

Charleston AFB celebrates Military Family Week

Family Support Center encourages families to make extra effort between Sunday and Nov. 28

Military Family Week was established to honor the most essential link in the success and strength of the United States Air Force—its members and their families. It's only fitting that we praise those whose dedication and support contribute so much to our success as a military force and as a nation. Their unselfish love and devotion to the service is the epitome of what's best about America.

The Family Support Center, along with all the other base helping agencies, wish to thank every military member and family for their support throughout the year and for a job well done...we value your contribution and share your pride!

The FSC would like to encourage families to take time and commit to five things that their family can do to improve the time they spend together!

Our families are the heart of the Air Force. Statistics show that military

families today spend very little time together. Busy schedules, deployments, overtime, ball practices, school, TDYs and many other activities cut into the "quality time" that families can share.

We're asking you to look at daily routines and schedules to see if there isn't five things you can do to enhance the time your family spends together.

The goal is to focus on each other by doing things like turning the television off during dinner, having Saturday morning breakfast together, planning a vacation, taking a walk, playing a board game or cards, baking cookies or simply sitting down together to talk.

Can your family make five commitments? (Submitted by the FSC)



The Airman's Manual: Don't leave home without it

by Lt. Col. Barry Coble
335th Training Squadron commander

Many of you have been issued or are about to be issued AFM 10-100, The Airman's Manual. It's that colorful, spiral-bound manual that gives the basics on how to survive and thrive in an expeditionary environment.

Its size is such that it fits nicely into the leg pocket of your battle dress uniform. The Air Force plans to issue one to every active-duty, Guard and Reserve member. Don't throw it away!

For years, our sister services have had similar manuals to help their people when they deploy to the field.

The Air Force, on the other hand, rarely deployed people to locations where they had to worry about putting up their own tents or cleaning weapons. We either learned as we went along, went to a location where it didn't matter or someone else took care of those chores for us.

Those days are gone. As we enter the expeditionary aerospace force era, the Air Force is increasingly being deployed to locations where there may be only a runway and a source of water. Everything else must be carried in, and we'll be expected to begin accomplishing the mission in a very short period of time.

EAF means taking just enough along to meet deployment goals. We can't meet those goals by hauling lots of extra people or amenities. Those first few planes bringing in supplies may not be carrying portable toilets.

Yes, The Airman's Manual does describe how to dig a latrine. It also tells you how to identify unexploded ordnance and mark it correctly. In other words, AFM 10-100 is not only meant to make your life a little more comfortable, it may help save your life. It will become an essential item in your deployment bag should your opportunity come to deploy.

As Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, said recently in a message about the manual, "It is truly a survival manual for everyone on the Air Force team. Read it. Learn it. Use it."

Further, the chief of staff has asked the Air Force inspector general to make this a special interest item on future inspections to "encourage the exchange of ideas on using this manual to reinforce expeditionary skills."

So keep your Airman's Manual in a prominent position at your desk. Carry it in your BDU pants pocket. Get so used to the feel of it that you feel naked without it. Do these things and you're ready to better meet the challenges of our 21st century EAF. (*AETC News Service*)

Celebrating Native American Heritage Month

Recognizing contributions of first Americans

by Gen. Lloyd W. Newton
Air Education and Training Command commander

Since American Indians and Alaska Natives are truly the first Americans, it is important that we reflect on their unique cultures and the contributions they have made to our nation's success.

For that reason, we observe National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage month throughout November.

The "first Americans" have remarkably diverse heritages that link them to the very essence of this great land of ours.

The remaining tribes of today represent only a small portion of the many tribal nations that previously existed.

Before the arrival of Columbus, Indian nations covered the entire North American continent, extending through Central and South America. These nations were bound only by the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and stretched from South America to the arctic. They

had well-established borders between them that pre-dated the Roman Empire.

Today, there are more than 550 federally recognized tribes in the United States, including 223 village groups in Alaska, and some 250 tribal languages are still spoken.

Alaska Natives and American Indians have repeatedly made important contributions to the nation at every level. For example, Charles Curtis, a Kaw Indian from Kansas, served as vice president of the United States under President Herbert Hoover.

During World War II, American Indians accounted for 71 Air Medals, 51 Silver Stars, 34 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and two Medals of Honor.

Also during World War II, Eskimo scouts faithfully patrolled 5,000 miles of Aleutian coastline and 200,000 miles of tundra, rescuing downed U.S. airmen. During the Vietnam War, 41,500 American Indians served in our military forces.

More recently, in 1990, prior to Operation Desert Storm, some 24,000 American Indian men and women were in the military. Approximately 3,000 served in the Persian Gulf, with three among those killed in action.

One out of every four American Indian males is a military veteran and 45 to 47 percent of tribal leaders today are military veterans.

Within the military community, we are privileged to serve with Alaska Natives and American Indians who contribute their talents in every aspect to our expeditionary aerospace force.

Diversity is a strength when the talents of each of us are recognized and harnessed, and our differences celebrated.

During the month of November, I ask that each of you take the time to reflect and learn about the contributions American Indians and Alaska Natives have made to enhance the freedom and prosperity of our nation today. You'll be glad you did.

The people of the Edisto River

by Master Sgt.
Mike Humble
437th Component Repair Squadron first sergeant

When European settlers arrived there were numerous Native American tribes living along the coastal area of South Carolina.

Many words familiar to the residents were derived from names of Native American tribes such as Keyawah and Santee.

Surprisingly, the Edisto Indians currently living in Dorchester County and Colleton County were originally called Kusso-Natchez. They were comprised of two Native American peoples, the Kussos and Natchez.

South Carolinians have historically referred to these people as Edisto Indians, but they're not Edistos, and never have been. In 1975, to reduce confusion regarding legal, business and governmental matters, these Native Americans officially adopted the name, Edisto.

There are numerous written accounts of the Kussos people by the English settlers. In a letter, dated Aug. 30, 1671, Maurice Matthews writes of his exploration of the Ashley River.

Matthews writes, "The Indians all about us are our friends."

Less than a month later, the

Grand Council of the Colony of Carolina declares war on the Kussos alleging they were stealing grain and livestock from colonists.

As for the Natchez, they originally lived around the Mississippi Valley. As the 18th Century opened, vigorous competition between French and English for control of the Mississippi River guaranteed the Natchez, at some point, would become involved.

In 1729 the Natchez were attacked by the French and were defeated. In 1731, the French persuaded some 400 to surrender and they were sold into slavery and shipped to the West Indies.

The remaining Natchez escaped and split into three bands. One group settled in the upper creeks of the Mississippi. The second found refuge in the territory of the Cherokee Indians. The third band traveled to South Carolina and lived in a place called "Four Hole Swamp" in Dorchester County.

To expand your knowledge of the Kussos-Natchez people, join us Monday at noon in the Education Center Ballroom. Lee Scott of the Four Holes Indian Organization will discuss the history and display ceremonial costumes and demonstrate ritual dances. The lecture is free!