



Tallil Times

Vol 1. Issue 13

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Tallil Air Base, Iraq

Friday Aug 8, 2003

NEWS BRIEFS

Morale Calls

Tallil Tent City residents are reminded that individuals are allowed two morale calls each week, not to exceed 15 minutes each. Calls are logged and violators may be forwarded to their unit first sergeant for repeated violations. If you have a legitimate need for a longer call to your family or home station, unit first sergeants can authorize longer calls from their offices – contact them for more details.

Hometown News Release

You can let your family and friends know how you're supporting the Tallil Air Base mission in your hometown newspaper. Fill out a Hometown News Release from the 332nd intranet page by clicking on the 'Public Affairs' link and then the link entitled 'Hometown News Release'. Complete the form and drop it by the Public Affairs office in the WOC and then contact Visual Information (459-0368) for an accompanying photo.

Seat Belt Use

Seat belt use is mandatory for all vehicles equipped with them on Tallil Air Base. Don't risk your life or the lives of others – Ensure everyone is using these restraints properly. Violators will be reported to their units for disciplinary action.

American Forces Network

The American Forces Network provides first-run American television and sports programming to overseas military units. Programming schedules are available online at: <http://www.myafn.net>. Users can customize the page to reflect local time zones or to find specific program air dates.

332nd AEW stands up at Tallil

□ New wing designation replaces base's 407th AEG

by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

332nd AEW Public Affairs

The flag of command for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing was transferred from Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait, to Tallil Air Base Tuesday during a short ceremony held at the Wing Operations Center. As a result, the 407th Air Expeditionary Group was inactivated and its assigned units reformed under the 332nd AEW.

"The 332nd leadership is sound. The 407th at Tallil and 506th at Kirkuk know their combat missions and people," Col. John Griffin, 332nd AEW commander said. "The AEF rotation only changed the faces, not the professional job being accomplished by the warriors on a daily basis. Since Al Jaber is changing to an airlift and cargo mission, it made sense to pass the combat command of the wing to a proven leader like Colonel Williams."

For most units assigned to Tallil, the change will be transparent and existing lines of command will remain the same. The biggest change will be in unit names, with all units formally assigned to the 407th AEG changing their designation to the corresponding 332nd title. For example, the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron will become the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron under the realignment.

According to the unit's historian, Master Sgt. Robin Rosenberger, the 332nd Wing has a long and distinguished history. The wing was originally created as a "wing-base service test" and the legendary Tuskegee 332nd Fighter Group was assigned to the wing. The 332nd FW lives on as 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

The Wing's emblem is the pan-



Photo by Senior Airman Karolina Gmyrek, photo illustration by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

▲ **PASSING THE COLORS:** Col. Kevin Williams, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing acting commander, accepts the wing's flag from Col. John Griffin, 332nd AEW commander, during a ceremony held at the Wing Operations Center Tuesday.

ther, which symbolizes the unit's strength, dedication and devotion to duty. The flames from the panther's mouth represent the capability of the Tuskegee Airmen to accomplish the Army Air Force mission.

The unit was inactivated in 1949 as part of the uniformed service's plan to support racial integration. It was reactivated Aug. 12, 2002 as an expeditionary unit based in Al Jaber, Kuwait.

"I know the men and women

servng here at Tallil Air Base will add another distinguished chapter to the combat legacy of the 332nd Wing," said Col. Kevin Williams, acting commander.

"Our mission is critical, and our people are accomplishing it every day in a tough environment," he said. "There is no doubt in my mind that the Tuskegee Airmen who ruled the skies in World War II would be proud of what we are doing here for our nation under the wing flag they made famous."

Quick notes about the history of the 332nd



Originally created just after World War II, the 332nd Fighter Wing was "born" on Aug. 15, 1947. It originally was housed at Lockbourne Army Air Base, home to the famous "Tuskegee Airmen." These airmen were the first African-American pilots to officially serve in America's armed forces.

The wing was inactivated in 1949, but reactivated last year as expeditionary units in support of air combat operations in the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

The 332nd AEW is currently the only active wing that can call itself a "Tuskegee" wing. For more information about the origins of the Tuskegee Airmen, visit their website at: www.TuskegeeAirmen.org.



▲ **MOVING IN:** Staff Sgt. Donald Williams, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle operations superintendent, directs Corp. Mikalaukas Liutauras, Lithuanian Air Force, as he uses a fork lift to move a cooler into Teny City's new BX annex Tuesday.

Tent city welcomes AAFES, BX annex

**Story and photo by
Airman 1st Class
Kara Philp**

332nd AEW Public Affairs

As each organization strives to improve conditions at Tallil Air Base, the Army Air Force Exchange Service is no exception.

The BX annex, located near tent city's southwest entrance, was recently constructed and is expected to open this week.

In addition to the convenience of a BX annex in tent city, Tallil will also be hiring third country national employees and eventually local national employees for a variety of support functions.

"While the use of TCNs and LNs by the U.S. Army here at Tallil Air Base has been going on for some time, the Air Force has not used them until now," said Col. Kevin Williams, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing acting commander.

Operating hours of the annex will be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, and AAFES is planning to use four TCNs in the annex from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

"The ability to walk down to the BX and shop for essentials is something we often take for granted while deployed," said Lt. Col. Andre Whisnant, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron commander. "The BX management was more than accommodating to set up a satellite store in the Air Force compound."

Colonel Whisnant said he also expects the BX annex to have a huge impact on airmen and elevate the quality of life.

"It was a combined services and AAFES venture," he said. "(We) team up to provide retail outlets for deployed troops."

Tent city residents can expect to find most of the same merchandise at the same prices.

We asked you ...

"How is this deployment different than previous deployments?"

And here's what you had to say:



Staff Sgt. Sandy Harris
332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

"The mission itself. Trying to liberate a country ... and defending ourselves at the same time."



Capt. Valerie Zink
332nd Expeditionary Medical Squadron

"This is my first deployment in 23 and a half years. The facilities are much better than I was anticipating."



Senior Airman Dan Morgese
332nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron

"The other place I was at had been built up for 13 years. The austere environment — we need to be more flexible and able to blend into our environment."



Spc. Tanya Kelly
806th Adjutant General (Postal) Company

"Because of the historical standpoint, this is going to be in the history books. And we're working with coalition forces with the same goal — to free the Iraqi people."



Airman Joseph Jahr
332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron

"I wouldn't know, this is my first deployment. It's easier than I expected — it's like camping."

The Tallil Times

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IN BRIEF

All times are local.

AF Worship Services

Worship is at 332nd AEW Chapel, unless otherwise noted.

Catholic

Daily Mass

Monday - Friday 6 p.m.

Vigil Mass

Saturday, 6 p.m.

Sunday Mass

Sunday, 8 a.m.

RCIA/Adult Education

Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

POC: Ch. Theisen, 459-0038

Ecumenical

Noon Prayer/Praise

Monday through Friday, 11 a.m.

Protestant

Contemporary Liturgical

Communion

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Traditional

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Liturgical Communion

Sunday, 10:45 a.m.

Gospel Service

Sunday, 11:45 a.m.

Contemporary "Non-denominational"

Sunday, 7 p.m.

POC: Ch. Ericson, 459-0038

Latter Day Saints

Lay-Led Service

Sunday, 2 p.m.

POC: Staff Sgt. Hager, 573-1107

Muslim

Prayer

Daily, 12:30 p.m., 63rd Signal Battalion

Daily, Sunset, 63rd Signal Battalion

AF and Army Notices

Driving on Base

Speed limits on base are 30km/18mph during the day and 10km/6mph at night.

Seat belt use is mandatory while riding in vehicles equipped with them. Helmets are required in all tactical All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) and "Gators."

Run Routes

Running in groups of two or larger is authorized in only two locations: from the BX/PX parking lot and off the main gate road toward the burn pit. The required uniform is T-shirt and shorts or pants.

Unexploded Ordnance

Do not touch unexploded ordnance. Do not travel off the hardpack except in areas cleared by EOD. There are still thousands of UXO on this base. All personnel should report all UXO to "Command Post" on the CC Net or call the Command Post at 459-0000 or EOD at 459-0108/9.

Ziggurat of Ur

Visits to the Ziggurat require a pass. For information, U.S. Army personnel may call 573-1107.

Air Force Services has expanded its tour schedule to include two afternoon visits to the Ziggurat. For more information, call the Air Force Rec. Center at 459-0121.

The schedule is as follows:

Saturdays, Tuesdays, Thursdays: 10 a.m. (show time of 9:30 a.m. at the Rec. Center).

Sundays and Wednesdays: 2 p.m. (show time of 1:30 p.m. at the Rec. Center).

Bring helmet, flack jacket and weapon.

AF Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for 5K Fun Runs. For more information, call Airman Bret Lockerbie at 459-0118.

Volunteer drivers are needed for Ziggurat Tours. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Bernard Ashlock at 459-0117.

332nd ESVS News

"The Hot Spot" Rec. Center

A Madden 2003 Playstation 2 tournament is scheduled for 7 p.m. today. Sign up is available until 5 p.m.

Card Night is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday. Sign up is available until noon the day of the event.

A Domino tournament is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday. Sign up is available until 5 p.m. the day of the event.

A Euchre tournament is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday. Sign up is available until 5 p.m. the day of the event.

Tallil Tavern

Bingo is scheduled for 8 p.m. Thursday at the Tallil Tavern. Sign up is available at the Rec. Center until 7 p.m.

Trivial Pursuit is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Aug. 16 at the Tallil Tavern. Sign up is available at the Rec. Center until 5:30 p.m.

"Muscle Beach" Fitness Center

A Dizzy Bat Relay is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday at the sand volleyball pit.

Intramural Volleyball Season is scheduled to begin Monday. Games will be played at 7, 7:45, 8:30 and 9:15 p.m.

332nd AEW Warrior of the Week

Senior Airman John Wunder

Unit and duty title:

332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron power production journeyman

Home unit: 43rd Civil Engineer Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

Why other warriors say he's a warrior:

"Airman Wunder took it upon himself to get a three cubic yard front-end loader and clear a field during the night shift. This allowed the power plant to proceed with development of the area as well as saved man-hours of horizontal shop personnel," said Master Sgt. Jose Tarango, 332nd ECES First Sergeant.

Most memorable Air Force experience: Working to restore public utilities after Hurricane Floyd came through town.

Hobbies: Hockey, fishing, camping and 4x4 trail riding



This Week in History

Aug. 9, 1945: Bock's Car drops second atomic bomb

Three days after Col. Paul Tibbets delivers the first atomic bomb, Maj. Charles Sweeney leads the mission to drop a second nuclear weapon. His plane

is 15,000 lbs. overweight at takeoff — with a fully armed warhead, and cloud cover at the primary target forces the mission to divert to Nagasaki. However, his crew completed the mission. For his actions, Maj. Sweeney earned the Distinguished Flying Cross.



Tallil AB receives new command chief

□ Chief Miles becomes Tallil AB's first 332nd AEW command chief

by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

332nd AEW Public Affairs

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing has a new command chief master sergeant, as Chief Master Sgt. Fest Miles replaced the 407th Air Expeditionary Group's Chief Master Sgt. Gary Dinan, effective Aug. 1.

Chief Miles comes to Tallil Air Base via the Aeronautical System Center at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, as part of the AEF Blue rotation.

"I got this assignment like a lot of the people here — on 10 days notice," Chief Miles said. "But I'm happy to be here, working and serving with the men and women of Tallil. This is what we've all been working and preparing for, to serve our nation on short notice."

Chief Miles originally entered the Air Force in 1978 as a Services and MWR representative. He later cross trained into the personnel career field before serving eight years as a first sergeant. This varied background has helped prepare him to meet the needs of the deployed members of the group.

The chief's background and what he brings to the senior leadership staff of Tallil AB was immediately recognizable.

"We are fortunate to have such a proven leader as Chief Miles on the team with us," Col. Kevin Williams, 332nd AEW acting commander said. "He brings a depth and breadth of experience with him that is going to be invaluable as we continue to provide combat airpower to the CENTCOM commander and make Tallil Air Base better every day. He knows what's important to our enlisted men and women from A to Z and will be a great command chief for the wing."



Photo by Senior Airman Karolina Gmyrek

▲ **PAYING FOR DINNER:** Airman 1st Class Adam Aguilar, 332nd Services Squadron receives a coin from Tallil AB's new command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Fest Miles. Chief Miles became the wing's command chief Aug. 1.

Chief Miles says he has three goals for the men and women serving as part of the 332nd AEW.

"My first priority as command chief is force protection," he said. "I want each and every person serving here, to go home in the same or better condition as when they arrived. That means being vigilant - don't forget we're still in a war zone and watch

out for your fellow airman as they're watching over you.

"Another goal is improving the infrastructure and quality of life for the folks deployed

here," Chief Miles said. "The first rotation did an outstanding job of setting us up for success - I've never seen better, but there's always

something more we can do. We're standing up a new BX this week, we're looking at putting wooden floors in all the tents, and another 1,000 things around camp. I want us to work toward making Tallil better each

and every day.

"The last thing I want to emphasize is our physical fitness. The chief of staff sent out a new sight picture just

the other day, with the goal of achieving a fitter, more active force," he said. "We can all get a head start right here. There's an outstanding fitness facility, and I encourage everyone to get out and exercise."

Chief Miles believes in being accessible to the men and women he serves. While other senior leaders have an "open door" policy, he has an "always open" policy. That's the one thing he wants all of Tallil to know.

"If you have a problem, come see me, call me or catch me walking around," he said. "I'm not big on bureaucracy, if there's something we need to get done - let's talk about it and get it done. I'm excited about being here and making a difference, and I encourage anyone with an idea to let me know, so I can help. I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve here with the sons and daughters of America and our coalition forces."

The Chief Miles File:

Home:
Cotton Valley, Louisiana

Family:
Wife, daughter, twin sons

Date Entered Service:
March 9, 1978

Quick Quote:
Remember, the past will determine your future.

This Week's Coalition Force Profile: South Korean Army Medical Support

About the South Korean Flag: The South Korean Flag is white with a red (top) and blue yin-yang symbol in the center; there is a different black trigram from the ancient *I Ching* (Book of Changes) in each corner of the white field.



Coalition Country Name:

Conventional long form: Republic of Korea
Conventional short form: South Korea
Local long form: Taehan-min'guk
Note: the South Koreans generally use the term "Han'guk" to refer to their country

Coalition Government Type:

Republic

Capital:

Seoul

Tallil Unit:

Zema Unit
320th Medical Support Group

Detachment Size:

Approximately 100 personnel

Equipment:

Ambulances, Fogging Equipment, SUVs

Mission:

The 320th Medical Support Group provides humanitarian medical assistance to local Iraqi residents, and in support of deployed coalition forces.

Background:

After World War II, a republic was set up in the southern half of the Korean Peninsula while a Communist-style government was installed in the north. The Korean War (1950-53) had US and other UN forces intervene to defend South Korea from North Korean attacks supported by the Chinese. An armistice was signed in 1953 splitting the peninsula along a demilitarized zone at about the 38th parallel. Thereafter, South Korea achieved rapid economic growth, with per capita income rising to roughly 20 times the level of North Korea. South Korea has maintained its commitment to democratize its political processes. In June 2000, a historic first north-south summit took place between the south's President Kim Dae-jung and the north's leader Kim Chong-il.

(Background Information: *CIA World Fact Book)



Enlisted Ranks

Hunryun-byong
Private (No Insignia)



Yi-byong
Private (2nd Class)



Il-byong
Private 1st Class



Sang-byong
Corporal



Byong-jang
Sergeant



Ha-sa
Staff Sergeant



Chung-sa
Sergeant 1st Class



Sang-sa
Master Sergeant



Won-sa
Sergeant Major



Officer Ranks



Jun-wi
Warrant Officer



So-wi
2nd Lieutenant



Chung-wi
1st Lieutenant



Tae-wi
Captain



So-ryong
Major



Chung-ryong
Lieutenant Colonel



Tae-ryong
Colonel



◀ **WHAT A VIEW:** A view of Tallil's Air Force Tent City and the Ziggurat of Ur from atop a bunker near the 332nd AEW PERSCO tent.

Photo by Master Sgt. Juan Jackson

BEST — Give Us Your — SHOT



Photo by Capt. Troy Dupont

▲ **READY:** A Predator aircraft sits in its hanger at Tallil Air Base, awaiting its next mission.

Here's How:

We want to see Tallil Air Base and the surrounding areas from the inside and out and we need your help. If you've got a digital camera, then we want to talk to you!

Send us your best digital photo for the week and we'll choose the top shots to be published in the next issue of the *Tallil Times*.

When submitting photos, make sure they are of reasonable quality and in any PC compactible format. Next, make sure you provide us with an accurate description of the event and **COMPLETE** names of all persons pictured.

Photos without complete information cannot be considered. Photos must be in good taste and not compromise safety or security in any manner.

If you have questions, contact the Public Affairs Office at DSN 459-0014 or send your questions directly to tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew Rudnicki

▲ **ON THE HORIZON:** The 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron satellite communications shop's TSSR Interface Units frame an Iraqi sunrise. As Tallilians pick up the phone or log on to a computer, information passes through the links these units provide.

Most of the improvements on Tallil Air Base build from the ground outward, but for Tallil's deployed Air Traffic Controllers, their new facility gives them ...

A view from ABOVE

by 2nd Lt. Daniel DuBois

332nd AEW Public Affairs

In the barren distance, a dust tornado crawls across the far side of the runway. Beyond the tornado, two cobra helicopters fly westward in formation. To the northeast, a sea of tan tents waves in the desert wind leading up to the Ziggurat of Ur.

This is the view from the new Air Traffic Control tower here at Tallil Air Base.

Of course, things were different when the first units arrived. The 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron came here April 25th, before many of the recent improvements to the base.

They were basically using field radios to communicate with aircraft before we got here, said Staff Sgt. Paul Kline, ground radio communications specialist. The base as we know it today didn't exist; there was no power, no lights – no anything. We were all living in the fixed tower at that time.

When the unit hit the ground, they established three communication systems in the tower prior to the renovation. Two were systems that provide communication between the controllers and aircraft. The other allowed them to communicate with handheld radios.

Once Air Traffic Control operations were underway, procedures became a big issue. "At a base back home, the procedures are already in place," said Master Sgt. James Nelson, tower control chief. "Right now, we are working to establish procedures for the people who come after us."



▲ **BIGGER IS BETTER:** The new Air Traffic Control facility (left) will provide a bird's eye view of the flightline compared with the older temporary facility (right).



Photos by Senior Airman Karolina Gmyrek

▲ **GUARDIANS OF THE FLIGHTPATH:** Staff Sgt. Terry Watson, 332nd EOSS air traffic control watch supervisor watches over a C-130 landing at Tallil from the old mobile ATC center here. The new facility will improve the working conditions for the controllers and help improve the section's operational effectiveness.

Sergeant Nelson explained that many of these procedures increase their capacity for handling aircraft traffic.

In those early days the controllers also faced some tough choices. "We had to decide whether we should put all the equipment in the tower already here or on the runway in the mobile unit," explained Sergeant Kline. They concluded it was not worth the time to set up the tower.

Instead, the controllers used the Mobile Special Navigation Equipment facility or MSN-7, which became fully operational May 1st. The facility is a highly mobile ATC center capable of providing control tower services. Its primary mission is to provide ATC services to base locations during the initial phases of deployment.

However, the mobile facility cannot provide the same level of services as the new tower. One example of this is safety, said Lt. Col Mark Burns, 332nd Expeditionary

Operations Support Squadron Commander. "We now have better visibility to see aircraft from far distances."

Another advantage is room. "We're now able to staff three people rather than two," explained Sergeant Nelson. "Now we always have two people looking at the runway if anyone needs to take a break."

According to Nelson, the new tower also makes it far easier to help the weather folks. They can now locate landmarks and give a visibility reading.

Although it is difficult still not having all the preferred equipment from their home station base, the controllers are pleased with their new workplace. "I like the view – it's nice to actually see your airfield," said Tech. Sgt. Paul Carpenter, ATC watch supervisor.

"Most folks here love the change," said Nelson. "People are no longer squished into the mobile unit. Also, people are proud that we were one of the first U.S. Air Force Air Traffic Controllers in Iraq to work in a fixed facility."

Looking out from the new tower is a daily reminder of how far the unit has come.

Looking down, the controllers can see the old ATC mobile unit peering into the dry dusty ground. Looking ahead, they see the new ATC tower scanning the distant horizon, safely leading planes and vehicles to their destination.



Photo by Master Sgt. Kenneth Velez

▲ **EARLY TO RISE:** Tallilians participate in a 5K run/2 mile walk sponsored by the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron Aug. 1.

Tallilians take charge of Perimeter Road for 5K run

by **Staff Sgt. Terry Jones**
332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron

Thirty two participants pounded the pavement of Perimeter Road during the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron's 5K run/2 mile walk August 1.

Mel Peterson, 332nd Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron was the overall winner, crossing the finish line with a time of 18:18.

Arthur Tsepelin of Estonia finished second with a time of 22:04, followed by Conner Maher of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, who

finished at 23:04. Melissa Cunningham of the 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron led all female competitors with a time of 27:33. Cunningham finished 16th among all participants.

Sharon Morrison, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron, who placed 18th among all competitors, was second in the female category, timed in at 30:21.

Debbie Horne, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group (PERSCO) rounded out the top three female finishers with a time of 35:45, finishing 26th overall. The lone walker, Rodger Ericson

of 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing chaplain, finished with a time of 30:34.

Cunningham saw the event as a way for people to get involved in fitness.

"Deployments offer an awesome opportunity to get back in shape, and with the Chief's (Air Force Chief of Staff) new version of 'Fit to fight,' the Tallil fun runs can help us get ready for the new Air Force Fitness Test beginning in January," she said.

The next run will be held Aug. 15 beginning at 6 a.m. Showtime is 5:45 a.m. at the Finance/Post Office parking lot.

- 1st Mel Peterson, EOSS 18:18
- 2nd Arthur Tsepelin, Estonia 22:04
- 3rd Conner Maher, ESFS 23:04
- 4th Kyle Evans, ELRS 23:58
- 5th Bronislav Skaperin, Estonia 24:45
- 6th John Butler, ESFS 24:53
- 7th Patrick Armstrong, EFM 25:20
- 8th Christopher Bounds, ESFS 25:23
- 9th Everette Whitfield, EOSS 25:24
- 10th Gene Jackson, EFM 26:07

CSAF announces changes to fitness program

WASHINGTON — Airmen will begin hitting the track soon as the Air Force begins a new physical fitness program, the service's senior leader announced in his July 30 "Fit to Fight" Sight Picture.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper directed that airmen will now test their fitness levels by performing sit-ups, push-ups and running 1.5 miles.

The change is being made because "we are a much different Air Force today," according to Jumper.

Jumper cited the physical requirements demanded by recent deployments around world as the impetus for the change.

"The amount of energy we devote to our fitness programs is not consistent with the growing demands of our warrior culture," he

said. "It's time to change that."

Details will be released soon that will get airmen back to the basics of running, sit-ups and push-ups, Jumper said. The cycle ergometry test, in use for the past 10 years, will continue for those who, for legitimate reasons, are not able to run.

Other changes include issued workout clothes and a renewed focus on the commander's ownership of airman physical fitness.

"We are planning to ... put responsibility for (physical training) in the chain of command, not with the medical community or the commander's support staff," Jumper said.

"I expect this effort to be led from the top, starting with commanders and senior (non-commissioned officers)," he said. "I expect those who have trouble meeting the standards to be

helped by others in their unit until they do meet the standard."

The program will begin Jan. 1. Jumper said he plans to lead National Capitol Region Air Force general officers in a fitness test during the first week of January. Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray will lead area command chiefs later in the week.

"I think all of us can agree that we were disappointed with the fitness standards we found when we came into the operational Air Force," Jumper said. "Let's not disappoint ourselves any longer. The message is simple: If you are out of shape, fix it. If you have people in your squadron who need help, help them."

"January 2004 is the date," he said. "Be ready."

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News.)