# Commander's corner

**By Col Tom Deppe**
*341st Space Wing commander*

Wow, summer is about half over and I haven't gone fishing yet. There was a guy who ran Outdoor Rec who promised to take me but he got promoted and is now too busy. I hope everyone had a fun filled Fourth of July … it was a hot one. It seems like we've been running at full speed ever since Guardian Challenge, through the IG, and then into PCS and retirement season.

I really want to thank all of you who participated in **Col Eken's** retirement ceremony. It meant a lot to him and his family. Col Eken will be replaced by **Col Darphaus Mitchell** and his wife, Tanya. The Mitchells arrive this weekend. They were assigned to Malmstrom in the mid-80s and I'm sure will remember a lot, but also be surprised by the changes. Col Mitchell is coming to us from a very successful command tour as the Operations Group commander at the 45th Space Wing at Patrick AFB, Florida.

Over the weekend I received an e-mail from Gen Eberhart, commander of Air Force Space Command. He wrote to tell me that our own **341st Services Squadron had won the Eugene Eubanks Award for the entire Air Force** … the best Services Squadron of all bases with less than 5,000 people assigned. What a great honor. My congratulations to **Maj Thom Terwilliger** and all of the Services Squadron … what a fabulous team of dedicated people. I hope I'm not the only one who recognizes just how hard they work and how much they care. One little story to share, but one that I think you'll understand where I'm coming from. After the 4th of July parade, Eileen and I rode back to the base and detoured to look at the soon-to-open new base FAMCAMP. Here it is a holiday, 100 plus degrees, and what do we find … **Sherm Jackson** and **Joe Vieth** watering and edging the new sod … on their day off. It was no surprise to me when Gen Eberhart said we won the Eubanks, our Services Squadron deserves it.

On Tuesday I received a telephone call from Gen Eberhart to tell me that **SSgt Jason Raether** of the Logistics Support Squadron has been named one of the Twelve Outstanding Airman of the Year for 2001. Now this is a real big deal … I mean a real big deal. Our congratulations to Jason and all his supervisors and commander for nominating him … only 12 a year, and we've got one of them. You will be hearing a lot more about SSgt Raether in future *High Plains Warriors.*

Next week, **Lt Gen Chuck Wald**, Commander of Ninth Air Force, will be here to retire **Col Clint Woods**, the 819th RED HORSE Squadron Commander. Clint and his wife **Rita** are retiring after 30 years in our Air Force. Clint and the RED HORSE have given me great support and as a gift to Clint, we included the RED HORSE on the east side of the base water tower when we added the TEAM MALMSTROM logo … because they are a very important part of "the team." Clint started his career as a B-52 pilot and transitioned into the Civil Engineering and RED HORSE business. Congratulations to Clint and Rita on a great career of outstanding service.

I appreciate everyone taking "Safety First" over the 4th of July. The 101 Days of Summer are about half over so keep Safety First always on your mind. Have a good week.

# Action lines

## Indoor pool

**Q: One of my favorite ways to exercise is lap swimming. The Morony Natatorium is nice, but its evening lap swimming is limited to 7 to 8 p.m. weekdays, 8 to 9 p.m. in the summer. It would be great if we had an indoor pool for exercising here on base, especially since our exercise activities are so limited in the winter. Is there any way to make this happen?**

*A: Thank you for your query on an indoor lap pool. We have programmed this when the fitness center add/alter project is completed. Currently, that project is in the fiscal year 2005 program, and we are doing everything possible to move that forward. Thank you for using our 341st Services Squadron programs.*

## Running track

**Q: Being a runner, I noticed the track here at Malmstrom is made out of asphalt. From past history, it causes shin splints. This isn't a good thing because it can actually take you away from running for eight to 10 weeks. I was wondering what the chances were of actually getting it changed to a rubber track, like some of the high schools have.**

*A: Malmstrom AFB and the 341st Services Squadron are very dedicated to the fitness and physical well being of its members. We would be delighted to have a rubberized running track. Currently, there's nothing on the books to upgrade our track from asphalt to a rubberized surface. We have checked with other organizations that have these tracks, and the cost can range from $50,000 to $700,000, depending on the quality of the track and the construction work that it would take to prepare the current surface area.*

*In addition to the outdoor track, we also offer the indoor track around the lower gym, various treadmills and maps for jogging on base. Concerns regarding shin splints can also be addressed through the professionals at the health and wellness center, or one of our certified trainers at the fitness center. Often, there are other running habits that can be corrected to reduce injuries, such as shin splints.*

*Thanks for taking the time to voice your concern on the running track at the fitness center. Be assured that the physical fitness and morale are a high priority within the wing, and we will continue to pursue avenues to provide the best for our folks here at Team Malmstrom.*

## Housing renovation

**Q: Are there any plans to renovate the remaining houses on the enlisted side of Cedar Street? It occurred to me that those units are the only houses left on the entire base with just one bathroom. Even the ones currently under renovation on the officer's side already have two baths. For my family of five (and others on the block), another bathroom would be a blessing.**

*A: Yes, the enlisted units on Cedar Street are included in the next renovation project scheduled for FY 2003.*

*Malmstrom has been fortunate to have already gained funding for three renovation projects (two completed and one underway), along with the construction of 278 new units (194 complete, 84 underway).*

*Major General Robbins, the Air Force Civil Engineer, has stated Malmstrom could receive approximately $100,000,000 between 2003 and 2009 for military family housing, so the picture appears positive that most of our unrenovated units will be upgraded or replaced – great news for Malmstrom residents!*

**Donate blood**
Red Cross drive
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. July 25
Health and Wellness Center
Call 727-2212 to signup.

## Action Lines

Do you have a comment, suggestion or compliment? The Action Line is here to help.

This forum is open and straight forward. If we've done well, let us know. If, on the other hand, we've dropped the ball, I'll owe up to it.

You can e-mail me at *swaction@malmstrom.af.mil* or call 731-HELP.

Anonymous calls are reviewed, but not all are published. Callers are encouraged to leave their name and phone number so we can provide a personal reply.

Remember that the easiest and quickest way to resolve most problems is to call the agency responsible directly or to use your chain of command. Most issues can be taken care of on the spot that way.

**Col Tom Deppe**
*341st Space Wing commander*

E-mail: ***SWACTION@malmstrom.af.mil*** Voice message: **731-HELP**

### Quick Reference List

| | |
|---|---|
| Area defense counsel (Capt Kenneth Hobbs) | 731-4723 |
| Col Barry Kistler (341st Support Group) | 731-3791 |
| All AAFES facilities (Stefan Marks) | 454-1301 |
| Base chapel (Chaplain (Lt Col) Leon Savage) | 731-3721 |
| Mission support issues (Lt Col Ashley Elder) | 731-2036 |
| Child development center (Susan Ritter) | 731-2417 |
| Civil engineers (Lt Col Phil Rainforth) | 731-6188 |
| Clinic (TSgt Lewry Crawford) | 731-2806 |
| Command chief master sergeant (CMSgt Mark Silliman) | 731-3413 |
| Commissary (Dave Woody) | 452-6441 |
| Dorm manager (MSgt John Henry) | 731-4239 |
| Finance (Maj Brian Melton) | 731-4168 |
| Housing office (Dottie Golightly) | 731-3660 |
| Inspector general (Lt Col Jerry Kain) | 731-7120 |
| Law Enforcement (Lt Col Keith Anderson ) | 731-3042 |
| Legal (Lt Col Joe Treanor) | 731-2878 |
| Military equal opportunity (Capt Geia Carlisle) | 731-4525 |
| Public affairs (Capt Richard Essary) | 731-4050 |
| Retirees activities office (CMSgt retired Jerry O'Reilly) | 731-4751 |
| Safety (Lt Col Kirby Shineman) | 731-6712 |
| Services (Maj Thom Terwilliger) | 731-4551 |

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**341st Space Wing Public Affairs editorial staff**

| | |
|---|---|
| Commander | Col Tom Deppe |
| Chief, public affairs | Capt Richard Essary |
| Deputy chief, public affairs | 2d Lt Shannon Nyberg |
| NCOIC, public affairs | TSgt Buzz Ritchie |
| Chief, internal operations | SSgt Russell Petcoff |
| Editor, *High Plains Warrior* | A1C Harold Barnes III |
| Staff writer | Amn Chris Powell |
| Public affairs office | 731-4050 |
| E-mail | 341swpa@malmstrom.af.mil |
| Action Line | 731-HELP |