade of lieutenant through captain for officers and airman basic through staff sergeant for enlisted.

To get out the wealth of information this program covers, the military personnel flight is hosting mass briefs Monday at 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the base theater. An MPF representative, Air National Guard recruiter, Air Force Reserve recruiter and the base career advisor will be present. Additionally, each commander support staff has received detailed implementation guidance.

For more information, please attend one of the base briefings or contact a CSS member to determine eligibility. Once a CSS member confirms eligibility, people may schedule an appointment with the MPF separation and retirement office by calling 828-6791.

## 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. Blair Hansen

Col. Blair Hansen  
366th Fighter Wing commander

## Last DUI:

(As of noon Thursday)

366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Days without a DUI:

3

AADD made 25 saves in May, 125 in 2004

# Sunday marks 60th anniversary of D-Day

By TSgt. Mike Sibley  
Gunfighter history office

"You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you."

Sixty years ago this week, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote those immortal words to the two million Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen preparing for the Normandy invasion.

Shortly after the United States entered World War II, the War Department knew that an invasion of Northwest Europe was needed for victory over Nazi Germany. Adolf Hitler also knew this, so in 1943 he directed the fortification of the French coast.

While the American war machine churned out the troops and supplies needed for the assault, German forces built bunkers and obstacles to try and halt the inevitable.

Nine Allied divisions made their assault in the Normandy area June 6, 1944. Shortly after midnight, three airborne divisions began dropping behind the beaches to secure critical roads and block German counterattacks. At dawn, six more divisions began landing on five separate beaches for the main thrust of the attack along a 50-mile front.

In total, more than 150,000 allied troops participated in the initial D-Day assault. Over 1,000 allied aircraft swarmed over the beaches to protect Soldiers and Sailors from anticipated attacks by the Luftwaffe. Among them were P-47 Thunderbolts of the 366th Fighter Group, who were originally tasked for air-to-air combat. However, the fluid ground battle and the Luftwaffe's failure to show drew the 366th FG into a different role that day.

In the afternoon of June 6, ground commanders began making urgent requests for "continuous fighter bomber support to search out and attack enemy artillery firing on beaches." Pilots from the 366th FG joined those from two other groups to do just that.

Because battle lines moved rapidly, they could not provide close air support for fear of harming friendly troops. Instead, they ranged behind the enemy lines attacking trucks and armor rushing to reinforce German defenses. They also managed to spot five of the camouflaged artillery batteries that inflicted heavy casualties on the beaches until they were silenced by the Thunderbolts.

Five days later, the 366th FG again distinguished itself in the ground attack role while supporting the breakout from the Normandy beachheads. All flying for June 11 had been cancelled because of poor weather, but the 366th FG managed to get



U.S. Air Force Photo

Lt. Hunt, 366th Fighter Group pilot, takes a break on the wing of his P-47 aircraft at his base in Thruxton, England, shortly before the Normandy invasion.

three flights of P-47s under the 1,000 foot ceilings where they spotted a German armor column advancing.

The advance was soon halted as the 366th FG destroyed 22 tanks and an untold number of support vehicles. The 366th FG earned the Distinguished Unit Citation for a similar battle only a month later.

While no one is certain how many Americans lost their lives on D-Day, the number killed from June to September 1944 exceeds 29,000. During that same period, 29 members of the 366th FG gave their lives in the

fight to liberate Europe from fascism. Among them were Lieutenants Arthur Krause and William McGowen, both of whom were shot down on D-Day while attacking enemy tanks and artillery.

History has remembered the bravery and sacrifice of that day as one of the American military's finest hours. Members of the 366th FG demonstrated those same qualities on that battlefield and on many since then. In doing so, they blazed a path for the Gunfighters of today and tomorrow to follow.



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**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



Air Force Awards 1



Air Combat Command Awards 18



12th Air Force 3

# GMAC holds rodeo to encourage safety



Photo by Capt. Daniel Biehl

1st Lieutenants Mike and Nicole Pfirrmann demonstrate balancing skills during a hoop toss competition May 26.

By SrA. Sergio Aguirre  
Gunfighter Public Affairs

The Gunfighter Motorcycle Advisory Council held a GMAC Rodeo May 26 as part of the memorial holiday weekend safety campaign.

Riders of all experience levels attended the event to

hone their riding skills and learn about motorcycle safety.

Riding games and competitions pitted multiple riders against one another in a battle for bragging rights.

Motorcycles of all kinds were on hand such as sport, super sport, cruising and grand touring.

The mix of motorcycles and riders with various levels of riding experience made for an entertaining safety session according to MSgt. Clifton, GMAC vice president.

"It went well," he said. "We had a few beginners, and this gave them a chance to mix with experienced riders."

The rodeo started with group of riders departing on a Poker Run at the 726th Air Control Squadron parking lot, riding to the 366th Security Forces Squadron first. There the riders were given a briefing on the rules and regulations regarding proper attire for riding motorcycles on and off base.

"Everyone was eager to get a clear understanding of the Air Force and Mountain Home AFB instruction regarding proper riding attire and reduce any possible gray areas opened to interpretation," said MSgt. Clifton.

Riders then stopped by the base optometry clinic for a briefing on eye safety. This was followed with a ride to the base housing fire station for more information regarding personal safety while riding.

"This briefing went well and discussed various regula-

tions, road obstructions and vehicle blind spots among others," he said.

The Poker Run ended with a ride back to the 726th ACS for briefings on operational risk management and basic motorcycle safety such as speed limits and riding gear. The group also played riding games to polish their riding skills.

"The games let beginners and seasoned riders practice in a closed environment to test and improve their low speed riding abilities," said MSgt. Clifton.

The day was designed to teach and practice many skills necessary to motorcycle safety while placing an emphasis on awareness.

"This event has increased the camaraderie of local riders who they may not have normally ridden with," he said.

"I think the council helps familiarize new riders with the local area. This decreases the chance of mishaps and helps Gunfighters stay safe," said Karen Rogow, chief of Gunfighter ground safety. "This group has brought motorcycle safety to light and is far above what others in Air Combat Command have access to."

The council has plans for at least a yearly motorcycle rodeo, with high interest of offering a motorcycle safety rodeo at the beginning and end on the 101 critical days of summer.

"We can only hope the new wing leadership continues with the outstanding support, as the current leadership has been so supportive of the Gunfighter Motorcycle Advisory Council," said MSgt. Clifton.

## 101 Critical Days: ATV, dirt bike riding tips

**(Editor's Note: This article is the part of a series of articles compiled by the Gunfighter safety office in support of the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign. Information from the ATV Institute and National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council was used in this article.)**

Gunfighters experience several all-terrain vehicle and dirt bike accidents each year. A special focus area for the 101 critical days of summer is keeping personnel safe while performing this high risk activity.

As a reminder to riders and supervisors of riders, take a few minutes and use some personal risk management. The following checklist includes some important things to consider.

### Protective equipment

- Helmet: snug fitting and securely

fastened. Open-face helmets may be lighter but do not afford as much protection as full-face helmets.

- Eye protection: goggles
- Gloves, long sleeved shirt, long pants and boots
- Additionally recommended: Chest and shoulder protection, padded pants, strong over the calf boot

### Be prepared

Learn all there is about ATVs and dirt bikes.

To minimize the chance of being injured or stranded, inspect the mechanical condition of the vehicle before each ride. Refer to the owner's manual for specifics, but here are a few common items:

- Tires: check pressure and condition
- Wheels: are axel nuts tight and secure?
- Controls: check throttle cables/con-

trols for damage

- Brakes: are they working smoothly and adjusted correctly?
- Foot Shifter: firmly attached
- Ignition switch (if equipped): works and is in good condition
- Engine stop switch: functioning correctly
- All installed lights are working
- Check oil in engine if off
- Always start the vehicle with a full tank of gas
- Check for fuel/oil leaks
- Check chain for proper alignment
- Check driveshaft (if equipped) for leaks

Remember, rough terrain loosens nuts and bolts, so check for loose parts while the engine is off and make sure to have an adequate tool kit in case there are problems.

### ATV and dirt bike riding

ATV and dirt bike riding cannot be learned by reading an article.

Owners of dirt bikes and ATVs need to ensure they are not letting a novice rider just take off on their vehicles. More accidents occur to people who "just want to give it a try." Experienced riders should share their expertise, and novice riders should get some instruction or take a course before they go for the ride; it may be their last ride if they don't know what they are doing.

Most ATV and dirt bike dealerships have courses available to first-time buyers who ask.

Mountain Home AFB also has a couple certified ATV instructors who teach classes on an as-needed basis.

For more information about an ATV, call wing safety at 828-2066.



Photos by SSgt. Kathy Myles

### Saying goodbye

Above: Col. Blair Hansen (left), 366th Fighter wing commander, presents a certificate of appreciation to Ms. Janice Wong for her service as an Air Force wife. Ms. Janice and Col. Bruce Wong (right) retired from the Air Force after 28 years of service during an official ceremony May 27.

Right: Col. Bruce Wong stands at attention during a flag folding ceremony in honor of him and his family.



# Fit to fly

## Specializing means more to maintainers

Story and photos by SSgt. Erien Chasse  
Gunfighter public affairs

(Editors note: The Gunfighter public affairs office presents the first story in the fit to fly series which will celebrate maintainers and how they get aircraft in the air.)

Specialists make it their individual duty to 'specialize' in one system or system type of an aircraft. It does not matter that they have a schedule that shifts like sand with the flying schedule or does not include time for lunch. It is a day without predictability, these maintainers make sure Gunfighter pilots can train every day and be ready to fly and fight.

The specialist flight at the 391st Aircraft Maintenance Unit uses its almost 80 people to maintain, fix and clean (when needed) the engines, electroenvironmental and avionics systems on the aircraft.

The flight runs five different Air Force Specialty Codes out of one truck during each shift.

This truck travels back and forth across the flightline area in front of the 391st Fighter Squadron so many times in one day that it is impossible to count according to TSgt. Tad Russell, Specialist Section Expeditor with the 391st AMU.

"My job is controlled chaos," said TSgt. Russell who had to raise his voice to be heard over the scream of jet noise.

Managing system maintenance can sometimes be challenging and unpredictable.

One of the many jobs the truck crew handled during the interviews was a 'red ball,' or system maintenance lights similar to maintenance lights found in cars.

This light caused an aircraft to be grounded and cost



A1C Richard Thompson, 391st Aircraft Maintenance Unit, installs a liquid coolant system pump on an F-15E Wednesday.



TSgt. Tad Russell, specialist section expeditor with the 391st AMU, takes one of his many trips back and forth across the flightline area in front of the 391st Fighter Squadron.



SrA. Rob Waggoner, 391st Aircraft Maintenance Unit, trains a fellow Gunfighter how to properly perform radar operations check Wednesday during daily flying.

the flight valuable hours for troubleshooting.

"This is part of what we do everyday," said TSgt. Russell.

Some of the tools used by SrA. Audra Currell, 391st AMU, for this troubleshooting job include:

- ❑ A data transfer set, which downloads aircraft information, that helps cut troubleshooting time.

- ❑ Air Force Instructions and a couple hundred technical orders. "We live and die by the AFI out here [on the flightline] because maintenance must be done by the book," said TSgt. Russell.

- ❑ Quick wits and job knowledge, defined by skill level and time on the job. "You get questions all the time that you won't have the answer to but everyone expects you to. This can put the pressure on and without experience it can be rough," said TSgt. Russell who is an 18 year veteran engine troop.

These multifaceted AFSCs have a lot demanded of them every day.

It can be physical especially in a day that includes 14

successive aircraft launches with a three minute break between the time the last aircraft launches and the first aircraft lands.

"We have to prioritize and that can make you feel married to the jets," said TSgt. Russell.

The time on the flightline enables hardened 'Specs,' as they are sometimes called, to prioritize work while listening to a brick (Land Mobile Radio) crackle, jet fly overhead and coordinate with many different offices to get jets in the air safely and correctly, according to SSgt. Michael Kortright, 391st AMU.

"Instant job satisfaction when you fix a jet is the best part of my job," said SSgt. Kortright.

SSgt. Michelle Mason, another 391st AMU specialist maintainer said "I feel like part of something bigger than myself when I do my job."

So in a job that requires maintainers to 'specialize' in one area this flight redefines what the word really means by getting Gunfighter aircraft fit to fly.



SrA. Audra Currell, 391st AMU, waits for a communications cord on a jet that will be pulled for troubleshooting.

# Gone, but not forgotten



Right: Members of the United States Marine Corps Veterans post a wreath at the Mountain Home Cemetery May 31 during a Memorial Day ceremony. About 150 Gunfighters attended the ceremony to honor those who have died while serving their country.

