Commander's corner

By Col Thomas F. Deppe
341st Space Wing commander

We're just about through with the Nuclear Surety Inspection, and you've all performed extremely well. Keep it up. I'm proud of how we've responded as a team and how we've attacked the IG's scenarios. Maintain your focus to the end—run through the tape! The Operational Readiness Inspection is just around the corner, and we can't let up one bit.

Last Friday, I had the privilege of unveiling a stamp "Honoring Veterans" at Great Falls' Lion's Park. It was an honor to be a part of this ceremony, and to have the opportunity to publicly thank our veterans for protecting our freedom and for their continued service to our communities. Every time you use this stamp, I encourage you to stop and think about the incredible sacrifices made by our nation's veterans. Better yet, take the time to thank a veteran—they provided you with the liberty you enjoy today.

Recently, four members of the 341st Medical Group traveled down to El Salvador to provide its citizens with much needed medical care. Lt Col Meyer, 341st Medical Group, provided the following description of their dramatic impact:

"[We] deployed with nine other medical personnel from five other Space Command bases to a **Medical Readiness Training Exercises (MEDRETE)** in El Salvador. MEDRETEs have become invaluable venues for training medical personnel in planning and logistics preparations for peacetime and wartime contingencies. Team Malmstrom's additions to the May MEDRETE were **SSgt Teresa Grubidge**, **MSgt Lynn Lawrence**, **Capt Mark Hoggan**, and **Lt Col William Meyer**. These civic action programs bring needed primary care medical services to the under-served, indigent population of an ally nation. The 13-member USAF team worked with the Salvadoran army and ministry of health physicians, dentists, and technicians in thatchedroof, openair facilities in areas devastated by the January 2001 earthquakes in eastern El Salvador.

"During the 10-day operation, SSgt Grubidge kept records of more than 10,000 villagers who received treatment for various conditions. The physicians treated common diseases that included skin, respiratory, and genitourinary infections, parasitic infestations of worms and scabies, malnutrition, gastritis, and arthritis. Hundreds of teeth were extracted daily due to rampant dental caries while public health nurses instructed the villagers on proper sanitation, water purification, and disease prevention. We dispensed over $30,000 of pharmaceuticals along with 1,700 toothbrushes during the exercise.

"However, the star performer was MSgt Lawrence. He literally brought sight to the blind! Needy Salvadorans waited in line for hours as he meticulously fitted more than 500 pairs of donated eyeglasses he obtained specifically for the mission. One boy's vision was so poor that his corrective lenses could only be approximated by taping two of the strongest pairs of glasses together as a temporary fix. MSgt Lawrence has since procured the proper prescription glasses that will be delivered to the boy by the next MEDRETE mission later this month.

"The experience proved valuable to all members of the mission. Strangers from five bases formed a cohesive team, adapted to austere conditions, and performed one of the most successful MEDRETEs to date. Team Malmstrom's medical team felt honored to be a part of this mission."

This is just one example of how Team Malmstrom has worldwide impact and why our personnel are truly exceptional.

Congratulations to some of our recent award winners: **Capt Von Dailey, 341stst Logistics Support Squadron**, was named AFSPC Junior Supply Manager of the Year for 2000. In addition, the **341st Space Wing** and the **564th Missile Squadron** earned the AFSPC Maj Gen Tim C. Padden Awards for Facilities Excellence in 2000 (Base and Missile Alert Facilities, respectively). Great job to all who contributed to these outstanding accomplishments!

To close, I'd like to re-focus your attention on the inspection. Remember to do everything **safely**. Continue to do your best…I know that you will.

Courtesy photo

The Honoring Veterans stamp was unveiled June 8 at Lion Park. (Back) Sharon Westlake, Congressman Dennis Rehberg's representative, Col Thomas F. Deppe, 341st Space Wing commander, Col Rex Tanberg, 120th Air National Guard commander, Bob Klein, United States Postal Service Big Sky District manager, Bonnie Keller, Senator Max Baucus' representative, (Front) Mike Brown, Senator Conrad Burns' representative, and Great Falls Mayor Randy Gray participated in the event.

Calendar of events

June 26

Enlisted Spouses Club board of governors meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the chapel. Call Judy Rhodes at 268-0321.

June 29

An enlisted induction ceremony is at 3 p.m. at Club Malmstrom. Call MSgt Russell Crookston at 731-3243.

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 Thomas F. 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 Scott Graham (341st Support Group)	731-3791
All AAFES facilities (Stefan Marks)	454-1301
Base chapel (Chaplain (Lt Col) David Cote)	731-3721
Mission support issues (Lt Col Ashley Elder)	731-2036
Child development center. (Susan Ritter)	731-2417
Civil engineers (Lt Col Don Gleason)	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
Acting inspector general (Lt Col Doug Yates)	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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Articles must be coordinated through public affairs. Submissions doesn't guarantee publication. Customers can drop submissions off at the public affairs office in Bldg. 500, Room 150A. For details, call the *Warrior* office at 731-4050.

Call 791-1420 for more information on advertising.

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