



Thule Times



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New ABG, SPTS, SFS CCs take command

By 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers
821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

Col. Lou Christensen relinquished command of the 821st Air Base Group to Col. Tom Walker during a change of command ceremony June 19 at Thule Air Base; Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing commander, presided over the ceremony.

In a subsequent ceremony, Lt. Col. Bob Orwig relinquished command of the 821st Support Squadron to Maj. Neil Wentz.

Maj. Robert Winters relinquished command of the 821st Security Forces Squadron to Capt. Kiley Stinson June 12.

Christensen has been reassigned to Headquarters, Air Force Space Command at Peterson AFB, Colo.; Orwig has been reassigned as deputy commander, 21st Maintenance Group; Winters is the security forces commander at Los Angeles AFB, Calif.

Walker spelled out his philosophy for the year-old air base group with a statement bringing everybody back to the basics, or rather, to their "ABC's—Anticipate, Be prepared, and Communicate."

"We must anticipate the future and try not to miss the boat," said Walker. "We must be prepared for future opportunities and for any emergencies that may arise. And, we have to communicate—up, down, and sideways. In my experience, most any problem could have been avoided with better communication."

"By putting mission first and people

always as well as practicing our ABC's, I'm confident Team Thule will continue to excel," said the new commander.

The 821st Air Base Group operates and maintains Thule Air Base in support of missile warning and space surveillance operations missions, as well as satellite telemetry, tracking, and control missions.

Walker entered the Air Force in 1983 as a graduate of Texas A&M University ROTC program. He has served in various assignments starting as a manpower analyst at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. After several assignments to include Headquarters United States Air Force, he served as the 2nd Space Launch Squadron's operations officer and then as commander of the 30th Operations Support Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, Calif. Afterwards, he attended Air War College as a student and upon graduation became a professor in the Department of Future Conflicts at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Following an assignment as executive officer to the Vice Commander, Air Force Space Command, he was selected as director, Air Force Space Command Commander's Action Group.

Wentz graduated from California State University, Sacramento, and was commissioned into the Air Force in June 1987, reporting for active duty in April 1988. He was first assigned to Vandenberg AFB, Calif., as a mechanical systems engineer in Air Force Systems Command serving as a Titan launch systems engineer, group



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Col. Thomas Walker, 821st Air Base Group commander, stands with Maj. Neil Wentz, 821st Support Squadron commander and Lt. Col. Bob Orwig, former 821st SPTS commander, after the support squadron change of command ceremony June 19.

executive officer and squadron section commander. He then began his civil engineer career holding the positions of military construction project engineer, facility maintenance chief, readiness flight chief, and chief of environmental at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., and RAF Molesworth in the United Kingdom. He has served at Headquarters, Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va., and most recently as the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron's operations flight commander, Luke AFB, Ariz.

Days until compliance inspection (as of July 9):

54

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Tech, Master promotion rates down

13 at Thule earn their next stripe

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)—Air Force officials have selected 4,832 of 18,903 eligible technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant, a 25.56 percent selection rate, and 7,116 of 32,501 eligible staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant, a 21.89 percent selection rate.

At Thule, 13 people were selected for promotion to the next highest grade. The following technical sergeants were selected for promotion: Paul Perreault, Christopher Sloan, Eric Thomas, Melvin Woods, Regina Graham, Terri Hartmann and Timothy Murray; the following staff sergeants were selected for promotion: Johnny Harris, Christopher Smith, James Everman, John Franklin, Robert Seaborn and Joseph Pack.

A higher retention rate—opening fewer vacancies for each rank—was one reason promotion rates are lower than last year, Air Force Personnel Center officials here said.

The final tally will increase as tests are received and scored for deployed airmen, said officials. They have 30 to 60 days after they return to test.

"People who have been deployed will be allowed to test when they return, and we'll automatically consider them for promotion. We do this on a monthly basis until everyone is considered," said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Billingsley, enlisted promotions branch chief here.

The master sergeant selection rate dropped 7.67 percent from last year, while this year's technical sergeant rate fell 11.62 percent from last year.

"Overall, we are seeing tech and master sergeant promotion rates drop down to about where we suggested as we reach the goal of increasing the 'top five' enlisted grades from 48 to 56 percent (of the enlisted force)," said



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Staff Sgt. Johnny Harris, 12th Space Warning Squadron, reenlists on top of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System radar June 26. 2nd Lt. Maggie Krase administered the oath to Harris, who learned of his selection to technical sergeant the same day.

Billingsley. "It's important to keep this in perspective—these are the fifth-highest rates of the last 20 years. That's pretty remarkable and should encourage people that the next stripe is still well within reach."

Air Force officials will release both promotion lists the first duty hour of June 26 (June 27 for those units across the international date line). The complete list of selectees will be posted to AFPC's Web page, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom/>, by 6 p.m. CDT on June 27.

People who tested can expect their score notices in early July, allowing them to see just how their promotion fitness examination and specialty knowledge test scores rank against others within their Air Force specialty code. Each person can also get an electronic copy of his or her score notice, available June 27, by logging into the virtual military personnel flight at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>.

The average master sergeant selectee

score was 340.99 points, based on the following:

- 134.26 for performance reports
- 75.06 for promotion fitness exam
- 66.05 for specialty knowledge test
- 27.21 for time in grade
- 35.94 for time in service
- 11.88 for decorations

The average master sergeant selectee has 3.45 years time in grade and 17.06 years in service. People selected will be promoted to master sergeant from August to July 2004.

The average technical sergeant selectee score was 321.01 points, based on the following:

- 132.73 for performance reports
- 71.83 for promotion fitness exam
- 55.89 for specialty knowledge test
- 35.13 for time in grade
- 26.70 for time in service
- 6.13 for decorations

The average technical sergeant selectee has 4.80 years time in grade and 12.22 years in service. People selected will be promoted to technical sergeant



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

A firefighter lights the bonfire for Sankt Hans, a traditional Danish Midsummer celebration, June 23.

Sankt Hans

Bonfire highlights midsummer celebration

Editor's note: Thule Air Base has celebrated Sankt Hans since 1975. The following information is provided courtesy of the Web site, <http://www.sprog.auc.dk/ecsp/news/stbans.htm>.

Danes have celebrated midsummer since Odin's and Thor's heydays. The summer solstice—the longest day of the year—brings on the Midsummer celebration, the so-called Sankt Hans, always occurring June 23. After Sankt Hans the days get shorter until the winter solstice in December.

In ancient times people believed that nature was filled with a force which it had absorbed from the sun on the longest days of the year. Previously, the superstitious believed that this force was almost magical. On the eve of Sankt Hans women would collect many of the herbs they would need during the year to cure illnesses.

Another belief was that on the night of Sankt Hans that water in certain lakes

transformed into medicine. Some drank and/or bathed in water.

This tradition of drinking/bathing in holy water has practically disappeared—in contrast to the tradition of bonfires. People said that they burned the Sankt Hans flames as flames of joy.

The light from the fires, usually made of straw bundles, was believed to keep all evil—witches and other evil powers—away from the almost holy Midsummer Night.

The Sankt Hans witch is burned on the Sankt Hans bonfire as a continuation of the belief that witches and evil powers are particularly dangerous during the eve Sankt Hans.

Today, the Sankt Hans bonfire and the Midsummer party are regarded as nice traditions where people sing traditional midsummer songs and spend time with their family and friends.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

A wooden cut-out of a witch is burned atop the bonfire during Sankt Hans, a Danish celebration of midsummer. Tradition has it that the power of evil peaks at the time of the summer solstice—the bonfire is used to ward off that evil. Today, the midsummer celebration is mainly just a time to gather with friends and family in celebration.

Greenland National Flag Day



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Thule Air Base military personnel stand in formation for a retreat ceremony June 20. Three flags, the Greenlandic, Danish, and U.S. flags, were taken down and folded during the ceremony.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Two Team Thule members raise the Greenlandic flag on Greenland National Flag Day during a reveille ceremony June 20. This year marked the 18th Anniversary of Greenland National Flag Day.

July Birthdays

Senior Airman Latisha Miller	2
Maj. Jeremiah Shetler	4
Master Sgt. Rick Shaffer	6
Staff Sgt. Christopher Knabe	8
Staff Sgt. Matthew Lange	9
Maj. Michael Gresham	10
Airman 1st Class Brian Fowler	15
Airman 1st Class Alberto Padilla	20
Airman 1st Class Alexander Castro	23
Tech. Sgt. Eric Thomas	23
Staff Sgt. Douglas Wrobel	23
Lt. Col. Thomas Doyne	30
Tech. Sgt. Colleen Kettler	31

Take me out to the Ball Game!



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

David Bader, 821st Support Squadron, sends the ball out to center field. The support squadron played Greenland Contractors June 26 during an exhibition game, of sorts. The support squadron won the game with a score too high to mention, however, GC may very well become a force to contend with after a few more games. Cops beat Ops earlier that day.

Commander's Trophy Standings

As a means of increasing participation in the intramural sports program, recreation services will present the Commander's Trophy to the organization showing the highest achievement in athletics based on a point system.

The Fitness & Sports Center will monitor the point system, publish and distribute the current standings to each section at least quarterly at the regularly scheduled Sports Advisory Committee meetings.

Here are the point standings as of July 1:

OPS:	515
SFS:	415
SPTS:	390
ABG:	360

Send story ideas to the Thule Times at ThuleTimes@thule.af.mil.

Want to submit a story or photograph? Call the 821st Air Base Group Public Affairs office at ext. 5678, or stop by Bldg. 461, rm. 9

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

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Ops wins annual Thule Triathlon



Left: Thomas Doyne rows neck and neck with Kel Hannum during the canoeing portion of the Thule Triathlon. Below left: Bicyclists begin the 8 mile ride up and back from Detachment 3. Below: Troy Beringer crosses the finish line after the 3 mile run leg of the triathlon. Ops took first in the team competition followed by the CE team and the SFS team. Troy Beringer placed first in the individual competition.

Photos by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers



Military monologues: “Be a leader”

Editor's Note: May 2003, Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Haynes, 821st Air Base Group superintendent, offered all at Thule an opportunity to participate in “Military Monologues,” a means to reflect on the meaning of Memorial Day and military service in general. The Thule Times will reprint those articles in the coming months.

**By Capt. Todd Rupright
821st Support Squadron**

We all see leadership from a different perspective. Some see it from a commander. Some see it from a shop foreman. Some find their examples from history and books. From those examples, both good and bad, we formulate our own leadership style. Who have you looked up to and who have you studied?

All of us start to study leaders at a young age (even if we don't consciously realize it), but I really started paying attention in college. I went to a small, public college in the Shenandoah Valley, a place with a deep history. The college I attended has some pretty well known alumni and professors, both current and past. From the first moments I stepped on campus I was under the watchful eye of some motivated upper-classmen. Most were unrelenting in their demands. Some instructed patiently, repeatedly going over instructions until we performed a certain mundane task to absolute perfection. Others took the more direct, and usually loud, nose-to-nose approach. During my 4.5 years there (no comments from the peanut gallery), I watched my superiors leading from the front and back, and both quietly and not so quietly. From each of them I took something with me. I'd like to share some of the lessons I've learned from those I've studied, heard about, experienced and watched.

Leading from the front. I'm talking about those who have the ability to take any situation, formulate a course of action, and act upon it right then and



Photo by Peter Klingspor Rasmussen

821st Security Forces Squadron personnel participate as the flag detail for a recent retreat ceremony at Thule Air Base.

there. One of the upper-classmen in charge of my group seemed to be a machine. He could do no wrong. (Of course he wasn't perfect. He only seemed that way to an impressionable youth). He knew what to do in every situation. He was calm, cool and collected one second; intense and loud the next. He had the keen ability to create a vision for our “benefit” that fit a particular situation - to induce a certain reaction. I watched and listened. Tried to figure out how his mind worked - how he made his decisions. How many of you look at our public leaders the same way while trying to learn the method to their “madness.” How about the leaders here at Thule and within the Air Force? What can you take from them?

Leading from the back. You don't have to be the one in front of God and country to lead. You can stand up for what is right when it may be unpopular. Speak your mind when something is amiss. An example: a certain man was in charge of training for the 1st Infantry Division during World War I. One of

his commanding generals was in attendance observing the training grounds. Without getting into the details, the General made an observation (a wrong observation in the man's mind). As the General was about to walk away, this person stuck his arm out to stop the General. To make a correction or clarification? It didn't really matter. He spoke his mind about the General's observations. He said what he felt was right. No one interrupted this General. After this “incident”, his peers thought the man's career was over, when in fact it had just begun. About 3 months later a request came from the General's office for this person to become a member of his staff. This man spent 15 years in the Army before being promoted to Captain (oh...I can't even imagine)... his career went to the highest ranks of the Army, he went on to become a United States Secretary of State, and become the first professional soldier to

Continued on Page 8

AFSPC/CC July 4 Message

By Gen. Lance Lord
Commander, AFSPC

Today marks the 227th anniversary of declaring our independence as a free nation. As we proudly display the American flag around our nation – on Main Street, at ground zero in New York, in Oklahoma City, at Pearl Harbor -- and with our forces around the world, let us all pause to reflect on what it means to secure the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Our republic, the United States

of America, is unique in the history of the world. We are a free and open society that runs our government instead of our government ruling the people. We truly value each individual in our society.

To secure, protect and preserve this liberty, the baton has been passed from the long line of heroes in places like Lexington, Bunker Hill, Yorktown, Gettysburg, St. Mihiel, Guadalcanal, Anzio, Normandy, Pusan, Khe Sanh and An-Nasiriyah. Our military is always on duty for this vital cause. Only

those who have paid the ultimate price know the true cost of freedom.

Our continued success depends on great Americans in the service of our country ensuring the government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the Earth - our uniformed military members, our civil servants, our contractors, and our community leaders.

Beccy joins me in saying how very grateful we are for your service, and we wish you a safe and happy holiday.

“Be a Leader”—continued from Page 7

receive the Nobel Peace Prize. What did I take from this? Do your job well as you can. Do your job right. Speak up when you need to, but pick your battles.

Leading by example. This goes hand in hand with leading from the back. You don't have to be the highest-ranking person to lead. In fact, you can be the low man on the totem pole and be a leader. I'm going back to my days as a freshman. The upper-classmen who so closely watched over me taught me something the first day - something I keep with me today. They taught me to keep my appearance and bearing up to “snuff”. I kept myself looking good, kept my bearing, and helped my classmates with things I could do well. In turn, they helped me with skills they could do well. I wasn't in charge. Heck, I barely knew which way was up! I just tried to do little things to make my life, and those of my classmates, a bit easier. Was I a leader? No one came out and said, “Todd, you did a great job at leading some of your classmates today”, nor should anyone expect that to happen. I think I helped in some small way. In this way, an Airman Basic can be a leader amongst NCOs, Chiefs, and Officers. In this case, we can do the same in our daily lives here at Thule. The best part is this takes almost no time and effort.

Learning from mistakes. I think this can be the easiest to spot. We all have seen bad leadership at one time or

another. One of my university leaders used to do something that would drive me crazy. He never listened. I would walk into his office with a request. Before I even had a chance to say my piece he would tell me no. It didn't seem to matter what I said, or didn't say. He had his mind made up before I stepped into his office. It's easy to critique. The hard part is pressing on and learning from it - making you smarter. I learned to always listen. When someone comes into your office - even if you're planning on saying no - it's best hearing them out. Listen to their side. You still may say no in the end, but they may change your mind by helping you see the situation from a different perspective. I've changed my mind many times in these situations. Your troops always respect you for hearing them out.

What I want to get across is that there is no perfect form of leadership. One leadership style may work wonders in one situation while it may fail in a different set of circumstances. I'm no leadership scholar. These are just some things I learned through experience. Each person will have his or her own style of leadership. Not everyone is a born leader, but that does not mean everyone can't be a good leader. Learn as you go. Correct as you deem fit. Lead when given the chance, and lead well! As General “Stonewall” Jackson once said, “You may be whatever you resolve to be”.

So, be a leader.

Stolen!

The 821st Air Base Group and 821st Support Squadron colors have been stolen. Anybody with information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individuals responsible for this heinous crime should call Security Forces.

The Lighter Side of Thule



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers
 1st Lt. Kel Hannum, swings, misses, and ends up buying the beer (left). Above, the stars of the Greg Brady Show before their last show—who looks at a man's shoes?

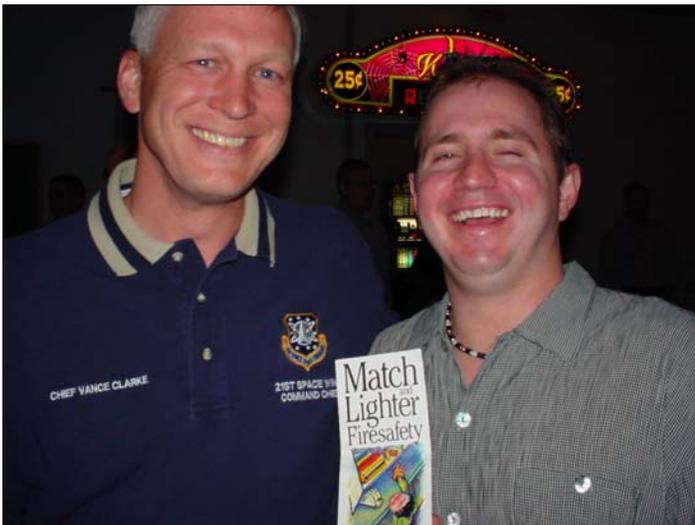


Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Why is Brady Vaira in so many of these pictures...because he's such an easy target! Above, Brady receives sage advice from the 21st Space Wing command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Vance Clarke. On the right...an impromptu crud game—what's the world coming to?



Thule Times Editorial Staff

Col. Thomas Walker, 821st Air Base Group commander
 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers, chief, public affairs
 Add your name here as a staff writer!—call PA at 5678

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Have a picture or story for "The Lighter Side of Thule," submit it to thuletimes@thule.af.mil or bring it over to public affairs, Bldg. 461, rm. 9