



**Sept. 18,
6-10:30 p.m.
Hangar 1002**

**Tickets for \$15-\$30 from
first sergeants; 1st Lts.
Christina Ming, 846-4597
and Garrett Nelson, 846-
5062; 2nd Lt. Marietta
Sanders, 846-5628, and
weekdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at
the Military Personnel
Flight in the Consolidated
Support Building 20245.
Ask for Lieutenant Sanders
at the customer service
counter.**

**The Kirtland AFB Youth
Center offers Parents Night
Out during the ball. Call
853-5437.**

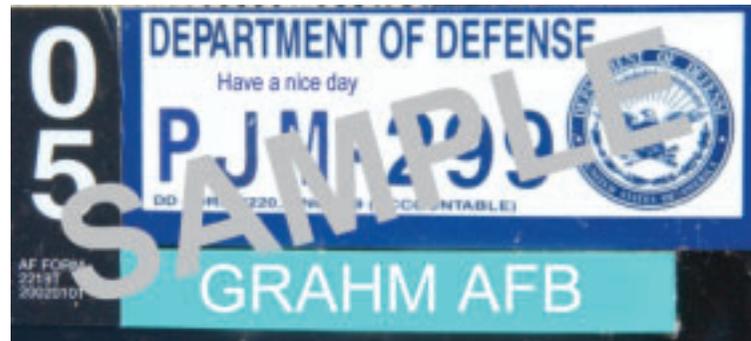
Base decals for privately owned vehicles available

BY TECH. SGT. WILLARD MINNICH

377th Security Forces Squadron

A recent shipment of base decals to the 377th Security Forces Squadron has allowed us to take care of base motorists who have been waiting. The Pass and Registration section, located inside of MPF in the Consolidated Support Flight, has plenty of decals and can register your vehicles immediately.

In order to allow people to have access to the base during the shortage, a large number of temporary passes were provided to base personnel. Although those may have expiration dates printed on them which would allow



them to be used for some time, base regulations and Air Force instructions both require that vehicles be registered when possible. And in the current terrorist environment, it is easy to see why making base entry as secure as possible is a priority.

For that reason, the gate guards will be advising personnel using temporary passes that they need to bring in their documents to Pass and Registration (or in many cases their unit orderly room) and obtain a base decal.

Further, starting on Nov. 1, the gate guards will be confiscating any long-term temporary passes that were issued in lieu of a base decal.

Vehicles must comply with emissions requirements

BY TECH. SGT. WILLARD MINNICH

377th Security Forces Squadron

Anyone requesting a vehicle being registered on base must prove that the vehicle is in compliance with Bernalillo County emissions requirements. Therefore, any vehicle registration from outside Bernalillo County must pass an emissions test performed in Bernalillo County within the last 90 days.

The following vehicles are *exempt* from emission testing:

- Any vehicle during the first two registration periods (four years – currently 2001-2004)
- Any vehicle built in model year 1974 or earlier
- Motorcycles
- Vehicles over 10,000 lbs GVWR (certain motor homes, etc.)
- Non-gasoline engines (diesel, alternative fuel and

gas-electric hybrid vehicles).

This is in accordance with federal regulations: any federal agency registering vehicles must ensure that those vehicles are in compliance with local emissions control requirements.

Regardless of whether your vehicle is in compliance with emissions guidelines in its place of origin (another state, or even another county in New Mexico), in order to be registered on base, every vehicle must comply with Bernalillo's requirements.

People registering (or re-registering) a vehicle need to bring their identification card and driver's license, and their vehicle's state registration and proof of insurance. Also, certain vehicles will need to provide proof that their vehicle has had an emissions test. Pass and Registration is open from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays and Wing down-days.

Honorary commanders learn how Kirtland helps families during deployments

BY JIM TEET

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Several members of Kirtland's Honorary Commanders Advisory Council recently asked Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, how the Air Force takes care of families while members are deployed around the world.

Twenty-one KHCA members gathered for lunch at the Mountain View Club Tuesday, and learned firsthand from several Kirtland AFB organizations and spouses about base support efforts.

Colonel Andrews opened the presentation by explaining, "Air Force leaders have two main responsibilities in terms of deployment: to train hard so people who deploy have the very best chance of being successful and returning home safely. The other piece of this is that, while they're gone, we take good care of their families left on the home front and make sure they know they're just as much a part of the team as those who are

deployed."

Ray Burton, chief of Kirtland Family Support Center, discussed the Hearts Apart Program. More than 550 families are enrolled in the local support organization designed for families of deployed members.



Photo by Todd Berenger

Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, talks with Honorary Commander James Lewis before the luncheon

group visits to zoos and family entertainment centers.

Antonio Benavidez spoke briefly about her experiences and trials at home while her husband, Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Edmundo Benavidez, stood

Membership isn't limited to Kirtland AFB it includes all services and Guardsmen and Reservists located throughout New Mexico.

One of the key features of the program is maintaining personal contact with families and conducting organized programs each month.

"This helps us be aware when someone needs help or a referral to another support agency," said Mr. Burton.

Hearts Apart organizes monthly activities that may provide quiet time for spouses while children play arcade games, or arrange

at her side. Sergeant Benavidez just returned from 15 months in Southwest Asia. She recounted her feelings of helplessness at first, but her determination to "make it work" and finding and joining Hearts Apart helped her endure crises such as air conditioner failure and spoiled food when the freezer compressor failed.

Many base organizations help support families. Representatives from services, the clinic, chapel, a first sergeant and the officer spouses' club briefly discussed how they contribute to personal care for the families. Support ranges from free automobile inspections and oil changes to other spouses living throughout Albuquerque maintaining personal contact and being available to help provide transportation or just camaraderie whenever needed.

"I had never thought about support being given to local families," said Dennis Falk, honorary commander for Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center. "It's obvious the Air Force has thought of it and is doing a great job supporting spouses and families while members are overseas."

Randy Sanchez, honorary commander for 58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, added, "This briefing was very informative; there are a lot of things I was unaware that the military is concerned about with families, and I think there are ways we in the community can find to help support families as well."

For more information about Hearts Apart and other family support agencies, contact Mr. Burton at the Family Support Center, 846-0741.