Thule Times

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2003

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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Thule First Light Festival

Saturday
15 Feb 2003
Hangar 7
Starts at 1700 hrs
For more info see pg 4

Show Me the Love!

Thule AB celebrates its best at 2002 Annual Awards Banquet

By Capt Elizabeth Ferrill
821 SPTS/SC

It was a dark and stormy night...well maybe just dark, as Thule Air Base gathered in its finest garb for a celebration of excellence.

The 2002 Annual Awards Banquet recognized all squadron and group winners and in a dramatic end to the evening, the Thule Air Base winners were announced.

Of course at a celebration such as this, certain things are a must: fancy clothes, colorful decorations and a shiny guest speaker.

The military attendees arrived in mess dress or semi-formal attire. The women carefully walked on the ice in their high heels and the men dealt with the frustrating not-so-straight bow tie. Our civilian guests were likewise dressed the nines. Frankly, Thule hadn't seen this many dressed up folks since twenty-three days earlier at the New Year's Party. (This ***is*** the toughest remote in the Air Force; don't let anyone tell you anything different.)

On the tables and from the ceiling, the theme was red, white and blue! The Annual Awards Committee had outdone themselves with decorations. The tables had blue table clothes and centerpieces made of American flags and starbursts made of foil. The guests dined on scrumptious chicken

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Amn Samantha Chatham, 821 SPTS/MSA, warmly congratulates her husband and fellow competitor, SrA Otis Chatham, 821 SFS/SFOA. As Amn Chatham said later, "Even though it wasn't me, at least someone in the family won. And the award goes on my wall either way!"

Commander's Corner

By Col Louis Christensen
821 ABG/CC

It came to my attention on Christmas Eve, not everyone is pleased with the movies we show on the cable channels controlled by Thule AB. Just as there are a multitude of nationalities here, there are also a multitude of tastes and demographics. Something I think is hilarious, others may not understand. You, the consumer are the ultimate censor, by choosing to watch a program or not watch it. In an effort to better understand what we show on television and how to avoid something you may find offensive, the following information is provided by the Services flight of the 821 Support Squadron.

"We are privileged to have such a variety of cable programming available at our isolated and remote location. This is not true for many other overseas locations. Live broadcast through CANCOM brings us all of the major stateside networks, i.e. CBS, ABC, NBC, and FOX, in addition to the Pacific and Atlantic Armed Forces Network (AFN) whose broadcasts keep us abreast of military news from around the world and provide us 24-hour sports and news programming channels.

In addition to our stateside broadcasts, we receive one Greenlandic and two Danish television channels. Channel 2 airs Greenland Contractors (GC) public service announcements in Danish and Greenlandic. Channel 3, Kalaallit Nunaata Radio (Radio Greenland), is an independent station based in Nuuk, Greenland's capital, and broadcasts television throughout Greenland. KNR TV broadcasts about 300 hours of Greenlandic, and about 2,000 hours of Danish programs per year. Channel 25 broadcasts Danish movies that are aired locally and are made possible by GC's welfare fund.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) provide Team Thule with VHS-formatted movies before they are normally available on video. These movies are shown at the Thule movie theater, and due to limited seating, are re-broadcast on our local movie channels. The Channel 17 Movie Schedule highlights upcoming AAFES movies in blue text.

The 821st Support Squadron Services Flight supplements AAFES movies with Non Appropriated Funds (NAF) purchased movies. Services also provide NAF contract movie operators and NAF technicians to maintain the video equipment. A master movie inventory is maintained on Prancer/Public/Services/Movie Channel Request List for those with US LAN access, or through a hard copy disseminated to the Community Activities Center and the North Star Inn. Interested individuals may request movies to be shown by calling ext 7888. Every effort will be made to air movie requests within 48-hours.

Beginning 1 Feb, the Services Flight master movie listing, and Channel 17 movie schedules will reflect movie ratings. This is in an effort to inform viewers of the movie's content. The ratings will denote potentially offensive content including violence, language, and/or sexual content/nudity. Advertising movie ratings will allow you to make a better choice when selecting a movie based on your preference. No X-rated movies will ever be shown.

Additionally, effective 1 Feb, Channel 18 will be dedicated to broadcasting only Parental Guidance (PG)-13, PG, or General (G) rated movies. This is analogous to the movies in Denmark that are "not rated" since they are suitable for viewing by people of any age.

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our "quality of life" programs--and as always solicit your feedback. The Thule POC for locally aired movies and music videos are Mr. Mitchell Hebert, Services Director, ext 2445, and TSgt Phillip Lindenmuth, Cable TV QAE, ext 2535 for music radio.

In closing, remember, you are the ultimate censor with the on/off button on your remote. If you have a suggestion, good, bad, or indifferent, don't suffer in silence, please pass it on to Mr. Hebert or TSgt Lindenmuth.

Commander's Trophy Points Update

ABG:	**185**
SFS:	**115**
OPS:	**105**
SPTS:	**115**

Standings as 1 Feb 2003

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Ch, Capt James Parrish
821 ABG/HC

My memory is somewhat fuzzy at the moment; I really do not recall all the faces of the people I met as I walked down the stairs to the flight line. Oh sure, I can tell you who I think was there to greet me that November morning. Actually, to tell the truth I wasn't sure my legs had enough strength to carry my carcass down that mile of steps. It looked so far to the ground, with that bright light illuminating the path to the cement below. I do remember the eeriness of the surrounding darkness; after all it was 0900! I was praying fervently, "Oh pleeeeease God, don't let me fall down that row of metal teeth". After, victoriously mastering the metal obstacle, I moved graciously through the grip and grin line with a hypocritical face of alertness, I smiled as I was welcomed to Thule! Immediately, I was ushered to the chariot that mastered the snow packed terrain for that long ride to the terminal. Entering the terminal I was blasted with the heart and soul of Thule AB. The warm smiles and happy faces of all those who packed the terminal warmed the frigid air and touched my heart deeply.

I do remember that July morning when I received my assignment to Thule and how excited I was. I had been told by a chaplain who was here some years ago, "Thule was the best remote assignment a chaplain could receive." However, as I shared the good news with others in my beloved Air Force I was forced to receive a myriad of unbiased responses from persons who actually knew someone who had been assigned to Thule and was never the same afterwards. After a time of caring apologetic remarks, I grew extremely hesitant to admit, "Yes, it's true; I have been sentenced to Thule. Honestly, I don't know what I did; I've only been active duty two years. I can't remember harming anyone in any way as to receive such a duty!" Ah, woe is me! My joy was reduced to excuses; "I've "got to" go to Thule." I had a "got to" to deal with. "Got to" is pure unadulterated drudgery. "Got to" is quiet rebellion deep in a hurting soul. "Got to" is getting the job done to move on to something else. The something else probably isn't better it's just different.

Today, my thoughts are clear after two very short months at Thule. I know the truth about Thule. Thule is not a "got to" assignment. Thule is a "get to" assignment. Yes it's true I, like a few other selected individuals, "get to" serve my country and my God in the Artic Circle. I believe my "get to" reward began in a crowded air terminal full of wonderful people saying, "Welcome to Thule!"

Perhaps it is as simple as changing your "got to" into a "get to". "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds…" Phil 4:7

February Birthdays

MSgt Tim Crews	**821 ABG/CCF**	**2 Feb (1889)**
TSgt Wayne Wilson	**821 SPTS/OS**	**3 Feb**
SrA Robert Roe	**12 SWS/DOO**	**4 Feb**
2d Lt James Somerville	**12 SWS/DOOB**	**5 Feb**
Amn Thomas Moore	**821 SFS/SFOC**	**6 Feb**
Capt Ray Kellermann	**12 SWS/DOOA**	**11 Feb**
TSgt Daniel Mack	**821 SFS/SFOA**	**11 Feb**
TSgt Marlin Fjordbak	**821 ABG/FM**	**12 Feb**
SrA Frederick White	**821 SPTS/SV**	**12 Feb**
TSgt Phil Lindenmuth	**821 SPTS/SC**	**18 Feb**
SSgt Joseph Andreasen	**821 SFS/SFOI**	**23 Feb**
TSgt Victor Grant	**821 SPTS/MSA**	**24 Feb**
Maj Tom Solz	**Det 3/DO**	**27 Feb**
TSgt Chris Davis	**821 ABG/SE**	**27 Feb**

Thule Tidbits

Thule Barber Shop to Close — The barber shop will be closed from 7 to 20 Feb while Debra is on vacation. She will reopen on 21 Feb for a full day. Call x3200 or x3127 for an appointment...**Full Morning Brunch Test Period** — Due to customer demand, the Dundas Dining Hall will be offering brunch on Sundays in Feb from 0500-1300 hours. This is a test period and the program will continue in the future if there are enough customers...**Purchasing New Vehicles through AAFES** — One benefit of being stationed overseas is the opportunity to buy new cars at great prices through AAFES. Thule's dealer is in Iceland. If you are interested, contact Ben through email: militarycarsales@mwr.is or by phone: DSN: 450-4370. The website to see which cars are available is: www.encs.com. Happy shopping....**More Information About Denmark**—Do you want to learn more about Denmark? Do you wonder what news is important to the Danes? Check out **The Copenhagen Post**, Denmark's English language newspaper. The web address is http://cphpost.periskop.dk/....

the COPENHAGEN post

We love Copenhagen, world says

Majority reject EU constitution

Cold Ca$h Tip

By MSgt Corey Hewitt
821 ABG/FM

The myPay website, which was formerly known as E/MSS, allows customers (active duty, guard, reserves, retired and civilian employees) to view and update many personal pay matters. Some examples are to view and print present and past LESs, W-2s, change tax withholdings, bank information, addresses, savings bonds, and control your TSP. The site also provides facts, coming attractions, hot topics and additional links to helpful and informative websites.

Using this system saves the government money, time and manpower. You must have a personal identification number (PIN) to login, and each government employee should have previously been mailed a PIN. If you need a PIN, there is a button on the front page to request a new PIN. It will generate a message to have your PIN reset and mailed to the mailing address stored in the pay system. If you're not sure what address is currently in the pay system, please contact the finance office to verify before requesting a new PIN.

Since mail doesn't always make it to us here at Thule in a timely manner, you can also request a new PIN from DFAS through fax or email. If you choose to fax your request, send it to: (216) 522-5800. If you want to scan the information required and email it, send it to: cc1-mv-mypay@dfas.mil. The following information would need to be provided to either of these options:

Copy of Photo ID (Military ID or License)

Social Security Number written

Daytime Phone Number

Signature

All of this information should be copied onto one page. After two days, you should be able to access the system with your PIN being set for the last 5 positions of your SSN.

The website to access myPay is http://mypay.dfas.mil and you can get additional information concerning myPay at \\Prancer\PUBLIC\Finance\MilitaryPay\myPay.

Contact Finance Customer Service at Ext. 2680 if you have any questions.

Safety Corner

Contributed by TSgt Christopher Davis
821 ABG/SE

Here's more in our continuing examination of risky maneuvers that finally backfired, unnecessary booby-traps, and "almosts" that weren't quite good enough.

A retired Tech Sergeant was standing in the back of his pickup truck, filling five 5-gallon gas cans. An alert Lieutenant Colonel (a former safety officer) was at a nearby pump. He told a local reporter, "I was moving my lips to tell him, 'Sir, don't do that,' when the first flame started in the back of his truck." A spark of static electricity had graphically and dramatically preempted the colonel's warning. Security cameras videotaped the unfolding scene, a textbook case of how to make something bad into something worse. The Sergeant dropped the burning hose, spraying gas all over the truck. He then tried to jettison the burning 5-gallon can, splashing burning fuel on the ground. By now the fire was eagerly blazing away on the Sergeant, in the truck and near the pump. He jumped down, ran a few dozen yards, then dropped and rolled. Four bystanders helped put out the flames on his gasoline-soaked pants and shoes. Someone called 911 and the base firefighters were on the scene in two minutes. The Sergeant was severely burned on both legs. The gas pump had a clear, legible warning sign on it that said, in part, "set container on ground before filling," because static electricity can ignite gasoline vapors. That's also why you shouldn't climb in and out of your car while filling your tank.

Single digits make a difference, and not just on lottery tickets. Mechanics had to replace a pitch-trim servo on an H-60, but they didn't have the pub to find the part number. Someone at the base supply department told them that roll-trim and pitch-trim assemblies are interchangeable. They were close. Twelve of the thirteen digits in the stock numbers were the same. Still, you've got to wonder--Isn't this why parts have different names and numbers? The helo flew a check flight and three training Missions. The pilots kept overlooking the erroneous part, perhaps because no one had mentioned the substitution during the maintenance briefs. Finally, during the preflight for the fourth training hop, the pilot felt something amiss in the flight-controls. Troubleshooters then found the problem. Of course, the squadron was in the middle of a compressed IDTC and everyone felt pressured to get things done. But everyone also knew there was no excuse for not consulting the IETMS (the electronic version of the manuals). This error could have led to the sort of erratic banking, yawing, pitching and rolling that ends up pranging helos and pushing up the mishap rate. Glad this one had a happy ending. And as all the participants learned and relearned, you've got to follow the book. The *right* book, not the *almost-right* book.

That's all for now. Please, take a minute to read those warning labels. Sometimes they aim at the lowest common denominator, but they aren't casting aspersions on your IQ or your common sense. They keep us from learning the hard way. And if you're tempted to ignore them, take an additional minute to consider how it will look when someone replays the video.

FREEZE FRAME!

Speaking at the Base Commander's Call on 30 Jan, Maj Gen Michael Hamel, 14 AF/CC, said that the Air Force leadership hopes for a peaceful end to the current crisis, but if called upon, America's fighting men and woman will be successful. Maj Gen Hamel also spoke about the enormous changes in the Strategic and Space worlds in recent years, which will lead to challenging careers for younger Air Force members.

Thule Memories From 1953-54

By Mr. Paul A. Speen, Former Thule Resident

I served in the 549th Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) Gun Battalion and we arrived in Thule in Aug. 1953 via troopship.

We were a full battalion: Able, Baker, Charlie and Dog batteries. We even had a Headquarters battery. Each battery had four 90 mm anti-aircraft guns for a total of 16 guns. All the 90mms were hooked up to a radar and it was a very good tracking and firing system.

I'll never forget that we had to dig in that permafrost for our gun sites and gun huts. We filled thousands of barrels and sandbags.

I was a 19 yr old draftee at the time and I have many fond memories of Thule. When we arrived in Aug 1953, our barracks were not completed. So we had to sleep on the troopship. We went ashore everyday via "ducks" to work on our gun sites. I was at the D-battery gun site.

Later we moved into some barracks on the airbase with two men to a room. When the barracks on our gun site were finally completed, we moved in and each man had their own room. It was a relief to finally have a little bit of privacy.

I have a bunch of old black and white photos that were taken back in 53 and 54 and they help me remember the time I spent at Thule.

Cops Corner

By Maj Robert Winters 821 SFS/CC

Last month, we looked at the close working relationship between the Danish Police Inspector and the base Security Forces. One of the best tools we have to enforce standards of acceptable conduct across the diverse population of Thule Air Base are the so called "Thule Rules" originally drafted in cooperation with Air Force and Danish government officials in 1977.

Everyone is subject to and protected by the three main Thule Rules that translated from Danish are:

1. Fighting, screaming, brawling vociferous behavior or other noisy violent, outrageous or similar behavior suitable to break the peace or cause inconvenience to others present or living in the neighborhood, are not allowed.

2. It is prohibited to go about in a state of intoxication that causes inconvenience to others.

3. It is prohibited to show indecent behavior e.g. by using obscene words or indecent acts by indecent exposure of the body or by proposing immoral acts.

Basically, these actions would create unacceptable tension between individuals that may give rise to other, more serious problems. Furthermore, they could otherwise go unpunished because these infractions are not part of the law that applies to civilians assigned to the base. Generally, violations of the Thule Rules equate to traffic tickets in the United States and are punishable by fines administered by the Danish Police Inspector of up to 500 Danish Krone, the equivalent of about $80 US.

In our close-knit community, the need for enforcement of the Thule Rules is seldom since relations are very good. But when actions out of the ordinary occur, it's good to know that civility can be enforced.

Fitness Center Operating Hours

DUE TO THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER CONTSTRUCTION, FITNESS CENTER HOURS WILL VARY THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY.

CHECK SLIDE ON TV CHANNELS FOR CURRENT OPENING HRS.

21 CONS Takes Four Awards

By SSgt Josh Clendenen
21 SW/PA

Four members of the 21st Contracting Squadron garnered individual awards in the Air Force Space Command Contracting Quality and Team Achievement in the Small Business Program awards for fiscal year 2002.

Lt. Col Craig A. Hill, 21st CONS, Detachment 1, Copenhagen, Denmark, won for Outstanding Contracting Officer; Joseph C. Poniatowski won in the Outstanding Contracting Civilian category; Airman 1st Class Alejandro A. Prinz took top honors in the Outstanding Contracting Airman; and Staff Sgt. Robert L. Howard won in the Outstanding Contingency Contracting category.

Hill commanded the Department of Defense's only joint acquisition office in fiscal '02. Through his diplomatic channels, he purchased the use of ships and aircraft to deliver more than 4,000 personnel, 340 tons of food, and 7,000 tons of construction materials to Thule Air Base, Greenland. Hill has been praised by the Ambassador of Denmark for his support.

Poniatowski was the sole contracting officer for the North American Aerospace Defense Command/ U.S. Space Command Mission and Architectual Support Contract. He awarded more than 190 mission-critical actions worth more than $27 million. Poniatowski also awarded more than $9 million in technical services support for the NORTHCOM beddown.

Prinz managed several Simplified Acquisition of Base Engineer Requirement contracts valued at more than $110 million. He was one of the leaders of a $450,000 base jogging path lighting project and was a key player in the the early completion of the U.S. Northern Command contract.

Howard, while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, awarded more than $5.5 million in contracts. He also helped to ensure the security of Ganci Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, by negotiating and awarding a contract for two security fences. While at Ganci AB, he procured fuel tanks to be used for generator fuel and he awarded a fabrication contract for a fuel tank catwalk and ladder assembly ensuring the safety of deployed fuels personnel.

"I have been associated with five separate contracting squadrons, and the 21st CONS, by far, has the best contracting professionals in the Air Force," said Lt. Col. Reggie Selby, 21st CONS Commander. "We proved that by being recognized as the Best Contracting Squadron in (Space Command) and the Air Force in 2001. We are the reigning champions, and our folks who are being recognized for their individual performances are representative of our entire team. It is my honor and privilege to serve along side of each of them."

The winners of these awards will compete at the Air Force-level competition.

FREEZE FRAME!

Newly promoted MSgt Charles Lawber, 821 SPTS/LG, is congratulated by Col Louis Christensen, 821 ABG/CC, Lt Gen Thomas Goslin, Deputy Commander, USSTRATCOM, and Brig Gen Duane Deal, 21 SW/CC on his STEP promotion on 23 Jan 03. Col Christensen announced the news after the annual awards were presented.

(Continued from page 1)

or hearty steak straight from the TOW Club kitchen.

And what about that shiny guest speaker? Well the guest speaker was Lt Gen Thomas Goslin, Deputy Commander of US Strategic Command and the shine came from the three big ones on his shoulders. In addition, Brig Gen Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander, attended the dinner as well. He said that he only came as a guest, but later on we will learn that he had something else up his sleeve.

At the beginning of the evening, the 821 Air Base Group First Sergeant, MSgt Timothy Crews, read the names of all the squadron and group levels winners. These names had been previously announced, but this part of the evening gave commanders a chance to brag about their best troops in front of the brass.

Then the banquet moved on to dinner and dessert. During dessert, Col Louis Christensen, 821st Air Base Group Commander, rose to officially introduce General Goslin. Col Christensen spoke about General Goslin's operational experience in the B-2, B-52, A-7 and F-117 as well as his combat time in Southeast Asia as a forward air controller. In addition, he reminded the banquet about Thule's role in USSTRATCOM since the combination of USSPACECOM and USSTRATCOM as of 1 Oct 03.

General Goslin remarked that the first thing he noticed about Thule was the sense of family that he hadn't seen often since his days in Vietnam. He was encouraged to see that everyone knew each other's names and seemed to genuinely concerned about each other. He said he was surrounded by all volunteers and he thought that contributed to the great sense of spirit at Thule. The crowd seemed to agree!

Following General Goslin's speech

TSgt Marty Shoebridge, 821 SPTS/LG, and MSgt Vincent Anderson, 821 SPTS/CE, listen to the squadron and group winners before the start of dinner.

MUG and a HUG! MUG and a HUG! The familiar chant inspired Brig Gen Deal to show his love to Col Christensen at the end of the evening. Gee, sir, it was only a coffee cup and a canvas polar bear bag!

Lt Gen Thomas Goslin spoke about the amazing spirit of family and volunteerism that he noticed from the moment he stepped off the plane only a few hours before.

the banquet moved on to its real mission—recognizing Thule's best at the base level. Members of all units (Det 3, 12 SWS and 821 ABG) were eligible to participate in the competition. And the winners are...

- **Airman**: SrA Otis Chatham, 821 SFS

- **NCO**: TSgt Marlin Fjordbak, 821 ABG

- **SNCO**: MSgt Roger Sams, 821 SFS

- **CGO**: 2nd Lt Trevor Nolan, 12 SWS

Each winner was presented an acrylic plaque that will have their name engraved on it. In addition, the enlisted winners received a $100 BX gift certificate sponsored by Thule Top 4. (We also heard that they might get their picture in a certain newspaper too!)

But the fun wasn't over yet. General Deal still had that rabbit up his sleeve. No silly, that's not a rabbit, those are Master Sergeant stripes! And those stripes were meant for one lucky Tech Sergeant whose STEP promotion was announced at the end of the banquet.

First, Col Christensen announced that one of the STEP promotions for the 21 SW was going to Thule. Everyone looked around...who could it be? Then Col Christensen asked "MSgt Select" Charles Lawber to join him at the front of the stage. The crowd exploded with cheers and clapping. Once his tablemates shook the shock out of him, now MSgt Lawber rushed to the stage. Generals Goslin and Deal did the honors and viola! He was the newest MSgt in the Air Force. Everyone was so happy for MSgt Lawber that the base was singing with joy the rest of the night!

Brig Gen Deal congratulates Thule AB CGO, 2nd Lt Trevor Nolan, 12 SWS/DOT on his award. 2nd Lt Nolan accomplished many goals during the year including preparing the Training section for a successful 21 SW inspection back in Dec 02.

A1C Eric "DJ Eric" Forrester and SrA Lori "Lo" Cantu sit down with…

LAUGHING COLORS

By A1C Eric Forrester
821 SPTS/MSA &
SrA Lori Cantu 821 SPTS/OS

Well well well, hard rock finally made it to Thule. Finally something we could bang our heads to, and it all came from a band called Laughing Colors. LC, a Baltimore/D.C. band packed up and came to Thule from the 16th of January to the 24th, and to say the least they "brang it!" Laughing Colors hard hitting, unique heavy style cannot best be described as a cross between any bands, and I think you definitely had to hear them live to get the full effect. The band played from Fri-Sun, and again on Tuesday at the TOW Club leaving audiences stunned and asking for more. The band once again played a short set Thursday during and after (wow!) the Thule Air Base Annual Awards Banquet, which included distinguished visitors Lt Gen Goslin and Brig Gen Deal.

Laughing Colors were all smiles when on stage (most noticeably Will and Dave), and performed mostly original songs, with a few awesome covers from Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, and more. I got a chance to catch up with the band while waiting for a pizza at the club before their head knocking Tuesday night jam session. Here's what they had to say:

Singer Dave Tieff had an exciting stage presence that everyone noticed. On the night of the third show, he decided that the dye hard Thule fans could be called Laughing Color heads!

E: You guys have played with a few cool bands, Live, Train, and Eve 6 to name a few, who is your favorite to play or tour with?

LC: It had to be that Live show, that was pretty good, yeah definitely. That was just last summer, and we played it at an amphitheater right on the water in downtown Baltimore, it was a pretty cool show. It was probably the biggest one too, probably 4 or 5 thousand people.

E: So that was your biggest one?

LC: Well I think a couple of the festivals we played at were a little bigger, but there was like 10

bands.

E: So it looks like you have a lot of shows up coming in the next month, but what exactly is the "Jackass tour?" Anything to do with "Jackass the Movie?"

*LC: Yeah the T.V. show. Steve-O from Jackass is doing a tour, and I guess he is just stopping in different clubs and doing Jackass stuff. I'm not really sure exactly what is going to happen, but I'm sure it will have something to do with the TV show, and like them, you know stapling their n**s to their legs or something like that. I hope they don't mess with us man! (Right!)*

E: Your website (www.laughingcolors.com) said that you all came together in '95, but you made the cd "what's so funny" in '94, was that pretty much just a demo to start with, or just a garage cd or something?

LC: The 4 of us have been together since '95, but we had a different drummer before that. So when we say the 4 of us, that's when the band came together, we include the 4 of us because that's when Will joined the band.

E: Ok this is my favorite one, Dave your bio says that "you put me in a room full of musicians and I don't fit in, but put me in a room full of jerk-offs and I'll shine." Would you agree with me when I say you definitely shined this weekend?

Dave: Ahhhh…(laughs around the house), ahhh jeeze, I have to be careful on this one. Absolutely, yeah. We're leaving Friday!

Drummer Will Dorsey was very popular especially with the ladies. Perhaps it was because he gave away his signed (broken) drumsticks.

E: Who does the majority of writing on your original songs? Who does the lyrics, and who does the music, or is it a total band effort?

LC: Dave writes all the lyrics. Yeah, I do the lyrics and usually what we do is we'll collaborate on the music, and people have different parts you know, a guitar part, a bass part, drum part and we'll jam for a while until a song comes together. It could take 10 minutes, or seriously it could take weeks. Some songs come together immediately and it's like that's exactly how it is going to go, and some songs man, we work on for months and they still don't sound right you know what I mean.

E: Dan your bio doesn't say much about any particular bassist you look up to, is there someone that you try most to play like, or get any particular style from?

Dan: Um, well, there's just Geddy Lee from Rush, way back when. But I don't consciously try to play like anybody. I just try to play the part for what we're doing.

E: Will I think I speak for a lot of people at Thule when I say your drums were wicked banging, has it just been another normal weekend for you on the set, or were you holding back any?

Will: No that's probably normal. (The band agrees)

E: Did you ever get to meet or play with your favorite drummer Peter Criss from Kiss?

Will: Na never met him. But I wish I did.

E: Have you guys ever played any USO shows, or anything for the troops before?

LC: This is our first one, and we're mighty glad to be here.

Lo: About Thule, what did you guys like up here the most, if anything?

(please turn to page 14)

Tongues Targeted in Standards Change

By A1C Bryan Franks
30 SW/PA

The Air Force has always kept high standards for their military members and with the interim change to the regulation on dress and personal appearance, the standards just got higher. The change announced Jan. 9 prohibits people from pursuing body alterations or modifications that disfigure, deform or detract from a professional military image.

Forking or splitting of the tongue is one of the issues this policy addresses. The process involves a person having their tongue cut then sewn back to create a split resembling a serpent or dragon tongue.

Other targeted issues are people filing their teeth into sharp points or implanting objects under their skin in order to give the area a rough or raised appearance.

According to the 30th Aeromedical Dental Squadron, no one at Vandenberg has pursued having their teeth filed down or inquired about having their tongue split through the clinic here.

Last year, an airman assigned to Air Combat Command had his tongue surgically split. Since a regulation wasn't in place to prohibit such behavior one had to be created, said Tech. Sgt. Debra Campbell, Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas. Members who fork or split their tongues after the effective date of the policy will be required to have surgery to return their tongue to its original condition. The corrective surgery will be required at the member's own expense. Anyone who chooses not to correct the situation will face disciplinary action and may be involuntarily separated, Campbell said.

Forking or piercing one's tongue could have additional consequences here at Thule. To date, there have been no studies looking at the interaction between large metal poles and altered tongues at freezing temperatures.

This new policy has been included as part of Air Force instructions regarding tattoos and piercing. Tattoos and brandings are prohibited above the collarbone and must not show when wearing an open collar uniform. They also can't cover more than 25 percent of an exposed body part. In addition, obscene, racial, ethnic or religiously discriminating tattoos are prohibited. Airmen are prohibited from wearing adornments through pierced holes in the nose, tongue or any other exposed body part, besides the ear, while in uniform, on official business, or in civilian clothes on any military installation.

Women may wear earrings while on duty but they must be small and round gold, silver, diamond or pearl matching studs. Men can only wear earrings off base when not in uniform. Body piercing may not be visible through any uniform.

Air Force policy prohibits tongue piercing. According to the 30th ADOS, there are many potential health concerns with oral jewelry. Millions of bacteria reside in the mouth, which can cause infection. The infection can cause severe swelling, which could close off or block the airway. Oral jewelry can crack and chip teeth causing extensive, otherwise preventable, dental treatment.

The new policy addressing the military professional image wasn't written to be overly specific, said Lt. Col. Frank Pombar, branch chief for Quality of Life and Uniform Board activities at the Air Force. It was designed to be broad enough to address the issue and flexible enough that it wouldn't tie the hands of local commanders and first sergeants.

February Forecast

By Mr. Phillip Eddy
GC/AMOW

February usually brings in some of the coldest temperatures of the year, with an average temperature of only –13 °F (-25 °C), and our coldest-ever temperature of –47° F (-44 °C).

We usually get around 3 inches of snow during the month but have gotten as much as 17 inches. Our peak wind on-base in February was 110 knots (127 mph) and off-base 160kt (184mph), both in 1996.

February also brings the return of sunlight, at last. The first official sunrise is on the 22nd, but if you can make it up to South Mountain, it will be visible around the 10th. Once it rises, we'll gain approximately 20 minutes each day, until 23 April when we go to 24 hour sunlight.

Skills Development Center

16 FEB
Free pour up to $ 5.00!

Instructional classes
Every weekend
from 1200–1300!

Thule Channel Guide

Television

Ch.2	Danish Information
Ch.3	Greenlandic TV - KNR
Ch.4	Commander's Information
Ch.5	Thule Discovery
Ch.6	WDIV – Detroit (NBC)
Ch.7	WXYZ – Detroit (ABC)
Ch.8	WBZ – Boston (CBS)
Ch.9	WGBH – Boston (PBS)
Ch.10	WUHF – Rochester (FOX)
Ch.11	KARE – Minneapolis (NBC)
Ch.13	AFN Guide/Contingency
Ch.14	WCCO – Minneapolis (CBS)
Ch.15	AFN Sports
Ch.16	Services Info
Ch.17	Services Movie Guide
Ch.18	Services Movies (PG/G only)
Ch.19	Services Movies
Ch.20	Services Movies
Ch.21	Services Movies
Ch.22	Services Movies
Ch.23	Services Movies
Ch.24	Services Music Videos
Ch.25	Danish Movies
Ch.26	Base Weather
Ch.27	AFN Pacific
Ch.28	AFN Spectrum
Ch.29	AFN Atlantic
Ch.30	AFN News

Radio

Ch.40	Radio - Z Rock
Ch.42	Radio - Hot AC
Ch.44	Radio - Pure Gold
Ch.46	Radio - Country
Ch.48	Radio - The Touch
Ch.50	Radio - Bright AC
Ch.52	Radio - NPR
Ch.54	Radio - Adult Rock

Internet Schedules

Greenlandic TV:
http://www.knr.gl/program/tv/dansk.htm

Armed Forces Network (TV)
http://www.myafn.net/tv/schedule/

Armed Forces Network (Radio)
http://www.myafn.net/radio/

National Public Radio
http://www.npr.org/worldwide/afrtsschedule.html

(continued from page 11)

LC: The reception, everybody's real receptive toward us. Also I love the weirdness about it you know, the dark all the time and the cold. It's a cool experience, like going to Mars or something, not many people can say they've gone to the arctic circle and played music, it's really cool up here!

Lo: Are you guys going to keep in touch with anyone up here, like is there any special person in particular?

LC: (For some odd reason all the attention is focused on a certain un-named member of the band.) Well everybody you know, I mean we want to try and come back around July or August.

Lo: Did you guys get to try any Seal or Whale meat at all?

LC: I don't think that was available, but I definitely would have tried it. Matter of fact I had some meatballs, but I assumed they were regular beef. If they were like seal balls, or fox balls, fox ball soup, I would probably have known, at least I hope so anyways.

E: Corey your bio says that you started with the ukulele, any chance you'll ever cut a track with one on a Laughing Colors CD?

Corey: I don't really know how to play it; you know first starting that's all I had. I don't even know how to tune it, but we might find a spot for a ukulele somewhere.

E: Is there a favorite town you all would agree with that you love to play in?

LC: (Pauses) Baltimore's cool, but we play there so much. It's Thule now!

E: Ok I have 4 quick response type questions, one for the each of you. Nonbiased of course. So if you would just tell me the first thing that comes to your mind that would be great.

Dan, Metallica?

Dan: Good.

E: Dave, Courtney Love?

Dave: Nasty.

E: Will, Snoop Doggy Dawg?

Will: He's cool.

E: Corey, Jarred from Subway?

Corey: (Stunned, laughing, and the other members yelling "first response") Ok, I gotta think.... he's full of @$#! He's a dork!*

E: And lastly I have to say thanks for the requests and the covers you did so well, but is there any particular song or songs that you just can't go a full set without playing?

LC: Probably Samhouse (Pattern Seed cd). Yeah, definitely Samhouse, that's the one we did the National Anthem in.

E: Well thanks you guys for coming up to Thule to make sure we're banging our heads up here. It meant a lot that you took the time from your life to come all the way up here to entertain us. We really hope that you enjoy your short time with us at the top of the world.

In between shows, the band members join together in the Casual Bar to learn to play Danish Pool. The band really got into the Thule spirit and were normally seen at the Dundas Dining Hall. We even heard that they made it to a flattop party or two!

Thule Air Base 4th Quarter Award Winners

2Lt Trevor Nolan 12 SWS

SMSgt Raymond Magby 821 SPTS

TSgt Michael Keating 12 SWS

SrA Otis Chatham 821 SFS

Additional Winners

821 ABG: Capt Todd Rupright, CGO of the Qtr; MSgt Raymond Magby, SNCO of Qtr; SSgt Joseph Andreasen, NCO of the Qtr; SrA Otis Chatham, Airman of the Qtr.

821 SPTS: Capt Todd Rupright, CGO of the Qtr; MSgt Raymond Magby, SNCO of Qtr; TSgt John Mannino, NCO of the Qtr; SrA Lori Cantu, Airman of the Qtr.

821 SFS: MSgt Roger Sams, SNCO of the Qtr; SSgt Joseph Andreasen, NCO of the Qtr; SrA Otis Chatham, Airman of the Qtr.

12 SWS: 2nd Lt Trevor Nolan, CGO of the Qtr; TSgt Michael Keating, NCO of the Qtr;

Are You Strong Enough?

By Capt Elizabeth Ferrill
821 SPTS/SC

They came from all corners of the base to test their ability. Would they be strong enough? Would months of pumping iron and eating right mean that the contestants could perform on game day?

The Thule Strongman/woman Competition was the base-wide contest. The contest included: Bench Press, Squat and Deadlift categories. In addition, there was an overall prize for Total Lifted Weight compared to body weight.

Mr. Kim Pedersen, GC/SVWR, MSgt Raymond Magby, 821 SPTS/SV and Mr. Roosevelt Mitchell, GC/AMO, assisted the lifters by spotting them and helping to prepare the weight. Col Louis Christensen was the official score keeper.

The competitors came from all over the base and included military members from the 821 ABG as well as Det 3 contractors and Greenland Contractors.

The overall winner was Mr. Stanley Childress, Harris Corp, at 1105 lbs, but everyone who participated showed they were strong enough!

Kim Pedersen spots SSgt Drayton Denson, 821 SFS/SF, as he benches his max weight. The careful reader will notice that the bar is bending.

Winners

Male Category
(compared to body weight)

First Place

Mr. Stanley Childress
Harris Corp (Det 3)
1105 lbs

Second Place

SrA Frederick White
821 SPTS/SV
935 lbs

Third Place

SSgt Drayton Denson
821 SFS
1085 lbs

Female Category

First Place

SrA Lori Cantu
821 SPTS/OS

362.5 lbs

Contestants

SrA Lori Cantu
Mr. Stanley Childress
TSgt Armando Da Silva
SSgt Drayton Denson
Amn Eric Forrester
(T)Sgt Jason Horst
Mr. Jens Josenius
SrA Renae Moats
Lt Col Bob Orwig
SrA Fred White

Overall winner of the competition, Mr. Stanley Childress competes in the Deadlift competition. Childress has won past weight lifting competitions at Thule.

First-time competitor SrA Lori Cantu competes in the Squat competition. SrA Cantu was also the overall Female winner and was awarded four T-shirts total for her efforts. We hope she enjoys her new wardrobe!

Annual Award Winners

(L-R) Thule AB & 821 ABG Airman of the Year: SrA Otis Chatham, 821 SFS; Security Forces NCO of the Year: SSgt Joseph Andreasen, 821 SFS; Thule AB & 821 ABG NCO of the Year: TSgt Marlin Fjordbak, 821 ABG; STEP Promotee MSgt Charles Lawber, 821 SPTS; Thule AB & 12 SWS CGO of the Year: 2nd Lt Trevor Nolan; 821 ABG CGO of the Year: Capt Todd Rupright, 821 SPTS

Additional Annual Award Winners

821 ABG: Capt Todd Rupright, CGO of the Year; MSgt Roger Sams, SNCO of Year; TSgt Marlin Fjordbak, NCO of the Year; SrA Otis Chatham, Airman of the Year.

821 SPTS: Capt Todd Rupright, CGO of the Year; MSgt Raymond Magby, SNCO of Year; TSgt Marlin Fjordbak, NCO of the Year; Amn Samantha Chatham, Airman of the Year.

821 SFS: MSgt Roger Sams, SNCO of Year; SSgt Joseph Andreasen, NCO of the Year; SrA Otis Chatham, Airman of the Year.

12 SWS: 2nd Lt Trevor Nolan, CGO of the Year; TSgt Joel Brown, NCO of the Year; SrA Robert Roe, Airman of the Year.

Top of the World Club

Happenings

By Charlee Ruiz
TOW Club Asst. Manager

Just to let you know what we have in store for you at the Club.

The Club will be closed 15 Feb to join in the Thule First Light Festival—we hope to see the entire Team Thule at the party. The bands will also perform at the Club, so watch for times and dates.

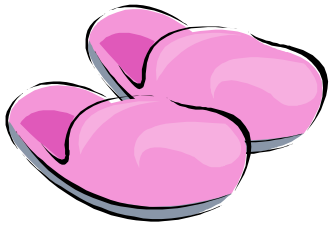
The Casual Bar will be open President's Day, 17 Feb, at 1600 and Food To Go will open at 1800. In the Casual Bar, we will have both a Dart tournament & a Danish Billiard tournament. Rules and sign-up sheets will be available at the Club after 1 Feb.

The TOW Club will be celebrating our membership with a theme night on 21 Feb. All annual members are invited to a "Roaring 20's" style Speakeasy in the Ballroom. Dress the style and join in the fun! There will be free food, games, prizes and lots of fun. If you aren't an annual member, join now and get your rewards!

Welcome the sun back to Thule with our "Slumber Party" at the Club on 22 Feb. Join us dressed in your "respectable" PJs and slippers. There will be a prize for the ugliest slippers!

All these things and many more events are happening at your Club. To find out when and where just check your email, watch the TV or look on the bulletin boards at the Club.

See you at the Club…



ARCTIC SPOTLIGHT

Lt Col Hugh Amundson

Last Base: Colorado Springs, CO. U.S. Strategic Command
Next Base: Unknown, To Be Determined by the assignment gurus
Originally From: Honolulu, HI
My Job Title: 821st Air Base Group Deputy Group Commander
What I like most about my job: Meeting the people, I like coming to work with such a diverse group of people, there is a great group of people here at Thule.
Hobbies Interests: Traveling, Motorcycle Riding, Hiking, Baseball
Thule Goals: Continue to improve the quality of life for Team Thule.
Interesting Fact: I dated Steve McQueen's daughter in Junior High School
Favorite Superhero: Superman
Favorite Music/Sports Team/ Actor/Actress: I like all varieties of music, I'm a big L.A. Dodgers Fan and I like Sandra Bullock

The Last Word

Where in the World is TSgt Lawber?

Area officials announced Monday, 27 Jan, that no one had seen TSgt Charles Lawber since 23 Jan. He was reported missing by his boss, 1st Lt Gary Durst. "TSgt Lawber was...*I mean is*...a good guy. And responsible too. I just can't imagine what happened," said Durst.

The sergeant was last seen at the Annual Awards dinner, approximately 900 miles from the North Pole. Friends say that he disappeared sometime just after dessert.

So far the search has included the nearby metropolis of Qaanaaq and next week Lawber's picture will be printed on all UHT cartons distributed throughout northern Greenland.

On the bright side, Durst said, "Luckily some new MSgt happened to appear on Monday, so at least we aren't behind."

Oh Holy Flood

Exclusive coverage by A1C Eric Forrester

On 28 Jan 03, an overextended blessing of "holy water" left the local Chapel Annex damp, confused, and all around amused!

Had the chapel done something wrong? Was Noah hanging out in the sanctuary? Was the chapel just creating an test bed for next year's Raft Regatta? Or could this be part of a more nefarious plan? (By the way, what is the guy in the picture doing with that broom? Is it some new space-age highly absorbent bristles?)

Reporter A1C Forrester decided to investigate. When asked "Why?" the only answer SrA Annalisa Hernandez, 821st Air Base Group Chapel Assistant, could only say, "I just flushed, and all of a sudden I got wet all over. I feel so embarrassed!"

Apparently the flood was not caused by a holy God, but a porcelain one. Renovations begin this summer.

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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Deadline for submissions for next issue is 24 February 2003.