

# Hometown

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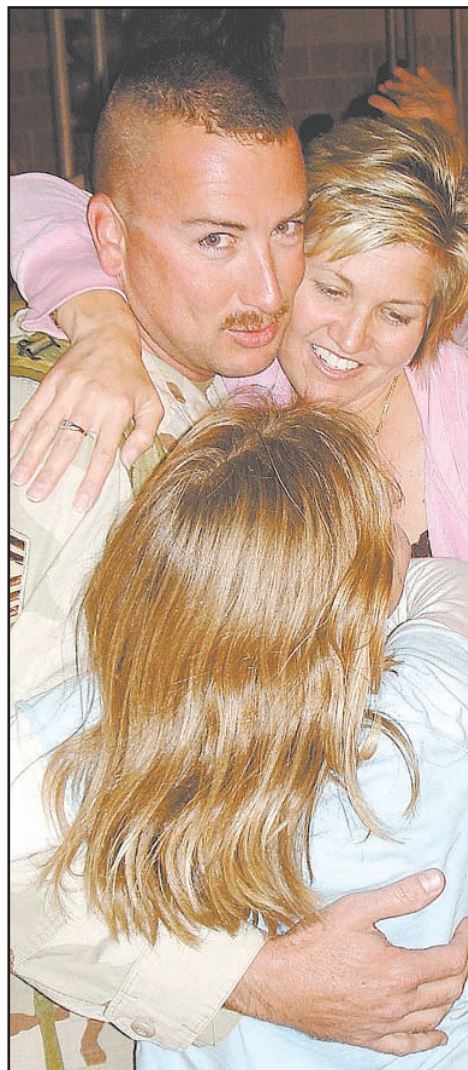
## Take pride in your local military

AN EDITORIAL BY COL RANDY FALCON

482nd Fighter Wing Commander

For those of you who don't know who I am, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Randy Falcon and I am the commander of the 482nd Fighter Wing, which is the Air Force Reserve unit at your local military base in Homestead. My job is to supervise the activities of the civilian and military members at Homestead Air Reserve Base, which is always challenging, but it's also extremely rewarding.

The reason I'm writing this article is to brag. I'm not bragging about myself, but rather about the nearly 2,500 full and part time military personnel that serve at Homestead Air Reserve Base.



Senior Master Sgt Michael Metzger, 482nd Maintenance Group, reunites with his wife, Connie, and his two daughters upon returning from Balad Air Base, Iraq on Friday evening, Jan. 20. About 40 reservist Airmen returned after spending up to 120 days supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Over 300 Airmen from Homestead have deployed to the Middle East in the past year.

(Air Force photo by Jake Shaw)

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Tech Sgt. William Gordon, 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, shows an Oktobersky Village School student how to ensure a part of the playground is leveled. Members of the 376 SFS and 376th Civil Engineer Squadron visited the school to begin construction of a new children's playground. Sergeant Gordon is deployed from the 482nd Security Forces Squadron, Homestead ARB, Fla.

(Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Candy Knight)

## Miami-Dade Fire Rescue holds groundbreaking ceremony for Station #65



Councilwoman Judy Waldman, Councilwoman Lynda Bell, Vice Mayor Steve Losner and Councilman Jeff Porter at the ceremonial ground breaking.



County and City officials and personnel from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue attended the ceremony.

On Thursday, October 5, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue held a groundbreaking ceremony for Fire Station #65 — the East Homestead Station.

The station, which will be located on SW 344 Street and SW 167 Avenue, will be a 7,000 square foot facility with two bays and will house an advanced life support unit. Commissioners Dennis Moss and Katy Sorenson, several City of Homestead council members and personnel from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, attended the ceremony. The expected completion date is May 2007.

This will be the second new fire station in Homestead. Construction has commenced on Station #66, the Villages of Homestead Fire Station, and is expected to be completed in February 2007.

## THANK YOU VETERANS!

Join the community in celebrating veterans during the Veterans Day Parade sponsored by the Military Affairs Committee of the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce at 12 noon in downtown Homestead on Nov. 11

