



# Thule Times



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2002

## Commander's Action Line

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

## Congratulations Basketball Champs

### Air Base Group & Airfield Operations

A formal presentation will be in early December.

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## New Year's Eve

Tickets are now on sale for the New Year's Eve Dinner and the New Year's Eve Party at the Club.

Visit the Club for more details.



# A Truly Worldwide Holiday

By 1st Lt Gary Durst 821 SPTS/LG

Twenty people, three days of hard work, several hundred pounds of turkey, ham, roast beef, sweet potatoes, and other scrumptious vegetables, desserts, drinks, and condiments, resulted in a Thanksgiving Day menu that ran the gamut from soup to nuts. Finally, the dining hall was festively decorated with many icons familiar to a traditional American Thanksgiving.

Interestingly enough, the entire staff of Danish and Greenlandic chefs put all this effort into meal that was a celebration of what many think of as a uniquely American holiday. However, similar commemorations have been held throughout the ages.

For example, did you know that:

- The Greek people worshipped their Goddess of Grains, Demeter on this day. They celebrated their harvest festival in the autumn season and this festival was known as Themosphoria.
- In Rome, the people celebrated the harvest festival of Cerelea, they worshipped Goddess Ceres on this day.

(please turn to page 12)

Brian Sutinen checks to see if the turkeys are ready to go. Planning for the special Thanksgiving meal started months in advance to make sure that all the ingredients were on-island in time.

# Commander's Corner

By Col Louis E. Christensen 821 ABG/CC



Is that Frothy the Snowman? No just Col Louis Christensen, 821 ABG/CC during a recent Julemand fundraising event.

**W**hat a joyous time of year!!! That special time between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We still feel the warm glow of Thanksgiving and look forward to the festivities of Christmas. It is very much my favorite time of the year! This year I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve (literally, in Dundas Dining Hall)

with such an outstanding international team representing their nations at this remote outpost. The Thule Team spirit is infectious (in this case, that's good!) and everyone seems to have it. The Julemand festival at the Fitness Center was a tremendous success in raising funds for Thule's Julemand effort and it was a lot of fun (if you can call being pulled from your room, handcuffed and jailed and then having ten whipped cream pies thrown at you..... FUN!) Remember, I know where each of you live and work and I know your next assignment. I am thankful for the goodness and generosity of all members of Team Thule. We raised over \$3000 on one Saturday afternoon and our efforts continue. I want to thank the Julemand organization and the Thule Booster Club for the hard work all of you have put in to make the festival and our upcoming Christmas party a success. We have numerous Christmas parties coming up and many of us (Americans and Danes) will be visiting family and friends over the holiday. Towards that end.... Please be careful.

The risks here at Thule are much different from the risks we face when we visit family and friends during the holidays. While maintaining vigilance here is always important, because we live in a life-threatening environment, we need to be especially aware when we go "back to the city". The number of

## Thule Tidbits

**TOW Club New Year's Eve Menu**—So what do you get for \$60? The menu for New Year's Eve will include Scallops, Veal Tenderloin with Truffle Sauce, and Cognac-Strawberry ice cream with Hazelnuts....**Second Movie Night**—Services is considering a second movie night on the big screen at Community Activities Center. See MSgt Magby to vote on which night....**APO Mailing Schedule for Christmas**—Get your holiday packages and cards mailed soon. There will be less flights back to the States as we approach the Christmas holidays....**Base Shuttle Service**—Don't forget that the taxi won't "pick you up" between 1700-2000 Monday through Friday. You'll have to take the base shuttle. Routes are posted throughout the base.... **Annual Awards Banquet**—On 23 January, join the rest of Thule AB at the banquet to honor Thule's best and brightest. Distinguished Visitor speakers are scheduled, so spiffy up your uniforms....**Trivia at the TOW Club**—the National Trivia Network is now available at the club. Playing is free so come out and see if you can beat Phil "Weather" Eddy's high scores....

cars, drivers (drunk or otherwise distracted), recreational outlets (skiing, snowboarding, even boating) creates an environment we aren't used to after some time here. Please ensure we discuss our plans with our supervisors, before we go on leave. Driving 12 hours after arriving at BWI could be fatal.

Current command policy requires the squadron commander (with the Group commander, Wing Commander and the Numbered Air Force Commander) to personally brief the 4 star for each AFSPC fatality. More importantly, writing the personal letter to parents, wife or husband is one of the hardest things you will ever do. Please do everything you can to NOT be the subject of one of those letters or briefings. Team Thule needs you, safe and healthy, in order to continue our important contributions to our respective nations.

# Chaplain's Corner

## Freedom Faith

By Ch, Capt Joel Hampton  
821 ABG/HC

**T**hese three simple words comprise the motto of the United States Air Force Chaplain Service and are emblazoned on the USAF Chaplain Service seal. Beyond their decorative or cosmetic value on the seal, they serve as the organizing principles for the Chaplain Service.

**Freedom.** This word speaks volumes about who we are and what we do. None of us—

Americans, Canadians, Danes, or Greenlandics—would be here at Thule were it not for our respective nations' commitments to freedom. Of all the freedoms that we cherish, perhaps none is more valuable than freedom of religion. The Chaplain Service is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the religious freedom of every individual who serves.

**Faith.** There may never be a time in your life when faith is more important to you than it is while you are at Thule, hundreds or thousands of miles away from home. Faith enables us to look toward the future with hope and expectancy. The Chaplain Service strives to provide multiple opportunities for you to express your faith.

**Ministry.** Several people have asked me why we have Chaplains in the Air Force or why we need

them at Thule. Those are fair questions. The short answer is that the senior leaders in every branch of the service recognize the unique contribution made by Chaplains in trying to meet the needs of the whole person. The Chaplain Service is always looking to improve the means we employ to encourage the overall health of everyone we serve: physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Your Chapel Team at Thule Air Base, Chaplain Joel Hampton, Chaplain Jim Parrish, and SrA Annalisa Hernandez are working every day to make the motto of the USAF Chaplain Service a reality at Thule. It is our prayer that during this holiday season the blessings of freedom and faith will be evident as we conduct our ministry among you.

## Commander's Trophy Points Update

**ABG: 155**  
**SFS: 85**  
**OPS: 75**  
**SPTS: 80**

**Standings as of 01  
Dec 2002**

## December Birthdays

MSgt Dan Soto	821 SPTS/SCB	01 Dec
Capt John Gondol	12 SWS/DOO	02 Dec
MSgt Greg Koziara	821 ABG/FM	07 Dec
TSgt Marty Shoobridge	821 SPTS/LG	17 Dec
SrA Robert Gallant	821 SPTS/SFOA	19 Dec
SSgt Thom Pettigrew	12 SWS/DOO	20 Dec

# Cops Corner

## Filling Out the AF Form 1168

By A1C Aimee Bojack  
821 SFS/SFOA

**W**hat is the most common form that people fill out for an incident?

The AF 1168 Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant. This article is going to tell you how to fill out this form. There are five sections to the form to be filled out.

**Statement Information.** Needed information such as the Date (ex. 20021202), Time (ex. 1428), Location and Installation (ex. Bldg. 363/Thule AB, Greenland) and Unit taking Statement (821<sup>st</sup> SFS).

**Personal Identification.** Your name (Last, First, Middle Initial), social security number, status/grade (ex. AD/E-3), local address (ex. PSC 1501 Box 1234 APO AE 09704), date and place of birth (ex. 09 JUL 81, Council Bluffs, IA), telephone (home and duty), permanent address or home of record, military organization/ employer (ex. USAF/ 821<sup>st</sup> SFS/SFOB), DEROS (ex. 23 MAR 04), and if applicable your sponsor's information (name, grade, ssn, organization, and DP).

**Acknowledgment of Offenses & 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment/Article 31 Rights Advisement.** This section is for the suspect. It lists the

offenses of which they are being accused. The suspect would also choose and initial that they understand each part of their rights before possibly making a statement if they choose to do so. If you are just a witness or complainant (or not being charged with an offense) it would be just lined out and you would initial saying that you understood that it does not apply to you. You will not be read your rights.

**Statement.** Here you have the chance to tell your story on paper so we can have a reference if necessary. I would have to say this the hardest part of the form because this is where a person not used to writing a statement needs a little help. *Have no fear Security Forces are here to help!* The main thing about writing your statement is to remember the five W's. Who, what, when, where, and why! If we need any more information it will just go into a question/ answer format with you initialing after you write your answer.

**Oath/Signature.** This is the part where you sign to say that all that you have written the truth and that all mistakes and initials are in fact your doing. Both you and the witness/ interviewer sign this part of the document.

Here's the link: <\\Prancer\SF-Info\Forms\JF Forms\AF Form 1168.frl>

Any questions please feel free to e-mail me!



## December's Average Temperature

By Phil Eddy GC/AMOW

**D**ecember at Thule brings the **REALLY** cold weather, along with the increased risk of Winter Storms.

The average temperature reaches only -9°F, with the recorded past extremes of +39°F to -38°F.

We will normally get around 3 inches of snow, with 3/10ths of an inch of water equivalent. We have, however, gotten as much as 24 inches of snow during the month. Peak wind recorded for Thule MAIN BASE during the month of December has been 89 knots, or 102 mph.

This November saw an extreme high of +22°F, an extreme low of -22°F and an average temperature of +5°F.

Our peak wind was 40 knots on-base and 61 knots off-base. We got a total of 6.3 inches of snow (.35 inches of water equivalent) with a max snow depth of 11 inches (not counting drifts).

Visit  
the  
Base Library!

- Provides professional library services fulfilling the informational demands required by the Air Force mission
- Fulfills recreational and educational needs for the military and the civilian community here at Thule AB

# Space Warning Squadron Teamwork Creates History

By TSgt Michael Phillips  
21 SW/PA

**F**or the first time in the history of space-based missile warning, a space operations center here was fully manned by Reservists.

Members of the 8th Space Warning Squadron, a Reserve unit, made up an entire shift Nov. 3 at the Space-Based Infrared System Mission Control Station, normally mixed with active-duty members of the 2nd Space Warning Squadron.

"This is an enormous accomplishment for our Reserve part-

ners and the 2nd and 8th Space Warning Squadrons team," said 2nd SWS commander, Lt. Col. Robert Gibson. "I wouldn't have missed this changeover for anything."

The 2nd Space Warning Squadron's mission is to maintain satellite control authority for the Defense Satellite Program satellite constellation and report ballistic missile and space launches, nuclear detonations and infrared data of intelligence value to unified commands, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, president and secretary of defense.

The 2nd opened the Space-

Based Infrared System MCS on Dec. 17, 2001.

The 8th SWS is the first space unit to integrate Reserve and Air National Guard members into an active-duty mission from the beginning stage. It is part of the 310th Space Group, Schriever AFB, Colo. -- the only space group within Air Force Reserve Command.

"Thanks to the professionals in the 8th SWS portion of the SBIRS team, a few active-duty members were given a badly needed day off," Gibson said.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing's 4-Step "TEAM" Operational Risk Management (ORM) Process

By TSgt Christopher Davis  
821 ABG/SE

### **T**ake Responsibility

Managers: For your people, mission and assets. Supervisors: For your people, daily operations, and assets. Individuals: For your actions, on and off duty.

### **E**valuate the Risk (Environment)

Nearly every task, regardless of its nature, includes some degree of risk. Your challenge lies in your ability to properly evaluate the risk(s) you're faced with every day. By doing so you should be capable of taking the necessary measures to success-

fully complete the job at hand. You're also responsible for recognizing what amount of risk you are capable of accepting. Always elevate risk to the next level of management that is capable of eliminating, reducing or accepting the risk.

### **A**cept no Unnecessary Risk

Accepting risk is part of our everyday operations. Thankfully nearly all risk you're faced with is easily manageable. This in turn allows us to accomplish our daily mission. The key lies in your ability to recognize those times when risk isn't easily manageable. Always elevate unnecessary risk to the next level of management. Never accept unnecessary risk. Doing so will only jeop-

ardize yourself, your co-workers and the mission.

### **M**inimize Mission Impact

What two things will always adversely impact our mission? Personal injuries and equipment damage. We can have the best equipment money can buy, but without the people, it's just equipment. In contrast, we can have the best-qualified people, but without serviceable equipment, they're simply bodies. We must do everything we can to ensure our people (you), are available and ready to perform the mission. ORM is a TEAM effort!



## Thule Memories From 1970-71

By Robert Donnelly, MSgt, USAF, Ret.

**G**ot to Thule in April of 1970 and left in April of 71. Had a choice of living in the bigger 'dorms' or a small flat top, 453.

All of the folks that worked in the finance office were in 453; had two others, Mike Freeman, who ran the AFRTS radio station and another guy who, I think, worked in base supply. We had 'double' rooms, ie: two doors, one room. I had heard that years earlier that there were up to 4 men in the same space, there apparently was a wall between the two doors and two men in bunk beds occupied the one space. We had a small kitchen where we would prepare meals when the weather was bad (which was continually).

Most of us in the finance office worked part time: I at the NCO club and the rest of them for NAF. We were all busy as beavers and needed to keep busy.

Our uniforms back then consisted of the Air Force's flying uniform, kind of a baggy pant and shirt (somewhat akin to what I wore in Alaska in the early 60s). Then of course, the iron pants, mukluks and parka. Saturday nights were suit and tie night at the NCO club. There were 8 of us and we always had the same table reserved at the club.

Jorgan Dam, the chef, would take our orders two weeks in advance and we would get the best of the best flown in on SAS from Denmark. Oh, we had Turkey, fresh prime rib, lamb, etc. Always a half case of S'katz and 2 bottles of the best cognac would accompany the meal. We always had the same waiter, he had been at Thule for years, think his name was Eric, if I remember right. He also

worked at Base Headquarters for his 'real' job but was always there for us on Saturday night. We would have a nice supper, tell lies, drink some wine, more lies, then the cognac would arrive. Most of us were tea drinkers and tea followed that. Then to the ballroom for the dancing girls....

We always had bands six nights a week, Fri thru Weds. The rotator came on Thursdays with the next two weeks' bands, USO shows, etc. We were all in Ground Rescue and had three trackmasters assigned to us so we could usually go where and when we pleased. Didn't have to call the taxi: "Ya, ya, we pick you up."

We also found the remnants of a map to Camp Century in our Ground Rescue gear and we thought about taking the tracks out there but it would have been a two day trip and what with the tracks breaking down so much (we had a rough time keeping treads on them, kept breaking.....)

We did take the NCO pick up to Dundas village one Sunday morning and made the climb, albeit a few skinned knees (had been to the club until the week hours and still needed something to do). On Saturdays we would have Jorgen at the club make us some sandwiches and other things, get a case of bubbly, and take off for the dump to watch the foxes scour the garbage for something to eat: well, one has to find things to do, doesn't one?

At that time we had a bury-the-chain drill, where a week before a comrade left, he would have to carry a very large length of chain wherever he went (notice I say he, there were no ladies at that time [except for the USO shows, bands, etc.] and then on the evening before they left, we would have a procession around the base singing, dragging the chain, etc. Also during that last week, we were allowed to hang whistles from our parka hoods and all that knew us would see us, blow their whistle and we would hang the newly acquired whistle on our hoods. Think I left with about 100 or so whistles dangling on mine. Of course, we left them for the next person to go. The burying of the chain was quite a challenge especially when it was April and the ground was still frozen.

I tried to spend another year at Thule, as if one year was not enough, but sadly, I was not offered an extension. Guess they thought I was crazy for wanting to stay another year. Made many good and lasting friends, some of whom I still correspond with, and always enjoy surfing to sites showing pictures of Greenland and especially Thule.

## New Uniform Items Debut During Wear Tests

Air Force Print News

**M**any new Air Force uniform items show up in the field before becoming available in military clothing sales stores.

This debut, in the form of "wear tests," usually lasts from six months to one year but can be extended based upon the complexity of the uniform and feedback from testers, according to Master Sgt. Ruth Nischwitz, chief of the Air Force uniform section at the Pentagon.

Wear testing of new uniform items allows the Air Force to check how well the items wear, their durability, ease of maintenance and their level of comfort.

"We encourage those people who wear test these items to give us both positive and negative feedback," Nischwitz said. "We need both to ensure any necessary improvements are made before that item is finalized and available for purchase."

Testers are selected from airmen of all ranks at designated test locations. This provides Air Force uniform officials with feedback from people with a wide variety of day-to-day experiences.

However, the lower ranking testers occasionally have one complaint that more senior ranking testers seem to avoid.

"Not many people confront colonels or generals about their authorization to wear an unfamiliar test item, but airmen occasionally do get challenged," she said. "It's usually easily resolved but we try to avoid it from even happening by getting the word out to people at the test bases that certain items are currently being evaluated."

Test bases are chosen based upon the size of their military population, their proximity to the service's clothing designers at the Air Force Clothing Division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and the type of uniform item being tested.

The items undergoing wear testing include a polyester service dress being evaluated for fabric durability and a blue acrylic-wool blend v-neck sweater that is more lightweight and traditional in appearance than the current sweater. Items to be tested in the future are an athletic-cut men's blue shirt which provides more room in the chest, shoulders and arms but has a more prominent taper toward the waist; and a women's mess dress uniform resized to accommodate taller women.

Once the wear tests are concluded, the clothing division will make the final improvements before the items become available for issue or sale at military clothing stores.

Two items that have recently undergone testing and are next to be made available include the

women's flight suit, that can be acquired through individual equipment issue within the next three to six months, and the men's athletic cut service dress jacket and trousers, available for special order at Military Clothing Sales Stores by March 2003.

The athletic cut jacket has more room in the chest, shoulders and arm areas and is designed to accommodate men with more than a six-to-eight inch drop from chest size to waist size. The trousers have more room in the thigh and seat areas.

Women also can expect to find slight changes in their blouses as the current inventory gets depleted. The blouses will look the same, but all styles, both long- and short-sleeve overblouses and tuck-ins, will adhere to one size standard. Airmen who purchase a size 10, long-sleeve overblouse, will soon be able to purchase a size 10 in the long- and short-sleeve tuck-in and the short sleeve overblouse.

Another modification will include a buttonhole between the two buttons on the long sleeve blouses. Women who would like to wear cuff links need only to make a small cut to open the buttonhole.



Larry the Cucumber sits down with...

# CROOKED CROW



By MSgt Larry "Cucumber" Burnett  
821 SPTS/SC

Classic rock came to Thule recently, in the form of a Crooked Crow. The band, from Northern Virginia, played three nights of solid rock n' roll favorites, as well as a few of their own tunes. Self described as "a cross between The Eagles and Vertical Horizon," the four-piece band claims a wide array of rock influences, including Jimi Hendrix, Bob Seger, and even the Barenaked Ladies. Dubbed "Thule Winterfest," the three concert run consisted of two full-blown electric shows at the Top Of The World Club, and a more laid-back, unplugged set at the Community Activity Center. With

a solid rhythm section, great vocals and killer lead guitar, everyone came away from all three shows with just one word: awesome!

Luckliy, I had the good fortune to catch up with the band at 97.1 The Oz on Friday night, during an impromptu set caught live on-the-air. The following interview is taken from that radio appearance.

**LC: Your name is Crooked Crow. Do you ever get confused with The Counting Crows?**

CC: Not yet. Funny you should ask though, we just went to a Counting Crows show a couple weeks ago. Great concert!

**LC: How about Black Crows?**

CC: Nope, them either. But we do play one of their songs in our set. (A rousing rendition of "Too Hard To Handle"...Larry)

**LC: Sheryl Crow?**

CC: Well, Jamie the bass player has been told he bares a striking resemblance.....

**LC: So just where is Crooked Crow Road?**

CC: McLain/Great Falls, Virginia.

**LC: Rumor has it that one of you is a Lt Col. Which one?**

CC: That would be Bruce, so

drop and give me twenty! Seriously though, I'm just the singer in the band, so please relax.

**LC: Jamie, Your bio say's that you believe that "all amps go to eleven." Why is that? I mean, couldn't you simply believe that ten is just a little louder?**

CC: That's why it's eleven, it's louder! (At this point, Larry and Jamie go back and forth on the argument of ten vs. eleven, and Jamie storms out of the studio.)

**LC: Bruce, it's said that you like everything Steve Martin has ever done. Even "Leap Of Faith?" Don't you think that's taking it a bit far?**

CC: Oh, it's a classic. Really, there's no such thing as a bad Steve Martin movie.

**LC: So Brian, the web site says that you were stolen from the band Squealing Ned? How'd they do it? Did someone use the old "hey, isn't that Jimmy Page?" routine?**

CC: Actually, Brian was more or



Crooked Crow lead singer, Bruce Parker, felt right at home in the Thule military community. Few in the audience suspected that he was actually a Lt Col in disguise. Why can't our Lt Colonels rock like that?

less drafted, and it turned out to be a change for the better.

**LC: Jim, do you plan any duct tape adventures while you're here?**

CC: Jim will do anything on a bet. And it doesn't even have to be high stakes. Just give him a buck, and he'll do it. Which is why he's called "all-purpose Jim," because there pretty much nothing he won't do.

**LC: Marco, it says here that you're a big fan of Rush, Yes, Dream Theater and other progressive rock bands. Any plans on incorporating some of this into the show?**

CC: Yup. (and that's it. Marco spent the entire night walking around the studio with his camcorder, capturing the moment.)

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

CC: Bruce has been doing the writing, both lyrics and music. "Reach Out" is the first collaboration that Bruce and Jamie wrote together.

**LC: Have you ever played USO shows, or shows for the troops before?**

CC: This is the first of what we hope is many. Playing for the troops is one of the greatest experiences there is, especially given what you all do and the sacrifices you make for the country.

**LC: Any good groupie stories to**



SMSgt Bobby Posey, MSgt Timothy Crews and Maj Jerry Shetler enjoy the musical stylings of the band at the Community Activity Center on Monday night.

**share with the folks here?**

CC: No real groupie stories, but plenty of crazy fan stories. There's the clogging guy that once jumped on stage and started clogging when we jumped into Jimi Hendrix's "Fire." And then there's the drunk, naked guy who.....

**LC: OK, stop right there, this is a family paper, after all.**

**LC: Finally, are there any particular all-time favorite songs that you can't go a show without playing?**

CC: "Long Train Running" by the Doobie Brothers. "Voyager," by Gamma. (They performed a jaw-dropping rendition of this one both nights - Larry) And Brian's particular to a few of Bruce's self-penned songs, "Jesse's Song" in particular.

**LC: Thanks for coming up to see us. It means a lot to all of us that you've taken time from your real jobs to come all the way up here to play some rock and roll for us. We certainly hope that you enjoy your short stay up here at the top of the world.**

# J U L E M A N D F E S T

Ms. Helene Carstensen, GC/CCA, adds her own artistic style to the group painting project. Throughout the Julemand Festival, would-be painters could donate a dollar and add something to a canvas. Eventually the "finished" work was auctioned off with proceeds going to the Operation Julemand.



"I think I can add one more and the pile won't fall..." TSgt Phillip Lindenmuth, 821 SPTS/SC, and countless others wrapped over 500 gifts at the hospital for Operation Julemand.

Ms. Wivian Hedegaard, GC Personnel & Administration, carefully chooses her next gift to wrap. Volunteer wrappers were given a slip with a child's gender and age. Then they went to the gift boxes to pick out something appropriate for each child.



**O**n Saturday, 30 November, Thule gathered together for some good clean fun to raise money for a good cause.

In addition to the pie-in-the-face contest, the Security Forces ran a Get-Out-Of-Jail for money program and various sponsors such as ARCTEC and

the BX sold food and sodas.

TSgt Wayne Wilson, 821 SPTS/OS, was the auctioneer peddling such wares as an inflatable beer bottle raft and a stylist Tweety bird lamp. If you'd like to see the lamp, ask Mr. Frank Sabroe.



## Anyone Want Some Pie?



Lt Col Robert Orwig, 821 SPTS/ CC

Mr. Frank Sabroe, GC

Col Louis Christensen, 821 ABG/CC  
 Capt Gregory Marty, 821 ABG/CCE  
 Capt Brady Vaira, 821 SPTS/OS

Decking the halls in brown, yellow and red, Malina Petersen cheerfully adds some festive decorations to the Dundas Dining



(continued from page 1)

- Even the Chinese celebrate the festival of Chung Chu'i to give thanks for their harvest.
- The Hebrew Festival of Harvest is among the most important holidays in the Jewish calendar. They celebrate the festival of Sukkoth.
- In Canada, Thanksgiving formally began in 1879 and is celebrated in the second



"Just a dash of paprika and these babies are done." Poul Erik Branstrup puts tender loving care into everyone of the devil eggs that he made for the celebration.

week of October.

In America, Thanksgiving has a more concrete foundation, as the festival is as old as American civilization. The first pilgrims to the New World (America) celebrated three days of "Thanks Giving" after their first harvest. Today, it's evolved into the second most popular national holiday.

Most people take for granted the effort that goes into preparing a meal at the Dundas Dining Hall, but keep in mind, during the

three days of preparation that went into what was a truly awe-inspiring meal, the same staff was preparing three daily meals along with the routine dining hall maintenance.

"I was impressed because I didn't think that it would be as nice as it was. They had really accommodated our desires and traditions since it isn't even a holiday that they normally celebrate," said A1C Renee Moats, 821 SPTS/MSP.

Another satisfied customer, who asked not to be identified, said that he brought a large zip-lock bag to dinner hoping to take home some turkey for the following day. ( B e c a u s e "Thanksgiving just ain't thanksgiving if you can have a left-over turkey sandwich the next day.) However, prior to the "illegal" filling of the bag, hopes were dashed when

Col Christensen sat down at his table. Luckily Col C got up for some more pie and so the "mission" could be accomplished anyways.

Imagine Mom's kitchen on Thanksgiving and then increase the intensity by a magnitude of 20. Not necessarily a fun place to be.

MSgt Michael Shonka said, "I



Placing nuts and candies on the huge Thanksgiving centerpiece, Bettina Søndergaard makes sure that no one leaves this dinner without a few extra sweets to remember the day. Now if we can just keep MSgt Magby from eating them all before the dinner starts!

thought it was excellent. Everything was cooked really well and I especially liked being served by our Colonel. However, the speed of the serve wasn't as quick as I am accustomed to, but the quality of the cut was just as good."

The next time you see Mr. Bjarne Koellund or any of his dining hall staff, remember to give them thanks for what they do for us on holidays and everyday.



# Picking the Perfect Tree

By Capt Todd Rupright  
821 SPTS/CE

**T**he Thule Tree lighting is an annual event everyone looks forward to. But the search for the perfect tree is a little known tradition.

This year's tree is a spectacular mountain of branches covered with around 5 miles of lights. Each year, it is picked out every year by a Greenland Air helicopter search, then cut down and brought to its new home at Building 461 in late October. Every fall the Utility/Utility Line Maintenance (ULM) Shop supervisor drives the back roads of Greenland's Northern territory and elsewhere looking for perfect evergreen tree. During the winter, most trees are leafless and evergreens stand out. However, the right tree is genetically one in

a million. The desired dimensions are a minimum of 50 feet tall and 15 feet wide. The branches must be dense enough to prevent the sky from showing through.

The tree grows in full sun, in rich soil, with good moisture. After months of careful preparation and weeks of trussing the tree for travel, the actual cutting takes less than 2 minutes. Most archies watching have to look carefully to see when it actually happens, since the tree is suspended from the tip of a giant crane, which bears its full weight when the cut

is complete.

Once the tree is cut and moved carefully off its stump, the ULM shop supervisor counts the rings, to get a more accurate measure of its age. It takes 15-20 people and a 280-ton, all terrain, hydraulic crane to handle the tree. The same crane is used to erect and remove the tree from its place of honor at the 821ABG Headquarters building.



Lt Col Robert Orwig, 821 SPTS/CC, was lucky enough to officially light this year's tree. The tree lighting ceremony was followed by caroling and cookies at the Community Activities Center.



By Gen Lance W. Lord  
AFSPC/CC

**T**he month of November is set aside to recognize an important part of the Air Force team – our families.

Throughout the first year of our

## Gen Lord Sends Thanksgiving Message

war on terrorism, we experienced an increased operations tempo and longer deployments. Support of our families has never been more vital, and their contributions, whether at home or within the community, are important to our mission success.

We know that without that support, we could not be as successful or effective. In recognition of the sacrifices and contributions our members and families make in support of our Department of Defense mission, the day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 29, is designated as a military family day for all Air Force

Space Command personnel.

Thanksgiving is a time for reflection and celebration. Take the opportunity to enjoy your family and friends. When planning activities, please remember that single members and the families of deployed members are part of our military family.

Beccy and I wish you and your families a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

## Facts about Greenland

# Did you know?

By Capt Elizabeth Ferrill 821 SPTS/SC

**O**n 18 and 19 November, Mr. Johannes Rosing, from Greenland Resources A/S, was kind enough to come to Thule Air Base and teach us all a little bit more about our host country. The following information was presented at that meeting as well as in the literature that Mr. Rosing provided the group. More information can be found at [www.visitgreenland.com](http://www.visitgreenland.com).

### Why is the country called Greenland?

In 982 A.D., a Norseman named Eric the Red was banished from Iceland for three years. Originally a farmer, Eric left his home and decided to set up a farm on the southern tip of Greenland. He dubbed his new home, Greenland, because it was a green land when he landed. However, the native Greenlanders refer to themselves as “kalaallit” and therefore the Greenlandic name of Greenland is “Kalallit Nunaat,” which means “kalaallit’s land.”

### What is the main industry in Greenland?

To many people’s surprise (and to the surprise of the native people who couldn’t see them from a kayak), shrimping is one of the largest industries in Greenland. In addition, the island has investigated oil drilling and hopes to open a gold mine next year.

### How many forms of Greenlandic are there?

Greenlandic is roughly divided into three dialects: East Greenlandic, West Greenlandic and the Polar-Eskimo dialect. Central West Greenlandic has become the language of communication

throughout the nation. East Greenlandic is very different from West Greenlandic, but most East Greenlanders understand West Greenlandic. The same also applies in the Avanersuaq (Thule) district, where the dialect is completely different again.

### Why did people come to Greenland in the first place?

The first Inuit people arrived in Greenland from North America as early as 2,500 B.C. They were hunters following in the tracks of the musk ox.

### Where do icebergs come from?

Icebergs are created by inland glaciers that split them off into the ocean. The most productive glacier in the northern hemisphere is located in Ilulisat Ice Fjord. [Insert story from Lt Col Orwig HERE.] This glacier produces 20 million tons of ice

per day — equal to the annual volume of water consumed by New York City!

### What type of food is traditionally found in Greenland?

Originally native people lived from hunting seals, narwhals and polar bears. But today, Greenlanders eat a variety of foods from all over the world. Greenland’s national dish is “suaasat,” which is seal meat boiled with rice and onions.

### What does “Home Rule” mean?

The kingdom of Denmark annexed Greenland as a colony in the 1700s. Greenland stayed a Danish colony until 1979 when Greenland Home Rule (GHR) was founded. Today GHR sets almost all policy for the country except areas like national defense and monetary policy which are still handled by Denmark. In addition, Greenlanders are still Danish citizens. The familiar Greenlandic flag was introduced on June 21, 1985 which is also Greenland’s national day.



Thule Air Base is hosted by Greenland, the largest island in the world. The base sits on the northern end of the island, where it is usually not so green. However, Greenland was originally named for by explorers who visited the southern tip of the island.

## Commander's Trophy Winner FY 2002: 821st Support Squadron



# ARCTIC SPOTLIGHT



**Last Base:** Edwards AFB, CA

**Next Base:** Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC

**Originally From:** Lapeer, Michigan

**My Job Title:** Transportation QAE

**What I like most about my job:** Meeting new people because of my job

**Hobbies Interests:** Hiking, Jet Skiing and Snowmobile Riding

**Thule Goals:** Make MSgt and finishing my degree

**Interesting Fact:** I've been in the Military 19 yrs and I have never been deployed outside the United States for a TDY

**If you could be commander for one day what would you change about the Air Force ?:** Listen to the troops about their concerns and raise the morale by getting to know their people more

**Favorite Sports Team:** University of Michigan

**Who is your hero?:** I met Rosa Parks once and she inspired me because of her actions and what she did.



**TSgt Marty Shoobridge  
821 SPTS/LG**

# The Last Word

## Area Man Can't Believe It's Not Log Cabin

At a recent Julemand fundraiser, TSgt Dan Hall, 821 ABG/CCA, was stunned to discover that the maple syrup he was enjoying was not in fact the name-brand "Log Cabin®." Instead, in some twisted attempt at being genuine, the Governor of Vermont had actually provided Thule Air Base with "Real®" maple syrup. While not familiar with the "Real®" brand, TSgt Hall said that he liked this syrup as much as the other so he was okay with the switch.



## Thermometer Scandal: Ours Run Backwards!

Anyone who has worked for the federal government has learned to deal with the ballpoint pens that last for only a day, the scratchy facial tissue and the thin recycled paper that jams printers...but now the government has gone too far. Apparently, in a cruel, sick joke, Thule has been issued thermometers that **actually run backwards**. Now we all know that it is fun to joke about how cold it gets at Thule (ha ha!) but let's not let the "joke" go too far. What if someone saw this thermometer and actually dressed for -20°F? Well they might look pretty silly. That wouldn't be a good thing, now would it?

## Local Turkey Cries Fowl; Files Suit

He proudly reported for duty on Thanksgiving morning. He had been training hard and was ready for his final mission. However, Gobble (right) was distressed to discover that he was not "qualified" for Thanksgiving dinner duty due to his diminutive size. They said that it wasn't him personally, just that they had certain quotas to meet. At first Gobble got mad, but now he is getting even. He remembered a commercial he saw on TV for a personal injury lawyer in Detroit. Although not physically injured, his pride was damaged beyond repair and he wants justice. On the advice of his counsel, Gobble was not available for comment but promised to provide the Times with the full story once his case was settled.



### 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 25 December 2002.