Thule Times

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8 September 2002

Commanders Action Line

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

TAB Chapel Services

Latter Day Saints Worship ~ 0830 hrs, Sundays

Roman Catholic Eucharistic ~ 1000 hrs, Sundays

Protestant Worship ~ 1100 hrs, Sundays

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Storm Season Returns

Mark your calendars!

As of 15 Sept, all off base travelers must contact Hilltop prior to leaving and upon return to base.

35° F for 30 Seconds at 76° N

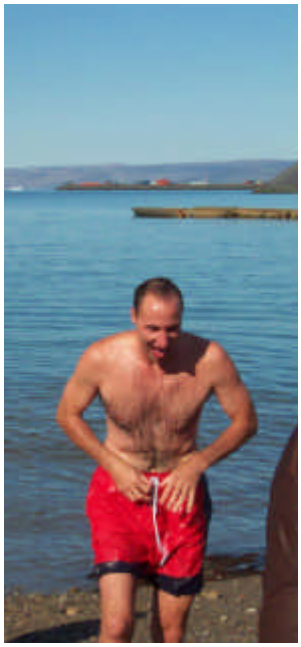
Thule's Annual Polar Bear Swim

By SSgt Susan Elvington
821 ABG/CCA

Off we go! After the whistle blew, the quintuplet charges forward into the freezing water. With the ambulance standing by, the event was safe even if it wasn't very comfortable.

Spending a year here at Thule AB, you are exposed to so many different experiences that you may never have encountered elsewhere in your Air Force career. One of these is the Annual Polar Bear Swim, held in mid August on the shores of Tug Boat Beach.

With temperatures just a few degrees above freezing and icebergs floating in the distance, it takes a certain type of person to be brave enough to take a dip in the ocean. Amazingly enough, many brave and anxious members of Team-Thule showed up to attempt the swim. Groups of five, charged into the icy waters to find themselves instantly winded and scrambling to get out off the water. As you leave the water it feels like you are moving in slow motion, as fast as your freezing body will let you, to soak up the 52 degree sun.



MSgt David Poppinga, 821 SPTS/CE does his best "Polar Bear" smile. This expression which is a combination of "Boy that was cold" and "I must be crazy" was commonplace during the Polar Bear Swim.

Calling out to your friends who hold the precious dry towels, you realize that you did it! You watch in horror at the few truly insane "double-dippers" as they charge back in for one more try. As many veterans of Thule told me, the shower that follows may be one of the best of your life.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience and I can also say that I have been there, done that and now I have the t-shirt!" said SrA Annalisa Hernanadez, 821 ABG/HC.

Commander's Corner

By Col Louis Christensen
821ABG/CC

Team Thule,

I invite all of you to read the article below published on the Air Force Link web page and written by Col Larry Strube, Commander, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. As you read his advice about "sweating the small stuff" please think about what you do everyday here at Thule and how important the details are in the safe and successful accomplishment of our mission.

We often admire those around us who have the uncanny ability to see the "big picture". These are the people who, amid all the chaos, can keep focused on the larger task at hand and not get sidetracked by all the details.

At the same time, we tend to look at people who emphasize the small details as nitpickers, micromanagers, or worse.

Our Culture is full of phrases that describe someone caught up in the details, like someone who "can't see the forest for the trees." But from my point of view, being a detail person is critical to the success of everything we do.

Who would want to go fly in an aircraft where the mechanic didn't worry about ensuring the engine was maintained to extremely tight specifications?

Would you visit a doctor who prescribed medications and didn't worry about drug interactions?

I hope in all these examples your answer would be "no." Why? In each example, the problem was the details were ignored.

One of our Air Force core values, excellence in all we do, hits the nail right on the head. If we do everything, large or small, to the best of our ability, then successful mission accomplishment is practically guaranteed.

The details are the building blocks for success.

Like a builder, if you don't spend the time putting in a strong foundation, the finished product may look good but it will never stand up during bad weather. In this case, ignoring the details can have a catastrophic impact.

If a commitment to excellence is not part of your daily routine, you'll never get to the "big picture." You must spend the time and effort taking care of the "small stuff."

In the military, consistently taking car of the small stuff has a name: discipline. It's wearing your uniform properly, complying with regulations, and not being satisfied with the job until you've done your very best.

Discipline and details go hand in hand. With our discipline and attention to details, we're setting ourselves up for failure. We'll never be able to admire the big picture because the building blocks or details don't get done.

We'll constantly fall short of our goals because the small things or details will trip us up. It doesn't matter if you're working alone or with a team, paying attention to the small stuff is always important.

Next time someone tells you "don't sweat the small stuff" take the time to explain to him or her how the "small stuff" makes the "big stuff" happen.

When it comes to the "small stuff" it is just as important that we are disciplined here at Thule as it is anywhere else in the world. For example: How many of you have taken the time to really get to know the details of our weather warning procedures and your required individual actions? Those details could save your life or at the very least keep you and you comrades healthy enough to fulfill our Air Force mission.

You have all heard my philosophy that we are "bridge builders" with an important responsibility to make Thule better in the future. The only way to do this is by building a strong foundation. Attention to detail, discipline, and excellence are the ingredients in that foundation. Our recent activation of the 821st Air Base Group makes today a very important time to build that foundation and keep Thule strong and our people healthy and pro-

Chaplain's Corner

By Ch, Capt Donald Bretz 821 ABG/HC

Recently I went on an all-day hike with two other guys to Green Valley. We navigated by orienting our map with mountain peaks. Like the mountains around Thule, there are days that stand out. Some stand taller than others. September 11, 2001 is one of those days. Where were you last September 11?

I was on my way to the mountains in northern New Jersey to see how much the leaves were changing. I took my mom with me – and we passed the time talking. What I didn't know was that more than the color of the leaves had changed.

Arriving at a gas station we were told that a plane had hit one of the towers of the World Trade Center. I turned on the radio and they were reporting it as a crash. I continued to drive north until it was reported that another plane had hit the second tower. It was then I had a lump in my throat and knew that this was no accident.

On the way back to McGuire AFB, the atmosphere had changed. Marked and unmarked emergency vehicles sped toward New York City. The Pentagon also was attacked (in the Army section where my brother-in-law worked) and another potential attack was averted as a plane crashed in western Pennsylvania. Coming home to change into my uniform, my wife was in tears. Uncertain of what else might happen, I left for the base - adrenaline pumping through my body.

With no time to change, the gate guard was in a curious uniform combination – wearing blues, a flack jacket and helmet. We were at THREATCON Delta and the up-armored Humvee was imposing. That night I worked the DCG. As the nearest active duty installation to New York City we would become an important base of operations for Special Forces, the President of the United States, and all the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Teams. They even flew in and set up an Air Transportable Hospital. Our KC-10 and KC-135 crews, used to supporting missions in "the desert," were now keeping fighters refueled over our own skies.

As a member of the Critical Incident Stress Team, I ministered to the members of the FEMA USR teams sent to NYC from around the country as they redeployed through McGuire. They had the demanding main job of searching through the debris during the rescue and initial recovery stages. I made two trips to NYC to assist the FEMA crews. What I experienced on those visits shaped my interior landscape.

In land navigation it is important to know the terrain and the same is true of the geography of our soul. We need to know what events shape our experiences. Talking with others, journaling and prayer allows us to put these in proportion. I was glad I didn't have to make the hike to Green Valley alone. I am glad America has not had to face 9-11 alone (Thanks to such as our Danish and Canadian allies and our Greenlandic partners). We also have an unseen Ally. We never have to travel alone – whether it be climbing Mt. Dundas or facing a crisis in our life.

September Birthdays

PATTERSON TRACY D	**DET 3**	**2-Sep**
HIBBARD EDWARD M	**821 SPTS/LG**	**6-Sep**
BROWNING JAMES A JR	**12 SWS/DOOE**	**7-Sep**
MANNINO JOHN	**821 SPTS/LG**	**11-Sep**
KEATING MICHAEL C	**12 SWS/OGV**	**17-Sep**
MATTHEWS CHARLES A	**821 SFS**	**19-Sep**
WRIGHT VICTOR C	**821 SFS/SFOA**	**20-Sep**
KIPP JAMES E	**821 SFS/CCQ**	**21-Sep**
BARNES SHAWN J	**12 SWS/CC**	**23-Sep**
BRASHEAR TROY A J	**12 SWS/DOU**	**26-Sep**
GIONET JULIE A	**821 ABG/FM**	**26-Sep**

Hockey Players Beware!

By A1C Mary "Renae" Moats
821 SPTS/MSP

Team Thule departed at 0722 local time not knowing what to expect. In fact we didn't even know exactly where we were going. What we did know was that we were ready to kick some butt.

We arrived at Alert and were received by our opponents with open arms. Soon their master plan would unfold. It began by filling us with bacon and hash browns at breakfast. It must have worked.

The first event, floor hockey, was a good old-fashioned massacre. A quick survey of the team revealed that nobody had any hockey experience at all, and it showed. Despite a valiant effort, we were soundly defeated 15-3. I felt like we were just running up and down the court clapping our sticks at each other's feet while praying for one lucky goal. Alert 1, Team Thule 0. On to the next events, volleyball and basketball. No contest there! Team Thule took both events with no problem. We even managed a little payback for floor hockey with a 48-22 trouncing in basketball.

Mmmmm...warm Canadian beer...these two Boxtop participants enjoy their halftime treat. Despite even offering a beer to the referee, the Canadians couldn't win at soccer.

Next stop TOW Club! Now it was time to initiate our master plan. The plan centered around keeping Team Alert out as late a possible so they would be too exhausted to play soccer the next morning.

Our plan worked. With a bright and early wake up to reveille, a tired and weary Team Alert was no match for the combined Danish, American, and Greenlandic soccer machine. During half time ALERT thought that it was Thule's turn to feel their pain so they sprung for a round of Canadian beers. The beer did not help. Final score Thule – 16, Alert - 2.

Two more events left, pool and golf. Pool was taken by Alert and after a sudden death playoff Thule won golf and subse-

(please turn to page 5)

Concentrating on his follow through, 2nd Lt Trevor Nolan, 12 SWS, hits his second shot during the "Virtual Golf" tournament. It is possible that Team Thule had an advantage since they were on their home turf.

(continued from page 4)

quently the overall victory.

As we played all the events you could say that I picked up a few lessons on the way.

1.) Never play hockey with the Canadians.

2.) Teamwork is all you need for success.

No one cared if you could not play or if you were your hometown star of the game. We had fun and made some new friends, that was what really mattered.

The best part about Box Top Olympics was that we got to be ourselves. We completed our mission, we fought and we conquered. This was a great experience and I highly recommended it for those who get a chance to go in the future.

Do you have what it takes to be a survivor?

If you wear your seat belt, the answer is "Yes."

By TSgt John Martella 821 ABG/SE

Ask someone why they don't wear their seatbelts and you'll usually get a lame excuse. Ask someone who has been saved by wearing a seatbelt, and you'll hear words of wisdom. Here are some real-life stories and words of wisdom from fellow Army, Navy and Marine survivors….

"It was Christmas 1998. We were driving from St Louis to spend the holidays with my wife's family. We had delayed our departure a day due to an ice storm that hit the Memphis area. We loaded up the 1986 Chevy Blazer with presents and luggage. As we progressed south, ice began to build up on the road. In Memphis, the roads were rutted with ice. In Mississippi, the trees loaded with ice were covering parts of the road and one even fell as we passed. My wife would advise me when we approached a bridge to ease off the gas. When we got to the middle of Mississippi, rain began and the air temp warmed up above 32 degrees. We cruised down the road, and began to relax. I used the cruise control to maintain speed. As we crossed a bridge on a small town by pass, one of the rear tires skidded and the vehicle quickly spun to the right. The right front tire, hit the bridge wall and blew. The hood opened and covered the front windscreen. We traveled down the bridge wall until the bridge ended. We then rolled four or five times down the embankment. Everything in the back was ejected out through the shattered windows. My wife and I were the only things left in the car."

"I had just arrived at my first duty station in Ft. Bliss Texas. I was training for my MOS on an Army installation. I met another Marine that had invited me on a road trip for the weekend. I packed a few items and I jumped into his car. He told me that the Marine Corps requires us to where seat belts. At the time Alabama, where I formally resided, did not require seat belts. So I acknowledged by buckling up. Thirty minutes into the trip a car that was parked on the side of the road pulled out in front of us. My friend had to move into the left lane to miss this guy but the other driver turned broad side to cross the left lane. We hit this Lincoln Town Car going 60 mph in a Honda CRX. My glasses shattered on the front windshield and my knees barely touched the dash in front of me. Both of us crawled out of the car and walked away. The only injury I had was a slight bruise on my knee from the dash and across my chest from the seat belt."

"October 8th, 2001, while attempting to cross a busy, four-lane state highway (posted speed 65), I was broad sided by a small car and an 18-wheeler. My vehicle, a 1999 Dodge 2500, was catapulted approximately 600 feet. Both airbags deployed and I was wearing my seatbelt. I suffered five fractured ribs and some internal bruising. I feel certain had I not been wearing a seat belt I wouldn't be writing this. The month prior to my accident two teenagers were killed at that intersection under similar circumstances, while not wearing theirs."

I thought I would share some "positive" success stories. I don't know about you, but I'm a tired of hearing of our fellow airman who are dying this summer. ***When you buckle your seat belt, you are "choosing to live."***

THULE TRIPPIN'

HOBBY OR OBSESSION? TAKE OUR QUIZ.

If you answer "yes" to five or more of these questions, then we recommend you seek medical help.

1. Do you have recurrent, persistent thoughts about Thule Trippin'?

2. Have you been Trippin' so many times that you refer to places by their rock configurations instead of true names?

3. Do you scour maps for new "routes" where you're sure to see the elusive musk-ox?

4. Is Trippin' limiting your productivity at work?

5. Do you hide your love of Thule Trippin' from your friends and family?

6. Do you miss work/other activities (like the Polar Bear Swim) because you are Trippin' or making plans to Trip?

7. Have others noticed your infatuation/obsession Trippin'? If so, have they recommended help?

8. Is Trippin' affecting your health? Do you Trip even when injured?

(Top Right) The mysterious ice caves of greater Thule. Ice caves are found on the shady side of hills where the ice that built up over the winter doesn't ever melt, but water flows underneath.

TSgt Angela Yoho and MSgt Torrye Kirvin, both of 821 SPTS/OS, show some Canadians around a local cave. Sometimes caving can be a little messy since sometimes there is deep water in the base of the cave.

TSgt Marlin Fjordbak, 821 ABG/FM, SSgt Kyle Blumberg, 821 ABG/FM, and MSgt David Dougherty, 821 SPTS/SC, stroll at the foot of a glacier. Taking a helicopter ride was a quick form of the Trippin' fix.

(Below) Cape Atholl, a former Coast Guard station, is popular destination for Thule Trippin'. The ride takes almost two hours, not because of the distance, but because the road is in such poor condition.

Smile guys — we walked a LONG way. Col Louis Christensen, 821 ABG/CC, Ch, Capt Donald Bretz, 821 ABG/HC and MSgt Tim Crews, 821 ABG/CCF, stand in front of the ice caves. Known for their wild trippin' adventures, many members of Team Thule have heard the group plan weekend trips throughout the week.

Midnight Madness!

Late Summer Promotions & Pin-ons!

May we introduce, SSgt (s) Joni Swearson, 821 SFS, SSgt (s) Glenn Wooten, 12 SWS, and SSgt (s) Thomas Kaiser, 821 SFS. As you can see by the clock on the wall in the middle photograph, the Base Commander and each promotee's respective commanders made a little midnight visit to spread the good news.

Col Louis Christensen, 821 ABG/CC and Lt Col Robert Orwig, 821 SPTS/CC, pin Major rank on Charles Slaby, 821 SPTS/DC. Major Slaby was promoted on 1 Aug 02.

At the base SNCO induction ceremony, MSgt James Kurkowski, 821 SFS, MSgt Vincent Anderson, 821 SPTS/CE and MSgt (s) Paul Brassfield, 821 SPTS/OS, joined their fellow SNCOs as leaders and mentors. Shortly after the induction oath, MSgts Kurkowski and Anderson were officially promoted to SNCO.

Tired of the Air Force?

Or just with your current job?

By MSgt Laura Velasquez
21SW/CAA

Just when you think you have heard every reason for getting out of the Air Force, somebody comes up with a new one. It's not the money, or the deployments. It's not the benefits or the fact they have to move around every few years. It's not a better job offer on the outside. It's because they feel "stuck" in their current job.

That's right, "stuck." Hopelessly "stuck" in their job. No light at the end of the tunnel. When asked why they felt that way, the answer was baffling.

I've had first-term airmen tell me their supervisors told them they couldn't retrain due to manning shortages. Or, they couldn't retrain because they were in a critical skill. I've even had first-term airmen tell me they didn't know they had a right to apply for retraining in conjunction with reenlistment! It's one of the few times in a career when changing jobs is actually quite easy. So what's the problem? I guess the word's not getting out.

Then there are the NCOs who would like a change. Maybe not to completely change jobs, but they'd like to take a break from their current routine. Go for it! There are lots of special duty positions available. Recruiter, Military Training Instructor, PME instructor and courier duty come to mind without even thinking. Why don't they pursue a special duty? Maybe the word's not getting out.

Finally, there's the group who simply doesn't think a change of jobs will reenergize them. They've had enough. Time to move on. Unfortunately, when they move on to a totally different job in the civilian sector they have to start all over toward their retirement program. And, if you look at the statistics, most people will change careers four to five times during their working years. Why start over that many times? Why not stay with our "company" and keep advancing when you change jobs?

So, before you decide to separate, get the facts. Talk to the experts in the employment element of the MPF. Do some research on retraining through the AFPC web site. And, if you want to talk to someone who's gotten reenergized just by taking on a new job, just give me a call!

For more information visit the AFPC web site, http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills

Got career questions?

Email MSgt Laura Velasquez 21SW Career Assistance Advisor laura.velasquez@peterson.af.mil

Commander's Trophy Points Update

MA:	**805**
Operations:	**660**
Security Forces:	**425**
DET 3:	**40**

Standings as of 01 Sept 2002

Cop's Corner

Your DUI Rights

By A1C Aimee Bojack 821 SFS/SF

When are you read your rights for a Driving Under the Influence (DUI)? According to AFI 31-101 13.8.3 "Non-military: The individual will be detained and the Danish Police Inspector (DPI) will be notified immediately. When DPI arrives, SF involvement will be to only gather information for a blotter entry. The DPI will assume full control of the incident with the SF patrol providing assistance as requested by the DPI."

For military members AFI 31-101 13.8.6 "Only *after* the blood/urine test has been administered, advise the subject of his rights IAW Article 31 UCMJ for military or 5th Amendment, United States Code Constitution, for US Citizens, using AF Form 1168.

This means that you would go through Field Sobriety Tests (FST) and get the blood and urine tests administered before you would be read your rights. Probable cause is required prior to reading of rights and this can only be determined with results from the blood and urine tests. Also remember that the Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) limit is .08% on Thule.

If you have any questions contact me through e-mail at: aimee.bojack@thule.af.mil

Lighthearted End to the

Softball Season

By TSgt Angela Yoho 821 SPTS/OS

Capt Greg Marty emceed a lighthearted awards ceremony to celebrate the end of softball season and to recognize some exceptional performers throughout the league. Colonel Louis Christensen presented Captain Troy Brashear, 12 SWS, with the league championship trophy. In addition, each member of former "DO" received a T-Shirt to celebrate their championship.

TSgt James Wenger of the 821st Support Squadron organized the event with help from Master Sergeant Ray Magby and Recreational Services Director, Mette Linnemann. Attendees were treated to free pizza and certificates were given in recognition of awards. Statistical data from the league was used to determine half of the awards such as offensive and homerun king. Other awards such as Best All Around and Best "Trash Talker" were determined by fan vote throughout the 821st Airbase Group and 12th Space Warning Squadron.

Lt. Col Robert Orwig, 821st Operational Support Squadron Commander, received the "Cal Ripken Jr. Ironman Award" for stitches he received while warming up on the sidelines during one of the softball games. Although she made vast improvement by the end of the season, Senior Airman Annalisa Hernandez received the dubious award for the "Strike-Out Queen" recognizing her strikeout prowess while batting.

As emcee, Capt Greg Marty, 821 ABG/CCE, was privileged to pass out awards to Capt Troy Brashear, 12SWS/DO, Major Charles Slaby, 821 ABG/CD, and TSgt Forrest Childs, 821 SFS. (Does anyone else feel like there is a lot of Capt Marty going on here? Just curious…)

THE AWARDS

Best All-Around: TSgt Dan "The Man" Mack
Home Run King: TSgt John "How Far Can I Hit It" Martella
Best Defensive Player: Capt Troy "The Glove" Brashear
Best Offensive Player: TSgt Forrest "You Pitch It, I'll Hit It" Childs
Best Trash Talker: MSgt Torrye Kirvin, "who talked more trash than she had hits or put outs"
Burned Crisp Award: Lt Col Shawn Barnes, "who demonstrated his exceptional inability to catch fly balls in Right Center especially those hit by Capt Marty"
Athletic Gracefulness Around The Base Paths: Lt Col Orwig, "for his exceptional gracefulness running the base paths"
Popcorn Award: SrA Steve Risinger, "who hit more pop fly-outs than Orville Reddenbacher made popcorn"
Best Imitation of a Football Player Playing Softball: Amn Anthony Balser "for his tackling of the Base Commander not once but twice at while playing first base"

Fitness Fave

Share with the readers what you like or prefer in your exercise workouts.

- How often do you work out?
- What's your motivation?…Manage your weight, look better, or be healthy.
- Why did you miss your workout?…No time, too tired or don't feel like it.
- What's your favorite cardio machine?…Treadmill, stair climber, or bicycle.
- What's your main body improvement goal?…Loose weight, gain muscles, or tone a specific body part.
- Do you have a workout partner?…Solo or with a friend.
- What do you listen to?…Pop, hip-hop, rock, techno or other?
- What's your favorite type of aerobic class?…Kickboxing, step, or yoga.
- Who's your favorite fitness role model?
-

Check next month's Thule Times for the reader's response. Send your answers to annalisa.hernandez@thule.af.mil with the Subject title: Fitness Fave.

Did You Know?

By MSgt Laura Velasquez 21 SW/CAA

Did you know that IAW AFI 36-2618, paragraph 4.1.1., supervisors must review the Air Benefits Fact Sheet with each subordinate during performance feedback counseling sessions, and that a copy of the fact sheet must be provided to the individual at the end of the counseling session?

Together we can make a difference one step at a time. America's Air Force . . . Nobody else comes close.

Although your supervisors are, and should continue to be the primary source for career development and assistance, questions or comments are welcome.

Did you know that starting in 2001, many of you who entered active duty on or after 01 Aug 1986 will have to make a major decision about your retirement plan options? The bottom-line question will be to either accept a $30,000 Career Status Bonus and retire under the Redux plan, or turn down the $30,000 in exchange for retirement under the High-3 Plan. This is a personal decision and the best answer depends on your specific personal situation.

The good news is that you have options, and there is an unbiased source of help to figure what is the best decision for you. This help is in the form of the "Redux Decision Calculator" which can be found at http://pay2000.dtic.mil/ under the "Retirement Choice" link.

Although your supervisors are, and should continue to be the primary source for career development and assistance, additional help is available through the Career Assistance Advisor.

Did you know that the Armed Forces has a vacation club? Did you also know that if you have an ID card you are already a member?

For only $209, you can spend a week in Five-Star accommodations, literally anywhere in the world; you pick the location. Long-term planning and reservations are NOT required, just visit the WEB site and pick a location. The WEB site will inform you of all open dates and options available.

More information can be found at http://afvclub.com. Whether you're still looking for a great holiday get-away, planning for next summer's vacation, or anything in between, check out this benefit.

If you have more question's about this or any Air Force benefit, ask your supervisor, or contact the Career Assistance at:

MSgt Laura Velasquez

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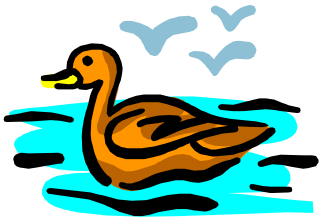
Pacer



No one cries "fowl" during port operations

During July and August, US Navy Military Sealift Command (MSC) ships delivered much-needed supplies and petroleum to Thule.

The Military Sealift Command resupply mission, Operation Pacer Goose (or Pacer Duck as it is more affectionately known), occurs annually and benefits Thule and the neighboring weather stations.

The Green Wave, US ship, off-loaded approximately 32,000 square-feet of dry cargo. The Irena Arctica, a Danish cargo ship, discharged 1,437 metric tons. The tanker Gus W. Darnell discharged its cargo of more than 25,000 tons of petroleum products. The supplies and fuel provided will help sustain Thule throughout the long, dark winter months.

To enable the ships to navigate the icy waters of the Arctic the Henry Larsen, a Canadian coast guard icebreaker ship first cut a channel through the ice immediately prior to their arrival. The ice is usually from 8-to-10-feet thick and the channel about 10-to-20-miles long. Harsh winter conditions start in September, and preparations are made well in advance to have the ice-strengthened ships deliver supplies and fuel during the summer months when the ice has melted enough to cut through it.

The Green Wave pulls up the pier after a three week trip from the US. During the rest of the year, the ship spends its time resupplying the South Pole in Antarctica.

The tanker, Gus Darnell, floats peacefully in the North Star Bay. The tanker brought a year's supply of diesel and unleaded gasoline to provide vital power.

As soon as the ship docks, the massive unloading operation begins. The Green Wave brings everything from frozen food for the TOW club to new vehicles for transportation.

Capt Misha Collier and TSgt Tracy Patterson, of Det 3, watch from the deck as the “dark” side of Dundas passes before them.

TSgt Marlin Fjordbak, 821 ABG/FM, SSgt Kyle Blumberg, 821 ABG/FM and SSgt Tana Chevalier, 821 SPTS/SCB, stand on the deck of the Danish frigate. The tour of the North Bay from the frigate was an unusual way to spend a Saturday.

A member of the Danish crew demonstrates how to don a cold water survival suit. Without the insulated suit, stranded boaters would die after about five minutes of exposure to the cold arctic waters.

Det 3 stands up

Santa Workout Shop

By 1st Lt Brady Vaira 821 SPTS/OS

In a brilliant strategic move to keep the throne of "Mr. Thule" in the family, Det 3 unveiled a new fitness center in a ribbon cutting ceremony on 29 Aug 02. The center is packed with state of the art machines, which TSgt Tracy Patterson had to disassemble and put back together in order to get them through the 24" door.

Maj. Jerry Shetler, Det 3/CC, stated "Det 3 personnel are enthused about the new equipment and are looking forward to the future renovations." These future renovations include plans for changing facilities and showers.

"No, Mom said that I could play with the scissors...Now look what you've done...we've cut this lovely ribbon." Maj Jerry Shetler, Det 3/CC and Col Louis Christensen, 821 ABG/CC, finally cooperate long enough to unveil the new Det 3 fitness center. (To ensure public safety, Maj Robert Winters, 821 SFS/CC, secured the giant scissors immediately following this photograph.

Caught in the middle of his "dip," Harris operator Brad Clark takes a break from tracking satellites to work on his pec muscles. Having a gym located so close to work was a benefit that many Det 3 members have been looking forward to for a long time.

Honored with the "first lift," Stan "Mr. Thule" Childress uses the new equipment for the first time. Don't get the impression that he finds his way to the gym that often?

Check out Thule Air Base's new look on the Web!

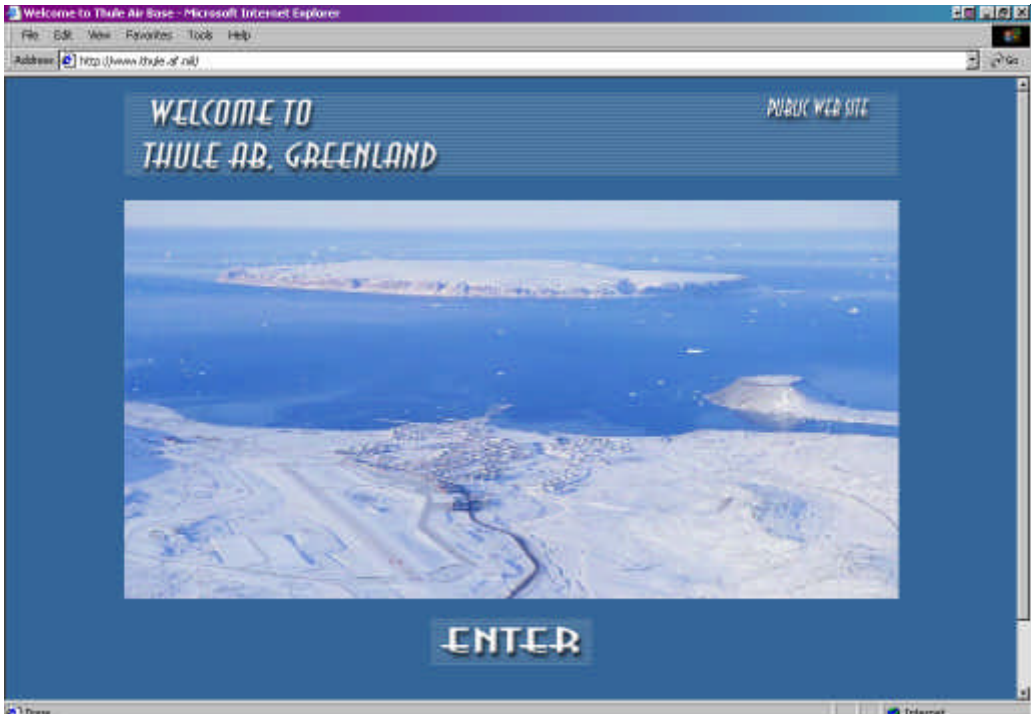
In late August, Thule Air Base launched a new public web site.

The site is intended primarily for new personnel and visitors. Its contains information about organization missions, weather conditions, and traveler's tips.

The site is especially important to newly assigned personnel since the SITES database contains only a few sentences about Thule.

For more information, you can visit the site:

http:\\www.thule.af.mil



12 SWS's Capt Gondol Selected for Prestigious AF Program

08/09/02 - WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Four Air Force officers were chosen recently to participate in the service's Financial Management Leadership Program, designed to develop aerospace leaders with financial management and command experience. The board at AFPC selected the following individuals:

- Capts. Jeffrey Dibiasi, 52nd Munitions Support Squadron, Kleine Brogel, Belgium;
- **John Gondol, 12th Space Warning Squadron, Thule Air Base, Greenland**
- Stephen Hoffman, Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas
- Gena Stuchbery, Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, Texas

The program, which lasts between four and five years, begins with six weeks of professional development education at the Professional Military Comptroller School at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Upon completion of that training, the four officers will transfer to the financial management staffs at either Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command, United States Air Forces in Europe or AETC.

While on staff at a major command FM office, program participants will shadow local comptroller squadron commanders to gain a broader understanding of financial services, budget analysis, and planning and programming. After two to three years at a MAJCOM, program participants will take the reigns of a comptroller squadron within the same command.

Lt Col Barnes, Commander of the 12 SWS said, "It's great to see one of our own get selected for the program This is clearly a win-win situation for Capt Gondol and the Air Force. John gets a roadmap to a bright future in the Service and the Air Force gets a phenomenal officer and operator in the Financial Management community."

Library

Books, magazines, periodicals, video-tapes, music CDs, book-on-tape, paper-back exchange, photocopy machines and much, much more await you at your base library.

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Sat & Sun 14 & 15 Sept	1200– 1300	Express Shop
Sat & Sun 21 & 22 Sept	1200– 1300	Ceramic Shop
Sat & Sun 28 & 29 Sept	1200– 1300	Digital Photo Shop

ARCTIC SPOTLIGHT

TSgt Chris Davis

Last base: Pope AFB, NC
Next base: Scott AFB, IL
Originally from: Hamilton, OH
My Job Title: Chief of Safety

What I like most about my job:
Meeting and working with people from all agencies on the base

Hobbies/Interest:
All sports especially golf, Ohio State football, reading and family activities

Thule goals:
Completing my Bachelor's Degree

Interesting fact:
As a Security Policemen selected for a special detail to guard former President Bush, I got to meet him and Barbara Bush and to talk with them for a few minutes.

A Greenlandic First!

Geocaching Makes a Cool Debut

By Capt Elizabeth Ferrill 821 SPTS/SC

Greenland's first "geocache" is now located on top of a moraine just south of the end of the Harald Moltke Glacier north of Thule Air Base.

Not familiar with the hobby of Geocaching? Check out the Frequently Asked Questions to the right to learn all the specifics.

On 11 Aug 02, TSgt Phillip Lindenmuth, 821 SPTS/SC, hide his cache. He logged it on a popular geocaching website shortly thereafter.

The trail takes hunters past Storm Shelter 11 to a terrific view of the Wolstenholme Fjord and the glacier. It also leads them down a steep 1400 foot drop with many loose rocks.

TSgt Lindenmuth's advice to fellow "hunters" includes: "Do not hike in this area alone" and "Plan your trip ahead and let a responsible person know when you should be back."

Entitled, El Conquistador's Treasure, TSgt Lindenmuth was characteristically "mum" about the exacts contents of the cache. It seems that treasure hunters will have to make the trek to see for themselves.

"X" marks the spot...or in this case N76 33.6804 / W68 16.0086. This rock cairn hold the secrets of TSgt Lindenmuth's geocaching treasure.

Geocaching FAQ

What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for Global Positioning System (GPS) users. Participating in a cache hunt is a good way to take advantage of the different features and capability of your GPS unit. Individuals have set up caches all over the world and share their locations with each other over the Internet. GPS users find the location coordinates on websites and use their GPS to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. The only rule of thumb is if you take something from the cache, leave something behind in exchange.

What are the rules in Geocaching?

Geocaching has very simple rules:

1. Take something from the cache

2. Leave something in the cache

3. Write about it in the logbook

Where you place a cache is up to you.

What is usually in a cache?

A cache can take many forms but the first item should always be the logbook. In its simplest form, the cache can be just a logbook. The logbook contains information from the founder of the cache and notes from each of the cache's visitors.

The logbook can contain rewarding and entertaining information. A logbook might contain information about nearby attractions, coordinates to other unpublished caches, and even jokes written by visitors. If you get some information from a logbook you should give some back. At the very least you can leave the date and time you visited the cache.

The Last Word

Maybe it is the sunlight (which is constant this time of year), the latitude (which is higher than most places) or the population (which rivals that of the Saturday shoppers at your average Wal-Mart), but we at the Thule Times have noticed some straight happenings around base. Here is a quick sample...

Elvis Found Alive on Tug Boat Beach

2 SEPT 02 — TUG BOAT BEACH, GL. They looked in Graceland. They've combed Las Vegas. Once they even searched an county in Tennessee. But no one bothered to look in our own backyard. Yes, folks, he's been here all along. (We heard he's living with Mr. Reece.)

Hat Owners Beware

MID SEPT — Dundas Dinning Hall. "I'll never forget that day. I came out of the DDH and my hat had been hat-napped. I was devastated," said one member of the 821 SPTS who asked that his name be withheld. Shortly after the incident, the owner received this picture over the email. Yes, if he didn't pay up, his hat was going to be ... cut! Let this be a warning to other — watch out for your personal belongings.

Hero Saves Entire Musk-Ox Herd

2 SEPT 02 — BLDG 105. Bravery doesn't even begin to describe it. 1st Lt Brady Vaira's selfless act that evening was truly a "labor" of love. As shown in this re-creation, Lt Vaira, with no concern for his own well-being, rescued the 105 herd of seven musk-ox from a potentially burning building. Bystanders gasped at his obvious cool head under the worst of situations. The Herd's leader, who doesn't appear to have a name, had no comment about the incident, except a low-pitched moaning noise.

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, Department of the Air Force, Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, or the Department of Defense.

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Deadline for submissions for next issue is 26 September 2002.