

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

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The big chill

U.S. Antarctic Program photo by Forest Banks



A McChord C-17 Globemaster III drops pallets of cargo during the first C-17 airdrop to the South Pole, Dec. 20. Airmen from both the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings flew the mission which delivered 70 tons of supplies to the National Science Foundation.

Team McChord proves C-17s have global reach

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The capability of the C-17 Globemaster III and Team McChord Airmen reaches to the very end of the earth. That global reach was affirmed today when a Team McChord aircrew completed the first C-17 airdrop over the South Pole, delivering 70,000 pounds of supplies to the National Science Foundation.

While the C-17 and Team McChord aircrews have been supporting the NSF and Operation Deep Freeze at McMurdo Station for years, the South Pole airdrop was the first step in verifying the performance capability of the C-17, said Lt. Col. James McGann, 62nd Operations Group.

"We're just proving what we already said we can do," Colonel McGann said.

The airdrop was required in order to test the aircraft in the harsh conditions it will perform under should the mission continue. Crews wanted to see how the avionics systems, cargo ramp

and door and parachute deployment shoot perform under the -40 C temperature the C-17 and crew will encounter above Antarctica's frozen surface.

The flight also helped determine just how much cargo the airplane could safely carry and deliver to the drop zone and the exact route to take, said Lt. Col. Brian Robinson, 10th Airlift Squadron.

The mission also faced challenges on the receiving end at the drop zone.

The crew's drop zone control officer, Lt. Col. Greg Pyke, 97th Airlift Squadron, had to arrive five days before the drop to get used to working in the high altitude (9,300 feet above sea level) at the South Pole. In addition to serving as a liaison between the Air Force and the South Pole community, he also had to train a South Pole crew in charge of recovering the chutes. Communication between all crews was critical due to the brutal weather.

With the drop zone being two miles from the building and the temperature here around -30 C with just a little wind, it is very hard to work in it for very long, said Colonel Pyke.

The last air drop at the South Pole was in 1999 with a C-141 Starlifter and each of the pallets dropped weighed around 600 pounds, Colonel Pyke said. The NSF currently delivers rations and supplies to the South Pole via a fleet of LC-131 Samaritans, but the C-17 can carry the equivalent of four LC-131 missions in one drop, Colonel McGann said.

"The vision for the LC-131 is that it can be used more for science on Antarctica and less for delivery," Colonel McGann said. "The trick for us [with the C-17] is to maximize the ability to refuel the South Pole."

The airdrop was imperative to establish the training framework for seven McChord-based pilots and loadmasters who can mobilize for an emergency resupply or equipment airdrop, should the need arise, he said.

"If the NSF needs us again in the future, we'll know exactly how to plan it," Col. Robinson said. "It just gives them more options."

Colonel McGann said the ultimate vision is to eventually land a C-17 on the South Pole to deliver fuel and other large items.

Welcome back!

The men and women of McChord welcome
Col. Jerry Martinez,
62nd Airlift Wing commander,
home from deployment.



Look back before ringing in new year

By

Col. Jerry Martinez
62nd Airlift Wing commander

As the calendar turns over to January, it's traditional to pause and look back over the old year before looking ahead to the future. In fact, the month of January gets its name from Janus, a Roman god with two faces which allowed him to look both ahead and behind.

This past year has been another remarkable year for McChord. In January, offices throughout base found their way back into Bldg. 100 after more than three years in temporary offices throughout the base. I assumed command of the 62nd Airlift Wing in March and earlier the same month we renamed Main Street Col. Joe Jackson Boulevard.

In June, we showed Air Mobility Command what we're made of at our Operational Readiness Inspection and once again welcomed the Washington state Special Olympics to base. July saw McChord Airmen hard at work overseas as we helped American evac-

uees from Lebanon reach home safely.

We brought a great local hero, Medal of Honor recipient, retired Col. Joe Jackson, back out to base in August as Gen. Duncan McNabb joined us to dedicate a McChord C-17 Globemaster III as "The Spirit of Col. Joe M. Jackson." In November, we took local media down to Antarctica to cover McChord Airmen serving in Operation Deep Freeze.

Throughout all of these events, we've been hard at work deploying for Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom; laying the way for joint basing with Fort Lewis and launching, flying and recovering aircraft for more than 18,000 sorties. None of this would be possible without all of you, the hardworking Airmen — officers, enlisted and civilian — and our families and community who support us.

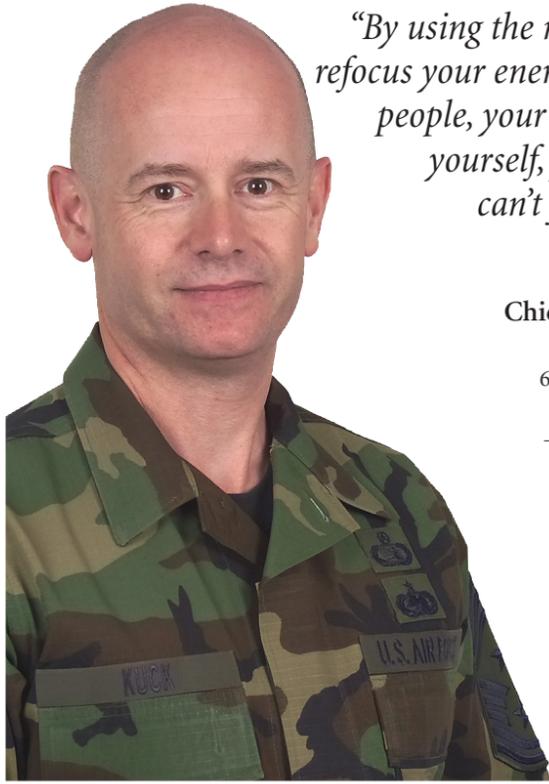
As we turn the calendar page and look ahead to a fresh year, I hope you resolve to do at least one thing the same — keep serving your country with the dedication, pride and excellence I have seen from you this past year. If you continue to do that, there's no limit to what we will accomplish together next year.

“... keep serving your country with the dedication, pride and excellence I have seen from you this past year.”

Col. Jerry Martinez
62nd Airlift Wing commander



Get ready for the new year with some easy resolutions



“By using the new year to refocus your energy on your people, your health and yourself, you can't fail.”

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

By

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

The new year is almost here and, like most people, you may have created a set of resolutions for 2007.

Well, bad news ... according to surveys, only about eight percent of Americans successfully achieve their new year resolutions, with 45 percent failing by the end of January.

I'd like to improve your chances for positive change next year. The following are a list of new year resolutions that will not only benefit you and the base, but are relatively easy to keep.

- Talk to your Airmen more. Our ops tempo is not going to slow down, so stop waiting for a “quiet moment” to discuss your Airmen's professional development, educational opportunities or career goals. Put a reminder on your outlook calendar and label it mandatory appointment.

- Stop talking on your cell phone while driving on base. I know what you're going to say

... you've never done that. Still, when you're in your car, turn your phone off. That way, you won't be tempted to answer it.

- Improve your fitness. Yes, it is an easy resolution. I didn't say become a marathon runner. Cut back on the foods you know are not good for you. Don't drive when you can walk, don't walk when you can run and don't run away from opportunities to be active.

- Stop parking in the wing commander's parking spot if you're not him. Also, stay out of the award-winner, pregnancy and handicap parking spots if you don't belong there. By doing so you'll not only stay out of trouble, you'll also increase the distance you have to walk a bit (see bullet 3).

- Focus on your education. Sign up for a class at the education office, consider an online course or take a College Level Examination Program exam. Education broadens our perspective and enhances our abilities to perform our mission. Think of your military education benefits as part of your pay and give yourself a raise.

By using the new year to refocus your energy on your people, your health and yourself, you can't fail. 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. The base jogging path from Bldg. 100 to Holiday Park used for physical training has some safety issues I think should be addressed. The crosswalk by the dorms has trees that block drivers' views of joggers, lighting is limited and joggers are running on the street in the dark on both sides of the street. Thank you.

A. Fitness and safety are two topics I am always interested in. I encourage Airmen to stay fit, but everyone should do so safely. Jogging is prohibited

on West and A streets, as well as Fairway, Lincoln and Col. Joe Jackson boulevards. Joggers should use base jogging paths and wear light-colored clothes and reflective belts when running near roads during hours of reduced visibility. Airmen can wear the Air Force physical training gear at all times without reflective gear. IPODs, MP3 players or other listening devices are prohibited for safety purposes.

The lighting levels along the base jogging paths as well as many sidewalks and intersections on McChord are not as well lit as I would like. So light-

ing levels along Barnes and Lincoln boulevards have been upgraded and a project has been identified to upgrade lighting on Col. Joe Jackson and Tuskegee boulevards.

My engineers examined your concern regarding the view at the crosswalk and found it within safe margins. They did, however, locate several unsafe conditions and will repair those areas along the path as funds become available. Thank you for bringing these important safety issues to my attention.

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10 C-17s fly in formation

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Like an “iron alligator” in the sky, a band of 10 C-17 Globemaster IIIs flew in formation across the skies of the South Sound and Eastern Washington Dec. 20.

Taking off in five minute intervals, C-17s with aircrews from the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings rendezvoused in the sky to align into a single file formation before performing an airdrop over a site near Moses Lake.

The objective of the exercise was to test all the organizations and different aspects of the mission that have to come together to facilitate launching, executing and recovering a large formation of C-17s in a short period of time, said Lt. Col. Gregory Schwartz, 8th Airlift Squadron and mission commander.

“It’s a great chance to get some valuable training and test our abilities to work together to meet a significant mission requirement,” Colonel Schwartz said.

Flying a mere 2,000 feet between each plane, the 10-ship exercise added a level of difficulty pilots don’t get when they are just simulating it flying in routine three-ship formations, Colonel Schwartz said.

The yearly exercise also enlisted the

work of the 62nd and 446th Maintenance Groups, which generated, launched, and recovered the aircraft; the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron which built and recovered the platforms for the airdrop portion of the mission; and the 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron which supplied the transportation and fuel for the aircraft.

The 62nd Maintenance Group had started planning for the operation a month ahead of time and even called in reinforcements to help prepare all the jets, said Lt. Col. Thomas Jackson, deputy group commander of the 62nd Maintenance Group.

Several maintenance training crews were pulled from their programs to get “real live hands-on training” and a team from the 373rd Training Detachment Squadron even pitched in, said Colonel Jackson.

“It’s probably the biggest undertaking we’ve had since the operational readiness inspection,” Colonel Jackson said.

While the exercise utilized the same training drop zones as usual for aircrews, the large formation presented a unique opportunity for pilots, said Col. Damon Booth, 62nd Operations Group.

“It’s routine training, just more complex because there are that many planes in the air at one time,” Colonel Booth said. “We’re trying to exercise the formation because it could be something we are required to do.”

AFPC announces major promotions

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force board members selected 2,518 captains for promotion to major in the 2006B line of the Air Force, chaplain, nurse corps and biomedical sciences corps central selection board.

McChord’s selectees are as follows:



Grant Fish, 4th Airlift Squadron
Dara Marcy, 4th AS
Brian Collins, 7th Airlift Squadron
John Kleven, 7th AS
Peter Lueck, 7th AS
Frederick Manuel, 7th AS
John Rozsnyai, 7th AS
John Wahrmond, 7th AS
Michael York, 7th AS
Matthew Bland, 8th Airlift Squadron
Ryan Boyle, 8th AS
Kevin Ehrich, 8th AS
Patrick McCoy, 8th AS
Aaron Reed, 8th AS
John Zohn, 8th AS
Michael Freyholtz, 10th Airlift Squadron
Joshua Larsen, 10th AS

Anne Lueck, 10th AS
Jason Morrison, 10th AS
Jennifer Murphy, 10th AS
Scott Palen, 10th AS
Phillip Shea, 10th AS
Corey Simmons, 10th AS
Brian Smith, 10th AS
Jennie Steldt, 10th AS
Andrew Stohlmann, 10th AS
Bradley White, 10th AS
Michael Evancic, 22nd Special Tactics Squadron
Daniel DeYoung, 62nd Airlift Wing
Victor Ruiz, 62nd Communications Squadron
Kathy Berger, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron
Ernest Fox, 62nd MDOS
Holly McFarland, 62nd MDOS
Raul Rubio, 62nd MDOS
Todd Ladd, 62nd Mission Support Squadron
David Lederer, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
Garner Hixson, Detachment 1, 605th Test and Evaluation Squadron
Robb Pritchard, Det. 1, 605th TES

DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the *Northwest Airlifter* is Friday, eight days prior to publication. If you have something you would like to see published in the *Northwest Airlifter* it can be sent via e-mail to the public affairs staff at northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil. Submission does not guarantee publication. Questions? Call the *Northwest Airlifter* at 982-5637.



Scholarship fund

The Pacific Northwest chapter of the Airlift/Tanker Association will award a \$500 scholarship to one deserving individual. For an application or more information, call 1st Lt. Gabe Arrington at 982-2002.

Tax clinic volunteers

Base legal personnel are seeking volunteers for the Volunteer Return Preparation Program, formerly known as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. Training will be provided. For more information, call the legal office at 982-5512.

Leave donations

The civilian personnel flight has received a request to solicit annual leave donations for

Trisha Daugherty, 62nd Mission Support Squadron, due to medical conditions. Any annual leave, even as little as one hour, would be greatly appreciated. To donate leave, complete OPM Form 630A and submit it to 62 MSS/DPCG, ATTN: Dinah Naputi. For more information, call Ms. Naputi at 982-3805.

UFT training

The Air Force Personnel Center is currently accepting applications for the undergraduate flying training selection board. The board will review active duty officer applications for selection for pilot, combat system officer and air battle manager training. For more information on the program or to apply, call formal training at 982-3357.

Lost and found

The 62nd Security Forces Squadron investigations section maintains a lost and found program for McChord. For items lost or misplaced on base within the last 180 days, call 982-2950.

Vehicle 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. Drivers must have their vehicle registration, driver's license, insurance and DOD identification card to obtain a decal. For more information, call 982-2256.

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 Youth Confirmation and Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults** are 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays,

through April.

● **Combat Brown Bag Bible Study** is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

● **Jewish Torah School Classes** for adults and children are 9:45 a.m. Sundays at Fort Lewis, Chapel Five.

0-0-1-3



**0 Drinks under age 21
0 DUI's
Max 1 drink per hour
Max 3 drinks in one night**

The medical standard is one drink for women or two drinks for men if daily drinkers. For periodic drinking, the standard is to keep the blood alcohol level or blood alcohol content under 0.05.

*Use personal risk management
Use situational awareness
Use your wingman
Use a friend*

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



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 at the 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 Street and Liggett Avenue 966-8949
Led by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Avi Weiss

Orthodox Activities:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas Church, 15th Street and Yakima Avenue, 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



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