



Thule Times



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August 1, 2003

Master sgt learns of son's birth two hours before delivery?

By 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

At 9:30 p.m., July 29, Master Sgt. Garry Berry learned that his newborn son, Sean Hayato Berry, had entered the world at 11:30 p.m.—the same day.

Living on opposite sides of the world has allowed for the awkward time difference regarding Sean's birth and when Berry first heard of it.

Berry, who's in the third month of a one-year remote tour at Thule Air Base, Greenland, is over four thousand miles away from his wife, Misono, who's living near Kadena Air Base, Okinawa—Berry's previous base.

He actually learned of his son's birth about 10 hours after the fact, when he called his family in Okinawa and his daughter said, "We have a new brother!"

Berry met Misono when he was stationed at Kadena Air Base; the couple married in 1994, and since then, they've spent most of their time stationed in the Pacific region. The sergeant was due for an assignment and had been searching for a means to stay in the Pacific for his next duty assignment. Luckily enough, he was offered an assignment at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii; however, to get to Hawaii, he'd first have to complete a one-year remote tour at Thule.

He accepted the Thule assignment, and then seven days later, found out that his wife was pregnant. "Had I known earlier, we may have done something different. Still, we decided to stick it out," said Berry.

The Berry's are no strangers to family separation—Garry completed a remote tour at Taegu Air Base, Korea, from December 1997 to April 1999. He had a son born during that tour and fortunately, despite being remote, was able to be at his wife's side during delivery because of the close proximity between Korea and Okinawa, where his wife was living at the time.

Misono's parents, who live in Okinawa, assisted Misono while Berry was remote in Korea, just as they have now that he's in Greenland.

"I feel guilty sometimes—not being able to be there to help out," he said. "I think of the work I have to do here and it doesn't even compare to raising three children, one being a newborn."

Berry says e-mail and frequent calls help ease the difficulties of being apart. He plans to take leave in November to spend time with his family.

Berry is assigned to the 821st Support Squadron as the resources and requirements quality assurance evaluator. He is a native of Rodman, N.Y., and has served in the Air Force since 1987.

Danish chief of defense visits



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Perry Mason, Arctec, briefs Gen. H.J. Helso, Danish chief of defense, on the ballistic missile early warning radar while Lance Cpl. Per Rasmussen, assistant to the chief of defense, and Capt. Nils Wang, executive office chief, look on. The general received an orientation tour of Thule August 30-31.

Days until compliance inspection (as of Aug. 1):

42

**Tug Boat Tours—
Sign up at the
Community Activities
Center**

**Become an instant
winner with ATWIND—
see services channel for
info on game pieces**

Commander reflects on Team Thule

Seven weeks as commander of base at Top of the World

By Col. Tom Walker

821st Air Base Group commander

I arrived at Thule June 11. As with most people I have talked with here, it has not been what I expected.

In my 20 years in the Air Force, I have worked many Thule Air Base issues but had never been here. Every person I've known that has been stationed here talked glowingly about the assignment. They said that it was a "unique" experience. So, I expected it to be good. However, I didn't expect it to be this good...it has been great!

As soon as we arrived, we were met with friendly smiles from everyone. But the most amazing thing has been Thule's beauty, both the landscape and the people. One of the first pieces of advice given to me was that I needed to take advantage of the sunlight because it wasn't always going to be there...the dark season would come.

So, I go 'Thule Trippin' every chance I get—climbing Mt. Dundas to play golf, taking a tugboat cruise around the bay, and sitting at the South Mountain "beach" listening to the icebergs to just name a few.

The other thing I've come to realize is it is very difficult to describe the beauty to those who have not been here. I've taking many pictures with my digital camera, but it's just not the same as experiencing it in person.

When I've sent pictures to my 8-year-old son Jack and my 5-year-old daughter Kate, they have a hard time relating to the three glaciers in the fjord or the magnitude of the icebergs. You just have to be here to believe it, see it, and experience it.

On June 19, I became the commander of Thule Air Base. I knew from the start that I wanted a vision we could use as we continued building on the excellent Thule traditions. "Mission First—People Always!" seemed to be the best fit to use as my guide.

Our mission: to provide missile warning, space surveillance, and satellite command and control. This is why Thule Air Base exists and is the basis of collaborative efforts of Denmark, Greenland, and the United States. But all of us know that we would never have achieved our string of mission successes without taking care of our people. Without our people, there would be nobody to take care of the mission.

I quickly learned that "Team Thule" has a very special meaning. I've been in organizations where we talked of



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Col. Tom Walker, 821st Air Base Group commander, Peder Skjaerlund, base civil engineer, and Chaplain Jim Parrish, installation chaplain, perform a ribbon-cutting for the new chapel entrance August 1. The ceremony was one of many Walker has presided over since taking command June 19.

teams, and while we were able to accomplish the mission, we tended to focus more on individualism than developing a spirit of team work. Now I'm at Thule. Now I have a better understanding of what it is to be on a true team.

Team Thule is made up of military and civilians; government employees and contractors; Danes, Americans, and Greenlanders all working together. Our goals are to make Thule better, to take care of each other, and have fun while we're at it.

Now that it is August, we will soon see the sun dip below the horizon again. Not long after that, we will see the sun disappear until "first light" in February.

But after only seven weeks at Thule, I am convinced that it doesn't matter if the sun is "up" or "down," Team Thule will continue to focus on its mission.

Continue to foster that special Thule spirit as we all work hard and play hard together.

Know your ABC's: "Anticipate the future—try not to miss the boat; Be prepared for future opportunities and for any emergencies that may arise; Communicate: up, down, and sideways"—Col. Tom Walker

Vice commander retires

By Christina Paguyo

A.F. Space Command Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.—Leader, mentor, commander, husband, father and innovator: Lt. Gen. Robert Hinson wears these titles with passion and dedication. After 33 years of Air Force service, he retired as vice commander of Air Force Space Command Aug. 1. As Hinson reflects on the future, his memories travel back to the leader who first inspired him.

In 1970, Hinson's determination and resolve as an administrative specialist grabbed his wing commander's attention at Scott AFB, Ill. "Colonel John Self took a personal interest in me, a young airman, and vectored me into pursuing Officer Training School and pilot training," recalls Hinson.

Self's encouragement and motivation helped Hinson pass the physical exam and enter OTS with flying colors.

After OTS, Hinson's career soared. His passion for flying made him a command pilot with more than 3,000 flyer hours, primarily in bomber aircraft. He commanded many units including a bomb squadron, operations



Courtesy Photo

Airman Robert Hinson. Hinson earned his commission through officer training school in 1970.

group, tactics and training wing, bomb wing, space wing and numbered air force. Hinson was deputy commander in chief of U.S. Strategic Command for two years before his current position. Throughout his 33 years, Hinson has moved 23 times, received 21 assignments, worked under the leadership of seven presidents and seen three wars. Although he has witnessed much reorganization, he said, the Air Force has not changed: It consistently draws people who are dedicated and determined to go above and beyond without concern for pay or status.

"Leadership requires dedication... professionalism...and the ability to show emotion. As a leader, you make decisions that are timely and sensible, but you're not always popular in every case," said Hinson. "But regardless of popularity, you're always trying to do the right thing."

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Hinson was on the front lines of space's contributions to the ground war.

Space and technology helped troops navigate in severe conditions, assisted aviators in the delivery of weapons and enabled precision weaponry to be used more accurately than ever before. Troops took advantage of the obvious high ground of space without putting people in harm's way, he said.

"The success of OIF is one milestone as to where we are today, but it is only a steppingstone to where we will ultimately need to be 10, 20 years down the road," commented Hinson. He believes that space capabilities will be a center of gravity for this country, but hopefully, he added, the military will never become so space dependent that the high frontier becomes an Achilles' heel. Rather than depending on one aspect of fighting, the military should use all facets of warfare, he said.

Dedicated young troops also contributed to OIF's success.

"After September 11th, you saw a surge of young people who sensed a need to serve...they are very patriotic, they are very determined, they are very dedicated, and they do have a purpose for what they want to do," Hinson said.

Hinson carries the torch of inspiration by cultivating troops today. "You've got to enjoy what you do," advised Hinson. "You're in this not



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Gen. Robert Hinson, Air Force Space Command vice commander, retired from the Air Force August 1.

necessarily for the money, you're in this for a whole different reason when it comes to serving for a cause."

This cause means protecting our freedoms, our lives and our families, which are an integral part of the Air Force. The Air Force provides stability and predictability to our folks, so they can do important things with families, like going to kids' baseball games or soccer games or share family times, said Hinson.

Sharing those family times made the journey possible, according to the general, who has been married to wife Karen since 1969 and is "dad" to children Lisa, Bryan and Stephen. "I certainly could not have done any of those things without Karen or our kids. I think Karen is about as dedicated and committed to the Air Force as I am. It has been an absolutely incredible adventure for my entire family."

In retirement, Hinson hopes to continue to work in a role that contributes to the community or supports the military. Such passion can best be described by General Douglas MacArthur's famous words in 1962: "Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be."

Det 3 Change of Command



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Maj. Randall Moore, Det. 3 commander, stands next to Lt. Col. Phillip Simonsen, 22nd Space Operations Squadron (50th Space Wing) commander after the Det. 3 change of command ceremony July 17.

New TOW Club Manager

The TOW Club received a new Club Manager in July, John Vojtko. John comes to Thule from Air Force Space command headquarters where he served as the club advisor to the services director. John has served as a Military Club Manager with the Air Force for 18 years, and has spent the past 15 years with Air Force and Marine Corps club management at various bases both in the United States and overseas. He has already started improving the club's services and will work with the club membership to implement others. Stop by the club and welcome John to the Thule community.

TOW Club Expands Food Service

Beginning, August 11, short-order food service will be available during evening hours in the main dining room. This service will become available Monday through Thursday evenings during normal dining hours of operation. Join us weekday nights for outstanding dinners, sandwiches, pizzas and salads.

People who prefer the lounge atmosphere or who would like to use our delivery service, short order items will remain available. Fine dining will continue as is on Friday and Saturday nights. Remember, we always take dining room reservations – call us at 2418.

Members' First Discount Program

The TOW Club now features a special program for members. TOW Club, and other Air Force club members receive a \$1 discount off of our short order menu, \$2 off of our fine dining menu, and \$2 off of our specialty buffets. We offer these discounts with two simple rules: (1) A member's food order exceed \$4, and (2) show proof of membership by showing your server your club card. In other words, your TOW or Air Force club card acts as your permanent coupon. SHOW IT and receive immediate benefits by keeping your club account current. This benefit is not extended to our delivery service, nor is it available towards the purchase of alcoholic beverages, beer or wine.

TOW Club Advisory Committee

We will be re-activating the Club Advisory Committee during August, and are looking for nominations to serve on the committee. The Club Advisory Committee assists the group commander, services director and club manager in setting up the club's house rules and represents their units/groups in recommending club programs. If you are interested or need further information, call John at 2658.

Equipment Installation

The TOW Club will be installing a much-needed new dishwashing system during the month of August. While we hope this will cause as little disruption as possible to our service, it may be necessary to curtail some food operations during the installation. If, and when services have to be adjusted, we will try and get this information to all of our members.

August Birthdays

Staff Sgt. Joe Pack	31
1st Lt. George Sconyers	28
Airman 1st Class Laurence Taylor	20
Col. Tom Walker	27
Tech. Sgt. Charles Dickens	17

Port Season at Thule



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

The Military Sealift Command ships "American Tern" and "Paul Buck" while in full offloading operations for Pacer Goose Season 2003. The American Tern, docked, offloaded 6,100 metric tons of needed supplies for the base, while the Paul Buck, anchored just offshore, unloaded 7.7 million gallons of fuel. Ships like these come up every year to re-supply Thule for the coming winter months and are a vital component to the survival of the base operation and its personnel.

Commander's Trophy Standings

As a means of increasing participation in the intramural sports program, recreation services will present the Commander's Trophy to the organization showing the highest achievement in athletics based on a point system.

The Fitness & Sports Center will monitor the point system, publish and distribute the current standings to each section at least quarterly at the regularly scheduled Sports Advisory Committee meetings.

Here are the point standings as of Aug. 1:

OPS:	540
SFS:	430
SPTS:	425
ABG:	380

**Send story ideas to the Thule Times
at ThuleTimes@thule.af.mil.**

**Want to submit a story or
photograph? Call the 821st Air Base
Group Public Affairs office at ext.
5678, or stop by Bldg. 461, rm. 9**

**Recently awarded a medal or
promotion? Did you just arrive at
Thule Air Base? Let folks back
home know about it! Fill out a
Hometown News Release—stop by
Public Affairs, Bldg. 461, rm. 9, or
call ext. 5678**

**"Radio Show with No Name"
Friday nights, 7p.m. to ???
Tune in! 97.1 FM**

Military monologues: Be thankful

Editor's Note: May 2003 the 821st Air Base Group superintendent offered all at Thule an opportunity to participate in "Military Monologues," a means to reflect on military service. The Thule Times will reprint those articles throughout the year.

**By Tech. Sgt. Allan Turk
821st Support Squadron**

You probably don't even realize how good you really have it while you are serving your country. My last assignment really opened my eyes.

My last duty station was in small town basically out in the middle of nowhere. At least that is what everyone told me. The town barely supported the local Wal-Mart and survived mainly on the railroad and the cattle industry. We didn't personally have a lot to do with things in the community until we became good friends with a co-worker and his family. They had actually grown up in the local area and opened our eyes to the southwestern culture and the local community.

My children a little older now and

naturally were involved in numerous activities. My daughter made the cheerleading squad at her Junior High school and I coached my son's soccer team. Both of these activities involved a lot of interaction with civilians in the local community as well as fellow military members. Numerous times while traveling to games or giving our children's friends a ride to and from the games, we were asked to go into parts of this town that I would have normally not have set foot. My wife and I saw one thing that really stood out to us. The military members, for the most part, generally drove newer vehicles, wore nicer clothes and lived in nicer houses. This wasn't always the case, but more times than not.

Now, everyone's situation is different and families don't necessarily have the opportunity to choose what cards life will deal them, but in this part of eastern New Mexico, the cost of living is pretty low, therefore the job market is limited. Families don't always have a lot. There were times I was asked to go into parts of this town that

I would have normally not have set foot mainly because it was the poorer end. The needs of the children came first and I ventured into these neighborhoods. I knew my son's and daughter's friends, but I didn't appreciate how good my kids seemed to have it until I saw how some of their friends were living. The houses were small, older homes. Their family's vehicles were old broken down things that didn't look road worthy. From the outside looking in this was a scary neighborhood.

After spending three years actively involved in this community, it didn't take me very long to realize how good I really had it in the military. The military paid my salary, health benefits, provided me with a newer base housing unit and provided me with an allowance for food. The hard working people of the local community, a lot of which didn't speak English as a first language, didn't have this benefit. Personal interaction with the people of this community and a little soul searching helped my family and I not take for granted what we have. We cherish what we have and our time together.

This doesn't only apply to families in the military, it also applies to our single members, especially the younger first term airmen. So many times we hear about our younger members of the military getting into financial hardship situations. It's tempting to go out and purchase that first car that you have always wanted to have, or do that partying in the dorms, whatever the case. Remember to think of your future and while you are there, give a little time back to the local community.

Not only have I able to serve and defend the country that I love, I have been able to give a little back to this local community. I would encourage everyone to take a hard look at your situation, and remember to take time for your family, your community and your country. Remember, a little pride and patriotism now will make this a better world for our children later.

AFSPC "Top Cop" visits Thule



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Staff Sgt. Jeff Sherman points out a view of the bay to Col. Michael Hazen, Air Force Space Command security forces director. Hazen visited Thule July 24-25.

The Lighter Side of Thule



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Capt. Brad Hodges, 12th Space Warning Squadron, wipes the sleep from his eyes while finally opening his door after repeated knocks. Lt. Col. "Dingo" Doyne, 12th SWS commander, and others paid a late night visit to Hodges letting him know he was Thule's newest, and only, major select.



Photo by Capt. Kiley Stinson

The fearless Chaplain "Buddy" Walker attempting to (unsuccessfully) illustrate his "walking on water" sermon.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Staff Sgt. Courtney Gibson, 821 Air Base Group command section, receives extra special care from Torben Andersen, Thule fire chief, during fire extinguisher training August 1. Fire extinguishers do put out fires, right?



Photo by Capt. Kiley Stinson

Ops 1 and Thule 2 get a helping hand from GC while Thule Trippin'.

Have a picture or story for "The Lighter Side of Thule," submit it to thuletimes@thule.af.mil or bring it over to public affairs, Bldg. 461, rm. 9

Thule Times Editorial Staff

Col. Thomas Walker, 821st Air Base Group commander
1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers, chief, public affairs
Add your name here as a staff writer!—call PA at 5678

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