

Defense attachés tour Thule

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble
821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

THULE AIR BASE, Greenland – A delegation of 22 defense attachés from 20 different nations accredited to Denmark toured here as part of a week-long orientation of Greenland and the Faroes Islands sponsored by Defense Command Denmark May 25-27.

While at the base, the group was given an introduction briefing about the 821st Air Base Group, 12th Space Warning Squadron and Detachment 3, 22nd Space Operations Squadron.

“All of our thoughts about what we hoped and wanted to see have been fulfilled,” said Royal Danish Naval Capt. Peter Stehr, Defense Command’s Chief of Operations. “We’ve enjoyed the possibility to talk to the people here and see what life is like at the base.”

Prior to stopping at Thule, the delegation visited the Faroes Islands and various areas in south Greenland, to include meeting with representatives from Greenland Homerule, Danish government in Greenland, the Faroes Island Commander and the Greenland Island Commander.

“These territories are part of Denmark,” said Cmdr. Gérard Domini, French Defense Attaché and Acting Dean of the Danish Defense Attaché Association. “The attachés were previously told about the Faroes Islands, Greenland Homerule, Danish government in Greenland, and the Americans at the base. This visit is a big step in helping them understand first-hand

what’s going on and how these representatives work together.”

Defense Command Denmark plans approximately eight to 10 orientation visits each year for military attachés accredited to Denmark, but this was the first visit in more than 10 years to Greenland, and the first visit ever to Thule.

Additionally, this visit marked the first time military personnel from Russia and China toured the installation.

The three-day visit to the remote base required a little extra help from the men and women here. Home to approximately 800 personnel, many of the 140 active duty Airmen here took on volunteer roles providing support to host the delegation.

“I was surprised to see the morale of the people here,” Capt. Stehr said. “I feel that it’s very high, and everyone

is very friendly and willing to discuss almost anything very honestly.”



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Colvin

Maj. Mike Hower, Det. 3 Commander, explains the features within Det. 3’s state-of-the-art fitness center to visiting attachés.



Photos by 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble

Visiting defense attaches take a moment to pose with Commander Tommy Toft (left), Thule Air Base Danish Liaison Officer, and Chief Petty Officer Lars Iversen, during a recent visit to the base. In addition to receiving tours of the 12th Space Warning Squadron and Detachment 3, the group viewed Camp Tuto and Dundas Village.

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14th Air Force changes command

By Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Danét
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

VANDENBERG AFB, Calif. – Fourteenth Air Force is under new leadership after a change of command ceremony here May 18.

Maj. Gen. William Shelton accepted command from General Lance W. Lord, Air Force Space Command commander. Former 14th AF commander, Maj. Gen. Michael Hamel, leaves for Los Angeles AFB where he assumes command of the Space and Missile Systems Center.

“There is simply no one better prepared to succeed in this position than Major General Willie and Linda Shelton,” General Lord said as he prepared to pass command of the 14th AF to General Shelton.

“Together with your team, you will play a key role in maintaining our nation’s space superiority,” he said.

General Shelton comes to the 14th AF from a former position as director of Plans and Policy, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.

“I thank you for the long-term trust and confidence that this command represents,” General Shelton said to General Lord after accepting

his new command.

His current role as commander is not General Shelton’s first assignment to Vandenberg. As a lieutenant, he and his wife, Linda, arrived here with their 3-month-old daughter in tow. The three started out at 408 Baywood St., a house with a 20-foot palm tree out front.

“That palm tree out front is now about 50 feet tall,” General Shelton

SW, Schriever AFB, Colo.; and the 460th SW, Buckley AFB, Colo.

Commanding all of the Air Force’s space forces, General Lord has seen first-hand the transformation 14th AF has made over the years.

“I was here as a wing commander in 1993 when we stood up 14th Air Force,” the general said. “We had dreams back then of being able to do the command and control of space systems and

get out of the stove-pipe business, into an integrated approach.

“They’ve certainly been able to do that under the leadership of the last several commanders, and that’s really come together with General Hamel,” he said.

“General



Courtesy photo

VANDENBERG AFB, Calif. – Maj. Gen. William Shelton (center) accepted command of 14th Air Force during a ceremony here May 18. He replaces Maj. Gen. Michael Hamel who leaves to command the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles AFB.

said. “And (it’s) seen lots of sunshine, some headwinds along the way, a few storms, but it looks like it’s ready for much more, and so are we.

“To the 14th Air Force staff, to the wings and Team Vandenberg, we’re ready and we’re anxious to start this journey. We’re ready to go to work.”

With its headquarters on California’s Central Coast, 14th AF oversees day-to-day operations of space units across the country. Those units include the 21st Space Wing, Peterson AFB, Colo.; the 30th SW, here; the 45th SW, Patrick AFB, Fla.; the 50th

Shelton’s got hard work to do for sure, and that’s to follow up and continue to make sure space operations, across all of 14th Air Force, get integrated into air, land and sea capabilities and operations. I look for greater days ahead. The men and women of the 14th Air Force are surely in good hands.”

General Hamel leaves Vandenberg to pin on his third star and command the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles AFB. The center is responsible for satellite design and acquisition.

821 SPTS shows off squadron pride with new cap

By now, you've probably seen it. You may even be wearing it. What is it? It's the new 821st Support Squadron cap.

Featured prominently on the front of the cap is the Support Squadron emblem. The emblem is more than just mere accessory, it's rich in meaning and symbolism. Here's a few things you may not have known about the new 821st Support Squadron Emblem.

Meaning of the Emblem

General:

The emblem is half white and half black symbolizing the four-month-long light and dark seasons that are such an integral part of the Thule Air Base experience. Furthermore, much of the inner workings of the 821st Support Squadron are defined by the seasons such as port season, snow and ice removal and storm season preparations.

Three Elements:

The Mountain - The mountain shape symbolizes the rugged Greenlandic landscape that the Support Squadron seems to be constantly battling against in our mission to the support the rest of the base. In the past

few years, the base has had floods, erosion, ice build-up and freezing temperatures that crack our runway.



Above: Senior Airman Bryan Samuels models the new 821st Support Squadron cap. **Below:** The new 821 SPTS emblem.

Polaris Star and Space Track – This symbol represents the numerous satellite and space and missile operations that the 821st Support Squadron supports. Although the squadron operates primarily on the ground, the symbol in the sky reminds us that in the end, our efforts are pointed towards the heavens.

The Olive Branch and Lightning Bolt – The olive branch is a traditional symbol of peace and peacetime operations. The lightning bolt represents swift and powerful wartime operations. Together this pair of

symbols are meant to embody the 821st Support Squadron's role during both peace and wartime operations. In our wartime role, we support satellite and missile warning missions. In our peacetime role, we support numerous weather, environmental, scientific and re-supply missions.

Motto:

“Venimus Conglaciati Vicimus” translated means, “We came, we froze, we conquered”



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Call Master Sgt. Charles Dickens at 2389

A nice mess?

Keeping the environment clean at Thule

By Lene Kloft
GC Environmental Engineering

Who carries the can from the past?

The waste accumulated at Thule throughout the years has its own unique history.

The base has existed here even before the word 'environmentalist' became part of our vocabulary. At Thule, the waste was treated like everywhere else in the world – dumped at the landfill without any concern for future generations - matching the slogan: "Out of sight – out of mind". Fortunately, we are wiser now, which means that there is a great challenge in working with both the sins of the past and the possibilities of the future!

One man's trash is another man's riches!

There are lots of good reasons for focusing on our waste – one of them is \$\$\$\$! Recycling materials has become a stock in trade and there is money to be made. Like the rest of the market, money rules the recycling business. At the moment there is a huge market for electronics and iron– and aluminum scrap. For example - iron scrap is selling like hot cakes in China because of the high price for steel!

We do not collect nearly as much through recycling as we could, nor do we reuse materials, and that is a waste of money. We have to improve and make an effort to stoop to pick up the gold in front of us!

Another and very important reason to segregate and minimize the amount of waste that is brought to the dump is of course the environment.

The Arctic environment is extremely vulnerable and the sensitive Arctic eco-system is easily brought out of balance and at the same time difficult to reestablish. Several studies have been made to estimate the dimensions of the damage caused from former "waste treatment" at Thule. We now know what kind of damaging effect our waste disposal can result in and the good news is that we can make money on segregating our waste and still work improve the environment.

Can you score on a soft drink can?

To influence people at Thule to think about the waste they produce is a difficult job because of the "out of sight – out of mind" principle and because the waste is not considered as a resource. It might be easier to make people think about what they do with their recyclable goods if brand names like 'Prada' or 'Armani' were printed on the items. There could soon be a shortage of aluminum in the world, so the next can of soft drink or beer you empty might be the wheel rim on your new car!

But everything is relative and despite circumstances we're on the right track, even if it is a slow process. The recycling system is not more than six to seven years old and today we're in a completely other league concerning segregation of our

waste at Thule Air Base.

Easy living!

During the last decade we have achieved some valuable experience concerning waste management. This makes us capable of identifying incitements and barriers in the system and to be able to develop a simpler, more flexible and future-oriented recycling system. In a viable waste disposal system an important principle is: *It has to be simple for everyone – both for users of the system and for our colleagues who handle our waste!*

A waste disposal system that can survive in the future should be flexible and can conform to new tasks. We need a waste/recycling system that can meet the inevitable demands for future recycling – like plastics, all kinds of paper, and more.

We are working on an idea of a central waste center that will considerably simplify the handling of the waste fractions. The resources that would be available after such a simplification could be used for collecting waste fractions closer to the source and to increase the number of waste fractions we can collect and handle. For example, plastics, which is a good idea to segregate both economically and ecologically.

Waste management – now with house calls!

For the time being, the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office is responsible for the most visible initiative to create a simpler waste system. Since January 2005 Gert Eiberg, Hans Aage Lund (Oscar) and Søren Læsøe have toured with the Recycle Truck the 1st Wednesday of every month. As it is now, you can have the Recycle Truck pick up your recyclable material (except cans, glass, cardboard and paper) and hazardous waste in your barrack if you call the DRMO.

We will make a greater effort to get hold of more of the waste both from the barracks and from the shops before it is thrown out with the waste and ends up in the landfill. The next step is brewing and it will be bins for batteries in all barracks and DRMO has also initiated an 'Amnesty Day' for each of the shops, which will give them a chance to clear up the waste that might have accumulated so it will be easier to handle continuously.

All recycling, reusable materials and hazardous waste is stored and shipped out during the port season. Most of this is transported to Norfolk, VA, USA and is sold via the central Air Force DRMO.

Facts about waste

Which waste fractions do we segregate?

Recycling	Reuse	Hazardous Waste
Aluminum cans	Cd's	Paint
Glass	Electronic waste	Spray cans
Cardboard	Toners	Medicine
Tires	Spill oil	Chemicals
Copper	Fluorescent tubes	Asbestos waste
White office paper	Car batteries	All sorts of batteries
Brass		
Iron scrap		

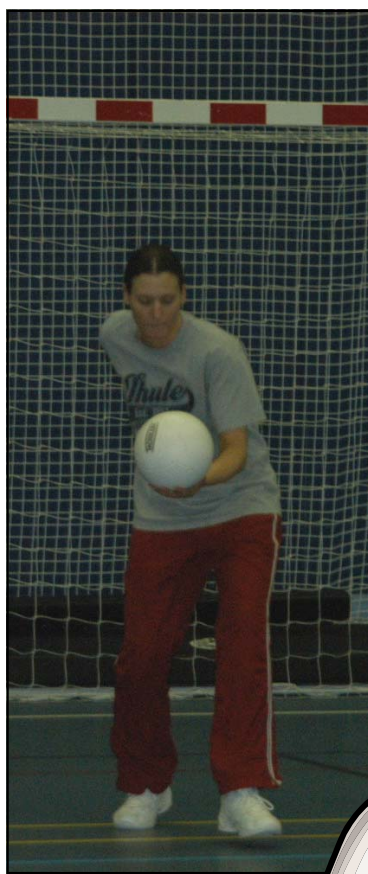
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Sports day challenges bodies and minds

Let's Play!

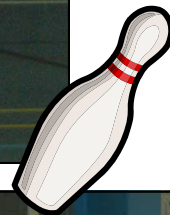


Clockwise from top: One team tries to pile their way onto a blue mat during a leadership challenge. The object was to get all team members on the small piece of mat. Another team tries to climb their way on top of each other during the same event. 1st Lt. Jeremy Colvin keeps his balance while crossing a "bridge" during an exercise. Chaplain (Capt.) Dave DePinho motions instructions as Tech Sgt. Michael Somuk climbs on Master Sgt. Vinson Simmon's shoulders to reach the top of an obstacle. Tech Sgt. Darcy Cannon, Tech Sgt. Craig Lewis, Master Sgt. Rogelio Saladrigas and Staff Sgt. Jeff Saunders secure a rope anchor as their team tries to negotiate a wall obstacle. In all, three teams competed on three separate team challenge events during Sports Day May 20.



From top left:
Lt. Col. Joe Dennis prepares to spike the ball to the Airman team during volleyball. The NCOs defend the Airmen during the basketball

challenge. Staff Sgt. Heather Chavez prepares to serve the volleyball. Aiming for a strike, Capt. Jay Allman releases his bowling ball. Airman First Class Frank Lillich throws one down the lane during the bowling competition. 2nd Lt. Greg Mueller takes a shot during the basketball challenge. The NCO's were the bowling challenge winners and the Officer's won both basketball and volleyball challenges. Despite a great effort by all ranks in all events, the Officer's were named the All Rank's Challenge champions.



Many organizations “agree” with Thule

A closer look at Thule’s support agreements

By Master Sgt. Charles Dickens
821st SPTS Support Agreements Manager

Many of you may wonder what a Logistics Planner is and why the office exists here at Thule in the first place. So, let me take this opportunity to explain some of what my job, as the 821st Support Squadron Support Agreements Manager, entails and why I am here at Thule.

A Logistics Plans NCO (2G0X1) is primarily focused on the main mission of the USAF, mobility/deployment management/AEF. Other titles in this ‘manning challenged’ career field include War Readiness Material NCO, Base Plans Manager, and Support Agreements Manager, the latter of which is the primary focus here at Thule. What may be unknown to many of you, is that while Thule’s main focus is on the missions of the 12th Space Warning Squadron and Detachment 3, none of our missions would survive through a winter without other ancillary missions; for example, Pacer Goose provides annual bulk fuel, dry goods and construction materials, and equipment resupply. The Pacer Goose operation is managed under the auspices of a support agreement between Military Sealift Command and the 821st Air Base Group.

Now, you may ask, what is a “Support Agreement”!?

By definition, a Support Agreement is an agreement between two parties that documents recurring support requested by one party and supplied by the other. This ‘arrangement’ allows for resource sharing and cost savings to the Department of Defense. Normally, a standard support agreement will be between two separate DoD or government (or at least sponsored by a government) organizations.

Now I will refrain from boring you with all the details about each different

type of agreement. Support is renegotiated every three years during the lifecycle of an agreement, as long as the Receiver continues to request the support and the Supplier agrees that they can ‘support’ the Receiver’s requirements.

Here at Thule the support agreements office manages eight agreements, of which the 821st ABG is the Supplier of support. However, the 821st ABG is the Receiver of support through one agreement, with McGuire AFB. Additionally, there are approximately 35 agreements with international organizations or governments, including, the DLO, DPI, GHR, Canada, and Denmark, etc.

If you have ever driven by Bldg. 452 and noticed the sign for “The Peregrine Fund High Arctic Institute,” you may have wondered what that is and who they are.

The Peregrine Fund conducts scientific research on birds of prey and is sponsored by the US Department of the Interior. They operate research stations throughout the world and have received support at Thule through a support agreement since 1997. Other organizations from the national scientific community, and their supporting units, are currently receiving support through support agreements with Thule, including:

The National Science Foundation: The NSF grants research projects to educational institutions, affiliated scientific research projects located at Thule, other areas in Greenland, and throughout the Arctic region.

Air Force Research Laboratory: AFRL research goals for polar ionospheric include: Improving understanding of the large scale morphology, solar cycle changes, and mechanisms that generate and evolve disturbances. Efforts apply to monitoring and forecasting of USAF communication outages and surveillance effects.

Wallops Flight Facility (NASA): Annual flights with remote scientific sensing equipment over the Arctic Ice Cap are used.

109th Air National Guard Air Wing: Provides airlift support via the C-130 Ski-bird to Antarctic and Greenlandic scientific research operations performed by the National Science Foundation.

The following organizations are tenant unit’s to Thule and also receive support via support agreements:

Detachment 3, 22nd Space Operations Squadron: Perform support for telemetry, tracking and commanding operations of U.S. and allied satellite programs in support of national defense and our way of life.

AAFES: Operation of the Thule Base Exchange store.

Military Sealift Command (COMSEAQLOGLANT):

Annual Thule Pacer Goose Resupply (Port Season)

These organizations pay for certain support, while others receive support for ‘free’ or on a ‘pay-as-you-go’ basis.

In total, Thule AB receives nearly \$50,000/year for providing support stipulated in these agreements. This dollar figure does not include support that is provided on a ‘pay-as-you-go’ reimbursement basis.

Of course, we pay out much more just for our annual Pacer Goose resupply operation. These figures do not include support provided via contract or by other special projects that are approved through the summer season via the “Work-For-Others” program with Greenland Contractors.

If you are interested in further information about these organizations or about a job in Logistics Plans, feel free to drop by the support agreements office in Bldg. 461 and I will be happy to assist you.

Additional information about The Peregrine Fund and the 109th Air National Guard is located in the support agreements office in the headquarters building and at the Base Library.

Picture this!



Captain Tyler Nielsen snaps a few shots of ice bergs frozen in North Star Bay on a recent outdoor hiking trip. The two-mile hike to the ice bergs was offered as an alternate physical training location for Airmen here in late April.

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'Chief's View' focuses on communication

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- A new television production featuring the chief master sergeant of the Air Force is providing an information venue for key Air Force issues to Airmen worldwide.

The one-minute segments, called "Chief's View," air globally on American Forces Radio and Television Service, the Pentagon Channel and are available through streaming video online at www.af.mil.

"We are excited to have another means to get messages out to Airmen throughout our Air Force," said Chief

Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. "Communicating with our Airmen is one of the key responsibilities of the office of chief master sergeant of the Air Force."

As operations tempo remains high, information flow is especially vital, he said.

"Whether deployed or at home station, our Airmen are working at a feverish pace," Chief Murray said. "It's important they understand what's going on within our force. In the 'Chief's View,' I'll give it to them straight, and we'll tackle very basic and even contentious issues. I want these messages to encourage communication within the chain of command

and with peers."

A new segment of "Chief's View" will run every two weeks with messages ranging from timely issues to basic Air Force fundamentals.

This will be an important medium to let Airmen hear what their leaders are doing to address key issues facing today's Air Force, Chief Murray said. "We have great programming on our AFN and Pentagon channels, and I hope we can add to that," he said. "I encourage everyone to check out these stations and watch for the 'Chief's View.'"

The last word...

It's hard to believe how fast a year can pass. But here it is. With a heavy heart, but lifted spirits, I put this final edition of the Thule Times to rest.

As I look through the pages of a year's worth of work, I have nothing but fond memories of the men and women I've served with and the experiences and activities I've had the honor to participate in and share with the audience at large.

People often ask me if it's boring to be stationed at such a remote base. Are you kidding? I've been amazed at how much there is to see and do here at the top of the world. It seems that every week features a special event or reason to celebrate. I've tried to cover most of those events and share those with all Thule Times readers.

I would be remiss if I did not thank each and every one of you here, as well as those who have come and gone during my tour here. Additionally, I'd like give a special thank you to those former Thule-ites who still stay in touch and look forward to reading every new edition of the Thule Times.

Although my time as editor has ended, rest assured that the Thule Times will live on. Look for a fresh look and some new ideas with the next generation of Thule Times editor. As always, send your story ideas to thule.times@af.mil. Thanks again Thule for a wonderful year.

1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble



...Cont'd from Pg. 4

Which amounts does Thule ship out?

	2004	2003	2002
	Ton	Ton	Ton
Scrap	84	58	60
Reuse and recycling materials	107	196	69
Rolling stock etc.	113	87	274

Which amounts goes to the dump?

	2004	2003	2002
	Ton	Ton	Ton
Debris- and metal scrap	105	540	702
Municipal waste	5.791	5.299	9.896

Who does what with the waste at Thule?

Department.	Main tasks concerning waste	Bldg.
P&G	Collecting cans, glass, cardboard and paper base wide. Handling cans, glass, cardboard and paper for shipping.	#569
	Collecting municipal waste Maintenance of the dump	#836
DRMO	Collecting Hazardous Waste in the shops Collecting Hazardous Waste in the barracks with the 'Recycling Truck' Supervising the shops on waste issues Preparing waste, recycling- and reuse material for shipping Work out shipping documents.	#969
Environmental Engineering	Information and communication Administration and reporting Optimizing waste management in cooperation with other departments. Training colleagues in waste management	#577

Incinerator

Installation of an incinerator at TAB is in negotiation state which will provide us with the capability of exploiting the calorific value in the combustible waste; waste that so far is going to the landfill. We will get power and heat from the waste and be able to save resources and save the environment from waste left behind.

Do you want to know more, do you have any ideas or questions – don't hesitate to contact Environmental Engineering (ext. 2224) or DRMO (ext. 2785)!

The Lighter Side of Thule



Clockwise from top left: Master Sgt. Zanitta Kisner, Tech Sgt. Stacy Annese and Staff Sgt. Heather Chavez show off their custom made T-shirt and handbags to honor Tom Cruise's and Jeff Gordon's long-lost triplet, Thule's own Master Sgt. Scott Kastner. Capt. James Allman, "winner" of the head shaving contest gets a trim from highest-bidder, Ms. Rachel Kasic, at the Thule Memorial Day Block Party. Members of Thule take a break for game night food and fun at the chapel. Chaplain (Capt.) Dave DePinho pauses at the top of Mt. Dundas now that the trail to the top has reopened.. Members of the 821st Security Forces Squadron pose with their newest troop, Airman Frost E. Snowman.

Recently promoted or awarded a medal?
Did you just arrive at Thule?
Let folks back home know about it.
Fill out a Hometown News Release—stop by Public Affairs, Bldg. 461, rm 9, or call 5678.

Thule Times Editorial Staff

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1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble, chief, public affairs
Master Sgt. Charles Dickens, volunteer staff writer
Add your name here as a staff writer!—call PA at 5678

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