

THE KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE NUCLEUS

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58th SOW stands up Osprey squadron

BY 2ND LT.
ROSE RICHESON
377th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

An activation ceremony, celebrating the standup of the 71st Special Operations Squadron as the Air Force's inaugural CV-22 Osprey unit, was held in hangar 1002, May 20.

The 71st SOS continues in the tradition of its unit designation by being the first Air Force squadron to fly a new aircraft, the CV-22 Osprey, as was the case when the unit spearheaded the Air Force's AC-119 flying mission in 1968-1969, while activated for service in Southeast Asia.

Inactivated as an Air Force Reserve unit in 1993, the 71st

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Markus M. Maier

Col. Paul R. Harmon, 58th Operations Group commander, left, and Lt. Col. James L. Cardoso, 71st Special Operations Squadron commander, salute the flag during the activation ceremony for the squadron May 20 in Hanger 1002. The squadron is designated as the Air Force's inaugural CV-22 Osprey unit and is scheduled to receive aircraft in early 2006.



Photo by Todd Berenger

58th SOW gets new commander

Col. Thomas J. Trask accepts command of the 58th Special Operations Wing from Maj. Gen. Edward R. "Buster" Ellis, 19th Air Force commander, during the wing change of command ceremony, May 23 in Hangar 1002. Colonel Trask was previously assigned as special assistant to the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Col. Eric E. Fiel, former 58th SOW commander, is moved to Hurlburt Field, Fla., to become the Air Force Special Operations Command director of operations.

Hennessy Trophy going on display

The Hennessy Trophy is coming home to roost at the Thunderbird Inn during a celebration June 3 at 11 a.m.

Tech. Sgt. Brenda McLain, 377th Services Squadron food services superintendent, and the staff of the Thunderbird Inn are planning to have the trophy on display along with decorations, a mariachi band, noise makers and a cake to recognize the dining facility winning the trophy.

The trophy, presented annually to the best dining facility in the Air Force by the National Restaurant Association, the Society of Food Service Management and the International Food Services Executives, was won this year by the Thunderbird Inn and food service contractor Vick's Vittles.

A team of representatives from the services squadron, the dining facility and Vick's Vittles was led by Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, to Chicago to receive the trophy during the National Restaurant Association meeting and exposition, May 21.

The award is named after a restaurant owner and industry leader assigned to the Hoover Commission charged with improving military food service.

135 Team Kirtland members are deployed in 26 locations

Force Protection Condition ALPHA

1 Day since the last DUI here. As of Today
The last DUI was received by a member of the 342nd Training Squadron, Det. 1

AFMC commander's Memorial Day message

BY GEN. GREGORY S. MARTIN

Air Force Materiel Command commander



In the course of our nation's history, nearly one million American sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters have given their lives to secure peace and preserve freedom.

These individuals, past and present, have come from different cultures and lifestyles but shared a common bond. They were dedicated to service in the name of individual liberty and democratic values. As a result, the American republic has sustained itself as a nation like no other. As I have said before, our country would not be the "land of the free" today if it truly were not the "home of the brave."

On Memorial Day this Monday, let us honor in our thoughts, prayers and words heartfelt thanks to the men and women in uniform who fell in service to our country. Reflect upon how different our lives might be if it weren't for their dedication. Likewise, remember those who serve in our efforts to combat terrorist forces and to bring peace and democracy to Afghanistan, Iraq and the Middle East.

My wife, Wendy, and I wish each of you a great Memorial Day weekend. God bless those who have gone before and their families; and God bless you and yours for what you do for the cause of freedom every day.



Patio facelift

Photo by Annie McCormick

Greg Armenta, left, and Greg Belak, Armenta Inc., install an awning at the Mountain View Club's outdoor patio. When complete, the patio will have three such coverings, offering much needed shade. The entire project includes a snack bar window set to open today. Beginning June 11, the club's entire a la carte lunch menu will be available under the canopies. Dinner will be served by the pool June 11 at 5:30 p.m. to kick off the "Fun in the Sun" membership drive. Food, prizes and fun will be for members and nonmembers of the club.

New law to affect SGLI

BY DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Defense and Veterans Affairs officials are ironing out details of programs that will expand benefits provided through Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The \$82 billion supplemental legislation signed into law by President Bush May 11 increases maximum SGLI coverage to \$400,000 and provides pay outs of up to \$100,000 for service members with traumatic injuries, explained Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance.

The increased SGLI coverage will take effect Sept. 1, and the so-called "traumatic SGLI" benefit, December 1. Wurtz said the legislation directs that both benefits will be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001.

Traumatic SGLI benefits will be retroactive for troops who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech or received other traumatic injuries as a direct results of injuries received during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation En-

during Freedom. The benefit does not apply to service members suffering from disease.

The retroactive coverage increase is payable as a result of deaths in either operation, or under other conditions prescribed by the secretary of defense, Mr. Wurtz said.

Service members enrolled in the SGLI program will notice an increase in their premiums when the increases take effect. The traumatic SGLI benefit will be rolled into the basic SGLI program and will likely cost about \$1 a month, Mr. Wurtz said.

Troops opting for maximum SGLI coverage—\$400,000 versus the current \$250,000—will see their monthly premiums increase from \$16.25 to \$26, Mr. Wurtz said. This is based on the rate of 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage.

SGLI coverage is currently available in \$10,000 increments, but as of Sept. 1, the increments will increase to \$50,000.

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CV-22

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SOS began an illustrious heritage as the 71st Troop Carrier Squadron in World War II. During the next 50 years of operations, it provided support during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War, as well as in Operation Desert Storm.

The 71st SOS's initial cadre aircrew comprises a commander, Lt. Col. James L. Cardoso, a director of operations, 16 pilots and 16 flight engineers. The squadron should be providing CV-22 Osprey aircrew training in early 2007.

The tiltrotor design of the aircraft combines the vertical flight capabilities of a helicopter with the speed and range of a turboprop airplane and permits aerial refueling and worldwide self deployment.

"This tiltrotor aircraft can hover like a helicopter and fly like an airplane," Colonel Cardoso said.

The CV-22 Osprey will have a crew of four, and can carry 18 Airmen with auxiliary fuel tanks increasing combat radius to about 500 miles with a speed at maximum weight of 250 nautical miles per hour (287.7 mph).

"We are only starting to realize its

potential," said Colonel Cardoso. "Once we start flying and operating Ospreys, we'll realize it can do so much more."

As the aging fleet of MH-53J helicopters retires, a total of 50 CV-22 Ospreys will eventually augment Special Opera-

tions Command's force structure of MH-47 helicopters and MC 130 Combat Talon aircraft.

The arrival of the first of six CV-22 Ospreys to be assigned here is scheduled for February 2006.



Photo by Dennis Carlson

A CV-22 was on display at the activation ceremony, however the aircraft are not scheduled to arrive here until February 2006.

Air Force launches 'AF eMail'

BY MASTER SGT. MITCH GETTLE

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force began the first phase of a new e-mail system May 6 that will enhance communication of Airmen worldwide.

AF eMail (aka eMail-for-Life) is a single, static e-mail address that will not change during the career of an Airman or Air Force civilian employee.

The current e-mail system, rapid mobility of the force and frequent assignments and career development opportunities outside the Air Force can make it difficult for Airmen to communicate.

"At any given time, we can only reliably connect and communicate with 79 percent of our force through e-mail," said Capt. Kirk Phillips, information technology division chief at the Air Force Senior Leader Management Office.

"E-mail is the most critical communication tool that we're using to implement force development and transform our personnel process. Industry-standard e-business solutions require static e-mail addresses, and that is the direction the Air Force is headed," Captain Phillips said.

Airmen will be able to complete personnel actions in minutes through e-mail and the Internet, along with other benefits, he said.

"Not only is there a huge potential for Air Force cost avoidance, but mission support will be greatly enhanced by empowering every member to reliably connect and communicate with each other without worry about changing e-mail addresses every couple of years," Captain Phillips said. "We'll be able to transform personnel processes under the Air Force directorate of personnel's personnel service delivery model and empower members and databases to connect and communicate through e-business applications instead of local personnel flights."

Those personnel processes include: official personnel notifications and announcements; command, promotion and professional military education candidacy and selection; and retirement, assignment, evaluation, feedback and decoration processing.

Officials said they plan for the Air Force to be fully capable under AF eMail by 2007. Currently, every senior Air Force official has been provided an account.

"We've segmented the force based on mission requirements and will slowly scale the availability to the entire force versus an all-at-once implementation," Captain Phillips said. "We started with the highest level leaders, and our plan is to offer it to other segments of the force this summer."

During the initial stages, Airmen will continue to use their local or major command e-mail accounts as well as the AF eMail account.

"Until the migration of e-mail accounts happens, it's each member's responsibility to check the AF eMail account on a regular basis," Captain Phillips said. "That's where their career-affecting personnel actions will be."