**ALS announces graduates**

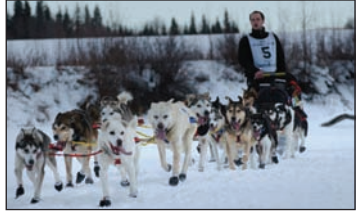
See page 2

**Ammo troop lauds fighter wing, Icemen**

See page 3

**Volunteers assist in Yukon Quest**

See page 6



**Camp Kidsicle**

See page 6

Eielson AFB, Alaska
Home of the Iceman Team

# Arctic Sentry

Feb. 17, 2006
Vol. 46, No. 7

"To Fight and Support the Fight - Any Time, Any Place"

# Eielson EOD troops earn Bronze Stars

**by Capt. Christopher Anderson**
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Three Iceman Team members assigned to the 354th Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team were recently awarded the Bronze Star for their outstanding service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Tech. Sgt. Steven Hallenbeck received the distinguished award for successfully leading his team during 103 EOD missions. The missions included rendering safe 14 improvised explosive devices, including two vehicle bombs. He also led his team in the destruction of 23 weapons caches containing 902 ordnance items and 336 explosive components.

During his deployment, Sergeant Hallenbeck's convoy was hit by an IED. In the midst of small-arms gunfire, he quickly moved an injured Airman and his canine partner out of harm's way and rendered first aid to the Airman for lacerations and shock.

"None of these missions would have been possible without the help of my team member, Senior Airman Isaiah Schaff," said Sergeant Hallenbeck. "He performed well beyond his rank and skill level on more than 100 calls we went on."

Staff Sgt. Robert Weston received the distinguished award for leading his team during 138 successful EOD missions. The missions included rendering safe 27 IEDs, including three vehicle bombs. He also led his team in destroying 10 weapons caches containing 722 ordnance items and 111 explosive components.

Sergeant Weston thwarted insurgent attempts to disrupt the January 2005 Iraqi elections by manually disabling an IED at a local polling center after all attempts to use a robot failed.

Tech. Sgt. Arin Finch received the distinguished award for successfully leading his team in 131 EOD missions. The missions included safely securing 24 IEDs, including two vehicle bombs. He also led his team in destroying 13 weapons caches containing 1,136 ordnance items and 383 explosive components.

"Most of our missions in Iraq were outside the wire, from the borders of Iran and Iraq to the outskirts of Baghdad and Balad," he said. "During these missions, I could always count on my teammate, Senior Airman Erick Durantt, for his professionalism, courage and devotion to duty."

While responding to a road-side bomb, Sergeant Finch's team came under small-arms and heavy-weapons fre. Despite the attack, Sergeant Finch led his team to investigate a post-blast site and destroyed a second IED moments before four mortars struck within 120 feet of their location.

"We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of Sergeants Hallenbeck, Weston and Finch," said Major Jeff McBride, CES operations flight com - mander. "Their selfless dedication to the mission is an example for all of our Airmen to epitomize."

**Tech. Sgt. Steven Hallenbeck**

**Tech. Sgt. Arin Finch**

**Staff Sgt. Robert Weston**

**Tech. Sgt. Steven Hallenbeck, 354th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal, places plastic explosives on a weapons cache found near a riverbank at a deployed location. More than 70 roadside IEDs could have been made from the projectiles found at this location.**

# *A-10s support OEF mission*

**by 2nd Lt. Bryon McGarry**
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

*(Editor's note: This story is the second part in a series of features that highlight an Iceman's experiences during his deployment.)*

As the rising sun peeks over the Afghani horizon, 1st Lieutenant Jake Stevens, 355th Fighter Squadron pilot, works with his ground crew to put the finishing touches on the preflight of his first sortie in active support of the global war on terror.

After checking out, he exchanges salutes with his A-10 crew chief and taxis down the Bagram AB flightline, anxious to utilize the extensive training the Air Force has provided him and excited about being part of something bigger than him.

"I was a little nervous, but that evaporated quickly as soon as I hit the flight line and it was ops normal from there," he said. "We do actually train how we fght for the most part, so there wasn't much of a transition. I just count myself lucky to be part of such a terrific group like this."

For many 355th FS members, deploying is nothing new, but Lt. Stevens said many of the veteran group members are intrigued by the changes to both the base and the operations. Whether the deployment is one's first or their tenth, he said everyone is focused.

"The vibe is good and everyone is excited to be here," he said. "The maintainers and weapons guys have been working there butts off and they all seem pretty excited, as well."

Upon finally arriving at his new home, Lt. Stevens said he was pleasantly surprised at the accommodations that were available.

"The Air Force facility, Camp Cunningham, is within the army compound here and contains its own sleeping, recreation and ops facilities," he said. "We have to eat at the army chow halls, but they're not too bad. The fruit selection is actually far better than in Alaska."

Though support functions have done their best to make deployed life as comfortable as possible for the visiting Icemen, Lt. Stevens knows that he's there to do a job.

"We definitely feel that what we are doing is important," he said. "There are still a ton of folks working out on the ground, troops from all over the world. When you talk to the joint tactical air controller on the ground, you can here in his voice how relieved he is to have A-10s on station. Our presence alone deters most of the attacks from bad guys."

He said the population is primarily comprised of U.S. Army

See **Deployed** Page 2

Staff Sgt. Julie Avey

**Chief's Induction**

**Fourteen of Eielson's newest chiefs and chief selects were sworn in by Alaska Air National Guard State Command Chief Mark McGrath during the Chief's Induction Ceremony Saturday at the Aurora Club. The 14 chiefs and chief selects are: Chief Master Sergeants Taru Taylor, 354th LRS; Matthew Malenic, 354th LRS; Todd Cook, 168th ARW; Cindy Gollwitzer, 168th ARW; Cyrus Cooper, 13th SWS. The Chief Selects are: Jeffery Bryant, 354th SFS; Kenneth Kent, 354th MXS; Allen Mullinex, 354th MXS; Michael Reilly, 354th CES; William Renner, 354th MXS; Tommie Rogers II, 354th CONS; Vyanne Roush, 354th SVS; Scott Smith, 355th AMU and John Nederhoed, Det. 460.**

# Warm weather conditions affect driving

**by Staff Sgt. Richard Caudill**
354th Fighter Wing Safety Office

While the past few days of warm temperatures seem like a sure sign of spring, Icemen can rest assured that winter here in the interior of Alaska is far from over.

As a precaution, remember these safety tips when traveling on the road:

**Be Prepared**

Watch out for situations that are avoidable. Some may say this is common sense, and it is, but how many people jump in their vehicle when the weather looks nice and end up in a storm?

Here is a small list that could prove to be beneficial. Keep in mind that this isn't an all inclusive list:

- Proper clothing (loose layers, extra gloves, rain gear)
- A flashlight in the glove box
- A blanket, food and water
- A bag of sand or salt and extra washer fluid
- A windshield scraper
- Jumper cables
- Tire chains or traction mats
- Have at least a half tank of gas at all times during the winter season
- Plan long trips carefully - what weather conditions may you encounter?

**Complete a Pre-Trip Inspection.**

Conduct a visual, hands-on inspection and check all important items, including wiper blades and fluid, lights, and tires. People should check their vehicle often and be sure to have a mechanic check it at the start of the winter season. They should check their spare tire on a regular basis just to make sure that it hasn't gone flat.

**Slow down**

Many accidents occur during this time of year because drivers are going too fast for conditions. A slower speed gives you more time to react if something occurs. Extra patience and care for other drivers can go a long way this time of year.

**Give extra space**

Icemen should allow for more room between their vehicle and other vehicles to ensure they have enough space and time to move out of harm's way.

**Hold the steering wheel firmly**

Sudden, sharp moves can quickly cause a driver to lose control of their vehicle. Stay steady through ruts in the road, heavy wind, and on ice.

See **Weather** Page 2

## ICEMEN DEPLOYED

Iraqi Freedom - 73
Enduring Freedom - 438
Other -21
Total = 532
As of Feb. 9

## WEEKEND WEATHER

**Today**

**High 25, Low 10**
Mostly Cloudy

**Sunrise: 8:43 a.m.**

**Sunset: 5:28 p.m.**

**Saturday**

**High 25, Low 10**
Mostly Cloudy

**Sunrise: 8:40 a.m.**

**Sunset: 5:31 p.m.**

**Sunday**

**High 30, Low 15**
Mostly Cloudy

**Sunrise: 8:37 a.m.**

**Sunset: 5:34 p.m.**

## Deploying *from Page1*

soldiers, but coalition forces from at least a dozen other countries are also represented. Though he's eager to work with all of his new peers, whether or not he actually gets to perform his regular duties is largely dependent on the intangibles.

"The weather's taken a turn for the worse recently, and when that happens we settle into a pretty steady ops tempo of flying three to four times a week, sitting alert, working in the mission planning center, exercising, eating and sleeping," Lt. Stevens said. "It's not a bad life."

Since operations are on a 24-hour cycle, there's pretty much always someone sleeping in the main living areas, or "B-huts," he added. The huts are about 40 feet long and 15 feet wide and are divided into eight rooms of equal size.

"You pretty much stay out of the B-hut unless you are sleeping or changing clothes," he said. "But we have two great entertainment rooms with big screen TVs and all the DVDs and video games you could imagine."

After traveling about 5,300 miles from Eielson to their new home at Bagram, Lt. Stevens and his fellow 355th FS members are finally in position and primed to replace the outgoing 354th FS, from Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., at the tip of the spear.

Around 30 maintainers, pilots and weapons troops made the nearly three-day trek from Eielson to Afghanistan in January via C-17 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. With a grueling trip ahead of them, the deploying Icemen did what they could to make the best of their long flights and layovers.

"We landed at our first stop at 9 a.m. and were told to meet up again at 12:30 a.m. the next morning," he said. "With all that time to kill we decided to go out and treat ourselves to a lobster dinner and drink our last beers for the next five months."

The next leg was a seven-hour hop to Europe, where Lt. Stevens said the "last goodbyes" continued.

"We had a four-hour layover there, so we took a cab into a small village where we ate at a quaint little restaurant," he said, "and again had our last beers for the next five months."

The final hop was another seven hours direct to Bagram AB. The base is situated roughly 25 miles north of Kabul and surrounded by mountains except to the south. He said the elevation and semi-arid climate remind him of western Colorado, where he spent time during college.

The installation has two base exchanges, and express versions of Burger King, Dairy Queen and Subway. The locals also have concession stands set up, where visiting Iceman can choose from a variety of local fare, including traditional Afghani trinkets, Soviet artifacts and Persian rugs, all available at discount prices.

"The field was built by the Soviets a long time ago and was in dire need of repair when we arrived in early 2002," Lt. Stevens said. "Now, it's a large facility with all the amenities of home."

Though modern deployed service members are certainly better off than their predecessors, one variable is never completely compensated for.

"I do miss my wife and dog a lot," he said. "Being apart is rough but we get to talk about twice a week and staying busy helps. I know that we did everything we could to prepare for this TDY, though, and that I left her in good hands."

In between meals, workouts and sleeping, Lt. Stevens did eventually get favorable-enough flying conditions and a green light to suit up for his first sortie, a convoy escort mission just like he trained for back home.

"A typical sortie lasts anywhere from three to eight hours," he said. "The days we aren't flying, we are sitting alert, mission planning or enjoying a 'day off.' We all want to start employing, but at the same time, employing means that something bad has probably happened to the guys on the ground."

As the wheels touched down following his initial aerial tour, he breathed a sigh of relief, hopeful for the time ahead.

"I know it'll be a tough couple of months away from my family, but I think I'll be alright," he said. "I know we're here for the right reasons and I'm confident that we'll perform like we were trained and be just fine."

## Weather *from Page1*

**Brake and accelerate lightly**

Try not to do anything forcefully in bad weather. When slowing down quickly in slippery conditions, vehicle operators should lightly pump their brakes. This reduces the chance of locking tires and spinning out of control.

If a vehicle has Antilock Braking System, it is recommended that they hold the brake down as far as possible in an emergency. ABS prevents the wheels from locking, enabling you to steer around obstacles.

**Watch for black ice**

This is a very dangerous condition. Black ice is a thin layer of transparent ice that forms when the temperature is around the freezing point. It sometimes makes the road look slightly wet. Some clues to look for are:

•Ice build-up on mirror arms, antenna or the top corners of the windshield

•When tire spray from vehicles stops

**Use extra caution when approaching bridges**

Elevated structures like bridges and highway overpasses usually freeze first and many are not treated with ice/snow-melt materials (salt, sand) like the rest of the road.

Many vehicles travel fine on the highway, but as soon as they get on a bridge, they can spin out of control without warning.

**If stranded or stuck, stay in the vehicle**

If a driver gets stuck in a bad storm or blizzard and they can't see a close place to seek assistance, they should stay put. It's easy to get confused in a bad storm and even easier to get lost.

Icemen should use caution when sitting in a vehicle for an extended period of time.

Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning by keeping the exhaust pipe clear of snow and open a window slightly for ventilation.

**If conditions look bad, get off the road**

Use common sense and good judgement. Listen to weather reports and warnings and react appropriately.

For more information, call the 354th Fighter Wing Safety Office at 377-4260.

# Local leader joins CSAF civic group

**Gen. Michael Moseley, Air Force Chief of Staff, selected James Dodson, president of Dodson Development in Fairbanks (pictured back right of Gen. Moseley), to join his inaugural Air Force Chief of Staff's Civic Leader Group.**

**Compiled from staff reports**
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Michael Moseley, recently selected a prominent local businessman to join his newly established civic leader group.

James Dodson, president of Dodson Development in Fairbanks, joins the inaugural Air Force Chief of Staff's Civic Leader Group, a cooperative effort designed to strengthen the partnership between base communities, their leaders and senior Air Force leadership.

Mr. Dodson and the other group nominees were each nominated by commanders at individual bases, and are respected community leaders from all over the country.

Mr. Dodson is also the interim President/CEO of Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation and is on the Board of Directors of the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce.

Although the concept of a civic leader group is not new, such groups typically form around an individual unit or base.

This one is unique because its scope is to encompass the entire U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii, General Moseley said.

"One of the goals of this inaugural group is to tap into our civic leaders' expertise by collaborating efforts and sharing perspectives at least two times a year," said Gen. Paul Hester, Pacific Air Forces Commander. "By doing so, we hope to improve our Air Force relationship with these leaders and their regions as we discuss the challenges facing our military communities."

General Hester was also present at the first scheduled meeting Feb. 9-10, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Mr. Dodson said he was thrilled with his selection and that the meeting was far more extensive in nature than he originally expected.

"I was expecting a lot of 'show-and-tell' with Air Force equipment," he said.

"Although we met with the Thunderbirds and got to see their aircraft up close—that tour only lasted for about 45 minutes. The rest of the time was spent in a conference room environment, with the generals relaying the current status of the Air Force and explaining what they would like the American public to know about the services' future," Mr. Dodson said.

The CSAF civic leader group is comprised of seven women and 17 men from 24 various communities.

According to General Moseley, the group meets at least twice a year to receive briefings, share individual views, and exchange ideas on what is happening all across the Air Force.

*Tech. Sgt. William Farrow contributed to this report.*

# DEPLOYMENT CORNER

**While processing 30 mm high-explosive incendiary ammunition, Senior Airman Andrew Brown prepares to replace ties on a link tube carrier. Airman Brown is assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron as a munitions systems journeyman.**

**Staff Sgt. Jasmine Reif, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs, meets with Admiral Edmund Giambastiani, Jr., Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.**

# Names 2 Note

## Airmen Leadership School graduates

**John L. Levitow Award**
Sarah Webb

**Distinguished Graduate**
Eugene Roberts
Nicholas Burris

**Academic Achievement Award**
Jared Priddle

**Leadership Award**
Liz Melendez-velazquez

Mark Peterson
Bryan Fletcher
Kara Colton
Carlos Cintron
Angel Mann
Julio Perez
Rafael Guitierrez
Quinton Turner
Kevin Dowdye
Dustin Meehan
John Hoellwarth
Sarah Sylling
Trevor Smith

Charles Brown
Shane Barthalow
Brian Green
Melissa Palmatier
Andrea Guajardo
Jessica Miller
Joshua Justus
Brandon Taft
Victor Sokol
Gavin Iha
Nicole Newton
Francisco Zamora

### Outstanding Aircraft Maintenance Person of the Year

**Field Grade Manager Category:**
Lt. Col. Mark C. Murphy, 354 MXS

**Technician Supervisor Category:**
Tech. Sgt Albert D. Beachy, 354 AMXS

**Technician Category:**
Senior Airman Andrew E. Wetzsteon, 354 AMXS

### Outstanding Munitions Missile Maintenance Person of the Year

**Supervisor Manager Category:**
Master Sgt. Angela B. Wills, 354 MXS

### 2006 Air Force Association Aerospace Award, Hoyt S. Vandenberg Award category:

Congratulations to the **354th Maintenance Operations Squadron** for being chosen to represent Pacific Air Forces at the Air Force level competition.

### Pacific Air Forces Maintenance Effectiveness Award

The **354th Maintenance Operations Squadron** is the Pacific Air Forces nominee to compete at Air Force level.

### Outstanding Personnel Manager Awards

**Base-Level Junior Personnel Manager:**
1st Lt. Kimberly R. Buchanan
(Note: Member has since PCSed from Eielson)

**PACAF Level Personnel Technician:**
Tech. Sgt. Rebecca A. Smith, 354 MSS

**Unit-Level Personnel Technician:**
Staff Sgt. Heejin Karras, 354 MOS

### Enlisted Professional Military Education Awards

**ALS Instructor:**
Tech. Sgt. Derek Crowder, 354 MSS

# DWI CLOCK

**Maintained by the 354th Fighter Wing**

Iceman Team goal is 60 days without a DWI.

Need a free ride home?
**377-RIDE**

**Days without a DWI: 6**
**Days until goal: 54**

Airmen Against Drunk Driving volunteers gave **14** rides last weekend and have 'saved' **4,622** lives to date.

Icemen should remember the following three prong approach:
HAVE A PLAN;
STICK TO THE PLAN, if the plan fails
USE YOUR SAFETY NET.

Klondike Cab, at 457-RIDE (7433) offers Icemen discounted rides back to base. AADD, at 377-RIDE offers free rides 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights.

Arctic Sentry

Published by *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 354th Fighter Wing. This weekly commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the *Arctic SENTRY* 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 and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* of the products and 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 nonmerit or merit factor of the purchaser , user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of Eielson AFB. All photos are official Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for submission of articles for publication in the *Arctic SENTRY* is 4 p.m. Friday, seven days prior to the publication date.

**Best Metro Format Newspaper in PACAF 2003 & 2004**

***Editorial staff***

**Col. Dave Scott**
*Commander, 354th Fighter Wing*

**Capt. Christopher Anderson**
*Chief, Public Affairs*

**Tech. Sgt. William Farrow**
*NCOIC, Public Affairs*

**Airman 1st Class Justin Weaver**
*Editor*

—COMMANDER'S—
CORNER

## Commander's Hotline

## 377-6100

The Hotline is your opportunity to get your issues and comments directly to me so I can address them.

Before you call the hotline, however, I strongly encourage you to give the unit involved, your first sergeant or commander a shot at resolving the issue. The Iceman Team takes care of its own, but you should give these people the chance to help. Please leave the names and organizations of the people you've contacted who have been unable to satisfy your concern, and I will look into the problem.

Your confidentiality will be respected at all times. Thank you!

**Col. Dave Scott**
**354th Fighter Wing commander**

| | |
|---|---|
| AAFES | 372-2139 |
| CE customer service | 377-2100 |
| Chaplain | 377-2130 |
| Dining facility | 377-2536 |
| Family support center | 377-2178 |
| Finance | 377-1851 |
| Fraud, waste & abuse | 377-2109 |
| Housing management | 377-2244 |
| Inspector general | 377-2109 |
| Military personnel flight | 377-2276 |
| Legal | 377-4114 |
| Public affairs | 377-2116 |
| Services | 377-2857 |
| TRICARE | 377-5235 |

# AMMO feeds A-10s appetite for destruction

**by Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Sims**
455th EAMXS Munitions Flight Chief

AMMO HUH! That is the warrior cry of the AMMO troop. You've probably heard the saying before, not to mention some other colorful expressions unsuitable for print. You know us. We're the ones usually tucked away in some far corner of the base; the ones behind the chain-link fence and glass that reads "Break Only in the Event of War." We are 2W0X1s, Munitions Systems Technicians, and we are extremely proud of what we bring to the fight: combat-ready munitions, on time, every time!

At this very moment, there are 30 AMMO professionals deployed from the 354th Fighter Wing, Eielson AFB, Alaska, to Bagram AB, Afghanistan, assigned to the recently established 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron (EMXS). These Airmen and NCOs provide round-the-clock munitions support to deployed A-10 Thunderbolt II "tank-buster" aircraft from the 355th Fighter Squadron. The days are long and hard, 12-hour shifts seven days a week. Most of that time is spent out in the harsh Afghani elements. Our mission is to provide only the best combat munitions support, supplying a multitude of high explosive assets to meet daily air tasking order requirements. Our inventory includes 500-pound GBU-12 laser-guided bombs, 30mm high explosive incendiary cannon ammunition, 2.75-inch white phosphorous and high-explosive unguided rockets; all key components behind the A-10s impressive punch. We also provide aircraft anti-missile countermeasure munitions. As we like to say: "Without AMMO, it's just another unscheduled airline."

When a pilot pickles a GBU-12 or MK-82 and it doesn't function as designed, it could mean that troops on the ground suffer the consequences. The job we do is of paramount importance in any airpower arena, but doubly so in the close air support role. Our munitions have to work each and every time. We perform constant serviceability checks on our built up inventory, ensuring that when it's called upon, it works. It is our number one priority: no duds upon delivery.

This mission could not be completed without help. Eielson AMMO personnel are joined at Bagram by two Air National Guard munitions experts serving two-month rotations. They have seamlessly integrated into our munitions flight and play a vital role in our dedicated support to the six C-130 transport planes deployed here from locations throughout the United States. According to Master Sgt. Ross C. Chappell, dayshift supervisor deployed from McConnell AFB, Kan., "This is the greatest experience of my career. This is my first deployment and it's really been an eye-opener. The active force and the Air National Guard really aren't all that different once you get into a deployed environment." That sentiment is a common theme amongst all those deployed here. We are truly a total force … active duty, Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserves working together to get the mission done.

It does, however, take more than just our Air Force comrades to get things accomplished on Bagram. We rely heavily on a strong working relationship with our Army counterparts. We share real estate in the ammunition supply point (that's Army for what we call a munitions storage area) about four miles away from Camp Cunningham. Like I said, we are the ones kept away from everyone else; and yes, it's behind a chain-link fence. The Army, primary controllers of the area, has allowed us to occupy approximately half of what's affectionately called the "bomb dump." We could not perform our job of providing first-class munitions support to our aircrews without their assistance. It just goes to show how big an impact our sister services have in this type of environment. We truly need them and what they bring to the fight to accomplish the mission.

> "Those left behind at Eielson have been instrumental to us performing our duties here. Knowing that our loved ones are taken care of by our fellow Eielson mates helps each and every one of us to concentrate on the task at hand: providing combat air power where and when it's needed."
>
> Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Sims
> 455th EAMXS Munitions Flight Chief

Even with this inter- and intra-service synergy, we would not be able to do anything without all the support from back home. Those left behind at Eielson have been instrumental to us performing our duties here. Knowing that our loved ones are taken care of by our fellow Eielson mates helps each and every one of us to concentrate on the task at hand: providing combat air power where and when it's needed. The results are clear to see. Since the 354th Fighter Wing's arrival, we have generated over 120 sorties and accumulated more than 330 flying hours. We executed the seamless transition from A-10s deployed from the 355th Fighter Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., to our own, while simultaneously ensuring enough aircraft maintained a combat-ready posture to perform daily sorties over Afghanistan. To date, we have built and/or inspected more than 3,000 sticks of MJU-50 and M206 flare, 23,000 rounds of 30mm ammunition, and over 20 MK-82 general-purpose bombs and 35 GBU-12s.

Although deep down we hope our assets are never used, we are confident that, if and when called upon, the munitions our pilots and aircrew are carrying will deliver the expected results. We, the AMMO men and women of the 455th EMXS stand ready and able to meet the demands of this wartime environment. IYAAYAS!

# Reaching out to youth: A strategy for excellence

**by Chaplain (Capt.) William Cooper, Jr.**
354th Fighter Wing Chapel

This year's African-American Heritage Committee theme is: "Reaching out to youth: A strategy for excellence." It is a task of great importance, since there may be no more precious resource than today's youth. Obviously, empowering youth has always been extremely important.

This is evidenced by the prominence of educational institutions such as the public school systems in America, which have been citadels of learning and have often reinforced such things as ethics and appropriate social behavior. Other institutions such as non-profit agencies have also been instrumental in fostering youth development.

But technology has shaped schools in recent years and rightfully so. Over the last 30 years, technology has significantly improved the transfer of valuable information to America's youth.

Having worked as a teacher in public school systems, I can personally attest to how invaluable technology has become to the learning environment and the positive impact that technology has had on schools located in African-American communities.

I am reminded though, of an observation made by Jody Powell, Press Secretary to President Jimmy Carter. Powell concluded that he believed that in America, there was a "growing degree of cynicism" as relates to ethical behavior.

If one accepts Powell's opinion, then it might be suggested that theories on how to assist youth as they strive toward excellence would place emphasis on addressing social and ethical concerns.

While there are more opportunities in America than there were three or even two decades ago, youth may still face a number of social and ethical challenges. It might be helpful to address questions such as, "How can one excel?" or "How should one live?"

Since February is the month designated to celebrate and reflect on the lives of outstanding African Americans, the example of one and the advice of another, both of whom overcame obstacles, is timely.

The historical contributions of African Americans, particularly those who have achieved success in this country, would most certainly be painted on a very large canvass.

However, the portrait would not be accurate without a background accenting distinct financial, social and political inequality. In spite of unequal resources and rules, many African Americans demonstrated competence and excellence.

They focused on making progress instead of excuses. One such person was Lt. Henry Ossian Flipper, the first African-American graduate of the U.S. Military Academy – West Point. Born a slave on Feb. 21, 1856, in Thomasville, Ga., Flipper learned to read in 1864 by another slave.

He attended various schools in 1865 set up by the American Missionary Association. By 1873, Lt. Flipper had received an appointment to West Point and by 1877 became the Academy's first African-American graduate.

The media monitored and reported on Flipper's progress during his collegiate years and wrote that he was a tough and unassuming student who generally kept to himself and made few complaints.

In fact, a Thomasville paper in June of 1874 wrote of his parents (who had been slaves), "… among African-American men we know of none more honorable or more deserving than Flipper, the father of the West Point student of that name.

Flipper lived for many years in Thomasville as the servant of Mr. E. G. Ponder – was the best bootmaker we ever knew, and his character and deportment were ever those of a sensible, unassuming, gentlemanly man. Flipper possessed the confidence and respect of his master and all who knew him.

His wife, the mother of young Flipper, was Isabella, a servant in the family of Rev. R. H. Lucky, of Thomasville, and bore a character equal to that of her husband. Young Flipper was baptized in his infancy by the venerable Bishop Early.

From these antecedents we should as soon expect young Flipper to make his mark as any other African-American youth in the country."

Lt. Flipper faced numerous social and ethical challenges, but it seems that his response to them was positive and proactive. The life of Lt. Flipper seemed to be characterized by an emphasis on the values of excellence, integrity and service.

These values were apparently reinforced by Lt. Flipper's family and community. For a contemporary perspective on helping youth achieve excellence, we turn to Marian Wright Edelman, an African-American woman and founder of the Children's Defense Fund. For more than 30 years this esteemed author and advocate has publicly shared her passion for youth development.

In her text, "The Measure of Our Success," Edelman included a section called "25 lessons for life." Some of those lessons are as follows: (1) There is no free lunch. Don't feel entitled to anything you don't sweat and struggle for, (2) Set goals and work quietly and systematically toward them, (4) Never work just for money or for power. They won't save your soul or help you sleep at night, (8) Forming families is serious business, (10) Remember and help America remember that the fellowship of human beings is more important than the fellowship of race and class and gender in a democratic society, (15) Don't be afraid of hard work or teaching your children to work, (24) Be reliable. Be faithful. Finish what you start.

The diligence of Lt Henry O. Flipper and the wisdom of Marian Wright Edelman provide real examples and ideals which can help all persons, from all backgrounds, reach out to youth and help them develop a strategy for excellence.

# Arctic Services

## Services programs

***Editor's Note:*** *For a list of other classes and programs, call 377-3268 or surf to www.eielsonservices.com. Please RSVP for classes. Outdoor recreation rents ski equipment, Ice fishing equipment and various other outdoor equip - ment. Call 377-1232.*

### Programs

**Texas Hold 'em tournaments:** 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays at the Yukon Club. Call 377-1075.
**Deployed bowling for family members:** 5-7 p.m. Fridays at Arctic Nite Lanes. Call 377-1129.
**Trap shoot:** 5-9 p.m. Tuesdays at the skeet and trap range. Instruction, ammunition and loaner guns are available. Call 377-5338.
**FitFactor weekly events:** 2:30 p.m. Fridays at the youth center.
**Thrifty Tuesdays:** 5-8 p.m. $1 specials on bowling and food at Arctic Nite Lanes.
**Skeet league:** Log 50 targets per week. Any adult, active-duty member, family member, civilian or retiree may join the league. Call 377-5338.
**Chess club:** 5:30 p.m. Thursdays at the community center. Call 377-2642.
**Spades tournament:** 8 p.m. Fridays at theYukon Club.
**Bowling instruction:** Available at Arctic Nite Lanes. Call 377-1129.

### Teen Break open

Effective immediately, the Teen Break is open to 13- to 18-year-old members Friday and Saturday nights. An 80s Hair Band night is 7-11 p.m. today in the Teen Break. Techno night is set for 7 p.m., Saturday. Visit the youth center or call 377-3194.

### Toy-making class

A parent-child toy making class is slated for Feb. 25 at the wood hobby center. Cost is $15 and includes materials. Call 377-1168.

### Bench-press competition

The 2006 Bench-Press Competition takes place 10 a.m., Feb. 25 at the fitness center. There are separate divisions for men and women. Participation is free. Sign up by Feb. 22 at the fitness center front counter. Come cheer on your favorite competitor. Call 377-1925.

### Mardi Gras night

Fat Tuesday-Mardi Gras theme night is 5-8 p.m., Feb. 28. Enjoy Gumbo, Jambalaya and more. Call 377-5219.

## Eielson's Movie Reel

*All movies show at 7 p.m. at the base theater unless otherwise noted.*

**Tonight:** Grandma's Boy

(Allen Covert, Peter Dante) By day, 35-year-old Alex is the world's oldest video game tester. But by night, he is privately developing the next big game for the X-Box generation. When one of his roommates spends all the rent money, Alex is kicked out of his apartment and finds himself forced to live with his grandmother and her friends Grace and Bea. Rated R (drug use, language, crude and sexual humor, nudity) 96 minutes.

**Saturday:** Hoodwinked

(Animated) Chief Grizzly and Detective Bill Stork, investigate a domestic disturbance at Granny's cottage, involving a girl, a wolf and an axe. The charges are many: breaking and entering, disturbing the peace, intent to eat, and wielding an axe without a license. Rated PG (action and thematic elements) 83 minutes.

**Sunday:** Casanova

(Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller) When Giacomo Casanova discovered Francesca Bruni, he met his ultimate romantic match, succumbing to the only woman ever to refuse his charms--until he could prove himself to be the one man worthy of her romantic ideals. Not only a dashing rebel and wit, Casanova is also a vulnerable man who is chasing after love as Bishop Pucci of the Inquisition chases after him. Rated R (sexual content) 108 minutes.

**Thursday:** Grandma's Boy

### Today

❖Kids Night Out is set for 6:30-11 p.m. at the youth center. Members in Kindergarden through sixth grade may attend with parental permission form. Call 377-3194.

### Monday

❖A President's Day bowling special is noon to 5 p.m. Receive a basket meal and bowl three games for $10. Call 377-1129.

### Tuesday

❖A basic auto care class is available by appointment Tuesday, Wednesday or Feb. 24. For specific instruction, bring your vehicle. Cost is $25 for a 90-minute session. Materials are not included. Stop by the auto hobby shop or call 377-3190.

### Thursday

❖The Keystone Club job fair takes place 2-4 p.m. Feb. 23. Sign up in the youth center's teen room. Call 377-3194.

❖The No School bowling special is set for noon-5 p.m. Thursday and Feb. 24. See the President's Day special for details. Call 377-1129.

❖A Mardi Gras family carnival is 5-7 p.m. at the community center. For more information, call 377-2642.

### Friday

❖The Teen Break features Punk Rock 7-11 p.m. Friday and Old School Rock Saturday. Youth center members aged 13 and older may participate. For more information, call 377-3194.

## Community briefs

### 11th AF Awards Banquet

The 11th Air Force Annual Awards Banquet will be held March 3 at the Susitna Club on Elmendorf AFB. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. Attire is mess dress or semi-formal for military and coat and tie for civilians. Contact Master Sgt. Scott Shaver at 377-4734 or your first sergeant for ticket information--deadline is Feb. 23.

### Tech Expo

A Career Tech Expo is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Hutchison Institue of Technology. Employers will be available to speak with high-school students, spouses or anyone else interested in technical field careers. Contact Michelle Renfrew at 455-2833 or Jeanette Hayden at FNSBSD, 452-2000 ext. 424. for more information.

### Blood Drive

The 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels management flight and the Fairbanks Blood Bank are hosting a blood drive from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 24 at the Joint Mobility Complex. Walk-in donations will be available on a limited basis. Contact Staff Sgt. Richard Bass at 377-1180 or Tech. Sgt. Kathryn McMillan at 377-4206 to schedule an appointment.

### Anderson PTO Meeting

The Anderson Parent Teacher Organization meets at 5 p.m.Tuesday in the multi-purpose room at Anderson Elementary School. Child care will be provided. E-mail *andersonpto@yahoo.com* or call 372-2123 for more information.

### Tobacco Cessation Class

A three-session Tobacco Cessation Class is available Tuesday, March 7, 14 and 21 from 11 a.m. to noon. For more information and/or to register, call the Health and Wellness Center at 377-6662.

### Lost and Found

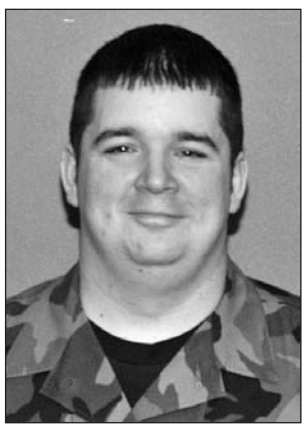
Individuals who have lost certain personal items may get lucky and reunite with their goods. The 354th Security Forces Squadron maintains a lost and found collection, containing items such as: 58 watches, two MP3 players, one CD player, one brown wallet, several necklaces and bracelets, one set of keys, three cell phones, one pocket knife and several personal driver's licenses. Call 354th SFS at 377-5276.

# HALL OF FAME

***The Hall of Fame is a program for group commanders to recognize Airmen for excellent job performance.***

**Airman**
**Katharine Cassandra**
*Dental Technician*
354th MDOS
Gulf Shores, Ala.

**"On station only four months, she easily sets the pace for her peers. She quickly knocked out 80 percent of her core task training, permitting interim training outside of her career field. Selected by flight leadership to cover dental laboratory duties during the six-week absence of the dental lab NCOIC, she very efficiently and effectively managed the caseload with no interruption to patient care."**



**Staff Sgt.**
**Joshua Robson**
*Vehicle Operator/Dispatcher*
354th LRS
Jacksonville, Fla.

**"On a daily basis, he schedules ground transportation for more than 50 customers while constantly maintaining the status and accountability of 156 vehicles. On any given day, he can be found simultaneously orchestrating movements of deployers, scheduling delivery of aircraft parts, and ensuring a DV receives timely transportation. His initiative and dedication to duty sets the example for everyone to follow and sets him apart from his peers."**

**Master Sgt.**
**Don Fenton**
*Historian*
354th FW
Mt. Pleasant, Pa.

**"In addition to performing his duties/responsibilities as the sole Historian for the 354th FW, he goes above and beyond by designing/proposing/executing improvement projects for Amber Hall. Display cases, framed pictures, furniture modification/replacement … its all in a day's work for him. Recently, Sergeant Fenton designed and executed a total office restructure for the 354 FW/CC. Col. Scott lauded the new changes. Sergeant Fenton is well-deserving of this award."**

**Tech. Sgt.**
**Marty Knapp**
*Claims NCOIC*
354th FW
Grand Island, Neb.

**"During the month of January he was running almost entirely solo in a section normally manned by three people. He has put in enormous hours – sometimes 70 hours per week – to keep the claims process flowing so Eielson personnel will get paid in a timely manner for their claims. In addition to his huge workload, he has been training a new troop on the Eielson way while still managing to get the job done. His reply when asked about the long hours he worked, "Whatever it takes."**

**Tech. Sgt.**
**Anthony Nordin**
*NCOIC Radiology Element*
354th MDSS
Libby, Mont.

**"He obtained more than $15,000 for digital radiology cassettes and saved $2,000 by researching and ordering film directly rather than through an x-ray supply vendor. As a role-model NCO, he recently became the diagnostics and therapeutics flight education and training monitor and his dedication was instrumental to the 354th MDG receiving an "Outstanding" rating on the last base training SAV."**

# Eielson volunteers support Yukon Quest

by Amy Boaro
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Volunteer

In search of a unique Alaskan experience, volunteers from Eielson took advantage of an opportunity to man the Yukon Quest's North Pole checkpoint.

"This is one of the two big dog races in the world, that I know of," said Master Sgt. Ken Weinand, 354th Medical Operations Squadron. "I don't think you could get this experience anywhere else."

Although the North Pole checkpoint is not an official stop for the mushers, they do have the responsibility to turn in their "bib," (racing number). It is also a chance for them to "drop" any sick or injured dogs. When a contestant drops a dog the animal is left with the musher's handler.

Capt. Samuel Miller, the quest's project officer for North Pole, said he didn't have any problems stirring up interest. He sent out an e-mail on Feb. 2 to recruit volunteers, and within two hours he had filled his 60-person quota, and was still receiving volunteer requests.

"The Air Force is all about service," he said, "A little service is good for the soul."

Tech Sgt. Sonya Foster, 354th Contracting Squadron, said watching the teams run through the checkpoints was the highlight of her experience as a volunteer. "The interaction of the mushers and the dogs is phenomenal," she said. "The dogs listen better than my kids."

**Right, Lt. Col. Cindy Sabo, Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, volunteers as one of the many dog handlers needed at the check points along the route of the Yukon Quest. Above, Laura Havens spouse of Staff Sgt. Steven Havens, 354th Aircraft Maintenace Squadron, volunteers as an official time keeper, working with Yukon Quest Representative Ray Pulsifer at the North check point. The 1,000 mile International Dog Sled Race rotates the start and finish line between Whitehorse, Canada and Fairbanks each year.**

Photos by Staff Sgt. Julie Avey

# *Icemen children carve frozen masterpieces*

Photos by Airman 1st Class Justin Weaver

**Caitlin Evans, daughter of Steven and Tech. Sgt. Cassandra Evans, 354th Maintenance Operations Squadron, uses a chisel to transform a block of ice into a work-of-art during Camp Kidsicle Feb. 10.**

**Left, Aaron Evans, son of Elizabeth and Staff Sgt. David Collins, 354th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, concentrates on chiseling an ice block. More than 30 Icemen children from 3rd-8th grade gathered outside the chapel to learn how to sculpt, cut and carve blocks of ice into whales, hearts, school mascots and many other shapes during Camp Kidsicle. Camp Kidsicle is sponsored by the Alaska TRACKS program in conjunction with Access Eielson. Alaska TRACKS is open to children in third grade and above. Call Candi Dierenfield at 377-4130.**