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a hit,**

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Staff sergeant list hits street

178 McChord Airmen selected for promotion

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force has selected 13,298 of 37,071 eligible senior airmen for promotion to staff sergeant, a 35.87 percent selection rate. Of those 13,298 nearly 200 are from McChord.

"These Airmen have shown they are ready for the next phase of their career," said Chief Master Sgt. Rusty Nicholson, enlisted promotion and military testing chief at the Air Force Personnel Center. "This group has proven through performance and preparation the desire to serve as the Air Force's newest NCOs."

The Air Force released the promotion list on Thursday. The complete list of selectees is available online at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

To enhance customer service, beginning with this promotion release, Airmen who tested will find their Weighted Airman Promotion System score notices posted on their Air Force Portal personal page and on the virtual Military Personnel Flight.

Upon accessing the Air Force Portal, eligible Airmen will see a WAPS score notice link that will direct them to their 2006 score notice.

Score notices allow Airmen to see how their Promotion Fitness Examination and Specialty Knowledge Test scores rank against those they're directly competing with for promotion within their Air Force Specialty Code.

The average score for those selected was 273.15 points, with the following averages:

- 131.59 points for Enlisted Performance Reports
- 59.76 for Promotion Fitness Exam
- 53.82 for Specialty Knowledge Test
- 17.90 for Time in Grade
- 11.28 for Time in Service
- 0.83 for Decorations

The average selectee has 2.02 years time in grade and 4.59 years in service. Those selected will be promoted to staff sergeant from September to August 2007. See Page 7 for a list of McChord's staff sergeant selects.

(Article courtesy of the Air Force Personnel Center. 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs contributed to this report.)



Photo by Master Sgt. Randy LeBrume

Fill'er up

One of McChord's C-17 Globemaster III's prepares for a mid-air refueling by a KC-135 Stratotanker from the Washington Air National Guard Monday over Central Oregon.

Local personnel training courses under way

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

With the conversion from the current General Schedule system to the National Security Personnel System less than six months away, McChord officials are taking steps to ensure 200 GS non-bargaining unit employees are trained on NSPS.

The first session of classes covering performance and management and human resources training was Monday and Tuesday at McChord's Clubs and Community Center.

"We need to do a good job of teaching and explaining NSPS if our workforce is under it because it can benefit them," said Jim Dicus, the

62nd Mission Support Squadron civilian personnel officer.

The main objective of the courses was to instruct participants on how to apply the principals of NSPS conversion, classification pay and compensation, as well as performance management, hiring, employment and workforce shaping.

Lt. Col. Marydarlene Morgan, 62nd Mission Support Group deputy commander, one of the course presenters, said the response to the new system has been mostly positive.

"It's important for these folks to realize there is a change — but the main idea is staying the same," she said. "[NSPS] is going to take care of things that have been a lot harder than they've needed to be once we get the new system in place."

Denis Martin, chief of management systems, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron said he is excited about the new system.

"The process is going to force us to put a mission face on every employee on McChord Air Force Base," he said. "Pay for performance, intuitively, is the way to go."

In addition to core specifics NSPS training, McChord officials will also offer a set of workshops through October to assist managers and supervisors in writing job objectives.

Current GS non-bargaining employees who will convert to NSPS in January 2007 will close out under the old system on Nov. 30, while appraisals will be conducted in December. Remaining employees at McChord will close out under the current cycle in March 2007.

Weekend Weather

| FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---------|----------|---------|
| | | |
| Hi: 71 | Hi: 74 | Hi: 77 |
| Low: 51 | Low: 49 | Low: 48 |

Forecast generated at 7 a.m. Thursday
Courtesy of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron

Mission accomplished

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Total McChord sorties | 11,147 |
| Total flying hours | 35,581.5 |
| Cargo moved (tons) | 95,566.9 |
| Departure reliability rate | .95% |
| Mission capable rate | .84.9% |
| Personnel currently deployed | 455 |
| Reservists currently activated..... | 289 |

(Jan. 1 to Tuesday. Numbers updated Tuesday.)

Don't miss it ...

Staff sergeant selection party

There will be a celebration for the recent staff sergeant selects Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at McChord's Clubs and Community Center.

Developing through changing times

By

Col. Shane Hershman
62nd Airlift Wing vice commander

I want to offer my congratulations to all of McChord's newest staff sergeant selectees! You have been chosen to take a big step in your Air Force career. Your promotion will challenge you to handle more responsibilities for yourself and those you will now be leading.

Similarly, every Airman — officer, enlisted or civilian — is also facing the challenge of handling more responsibilities as the Air Force reshapes itself as a leaner, more capable fighting force. As force shaping takes place, we will have to learn how to do our jobs more efficiently and more effectively.

As we transition to a leaner force, the great opportunities you sought when you joined the Air Force are still available. This week alone, two such options were highlighted on base — Tops in Blue and a special duty assignment briefing by Air Education and Training Command. Both high-

light opportunities in the Air Force for you to pursue your interests and develop your career.

These are just two examples, but there are many more available to you. From continuing education to working side-by-side with counterparts in the civilian sector, the Air Force offers many programs to broaden your skills and increase your knowledge. As the Air Force evolves, having a wide set of skills will become increasingly important to all Airmen.

In the Air Force, we know flexibility is the key to air power and our Airmen are our most valuable resource. We're becoming a sharper, more efficient fighting force and that evolution will happen through you, the Airmen.

I encourage everyone to take the time to learn about the opportunities available to you through the Air Force. Talk with your chain of command about developing your career and seek opportunities to improve your skills and yourself.

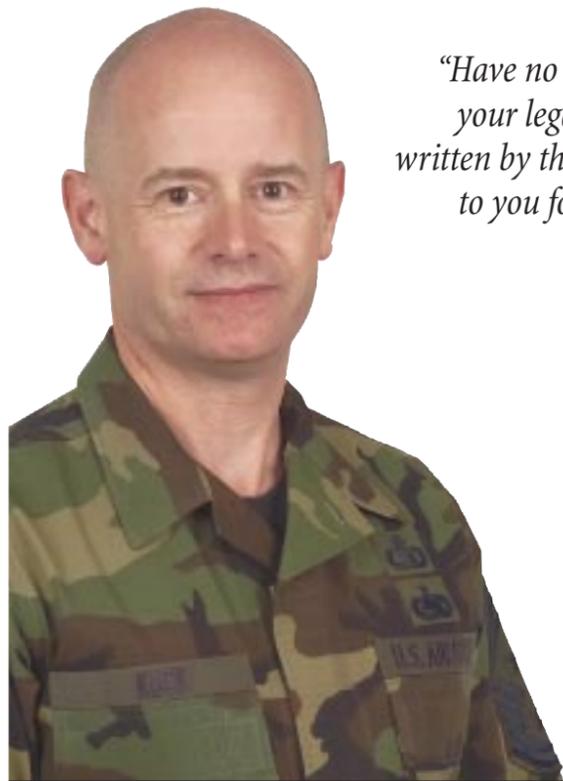
There are no limits to what you can achieve in the Air Force when you set your mind to it.

“We're becoming a sharper, more efficient fighting force and that evolution will happen through you, the Airmen.”

Col. Shane Hershman
62nd Airlift Wing
vice commander



How are people going to remember you?



“Have no doubt, as supervisors your legacy is currently being written by those who look to you for leadership.”

Chief Master Sgt.
Russell Kuck
62nd Airlift Wing
command chief

By

Chief Master Sgt. Russell Kuck
62nd Airlift Wing
command chief master sergeant

Recently, I caught myself thinking about my former supervisors and how each one played a part in my development as an Airman and as a chief.

Some were exceptional examples of professionalism, commitment to duty and leadership, like my first one Staff Sgt. Henry Pregnall III, while others filled in the “what not to do” blanks in my leadership style.

Their actions, or lack of action in some cases, formed a lasting impression on me. It is their legacy, or in other words how they will be remembered as an Airman.

Have no doubt, as supervisors your legacy is currently being written by those who look to you for leadership. They will remember your actions long after they've PCSed, retired or sepa-

rated from the Air Force.

Will your legacy be that of someone who was fair, consistent and honest, or are you creating an atmosphere of distrust and favoritism in your workcenter?

Over time, will you be remembered as someone more worried about your career than those you're responsible for taking care of?

Finally, when those you supervise find themselves looking back over their career years from now, will they credit their successes to you developing them to be the best Airmen they can be?

This will be your legacy. While your awards and decorations may gather dust over time, your personal sacrifices, commitment to those you supervise and dedication to setting the example as a good Airman will stand the test of time.

The greatest legacy you can leave for future Airmen is intangible — typifying all the best qualities of an Airman. Hooah!

Ask the Commander

E-mail ActionLine@mcchord.af.mil or
call 982-2222

Commander's Action Line

The Commander's Action Line provides a direct link of communication between you and me, with the goal of building a better community. Your concerns, questions and ideas are highly valued and are key in enhancing Team McChord's mission and community. I encourage you to give the professionals here, together with your chain of command, the opportunity to address your concerns directly.

However, questions that come through the Action Line have my personal attention. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number, so we can follow up with you. Comments and questions that apply to a large base audience will be published in the base newspaper.

Col. Jerry Martinez
62nd Airlift Wing commander

Q: Why must I apply for a credit card in order to be a club member?

A: Thanks for your question. First, this is not an issue applicable only to McChord. Having a valid club membership card is a condition of membership for all Air Force clubs, according to Air Force instructions.

The Air Force Services Agency does this for a few reasons: it gives members added value;

it provides a standardized system for all club customers throughout the Air Force; it saves money through the elimination of in-house account billings and collections; and it creates a stronger business-based environment for generating additional revenue.

There are many benefits and advantages with the Air Force club membership card that were not available with the “old” membership card.

These include the ability to charge at participating services activities no matter where you are; the ability to transfer membership during permanent change of station moves; the choice of five payment methods; and customer access to a wide variety of special programs.

If you have any more questions about club membership, please contact the club manager, at 982-5581.

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Keeping the enemy at bay

Every Airman plays an important role in the fight

By

Col. James Weber

62nd Maintenance Group commander

After moving from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to McChord, it was that time again — time to unpack. As usual, we got started by emptying our suitcases and hang-up bags first, followed by the cardboard boxes of family treasures we trusted only ourselves to unpack.

There, amidst the family photos, my wife Denise's jewelry and our wedding album, lay a weather-beaten, sheepskin cap. The honey-colored fur on the inside of the cap was matted and the dark brown exterior was chipped and flaking, but the decal on the bill of the cap was still recognizable as the Air Force's emblem with the words "Army Air Forces" in block letters underneath.

That hat belonged to my Uncle Jack Brennan and carries with it a message — a message all of us in the profession of arms need to remember, especially in light of the Global War on Terror.

In the late 60's, Uncle Jack would frequently come to our house for dinner. I can remember sitting in rapt attention as he reminisced about the three years he spent in the Army Air Forces after being drafted at age 36 during World War II.

In the spring of 1944, he and a number of other 8th Air Force personnel were sent on temporary duty to Russia. They went via ship to Iran, then by truck and train to bases in what is now the Ukraine. They learned they were part of a plan to launch bombers from

England to Germany and then recover the bombers at Russian bases. Among other things, this strategy was supposed to keep the bombers from having to fly back through the enemy fighters they'd just passed.

Unfortunately for the allied forces, after the program's implementation, the Germans sent reconnaissance aircraft to follow the stream of B-17 Flying Fortress bombers to the landing fields in Russia.

Consequently, according to Army records, five hours after landing at Poltava, Ukraine, the B-17s of the 45th Bomb Wing were attacked by wave after wave of Luftwaffe bombers and fighters. The bombs illuminated the airfield with flares.

By morning, of the 72 B-17s that had arrived the previous afternoon, 44 were destroyed and another 26 were damaged.

Miraculously, due to the heroic actions of the Russians who lost more than two-dozen men, only one American lost his life.

Due to that attack, my uncle Jack found out then that none of us are "just ground pounders." We all play an important role in keeping the enemy at bay, even though a determined enemy can, and often does, get through to inflict their terror, despite all our best efforts.

Therefore, it is our responsibility, as commanders, to do our best to give the troops entrusted to our care the training they need to protect themselves. We must also remind all officers, noncommissioned officers and individual Airmen to be aware of the harm they face while deployed, so that they are always on guard.



Combat Airlifter

of the week

Senior Airman Trever Palmer

62nd Operations Support Squadron

Duty title:

Airfield management operations coordinator

Duty Section:

Airfield management operations

Hometown:

Covington, Wash.



What makes him so great?

Airman Palmer provided flawless flight-planning assistance to aircrews during June's Operational Readiness Inspection. He also helped prepare 62nd OSS' Airfield Management Operations section for the Air Traffic System Evaluation Program inspection. Additionally, Airman Palmer volunteered to update the aircrew visual aids in the flight planning room. His efforts helped ensure the latest information was available for all aircrews, which enhanced their flight safety.

Do you have a story idea?

Spread the news in *The Northwest Airlifter!*

Call public affairs at 982-5637 or e-mail us at northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil

Logistics teams rated war-ready

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

All the hard work Team McChord put into getting ready for the Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Program visit paid off Monday when the LSEP team certified McChord's logistics teams ready for war.

Capt. Mary Lent, 62nd Maintenance Group, said there is a general sigh of relief the inspection is over.

In the weeks leading up to the inspection, Captain Lent said the unit worked hard to get ready, so when the LSEP

team arrived, they were ready.

"It was about giving it a real hard look before the inspection to set our guys up for success," she said.

The functional areas the LSEP evaluators looked at were quality assurance, aircraft maintenance, aerial port, supply, fuels, transport and maintenance training.

The LSEP write-up said unit personnel "demonstrated exceptional professionalism, pride and dedication to their missions." The report also praised the positive attitude Team McChord displayed during the inspection and to the LSEP evaluators.

Col. James Weber, 62nd Maintenance Group commander, said he was pleased with the effort his team displayed.

"What a superb first impression," Colonel Weber said. "As the new guy on the block, I couldn't be any more proud to be part of this organization. Our combined maintenance teams put on an awesome demonstration of their diligence and technical expertise for the LSEP inspectors," he said. "[The LSEP inspectors] gave us one tough, but very fair inspection, and did us all a great favor by pointing out some areas that we will need to improve over the next weeks and months."

LSEP outstanding performers

The following individuals were recognized by the Logistics Standardization and Evaluations Program team for their outstanding performance during the inspection:

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Crone, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Kevin Ritchie, 62nd AMXS

Senior Airman Verl McCord, 62nd AMXS

Senior Airman Zachary Hoene, 62nd AMXS

Staff Sgt. Adam Swaim, 62nd Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Chris Pegram, 62nd MXS

Airman 1st Class Christopher Colorina, 62nd MXS

Staff Sgt. Ross Holmes, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Watkins, 62nd APS

Senior Airman Ryan Hall, 62nd APS

Senior Airman George Parker, 62nd APS

Airman 1st Class Ryan Pappas, 62nd APS

Amanda Devine, 62nd APS

Senior Airman Paulino De Aviladiaz, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Senior Airman McKane Gilbert, 62nd LRS

Airman 1st Class Edelyn Avellanosa, 62nd LRS

Airman 1st Class William Colley, 62nd LRS

Airman 1st Class Hyo Oh, 62nd LRS

Jeffrey Doll, 62nd LRS

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<https://62aw.mcchord.af.mil/56club/aadd/default.aspx>

For more information or to volunteer, call Staff Sgt. Nigel LeBlanc 982-5265 or Senior Airman John Harms at 982-6999.





Photos by Abner Guzman

Beautiful music

(Above) Tops in Blue vocalists perform for McChord Airmen and their families during a free concert Wednesday in Hangar 9. Tops in Blue showcases the talents of 35 active duty, amateur performers who competed in a series of talent competitions to become a part of the elite group of vocalists, musicians and dancers.

(Above Right) Senior Airman Shiloh Pogue, a Tops in Blue vocalist performs a song for Team McChord and their family members. This year's show featured the music of renowned musicians Tina Turner, Barry White and the Temptations, as well as Celine Dion, Trisha Yearwood, Alan Jackson, Kelly Clarkson, Huey Lewis and Rod Stewart.

(Right) Tops in Blue vocalists Senior Airman Matthew Bowman and Staff Sgt. Tenisia Jones perform a song for McChord's Airmen and their families during the concert.



Congrats to McChord's new promotees



The following individuals from McChord were recently selected as staff sergeants:

Katina Chapa, 1st Air Support Operations Group
John Ferderer, 1st Weather Squadron
Lucas Erickson, 4th Airlift Squadron
Christal O'Malley, 4th AS
Eric Pietras, 4th AS
Christopher Shull, 4th AS
Grailin Blamer, 5th Air Support Operations Squadron
Jeff Martin, 5th ASOS
William Walden, 5th ASOS
Timothy Bolen, 8th Airlift Squadron
Joseph Cimino, 8th AS
Joshua Crain, 8th AS
Joshua Denny, 8th AS
Stephanie Goodrich, 8th AS
Daniel Isaacson, 8th AS
Kyle Prewitt, 8th AS
Jonathan Rogers, 8th AS
Jeffrey Scheire, 8th AS
Drew Shapiro, 8th AS
Kory Williams, 8th AS
George Johnson, 10th Airlift Squadron
Kevin Slagle, 10th AS
Jeremiah Thompson, 10th AS
Jeramia Valentine, 10th AS
Dustin Fink, 22nd Special Tactics Squadron
Douglas Frinell, 22nd STS
James Graham, 22nd STS
Nathanael Hoag, 22nd STS
James Larsen, 22nd STS
Shaun Meadows, 22nd STS
Derick Sheatler, 22nd STS
Luke Van Dorston, 22nd STS
Aaron Williams, 22nd STS

Shawn Wilson, 22nd STS
Nicole Bouldin, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron
Reginald Harden, 62nd APS
Amber Harmon, 62nd APS
Jeremy Heifner, 62nd APS
Edward Johnson, 62nd APS
William O'Connor, 62nd APS
George Parker, 62nd APS
Joseph Robbins, 62nd APS
Mark Robertson, 62nd APS
Brandon Saludares, 62nd APS
Gary Steffensen, 62nd APS
Gregory Stucky, 62nd APS
Ryan Sullivan, 62nd APS
Jacob Watson, 62nd APS
Philip Witherspoon, 62nd APS
Alejo Blas, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Jeffrey Coleman, 62nd AMXS
Joseph Connot, 62nd AMXS
Efren Enriquez, 62nd AMXS
Timothy Gibson, 62nd AMXS
Tabor Gluth, 62nd AMXS
Aaron Goodrich, 62nd AMXS
Brandon Hall, 62nd AMXS
Daniel Hensley, 62nd AMXS
Zachary Hoene, 62nd AMXS
Paul Larson, 62nd AMXS
Brandon Lewis, 62nd AMXS
Brandon Lindsey, 62nd AMXS
Latton Luttrell, 62nd AMXS
James Martin, 62nd AMXS
Christopher Mayo, 62nd AMXS
Eric Mittelstadt, 62nd AMXS
Kalan Moyer, 62nd AMXS
Garrett Oneto, 62nd AMXS
Joshua Patterson, 62nd AMXS
Dustin Ponder, 62nd AMXS
Justin Quinn, 62nd AMXS
Jonathan Reno, 62nd AMXS
Nicholas Rice, 62nd AMXS
Grace Rich, 62nd AMXS
Jason Rockwood, 62nd AMXS
Jason Sexton, 62nd AMXS
Christopher Tripp, 62nd AMXS
Trampass Warren, 62nd AMXS
Trevor Yoder, 62nd AMXS
Janilda Garnier, 62nd Airlift Wing
Jeffrey Mangalin, 62nd AW
May Scimone, 62nd AW
James Abney, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron

John Cote, 62nd CES
Manuel Garcia, 62nd CES
Jason Gatiss, 62nd CES
Jennifer Greer, 62nd CES
Kristie Timberlake, 62nd CES
Rebecca Tongen, 62nd CES
Eddie Valerio, 62nd CES
Adam Basford, 62nd Communications Squadron
Jon Bell, 62nd CS
Jordan Grace, 62nd CS
Joshua Hogge, 62nd CS
Austin Johnson, 62nd CS
Charles Lyddon, 62nd CS
Jacquelin Santiago, 62nd CS
Joshua Strom, 62nd CS
Loran Tarter, 62nd CS
Justin Wilgus, 62nd CS
Jessica Wilhelm, 62nd CS
Paul Henderson, 62nd Comptroller Squadron
Eric Cagle, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
Ravineel Chand, 62nd LRS
Nicholas DeLeon, 62nd LRS
Kevin Donnelly, 62nd LRS
Gerardo Flores, 62nd LRS
Jameson Flores, 62nd LRS
Charlotte Forester, 62nd LRS
Robert Gaugh, 62nd LRS
James Jensen, 62nd LRS
Andrew Johnson, 62nd LRS
Zachary Mize, 62nd LRS
Justin Nolan, 62nd LRS
Caramel Padrones, 62nd LRS
Garrett Pope, 62nd LRS
Mori Sakios, 62nd LRS
Brent Taylor, 62nd LRS
William Underhill, 62nd LRS
Ricky West, 62nd LRS
Erich Boehm, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
Luis Cardona, 62nd MXS
Corey Dawson, 62nd MXS
Paul Ferrigno, 62nd MXS
John Harms, 62nd MXS
Ghassan Khan, 62nd MXS
Tania Leeman, 62nd MXS
Joshua Martin, 62nd MXS
Priscilla Mason, 62nd MXS
Enrique Matos, 62nd MXS
Michael Mihalyi, 62nd MXS
Brian Mundy, 62nd MXS
Gareth Murphy, 62nd MXS

Edward Nassy, 62nd MXS
Brian Neill, 62nd MXS
Roberto Peralta, 62nd MXS
Andrew Post, 62nd MXS
Jeremy Rice, 62nd MXS
Laura Burk, 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron
Michael Relyea, 62nd MOS
Ricardo Rivera, 62nd MOS
Adam Beach, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron
Bernie Bernante, 62nd MDOS
Amanda Jenney, 62nd MDOS
Robert Quitano, 62nd MDOS
Jonathan Thomas, 62nd MDOS
Nikolai Adderley, 62nd Medical Support Squadron
Laramie Cosek, 62nd MDSS
Vanessa Cruz, 62nd MDSS
Dayna Derringer, 62nd MDSS
Chavez Gomez, 62nd MDSS
Demetrius Office, 62nd MDSS
Midiatrix Ortiz, 62nd MDSS
Angela Pfaff, 62nd MDSS
Jeffery Taylor, 62nd MDSS
Tameshia Tufts, 62nd MDSS
Raquel Onedera, 62nd Mission Support Squadron
Carl Barksdale, 62nd Operations Support Squadron
Timothy Bills, 62nd OSS
Robert Smithson, 62nd OSS
Charles East, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
Thomas Hoover, 62nd SFS
Jonathan Horsley, 62nd SFS
Elizabeth Rice, 62nd SFS
James Sharpe, 62nd SFS
Heather Gensman, 62nd Services Squadron
Michael Steimer, 62nd SVS
Darrell Delacruz, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 895
Krista Balaez, Inbound
Clayton Greenwell, Inbound
Scott Gebauer, Inbound
Jason Dumaliang, Inbound
Yolanda Parker, Inbound
Ronnie Seltun, Inbound
Daniel Strom, Inbound
Jacob Thompson, Inbound
Tanya Williams, Inbound
Wayne Woodard, Inbound

The U.S. military

AROUND THE WORLD



Photo by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

ROYAL AIR FORCE LAKENHEATH, ENGLAND — Airman 1st Class Matt Aggers, left, and Staff Sgt. Randy Broome perform a final check on the wings of four small-diameter bombs loaded on an F-15E Strike Eagle Aug. 1. (AFPN)



Photo by Shahla Hammond

ABDARA, Afghanistan — Members of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team and volunteers unload a truckload of supplies recently. (AFPN)



Photo by Master Sgt. John Lasky

CHIEVRES AIR BASE, Belgium — Senior Airman Tony Brown Jr. tests a water pump recently. Airman Brown is with the 309th Airlift Squadron. (AFPN)



Photo by 1st Lt. Mark Uberuaga

NGORONGRO, Tanzania — Capt. Nichelle Brokering hands out crayons, pencils and stickers to children at a Maasi village kindergarten school recently after climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. (AFPN)





Second Lt. Wayne Solley, detail commander from the 62nd Communications Squadron, holds the flag while dismissing the pall bearers to the firing line to perform a 21-gun salute.



From left, Airman Rouser, Airman Brown, Airman Moore, Airman Sells, Airman Stepteau and Airman Lowry ready the casket to be placed on the caisson.



Lieutenant Solley holds the flag during the playing of "Taps" before presenting the flag to the family.



From left, Airman 1st Class Quinn Lowry, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron; Senior Airman Joshua Stepteau, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Beonville Rouser, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Trenton Moore, 62nd AMXS; Airman 1st Class Traylor Sells, 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron; Senior Airman Darryl Brown, 62nd Civil Engineering Squadron; Airman 1st Class Moneca Cepeda, 62nd Security Forces Squadron and Senior Airman John Paul Ammons, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, present arms during the playing of "Taps."

Honor Guard always on call

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Neatly pinned on a bulletin board encased in glass, each handwritten thank you card and heartfelt letter is proudly on display for all those who set foot in the honor guard office at McChord.

"That's my baby," said Tech. Sergeant Douglas Pecor, 62nd Services Squadron, beaming with pride while admiring the fruits of his team's hard work. "I tell all the young guys to read the letters. The lasting impression we leave on these families is important. It helps them understand what they're doing."

Seventy-two active duty military members, all pulled from different squadrons on base, make up McChord's Honor Guard. It performs details at parades, retirements and changes of command, as well as providing color guards for civic events.

However, the guard's main mission is to provide funeral honors for veterans, retired and active military. In 2005 McChord's Honor Guard performed 907 details, 697 of which were funerals, in 47 counties in Western Washington and Oregon.

The honor guard's duties at funerals include administering the service, the presenting of the flag to the widow and serving as pall bearers as well as the firing party and the buglers.

Each officer must be proficient in each position, which takes many hours to master, said Senior Airman Kalan Moyer, last year's Honor Guard Member of the Year from the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Airman Moyer said it took him nearly 200 hours to become proficient at all the duties.

"It takes hundreds of hours of training," said Airman Moyer. "And that's just getting down the basics."

Learning the physical duties that go into the conducting the ceremonies are one thing, coping with the realities of being an active part of a military funeral is another story.

Airman 1st Class Eric Worsham said he volunteered to be a part of the honor guard but admitted he didn't know exactly what he was getting into.

He said he was once stung by a bee in the middle of detail, but still managed to keep it together.

"Maintaining your composure at all times [during the funeral] is the hardest part," Airman Worsham said.

Airman Moyer said it took him a while to get used to emotionally detaching himself from the ceremony and concentrate on doing his job.

"I still remember my grandfather's 21-gun salute at his funeral," he said. "It's nice to be able to take that memory and give it to someone else."

The honor guard most looks forward to making appearances in the surrounding communities on holidays like Memorial Day and Veterans Day because the response from the community is always positive, said Sergeant Pecor. He said this past Memorial Day he sent 12 teams of color guards out to various ceremonies.

In those situations, it is imperative the Honor Guard look sharp and put on a strong demonstration.

"We have a great reputation here in the Northwest," Sergeant Pecor said. "We're in the public's eye more than any group on base."



From left, Airman Rouser, Airman Moore, Airman Stepteau, Airman Brown and Airman Sells escort a casket to the grave site.



Airman 1st Class Adisney Martinez, 62nd Medical Support Squadron, plays "Taps" on the bugle during military honors.



Airman Lowry, Airman Stepteau and Airman Sells await the command to proceed to a casket.

Professor returns to AF roots

By

Staff Sgt. Tiffany Orr
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Success is something we all desire, whether it's financial or personal. Most of the time reaching your goals takes hard work and dedication — two qualities synonymous with success in the Air Force.

For one former Airman, it was these characteristics which not only put him on the road to success, but also led him back to the Air Force.

"I learned how to learn and how to believe in myself in the Air Force,"

said Dr. Chris Chaves, the program coordinator for the Southern University of Illinois-Carbondale at McChord. "[The Air Force] just opened up the world to me. The discipline that was necessary was hard at first. You couldn't just get up and quit. You learn tenacity. It trains you for the real world."

While in the Air Force, Dr. Chaves took advantage of the educational opportunities the Air Force offered.

"I finished a bachelor's degree program at SIUC in 1990," he said.



CHAVES

Then, as his second tour of duty was ending, Dr. Chaves opted to get out of the Air Force.

"I think after Desert Storm everyone was fatigued," he said. "I got out of the military because I was tired."

After leaving the military, however, the real world wasn't as friendly as Dr. Chaves had hoped. He felt something was missing.

"When I got out I missed the family and the esprit de corps of the Air Force," he said.

However, the skills he learned in the Air Force helped him earn a master's degree and a doctorate.

"Again I have to credit in part the perseverance and tenacity I learned in the Air Force," he said. "Failure is not an option, you don't quit."

Fran Miniken, the assistant program coordinator for McChord's SIUC branch said Dr. Chaves is someone all Airmen can look up to.

"I think being as young as he is [and to have accomplished so much], he's a good example for Airmen," she said. "They might realize that what they want to accomplish in life is not too far out of their grasp."

For that reason, now that he gets a chance to work with Airmen, Dr. Chaves encourages them to get their education while they can.

"In the 21st century, a bachelor's degree is what's necessary in the Western world," he said. "It's important for Airmen to complete their education when they're young and have time because they will definitely need to be lifelong learners. That's a non-negotiable in this world."



Brush with humanity

Maj. Alesia Quiton, 62nd Maintenance Squadron commander, and Airman 1st Class Jeremy Bryant, 62nd MXS, paint a house as part of Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful, an organization that enlists the help of volunteers to paint the homes of low-income seniors and disabled people in Pierce County.



Operation Purple Camp Washington a hit

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

As the CH-47 Chinook helicopter touched down in the midst of a whirlwind of dust and debris, the rear door opened and four Army Reservists wearing full military garb and holding rubber weapons stormed out to greet the children.

"It got them going," said Gabe Laramie, Operation Purple Camp counselor from the 62nd Services Squadron, of the roaring introduction campers received.

After the initial shock of the surprise landing faded, campers got the opportunity to talk to the Reservists, tour the helicopter and talk to the pilots.

It was all a part of Operation Purple Camp Washington, a six-day camp for children at the Navy's Jim Creek Wilderness Recreation Area near Arlington, Wash.

Seventy-four children of military members from each branch of the military in the state attended the camp. The camp was open to children entering seventh to 12th grade who had one parent deployed or orders to be deployed before March 2007.

According to the National Military Family Association, which sponsors Operation Purple Camp, the goal of the free summer camps is to bring together children who are experiencing the stress that goes along with having a deployed parent.

Con Fisher, the 62nd Services Squadron youth center director who also served as Operation Purple Camp's director, said the event was a success.

"In the group circle at the end of camp, a number of kids said it was the best camp they had attended," Mr. Fisher said.

The camp offered several activities for campers including hiking, canoeing, kayaking and mountain biking. Mr. Fisher said it was also the only Operation Purple Camp in the organization's 26 different state locations to offer white water rafting.

In addition to all the outdoor and team building activities, the camp also provided chances for children to share their experiences with deployment and hear from special guest speakers.

"I think the biggest thing for the kids was for them to be in a tent with other kids going through the same thing," Mr. Laramie said. "They helped each other a lot."

Mr. Fisher said there were also two health care professionals on the camp grounds if any campers needed someone to talk to.

Despite the success of this year's camp, Mr. Fisher said he's already thinking of ways to improve the camp for next year. He said those changes could include moving the camp to a location closer to McChord, adding a younger age group and possibly extending the length of the camp from six days to ten.



Courtesy photos

(Above) Children of deployed military members enjoy white water rafting recently during Operation Purple Camp at the Navy's Jim Creek Wilderness near Arlington, Wash.



Operation Purple Camp participants check out the inside of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter.



Campers climb one of the obstacle courses at Operation Purple Camp. More than 70 children with at least one deployed parent attended the camp.

T-shirts offered as incentive for fitness program

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer



If a clean bill of health isn't a good enough reason to start getting in shape, here's another — free T-shirts.

The McChord Fitness Center Incentive Program offers free T-shirts to those tough and committed enough to complete six different feats of strength and agility.

The program, which has been in existence for a little over a year, offers patrons the chance to achieve different milestones in weight lifting, aerobics, swimming, biking and running.

"We try to diversify it because not everyone likes to do the same thing," McChord Fitness Center director Bill Johnson said. "We try to encompass

the major activities that people can concentrate on."

The Lift a C-17 Pound Club, where lifting more than 585,000 pounds (the weight of the aircraft) gets you a T-shirt and the Lazy Triathlon, where families can spread out the events among themselves to complete the task, are among the feats.

"We try and give a little quirkiness to it," Mr. Johnson said. "It's an incentive booster. It rewards somebody for their efforts."

If participants can't make it to the fitness center to work out, they can count the mileage ran or biked in an outside event or on their own and count it toward the challenge.

In order to get credit for doing the work, participants must sign up at the fitness center and record their progress in a book at the front desk.

For RV lot manager and Air Force

veteran Tana Welling, the program has been a good way to help her track her progress in the weight room.

Mrs. Welling, who has been powerlifting for 12 years, is well on her way to becoming a member of the Lift a C-17 Pound Club.

"It's been a boost to get in there and keep doing it," Mrs. Welling said.

Mrs. Welling said last month she lifted more than 365,000 pounds. "This is the first time that I've logged how much I've lifted."

She said she's excited at the prospect of earning a T-shirt to show off all her hard work.

"Before, I was just going in lifting for the heck of it," she said.

The other challenges in the program include tallying 60 hours of aerobic activity, swimming 100 miles, biking 1,000 miles and running 250 miles.

Worker retraining

A representative from Tacoma Community College's Worker Retraining Program will be at the base education center, Bldg. 851 at 1:30 p.m. Monday to brief individuals about the training options Washington offers those who are separating from the military. Spouses are also invited to attend. For more information, call Bruce Houseman at 982-3149.

PCS workshop

McChord's Airman and Family Readiness Center in Bldg. 551 is having its Smooth Move workshop from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Aug. 23. Representatives from several base agencies will be on hand to answer questions. To RSVP, call 982-2695.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 25 in Bldg. 1210.

Scholarship

The McChord Chief's Group is offering scholarships to active duty, enlisted personnel in grades E-1 through E-5 who are pursuing mid-level and advanced degrees. Scholarship applications may be obtained from the base education center, Bldg. 851, any McChord active duty chief master sergeant or the McChord Chief's Group Intranet site at <https://62msg.mcchord.af.mil/chiefs/default.aspx>. Scholarship applica-

tions are due by Aug. 28 and can be sent via e-mail to rodney.billinghurst@mcchord.af.mil or given to your group superintendent or any chief master sergeant at McChord. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Rod Billinghurst at 982-7071.

Voting hotline

A voting action hotline has been set up for questions and information about voting at 982-VOTE. Information on voting is also available on McChord's Voting Assistance Intranet Web site at <https://62aw.mcchord.af.mil/VotingAssistance/default.asp>, the Federal Voting Assistance Web site at <http://www.fvap.gov>, by calling Maj. Rob Schmidt at 982-9937 or speaking with a unit voting representative.

Cub Scouts troop

There will be a sign up for Cub Scouts for boys in first through fifth grades at 6 p.m. Sept. 19 at McChord's Escape Zone. For more information, call Capt. Ernie Fox at 982-8793.

DOD decals

Department of Defense vehicle decals are issued from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the visitor control center. Decals may also be obtained 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in Bldg. 100, Suite 1001E. Reservists may obtain decals in Bldg. 100, Suite 1001E,

only during Reserve weekends from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. People must have their current vehicle registration, driver's license, proof of insurance and DOD identification card to obtain a decal. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Charles Kidwell at 982-2256 or 982-1995.

Base housing lawn watering

Due to hot weather and the drastic increase in water usage, a base housing summer lawn watering schedule has been implemented effective immediately. Odd numbered homes water on odd days and even numbered homes water on even days. Please water before 10 a.m. or between 6 and 10 p.m. Total daily watering should not exceed two hours.

Multimedia Web site

The base multimedia center invites those with access to McChord's Intranet to visit its newly revamped Sharepoint Web site at <https://62msg.mcchord.af.mil/62CS/SCS/SCSM/basemultimedia/default.aspx>. Individuals can access photos from recent shoots on the site.

POW/MIA luncheon

This year's Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Luncheon is scheduled for 11 a.m. Sept. 14 at McChord's Clubs and Community Center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Tammy Wagnendorf at 982-0327.



Faith and Worship Programs

For more information, call the chapel support center at 982-5556.

The following chapel programs take place at the base chapel support center, Bldg. 746, unless otherwise noted.

- **Faith Formation and Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults** are 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. through April.
- **Protestant Men's Bible**

- study** is 6:15 a.m. Thursdays.
- **Combat Brown Bag Bible study** is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays.
- **Adult Bible study** will resume in September.
- **Jewish Torah School Classes** for adults and children are 9:45 a.m. Sundays at Fort Lewis, Chapel Five.

Schedule of worship services

Catholic Services:

All Catholic Services are in Chapel Two
 Daily Mass Tuesday - Friday 11:30 a.m.
 Saturday: 4 p.m. Confession
 5 p.m. Mass
 Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Mass
 11 a.m. Mass

Protestant Services:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Liturgical Worship: Chapel One
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages: chapel support center
 11 a.m. Traditional Worship: Chapel One
 11 a.m. Contemporary service: chapel support center

Jewish Services:

Friday: 7 p.m. Fort Lewis Chapel
 Corner of 12th St. & Liggett 966-8949
 Led by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Avi Weiss

Orthodox Activities:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas Church, 15th & Yakima, Tacoma

Other services:

Orthodox Christian Community, Cascade Chapel, Fort Lewis
 Sundays: 8:45 a.m. pre-Communion prayers
 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Confessions are by appointment; call Father John Anderson at 967-1717 or 906-6843, or e-mail father.anderson@us.army.mil.

Names to Note

Senior Master Sgt. Sonny SanNicolas, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, recently earned the 2006 Gen. Lew Allen, Jr. award.

The following individuals received a 90 percent or higher on their end of course career development exam:

- **Staff Sgt. Michael Dean**, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Tanya Polzin**, 62nd Medical Support Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Bradley Tenbrink**, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Gregory Olsen**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron



Free SGLI coverage for Airmen

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — The National Defense Authorization Act recently established a new program to pay for some of the cost of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance premiums for Airmen.

Under the new program, which is retroactive to Feb. 1, 2006, the secretary of the Air Force will pay the monthly SGLI premium up to \$150,000 for military members who have insurance coverage under the SGLI program and are deployed in support of Operations Enduring or Iraqi Freedom any time during a month.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will periodically review pay records to identify members who are eligible to receive reimbursement. DFAS will calculate payment of the applicable monthly premiums for eligible members.

For more information on this program, e-mail Karen Van Pelt at karen.vanpelt@mcchord.af.mil.

Uniform on track for distribution

WASHINGTON — The new Airman Battle Uniform is moving into pro-

duction and on track for distribution to deploying Airmen next summer.

Patterns have been finalized and are being run through production to ensure sizing and garment construction as well as preparing for assembly-line operations, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, the Air Force uniform board superintendent.

Senior leaders want the warfighters to get the first ABUs, and Airmen deploying in the air and space expeditionary cycle 7/8 in May 2007 will receive two sets each of the new ABU and the current deployment uniform, the Desert Combat Uniform.

The ABU is the first utility uniform designed in both male and female sizes to replace the DCU and "woodland" patterned Battle Dress Uniform.

The ABU will be worn in the desert, stateside bases and in environments for which the BDU was originally designed.

After distribution to Airmen deploying next summer, Airmen in basic training will be issued the ABU beginning in October 2007.

Once that distribution system is in place, the ABU will be available

at Army and Air Force Exchange outlets for purchase by Airmen.

The expected mandatory wear date for the ABU is 2011.

RIRP begins Sept. 1

DENVER — The Reserve Income Replacement Program became effective Aug. 1. The first RIRP payments for eligible service members will begin Sept. 1.

The RIRP was developed to provide specific payments to eligible members of the National Guard and Reserve who are involuntarily serving on active duty — the term active duty includes full-time National Guard duty — and who are experiencing a monthly active duty income differential of more than \$50, as determined by the member's service secretary.

An active duty income differential is the difference between the average monthly civilian earned income of the member before mobilization and the member's total monthly military compensation while involuntarily mobilized, when the member's average monthly civilian income exceeds the total monthly military compensation.

RIRP is an entitlement that must be paid to all eligible servicemembers. For more detailed information about RIRP or assistance in determining or verifying RIRP eligibility, call the Reserve Personnel Contact Center at 800-525-0102.

Overseas assignment listing

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for overseas requirements for the April to June 2007 cycle is now available.

Airmen need to work through their military personnel flights to update their preferences by Thursday.

Deployed Airmen should work with their Personnel Support for Contingency Operations representatives to update assignment preferences. Airmen will be notified of their selection by Sept. 15.

EQUAL advertises upcoming assignment requirements by Air Force Specialty Code and rank. Members can review, prioritize and update their preferences based on the list.

Airmen can view the list on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or at their local MPF.

