



Commanders Action Line

Call ext 3400 if you have questions or comments about Thule.

Reminder

Tax Time is Here! E-File Available!

Contact your Base Volunteer Income Tax Advisor for tax filing and questions.

Capt Elizabeth Ferrill
x2411

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Here Comes the Sun!

Thule AB Hosts the 1st Annual First Light Music Festival



By Capt Elizabeth Ferrill 821 SPTS/SC

The idea was ambitious. To hold a music festival at the Top of the World. Planning began in early December and an international team of experts (okay a bunch of folks from around the base—but we are from different countries) was convened to study the issue.

The meetings were intense, but eventually, the committee's efforts paid off. In December the plan was to have three bands come to Thule and

(Please turn to page 16)

Rockin' the crowd at the Thule First Light Festival, Frank Chiovaro and his band Brickfoot were the American representatives at the international event.

HAWC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Thursday
27 Mar 2003
1600 hrs

Base Fitness Center
(Snacks will be served.)

Commander's Corner



By Col Louis Christensen 821 ABG/CC

Change is in the wind, the sun is back; the temperature has gotten colder; and the Christmas lights are off. Those of us who arrived in the summer now are looking to finalize and institutionalize the improvements we've made to Thule and finish off our remaining ceramic projects.

Politically, the winds of change are blowing around the globe. War clouds continue to gather over Iraq and our brethren are gathering in the Middle East to do whatever the President and the Secretary of Defense have decided are in the best interest of the United States. The Thule Defense Area became smaller on 20 February, as US, Danish and Greenlandic leaders gathered in Nuuk (the capital of Greenland) to formally return the Dundas peninsula to Greenlandic authority. A more independent

mind government was voted into office in December, here in Greenland, and the President's Missile Defense initiative has become a major discussion item here at Thule. In order to facilitate the public debate in Denmark and Greenland regarding whether or not to support the US request to include the Thule BMEWS radar in the sensor

network for the missile defense initiative, Thule Air Base will be hosting a series of Danish, Greenlandic and European political and media figures throughout March.



Mr. Hans Enoksen, Greenland Home Rule Premier, Mr. Friis Arne Pedersen, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary, and Sally Light, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US embassy in Copenhagen sign the Dundas Memorandum of Understanding in Nuuk on 20 Feb 03.

While the express purpose of the visits is to discuss and learn about the Missile Defense Initiative and the impacts to Thule Air Base, I plan to highlight Team Thule. The things we do here, how we do them, the cooperative international team that makes up Team Thule will be the highlight of the visits. The American, Danish, Canadian and

Ms. Sally Light and Col Louis Christensen smile for the camera shortly after the signing ceremony.



Greenlandic citizens who make up Team Thule are the most remarkable collection of people I've ever had the pleasure of working with. Regardless of the Danish decision on the Missile Defense initiative, everyone will come away from their visits to Thule deeply impressed with the quality of the people who serve at the "Top of the World."

I've included a few photos taken in Nuuk, as most of us will not have the opportunity to visit that city. Nuuk is about 15 degrees warmer than Thule; there is open water all year long; there is much more snow and it hosts about 14,000 residents. Consumer products are at least twice as expensive as here. The town is very hilly, colorful and European in character. Only Danish Kroner can be used there and the city boasts many miles of cross-country ski trails and a pretty good downhill ski area supported by two rope tows. It is very much a harbor town with about five harbors. The international airport that serves Nuuk is about 250 miles away at the former USAF base at Sondstrom Air Base. The airport at Nuuk is only 3800 feet and not capable of supporting trans-Atlantic flights. There are no roads to connect any of the towns and villages in Greenland. Therein lies one of the greatest challenges to Greenland becoming an independent nation. Inter-city commerce has great difficulty being developed in addition to international commerce.

The protestors were very civil and found the occasion of the signing to be a great opportunity to protest a number of things, including: a possible war in Iraq, the missile defense initiative, the colonial attitude of Denmark towards Greenland and suspected environmental issues on Dundas peninsula. Overall, the protest just shows democracy is alive and well in Greenland.

Thule Tidbits

Air Force Personnel Center Introduces One Stop Shopping — AFPC, Randolph AFB, TX, has developed a single point of contact for all questions on issues ranging from customer service and performance reports to relocations and retirements. Contact DSN 665-5000 or contact.center@randolph.af.mil...**New Service Dress Nametag** — AAFES is now selling the new brushed silver service dress nametag. Place your order at www.aafes.com...**Website with Important Education Information** — For news on scholarships, schools with veterans discounts and reasons to attend or not, check out the commercial site: www.military.com/Careers...**Upgraded Lights and Sound** — Technicians have been working feverishly at the Top of the World Club to install brand new lights, speakers and even new projection screens. Come and check out the new sound of karaoke on Friday nights starting at 2100 hrs...**"Urban Moves" Dancers Coming to Thule** — On 21 and 22 March, the Urban Moves dancers are scheduled to perform at the TOW Club. Hailing from Washington, D.C., the team is sure to provide a great show, so come out and show your support...**Intramural Basketball Starts Soon** — Start practicing that trash talk! Commander's trophy points will be on the line again as intramural basketball gets started in mid-March...**Health & Wellness Center to Open** — The HAWC is scheduled to open on 27 March with a brief ribbon cutting ceremony...

Commander's Trophy Points Update

OPS:	225
ABG:	220
SFS:	185
SPTS:	175

Standings as 1 March 2003

Air Force Receives Newest Global Hawk

by Ms. Leigh Anne Bierstine
AF Flight Test Center PA

The seventh Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle touched down here Feb. 14 after its flight from Air Force Plant 42 in nearby Palmdale, CA, where it was built by lead government contractor Northrop Grumman.

This latest Global Hawk is the program's final advanced concept technology platform and is slated for use as a test vehicle to support development and upgrade efforts.

The aircraft incorporates all of the improvements made to the Global Hawk to date in support of its current acquisition strategy, known as spiral development. The strategy is expected to deliver initial Global Hawk capabilities sooner than more conventional acquisition methods.

"The new arrival is the first true test aircraft and will define all future production models of the Global Hawk," said Lt. Col. Michael Guidry, director of the Global Vigilance Combined Test Force here, who controlled the

The seventh Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle lands at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., on Feb. 14. (Photo by Mike Charlie)



aircraft's first landing at Edwards.

Many of the improvements made to the reconnaissance aircraft stem from its early operational debut in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Key to these improvements is the new integrated mission management computer system, which controls all of the flying and navigation operations of the aircraft. After minor modifications here, the test force will begin a full-scale developmental test program, which includes an evaluation of the new computer system.

"The events of the last year have proven there is a real-world need for the capability this aircraft brings to our warfighters," said Guidry. "The aircraft will allow us to continue supporting those who take this system into combat by ensuring the improvements that have been integrated into this version are performing as expected."

Vance Greenway, Northrop Grumman's lead Global Hawk test pilot, controlled the aircraft during the takeoff phase and Lt. Col. Tom Thibodeau of the 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron, an Air Combat Command unit at Edwards, conducted in-flight tests.

The Global Hawk is designed to provide battlefield commanders with near real-time, high-resolution, reconnaissance imagery. Flying at extremely high altitudes, Global Hawk can survey large geographic areas giving military decision-makers the most current information about enemy resources and personnel.

The test force at Edwards continues to work closely with the Reconnaissance Systems Program Office at Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, said Guidry. The program office is responsible for moving Global Hawk toward low-rate initial production. The first two production Global Hawks are respectively slated for delivery to the Air Force by September and December.

FREEZE FRAME!



Throughout February, Team Thule fought on the battlefield of the volleyball court. Every Tuesday and Thursday, the five teams battled match after match to see who was the best. In the end the team from Operations (including 12 SWS and Det 3) took home first place.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Ch, Capt Joel Hampton
821 ABG/HC

Growing up, I was surrounded by adults who used figures of speech as a sort of shorthand for virtually everything. My grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, teachers, and even my Pastor used these well-worn sayings to express themselves: "I was nervous as a cat in a room full of rockers." "He's got one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel." "He was three sheets to the wind." "She was as mad as a wet hen." The list goes on and on. I knew instantly what each of these meant. Perhaps you do, as well.

Another saying that I heard quite often, but was a little less clear on was, "I'm giving it up for Lent." The only lint I was familiar with was the kind that Mom pulled out of the dryer and threw in the washroom trashcan or the kind that inevitably covered my black, wool coat when I was going some place that I needed to look particularly sharp for. Why on earth would anyone give anything

up in exchange for something as useless as lint? All I knew was that it was always something someone didn't like that they were giving up, such as liver and onions, castor oil, or spinach.

Once grown, I began to learn that people weren't giving up things they didn't like for lint, but, instead, for Lent. Lent is the holy season in the Christian calendar that consists of the six weeks or so from Ash Wednesday to Easter. In the early days of the Church, there developed a tradition of marking Church members with ashes in the shape of a cross. The ashes symbolized repentance and sorrow for their sins and the cross signified forgiveness of their sins through Christ's death. From the day they were marked with ashes, Ash Wednesday, until Easter, Church members were to devote themselves to prayer and fasting. Soon, people started giving up certain pleasures or luxuries, such as meat, alcohol, rich foods, and so forth, during Lent as a means of showing their repentance and focusing their minds on matters of faith.

Practically every world religion has an element of this sort of practice: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, etc. Many see it as an important form of self-discipline. In other words, if I can train myself to live without cigars, or desserts, or whatever for a limited period of time, then I can discipline myself to handle the bigger challenges I face in life for extended periods of time. I have learned from personal experience how true this is.

This Lent season at Thule, you or someone you know may choose to use 5 March-19 April as a time for personal growth through giving something up for Lent. If that proves to be the case, I encourage you to take that effort seriously and show respect to the religious traditions of those around you. Even though "giving it up for Lent" was usually said tongue-in-cheek when I heard it growing up, it's actually an ancient and honorable practice, "cross my heart."

March Birthdays

SSgt Shaun A. Berndt	12 SWS/DO	9 Mar
SrA William J. Chapin	821 SFS/SF	22 Mar
SSgt Johnny L. Harris Jr.	821 SFS/SF	15 Mar
TSgt Terri L. Hartmann	821 SPTS/OS	20 Mar
MSgt Charles R. Lawber	821 SPTS/LG	12 Mar
SrA Jeffrey M. Pack	821 ABG/FM	8 Mar
MSgt Delano H. Rasmussen	12 SWS/DO	10 Mar
A1C Paul M. Shoemaker	821 SFS/SF	2 Mar

Cops' Corner

By Maj Robert Winters
821 SFS/CC

Like all American military bases across the globe, the threat of looming war has increased Thule AB's Force Protection Condition (FPCON) from Alpha to Bravo, an increased and more predictable threat. The change is not due to any specific threat against the base or any direct information, but just in way of caution due to increased world tensions.

The actual changes around the base due to the change in FPCON to Bravo are small, but changes in everyone's attitudes should be significant. If anyone sees anything out of place or unusual, especially concerning our mission-related resources, they should immediately call Security Forces at 3234 so it can be checked out. Additionally, only sponsored visitors are allowed access to base, so unusually dressed persons from the Thule-standard parkas and GC uniforms should be called in too so we can ensure they are authorized by the Danish Liaison Office or the Air Force.

Besides being more vigilant and less assuming, everyone should pay closer attention to security concerns close to home and their office. Secure doors that are not in immediate use, like to your dorm room when you are not there and infrequently used storage closets at work. Another area where all can contribute is by cooperating fully with persons checking IDs or randomly searching hand-carried items as you enter public facilities.

Everyone always plays a part in the safety and security of the base. This is especially true now that we are in FPCON Bravo.

Air Traffic Control Awards



Capt Brady Vaira, 821 SPTS/OS, was named the 2002 Colonel Derrel L. Dempsey Officer of the Year award. Colonel Derrel L. Dempsey Officer of the Year. This award is given Airfield Operations officer who contributed to an outstanding degree to enhance the quality, safety, or efficiency of the airfield and air traffic control systems. SMSgt Bobby Posey, 821 SPTS/OS, won the AFSPC 2002 Air Traffic Control Enlisted Manager of the Year. SMSgt Posey is the Complex Chief Controller of the only TRACAB (radar control in the tower cab) in the USAF.

THULE CELEBRATES THE NATIONAL PRAYER DINNER



On 20 Feb 03, Thule AB held the National Prayer Dinner, Thule's compromise to the annual National Prayer Breakfast held at Air Forces bases Air Force wide. Ch Capt James Parrish organized the event and the speaker was Ch Col Richard Hartwell, AFSPC Command Chaplain. In addition, Ch Major Joseph Safraniec, a visiting priest also attended. The National Prayer Breakfast began in 1953 with President Dwight D. Eisenhower.



Thule Memories From 1987-88

By Ch, Maj Joseph Safranec, USAFR

Several months ago I was reminiscing about my military career and thought about my tour at Thule (1987-88). I had heard that the old chapel was closed and that there was a remodeled flat top for the new chapel and I said to myself I would like to go back and check it out.

Little did I know that a few weeks later I would get a phone call from ARPC in Denver asking if I would go TDY to Thule. I readily accepted the assignment and I started remembering.

When I was first told that I was going to Thule everyone asked what did I do to get that assignment. I am sure all of you who are reading this article can identify with this. A chaplain who had been there sent me videos and pictures of Thule but I just could not identify with them until I actually came here and saw the real thing.

In the old days we all got here on a C-141 from McGuire which was a rough ride, you had to wear hearing protection, and you never knew if the floor heater would be working so you brought a brief case to put your feet on to keep them from freezing. You never put your drink on the floor because it would be frozen. Sometimes the heater on the plane did not work either. Just getting here was a challenge and you never took the Wednesday flight if you could avoid it because you were held up 13 hours traveling to St Johns, Goosebay, and Sondrestrom. At each arrival you had to go through customs and stay in a clean room.

The weather here is much warmer and I was surprised to find out that the temperature was only -27 because back in Minneapolis it was -14 and -27 chill factor. In the year I was here it usually was -75 in winter and we were told don't worry about the

chill factor because at that temperature it does not matter. Colonel Pine called me to his office after I had been here a few days and he said, "Father Joe, I have a list of troops I want you to keep an eye on because they are having a difficult time in the darkness." In those days we did not have lamps and BMEWS was completely opened up and the SPs had to guard that whole tunnel with archies running through and a young SP just out of tech school all alone guarding this God forsaken tunnel which was -50 degrees.

I saw two commanders come and both of them worked tirelessly to improve the living and work situation. Many of those strides have continued as I can observe now.

A lot of things have changed here, consolidations of base facilities, renovations, less civilians and military, email which is terrific for the troops to keep up with family and friends, more time for morale calls. In the past they were at an ungodly hour in the middle of the night and if you could get connected with the states and you cannot say very much just hello and goodbye.

In looking back I have more memories about Thule than any other base. All of us, enlisted, officers and civilians were here together and we had to make the best of our situation and learn to live together. Differences melted away we supported one another. We stuck together, worked together, played together, prayed together and cried together for we were all we had. There was a closeness that I experienced here that I never felt in any other assignment I had in the Air Force including deployments. The people made Thule what it was, not the place and that is the one thing that stands out in my mind after all these years. I am sure it is the same today as it was when I was assigned here.

Events at Your Bowling Center

Mar 9 @ 1400
Scotch Doubles

Mar 2 and Mar 16 @ 1400
King/Queen of the hill

Mar 22 @ 1600
Cosmic Bowling



Keeping the Faith

By Maj Robert Winters 821 SFS/CC

The men and women of the base Catholic community continue to worship God and carry on the faith even without a Catholic priest assigned full time to Thule Air Base. Although visits by priests are important and appreciated, not too recent changes in the Church have provided ordinary Catholics trained as Lay Eucharistic Ministers the ability to lead services. These are called Communion services instead of Mass, but offer the same benefits.

Any Catholic visitor to a Sunday or Holy Day Communion service held at Thule without a priest would still recognize it and feel comfortable. The songs, prayers, readings, and Communion are the same as a Mass except led by the lay leaders with one great exception. Holy Communion is given with hosts consecrated by a visiting priest at a previous Mass and stored in the tabernacle.

This shorter Communion service typically lasts about 30 minutes each Sunday and starts at 1000

During the Sunday Communion service, 2nd Lt Trevor Nolan takes the Eucharist from the Chapel's Sacristy for distribution. The Thule AB Chapel made efforts to support all religious traditions even those Thule does not have a permanent Catholic priest.

in the base Chapel. Afterward, interested parishioners meet to discuss the day's readings or community activities in the small conference room in the same building. Typically, activities break up around 1100 as the group goes to enjoy brunch at the Dundas Dining Hall.

Recent activities have included the training of more Lay Eucharistic Ministers, our ongoing discussion on improving singing at the service, and a discussion toward the use of collected funds to support a less fortunate Catholic community elsewhere in the world.

So each Sunday with or without a priest, the Catholics of Thule Air Base still come together to worship God. All are welcome and everyone is invited to attend.

Shape Your Future...Your Weight!

By Air Force Medical Service

You've all heard the frustrations of both friends and family... "I just can't seem to stay on my diet" or "All of the foods that are bad for me taste so good!" and "I am losing this ongoing battle with my weight." Maintaining a healthy weight poses a significant challenge, particularly if you don't have the right information, guidance, and tools available to help you.

Healthy food choices remain one of the most important factors in maintaining a healthy weight. The month of March, as National Nutrition Month, presents the perfect time to arm yourself with the information, tools and skills you need to make good, nutritious food choices that will support your weight goals.

An invaluable tool for your use in pursuit of weight control is available at your base Health and Wellness Center (HAWC). Developed by both fitness and nutrition experts from across the Air Force, the *Shape Your Future...Your Weigh!* campaign provides

manageable "bites" of information designed to increase your awareness of weight gain and to help you prevent it.

Shape Your Future...Your Weigh! offers suggestions on lifestyle changes, as varied as individual needs, that impact both your current and future weight! The foundation of this program exists in its name: *Shape Your Future...Your Weigh!*



Consider weight control as a balance. If you eat more calories/food than you need, you will gain weight. On the other hand, if you burn more calories than you eat, you will lose weight. Emphasizing nutritious foods allows you to find the right

"balance" between your physical activity level and the calories you consume.

We associate many health benefits, including improved weight control and even weight loss, with a diet based on fruits, vegetables and grain foods—especially whole grains. Foods low in fat and high in fiber, such as those from plant sources, tend to be both nutritious and filling.

A typical serving of vegetables or fruit has about 2 grams of fiber, less than 1 gram of fat and between 25 and 60 calories. An example of a serving might be ½ cup of steamed broccoli or 1 apple. Compare the calories to the same portion (1/2 cup) of a snack of M&Ms, with over 400 calories and over 10 grams of fat! Substituting fruits and vegetables for other higher calorie snacks provides you with notable benefits: cuts back on calories consumed, works to maintain a healthy weight, and celebrates National Nutrition Month!

For more information on food, nutrition and weight control, contact Capt Fred Clare (ext 2696), TSgt Sean Bennett (ext 2872) or Mr. Henrik Juhl (ext 2472) for more information.

FREEZE FRAME!



Following the departure of DJ Eric Forrester, a new radio show has hit the airwaves. The "Greg Brady Show" stars Capts Brady Vaira, 821 SPTS/OS, and Greg Marty, 821 ABG/CCE. So far the show has interviewed two local bands and featured theme nights such as "North vs. South" and "British Invasion." Frankly, the show is just a chance for Capt Vaira to show off his tongue. But, you can see Capt Marty's reaction.

The Greg Brady Show Roving Reporter sits down with...



By Capt Elizabeth Ferrill 821 SPTS/SC

With only 30 minutes notice and some quick web research, I made my debut as “Mega Beth” the Greg Brady Show Roving Reporter. My target was Brickfoot, a DoD Band, who was in town for Thule First Light Festival. The band consisted of five guys (and one sound guy) from Baltimore, MD. Steve, lead vocals and guitar; Frank – guitar/vocals; Chipper – bass/vocals; Shane – keyboard/percussion; Jay – drums/vocals and Keith – sound/light.

Luckily, the guys from Brickfoot were very easy to interview. So here goes...

Lead singer Steve Silver stands on a speaker during the Blues segment of Brickfoot’s performance at the TOW Club. The band also played at the First Light Festival.

Mega Beth: How did you all meet?

Steve: We started in Baltimore. The low down is that Jay and I have been together since '94. We collected Frank in '96 and Chipper in Dec '98 and picked up Shane last year.

MB: How would you guys describe your style?

Chipper: It is like modern rock...very Beatlesque. We are like bands from the sixties in terms of our harmonies and very melodies, but the music has got a rocker edge. Our style is like the Beatles and [Pink] Floyd got into bed with the Foo Fighters.

MB: Where else have you been on other USO tours?

Frank: It has been amazing. We’ve been to Europe. We did Italy, Greece, Spain, Crete, Puerto Rico and Cuba. We toured Asia including Japan, Singapore, Guam and Korea. And of course, now Greenland.

MB: How do we compare?

Frank: It doesn’t and that’s what’s great about it. It is completely different since we are on a big snowball. It is definitely cool and everybody seems close.

Steve: It seems similar to Cuba. It is a Marine base that is 42 sq miles and there is no place to go. It is similar to here because there is also no place to go. When you go to Italy and Puerto Rico, everyone is like “I’m getting out of here.” It is great here because everyone is so happy to see you play.

of here.” It is great here because everyone is so happy to see you play.

MB: What did you think Greenland would be like? Are you surprised?

Shane: Cold. Very cold. And I was right. I’m not surprised. This is like Europa, moon of Jupiter.

Frank: I thought it would be a bunch of people eating fish blubber and living in igloos.

MB: Have you seen the Northern Lights yet?

Frank: No, I thought you didn’t get those until Spring.

MB: No, we don't get them at all. We are too far north. It was a trick question.

Frank: *That sucks.*

MB: Tell me about Operation Gratitude.

Frank: *Oh, what do you want to know? Operation Gratitude is a series of Concerts being planned by a company called Hailstorm Productions.*

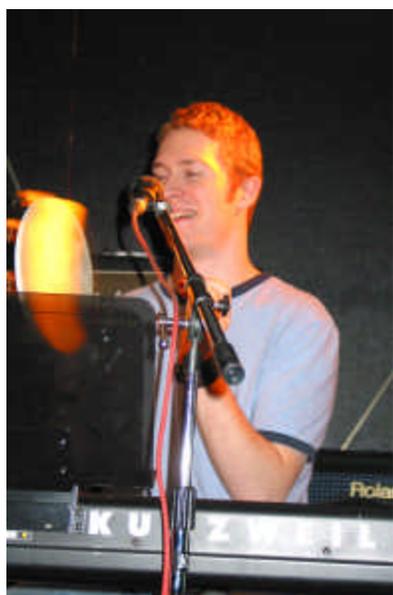
The concerts are free for all military and they are going to take place in the lower 48. (sorry guys) Some major headliners who are already booked are Weezer, Offspring, Foo Fighters, Smash Mouth, and Sting.

Brickfoot is going to open a lot of these shows. It is going to start in July 2003 and go through 2005. It is America's way of saying thank you for all your hard work and the conditions you live in. There will be about one show a month and it will be on big bases and the military will be given tickets for free.

MB: All of us are only here for a year, so we can look for the show when we get back to the States.

MB: So my question to you is a) How much do you like us? And b) what do you think of Laughing Colors?

Frank: *We've known Laughing Colors for years and we've played lots of shows with them. Those guys are pretty good friends of ours. They came up here first to test the waters. We said "You guys go up there and find out what is going on." They did have some nice things to say about the lady personnel.*



Keyboardist Shane Burke plays the tambourine. As the newest member of the band, this was his first time on tour as a DoD Band.

MB: For those of you who don't know, Brickfoot appeared on the Jenny Jones show. What was the topic on the day that you appear?

Band: *[Random mumbling...]*

I was guessing something like "Nuns who find out

they are guys and marry their cousins and have three legged babies" or something like that.

Steve – *It was "So you want to be a super-model? Prove it."*

MB: Really? Were they good looking?

Frank: *No, they were all horrible. But the producers kept us away from them and they wouldn't let us stay in the same hotel or use the same dressing rooms. I guess they were afraid of what we were going to do to them. But from what I understand, we had the good dressing room.*

MB: Before you play, I have one last question. This question is directed to Shane and Jay.

Jay: *Okay, I'm here.*

MB: Jay, have you tried "Hocking a lougie in the air to see if it freezes" yet?

Jay: *[Confused look.] Hold on now.*

MB: It is on your website. One of your friends said to remind you about it. I was just curious to see if you tried it.

Jay – *Are you kidding me? I didn't know that. But if I was going to do anything to see if it was going to freeze, I was going to ...*

MB: ...yes, I know that was the second thing on the website. Thanks.

Brickfoot played two songs: *Sharks in Suits* off their CD *Brickfoot fresh hot LIVE* and *Uppers and Downers* for the radio listeners.

If you want to see where Brickfoot is playing in the States or learn more about them, checkout their website: www.brickfoot.com.

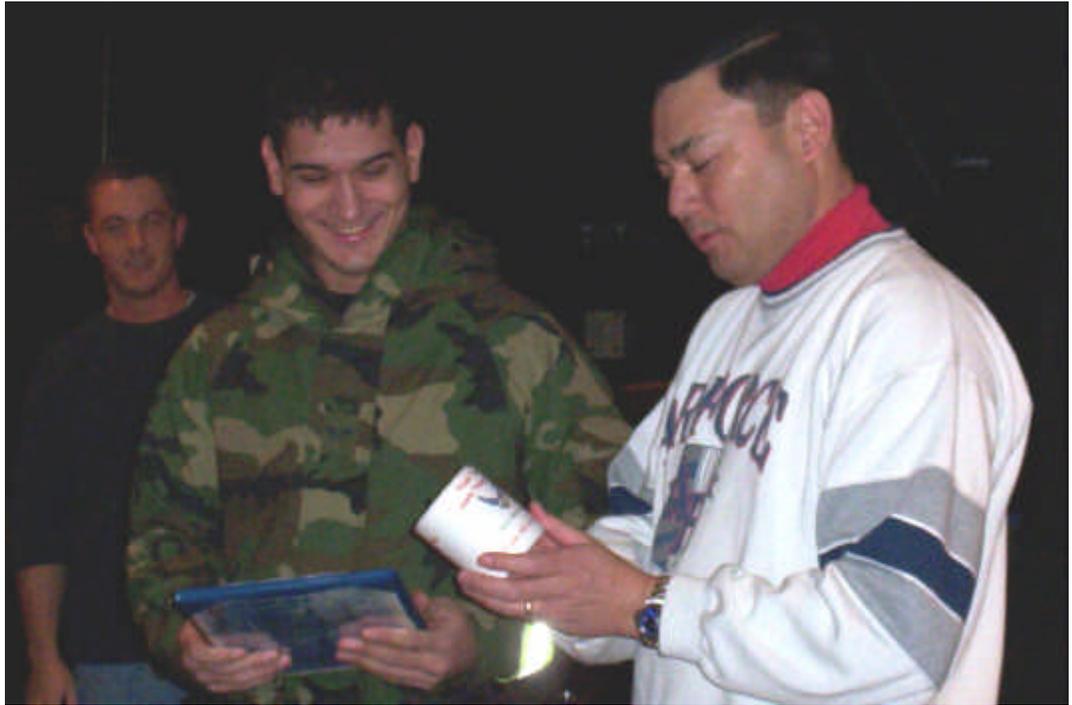
Drummer Jay Hammen entertains the crowd at the TOW Club. Brickfoot won over fans with their varied percussion instruments. (Can anyone say cowbell?)



Thule Top 4 Honor Airman

By SSgt Joseph
Andreasen
821 SFS/SF

The Top 4 association held the annual Airmen's Appreciation Dinner on the 28th of February at the Top of the World Club. The dinner was provided for all the airmen at Thule to show appreciation for the hard work and dedication that they put into the Air Force and their jobs here at Thule. The dinner included pizza and drinks from the TOW Club.



Col Louis Christensen, 821 ABG/CC, presents A1C Brian Fowler, 821 SFS, with a coffee cup to commemorate his Sharp Troop award.

In addition to the dinner, the Top 4 association also presented the Sharp Troop Award to a very deserving young Airman. The Sharp Troop Award is given to the airman who exemplifies the Air Force core values, has exceptional dress and appearance, pro-

vides the most professional customer relations and stands out above his/her fellow airmen in day to day activities.

"The requirements are that SSgt and above can nominate an individual for exemplary standards in: Professionalism, Bearing, and Appearance. These items are looked at on a consistent basis. The individual is nominated and then a panel of three judges will make separate unannounced visit to the nominees work section to judge them for these standards," says MSgt Mike Shonka, 821 SPTS, Top 4 Professional Development Committee chairman.

The nominees for the first ever Sharp Troop Award were, A1C Brian Fowler, 821 SFS, SrA Donald McCants, 821 SFS, and SrA Maisha Simmons, 821 ABG.

The dinner was well attended by a variety of base personnel who were quite hungry after their basketball game. Especially since the pizza was provided by the Top 4.

A1C Fowler won the award and was presented with a certificate, a one-day pass, and a coffee mug by Col Louis Christensen, 821 ABG/CC.

The airmen were also challenged to a Basketball Game by the Top 4 association prior to the dinner. With the Thule officers officiating, the Top 4 took on the airmen in a full court game.

The Thule Airmen proved that they are still in their youth by beating the older and much more knowledgeable, but less than spry Top 4 players 64 to 63.

After the game, SrA Joni Swearson, 821 SFS, said, "Quit trying to beat the airmen, because you never will!"

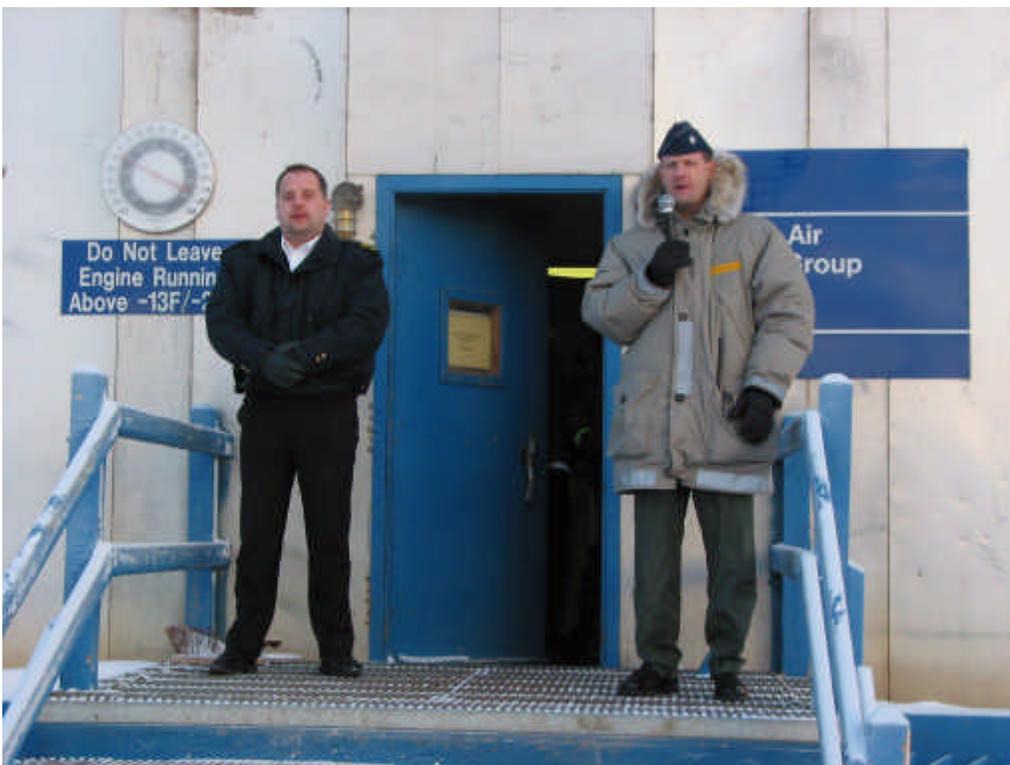




LET THERE BE LIGHT!

On Feb 24th, Thule residents joined by the flag poles in front of the Headquarters building. However, unlike the previous Tree and Star Lighting ceremony, the purpose of this gathering was to welcome the first sun rays to hit main base.

Lt Col Hugh Amundson, 821 ABG/CD, and CPO C.V. Frederiksen commemorated the event with a toast of schnapps. Don't they know that you shouldn't drink and sunbathe at the same time?



Before, there was only darkness (upper left)...then there was light (lower right). As the sun rays hit Thule main base for the first time this year, some new residents in the crowd commented that they didn't know that the flattops had colored roofs!

CPO C.V. Frederiksen, Danish Liaison looks on as Lt Col Hugh Amundson, 821 ABG/CD, announces the arrival of the Sun.

LOCAL ART COMES TO THULE

By Capt Elizabeth Ferrill
821 SPTS/SC

Recently, Thule residents had the rare opportunity to experience traditional Greenlandic art. The show was held at the Greenlandic house from 14 to 17 February and according to the organizer, Ms. Navarana Sørensen, it was the first show of its type at Thule Air Base.

The show featured art including clothing, housewares, wall hangings and jewelry made mostly from traditional materials including walrus and narwhal tusks, seal and fox skin and local gemstones. In addition, there was intricate glass beadwork depicting traditional local customs and clothing. The exhibition was di-



vided into two parts: a set of historical pieces from Ms. Sørensen's own collection and a set of new pieces for sale. Local craftsmen from throughout Northern Greenland made all of the pieces that were for sale.

Ms. Sørensen, who traveled down from Qaanaaq for the show, started Aggagortartut Peqatigiigvian (which roughly translates to Arts Union) in mid-October 2002. The Union's goal is to sell local crafts on a not-for-profit basis, allowing the craftspeople to make as much money for their work as possible. Soon, the Union plans to start selling the crafts through an online catalog. Ms. Sørensen said that business at Thule Air Base was brisk with many customers agreeing to order products for delivery in a month or two.

Mr. Scot Muzzy, AAFES manager, plays with a traditional Greenlandic game. The game is made of bone and the purpose is to get the end with the hole to land on the stationary end.



Ms. Sørensen looks on as TSgt Julie Gionet, 821 ABG/FM, considers her options. Many of the items on display could be bought or ordered at the show.

Below are two of the pieces of art that were for show, not sale, at the exhibit. These are earrings made of bone that outline a whale's tail and a narwhal. These were from Ms. Sørensen's personal collection.



Prior to starting the Arts Union, Ms. Sørensen lived in Denmark for 15 years and in Canada for 6 years. She has also traveled extensively throughout the United States including New York, Boston, Washington D.C., and Portland, Maine. Her first trip to the US was in 1986 for the Hanson/Perry Family reunion. She served as a translator for ten individuals from Qaanaaq who were related to the famous Polar explorers. She currently works as a secretary and translator at the Trading Post in Qaanaaq.

Operation Deep Freeze



By AFRC News Service

Reservists from AF Reserve Command's 445th Airlift Wing headed for Antarctica on Feb. 12 aboard a C-141 Starlifter.

The aircrew members were participating in Operation Deep Freeze, a passenger and cargo service for the U.S. National Science Foundation's research facilities in Antarctica.

The reservists flew to Christchurch, New Zealand, the staging point for deployment to Antarctica's McMurdo Station. During their two weeks in New Zealand, they made several trips each week to Antarctica to transport people and supplies.

The missions to the "bottom of the world" were flown in three phases. The initial preparation phase, called Winfly because it occurs during winter in Antarctica, begins in August. The re-supply phase takes place during the continent's spring and summer from the end of September through mid-November. The re-deployment phase

takes place in February.

In October, 445th AW aircrews airlifted people, supplies and equipment to McMurdo Station for scientific operations at the beginning of the south pole summer. With the dark Antarctic winter on its way, the 445th AW provided passenger and cargo service for foundation people to return to New Zealand.

Operation Deep Freeze "missions are the most difficult missions we operate in a non-combat environment because there is no margin for error,"

SSgt Jim Touchette, 109th Airlift Wing, refuels an LC-130H here in support of Operation Deep Freeze. (Photo by SSgt Joe Zuccaro)



A C-141C Starlifter is unloaded on an ice runway at McMurdo Station, Antarctica. The crew brought cargo and supplies from Christchurch, New Zealand, during Operation Deep Freeze. (Photo by SSgt Joe Zuccaro)

said Col. David Walker, from the 4th Air Force operations division at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. "The weather conditions in Antarctica are like nowhere else in the world."

Average temperatures in Antarctica range from minus 70 F in the interior during the winter to 36 degrees along the coast in the summer. Winds can gust up to 200 mph.

The 445th AW has been participating in Operation Deep Freeze since October 2001 along with the 452nd Air Mobility Wing from March ARB. C-141s have been resupplying the National Science Foundation community in Antarctica since 1966.

The New York Air Guard periodically trains near Thule AB, Greenland since it is closer to their home station.



Rubberband belts out another Beatles favorite. Enormously popular in Denmark, the band performed many familiar songs.

Col Louis Christensen, 821 ABG/CC, offers his hearty thanks to Helene Carstensen, the head of the Thule Festival committee for all her hard work on the project.

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perform in Hangar 7. But it was so much more complicated than just that.

Finding the bands was a challenge. With generous funding from our sponsors including the GC Velfærdsfond, Air Greenland and the Thule City Council, the Festival was able to secure two bands. Rubberband, an all-Beatles tribute band, came from Denmark. In addition, the some-what local band Taqat, from Qaanaaq, flew down to play. Finally, the Department of Defense band program helped out and a



band from Baltimore, Maryland, Brickfoot rounded out the international playbill.

Next the festival needed a theme. The original concept of the festival was to have actually have two festivals each year: one



Simon Gylling, GC/CEEM, and his able dancer partner, Majbritt Jensen, GC/SG, cut a rug on the dance floor. Rubberband brought out many brave dancers.

Taqat shares a bit of its local Greenlandic style with the crowd. The band's songs were a mix of traditional rhythms and good old rock and roll!

(continued from page 1)

to say goodbye to the Sun and one to say welcome back. So after much discussion, the committee agreed on the dual theme: Thule First Light Festival and Thule First Night Festival. TSgt Scott Lang, 821 SPTS/SC, came up with the idea.

With theme in hand, the decoration committee ordered trees and fabric for the ceiling and found table clothes and centerpieces. The construction committee started building the stage and getting tables and chairs lined up. Finally, the bar and buffet committee planned a menu, ordered food and coordi-



nated with the TOW club to sell drinks from specially designed booths.

So finally, on 15 February, the stage was set. At 1600 hours the doors opened and dinner was served at 1700. A little after 1800, Rubberband played their first song, appropriately titled: Here Comes the Sun!

The evening continued with Taqat and finally Brickfoot. Festival goers stayed long into the night enjoying the sounds of Roosevelt Mitchell's disc jockey skills after the bands were done.

At the after action meeting, the Festival committee concluded that overall the event was a great success and everyone looks forward to the Thule First Night Festival this fall!

FREEZE FRAME!



He was so popular at Peterson, that they named a street after him! SrA Otis Chatham, 821 SFS, represented the 821 ABG at the 21 SW's Annual Awards Banquet.



The decoration committee did a spectacular job turning a normal everyday hangar into a concert venue. The job of decorating a space as big as a hangar required plenty of early planning.

Celebrating African American Heritage Month

By Ms. Denise Hunter AAFES &
MSgt Sonya Horn 821 SPTS/SC

The month of February is nationally recognized in the United States as African American History/Heritage Month, and here at Thule is no different. That is why it is a pleasure and an honor to celebrate African American History Month.

The tradition was started by Carter G. Woodson "The Father of Black History" back on 12 February, 1926. Woodson chose the second week of February because of two people he felt had dramati-

cally affected the lives of Black Americans. These two people were Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglas, which were both born during the month of February.

What initially started off as a one week celebration, expanded to a month long celebration in 1976 as part of the United States' Bicentennial celebration. African American History Month is now celebrated all over North America, and serves as a reminder and tribute to all the significant achievements of our many fore fathers.

During the month of February various events were held at Thule AB in celebration of African American History Month. The first event, a soul food taste, was held on 08 Feb 03 at the Community Activity Center. The purpose of the soul food taste was to expose the community to the various foods often associated with the African American culture. A sincere thank you goes out to Mr. Art

Maj Robert Winters, 821 SFS/CC, and Col Louis Christensen, 821 ABG/CC, load up their plates with tasty vittles! Guests at the Soul Food Taste had to act quickly, as the cornbread went quite fast.

Moore, ARCTEC Services, for allowing us to taste some of the cultures finest foods. The event was a huge success and enjoyed much support from the Thule community.

Another event conducted between 10-14 Feb 03 was the African American History Trivia game.

This event, conducted over e-mail, consisted of sending out trivia questions on black history and within a short time period, participants had to answer back. Whoever sent back the response the quickest with the most correct answers won the trivia for the day. All the correct responses tallied up to produce a winner. The winner of the trivia was Mr. Mitch LaKind, ARCTEC Services.

A third event was the Jazz Poetry Slam. This event exposed the entire community to the cultures of black poets. Individuals stood up in the TOW Club ballroom and recited the words of African American poets such as Maya Angelo and James Weldon Johnson. Major Winters, 821 SFS/CC, won the competition by reciting *A Brave and Startling Truth* by Maya Angelo. After the readings, everyone hung around and played games like spades, hearts, and chess while listening to the soothing sounds of jazz.

To close out the month's celebration, the African American Heritage Committee held a banquet on the 6th of March at the Top of the World Club. The banquet honored this year's theme, "W.E.B. DuBois, The Souls of Black Folk, Centennial Reflections."

Major General Richard





MSgt Sonya Horn, 821 SPTS/SC, and Ms. Denise Hunter, AAFES, enjoy a quiet moment after the Poetry Slam. Following the event many folks stayed to play cards.

Master Chef, Mr. Art Moore, takes a break from cooking, to enjoy the fruits of his labor. Art and his committee prepared a cornucopia of "Soul Food" dishes that many of the grateful Danish guests had never tasted.



Maj Gen Richard Spooner, ANG, and Col Louis Christensen, 821 ABG/CC, talk during the intermission of the African American Heritage Banquet. Maj Gen Spooner was joined on the trip by Maj Richard Greenlee, who had been 12 SWS/CCE in 2001.



Spoo-ner, the Air National Guard, was the guest speaker at the banquet. During his speech, he emphasized all the great accomplishments of African Americans including the Tuskegee Airman and the early African-American astronauts. He also said that although all of America still has far to go in terms of race relations, the United States military contin-

ues to represent one of the best examples of an integrated society. Finally, he thanked Team Thule for all the hospitality and commented on how close knit our community seemed.

The Thule community, with its diverse cultures of Americans, Danish, Greenlandic, and Canadian comrades, demonstrated its support of the Afri-

can American culture and its importance to the world.

For that respect and support, the African American people say thank you.



Top of the World Club Happenings

By Ms. Charlee Ruiz
TOW Club Operations Manager

every quarter! Need more proof? Try this:

Membership has its rewards and nowhere else are the rewards better. The Top of the World Club is your club and we bring you not only good food and great times but great value as well.

Joining the club here at Thule is like putting money in your pocket. The more you use your membership the more you save. There are many ways you save: club bucks, Members First discounts (\$1 off bar food entrees), Birthday coupon, bowling coupons, and not to mention the great food at Membership Nights

	<u>Enlisted/Employee</u>	<u>Officer/Manager</u>
Membership Dues	\$48.00	\$60.00
Club bucks	- \$25.00	- \$25.00
Birthday Certificate	- \$25.00	- \$25.00
Members 1st Discount (est. 15 meals/year)	- \$15.00	- \$15.00
Bowling Coupon (est. 6 times/year)	- <u>\$18.00</u>	- <u>\$18.00</u>
Net Result	\$35.00	\$13.00

It's like the Club **pays** you to be a member! The more you use your membership the greater your savings!

Join the Club today and make it **YOUR** Club!

FREEZE FRAME!



What we have here is a failure to communicate. Do you often find that your parka fur is keeping you from clearly expressing yourself to others? Do you find crossing the street to be hazardous when you have no peripheral vision?

Welcome to Thule in the spring. Despite the Sun, temperatures hovered around -20 and -30 degrees for most of the month. Parkas with hoods up was definitely the fashion rage.

FITNESS CENTER REGULAR SCHEDULE

MON	1800-1900 1900-2030	BADMINTON SOCCER
TUE	1800-1900 1900-2200	BADMINTON BASKETBALL
WED	1800-1900 1900-2030	BADMINTON FLOORHOCKEY SOCCER
THUR	1800-1900 1900-2200	BADMINTON BASKETBALL
FRI	1800-1900 2000-2200	BADMINTON TENNIS
SAT	1800-2000	ROLLERBLADING
SUN	1300-1600 1800-2000	VOLLEYBALL TENNIS



MEGA LUMEN



ARCTIC SPOTLIGHT



Capt Fred Clare 821 SPTS/SG

1. **Last Base:** Wright Patterson AFB, OH
2. **Next Base:** Wright Patterson AFB, OH
3. **Originally From:** Everywhere, I'm an Air Force brat
4. **My Job Title:** Medical Liaison Officer
5. **What I like most about my job?** I have a chance to relax here compared to my previous job
6. **Hobbies:** Flying, model building, books, movies
7. **Thule Goals:** Get a continuity binder established and improve my physical fitness
8. **Interesting Fact:** I have the designs to a Fokker D VII and I intend to build it when I leave Thule.
9. **Favorite Superhero:** Wolverine from the X-Men
10. **Favorite Music/ Actor/Actress:** I listen to just about everything/Harrison Ford/Sigourney Weaver



MSgt Glen Conen 821 SFS/SFO

1. **Last Base:** Whiteman AFB, MO
2. **Next Base:** Whiteman AFB, MO
3. **Originally From:** Louisville, KY
4. **My Job Title:** Security Forces Superintendent
5. **What I like most about my job?** All the different people that I get to deal with on base.
6. **Hobbies:** Being a Dad.
7. **Thule Goals:** Finish my degree, finish my SNCO correspondence course and make Thule a better place
8. **Interesting Fact:** Short hair hides the gray.
9. **Favorite Superhero:** The Hulk
10. **Favorite Music/ Actor/Actress:** Christian Pop/N.C Jaguars & Green Bay Packers/Harrison Ford/Sigourney Weaver



SSgt Courtney Gibson 821 ABG/CCA

1. **Last Base:** Randolph AFB, TX
2. **Next Base:** RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom
3. **Originally From:** Connersville, IN
4. **My Job Title:** NCOIC, Commander's Support Staff
5. **What I like most about my job?** I get to interact with everyone here, plus I stay extremely busy which makes the time go by fast.
6. **Hobbies:** Hiking, Running, Camping, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding and Reading.
7. **Thule Goals:** Work toward a degree & improve fitness
8. **Favorite Superhero:** Superman
9. **Favorite Music/ Actor/Actress:** Anything in good taste/San Antonio Spurs/Vin Diesel/Julia Roberts

The Last Word

Man Not Named Kenny

Wearing his trademark parka, a local man has announced that despite his appearance he is not in fact named "Kenny." As a result, he respectfully requests that people stop walking up to him and saying "Oh my God, you just killed Kenny."

"Frankly, it just isn't funny anymore—not that it really ever was," said he-whose-name-is-not-Kenny. Unfortunately, the man was unable to give his real name due to a fatal freak electrical accident during the interview.



6 More Weeks of Winter

Observers said that he emerged cautiously from the arctic door at approximately 0600 hrs...and he has not been seen since. Everyone can only assume that "Pituffik" Phil saw his shadow on that February morning.

Although not actually related to Punxsutawney Phil, our local Phil has been known to offer an opinion about the weather every now and then.

The Times was unable to confirm that Pituffik actually saw his shadow, but the recent drop in air temperature has led most locals to assume that he's gone back inside his flattop to wait for warmer temperatures. Of course there is a rumor that he's gallivanting in the States...but you know how reliable rumors are...

Cowbell Solo Shocks Crowd

Brickfoot fans weren't expecting it...even the band was little surprised. "We knew when we invited him up on stage that he had some talent, but we had no idea that he'd 'explore the sound space' and steal the show," said one unnamed band member.

But when Lt Col Robert Orwig, 821 SPTS/CC, took the stage to play the cowbell, everyone found out that they were in for a treat. Was it the solo? Was it the way that he ably backed up the band? Or was it his modesty in allowing the band to sing without him, because he is knew that his singing voice might be just too much and the band members might leave the stage in shame...



Disclaimer

Opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors to this paper and are not to be considered an official expression by the 821st Air Base Group, 12th Space Warning Squadron, Department of the Air Force, Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, or the Department of Defense.

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