

## TPS Class 05B to graduate Saturday

By Della Perry

U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School

The U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School will have more than 2,600 alumni, as Class 05B graduates 22 of its finest, Saturday.

Eleven pilots, 9 engineers and two navigators from the U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps, as well as students from Italy and Japan are added to its roll.

As varied as the students themselves are their feelings about TPS.

“As a Marine aviator, experiencing the Air Force flight methods and procedures, as well as the Air Force way of life, has been rewarding both professionally and personally,” said Marine Maj. Robert Fails, TPS Class 05B class leader. “The officers of 05B are a top-notch group that the Air Force is lucky to have not only in the flight test community, but the service in general.”

The students have completed one of the most challenging and demanding courses in the world, said Col. Andre Gerner, TPS commandant. “I’m very proud of each and every one of them.”

Each student has completed over 520 hours of academics and approximately 120 hours of in-flight training. Each student also put in about six hours per day of instructor contact time, not including time spent in academic and flight preparation.

“It was a great experience,” said Capt. Jason Eckberg, TPS student. “I especially enjoyed the opportunity to fly more airplanes than I ever thought I would get a chance to.”

Part of the academic portion of the student’s year at TPS is a final exercise where the students demonstrate learning from across the curriculum as they execute real-world test management projects.

The projects for Class 05B were:

### “HAVE BAT”

This test management project investigated the theory of boundary avoidance tracking. Boundary avoidance tracking occurs when a pilot is performing a tracking task, such as maintaining formation position, with boundaries imposed on the performance of the task. The theory is that when the pilot approaches a boundary, the tracking task will be abandoned until the boundaries are successfully avoided; in other words, the pilot begins tracking the boundaries instead of the original tracking task.

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Photo by Chad Bellay

## Fueling the future

A B-52 Stratofortress touches down on Edwards’ main runway Monday to undergo testing on a synthetic fuel. Before testing can begin, the aircraft’s engines will be modified with instrumentation to measure key engine pressures, temperatures and physical characteristics like fuel flow. This will allow testers to determine if the new F-T fuel has changed the operating characteristics of the engine. The first on-aircraft engine runs with F-T fuel are planned to take place in early September. These runs are expected to take two weeks, followed by another two weeks of flight testing by the 419th Flight Test Squadron.

## Edwards firefighters join in 104.8-mile run through Mojave desert

By Tech. Sgt. Eric M. Grill  
95th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Edwards Firefighters joined a former smokejumper June 2 on his quest to run 104.8 miles in under 25 hours for charity.

The 12 firefighters performed a relay to accompany Ken Perry, a Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management employee, throughout his 17-mile trek across Edwards – about one sixth of Mr. Perry’s route, which began in Red Bluff, Calif., and took him through the Mojave Desert to Valencia, Calif.

Mr. Perry, who injured himself during a smokejumping mission a few years ago, made his attempt at the “Mega Run” to raise money for the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, a

non-profit organization that helps injured firefighters and the families of firefighters killed in the line of duty. Last year, Mr. Perry ran two consecutive marathons in the same day raising more than \$42,000.

“We’re all part of a family in the fire department,” said Chris Lindsay, a 95th Civil Engineer and Transportation Directorate firefighter. “It doesn’t matter if you’re federal, county, state ... we’re all one family and these things are just an opportunity for us to show how much we support one another.”

The ultra-marathon runner entered the base through the North Gate and was met by Senior Airman Joshua Mitchell, a 95th Security Forces patrolman, who provided traffic control throughout the base run for

Mr. Perry and his support team entourage. This is also the point at which the Edwards firefighters started their relay over a 17-mile stretch of the base.

“Any little contribution we can make in his effort, we’re all for it,” said Tyson Cardenas, another volunteer runner from the Edwards fire department. “Anytime someone gets hurt on the job ... we’re there for one another because we’re all brothers in the same career field.”

In all, the “Edwards crossing” took about three-and-a-half hours to complete.

During the run, Mr. Perry said he appreciated being able to come through the base.

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**ORI Countdown**  
Days left until the Operational Readiness Inspection:  
**268**

**Inside this week**



**BAF tests newest BMWs**  
Edwards’ Benefield Anechoic Facility conducts electromagnetic interference testing on new BMWs



**DHS graduates Class of 2006**  
The Desert High School graduating Class of 2006 receive more than \$1.9 million dollars in scholarships



**412th AMXS opens season**  
Two units from the 412th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron face off in the intramural softball season opener

# Former firefighter runs across base for charity

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"It made our route a lot easier not having to worry about so much traffic (off base)," he said. "The way the fire department and the (Security Forces) are helping us out here ... is nice and appreciated."

Lori Greeno, a recipient of assistance from the Wildland Firefighter's Association after her husband John was killed in the line of duty in March 2005, was part of Mr. Perry's team. While warning motorists driving by of runners ahead, a military member and his family pulled along side her and asked what was going on. After explaining the purpose of Mr. Perry's run to the family, Ms. Greeno said the military member asked if she would accept a donation.

"I don't know how much he gave me, but the individual basically emptied his wallet," she said. "Their comment was, 'gee it's not much,' but I said back to them 'it's ok, everything helps.' In my mind I'm thinking though that 'it doesn't matter how much you give, it matters that you're willing to give.'

"The spontaneous donation is special because I know there will be families in the future that will benefit from the donations, just like I did when I was in their position."

Edwards Firefighter Phillip Remley said his reasoning for supporting the run was because Mr. Perry is a member of the firefighting brotherhood.

"(The fire department) is a brotherhood because we spend more time at work with these guys than we do with our own families ...," Mr. Remley said. "So you really do become close with everybody. You look at them as brothers as time goes on. We fight, we bicker and we have fun and we laugh; it really is a brotherhood.

"Even though I've never met Ken before and I don't know much about him, just knowing that he is a firefighter and he is one of our



Photo by Capt. Catie Hague

(From left to right) Edwards firefighters John Miller, Tyson Cardenas and Capt. Chris Lindsay run alongside former firefighter Ken Perry and two members from his medical team, bike riding, as Mr. Perry runs from the North Gate to the South Gate on June 2. Mr. Perry crossed Edwards as part of a 104.8-mile run benefitting the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps injured firefighters and the families of firefighters killed in the line of duty.

kind (I'd say) it's great to be able to help him out and participate in an event like this."

As for the quest to run four consecutive marathons in under 25 hours, Mr. Perry was able to complete a little more than two of them before an injury to his right knee forced him to stop.

True to their form though, firefighters already scheduled to join Mr. Perry on his

run through the Antelope Valley and the Angeles National Forest continued carrying the "torch" and completed the remaining 47.8 miles in a spontaneous relay.

Debbie Santiago, the Department of Interior fire mitigation and education specialist for the Bureau of Land Management's Bakersfield office, summed up the final push.

"The brotherhood of hot-shot crews came

together and picked up the pieces and did what they would do on the fire line — finished the job."

So far, the "Mega Run" has brought in \$31,800 in pledges.

For more information on Mr. Perry's run, go online to the Wildland Firefighter Foundation Web site at [www.wffoundation.org/kperry06/main.htm](http://www.wffoundation.org/kperry06/main.htm).



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