



PH Hometown News

Volume 4, Issue 2

PH POCs

Apr-Jun 2003

• **AFMOA DSN 297**

Col Deneice Van Hook 4280
 Lt Col Dennis Fay 4269
 Maj Linda Bonnell 4216
 SMSgt Mark Mellinger 4340

• **ACC: DSN 574**

Lt Col Bill Courtney 1268
 SMSgt Theron Reed 1294

• **AMC: DSN 779**

Col Rex Brennan 6336
 CMSgt Rich Johnson 6336

• **Space Command DSN 692**

Col Don Coates 6810
 CMSgt Bill Babb 6809

• **AFMC DSN 787**

Col Judith Holl 6728
 SMSgt Dan Huber 7061

• **AETC:**

Col Tom Stedman 487-6536
 CMSgt Bill Hollowood 554-4153

• **USAFE: DSN: 314-480**

Lt Col Fred Kelsey 7670
 MSgt Therese Huss 2004

• **PACAF: DSN: 315-449-**

Lt Col Paul Rehme 2332 X 269
 SMSgt Tony Labonte 3429

• **AFSOC: DSN 579-**

Lt Col Timothy Woodruff 2269
 CMSgt Tom Huberty 2269

• **Reserves**

SMSgt Patricia Tooley 497-0600

• **ANG: DSN: 278-**

Lt Col Cynthia Cogburn 8556
 MSgt George Silvas 8556

• **USAFSAM: DSN: 240-**

Col Diana Barnicott 2269
 CMSgt Jim Cahill 1553

• **CFM DSN: 297-**

CMSgt Jeff Strout 4250

Skunk Works... We have Great People Doing Great Things!

BUCKLEY AFB, CO:

Lt Brenda Polk was awarded Conditional Reserve Status (CRS) in April 2003. TSgt Anita Washington was PH NCO of the Year for Space Command 2002.

BOLLING AFB:

TSgt Sharon Thompson, Public Health Section, Bolling AFB, was selected as the 2003 Non-Commissioned officer of the year for the 11th Wing. As



Bolling is a Direct Reporting Unit, TSgt Thompson has won a MAJCOM level award. She was also a finalists for the 2003 D. W. Steele Sr. Memorial Chapter of the Air Force Association Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. We are extremely proud that A1C Brandon Wright was selected for Below the Zone promotion to Senior Airman.

MAXWELL AFB, AL:

SSgt Mandi Wichman was 42d Medical Group NCO of the Year; SSgt Becky Patterson was 42d Medical Group Airman of the Year; SSgt Erica Aguilar was 42d Aeromedical-Dental Sq NCO of the Quarter Jan—Mar 03; MSgt James Gage was 42d Aeromedical-Dental Sq and 42d Medical Group SNCO of Quarter Jan - Mar 03.

EIELSON AFB, AK:

A1C Chris Bradford, 354 MDG Outstanding Airman of the Quarter, 1st Qtr 03. SrA Erica Larsen, Academic Achievement Award at Airman Leadership School.

DEPLOYED:

Six medics were among the initial contingent who deployed into an airbase in northern Iraq

as part of the 86 ECRG. MSgt Charles Cremeans, a 4N071 IDMT assigned to the 786 SFS, was one of 20 CRG personnel who parachuted in with the 173d Airborne Brigade. He has since reported that, "I'm doing well. The airborne jump with the 173d went well...I didn't get hurt at all." The other five medics are members of the 86 CRG/EMF (Environmental Medicine Flight): Maj Jim Poel (PHO - Flight CC); Maj Darrin Ott (BEE); Capt JR Allen (FS); MSgt Melinda Patrick (BEE Tech); TSgt Heinz Keifer (PHO Tech). They are not jump qualified, so arrived via airlift to the secured airfield. Their mission, IAW the 86 CRG CONOPS, is to provide first-on-the-scene environmental security and force health protection for expeditionary aerospace forces deploying in response to any contingency in EUCOM's AOR, and to provide medical intelligence, consultant services, health hazard assessment, medical threat surveillance, and control measures for USAFE forces. Please note that the medics assigned to the 86 CRG/EMF are line assets, like an SME, but perform functions like a PAM and/or MGRL.

More Skunkworks

They are embedded into the 86 MDG, Ramstein AB GE, while in garrison. In addition, one A/E crew went in on the first air-land chock. There were a total of 965 jumpers. Eighteen people were injured (1.9%) with 15 returned to duty. The three others (back, tib/fib and shoulder dislocations) were evacuated to LRMC with the A/E crew on the night of the jump. All injured were members of the 173d AB.

Great PH Folks at another deployed location (not pictured for operational reasons):

TSgt Terence Stewart from Eglin AFB FL; SSgt Robert Yeager from Nellis AFB NV; SrA Catherine Dienst from Eglin AFB FL; Capt Alisa Iriye from Eglin AFB FL; and SSgt Javier Porras from Hurlburt AFB FL is here with an associated unit. At the time they



were 39 miles from the Iraqi border, quite possibly the most forward deployed AFB in the AOR.....they stated that they were all too tired! The rest of us hope you come home soon!

Meet The Perfect Team Combination

Public Health members from Cannon AFB, New Mexico and Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina have come together at Al Udeid AB, Qatar the home of the 379 AEW and 379 EMEDS to combat disease non-battle injuries, foodborne illness and other health related issues that could prevent U.S. forces and our coalition partners from doing their job. A deployment to the desert offers a PH professional a broad range of challenges from Anthrax to Small-pox and other “issues” unique to a field environment. A “wartime” deployment provides a member with a lifetime of stories, professional growth, an inner look at themselves, and a unique experience to add to their military career.

Public Health Team Members are: 1Lt. Cesar Romero, OIC from Cannon AFB, NM; TSgt Lorenzo Jones, NCOIC from Seymour Johnson AFB, NC; TSgt Jerry (Rusty) Pickard, Decon-Team Chief from Seymour Johnson AFB, NC; TSgt Shannon Fleeting, (assigned to Infectious Disease Team) from Keesler AFB MS; SSgt Shanika Johnson, (assigned to Decon Team) from Seymour Johnson AFB, NC; SrA Kesha

Harper from Cannon AFB, NM; SrA Jae Kim from Seymour Johnson AFB, NC.

This team ranks first in assuring each members immunization are up to date and DNBIs kept at a minimal. MOTTO: Food Safety is Job #1 (of course immunizations are important too).



From Left to Right: (Back Row) TSgt Lorenzo Jones, TSgt Shannon Fleeting, and TSgt Rusty Pickard (Front Row) 1Lt Cesar Romero, SrA Kesha Harper, SSgt Shanika Johnson, and SrA Jae Kim



Capt Bernadette Steele is the Public Health Officer at Camp Sarafovo in Burgas, Bulgaria. She is one of the two-person medical support for the 409th Air Expeditionary Group which runs air refueling operations with KC-10 Extender aircraft. Capt Steele deployed out of the 86 AMDS at Ramstein AB. Her husband, John; 2 dogs, Bessie and Raven; and cat, Myrah, are all waiting for her return back to Germany. In the picture, the painting hanging on the wall was made by local school children. It is the patron saint of good health.

Here is our picture of personnel deployed at Al Jaber AB, Kuwait...From left to right, MSgt Gary Wright, Albuquerque National Guard, SSgt Mary Preolette, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, A1C Alan Joseph, USAF Academy, Colorado, 1Lt Steve Keifer, Holloman AFB, New Mexico, and SrA Elizabeth Woodland, Peterson AFB, Colorado. Date picture taken: 26 March 2003. Hello from Kuwait, we are proud to say we have perfected the art of donning our chemical protective suits. The unfortunate fact about it is there is no, exercise, exercise, exercise preceding the alarm. Spirits remain high and with good fortune we all hope to return home safely. We would all like to say thank you to our home bases for picking up the slack while we were deployed. We miss you all greatly and God Bless the USA.



USAFSAM FOCUS: Capt Keith W. Blount

Meet Capt Keith Blount from USAFSAM at Brooks City-Base, Texas. He is a Medical Entomologist working as an instructor...helping us to improve our medical entomology skills. His previous assignments include: US Army (enlisted) 1987-1991; US Army (commissioned) CHPPM-W, Ft. Lewis, WA 1998-2001; USAFSAM/ATR, Brooks City-Base 2001-present.

He and his wife Pam have two daughters - Sara (8) and Kristen (4). He enjoys fishing, hunting and camping with family.

His favorite sayings are every line from O Brother, Where Art Thou? The message he would like to share with us is: "I would like to encourage the AF PH community to embrace and employ the entomology resources available. Entomologists have unique skills and varied backgrounds that are often overlooked and underutilized by the preven-

tive medicine community. As operations increase and vector-borne diseases emerge (re-emerge) in the US and abroad, there is a need to refocus on the AF Medical Entomology program. Please call on the entomology community - we're in this fight too and we love what we do."

