



Photos courtesy of Kirtland C-4 Team

Communities, students learn about Air Force missions, opportunities

Kirtland AFB units reach out to surrounding communities with events and programs. Some Community Relations events pictured include the July 4 celebration, Honorary Commanders tour, Career Day, and Marsville.



Kirtland AFB Community Relations

Bringing the community into the Air Force world

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Even though gates and fences are a barrier between Kirtland AFB base and surrounding communities, TEAM KIRTLAND members bring those communities into the military world. The responsibility of being a "good neighbor" is not a saying, but a daily commitment.

Many community outreach initiatives are aimed at informing the public about what takes place behind the base gates and what is available for people interested in being involved. Many agencies on base want the public to know how their missions affect the communities.

Agencies investing time and resources into outreach initiatives include the 377th Air Base Wing, 58th Special Operations Wing, 150th Fighter Wing, Air Force Research Laboratory, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Sandia National Laboratories, Department of Energy, Air Force Safety Center, Air Force Inspection Agency and the Counterdrug Support Taskforce Agency.

science, engineering, communication and the arts. Middle school students participating in AFRL's Providing Engineering and Technology Experiences for Students project act as mentors to the elementary students preparing for their mission to Mars.

The 2001-02 school year event was named the Mars Asteroid Defense Mission; it included 62 schools, 124 teachers and more than 2,160 New Mexico students.

Have I got a job for you

The 58th Special Operations Wing sponsors an annual career day. At the event, 35 displays represented a myriad of Air Force specialties to high school students contemplating their futures.

These displays include security forces, medical fields, helicopter and C-130 aircraft maintenance, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, the 377th Services Squadron's field kitchen and Family Support Center.

With more than 350 military and civilian members manning the various displays and escorting the students, 1,000 high school students from 17 schools were given great insight on the Air Force and what it has to offer throughout the year.

Wing members also conducted an Air Force induction ceremony for 25 young people enlisting in the Air Force.

More bang for your buck

Kirtland AFB and Albuquerque sponsored the 2002 Independence Day celebration attended by more than 100,000 people. Along with the elaborate fireworks display at the end of the event, the crowd enjoyed music, play areas for

children and multitude of vendors serving a variety of foods.

Hailed as one of Albuquerque's most attended events, that event offered the community an evening of relaxation, entertainment and the opportunity to collectively reflect on what this nation is all about.

Commanding with the best

TEAM KIRTLAND's Honorary Commanders program is devoted to bringing community leaders into the Air Force and Kirtland AFB world each year. Aimed at civic, community and business leaders throughout greater Albuquerque, this program educates them about the various agencies and missions throughout the base.

For 2003, 38 honorary commanders were selected and sponsored by major associate unit commanders.

The program's purpose is to bring community leaders of varying backgrounds and interests together in partnership with major base organizations. The goal is to foster a greater understanding of Kirtland AFB operations and the units' specific missions within Albuquerque and the surrounding communities.

Honorary commanders will have opportunities to get "close and personal" with major organizations on base through a series of tours dedicated to educate them on what Kirtland AFB is all about and what that means to them as civic and business leaders. Sponsoring commanders invite their honorees to many of their units' functions as well.

Although fences and gates divide base and communities, many agencies on Kirtland AFB have programs bringing communities into our world.

