



Thule's annual award winners

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Airman and Team Thule Airman of the Year:
 Senior Airman Nathan Locke
 821st Support Squadron



NCO of the Year:
 Tech. Sgt. Derrick Satterfield
 821st Support Squadron



Senior NCO of the Year:
 Master Sgt. Domingo Laborin
 821st Support Squadron



First Sergeant of the Year:
 Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Swidecki
 821st Air Base Group



CGO of the Year: Capt. Kevin McClure
 821st Support Squadron



Team Thule CGO of the Year: Capt. Jen Beisel
 12th Space Warning Squadron

History – It's all around you

Lt. Col. Dayton O. Nooner III
821st Support Squadron
commander

Twelve months at Thule! These four words alone will certainly conjure up many different mental images within every one of us. Nearly all of these will be based on what we see and experience during our year-long tour here. However, have you stopped to think about what has actually taken place at Thule since the time it was constructed? A quick look at the past reveals a rich history offering much more than what is present today.

Construction of a worldwide system of modern air bases was one of the Air Force's most important tasks following World War II. A board of AF officers made a recommendation to pursue a base at Thule in November 1950. Thule was constructed in secret under the code

name Operation BLUE JAY beginning in 1951 and was completed in 1953. The Navy transported the bulk of men, supplies and equipment from the naval shipyards in Norfolk, Va. On June 6, 1951, an armada of 120 shipments sailed from Norfolk. On board were 12,000 men and 300,000 tons of cargo. They arrived at Thule on July 9, 1951 as part of Operation BLUE JAY.

The base was initially designed as a forward base for staging Strategic Air Command bombers and tankers, housing 12,000 personnel. It was built with a 10,000-foot by 200-foot runway and a fuel storage capacity of about 100 million gallons. When Thule was completed, it consisted of 2,600 acres of land, 82 miles of road, 38 fuel tanks, ten hangars, 122 barracks, six mess halls, a gym, service club, a 1,000-foot pier, officers' club, hobby shop, library, base exchange,

post office, theater, chapel and hospital. There were also 63 warehouses, a laundry, a bakery, two primary power plants and four auxiliary power/heating plants. Buildings were built using large panels used commercially in the 1950s to build large walk-in refrigerators. Instead of keeping the interior cold they actually kept the interior warm. Most of these buildings were built in sixty days, and many of these still exist today.

On August 18, 1951, the new airstrip was inaugurated by Air Force Chief of Staff, General Hoyt S. Vandenberg. Operation BLUE JAY was completed in just 104 days. The next spring a major part of the workforce returned to expand the base. In November 1952, when the Air Force took control, Thule was consid-

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Leadership in Focus: "Education and Training"

Chief Master Sgt.
Al Herring
821st Air Base Group
superintendent

Arctic warriors, welcome back from the holiday season and a well deserved break from the everyday grind of Thule AB.

Every New Year brings new goals and aspirations so I trust you wrote down how you plan to attain the things on your list during 2009. This month's leadership in focus highlights education and training, so if you failed to jot down that education and training bullet as one of your goals for 2009 it is not too late. Although my comments are geared to our enlisted force, all of our mission partners can tailor education and training to benefit any organization.

Education and training is so broad it could range from

professional military education to college classes to certification to the Defenders new course on standardization and evaluation. For the sake of this article though, I want to focus on training our replacements today for tomorrow.

The most effective way to get from here to there is through each Air Force Specialty Career Field Education and Training Plan or CFETP. The CFETP is the cradle to grave document that defines the roadmap each Airman must utilize to ensure success.

If you are wondering how we get to this CFETP, the answer is this: every two to three years your Air Force career field manager convenes the utilization and training workshop. This workshop determines the path for the career field from day one of technical training to the tasks

that must be completed to attain your five- and seven-skill levels in your Air Force specialty. It further defines the education and training required to attain a Community College of the Air Force degree and special career broadening opportunities tied to your career field.

The CFETP details when you can expect to see promotions. Remember, career development courses are developed from this plan and are used to create the specialty knowledge test used in Weighted Airman Promotion System testing for staff sergeant through master sergeant.

I truly hope that is not the first you heard of this cradle to grave document and that you will pull yours out of the desk drawer or ask your supervisor for some feedback on this very important tool. For my fellow senior NCOs,

I realize that once you attain the rank of master sergeant this plan is no longer required to be maintained, unless you are in retrain status, but have you looked at one lately for your AFS? Can you speak intelligently to your subordinates about its contents? This article is about training your replacements today for tomorrow, but if we don't know how to effectively utilize the CFETP, then we start our Airmen off at disadvantage.

In the coming months you will hear about the CFETPs migrating to the training business area as part of the Advanced Distributed Learning System. Don't get caught up in the nuances of the name change; it's a more effective way of doing the same thing. The most important thing to remember is utilizing the plan, whatever it is called, to train your replacement today for tomorrow.

What motivates you?

**Master Sgt.
Benjamin Huseman
821st Support Squadron**

My father will celebrate his 56th birthday in March. Like me, he is a heating, ventilation and air conditioning craftsman. He learned this trade during a four-year stint in the Navy. Following his short naval career, he worked as a pipefitter for the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company for over a decade. He loathed this job as much as his time in the Navy, but he dutifully made his way to the shipyard every day to provide food and other necessities for his family.

Working in a shipyard was dangerous work. When the Exxon Valdez was being constructed in San Diego's harbor, several people lost their lives and many more were injured. There were some highlights in this occupation though. I can remember as a kid hearing my dad talk about working on the USS Mercy. The shipyard had converted the SS Worth, an old oil tanker that was built by the same company a decade earlier, into the finest hospital ship in the world. Hearing him explain the operating beds with gyrostabilizers on them so that surgeons could continue to work in rough seas is something I will never forget.

He left the shipyard to work for a plumbing company and achieved safer work environments. After a year of installing piping in buildings being constructed on Miramar (at the time Naval Air Station and home to the Navy's Top Gun), he again changed jobs and utilized

"Motivation can come from many different places. Sometimes you have to take a look around and ask yourself, 'Where do you want to be?' Perhaps the better question may be, 'Where don't you want to be?'"

- Master Sgt. Ben Huseman

the HVAC training that he had received while in the Navy. He spent a lot of time installing commercial air conditioning systems that required extensive pipefitting. His mechanical skills and ability to conceptualize intricate piping systems allowed him install units that I, to this day, would never be able to complete.

After my brother and I joined the military and moved far away from home, my parents left the rat race and congested highways of San Diego and settled in the Midwest. My father picked up right where he had left off installing HVAC units. I spent nearly a month visiting my parents while I was in between duty stations in the spring of 2003. While I was on vacation I was hired on by my father's employer to assist my father with his work. The pay wasn't great by any means, but the opportunity to spend the extra time with my father and share each other's trade knowledge far made up for what I wasn't being paid.

At this time my father was 50 years old, and he was installing A/C units in modular homes all across the West-Central Missouri countryside. While there is certainly nothing wrong with his pro-

fession, I had a realization that has impacted my life every day since then. I realized that, when I am 50 years old, I did not want to be crawling under homes to install pieces of flexible copper tubing so that a double-wide trailer could be cool in the summertime.

By this point I had been in the Air Force for less than ten years, and I knew that I could easily walk out of the Air Force and be hired on the spot by any HVAC company I applied at. But, watching my father, almost twice my age, working in this environment gave me the motivation to do something more. It was then that I knew that I didn't want to be 50 years old, carrying a tool bag and crawling around on my hands and knees in insulation-filled attics that would make my skin itch bad enough that I would scratch it until it bled. It was then that I began making plans to better myself.

I won't go into details about what I have done since that day to ensure that I am not in that situation when I celebrate my 50th birthday because that is not what this story is about. What this story is about is finding motivation. The month I spent working with my father gave

me the motivation to better myself. Each week as I complete my reading assignments for school, I fall back on that motivation to get me through the boredom. I don't do it because it looks good on an enlisted performance report or a 1206. I do it for myself because I know where I don't want to be when I am 50 years old. Each time I wipe the sweat from my brow while exercising, I fall back on my motivation. I don't do it because there is a physical fitness test that can affect my career. I do it for myself because I know that I want to be healthy and enjoy retirement and not be burdened with diabetes or other debilitating illness due to an unhealthy lifestyle.

Motivation can come from many different places. Sometimes you have to take a look around and ask yourself, "Where do you want to be?" Perhaps the better question may be, "Where don't you want to be?" Either way, my question to you is, "What motivates you?"

What motivates you to pursue off-duty education? What motivates you to eat healthier and exercise? What motivates you to complete your professional military education? What motivates you to embrace the Airman's Creed? What motivates you to be a professional? Please don't tell me that you are motivated by someone telling you that you have to do these things. Please tell me that you are motivated because you want to be a better person. A better person today, a better person tomorrow, and a better person when you are celebrating your 56th birthday.

WELCOME 2009

Right: Airman 1st Class Matthew Pugh, 821st Security Forces Squadron, shoots pool at the Top of the World Club's New Years party Dec. 31. There were several activities at the club to bring in the 2009 including dancing and a live band.



Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Team Thule dances in the new year at the TOW Club early Jan. 1. Thule experienced its first Storm Condition Charlie of 2009 only a few hours later.



Training, learning never complete

**Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Swidecki
821st Air Base Group first sergeant**

I have spent 10 years of my Air Force career working in jobs that directly support this month's Year of Leadership topic: five years as a professional military education instructor and then another five years working at Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Detachment 450, Montana State University, Mont. But the reality is that I have spent my entire Air Force career, and dare I say my life, committed to education and training — and so have you.

From Air Force Day 1, we are thrust into an education and training situation, and even though the stress level lessens over time, you never really "graduate" from the perpetual cycle

of education and training. For every course you complete, there is another level, whether PME or job proficiency. For every degree you earn, there is always another level.

The question is: are you committed to education and training? Are you striving to complete your Community College of the Air Force degree before making staff sergeant or master's before major? Are you volunteering to attend in-residence PME or just waiting until told to go? Are you reading your governing instructions and manuals to better learn your job? When someone asks you a question, do you know where to find it in that Air Force Instruction? Better question yet, as a leader, can your subordinates do the same?

You see, education and training isn't

just about you; Airman development is about everyone, and it's also an Air Force priority.

Successful leaders don't just focus on bettering themselves; they also focus on bettering those around them. So the next time, you assess the next few steps in your career path, do the same for those who work for you. Use your experience to assist them in making that next move to better prepare them and set them up for success. Sometimes the best instructors aren't those teaching courses or offering seminars — they are the people working right next to you.

And just like "Schoolhouse Rock" proclaims, "Knowledge is power," but I humbly submit for addition, "Only when it's shared."

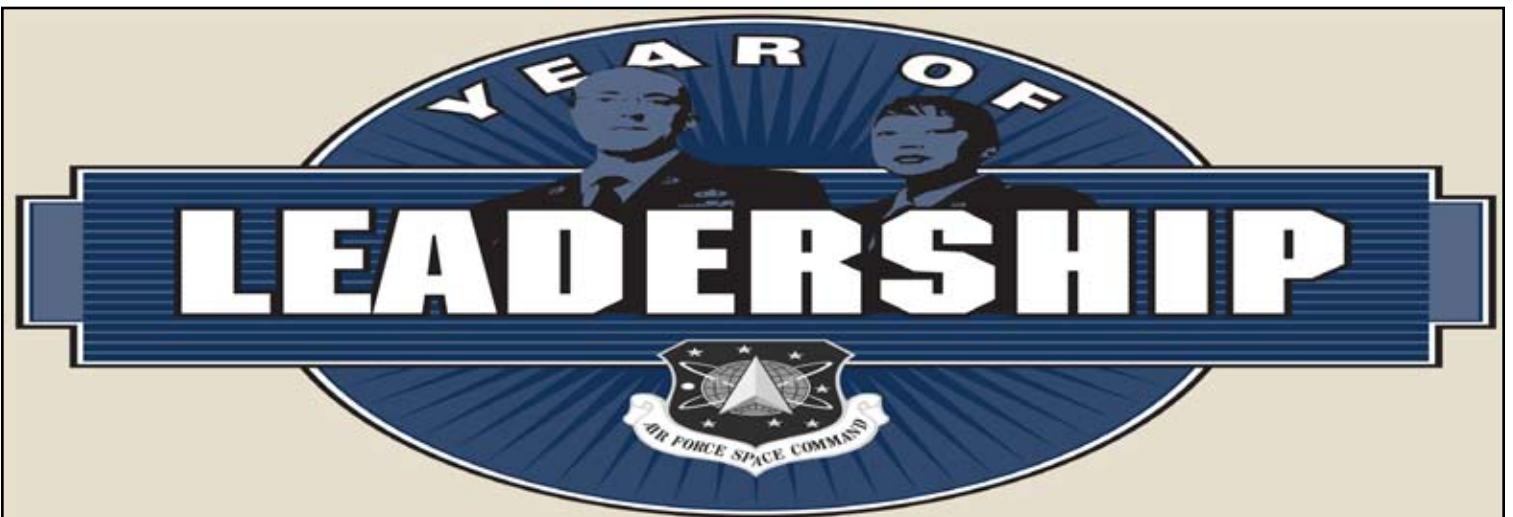


Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Rock out

Left: The Nashville-based band, On Tracy Lane, performs at the TOW Club Jan. 6. Brought up to play at the New Year's party by Armed Forces Entertainment, the band performed for Team Thule four times during their eight day visit.

Below: On Tracy Lane performs for Thule during the club's New Year's party Jan. 31. The band was also able to tour the base's operational missions and learn about life at Thule.





Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Tech. Sgt. Gary Hutcheson, 821st Support Squadron, asks Col. Jay Raymond, 21st Space Wing commander, about bringing college-level testing to Thule during Colonel Raymond's commander's call at the Top of the World Club Jan. 7. Colonel Raymond and Chief Master Sgt. Tim Omdal, 21st Space Wing command chief, held commander and enlisted calls to talk Air Force issues and take questions and suggestions from Airmen. Long-standing Thule issues that were discussed include implementing college-level testing at Thule, Internet accessibility and developing running facility options.

21st SW leadership visits Thule

1st Lt. Lisa Meiman
821st Air Base Group
Public Affairs

Two senior leaders from the 21st Space Wing at Peterson AFB, Colo., learned more about life at Thule in their recent trip than all other visits combined.

Col. Jay Raymond, 21st SW commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Tim Omdal, 21st SW command chief, visited Thule in an unusual three-day visit Jan. 6-9 to gain a more in-depth look at the wing's most remote group and to get a feel their preparedness heading into an operational readiness and compliance inspections.

"I'm definitely glad we were able to visit for a few days. I learned much more on this trip than I ever could

have in a 20-hour visit," said Colonel Raymond, referring to typical visits which start Thursday morning and end less than 24 hours later Friday morning.

During the extended stay, the pair interacted with all ranks of Airman and contractors at Thule, learning about living and working conditions as well as quality of life issues facing residents here.

With average temperatures 20 degrees below zero and 24 hours of darkness, Colonel Raymond and Chief Omdal got to experience the Thule environment more than ever before as well.

Colonel Raymond and Chief Omdal held commander and enlisted calls to talk

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Colonel Raymond walks back to the Surrey after driving the snow removal machine on the runway. Colonel Raymond and Chief Omdal visited Thule for three days to gain a more in-depth look at the wing's most remote group and to get a feel for their preparedness heading into an operational readiness and compliance inspections.

----- **21st SW,
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Air Force issues and take questions and suggestions from Airmen. Long-standing Thule issues that were discussed include implementing college-level testing at Thule, Internet accessibility and developing running facility options.

Colonel Raymond and Chief Omdal also emphasized the upcoming operational readiness inspection and unit compliance inspection.

"I need everyone to sprint for a few months. Dig into the Instructions, check over the self inspection checklists, closely examine your programs and strive for perfection," Col Raymond said. "Our people and our programs need to be crisp."

"This remote tour provides one of the greatest opportunities for in-depth training," Chief Omdal said. "Take advantage of that. Read your Air Force Instructions and Operations Instructions. Learn your job to the best of your ability."

Colonel Raymond and Chief Omdal visited several working environments on base, thanking Airmen and contractors



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Colonel Raymond and Chief Omdal receive an upgrade early warning system update briefing from 1st Lt. Nick Baugh, 12th Space Warning Squadron, at the ballistic early warning system Jan. 8.

alike for their service and sacrifice.

"Thank you everyone for working up here. Your mission is critical to the defense of our nation," Colonel Raymond

said. "These are harsh living conditions, but your service and sacrifices are truly invaluable to the United States and its allies."

----- **History,
From page 2**

ered operational. By the fall of 1953 the bulk of the construction was complete.

From 1953 to 1959, Thule's main mission was to function as an operations base supporting SAC B-36s, B-47s and KC-97s. In 1953, the U.S. Army installed two 75mm and four 90mm anti-aircraft guns in a ring around Thule for air defense. In 1957, Air Defense Command took control of the base and initiated the 74th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. The FIS was deactivated in March 1960 leaving Thule without interceptor protection for the first time since September 1952. In 1957 and 1958, four Army Nike defense system batteries were constructed (two on North Mountain and two on South Mountain) under the code name "Rising Star." These Surface

to Air missiles were linked together with the air interceptors and a control and warning system. They were closed down in July 1960.

In 1958 and 1959 additional construction consisted of five new barracks, a dining facility, the airmen's club, a technical library and two warehouses. In 1959 and 1960 the base common water and sewage distribution mains were constructed. Up to that point, all water delivery and sewage pickup was accomplished by truck! In 1960, the above ground insulated pipeline system still seen today was completed.

By 1960, the addition of long-range aircraft to the SAC inventory eliminated the need for Thule to operate as a forward support base and the mission gradually turned to air defense. In 1961, a ballistic missile early warning system radar was constructed 13

miles northeast of the main base in order to provide North America warning of a transpolar missile attack from the Russian mainland or submarine-launched missiles. Also in 1961, the Air Force established a satellite command and control facility to track and communicate with U.S. satellites in polar orbit. Now known as Det 3, it is part of the Air Force Space Command worldwide satellite command and control network. It was during this period that Thule reached its maximum manning of about 10,000 personnel.

Starting in July 1965, there was a general downsizing of activities at Thule. Over the next twenty years, Thule's BMEWS and Det 3 functions continued as the base consolidated, and by the mid 1980s Thule started to take on the general appearance seen today. The old mechanical

BMEWS radar was upgraded to a solid-state, phased-array system in June 1987 to make the operation more effective and efficient.

While BMEWS and Det 3 continue to be the crux of Thule's operations today, the base has long provided support to a wide range of logistical resupply operations and arctic scientific studies. While only 500-600 personnel reside here today, Thule continues to play a key role in America's national security. Old missions and numerous facilities which once dotted the Thule landscape no longer exist; however, one can research the history of Thule's beginning as a Cold War arctic outpost through the present (several sources exist online) and truly appreciate what has happened in and around Thule since its original construction. Thule's history - it's all around you!



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

FORE!

Tech. Sgt. Dennis O'Connell, 821st Air Base Group comptroller, drives the ball during the golf tournament Jan. 19 at the community center's simulated golf course. Sergeant O'Connell won the nine-hole tournament on Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a score of 37 or one over par. The golf course is open during community center hours.

Thule Spotlight



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

PRETTY COLORS

Greenland Contracting sets off fireworks near the pier in celebration of the New Year Dec. 31. The base also had a party at the Top of the World Club to bring in 2009.



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

FIT TO FIGHT

Senior Airman Sabrina Reyes, 821st Air Base Group, and Staff Sgt. Ann Urdiales, 821st ABG, bust out push-ups during the group-wide PT session at the fitness center here Jan. 7. The session began with a half hour of calisthenics followed by a 1.5 mile run in an aircraft hangar for a few people and volleyball and handball for everyone else.

821st SFS strives for perfection



Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Above: Airman 1st Class Desmond Pearson, 821st Security Forces Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Jonathan Leszewski, 821st SFS, respond to an alarm at the ballistic missile early warning system during a training exercise Jan. 7. The alarm notified the security forces control center there that an intruder had entered the premises.

Top Right: Airman Pearson orders the intruder, played by Master Sgt. Chuck Denton, 821st SFS, to lay down all weapons and put his hands up. Security forces perform this exercise at BMEWS several times a week to keep their skills sharp.

Top Center: Sergeant Denton is laid on the floor by Airmen Pearson and Leszewski while trainers look on and evaluate their performance.

Right: Airman Pearson discovers a "knife" while searching Sergeant Denton who had earlier been ordered to remove all weapons from his body. Security forces holds intruders until patrols arrive.



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

FAREWELL, COLONEL ARNOLD

Col. Tom Peppard, 821st Air Base Group commander, presents Lt. Col. David Arnold, 821st ABG deputy commander his Knights of the Blue Nose certificate and bestows the honor of the "blue nose" at Colonel Arnold's going away Jan. 22 at the Top of the World Club.

Thule Promotions



Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Senior Airman Erick Zwolinski



Senior Airman John Rice

"My News"

Poem by Senior Airman Joseph Grooms
821st Security Forces Squadron

Never contradicting, splitting, hitting the exact minute, get it.
Always black news you see coming across the tube, bringing you the blues, pop pop you have a bruise.
The words that they give, image that's transmit-ten, spectrum, now you spittin.

Colors run together, overlapping creating static.
When you get static, you don't bother you back it.

Green is one of my favorite colors, if you want to know more, just ask for the others.

Bringing the heat, speed off the charts your beat.
bleep, bleep, bleep.

Sittin on a seat, walking one straight week, running a mile seems to make you smile.
The grass is green although seems to be keen?
The beautiful smell of the outdoors is well.
Wherever you lay, may your life turn the page.
Water be quenching, some sounds be wrenching.

Later be day, slow that man, you'll be okay!

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1	2	3 Spinning 1730-1830 Tuesdays gym	4	5 Crown Princess Mary's birthday	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 Sunlight Trip 1100 CC	16 President's Day	17	18	19	20	21 Christmas Tree switch off Bldg 461 First Light Party 1730 Bldg 580
22 Carnival/ Fastelavn	23	24 Fat Tuesday	25	26 African American Heritage Month luncheon 1800 TOW	27	28

First Knight

Crew dog recognized for outstanding performance

821st Air Base Group

Tech. Sgt. Herb E. Mosier, Jr. was selected the First Knight award for the week of Dec. 29. This award is designed to recognize outstanding Airmen each week for the work they do every day.

Name: Herb E. Mosier Jr.

Unit: 12th Space Warning Squadron

Duty Title: Missile Warning Crew Chief

Time in service: June 8, 1995

Time assigned to the unit: June 4, 2008

Hometown: Ewa Beach, Hawaii

Hobbies: Listening to music, going to concerts

Favorite music: Just about anything but lately I've been listening a lot to Hold Steady's, "Life is Positive"

Last good movie: Wall-E was probably the best movie



Tech. Sgt. Herb E. Mosier, Jr. was selected for the First Knight award for the week of Dec. 29. This award is designed to recognize outstanding Airmen each week for the work they do every day.

I've seen this year.

Last good book: Fiction: Crooked Little Vein by Warren Ellis. Nonfiction: Imperial Life in the Emerald City by Rajiv Chandrasekaran

Why selected: "Tech. Sgt. Mosier is responsible for scheduling for a multinational team of Space & Missile Operators, ensuring 24-hour, 365 day-a-year manning for the Ballistic Missile Early Warn-

ing System. He is a dedicated and experienced leader making positive impacts with every challenge he encounters. He is an ideal mentor for subordinates and peers alike and is entrusted with the unit's most critical crew force management responsibilities. He is absolutely indispensable to the success of this unit's war fighting mission." Master Sgt. Joseph Stratil, 12th Space Warning Squadron Operations superintendent.

If you were Chief of Staff of the Air Force for one day, how would you change the Air Force?

The CSAF is busy and this seems trivial, however, I would order a moratorium on DEERS recalls. Before reinstatement a study would be completed to see if leadership could get the same information by simply waiting for people to report on family members impacted by natural disasters. Also, the study will look at the man-hours spent to perform a recall and the impact the recalls have on morale. - *Sergeant Mosier*

WEAR OF PT UNIFORM

2nd Lt. Jonathan Simmons
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- All Air Force members will now salute while in the official physical training uniform during the playing of "To the Colors" for Reveille and during the playing of the National Anthem for Retreat. This information will be included in Air Force Instruction 36-2903 21st SW Supplement.

Airmen will now also wear the PT uniform shirts tucked in whenever in PT uniform on Peterson, regardless of whether or not they're engaged in aerobic activity.