



# The GUNFIGHTER

Volume 16, Number 19

366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho

May 21, 2004



Photo by SSgt Kathy Myles

## Hard rock driving

A kindergarten student explores the inside of a Humvee as A1C Daniel Cody, 726th Air Control Squadron, answers her questions Tuesday. The 726th ACS visited grade school students at Grandview Elementary School to show their appreciation for what the children did for them during Operation Enduring Freedom. For story and more photos see page 8.

## Newsline

### Claims

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of Amn. Tanna Preston, 366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, should contact the summary court officer, Capt. Eric Tramel, at 828-1171 or 724-6583.

### Power outages on Alpine St.

Idaho Power Solutions in conjunction with the 366th Civil Engineer Squadron is improving electrical power reliability and base appearance. In about 30 days, Idaho Power Solutions will initiate power outages for 38 separate buildings in the area of the base bordered by 7th Avenue, Alpine Street, 13th Avenue and Liberator Street. Outages will take place one building at a time over a sixty-day period. Technicians will energize new underground power distribution systems and remove existing poles and overhead lines. Outage durations will range from 30 minutes to 8 hours. Outages will be closely coordinated with building facility managers, affected commanders, Idaho Power Solutions and 366th CES. Outage durations and user inconvenience will be kept to a minimum.

### Hospital closure

The 366th Medical Group Hospital will be closed Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., to allow for Medical Group participation in the wing Safety Day. Please note this includes the pharmacy. The emergency room will be open during this time for emergency medical needs. The 366th MDG asks that Gunfighters plan visits to the hospital around this timeframe.

## Warrior retires after 28 years

By SrA. Sergio Aguirre  
Gunfighter public affairs

The Air Force is a melting pot of personalities and diversity. These personalities shine like coins in the sun and leave lasting impressions that guide Airmen on the path of leadership.

One personality in the melting pot is Col. Bruce Wong's, director of the 366th Fighter Wing staff.

Col. Wong is known throughout the wing as someone who makes things happen. His motivation is a commitment to service and solving problems.

"I saw that my father, a retired Chief, enjoyed serving. After attending college for a semester and learning in an environment with different types of people, I knew the Air Force was the group of professionals I wanted to associate myself with," said Col. Wong.

He received an ROTC scholarship at the University of Oregon where he participated in collegiate athletics and received his commission Jan. 2, 1976.

"Since then I have had great opportunities and have been able to see many sides of the Air Force," he said.

He is a master navigator with more than 3,500 flight hours and flown in more than six different airframes. Many describe him as a driven individual who seeks efficient solutions.

"He is driven and outgoing and very personable," said Mrs. Janice Wong. "He is very passionate about what he does."

Much of his drive can be seen in his daily workout routine. He devotes time to fitness to stay fit but also to challenge himself. He began power-lifting in 1971 after meet-

ing Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger and has remained devoted to pushing himself.

"I enjoy working out because it is a very individual sport," he said. "It's just you against a piece of iron. It allows me the opportunity to think and it's a sport where you see immediate feedback."

"You are the master in this sport. You determine the level at which you want to compete. You are responsible for your personal level of success. It's a very mental sport."

Much of Col. Wong's personality comes through almost instantly according to co-workers. Many value his approachable attitude and genuine concern for the well being of Airmen and the Air Force mission.

"He supports his troops by being very approachable and is genuinely interested in improving the Air Force by streamlining processes which hinder our efficiency. If I have an idea, he wants to hear it. I think most people who work with him feel the same as I do," said TSgt. Karla Proper, 366th Fighter Wing.

Humor and personal attention is important to how he approaches potential solutions to complex problems facing the wing.

"The business we are in is inherently dangerous. People can die. If we don't approach this lightly we will burn out quickly. Treating people the way I want to be treated is important and knowing when to add some humor creates an atmosphere that helps foster creativity and eases the stress of all that we ask our folks to do. Humor allows you to get to the root of the problem quickly because it removes the wall of fear. When people aren't afraid to think or speak their minds, amazing things can happen and problems can be solved more efficiently," said Col. Wong.

## 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. Hansen

Col. Blair Hansen  
366th Fighter Wing commander

## Last DUI:

(As of noon Thursday)

366th Logistic Readiness Squadron

Days without a DUI:

4

AADD made 12 saves in May,  
127 in 2004

# Ready to be an expeditionary warrior?

By Maj. Kenneth Norgard  
366th Component Maintenance  
Squadron commander

A C-130 takes off for a small unnamed airfield deep in Iraq with its cargo, several maintainers, a supply troop and a handful of transporters. The people's mission is to support flying operations focused on providing close air support to special operations teams actively engaged with the enemy. Before they departed, each member on the aircraft was issued an M-16 and ammunition.

Shortly after take off, the troop commander provides a situation brief for the unnamed airfield; the threat is real, with hostile forces frequently probing the base perimeter and firing small arms and mortars at air field personnel.

To complicate the situation only a handful of security force professionals are on the ground and everyone will be required to defend the base when attacks occur.

Sound hard to believe? It shouldn't. In today's expeditionary Air Force one of those individuals could be you. Today, Air Combat Command personnel are operating from 150 different locations around the world with many of them working in harm's way.

The threats we face are much different than the threats the Air Force has faced in the past. We must transform the way we prepare to succeed in this environment. We no longer sit in garrison, insulated from our enemy by thousands of miles, while our aircrews face hostile fire to deliver bombs on target.

Today, we all share the reality of facing hostile fire up close and personal and we must be ready to meet and defeat that threat if we are to ensure mission success.

Our most recent local exercise, Sharpshooter 04-01, took

the first steps in preparing us for success in today's expeditionary environment. It focused on testing our ability to conduct flying operations in a hostile environment.

We not only faced chemical attacks but also several ground attacks forcing us to pick up arms and take a defensive posture to defeat hostile forces.

At Moab Ju, everyone was issued a weapon from the armory and some individuals were selected to go fire without step-by-step instructions.

During this test, some people could not successfully operate their weapon, failing to load or activate the weapon. Others were able to put lead down range but not hit the target with any regularity, while others were very proficient at handling and employing their weapon.

When the dust settled and the scores were tabulated, the average member hit the target 5 times with 20 rounds fired at 60 meters.

If you were asked to fire, what would your score be?

Are you a ready expeditionary warrior?

The Air Force is transforming the way it builds expeditionary warriors.

The first universal step is the Fit-to-Fight program, which is a great first step in preparing us for the demands of operating in an expeditionary environment.

Our physical conditioning provides the foundation for becoming a successful expeditionary warrior. But remember staying physically fit is a continuous journey, not a destination.

There is no shortcut to getting in shape.

You can gut it out and pass a physical fitness test once a year, but the real test becomes how ready you are to deploy and survive in a combat environment.

Is your body strong enough to work 12 hours a day wearing a flak vest and carrying a weapon along with your

tool box, doing it day after day, for weeks at a time?

Maintaining a great physical condition is not the end of our journey. We will see many more changes to the way we prepare our Airmen for combat.

The exact nature of these changes is unclear, but rest assured our Airmen will be given the skills they need to thrive in the expeditionary environment.

The question becomes what can you do in the interim to prepare yourself to succeed?

You must know your profession. This goes beyond your primary job of fixing aircraft, processing supply requests or driving a fuel truck. It includes mastering the warrior skills you need to thrive in an expeditionary environment.

You must understand your primary weapon (M-16 or M-9), how it works, how to fix it when it doesn't fire, how to safely and effectively employ it to defeat your enemy. This means maximizing the effectiveness of your small arms training. Asking questions and actively participating in the learning process to gain as much knowledge as possible.

If you're not ready to take that weapon into combat tomorrow, get help. Ask your supervisor, call the security forces professionals, do some extra research, read your Airman's Manual, but don't set yourself up to fail in the field. You must also cultivate those survival skills that can save your life or your comrades in combat.

Know self-aid/buddy care procedures and how to survive and operate in any threat environment, including chemical and biological. Have a deep understanding of the Law of Armed Conflict, not just the words, but internalize their meaning and how to apply them in the field.

The extra time you invest in learning these combat skills will make a difference in delivering dominant expeditionary Gunfighter Airpower.



### Editorial staff

Col. Blair Hansen  
Commander

Maj. Kelley Thibodeau  
Chief, Public Affairs  
1st Lt. Lucas Ritter  
Chief, Internal Information

SrA. Chawntain Sloan  
Editor

SrA. Sergio Aguirre  
Staff Writer

*The Gunfighter* is published by Mountain Home News, 195 South 3rd East St., Mountain Home, Idaho, 83647, 587-3331, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive contract with the 366th Fighter Wing.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of *The Gunfighter* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or Mountain Home News of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, (208) 828-6800.

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.

Welcome to Gunfighter  
Country — home of a  
winning attitude!



Deck 'em up — Annual Gunfighter winners



Air Combat Command Awards 18



12th Air Force 3

# Gunfighter lost, never forgotten

## Airman Tanna Teresa Preston

7 November 1984 – 10 May 2004

Tanna Teresa Preston was born Nov. 7, 1984 in Sacramento, California. She spent her formative years in St. Albans, New York, in the loving care of her father, grandparents and aunt. In 1994, she moved to Antelope, California where she lived with her mother and attended Oakmont High School.

After graduation in June 2002, Tanna wanted to travel, broaden her knowledge of the world and meet new and exciting people.

To achieve her goals, she enlisted in the Air Force June 3, 2003. Tanna completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas, and then attended the Maintenance Production

Management technical training school at Sheppard AFB, Texas, graduating in October 2003. She reported to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, as a maintenance scheduler assigned to the 366th Maintenance Operations Squadron Nov. 5, 2003.

In April she moved to the 366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron to work as a scheduler in the 389th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

Tanna Preston passed away May 10 in a vehicle accident. Her warmth, humor and faith touched the lives of everyone who knew her.

She is survived by her mother, Cass Monet; father, Michael Preston; sister, Chez; her brothers, Michael and Chavisa, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.



Amn. Tanna Preston



Air Force photo

**Col. Bruce Wong, 366th Fighter Wing director of staff, takes part in a Native American Heritage celebration along with Mr. Terry Gibson, Shoshone-Paiute chairman. Col. Wong was instrumental in fostering good relations with local Native American tribes.**

## Colonel

from page 1

Much of his time is spent overseeing his duties and completing the mission. His day begins at 4:30 a.m. and he usually returns to his home at 7 p.m.

"He has a long day but he enjoys what he does. He loves to serve and help others as much as he can," said Mrs. Janice Wong.

He met his wife while attending the University of Oregon.

The two have been married for more than 27 years.

"She guarded my beverage during a fraternity party and I fell in love with her. We have been together ever since," said Col. Wong.

The fraternity house in which they met also happens to be the same house used in the film *Animal House*.

"They portrayed our fraternity very well and the characters were very true to life," he said.

Since then he and his wife have had two daughters, ages 18 and 21, which are an integral part of his life.

"They keep me humble," he said. "Ms. Janice reminds me many times that when I walk in that door I am no longer a colonel in the United States Air Force and that I never kiss the Air Force good night or goodbye."

"The girls have kept me very humble and allow me to focus on what is important. Some people say family comes first or the mission comes first. I think you have to be able to balance the two. Ms. Janice and the girls make sure that I always have the right balance."

Serving hasn't always been easy but he says he understands the challenges and learned to appreciate the work put in by those he serves with.

"Being a father has helped me understand the tremendous challenges facing our families in the Air Force. I know how hard it is to raise a family and to make ends meet while accomplishing the mission. We ask a lot of our folks and they continue to meet the challenges. It's amazing, it really is."

Col. Wong has said that old Airmen never fade away, they remain in service and that giving back to the community and doing what is right, even when it may not be the popular thing to do, is what he hopes is the 'coin' he leaves to guide the future leaders of the Air Force.

"My focus has been my wife, my daughters and serving the United States Air Force. There is just so much to do. I hope that people realize that values and goals are important and that the motto 'Ride hard, shoot straight and always speak the truth' is something to live by."

## Briefly

### Seat checks

Car seat check at the base exchange Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

### Volunteers needed

Looking for volunteers who would like to be part of a formation for a Memorial Day service at the Mountain Home Cemetery May 31 at 11 a.m. Uniform is service dress. The annual event is sponsored by Post 26 of the American Legion. Doughnuts and coffee will be served following the service. If interested in volunteering, call the public affairs office at 828-6800 by noon Wednesday. Also, May 30 at 10 a.m., Legionnaires from posts 26 and 101 along with volunteers will place flags on the graves of all veterans in the cemetery. The public is welcome to attend.

### Trapshooting

The trap & skeet range is hosting the Idaho Pacific International Trapshooting Association State Trapshooting Championships June 11 through 13. For more information, call Mr. Harley Lekvold at 828-6093.

### Train loading

A train is scheduled to be on base Saturday evening for approximately one week. Members should use caution when crossing the railroad tracks and look before crossing. Additionally Liberator St. next to the railroad crossing will be closed for loading but open during the evening hours. The Falcon St. railroad crossing will be open only to traffic dealing directly with the Fam Camp and trap and skeet range. Expect delays on base and use alternative routes. Stay away from the loading sites as safety is paramount.

### Safety campaign

The "101 Critical Days of Summer" safety campaign officially begins May 28. The Gunfighter kickoff of the "101 critical days of summer" safety campaign is scheduled for Wednesday with a motorcycle rally and all-terrain vehicle safety training. See a unit safety representative for details. Additionally, May 27, all Gunfighters are scheduled to participate in wing safety day. The schedule details the main events with squadron activities to be posted in their respective squadrons. From 8 to 9:30 a.m. in the base theater is the ORM briefing. From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. is the board training session. At 10:30 a.m. safety briefings will take place in the base theater for Operations Group members and in hangar 198 for Maintenance Group members. Mission Support Group members are scheduled for noon in hangar 198 and Medical Group members should report to the base theater for the noon briefing.

### Repair of running track

The running track at the base gym is scheduled for warranty repairs beginning today. The track will reopen for normal use Monday. If the closure period is rescheduled a new schedule will be posted.

# CCAF spring 2004 graduates

## 366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

MSgt. Joanne Buchna

MSgt. Dean Miller

MSgt. Edward Vanetten

SSgt. Jesse Benson

SSgt. Victor Jones SSgt. Delbert Lawrence

SSgt. Gregory Marshall SrA. Jason Hallen

## 366th Civil Engineer Squadron

TSgt. Timothy Hobgood

SSgt. Gregg Wozniak

## 366th Component Maintenance Squadron

MSgt. Randy Lawson

MSgt. Bruce Martin

MSgt. David Weik

SSgt. Jason Delion

SSgt. Jose Garza

## 366th Communication Squadron

TSgt. Jay Watson

SSgt. Dustin baker

SSgt. Michael bush

SSgt. David Decareaux

SSgt. Richard Key

SSgt. Shane Warren SSgt. Scott Weber

SrA.. Stacie Blackburn

SrA.. Jonathan Hoffman

SrA.. Crystal Knapp

SrA.. Benjamin Pollock

SSgt. Jung Song

## 366th Contracting Squadron

TSgt. David Roux

## 366th Comptroller Squadron

SSgt. Jennifer Laufer

SrA. Cherie Orban

## 366th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

MSgt. Joseph Switalski

MSgt. Mark Vincent

SSgt. Arthur Abeyta SSgt. Shaun Caudillo

SrA. William Bartlett

## 366th Fighter Wing

SSgt. Jennifer Herbert

## 366th Logistic Readiness Squadron

MSgt. James Mays

MSgt. Richard Tudisco

TSgt. Daniel Janssen

SSgt. Jeremy Johnson

SSgt. Matthew Mancill

SSgt. Anthony Mitchell

SrA. Jason Howard

SrA. Sherwood Reynolds

SrA. Luis Salas

## 366th Medical Operations Squadron

SSgt. Jennifer Mann

A1C Evan Nebeker

## 366th Medical Support Squadron

MSgt. David Patterson

TSgt. Barbara Hurt

## 366th Maintenance Operations Squadron

MSgt. John Lawson

MSgt. Katherine Miller

TSgt. John Russell SSgt. Lance Bertoldie

SSgt. Steven Cardiel

SSgt. Christopher Major

SSgt. Grover Richardson

## 366th Mission Support Squadron

CMSgt. Marvin Holland

SSgt. Rachel Bader

SSgt. Jennifer Dack SSgt. Sara Johnson

## 366th Operations Support Squadron

TSgt. Troy Stempfley

SSgt. Leah Harris Lupton

## 366th Security Forces Squadron

SSgt. Sally Scott

## 366th Services Squadron

MSgt. Perry Russell

TSgt. Jose Encarnacion

## 372nd Training Squadron, Det. 7

SSgt. William Battenberg

SSgt. Deyseano Georgianna

SSgt. Travis Hibbard

SSgt. Andrew Riedl

## 726th Air Control Squadron

MSgt. Eric Gilhart

### Staff Sergeant Sara Johnson

366th Mission Support Squadron

**Duty position:** First term airman center team leader

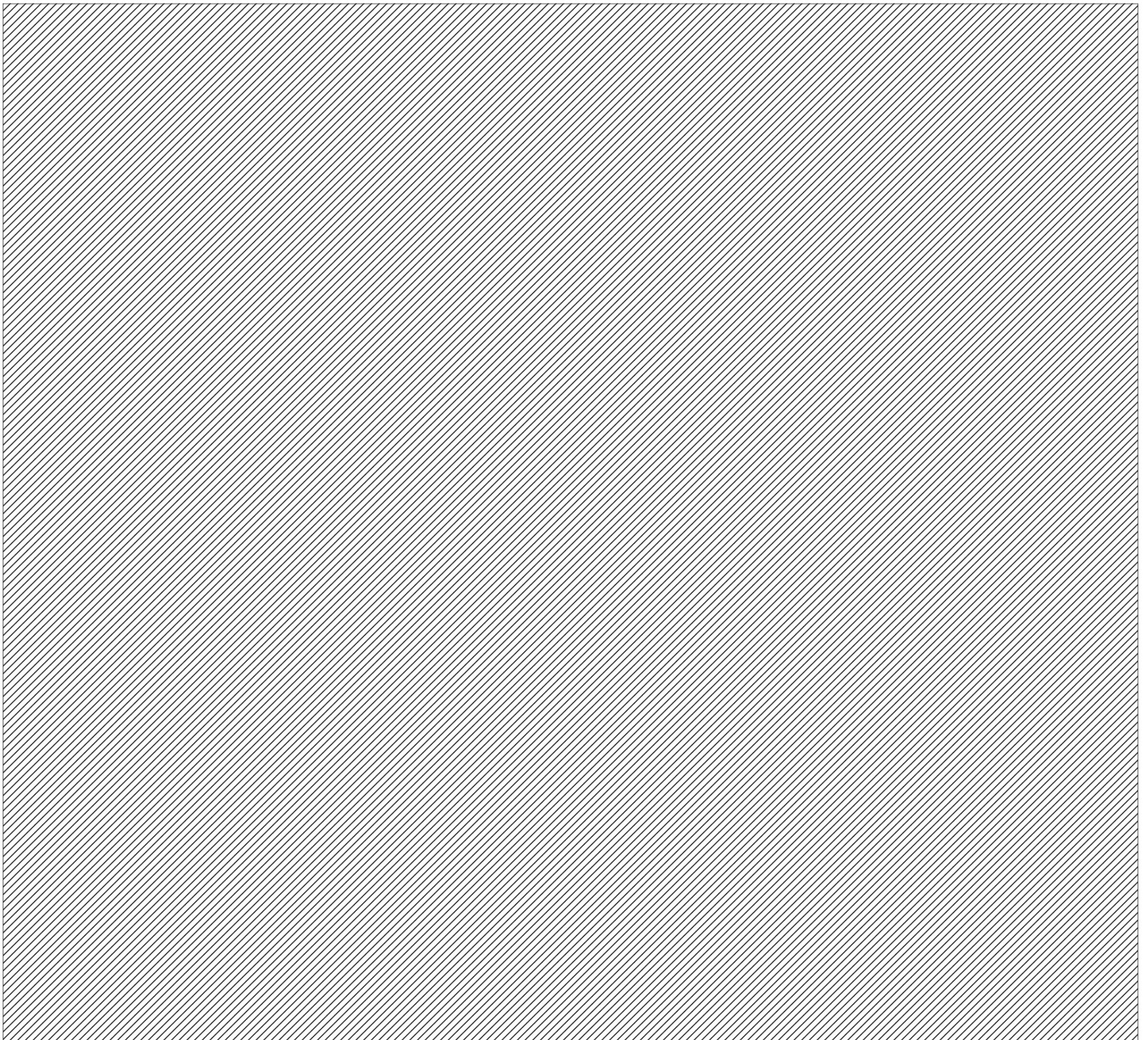
**Hometown:** East Penbroken, N.Y.

**Hobbies:** Outdoor activites, camping

**Time on the job:** 7 years

**What is the best part of your job?** Being able to influence future leaders of the Air Force

**Why did you join?** I joined for the dicipline and structure as well as being able to travel.



# Critical days raise safety concerns

**Commentary by Lt. Col. John Hruby**  
Gunfighter safety office

During the summer, many of us will enjoy fun-filled activities with friends and family. Picnics, water sports and vacation drives will be at the top of our lists of things to do. This high outdoor activity period, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, is also known in the Air Force as “The 101 Critical Days of Summer.”

Unfortunately, during this time, many people lose their lives while enjoying the very summer activities that pique their interests.

Historically, private motor vehicle accidents have been the most dangerous activities for Airmen and their families. Last year, 18 Air Force members lost their lives during the 101 Critical Days – 13 of those deaths occurred off duty, on the highway, with only 6 of the 13 wearing seat belts or helmets. Excessive speed was also a factor in 50 percent of these deaths. This year alone, Air Combat Command has seen a 20 percent increase in off-duty fatalities ... that is 42 valuable warriors lost to senseless

mishaps. At this rate, the Air Force could lose another 47 Airmen ... let's stop this trend now.

Water-related activities claimed another two lives off duty and one life on duty. These numbers reflect a record low for the Air Force and show that our continuous efforts are paying off in reducing Air Force deaths and injuries.

However, the all too familiar enemies — private motor vehicle mishaps and drowning — are killing many of our people. Inattention, failure to follow established procedures and alcohol abuse are the common causes to these mishaps.

The keys to ending these senseless deaths and staying alive on the roadways are defensive driving, seatbelts and risk management (using good common sense). Of course, drinking and driving never mix. Use a designated driver or call a taxi. The summer is a time to play and enjoy outings with family and friends. It's up to each of us to plan for the obvious risks involved in whatever we do. Identify the hazards associated with the activity and take the appropriate actions to reduce or avoid the risks. Just a few minutes of your time to plan activities can give you and your family a lifetime of great memories and lead to a great summer.

