

October 2007

Volume 8

Inside this issue

-Team Thule participates in biannual Canadian resupply operation *Page 2*

-Thule Spotlight *Page 4*

--Det 3 commander describes success from a new angle *Page 6*

-Team Thule shares mission with numerous visitors *Page 8*

-Thule community wraps gifts for Operation Julemand *Page 12*

Thule Times Editorial Staff

Col. Lee-Volker Cox,
 821st Air Base Group Commander
 1st Lt. Nicole Langley,
 Chief, Public Affairs

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military service overseas. Contents of the Thule Times are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 821st Air Base Group, 21st Space Wing, Air Force Space Command, Thule Air Base, Greenland, APO AE 09704. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Articles can be sent to: 821ABG.PA@Thule.af.mil.

Thule: extraordinary place with extraordinary people!

Col. Lee-Volker Cox
 821st ABG commander

Thule is just a sleepy little remote base, 750 miles inside the Arctic Circle, right? Wrong – nothing could be further from the truth! You have performed brilliantly on every challenge and opportunity that has come your way – from multinational operations to high profile distinguished visitors to taking care of our own. Team Thule is involved in major events with global implications. America’s northernmost base is a busy international hub of operations and a model for military cooperation in the Arctic. The last few weeks our operations tempo was extremely high.

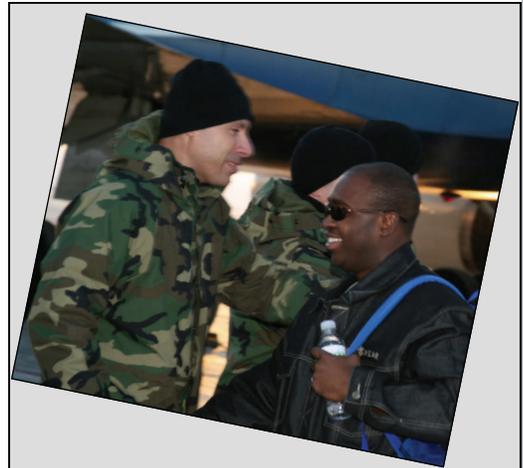
We are the A-Team when it comes to demonstrating international cooperation to the world. On a daily basis, four cultures: American, Danish, Greenlandic and Canadian work together to ensure vital space superiority to the U.S., NATO, and our friends and Allies.

We just finished an extremely successful Operation BOXTOP, resupplying the world’s northernmost continually inhabited locations, Canadian Forces Stations Alert and Eureka, and hosting more than 200 support personnel on base.

Team Thule provided essential support to Danish fisheries, environmental enforcement and security operations, including essential sovereignty missions throughout the Arctic region.

Servicemembers supporting the Global War on Terror, traveling to and from Afghanistan and Iraq, rely on our in-transit services to arrive safely at their final destinations.

The entire team demonstrated professionalism, dedication and a can-do attitude when the extremely important, decision-making Air Force Board arrived to learn about our vital mission and outstanding people. They experienced Thule at its best. You blew their socks



See **COMMANDER**, Page 4

Joint ops at the ‘Top of the World’

1st Lt. Nicole Langley

821st ABG Public Affairs

The biannual resupply of Canadian Forces Station Alert and Eureka, known as Operation BOXTOP, came to a close Sept. 28 after nearly three weeks of round-the-clock missions originating from Thule Air Base, Greenland.

With approximately 200 Canadian servicemembers involved in each operation, BOXTOP is Canada’s largest resupply operation and occurs each spring and fall.

“BOXTOP is a model multi-national operation demonstrating the dependence and interoperability of U.S. and Canadian forces ensuring security in the remote arctic region,” explained Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander. “Supporting the world’s northernmost inhabited locations from Thule exhibits NATO’s global reach capabilities. No matter how difficult the weather, terrain or remote the location, we can deliver.”

During the fall operation, the annual bulk replenishment of dry, non-perishable goods are delivered, explained George Stewart, G4 for the Department of National Defence/Canadian Forces Chief Information Management Group.

CFS Alert is located approximately 420 miles north-northeast of Thule AB and has about 70 Canadians assigned there. It is the northernmost permanently inhabited settlement in the world. CFS Eureka, located about 340 miles north-northwest of Thule, only has about 17 Canadian servicemembers assigned there.

The dry goods that were transported to Alert from Thule were delivered to the U.S. Air Base by Canadian-contracted sea carrier this summer near the end of Thule’s port season, Mr. Stewart explained.

Thule AB has been providing support for these resupply operations since the early 1950s.

While the Canadian Forces conducted direct operations, Thule’s Operation BOXTOP team consisted of individuals from airfield operations, logistics and communications.

Additionally, the base supported the



Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

Supplies are off-loaded from the Canadian Air Force’s only CC-177, a C-17 Globemaster III variant, Sept. 8 at Thule Air Base in support of Operation BOXTOP. Having been in the CAF’s inventory for only a few weeks, the trip to Thule was the aircraft’s first operational mission north of the Arctic Circle.

Canadians with lodging and access to the dining facility and morale, welfare and recreation services. Medical and security forces support was also provided.

While the Canadians did face some challenges during the operation, primarily due to weather and aircraft serviceability, the overall operation was considered a success, with all objectives exceeded.

According to Capt. Marie Meihls, 821st Support Squadron’s Logistics Flight

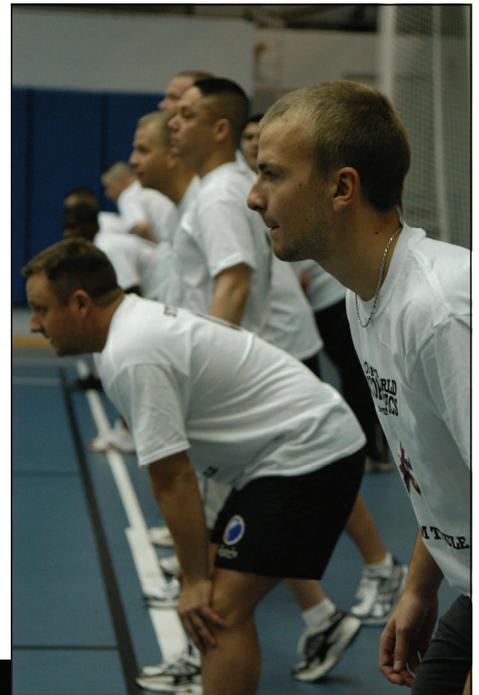
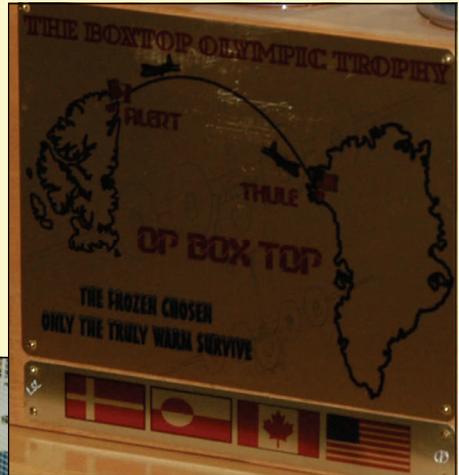
commander, with more than 160 missions flown, this fall’s operation exceeded the goals.

As the primary contact for Thule support to CFS Alert and the detachment at Eureka, Mr. Stewart described Thule’s support as outstanding in all areas.

“It is safe for me to say that without support from Thule Air Base, the survivability of CFS Alert would be in serious question,” said Mr. Stewart.

BOXTOP Olympics II 2007:

Biannual competition ends in draw, teams share trophy



COMMANDER from Page 1

off and they left impressed and confident, which is no surprise since Brig. Gen. Bradley Butler, Air Force Space Command Logistics and Warfighting Integration director, felt the same way when he left.

Thanks to Fox News the whole world knows what we do and that Team Thule is tops.

In the Thule tradition of going above and beyond, we pushed the envelope and had several firsts. Greenland Contractors brought go-karts to the base and for several weeks, until the weather closed the course, Thule NASCAR Nation was alive as drivers battled for the checkered flag.

On-base college courses from Lake Regions College were also opened to the entire Thule population, enabling contractor enrollment for the first time.

Finally, Canada's only C-17 made its northernmost flight landing here in support of BOXTOP. When it comes to taking care of our own, the Thule Family is second to none.

I recognize the tremendous amount of hard work it took to position us for an extremely successful end of year budget push.

Operation Julemand is in full swing and the children in the local Greenlandic villages are eagerly anticipating Santa's visit.

Our Air Force 60th Anniversary Ball was first rate, and we continue to lead the command with monthly base wide Culture of Responsibility events.

Of course, our success rests on the shoulders of quality people. We are fortunate to have several Team Thule members selected for professional military education, awards and as candidates for squadron command.

I am so proud of the quality work and tremendous effort each and every one of you do every day in the most challenging environment anywhere on the Earth. Jonathan Hunt from Fox News said it best, "Thule Air Base is an extraordinary base, with an extraordinary mission, operated by extraordinary people."

That sums it up, Team Thule is extraordinary!

Thule Spotlight

- **The following individuals were recently promoted to their current rank:**
 Master Sgt. Andrea Richards
 Tech Sgt. Christy McDonald
 Airman 1st Class Gino Carruitero
 Airman 1st Class Jemario Casey
 Airman 1st Class Jeremiah Coutts
 Airman 1st Class Christian Cuevas-Velez
- **Team Thule 3rd Quarter award winners:**
 Staff Sgt. Rodney Cathcart
 Capt. John Bennett
- **821st Air Base Group 3rd Quarter award winners:**
 Airman 1st Class Melanie Camara
 Staff Sgt. Rodney Cathcart
 Master Sgt. Mark Koopman
 Capt. John Bennett
- **12th Space Warning Squadron 3rd Quarter award winners:**
 Tech Sgt. David Hodd
 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton
- **12th SWS 3rd Quarter crew of the quarter for:**
 Delta Crew: 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton, crew commander, Tech. Sgt. Jason Hartjen, crew chief, and Staff Sgt. Sommer Woodside, Space Systems Console operator
- **Thule Air Base members selected as Air Force squadron commander candidates:**
 Lt. Col. Mike Brantley
 Maj. Philip Hicks
 Maj. (select) Russell Hunt
- **Thule AB members selected for Senior Developmental Education:**
 Lt. Col. Mark Erickson — Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
 Lt. Col. James Forand — U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.
- **AFSPC Financial Management & Comptroller Senior NCO 3rd Quarter award winner:**
 Master Sgt. Mark Koopman

TOBIT



Photo by 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton

Otherwise known as The Only Band In Town, TOBIT performed for a packed house at the Top of the World Club Sept. 8. Band members include (from left to right): Capt. Adam Singleton, 12th Space Warning Squadron, 2nd Lt. Austin Emery, 12th SWS, Chaplain (Capt.) Martin Adamson, 821st Air Base Group, Tech Sgt. Ted Wilson, 821st Support Squadron, SSgt Charles Mathew III, 12th SWS, Master Sgt. Scott Baber, 821st SPTS, and Capt. Tyson Schmidt, 12th SWS.

Fox News tells the Thule story

1st Lt. Nicole Langley

821st ABG Public Affairs

Although many around the world are unfamiliar with Thule Air Base and its unique space superiority mission, the base recently received national attention in the U.S. with a full day's coverage on the Fox News Channel.

A Fox News crew arrived in early October and had a week-long opportunity to see firsthand what the men and women of Thule Air Base do each and every day. The crew received mission briefings, tours, and the opportunity to interact and interview numerous members of Team Thule, in order to put together accurate footage of Thule AB.

In addition to broadcasting the prepared footage, the reporter, Jonathan Hunt, conducted live broadcasts from Thule's North Mountain, overlooking the main base.



The crew believed that this was the farthest north anyone has ever broadcast live from.

The Thule AB broadcasts aired a total of eight times, reaching an audience of more than 80 million people. The advertisement equivalency value of the coverage was estimated at nearly \$1.5 million and positive comments about the coverage were made by Air Force Space Command Public Affairs immediately following the first Thule broadcast.

"Great coverage right out of the chute from the Fox network at Thule," said Col. Les Kodlick, AFSPC director of Public Affairs.

Unfortunately, Team Thule was only able to see two of those broadcasts due to the local television programming schedule. Once the base receives copies of the broadcasts, they will be aired on one of the base channels for all to view.



Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

Time to contribute: annual CFC in full swing

Capt. Marie Meihls

821st Support Squadron

The Combined Federal Campaign comes around just once a year and it is here now. We are nearly half way through with five more weeks to go. We have had a terrific start already and encourage everyone to continue donating. Our points of contact will continue to be available throughout the remainder of the campaign, so please contact any one of them if you need help or would like to contribute.

In addition to individual contributions, we also had a very successful bake sale raising nearly \$150 for the Family Support & Youth Program. This program is only available overseas and all

donations provided by Team Thule are returned to the base commander for his use towards morale and welfare needs for this installation.

Our next bake sale will be on Nov. 1 and all proceeds from this fundraiser will go to Operation Warm Heart, a charity managed by first sergeants, which provides emergency monetary assistance and executes holiday assistance programs to active duty and retired military family members.

We would like to remind everyone of the great incentives to contribute to this campaign – aside from the great feelings generated by giving to organizations that benefit others. Everyone who contributes has a chance of winning one

of three grand prizes: a Harley Roadster motorcycle, 2 airline tickets and a \$1,000 savings bond.

If you wish to contribute, please contact one of our POCs or visit the CFC website: www.cfccoverseas.com.

Remember that you can contribute online, but if you do, please bring your printed out donation sheet to one of the POCs to receive credit. Only credit card contributions are automatically updated into our Thule account.

Thule CFC points of contact:

Capt. Marie Meihls - ext. 2716

1st Lt. Kevin Wiacek - ext. 5225

Tech Sgt. Wendi Atchley - ext. 2389

Tech Sgt. Shane Richardson - ext. 2678

Airman 1st Class David Kelly - ext. 3234

How *not* to be successful in your life or career

Capt. Florian DeCastro

22nd SOPS, Det. 3 commander

I have seen plenty of books and articles on how to be successful, including several on how to have a successful Air Force career. Now, I don't think anyone wakes up wanting to fail miserably in their life or career, but it still happens even after following the tips in these how-to success books. I think it's because that is not enough. Knowing how *not* to be successful is just as important as knowing how to be successful.

I believe that life is like white water river rafting and not a box of chocolates. You are going along the rapids, doing well and bouncing along on cloud nine until you hit that rock just under the waves. The next thing you know, you're in your worst nightmare being dragged across the river without a raft or paddle. If you had known what to look for, you could have avoided that rock, but you didn't and this is the predicament you are now in. So let me share with you the three rocks to try to hit dead on whenever you don't want to be successful ... they are guaranteed to ruin your day or life. The first is to not care about the people around you. This works two ways. If you are a supervisor and don't care for the

people who work for you, sooner or later the mission will suffer and your boss will fire you. The same goes if you don't care about your boss and his needs to successfully accomplish the job. You risk losing your job to someone who does care.

Not caring for people also works in your personal life in addition to your career. If you don't take care of your spouse and children, you'll lose them quickly enough to someone who will. If you don't care about your friends, you'll find yourself all alone and will be "That Guy" those American Forces Network commercials keep talking about. This first rock is by far the best way I've seen to prevent you from being successful and seems to have a 100 percent success rate.

When they say money is the root of all evil, people aren't kidding. Now this rock is on par with the first, only works more quickly. In the Air Force, not managing your professional or personal finances is one of the quickest ways to lose your job. It doesn't matter if you are an airman basic or the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, mismanagement of funds is an equal opportunity career killer. Those briefings on how to properly use your government travel

card may seem cliché, but I've seen plenty of careers ruined when people didn't heed those instructions. Did you know that you can lose your security clearance by having personal financial problems and/or filing for bankruptcy? So the money route is, without a doubt, a sure-fire way to be unsuccessful!

The last rock to discuss is by far the slowest way to be unsuccessful. This deals with being unbalanced. Anyone who has gone white water river rafting knows that the raft needs to be balanced on both sides so that it travels forward instead of around in circles. People on the raft know not to stand up to prevent falling into the water. If you are a workaholic, you risk one day losing your family or at least not getting to know your children. Too much emphasis on the family, to the detriment of your job, and you lose your sense of purpose and well being – not to mention that job promotion opportunity that could have helped you put your children through college. So one's success in life and career is all about balance.

Remember that knowing how to be unsuccessful can be just as important as knowing how to be successful. Otherwise, how can you prevent your raft from being tipped over?

Ask the commander

A column for questions, with responses from the base commander

Due to recent changes at the dining facilities, including scheduling and take-out options, it is difficult for those of us who work night shifts at BMEWS and Det. 3 to be able to eat regular meals. What sort of arrangement can be made for those of us working nights?

While there are different options available to those working night shifts, I can assure you that Thule offers a wide variety of dining options for all schedules.

The hours of operation at our dining facilities were certainly created with our shift workers in mind, and it is our goal to meet the needs of all Team Thule members.

In addition to the dining facility on the main base and facilities on site at BMEWS and Det. 3, there are several other dining options at Thule. Here is a quick overview of the choices available.

- AAFES offers a variety of food from sandwiches to rice & noodle dishes. They are open Monday-Friday from 10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. and from 4-8 p.m. On Saturdays, they are open from 10 a.m.—6 p.m.
- Dundas Deli sells cold sandwiches, meats, cheeses and other items.

They are open Monday-Friday from 10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. On Saturdays, they are open from 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

- The Food Warehouse sells bulk food products. To place an order, fill out the form located at \\Wwxcxs112-pub-01\public\Services\Food Warehouse and send to GC/LGMW #200 or e-mail to food@gc.gl.
- The Top of the World Club features a variety of options from fast food to fine dining six days a week.

See **DINING** Page 7

DINING from Page 6

The TOW Club is open for lunch Tuesday-Friday from 11 a.m.—1:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. They will also deliver during those hours to locations on main base.

The Club is open for dinner Tuesday-Saturday from 6—9 p.m. and Sundays from 5:30—8:30 p.m. Delivery on the main base is also available during dinner hours.

The fine dining room is also available by reservation Tuesday-Saturday from 6—9 p.m.

- Dundas Buffet Restaurant is open for breakfast Monday-Friday from 5—8 a.m. and Saturday-Sunday from 7—9 a.m. They are open for lunch Monday-Sunday from 11

They are open for dinner Monday-Sunday from 5—7 p.m. Additionally, carryout is available and may be ordered between 5 a.m. and 7 p.m. and must be picked up between 7 and 8 p.m.

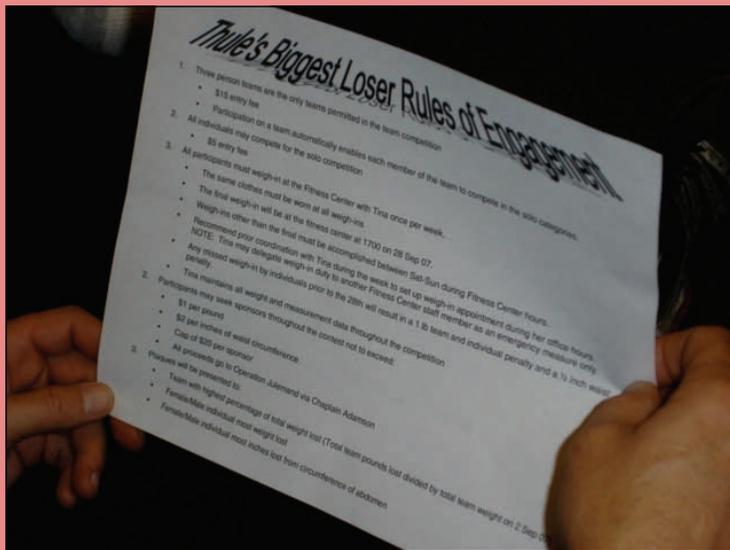
- The BMEWS dining facility is open for breakfast from 6:30—7:30 a.m. Monday-Friday and Saturday-Sunday from 7—9 a.m. They are open for lunch Monday-Sunday from 11 a.m.—1 p.m. and for dinner Monday-Sunday from 5—7 p.m. A midnight meal is also available for on-duty personnel.
- The Det 3 dining facility is open for lunch Monday-Sunday from 11 a.m.—1 p.m. and for dinner Monday-Sunday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. They also offer a midnight meal Monday-Sunday for on-duty workers.

- Another unique option available is Café Cool, located in the Community Center on Sundays from 1—9 p.m. They sell a variety of flavored coffees, sandwiches and desserts.

Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, we are unable to offer every person on base every meal at one of the mission-focused dining facilities. However, with some planning, everyone can enjoy a nutritious meal by either ordering a takeout meal or taking a meal prepared at home to work.

Col. Lee-Volker Cox

If you have a question for the commander, please send it to 821abg.pa@thule.af.mil.



Twenty eight Team Thule members participated in a recent Biggest Loser competition sponsored by the base Fitness Center. Individuals competed in three-person teams throughout the month of September to see who could be Thule's biggest loser. Contest categories included most pounds lost, most inches lost, most percentage total body fat lost and most successful team. Healthy weight loss was a key focus throughout the competition and was encouraged at each weekly weigh in. Not only did Team Thule become healthier in the process, but Operation Julemand also benefited, receiving more than \$500, as all entry fees went directly to the charity fund.

Biggest Loser ... Thule style!

Thule's Biggest Losers

Most weight lost male and female:
Senior Master Sgt. Kurt Schmidtman and Rachel Kasic

Most percentage total body weight lost male and female:

Steve Tribble and Staff Sgt. Kate Beck

Most inches lost male and female:

Chuck Schinske and Rachel Kasic

Team winner:

“Team Tonnage” — Senior Master Sgt. Kurt Schmidtman, Master Sgt. Jayson Vincent, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Perry

Visitors at Thule Air Base

Throughout the months of September and October, Thule Air Base had the opportunity to showcase its mission to numerous distinguished visitors. Visitors included Col. Robert Skinner, 50th Network Operations Group commander, Brig. Gen. Bradley Butler, Air Force Space Command Logistics and Warfighting Integration director; an Air Force Combat Camera team from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.; the Air Force Board led by Maj. Gen. Robert Worley, Air Force A8/P, Col. Scott Shepherd, 21st Space Wing vice commander; and a Fox News crew that conducted live broadcasts about the Thule AB mission from the base's very own North Mountain.



Photos by Capt. John Bennett

Brig. Gen. Bradley Butler shakes hands with Airman 1st Class Melanie Camara, 821st Security Forces Squadron, while touring the squadron's facilities.



General Worley speaks with 821st SFS Airmen working at the 12th Space Warning Squadron's Ballistic Missile Early Warning System facility.



Left: After their original trip in the spring was cancelled due to weather, the Air Force Board made it to Thule Air Base Sept. 27 for a firsthand look at the base's infrastructure and quality of life. Back row from left are: Lt. Col. Mark Erickson, Lt. Col. John Blagreen, Brig. Gen. William McCasland, Col. Mark Jelonek and Col. John Medieros; 2nd row from left are: Mary Puckett, Kathleen Graham and Col. Jack Weinstein. Front row from left are: Col. Lee-Volker Cox, Patricia Zarodkiewicz, Maj. Gen. Robert Worley and Col. Daniel Barnett.

Air Force 60th Anniversary Ball



Approximately 120 members of the Thule community attended the Air Force's 60th Anniversary Ball Sept. 13 at the Top of the World Club. The event was organized by the Thule Association of Professional Airmen and the guest speaker was Col. Robert Skinner, 50th Network Operations Group commander at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.



2007

Thule Air Base

Safety Day



Above: Capt. Florian DeCastro, Detachment 3 commander, demonstrates how to properly wear all of the assigned arctic gear at the recent basewide Safety Day.

From living and working in an arctic environment that can produce winter storms with hurricane-force winds and sub-zero temperatures to driving on a base with no paved roads, safety has to be a top priority for the people of Thule Air Base.

In order to promote safety and teach skills that will ensure the preparedness of the Thule community, the base held an all-inclusive Safety Day Oct. 11. The training sessions covered a broad spectrum of topics from how to properly wear the issued cold-weather gear to driving on snow and ice covered roads.



Right: Thule Airmen drive on a closed course during Safety Day, and received instruction on techniques to safely drive on snow and ice covered roads.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Bryan Schubert

Into the night

Base commander ponders upcoming dark season

Col. Lee-Volker Cox
821st ABG commander

Since we can't stop time or make the sun stand still it happened – we had our final sunrise – and of greater significance our last sunset. The sun made its final appearance at Thule, disappearing behind South Mountain a little after 4 p.m. local time Oct. 21. For 10 days, we have experienced a constant dawn, never seeing the sun and ending with only 75 minutes of light with the official last sunset at 1:55 p.m. Oct. 31.

For the next 103 days, the moon, stars and our own street lights will be the only sources that illuminate the Air Force's largest overseas base. As I stood there and watched the sun vanish for the last time, I was both excited and nervous. What will this journey into the night be like? What types of challenges and opportunities will Team Thule face?

One thing is certain, it will be much more dangerous. Daily temperatures are already below zero and it is going to get

colder. Although it is beautiful seeing Thule in the light of the full moon, reflecting off of the snow and North Star Bay, journeying alone or unprepared off of the main base is a recipe for disaster. Severe Delta-level arctic storms can form quickly with temperatures plunging to colder than 40 degrees below zero and over 125 mph winds howling off of the arctic icecap. Roads quickly become impassable, vehicles stop running, skin freezes within seconds and death can follow shortly thereafter. Therefore, all travel off of the main base is extremely limited. Weather conditions permitting, Dundas Village, North Mountain, South Mountain and D Launch are the only authorized recreational roads open for general use. Except for required mission operations personnel, no other roads are open.

Darkness for almost 2,500 straight hours will also have an impact on our physical and mental health. It is up to each one of us to take personal responsibility and establish routines that include going to the gym and interacting with other people, which will keep us mentally sharp and physically fit.

Even during the winter, there are lots of things to do at Thule. Events at the Community Center, Top of the World Club and Airmen's Center can fill your calendar almost every day. Construction

wide range of activities, competitions and self-improvement classes. We also offer college courses on base that for the first time are open to the entire Team Thule – including active duty servicemembers and contractors. If all you are doing is going to work and sleeping, then you are doing something wrong. Go to the gym. Read a book. Have dinner with friends. Do something! Everyone will respond to the long night differently. Therefore, it is vitally important that we not only take care of ourselves, but also watch out for everyone else. Now is not the time to let the little things go unnoticed. I need all of you to be extra-aware wingmen who proactively prevent the challenges many people will face. We are in one of the most remote locations in the world, about to face some of the harshest conditions on Earth. Let's make sure we take care of our entire Thule family during the darkness. I'll see you at the fitness center, Top of the World Club, Community Center, BX or at work. There is a light at the end of our long journey into the Arctic Night and it is a sunrise on Feb. 11 at 1 p.m.

SHIRT TIP: Uniform guidance

Master Sgt. Chester Spires
821st ABG first sergeant

The importance of adhering to dress and appearance issues is something that we all need a reminder about once in a while, especially at a time when the Air Force is incorporating a new uniform into our inventory. Over the next few months, I will share uniform tidbits such as this just to ensure we are all on the same page and remain in compliance. If you have any questions about uniform wear guidance, please feel free to contact me.

Per AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, Table 2.6. Clothing / Accessory Standards, Item 12:

To present the proper military image: Attaché case, gym bag and backpacks will be carried in left hand, on left shoulder, or both shoulders (not to interfere with rendering the proper salute). Only the following colors are authorized:

Attaché case: Black only



Gym bags: Black or dark blue



Backpacks: Only solid-color black backpacks may be worn with blue uniform combinations. Solid-color black, olive drab or woodland camouflage are the only colors authorized with the BDU.



Additional key points to remember are: Conservative manufacture's logo is allowed. Members may wear backpack using one or both shoulder straps. A backpack is a bag that has shoulder straps and its primary carry method is slung on the back. Even though a backpack style bag is carried on in the left hand and not on the shoulder or slung on the bag, it is still a backpack. No ornamentation or design; nothing dangling.

OPERATION JULEMAND

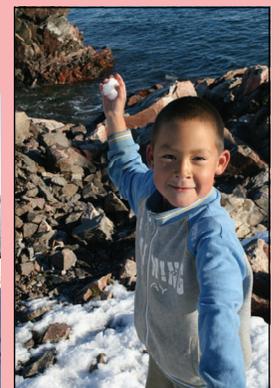
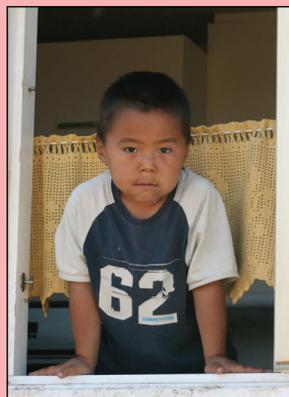
Gift wrapping extravaganza

In support of Operation Julemand, the base's largest charity drive, members of the Team Thule community participated in an evening of gift wrapping Oct. 25 at the Community Center. The gifts were purchased with money earned from various fundraising efforts and will be delivered to children in the local villages of Qaanaaq, Savissivik and other surrounding villages as gifts from Julemand — the Danish translation for Santa Claus.



Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

Eagerly awaiting Santa's arrival!



Photos by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

AFSPC/CC says good-bye as he departs for new position

Gen. Kevin Chilton

Air Force Space Command commander
*General Robert Kehler assumed command of AFSPC Oct. 24

For over fifteen months, I have had the honor and privilege of serving with you, the fine men and women in the world's greatest space and missile force.

As I leave Air Force Space Command for my new position at U.S. Strategic Command, I want to express my gratitude for your support and unwavering dedication to duty. I wish it were possible to personally meet each one of you, shake your hand and thank you for your service to our Command, our Air Force and our Nation. Your pride and professionalism in defending America with unrivaled space capabilities is truly awe inspiring.

Great military organizations may be known for their high-tech hardware, but the greatest ones are remembered for their 'software'--talented people motivated by excellence and driven by ingenuity. Since the first day I took command, I quickly recognized that you are the source of AFSPC's success. All over the globe from posts in space operations units, missile alert facilities, acquisition centers, staff organizations or in deployed locations, you embody our vision as the acknowledged experts and leaders in fielding, launching and employing space power for the 21st Century.

I am proud of what you have accomplished. Because of your stellar performance, our Command has delivered unblinking space support to the joint fight; developed and modernized truly dominant space and missile systems; provided unwavering, safe and secure strategic deterrence; and made great strides in further developing our most precious resource--our Airmen. I am confident you will continue to deliver success as you forge a path to a future filled with both promises and challenges.

Cathy and I wish all of you and your families continued success. You will always remain in our thoughts and prayers. God speed.

Arctic NASCAR



Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

Team Thule members enjoy a chance to feel the speed in go-karts that Greenland Contractors ordered for the base. A course was set up behind one of the base's hangars and Team Thule put the go-karts to good use during weekends throughout the month of September, as weather permitted.

Upcoming events

- **Tree Lighting Ceremony** — Nov. 2 at 4 p.m. in front of 821st ABG HQ building
- **Time Change** — Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour Sunday, Nov. 3!
- **First Night Festival** — Nov. 3 at building 580 — doors open at 6 p.m., dining from 7-8:30 p.m.
- **Julemand Festival** — Nov. 17 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Fitness Center and from 1-6 p.m. at the Community Center

Turning up the heat



Submitted photo

Col Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander was on hand to watch Team Thule firefighters and participate in live fire training at the airfield Sept. 1.

“I knew it was a tough job, but had no idea what it was like to be in a building on fire,” said Colonel Cox. “Feeling the heat, seeing the smoke and watching the fire surround you is both amazing and terrifying.

“After turning on the hose and controlling the fire, it became very clear to me that it takes a special person with exceptional training to do this for a living. Seeing them in action, I feel 100 percent confident that everyone at Thule is being protected by these heroes, who arrive in firetrucks within seconds of an alarm.”

Welcome message from new AFSPC/CC

Gen. Robert Kehler
AFSPC commander

Marj and I are thrilled to return to Air Force Space Command, and I cannot think of a more distinct honor than to serve with you as your Commander.

Let me begin by thanking you for a warm welcome and a spectacular assumption of command ceremony. Your collective pride and talent were on display during my ceremony and I was proud to be associated with you.

The mission of America’s Air Force is to fly, fight, and win in air, space, and cyberspace. Whether deterring nuclear aggression, bringing space capabilities to the joint fight, or protecting our nation’s space capabilities, our country counts on you. Because of your discipline, excellence and innovation, I

am confident we can retain our edge as the smartest, most credible and capable space force in the world. I am committed to organizing, training, and equipping you for total success.

I learned long ago that inspiration does not only come from the top down by commanders; it is reciprocated by the energy, passion and motivation displayed by America’s Airmen serving at all ranks. I look forward to meeting you and working with you. I know our team, I know we share a common perspective, and I know the sky is no limit in Air Force Space Command.

Thanks again for making our arrival unforgettable.

**Editor’s note: General Kehler assumed command in an assumption-of-command ceremony at Peterson Air Force Base Oct 24.*

Message from
21st SW/CV

Col. Scott Shepherd
21st Space Wing vice commander

Thank you to everyone at Team Thule for the wonderful reception during my recent visit. From the moment I landed, I was impressed with the professionalism and great attitudes I encountered. It became quickly apparent that pride is one of the hallmarks of the entire team serving in such a unique environment.

Everywhere I went I was greeted by smiles and people who shared with me what their role in the Thule community is. I was impressed with the depth of knowledge everyone has about their area of responsibility.

It quickly became obvious that the success of Thule and the ability to carry out the vital missions of the base are dependent on the combined talents of the U.S. military personnel and our contractor partners from the U.S., Denmark and Greenland.

Those talents continue to maintain and upgrade a fragile infrastructure. Returning to Thule for the first time since I completed my year there in May 2002, it was exciting to see the new NCO/Senior dormitory and clinic. They are both superb facilities. I’m confident that the right team is in place at Thule to ensure its vital missions are accomplished.

Thanks to each of you for your dedication and service. We’re proud of you and proud of what you accomplish every day.

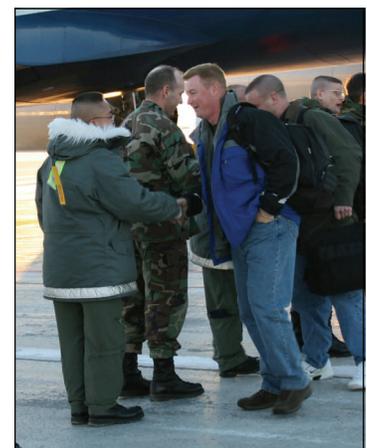


Photo by Capt. John Bennett

Col. Scott Shepherd, 21st Space Wing vice commander, is welcomed to Thule Air Base after departing the DC-8 Oct. 4.

Ready, aim, fire!



Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

The Thule Shooting Club's Annual Top of the World Skeet and Trap Tournament brought out more than a dozen marksmen to battle for the coveted championship titles. The conditions were nearly perfect for the world's northernmost shooting tournament, almost no wind and grey skies, allowing the dark skeet targets to stand out against the sky.

Participants used shotguns to fire at targets that were thrown at different heights and in different directions. Lightning-fast reflexes are needed to hit even one target.

The champion skeet shooter was Martin Andersen and the champion trap shooter was Soren Sorensen.

Thule Air Base hosts rare retirement ceremony

821st Security Forces Squadron

Thule Air Base was honored with a rare ceremony Oct. 4 when it retired one of its military members. Master Sgt. Dave Cunningham served 21 years of honorable service and felt it best to conclude with his Air Force family here at the Top of the World.

Capt. Rusty Hunt, 821st Security Forces Squadron commander, officiated over the ceremony, which included the presentation of the colors by the Thule Air Base Honor Guard and a flag-folding ceremony by members of the 821st SFS.

In his speech, Captain Hunt illustrated Sergeant Cunningham's phenomenal career.

He provided security for multiple air shows, handled alarms at nuclear facilities, was on scene for an aircraft crash, responded to multiple rocket attacks in Talil, Iraq, handled mobility and deployed to PSAB, Saudi Arabia. He directed forces to an armed hijacking of a delivery truck, ran convoys through Iraq totaling 2,000 miles back and forth to Kuwait. He was the Distinguished Graduate at the NCO Academy and won the Peer Leadership Award, explained the captain.

Captain Hunt went on to say, "If he didn't like the way something was being done, he fixed it and fixed it right."

Sergeant Cunningham was the superintendent of Resources and Administration for the 821st SFS. He retired to Pennsylvania with his daughter.

Top of the World ... Series!



Photo by 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton

At the Top of the World, thousands of miles from Boston, lifelong fans Capt. Eamon Murray, Lt. Col. James Forand and Tech. Sgt. Mark Catania, 12th Space Warning Squadron, show their Red Sox spirit during the recent World Series

BOXTOP from Page 2

While the Canadian Forces benefits from the Air Base's support, so does Team Thule — in the form of additional training.

"The entire operation provides Team Thule a superb opportunity to train and operate at an operations tempo that is 500 percent higher than normal. It takes a tremendous effort to maneuver, service, repair, load and launch aircraft 24/7," explained Colonel Cox.

In addition to providing daily support for the operation, many Team Thule members got the opportunity to have an up close and personal look at the missions to Alert and Eureka by participating in orientation flights as space was available. The operation wouldn't be complete without the traditional BOXTOP Olympics — a competition of international proportion that occurs during each biannual resupply operation. The Canadian Forces competes against Team Thule and the winner is awarded the coveted traveling trophy until the next matchup. The athletic battle began at Thule with volleyball, dodgeball and floor hockey. At the end of the day, Thule was in the lead,

having won the first two games.

For the second half of events, all of the competitors traveled by Canadian C-130 to CFS Alert. There they continued on in the Olympic spirit with badminton, five-pin bowling and ball hockey contests. With Alert winning the badminton and ball hockey games, it appeared that

BOXTOP II 2007 Mission Totals

Total Missions Flown: 161

Types of Aircraft Flown: 4

Number of Aircraft: 8 (5 C-130s, 1 L-100, 1 CC-177, 1 CC-150 Airbus)

Dry Goods Transported: 331 tons

Fuel Transported to Alert: 511,000 gallons

Fuel Transported to Eureka: 100,000 gallons

Passengers Transported to Alert & Eureka: 179

Canadians at Thule: 206

Canadian Air Traffic Controllers: 2

each team had a home-court advantage.

"Unfortunately, BOXTOP Olympics II 2007 ended in a draw," explained Master Sgt. Chester Spires, 821st Air Base Group first sergeant. "The trophy will be shared between Alert and Thule until the next competition in early 2008."

At the end of the operation and the athletic competition, it was obvious that the time spent together was mutually beneficial for the Canadian servicemembers and Team Thule.

"Everyone comes together for BOXTOP and the Thule family grows with an additional 200 members," said Colonel Cox. "No matter where I went — base ops, fitness center, BOXTOP command post or the club, and no matter who I saw — U.S., Canadian, Danish, Greenlandic — you could tell their was genuine friendship and mutual admiration. Everyone was working together as one team focused on the mission.

"That doesn't surprise me, because when you're on top of the world, you can't just get support with a phone call. If we can't get it done, it's not going to get done and Team Thule always gets the job done!"

BMEWS hosts Open House for Thule community

12th Space Warning Squadron

The 12th Space Warning Squadron opened their doors to the Thule community Oct. 27 for the first Ballistic Missile Early Warning System Open House in recent memory.

About 30 visitors from the base participated in the event and had the opportunity to tour the radar facility and the Missile Warning Operations Center.

"It was a great opportunity to showcase some of the unique and critical capabilities that make the entire Thule community such an important contributor to the 21st Space Wing's worldwide space superiority mission," said Lt. Col. James Forand, 12th SWS commander. "Kudos to 2nd Lt. Austin Emery for leading such a great event!"



Photo by 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton

Lt. Col. Mike Brantley, 12th SWS operations officer, describes the squadron's key missions in the BMEWS nerve center, the Missile Warning Operations Center. Approximately 30 visitors from the base took advantage of the opportunity to get a firsthand look at the facility and how it supports the 21st Space Wing's space superiority mission.

Team Thule supports modern day trek to North Pole

821st Air Base Group

Team Thule supported a modern day expedition to the North Pole Oct. 17. Unlike the months it took the great *Ultima Thule* explorer, Knud Rasmussen, with teams of dog sleds, an ultra-modern Royal Danish Challenger CL-604 made the trip in about two hours.

As part of a sovereignty mission, the five-person crew headed north, leaving Thule shortly after sunrise. Within an hour, the sun was setting on the sleek aircraft as they flew into uncontrolled airspace and darkness. Approaching the North Pole, they descended to 1,000 feet and circled the area for more than ten minutes before turning south.

“The sensor suite onboard was impressive,” said Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander. “Using the Global Positioning System, they pinpointed their location while their radars provided excellent situational awareness. The onboard optics provided us the opportunity to pierce the darkness and see what was down there, cracks in the ice at the North Pole.”

After experiencing a second sunrise, the crew flew along the Greenland coastline back to Thule, further demonstrating the aircraft’s search and rescue, pollution prevention and fisheries enforcement missions.



Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

Danish Air Force personnel undergo intense training on the Challenger’s sensor systems designed to provide search and rescue capabilities and detect security, fisheries and pollution violations at high and low level during all weather conditions. Systems Operators P.C.E.S. Anderson (left) and T. Struve (right) were on console during the recent mission to the North Pole.

“Not only do they provide vital support to the brave Danish SIRIUS sledge patrols, enforcement and surveillance operations, but the aircraft can be reconfigured to transport people, including VIPs, and supplies relatively quickly,” added

Colonel Cox. “Denmark can be proud of the skills of their Airmen and capabilities of the multi-role Challenger.”



Master Sgt. Mark Koopman, 821st Air Base Group comptroller, discusses end-of-year funding matters over the telephone with the 21st Space Wing Sunday, Sept. 30 as Erland Søndergaard, Thule AB Supply and Services manager looks on. As a result of proper planning, Thule AB was able to take advantage of available funding and received more than \$9 million, which will benefit the base for years to come.

Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley