



Thule Times



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

August 2002

Commanders Action Line

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

Commander's Trophy Points

MA: 735

Operations: 565

Security Forces: 380

DET- 3: 40

As of 1 Aug 02

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Game Night Returns!

Join the Chapel staff for good food and some serious gaming.

Friday, Aug 2



Teeing Off at The Top of the World

By Capt Greg Marty 821 ABG/CCE

So there I was, it was the middle of March and I had just received word that I would report to Thule AB, Greenland on 6 June. My first thought, O.K. spring time, I'll get there just in time to play some golf.

My hopes were soon to be dashed. While browsing the Internet, I came across a list of things you will not find at Thule AB:

1. The northern lights (We are too far north and from here they would be the Southern Lights.)
2. Critters i.e....spiders, snakes, mosquitoes (Ha! No mosquitoes!).
3. An 18-hole golf course...*silence* (that is sound of my hopes being

dashed). What are you talking about? What do you mean no 18-hole golf course? And what the heck is a golf simulator?

Well much to my surprise, after arriving to Thule in June, I quickly learned that many of the things I heard about Thule were not exactly right. Especially GOLF!

On Jul 6, I made the climb with 54 others Thule teammates to participate in a Thule Air Base tradition, the 28th playing of the Mt. Dundas Golf Tournament. The weather was perfect. There was just a slight nip in the air and barely a cloud in the sky. Mette Linneman, Community Center Direc-

(please turn to page 11)

(Top) MSgt Tim Crews, 821 ABG/CCF, gets off to a roaring start on the first hole of the "back nine" course near the hospital.

Commander's Corner



By Col Louis Christensen
821ABG/CC

As most of you are aware, Thule AB recently had a violent incident occur in one of our Air Force dormitories. Now as a result of this incident, Air Force personnel must get approval prior to having parties in the dormitories. Aside from this incident, other factors such as dirty day

rooms and lack of respect for others precipitated the need for the prior approval to hold parties.

Having fun at Thule is one of my primary objectives. I hope it's yours too. Making sure that Thule is a safe place to work and play is not only one of my objectives, but one of my responsibilities as commander. But I can't do it alone.

The incident that occurred in our dormitory could have been avoided by "teammates" looking out for each other. When tempers flare, it may take the cooler heads of others to step in and defuse the situation. Walk away, call the security police or find someone else with the ability to do so. Combined with drinking responsibly, these actions can and will help to avoid another unnecessary incident.

Look upon the words "Team Thule" as more than just a bumper sticker or catch phrase. They are a reminder that we are a diverse group of individuals working together to perform a very important mission. By sticking together and looking out for each other we will all be safer, happier and able to perform our mission better.

DON'T FORGET!

The Commander's Action Line is still available. The line is confidential and only connected to an answering machine. You don't have to leave your name, just ask your question and hang up. Answers will appear in a future Thule Times.



ARCTIC SPOTLIGHT



TSgt Julie Gionet

Last base:

DFAS, Denver, CO

Next base:

Hickam AB, HI

Originally from:

New Castle, PA

My Job Title:

Chief, Customer Support (Finance)

What I like most about my job:

Meeting a variety of people

Hobbies/Interest:

Reading, exploring

Thule goals:

Making MSgt

Interesting fact:

I have a picture of me with a former CEO of American Airlines, but I can't find it. Is that interesting?

Chaplain's Corner

Thule's Circle of Life

By Ch, Capt, Donald Bretz 821 ABG/HC

*"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

In the cycle of life at Thule – there is a beginning and an end to our tour. For most of us in the Air Force that means a year. Although some contractors may spend decades here, there comes a time when we must all say – “farewell.”

As I am in my eighth month here, I am increasingly aware of the people who have already left. All the names on the doors on my dormitory floor have

changed except for two (one of those being my own). As I talk with folks, I find the circle of people with shared memories shrinking every month. There are those who have never known a “dark season” or experienced a Storm 2.

While I was serving with the Army, I visited one of my wife’s cousins, and he began going through old pictures of Vietnam. In every photograph there was pictured with him – friends – men who ended up getting killed throughout his one-year tour there. At some point, he didn’t want to make new friends, because it hurt too much to lose them.

Saying “Goodbye,” through a PCS (or a even more significant a retirement), is a loss and is something of a “miniature death.” Although the joys of reconnecting with family and friends await us when we leave – most people when they leave do miss Thule (and by “Thule” they mean the people). Since saying “Goodbye” is a loss – signs of grief and stress are natural (even though some people have been known to throw parties).

Although I am in my eighth month here – I still have four more months to go – and few can afford the luxury of living in the past. The “new” folks at Thule bring a breath of fresh air. They have different styles and personalities – and they do things differently – because they are different!

Life has changed. Life always does. The DC-8 comes. The DC-8 goes. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

August Birthdays



MSgt Raymond Magby	821 SPTS/SV	7 Aug
Ch, Capt Joel Hampton	821 ABG/HC	10 Aug
Capt Charles Slaby	821 SPTS/CE	12 Aug
MSgt David Lynch	12 SWS/DOUA	12 Aug
SSgt Tana Chevalier	821 SPTS/SC	12 Aug
TSgt Jerrod Willis	821 SPTS/OS	14 Aug
SrA Ulysses Dickens	12 SWS/DOOD	14 Aug
A1C Steven Risinger	821 SFS/SFOC	15 Aug
Capt Gregory Marty	821 ABG/CCE	17 Aug
SSgt Scott Womack	821 SFS/SFOA	20 Aug
A1C Lori Cantu	821 SPTS/OS	22 Aug
SSgt James Layton	821 SFS/SFOC	22 Aug
SSgt Jason Kimball	821 SFS/SF	25 Aug
A1C Courtney Steiner	821 SFS/SF	25 Aug
Capt Martha Ward	12 SWS/DOUT	30 Aug
1st Lt Brady Vaira	821 SPTS/OS	30 Aug

Wet & Wild:

Annual 4th of July Raft Regatta

By Capt Elizabeth Ferrill 821SPTS/SC

They gathered on the shores of Lake Sparum in the cool July afternoon to see not only who was the best sailor, but also who was the best naval architect. Some rafts were made of styrofoam and wood, others of plastic and cardboard. But each craft was lovingly homemade from only “local” materials.

The annual 4th of July Raft Regatta was only one of the events that made the day special. First, we all had the day off from work. Second, Services had planned many events to make it seem as close to a traditional Fourth as possible. In addition to the regatta, there was a softball game, a bar-b-que and a bonfire to chase away the summer witches. As MSgt Ray Magby, 821 SPTS/SV, said, “Despite the initial threat of bad weather, the sun shined, the crowd gathered, the witches burned, and it was as festive a day!”

Most spectators would agree that the regatta was definitely the highlight of the day. The participation

was enthusiastic and broad. Some of the entries included 12 SWS, complete with their “special” blue regatta uniforms, the ladies of 821 SPTS/OS, and the cardboard boat from the Communications Flight. In addition, the Greenland Contractors and Det 3 made spirited attempts to win the top prize. Special thanks also goes to Amn Tony Balsler, 821 SFS, who made a concerted effort to “reach out and touch” each and every raft at some point in the race.



In the end, the Security Forces raft took the prize, although not without a healthy bit of complaining from the other participants. “We were robbed...by the cops, the stinkin’ cops,” said MSgt Larry Burnett, 821 SPTS/SC, “And, hey this water’s not that cold!” However, SrA Thomas Kaiser, 12SWS/SFOA, saw it from a different perspective, when he said, “Basically we pirated the whole race and frankly there was no resistance!” But not to let the Security Forces’ heads get too big, the members of the

2nd Lt Trevor Nolan and TSgt Scott Dunn, both of the 12 SWS, water down some of their opponents after the race. Even though the object was to actually stay on the raft, some contestants decided to disembark and attack other crafts.





Hey there...don't worry, I will use this shovel (slash oar) to defend my boat if I have to. MSgt Larry Burnett, 821 SPTS/SC ably defends his craft from the impending attack by SMSgt Bob Posey, 821 SPTS/OS. All this activity doesn't seem to deter TSgt Phillip Lindenmuth, 821 SPTS/SC, who is still doing his best impression of an outboard motor.

MSgt Ray Magby, 821 SPTS/SV gives some final tips to Maj John Pratt, Det 3/CC, before he begins his official duties as the Master of Ceremonies. Maj Pratt announced the start of each heat and provided color commentary using his bullhorn.

12 SWS won the softball tournament.

After all the outdoor fun was done, everyone retired to Recreation Center for some tasty grilled treats courteous of TSgt Paul Brassfield, 821 SPTS/OS, and TSgt Victor Grant, 821 SPTS/MSP. The hot dogs and burgers were especially well received after such a tough day out on the water.

Shortly after the race, the 12 SFS raft mysteriously disappeared. The working theory from the Security Forces is that it was hidden by the 12 SWS somewhere on the BMEWS site. Even vigilant, the SF members that patrol the site have been keeping their eyes out for clues.

The proud winners: Maj Bob Winters, Amn Tony Balsler and SSgt Brian Kissinger, all of the 821 SFS, celebrate their victory. The Security Forces decided to reuse their boat from last year. The sturdy craft was made from plywood and used a styrofoam interior to stay afloat. Whose says that Air Force folks can't built a good ship?



Splish Splash

the once-a-century flood makes a repeat appearance

By Capt Elizabeth Ferrill
821SPTS/SC

On July 8th, Thule AB went to Storm One conditions due to high winds and rain. Perhaps due to the storm conditions, the water in the North River began to rise and eventually washed out the culvert bridge just East of main base on the road to BMEWS. Luckily, the base was only minimally affected by the loss of the culvert bridge because the new 200 series bridge was completed just the week before. The washed out bridge had previously served as a secondary access to the base fuel tanks in the event of a fire.

In addition to the bridge wash out, the road to BMEWS was flooded and impassable for about 12 hours. After the initial flooding base Civil Engineering (CE) cut a gap thru the BMEWS road with a backhoe, in order to establish a better controlled



This enhanced photo shows where the culvert bridge once stood before the river washed it out. This bridge was used for access to fuel tanks and North Mountain.

river channel and prevent the overflowing river from attacking the base single-string water pipeline from two sides. Last year, such an attack contributed to the broken water pipe when the amount of water couldn't be contained within the banks of the river and water eroded both sides of the pipeline.

By 0530 hrs on 9 July, the winds had died down and the water had receded, allowing CE to establish a single lane path over

the water so that road to BMEWS could be reopened. The only other damage on base was a few sheets of roof flashing that detached from Det 3 and Hanger 6. These flying pieces of flashing necessitated to the closure of the Base Gym on 8 July, since the gym is located near Hanger 6 and officials were concerned about personnel safety and potential vehicle damage.

As of the printing of this issue, the base leadership had not yet decided whether or not to rebuild the culvert bridge because of other bridge constructions projects scheduled to be completed soon.

They say that Thule AB floods once every 100 years and supposedly last year was our year. Given the events of the 8 July, maybe the base should get credit for 200 years instead.



In the foreground is the water pipe that brings water down from Crescent Lake to the main base. By creating a channel through the BMEWS road, engineers hoped to release some of the press from the pipe and protect it.

Joint Chiefs' Chairman visits Peterson

“If September 11 taught us anything, [it taught us] we ought to be flexible enough to change to do what's right. That's what we think we're doing,” said Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a recent press conference at Peterson AFB, CO.

Flexibility was a key point for the general July 19 as he discussed the upcoming merger of U.S. Space Command with U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., as well as the stand-up of Northern Command at Peterson. Both of those events take place Oct. 1. Some U.S. Space Command people will move to Offutt as a result of the merger.

“This is a time for a lot of change, but I would say, change for the good,” he said. “If you look at how large Space Command is today, and what a footprint they have here in Colorado, and you look at standing up a new Northern Command, the numbers look like they're going to come out about even, maybe even a slight growth.”

As a former commander of Air Force Space Command and commander in chief of U.S. Space Command and NORAD, Myers said he was convinced the move of U.S. Space Command to Nebraska is best for military space.

“I have no doubt about the importance of the space mission, and I have absolutely no worry, in any way, that it's going to be diminished by the things we've done here,” he said. “I don't see it as a loss for Colorado Springs. I see it as a gain.”

He stated that, in his mind, instead of shortchanging military space, the new command in Omaha would help the space community realize its full potential.

“The roles and responsibilities that reside here in Space Command are going to endure. What we're challenging people to do in this new command, is to take it to the next level. Things like space control and enhancement, and all those missions we've had in the past - a lot of those are going to stay the same,” he said.

“We're thinking about them as a new command,” Myers said. “All those roles and responsibilities they have are going to be taken to this new command, but we'll be doing no degradation of the space mission. In fact, the only limits to how far we go with this new command will be people's imagination, and what they set for our country.”

And, of course, the placement of Northern Command, responsible for protecting America from outside attack, at Peterson will do nothing to diminish the future of the region.

“Can you imagine a more important command in this day and age or one that's going to be more relevant in the 21st Century, given the type of threat we saw on September 11?” he said about NORTHCOM.

“We'll have a unified command responsible for security, within the roles and missions the Department of Defense normally has for security [overseas assets]...for the United States. We've never had that before.”

Cop's Corner

Buckle Up!

By A1C Aimee Bojack 821 SFS/SF

I am sure many of you have questions concerning the Security Forces job. This small corner is to help you understand little parts of our job.

Today, I am going to address is mandatory use of seatbelts. This can be found in *AFI 31-204, Supplement 1 Section H4*. This Section states: “All persons operating motor vehicles within the Thule Defense Area are responsible to ensure all occupants of their vehicle utilize passenger restraint devices properly.

“To ensure compliance, random spot-checks are made base wide by wing safety and security forces personnel. Traffic tickets can be issued for failure to wear seatbelts or use child restraint devices under the provisions of the basic instruction. Security forces may, in normal patrol operations, issue traffic tickets for failure to wear seatbelts or use of child restraint devices.”

Please take care of your fellow Thule teammates and ensure you and others are wearing their seatbelts. We all want you to be safe in this muddy season. Remember the seatbelt can save your life and prevent serious injury! We will be watching. Stay safe. If you have a question that you would like answered, you can e-mail me at: aimee.bojack@thule.af.mil.

Det 3 Change of Command:

Shocking Shetler-Santa Connection Revealed!

By Capt Elizabeth Ferrill 821 SPTS/SC

On 25 July, members of Team Thule gathered together to celebrate the change of command ceremony for Detachment 3, 22nd Space Operations Squadron. The change of command was presided over by Lt Col Jay P. Bullock-Cassine, the commander of the 22 SOPS.

Det 3, also known as the Thule Tracking Station (TTS), was declared operational on 30 March 1962. In its first configuration, TTS was nothing more than radar vans parked in an old bomb assembly building where the modern Det 3 sits today. Throughout its history Det 3's commander have held every rank from First

Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel. Today, Det 3's mission is to contact polar orbiting satellites and it uses three telemetry, tracking, and commanding antennas to complete this job.

At approximately 1500 hours, Maj John Pratt relinquished command and Maj Jerry Shetler officially assumed command. Maj Pratt was also awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his efforts over the past year.

Maj Pratt will retire from the Air Force on 1 Oct 2002 and plans to travel around the United States until that time. He also plans to spend more time with his daughter, Hannah Sue and stay active in his church.

Maj Shetler became Det 3's 46th commander. His previous assignment was with Headquarters Air Force Space Command as a member of the Resources section. Previously, Maj Shetler was assigned at Grand Forks AFB as a Minuteman crew commander and at

Falcon AFB (now Schriever AFB) as a Satellite Operations Crew Commander.

In his remarks, Maj Shetler shocked the crowd by announcing that in addition to his duties as Commander of Det 3, he is in fact also in the employ of one Claus, Santa. Apparently, Maj Shetler's son, Kyle, age 4, disclosed the previously "closehold" information to their neighborhood prior to the Major's departure forcing him to reveal his nefarious plans.



"Yes, I really did come here to work for Santa Claus. What can I say? By being his number one employee, I thought it might make Christmas shopping easier this year." Major Shetler shows his true colors as he talked his plans for the Detachment in the forthcoming year.

However, despite this momentary lapse in judgment, Maj Shetler assured the crowd and his troops that he planned to work extremely hard at both jobs. The crowd wondered if he has filed the proper paperwork with Lt Col Cassine for off-duty employment.

Following the ceremony, former Det 3 Commander, Maj Pratt said, "I'm simply shocked that Major Shetler would engage in such deception. How could he do that?" Lt Col Cassine could not be reached for comment on the shocking revelation.

Major Jerry Shetler assumes command from Lt Col Cassine, 22nd Space Operations Squadron Commander. The ceremony was held in the ball room of the Top of the World Club.



148TH SOPS LEARNS TO FLY MILSTAR BIRDS

By 2nd Lt Trey Staples 30 SW/PA &
Capt Elizabeth Ferrill 821 SPTS/SC

On July 12, the 148th Space Operations Squadron at Vandenberg AFB became the first mission-capable Air National Guard unit in charge of operating the Milstar communications constellation.

The squadron's transition from a combat communications squadron into a space operations squadron began October 2000. Preparing a unit to be fully mission-capable takes an average of 36 months – the 148th reached that status in 20 months.

They were operating and flying satellites in five months and became an all-day operation in nine months. They achieved 100-percent manning in 11 months, even though 85 percent of their personnel had to retrain into

new specialties. The next nine months were spent on that retraining.

Maj. Gen. Daniel Gibson, California ANG commander, said the performance of the conversion was, "the result of teamwork between the active duty and the air guard, and marked a great day for the Air Force."

Lt. Col. Steven Beck, commander of the 148th SOPS, echoed the general's comments crediting a Schriever AFB, Colo., unit with sharing the Milstar responsibilities.

"I can truly say that the total force effort to fly Milstar satellites is due to the outstanding relationship between the 4th Space Operations Squadron and the 148th SOPS, and the professionalism, dedication to duty, and outstanding expertise of the operators and maintainers in each squadron," he said.

Milstar is a joint service satellite communications system that provides secure, jam-resistant, worldwide communications to meet essential wartime requirements for high-priority military users.

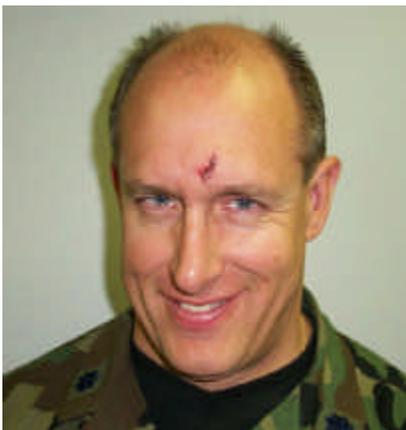
The five-satellite constellation can link command authorities across a vast array of resources, such as ships, submarines, aircraft and ground stations.

Thule AB is scheduled to receive the connectivity to the Milstar constellation in summer 2003.



Milstar is a joint service satellite communications satellite that travels in a mid-latitude orbit around the world. Made by Lockheed-Martin, each satellite weighs approximately 10,000 lbs and has a 10 year expected life span.

New Squadron Commanders Antics!



Lt Col Bob Orwig, 821 SPTS/CC and Lt Col Shawn Barnes, 12 SWS/CC sure have gotten out since assuming their respective commands in June. To the left, Lt Col Orwig has injured himself in the name of sport, namely softball. To the right, Lt Col Barnes has taken to posing with foliage at dinners honoring our cheerleader guests. When questioned, he said, "But, she told me here name was Fern." I guess that says it all.



Quarterly Award Winners April - June 2002

12th Space Warning Squadron

Company Grade Officer: Capt Martha Ward

Noncommissioned Officer: SSgt Chris Bailey

Airman: SrA Ulysses Dickens

Crew of the Quarter: Charlie Crew (Lt Trevor Nolan, Sgt Lloyd Thebault, TSgt Scott Dunn, SSgt Chris Bailey)

821st Air Base Group

Company Grade Officer: 1st Lt Shirley Crow, 821 SPTS/LG

Senior Noncommissioned Officer: MSgt Roger Sams, 821 SFS/SF

Noncommissioned Officer: TSgt Angela Yoho, 821 SPTS/OS

Airman: Amn Eric Forrester, 821 SPTS/MSP

Community Center Update

Aug 3: ½ & Full Marathon

Aug 9: Midnight Golf Tournament @ 2200 hrs

Aug 10/11: Overnight Hike

Aug 17: Bus/Walk Tour To The Ice Cave @ 1300 hrs

Aug 18: Polar Bear Swim @ 1300 hrs

Aug 24: Ice Cap/Garnet Hunt @ 1300 hrs

Aug 31: Final Run @ 1300 hrs

21 OG CGO of the Quarter

Capt Martha Ward

Capt Ward was also named the 21st Operations Group Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Her package has been forwarded to the 21st Space Wing for consideration at the Wing Level. Good Luck!

21 SW Resource Advisor of the Quarter

821 ABG's Very Own TSgt Marlin Fjordbak



TSgt Marlin Fjordbak accepts a certification of congratulations from 821 ABG/CC, Col Louis Christensen. TSgt Fjordbak has worked in the finance section since April.

Even though he only arrived on station in early April and had no prior resource advisor experience, TSgt Fjordbak has made quite a splash over in the Finance shop.

He assumed full control as funds manager on 26 April and since that time has obligated over \$500,000 in reimbursable dollars.

TSgt Fjordbak has also worked on a variety of projects from Depot Level Repairable items for the Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems to securing funding for the Funded Environmental Moral Leave (FEML) program.

Hailing originally from Benson, Minnesota, TSgt Fjordbak and his wife, Sally, have five children and three granddaughters. His follow-on assignment will be to Barksdale AFB, Louisiana.

(continued from page 1)

"Hmmm...the course looks pretty tough today." Poul Lund Hansen, GC/CEMR and Claus Jensen, GC/LGC chat with their teammates prior to hitting the links. Each golfer had to specify a "buddy" who would double check their score and keep them honest. No gimmes on this course!



tor, and the gang from Services had the course in tip-top shape. Not a rock out of place and the greens were firm as could be (mostly due to the complete lack of grass and rings of rocks surrounding the holes). I grabbed a trusty 7-iron, since that was all that was available, two balls, and a carpet square and hit the course. I attacked the par three course with reckless abandon. Most of my life I worry while playing golf that I might hook or slice a ball into an adjacent fairway. Never before had I worried about hooking my ball off the edge of a cliff only to watch it drop 750 feet and splash into the North Star Bay. The round went by quickly and I was pleased with how well I played. However, not as pleased as Poul Lund Hansen, superintendent of Civil Engineering Maintenance and Repair for Greenland Contractors who tamed the elements to take home the championship. The whole event was a great success due to a fantastic effort by the Services staff and the hardened 55 golf enthusiasts that risked their lives to knock a few balls around.

Just a week later I found myself out on the back nine just south of the base hospital competing in the second leg of the Thule Defense Area Grand Slam, the 5th Annual Commander's Golf Tournament. Only 19 participants this time, but the competition was equally as fierce. Once again the course was perfect, complete with carpet covered platforms for teeing off and sunken buckets on the greens for holes. The weather was also perfect. For

this tournament, three clubs were allowed. Of course, carpet squares were also available to protect the club heads from the harsh arctic conditions. Col Christensen, 821 ABG/CC, hosted the event and led things off with a drive that set the tone for the day. Scores were a little higher than on top of Dundas, but in the end it was again Poul Lund Hansen that took home the "Green Parka" (O.K.... it was really a t-shirt). Ms. Janne Laigaard, GC/SVCS, was the winner in the women's category.

The eighteen holes of golf here at Thule may not be quite as grassy and warm as in some parts of the world. But they certainly are as challenging and fun as any I have ever played. So here's my challenge to you Tiger Woods wherever you are: "You might be tearing things up on those cushy little courses in the U.S. with all that fancy grass and temperatures above freezing. But let's see how you stack up against Poul Lund Hansen after climbing a 750 foot mountain and playing without a putter!" Oh, and don't forget Tiger, you still have to climb down when you're done.

For the rest of you, I'll see you at the third leg of the Thule Defense Area Grand Slam at the Midnight Golf Tournament, 2200 hours on Aug 16. Oh well I'm sure it will be midnight somewhere...



Community Center Director, Mette Linneman, lays out the course for 1st Lt Brady Vaira, 821 SPTS/OS. Due to the easy confusion between the "rockway" and the "rough" the map was quite helpful to the golfers throughout the day.

Cheerleaders Salute to Thule



Shaking to the beat of the music, Arizona Cardinals Cheerleader, Heather, wows the crowd with her rhythmic dance moves.

At the beginning and then again at the end, the ladies donned their Cardinals game outfits. This number was popular with the crowd and got the show started with a bang.



By 1st Lt Brady Vaira 821 SPTS/OS

As part of their Salute to America, the Arizona Cardinal Cheerleaders visited Thule AB. Spending time away from their families over the 4th of July holiday, 10 cheerleaders and 2 coordinators took Team Thule on a Tour Around the World. While the cheerleaders performed routines that brought a little bit of Mexico, Hawaii, the middle east and other parts of the world to Thule, eager crowd members vied for Arizona Cardinals gifts and the coveted chance to go on stage.

The event was a true "cheerocracy" with the crowd voting on the winner of contests by their applause. With flashbulbs going off by the dozens (Mike Garcia being responsible for a record 234 pictures in one night), the audience participated in end zone touchdown dances, limbo contests, football trivia quizzes and a couples dance with the vibrant head cheerleader, Katie.

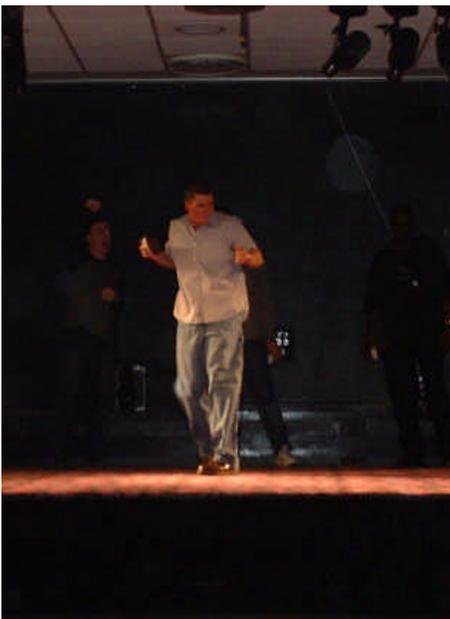
Many a fine warrior dared to take the stage and show off their skills. The events inspired SSgt Duane Wilson, 12 SWS/DOUT, so much that he actually danced on stage alone... something that no one at Thule has ever seen before.

Tensions ran high as the competitions became more intense. During one episode of dancing MSgt Ray Magby, 821 SPTS/SV, was heard saying, "You better bring it." To which MSgt Tim Crews, 821 ABG/CCF, quickly replied, "Oh, don't worry it's already been broughten".

Everyone who wit-

After a base-wide retreat, the cheerleaders posed with members of Team Thule. 1st Row (L to R): Janice, Capt Elizabeth Ferrill, Katie, & Tiara. 2nd Row: SMSgt Bob Posey, Brooke, Brittany, Heather, Ryan, & MSgt Ray Magby. 3rd Row: Lt Col Robert Orwig, Colleen, MSgt Tim Crews, Lisa, Monica, Lt Col Shawn Barnes & MSgt Roger Sams.

cheerleaders may get TV time, Team Thule was also a star during the 9 day trip. All the cheerleaders agreed that this was the best trip they had been on and that given the chance they would come back. The team has been to Bosnia, the Middle East and other remote locations, but the impression Thule left on them will be a lasting one. We can all be proud of the way we represented Team Thule and the United States Air Force. Cheers!

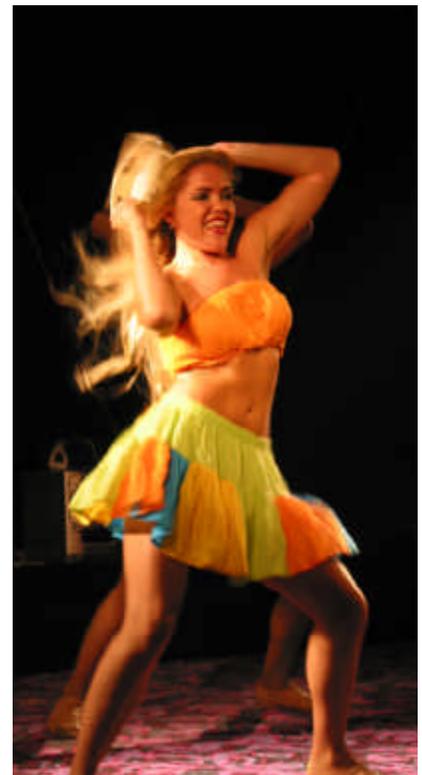


Is he getting his groove on or is that suppose to be an end zone dance? Who knows. Only SSgt Duane Wilson, 12 SWS/DOUT, could jam like that on stage with a hundred people in the audience. It is almost like he doesn't even realize that the audience is actually there.

nessed the spirited event agreed that it brought out the beauty in all. At one point during the show, a MSgt, who works in HVAC in CE and recently had back surgery (who requested that his name be withheld to protect his identity) exclaimed, "Wow, the girl in the blue dress is sooooo beautiful." Apparently the medication was having an effect on him...the dancer was actually Lt Col Bob Orwig, 821 SPTS/CC, dressed up in drag. It could happen to anyone!

The cheerleaders performed 3 shows for Thule, signed numerous autographs, visited work centers and had a chance to see the ever popular "Raft Regatta". While the

Katie thrills the crowd with her Caribbean inspired dance number. Little did the crowd know, but the cheerleaders choreographed many of the numbers themselves and also consulted on the costume design.



The Last Word

Practice Makes Perfect

By 1st Lt Brady Vaira 821 SPTS/OS

On 23 July, Team Thule exercised its ability to “train like we fight”. Members from across the base responded to a simulated aircraft accident. Making the situation as real as possible, the Fire Department started a fire in the aircraft fire pit and the hospital used volunteers to simulate “victims”.

The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate Thule’s ability to respond to situations that could arise at anytime. In doing so, the exercise incorporated situations that tested many different organizations.

The exercise started with an input card to the Control tower and simultaneous lighting of the fire pit. Initial responders had to extinguish the fire, locate victims and secure the area. Security



A base firefighter returns to his truck after the exercise. This exercise was a good chance to practice, since Thule has not had a major fire since last year’s Hanger 6 incident.

forces established a cordon to protect the base population and directed the traffic flow. Medics on scene triaged the victims and transported them to the hospital for further attention. Logistics provided transportation to and from the site. Civil engineering responded with their Rapid Runway Repair team to assess and repair the airfield. Base Operations closed the airfield and sent notification to all aircraft. And, the Crisis Response Element and the Disaster Control Group formed to take overall responsibility from the initial On Scene Commander. They directed the flow of events from there including short term and long term impact to the base, recovery and clean up of the crash site and preparation for an investigation.

The exercise provided valuable feedback to the Exercise Evaluation Team. The results will be used to amend and add response actions and programs. While there is no simulation that can exactly replicate a real incident, the exercise did show Team Thule’s strength and preparedness in dealing with a major incident.

Flames rise from the aircraft fire pit. This pit, which simulates a C-130, is used exclusively for training events like the one last week.

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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