

DESERT WINGS

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Helicopter lifts out old coolers, drops in new ones

By Kenji Thuloweit
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

Replacing 20-year-old cooling units on roofs can be a challenge given Edwards AFB's large buildings and constant flightline operations.

That's why the 412th Civil Engineer Group called in a local helicopter company to help out with replacing the HVAC units on Bldg. 1600 April 7.

Siller Helicopters, Inc. flew in an S-61V Sikorsky to replace 22 evaporative coolers on the 412th Maintenance Group's headquarters building. Seven of the coolers also had heaters as part of the unit.

The chopper would dangle cable lines to be attached onto the old coolers, which were lifted off Bldg. 1600 and placed in a parking lot nearby. Workers then attached the cables to the new unit to be lifted onto the building.

"A crane could not reach all the units and would have disrupted operations for weeks since it would be a critical lift," said Jason Garrett, 412th Civil Engineering Squadron. "The helicopter did it in two-and-a-half hours."



An S-61V Sikorsky helicopter lifts an old cooling unit off of Bldg. 1600 April 7 to be placed down at a parking lot nearby. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kenji Thuloweit)

Base civil engineers teamed up with the 412th Operations Support Squadron and 412th Test Wing Safety Office to ensure the unique flying operation went smoothly and safely.

Remembering the F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter jet



Two specially painted F-117 Nighthawks fly on one of their last missions. The F-117s were retired in a farewell ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, April 22, 2008. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Master Sgt. Kim Frey)

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

It's been 10 years since the F-117 Nighthawk retired, an aircraft so secret Nevada folklore labeled it a UFO.

The Nighthawk pilots were known by the call sign "Bandit," each earning their number with their first solo flight. Some of the maintainers were also given a call sign, said Wayne Paddock, a former F-117 maintainer currently stationed at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

"The people who maintained the coatings on the aircraft, radar absorbent material were classified as material application and repair specialists (MARS). MARS morphed into Martians," Paddock said "MARS was a shred out from the structural repair/corrosion control career field."

The technology for the F-117 was developed in the 1970s as a capability for attacking high value targets without being detected by enemy radar. It had up to 5,000 pounds of assorted internal stores, two engines and could travel up to 684 mph.

It was the first airplane designed and built as a low-observable, stable and therefore precise platform, said Yancy Mailes, director of the history and museums program for Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and a former F-117 maintainer.

"It was the marriage of the GBU-27 to the F-117 that had a laser designator in its nose that made it such a precise, deadly platform," Mailes said. "It was best demonstrated during Operation Desert Storm when pilots snuck into Iraq and dropped weapons down the elevator shaft of a central communications building in Iraq."

The first Nighthawk flew June 18, 1981, and the original F-117A unit, the 4450th Tactical Group (renamed the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing in October 1989), achieved initial operating capability in October 1983. The Nighthawk originally saw combat during Operation Just Cause in 1989, when two F-117s from the 37th TFW attacked military targets in Panama. The aircraft was also in action during Operation Desert Shield.

Retired Col. Jack Forsythe, remembers being excited when he initially flew a Nighthawk while stationed at Holloman AFB in 1995.

"It was a unique experience," he said. "It's probably the same feeling that a lot of our (single seat) F-22 (Raptor) and F-35 (Lightning II) pilots feel today." **See F-117, page 3**

Edwards hosts head-start study for desert tortoises

By Laura Motes

412th Test Wing Public Affairs

Edwards Air Force Base's Environmental Management is partnering with San Diego Zoo Global and the United States Geological Survey in an effort to increase the desert tortoise population through head-starting and translocation research.

The desert tortoise grows slowly and lives for a long period of time. According to San Diego Zoo Global, the animal has not changed much in the last 200 million years. The desert tortoise is listed on the Federal Endangered Species List as threatened as of 1990. Even with conservation, desert tortoise numbers continue to decline quickly according to Wesley King, 412th Civil Engineer Group, Environmental Management Division biological scientist.

"If the population continues to decline the desert tortoise will change from being listed as threatened to endangered, which means it will be in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all or a portion of its range," said King.

Edwards AFB is hosting the desert tortoise head-start study and providing use of the base's head-start pens to allow San Diego Zoo Global and United States Geological Survey to study the tortoises.

Through a grant from the California Energy Commission and matching funds from San Diego Zoo Global and the United States Geological Survey, nearly \$1 million of desert tortoise head-starting and translocation research will be conducted at two sites in the Mojave Desert, one of which is here at Edwards AFB.

"Head-starting increases the likelihood of survival of newly hatched tortoises by providing a controlled environment protected from predators during their most vulnerable stage of development," King said. When the desert tortoise has grown to a size where survival is more probable, it is then released into the natural desert environment."

A previous head-start program was initiated in 2002 at Edwards AFB and resulted in the construction of the desert tor-



Pictured is a juvenile desert tortoise. Even with conservation efforts, desert tortoise numbers continue to decline. Edwards Environmental Management is partnering with San Diego Zoo Global and the United States Geological Survey in an effort to increase the desert tortoise population through head-starting and translocation research. (Courtesy photo)

toise head-start pens. The pens are designed to replicate the natural environment of the western Mojave Desert. Following construction of the pens, there have been modifications to include the addition of a watering system, which occasionally releases water to enhance the growth of natural vegetation. From 2003 until 2010, female desert tortoises were brought into the pens where they would lay their eggs. Then juvenile tortoises were released into the wild and are still currently being monitored.

New, wild female desert tortoises are located and a determination will be made if the tortoises are healthy enough to be used in the study. According to King, a biologist conducts a health assessment when a female desert tortoise is located in the wild to see if the tortoise is healthy enough to use as a source for eggs. The health assessment also looks for symptoms of diseases by examining nasal and ocular discharge,

Read the full article [here](#)

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

From Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Committee

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

To kick off Edwards AFB's observance, volunteers will be handing out leis, event calendars and cake May 1 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Exchange entry way.

This year's annual cultural show and food tasting event is May 22 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The event provides a special opportunity to experience many Asian cuisines and cultural traditions in one location.

Please call 277-4373 or 277-4579 for information on ticket purchase.

The AAPI community is looking forward to celebrating May 2018 with all of you.

In 1990, Congress passed Public Law 101-283 and Presidential Proclamation 6130, which calls on all people of the United States to observe this special month.

Some notable events that the Heritage Month commemorates is the first Japanese immigrants to come to the United States May 7, 1843, and the completion and anniversary of



Traditional dances and music performances accompanied Far East and Pacific foods at the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month culture show and food tasting event at Stripes Lounge last May. This year's finale will be held May 22 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. (U.S. Air Force photo by Joseph Gocong)

the transcontinental railroad May 10, 1869.

Not only is this an opportunity to learn more about the history of America, but to also recognize the contributions of the AAPI community in science, arts and industry.

412th Force Support Squadron upcoming events

Airman and Family Readiness 277-0723

Spouses Deployment Preparation Event is May 15, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the A&FRC. Representatives from legal, finance, Family Advocacy, medical group, chapel and many other helping agencies will be in attendance to share information about support they can provide before, during and after a deployment. This event is geared toward spouses whether the active duty member is tasked to deploy or not and all family members are welcome to attend; including kids. Light refreshments will be provided.

Club Muroc 275-CLUB

Mother's Day Brunch is Sunday, May 13, at 11 a.m. Menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, biscuits and gravy, waffle bar, assorted hors d'oeuvres, carving station, lamb roast, cold salads, Spinach Orzo, mashed potatoes, green beans, fresh fruit and desserts. Reservations required by May 11.

Kids Eat Free on Saturdays! Purchase one adult meal and receive one free kids meal valid for children under 12. Dine-in only.

Monday Pizza Night — Every Monday night from 5-8 p.m. Enjoy a 16" pizza made with fresh dough for dine-in, carryout or delivery. Make sure to try our delicious chicken buffalo pizza! For more options and to place your order, call 275-CLUB.

Wednesday Breakfast Special — Every Wednesday, 6:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Start your day off with scrambled eggs, bacon, toast and juice. Breakfast is served every weekday from 6:30 - 10 a.m. and all day Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Delivery Service — Did you know that we deliver to base housing? Call us Monday-Friday from 5-8 p.m. to place your order.

Birthday Packages — Parties include room rental for up to three hours, 20 kids and use of the projector for movies. Pizza and ice cream parties available.

High Desert Lanes Bowling Center 275-BOWL

Mother's Day Doubles Tournament is May 13 at 2:30 p.m. Eight-pin no-tap scratch team tournament with one mother and one child on a team. Teams will compete in age groups dictated by children on teams. Bowlers will bowl three games. Combined high series scores for the team determine the winning teams. Top three teams will be awarded a trophy.

Green Pin Special is every Monday, 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Get a strike when you have a green head pin and get that game free. Shoe rental not included. Cannot be combined with any other offers/specials.

Family Package Fridays is from 2-6 p.m. Price includes two hours of unlimited bowling, shoe rental, large one-topping pizza and a pitcher of soda.

Glow in the Dark Bowling is Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m.-midnight. Shoe rental included with price. Bowl as many games as you want. Don't

miss out on all the fun at an affordable price and a fun atmosphere for the whole family.

Arts and Crafts Center/Auto Hobby 275-ARTS/AUTO

Instructors Needed! If you're creative, we need you. Arts and Crafts is seeking out instructors of all types. Come and share your creative knowledge with a diverse group of students looking for painting, photography, drawing, scrapbooking and other craft/art related instruction.

Towing service available through Auto Hobby Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Towing is available on-base and off-base. Call Auto Hobby for more information or prices.

Auto Hobby hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday & Friday, 12 p.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

Rosburg Fitness Center 275-GYM1

May Fitness Month — Punch cards available starting May 1 at the Rosburg Fitness Center. Record 20 workouts by May 31 and receive a prize. Complete any of our classes or do any of the special May Fitness Month events and receive two punches.

Warrior Fitness Challenge is Wednesday, May 9 at 6:30 a.m. Must sign up at the Fitness Center front counter by May 8. Half obstacle course, half cross fit, all-out intensity. Bring out your inner warrior to take on this exclusive exercise.

Family Fitness Night is May 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Library 275-BOOK

Storytime — Toddlers and preschool children are invited every Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. to enjoy a wonderful story and create very unique craft projects. Volunteer readers are welcome!

New Mango Languages Online — This new option to learn more than 70 languages is being offered by Air Force Libraries and is available through the AF Portal. To create an account, select "Database and Online Resources" from the "Library & Resources" tab, then select "Educational Resources" where Mango Languages will be listed.

Education and Training 277-2713

Leadership Training Opportunities — Did you know that your Edwards Education and Training Center offers a variety of civilian leadership training programs to help civilian leaders in their day-to-day leadership paths? Examples of the courses that can be offered are: Leadership Gold, 360 Degree Leader and Leadership the Challenge. Please contact your Edwards Education and Training Center if any one of these courses are of interest to you.

National Test Center hours are Tuesday-Thursday from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. only. To schedule an exam, or for additional information, please contact the AMU test examiner at 524-4431, or contact Education and Training. As always, the office is open for all your educational needs. As always, drop by the Ed Center for any questions.

For more information
about 412th FSS offerings, visit
www.edwardsfss.com/wordpress

Aero Club 275-AERO

Flight Instructors Needed!

Realize Your Dreams. Start Flying! — Join the thousands of men and women who made their dream a reality. Open to active duty military, DOD and NAF civilians, family members, Civil Air Patrol members, retired military, Guard and Reserve, and others by installation approval. For more information visit myairforcelife.com/aeroclubs.



Adopt me!

Lucy is a 1-year-old Basenji mix that is full of energy and snuggles. She can be a little shy with new people at first, but spend a little time with her and she becomes your best friend. Lucy enjoys being around other dogs and does well with everyone! Call APET at 258-9525 today!

Announcements

Outdoor Recreation 275-CAMP

Rock Wall Belay Class is May 8 or June 12, from 5:30 p.m.-6:30. Ages 16 and up. Register by the Saturday prior. Class fee required.

Pool Movie Nights are 4-8 p.m. Price includes food, goodie bags, relay races and door prizes. Space is limited so sign up fast.

May 19 - "Pirates of the Caribbean" at the Oasis Aquatic Center. Sign up by May 11.

June 16 - "Coco" at Sonic Splash Pool. Sign up by June 8.

Now Hiring Lifeguards for the Oasis Aquatic Center. Free training for applicants who pass the initial swim test. Swim test includes a 300 meter swim, two-minute tread with no hands and a timed deep-water brick retrieval. Must be 16 years or older to apply. Contact the Oasis Aquatic Center for more information.

Open/Family Swim at Oasis Aquatic Center is Monday-Friday. Hours are 3-5:30 p.m. Family pass is valid for four people for three months. Passes are available for purchase at Outdoor Recreation and the Oasis Community Center now. They must be shown to the lifeguards on duty for verification before entering the pool.

Free Lap Swim at the Oasis Aquatic Center hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6-8 a.m. and Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. No children allowed unless they are able to swim laps unsupported.

Need Ski or Snowboard Gear? Outdoor Rec has all of the equipment you need. Check out the Equipment Rental pricelist on ODR's page at www.edwardsfss.com or stop by ODR today!

Numerous openings in RV Storage — Come over and park your equipment for our low prices and have access to them anytime you need.

Family Child Care 275-4322

Family Child Care is seeking dedicated people who love working with children! If you live on-base and want to care for children in your home or you are a military dependent and live off-base, you may be eligible to be a licensed or affiliated provider! Make a positive difference in the lives of children! Most materials and training are provided free of charge!

Extended Duty Care is offered to assist parents who need additional child care beyond their normal arrangements due to mission-related requirements. Children must already be enrolled in the Child Development Center, the School Age Program or the Family Child Care Program to qualify. To enroll in this FREE Extended Duty Program or for more information, please contact the Family Child Care office.

The Benefits of Being a Family Child Care Provider — If you are interested in becoming an FCC licensed provider, contact the FCC Office at 275-4322. We need providers to offer alternate hours to accommodate evening, swing and weekend duty hours.

Muroc Lake Golf Course 275-PUTT

May the String Be With You Tournament is May 19 with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Sign up by May 14. Lunch and prizes following golf. String length based on handicap. Must have SCGA

handicap. Call for entry fee info.

Single Airman Golf Special — Single Airmen can enjoy 18 holes, cart, burger, fries and drink for a small price. Rental sets are provided for no charge if needed. Limited to the first 100 participants. Single Airmen are Air Force active duty or Air Reserve Component personnel permanently assigned to an Air Force installation or Air Force-led joint base without a spouse and a guest.

Information, Tickets and Travel 275-TRIP

New Travel Specialist — Save hours of searching the internet by contacting Candace at Edwards ITT. She has over 10 years of travel experience and is here to help you plan the vacation of your dreams. Custom packages are available including resorts, cruises, flights and tours.

ITT Pricelist & Other Events — To see the current ITT price list for events, parks, hotels and discount information, visit www.edwardsfss.com/wordpress/travel/itt.

Armed Forces Vacation Club — Let us find your dream vacation rental. Forget cramped quarters, get access to space-available resort rentals worldwide for one low weekly price. ITT is located in the Oasis Community Center. Call 275-TRIP (8747) for more info.

Oasis Community Center 275-CNTR

Edwards AFB Jethawks Party is Thursday, May 10. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. with the game beginning at 6:35 p.m. Free shuttle available for single airmen and a guest! All others need to pay a small ride fee. Game price includes admission, seating on the party deck and an all-you-can-eat buffet from 6-7:30 p.m. Plus, active duty military can sign up by May 4 to be entered into a drawing to throw the opening pitch. Get your

tickets at ITT today.

Santa Clarita BBQ Festival is May 12 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Price includes event ticket and transportation. The Third Annual BBQ & Beer Festival features mouth-watering BBQ, kid zone, live entertainment and handcrafted beer from local breweries. Pick-ups in Rosamond and Lancaster.

Youth Programs 275-5437

Instructional Classes — Gymnastics (ages 3-17 years) are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Email ssgymnastic1@yahoo.com for more information.

Boys & Girls Club Power Hour/Project Learn is Monday-Thursday, 2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. Making minutes count helps club members (ages 6-12) become successful in school by providing homework help/tutoring while encouraging members to become self-directed learners. See Ms. Breanne for details and to sign up.

Creative Kids - Art Daily at 3 p.m. in the art room area. Children will enjoy creating all types of cool arts and crafts.

Fitness Daily is at 3:30 p.m. in the Youth Center Gym. Join us for fitness. See what played like dodge ball, skating, volleyball and much more.

Torch Club is every Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Torch Room. Torch clubs are charter, small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls ages 9-12. It is a powerful vehicle through which club staff can help meet the special character development needs of younger adolescents at a critical stage in their development. See Ms. Breanna for details.

Youth & Teen Centers Memberships — For about a dollar a day you could have peace of mind knowing that your son or daughter is in a safe environment with, supervision, tutoring and fun. Contact the main youth center at 275-5437..

412th Security Forces Squadron issues speeding citations

Driving privilege suspensions (current)

The 412th Security Forces Squadron issued 4 speeding citations and processed one driving suspensions from April 23 through April 29.

Citations issued

1 to 10 mph.....	0	15 days.....	0
11 to 15 mph.....	1	30 days.....	0
16 to 20 mph.....	0	45 days.....	0
21 to 24 mph.....	2	90 days.....	0
25+ mph.....	1	180 days (six months).....	0
		365 days (one year).....	29
		730 days (two years).....	0
		1,095 days (three years).....	1

Per AFI 31-218 and EAFBI 31-218, a DD Form 1408 Armed Forces traffic tickets (no-fine) are issued to military members. Military members receiving 1408s are subject to Uniform Code of Military Justice action. A U.S. District Court Violation Notice (USDCVN) (a fine) is issued to all civilians, dependents and retirees. If issued a USDCVN, violators may be required to be present at Magistrate Court in Bakersfield, California, receive traffic violation points against their state-issued driver's license and potentially receive suspension of on-base driving privileges.

Military Retiree Appreciation Day slated for May 19

By Laura Motes
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

Edwards Air Force Base's 2018 Military Retiree Appreciation Day is scheduled for May 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Hanger 1210.

Parking will be available at the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School located at 220 Wolfe Ave., Edwards, CA, 93524.

All local military retirees and spouses are invited to attend. The event is designed to honor and provide valuable programs and resources to all military retirees. There will be information on topics such as legal services, immunizations, TRICARE, Health Net Federal Services, Retiree Activity Office services and medical consultations.

Military I.D. card services will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

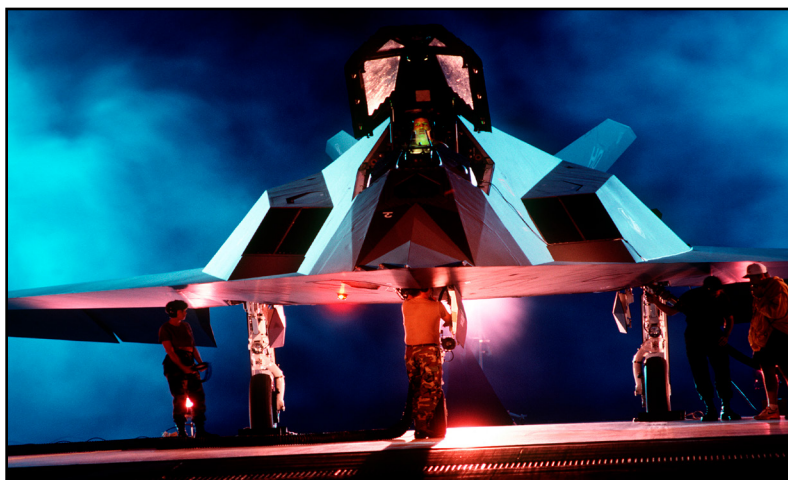
Enjoy a continental breakfast, live entertainment, airfield tours, guest speakers and the opportunity to win door prizes. The base commissary will also be having its Spring Sidewalk Sale that weekend.

From F-117, page 1

After 25 years of service, the Nighthawk retired April 22, 2008. Forsythe led the four-ship formation to Palmdale, California, where Lockheed Martin staff said their farewells.

"We lowered the bomb doors of each aircraft and people signed their names to the doors," Forsythe said. "It was really just kind of neat; they had designed it, built it and maintained it for these 25 years, so it really hit home – the industry and Air Force partnership that made the Nighthawk great. I think the four of us were just really struck by that and have some really great memories of that flight."

The American flag was painted on the entire underside of his F-117 by the maintainers to help celebrate American airpower.



A back lit front view of an F-117 Nighthawk from Airman Magazine's February 1995 issue article "Streamlining Acquisition 101." The Lockheed F-117A was developed in response to an Air Force request for an aircraft capable of attacking high value targets without being detected by enemy radar. (Airman Magazine photo)



Edwards AFB hosted more than 300 guests at last year's Retiree Appreciation Day. The 2018 Retiree Appreciation Day is scheduled for May 19. (Courtesy photo)

A war bird fly-by is also planned.

For more information on the 2018 Military Retiree Appreciation Day, contact the Retiree Activity Office at 661-277-4931 or email 412tw.rao@us.af.mil.

If you fly a private plane, you can sign up to land by the base's Aero Club located on the south side of Edwards. Contact the airfield manager before May 7 at 277-3808 to fly in. A DD214 is required.

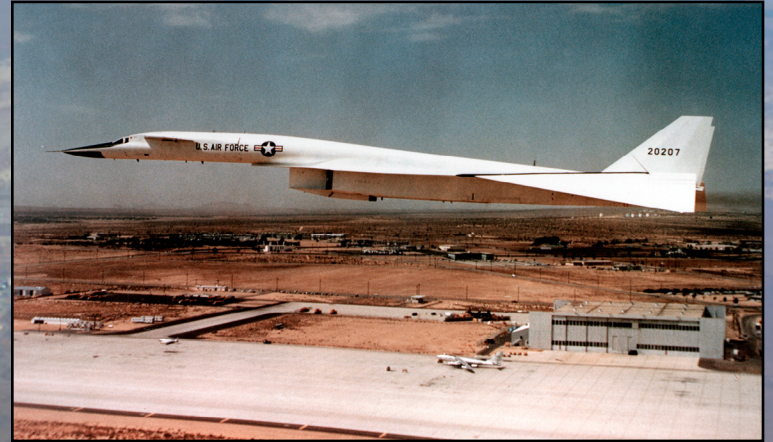
"I think we all recognized that this was something historic," he said. "We retired an airplane that people still reference today. We really understood that so it was a sentimental flight to say the least. It was a great weapon system, very stable and easy to fly. It's still a memorable experience."



Four F-117A Nighthawk's perform one last flyover at the Sunset Stealth retirement ceremony at Holloman AFB, N.M., April 21, 2008. The F-117A flew under the flag of the 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman Air Force Base from 1992 to its retirement in 2008. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Colbert)

This Week in Edwards History

On April 30, 1966, Air Force Flight Test Center test pilot Col. Joseph F. Cotton saved XB-70 Valkyrie #2 from destruction following an in-flight emergency in which the landing gear failed to lower into position. He crawled to a relay box containing two malfunctioning terminals and short-circuited them with a paper clip, whereupon the gear extended normally. (Edwards History Office file photo)



PATRIOT PET

Just say "treat" photo contest

MAY 4 - JUNE 1, 2018



Send us a picture of your Patriot Pet for a chance to

**WIN ONE (1) GRAND PRIZE
\$1,000 EXCHANGE GIFT CARD**

or 1 of 2 First Place Prizes: \$500 Exchange Gift Card
or 1 of 8 Runner-Up Prizes: \$250 Exchange Gift Card



Go to shopmyexchange.com/sweepstakes
for complete details and links to enter.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Kenji Thuloweit)

School registration May 19

Registration for the 2017-2018 kindergarten school year at Edwards Air Force Base will be Saturday, May 19.

Registration will take place in the Branch Elementary School office from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Children must be five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2018. Any child who will have his or her fifth birthday between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2 this year will be offered a transitional kindergarten program.

Registration packets may be picked up at Branch Elementary between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. or can be printed from the school website: www.muroc.k12.ca.us/branch/.

Branch Elementary is located at 1595 Bailey Ave., Edwards, Calif., 93523.

For more information, call the school 661-258-4418.

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