

# The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

March 9, 2007

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## Colonel and Mrs. Coley: Thank you & good luck

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

Lt. Gen. Christopher Kelly, Air Mobility Command vice commander will retire Col. Chris Coley, 62nd Airlift Wing director of staff, at 9 a.m. today at McChord's Club and Community Center.

Colonel Coley is retiring after 26 years of service in the Air Force and three years here at the 62nd AW Operations Group and as the wing's director of staff.

"Colonel Coley will be remembered as an inspirational leader who cared for his people and took a common sense approach to tough situations," said Col. Jerry Martinez, 62nd Airlift Wing commander.

Colonel Coley's leadership style and lessons left a lasting impression on the Airmen he worked with over his three year tenure.

One Airman who worked for Colonel Coley remembered the wisdom he imparted on his troops.

"He stressed three important obligations that every military member held in common; a commitment to one's family, a commitment to one's faith and a commitment to serving one's country," Capt. Matt Venable, 62nd AW said. "At times, one of those commitments would need to take precedence over the other two, but it is absolutely vital that none of them are neglected for the long-term."

Besides the impact Colonel Coley left on his Airmen, he also left lasting contributions to McChord.

One of his greatest accomplishments at McChord was establishing the Air Crew Launch and Recovery Facility, also known as One Stop, which epitomized Lean Process Improvements by combining the functions of over ten agencies under a single roof. Implementation slashed launch processing time by 59 percent and recovery processing time by 51 percent.

During Colonel Coley's tenure here, he played an integral role in the wing's Operation Deep Freeze mission to Antarctica.

Colonel Coley was also involved in the humanitarian tsunami relief effort in Southeast Asia, as well as the Prime Nuclear Airlift Force missions.

Under his command, PNAF missions secured more than 325 war reserve nuclear weapons.

Colonel Coley's legacy of leadership and caring for people will be felt by many throughout the Air Force for years to come.

**Team McChord wishes Colonel and Mrs. Coley great success in their new endeavors. Thank you both for your many tremendous years of service to our nation!**

Courtesy Photo

Col. Chris Coley, 62nd Airlift Wing director of staff, pauses for a photo opportunity in the cockpit of an aircraft. Colonel Coley retires at 9 a.m. today after 26 years of Air Force service.

## Mobility exercise challenges, tests each squadron

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

According to base officials, every squadron here played an important role in this week's mobility exercise.

The MOBEX gave base officials the chance to inspect the deployability unit tasking codes it is vulnerable to should Team McChord be called on for a short-notice deployment, said Maj. Steven Polomsky, 62nd Airlift Wing.

"We're testing the ability of the initial response portion of the deployment," Major Polomsky said.

More than 60 individual UTCs were tasked;

more than 200 people were sent through processing lines; and more than 200 short tons of cargo were processed, he said.

"We're evaluating both the people side and the cargo side of the equation," Major Polomsky said.

Under normal circumstances, the deployment center has 60 to 90 days to process an Operation Enduring Freedom deployment, but the exercise required the center to process the same capability in a couple of days, said Mike Hansen, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron installation deployment officer.

"It's a lot of added pressure on the deployment center staff," Mr. Hansen said. "What we

See MOBEX, Page 6



Photo by Abner Guzman

A group of Airmen process through the deployment line Tuesday in Bldg. 576 during this week's mobility exercise.

### Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 50 Low: 39	Hi: 52 Low: 41	Hi: 55 Low: 42

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

### Mission accomplished

Total McChord sorties	2,726
Total flying hours	9,775.6
Cargo moved (tons)	25,272.4
Departure reliability rate	94.7%
Mission capable rate	86.4%
Personnel currently deployed	506
Reservists currently activated	227

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

### Don't miss it ...

#### Daylight-saving time

Daylight-saving time is Sunday at 2 a.m. Make sure to set clocks and watches one hour ahead.

# Retirement ceremony fitting end to AF career

By

**Col. Jerry Martinez**  
62nd Airlift Wing commander

Today, Lt. Gen. Christopher Kelly, Air Mobility Command vice commander will retire a great Airman, Col. Chris Coley, the 62nd Airlift Wing director of staff.

His retirement has made me reflect on the many retirement ceremonies I've attended and presided over throughout my years in the Air Force.

Retirements are unique ceremonies, different from any other because of the wide range of emotions they cause. No other military ceremony can simultaneously make a person happy, sad, proud and anxious all at the same time, and that's just the person who's retiring!

The members of the ceremony and audience also feel a wide range of emotions as they watch their friend, colleague or loved one end one chapter of their life and begin a new one.

At retirement ceremonies, it's amazing to see how many emotions the retiree will experience within the span

of about an hour — laughter and joy as colleagues and friends share stories, happiness as they turn their focus to their family and future, pride as supervisors recount their accomplishments and anxiety as they look forward to a new beginning outside of the Air Force.

The emotion of a retirement ceremony is a fitting conclusion for a 20 or more year career in the Air Force. An Air Force career brings with it many challenges and joys from day to day and year to year.

Serving in the Air Force is not an easy task no matter when or how you serve. Service before self, excellence in all we do and integrity are not easy core values to live by. Deployments, PCS's and long hours take their toll on the Airman and his or her family.

But there is also the sense of family and a feeling of truly making a difference in the world around you that you can only find in the Air Force.

Serving in the Air Force has made you part of something special, so when the day comes, treasure and enjoy the ceremony that will commemorate your career. You will have earned it.

“Retirements are unique ceremonies, different from any other because of the wide range of emotions they cause.”

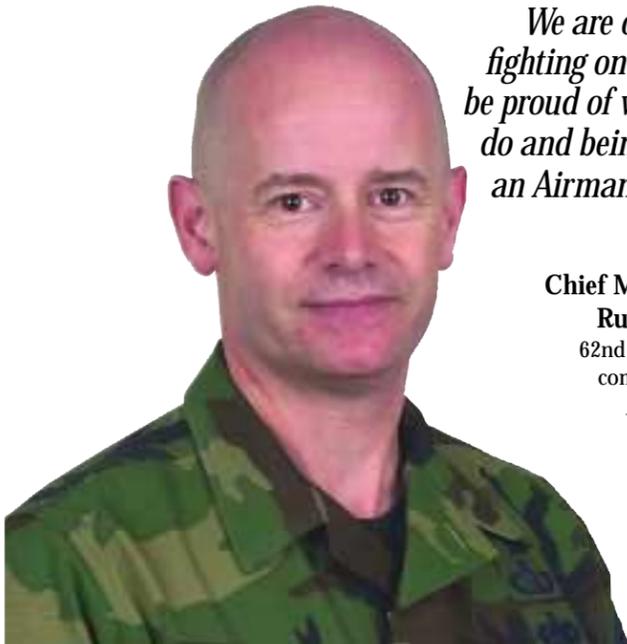
**Col. Jerry Martinez**  
62nd Airlift Wing  
commander



# 'Airmen first' concept reality for changing Air Force

*We are one team fighting one fight so be proud of what you do and being an Airman..* ”

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



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

Putting on your uniform and wearing your stripes is not something to be taken lightly. Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney McKinley said it best: “Serving as an Airman is an honor that thousands of young Americans want, but do not attain ...”

There are currently more than 38,000 enlisted Airmen serving in more than 100 career fields in Air Mobility Command. However, we all carry the same title — we're all Airmen.

More than 30,000 Airmen are deployed worldwide. Several are directly supporting our joint services. Some of our specialties are interchangeable, making only our title as “Airmen” the distinction of our mission.

Remember, your mission is bigger than your Air Force specialty code. Regardless of your AFSC, your first responsibility is to be an Airman. We all have skills to operate across the spectrum of the force. Now is the time to put those universal skills to the test.

The Air Force prides itself on the quality of its Airmen. Balancing the career fields is a step we have to make in order to keep the highest quality force. For some, that means we're asking you to do something different. Take this as a challenge, and grow as an Airman. Don't get caught up with your duty title or specialty. We are one team fighting one fight so be proud of what you do and being an Airman.

I know it's not easy to step out of your comfort zone to do this, but the Air Force needs you and your skill in another field to help us continue to execute our mission and being the world's best Air and Space Force. Hooah.

## Ask the Commander

E-mail [ActionLine@mcchord.af.mil](mailto: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:** What is the correct zip code for people living on base housing? I've noticed that sometimes my mail takes a lot longer depending on what zip code it's sent to.

**A:** Thank you for bringing this to our attention as I'm sure other residents of base housing might be wondering the same thing. According to the U.S. Postal Service, base housing residents need to use the 98439 zip code for their mail. This is necessary because it's sorted through the Lakewood post office. Otherwise their mail will be delayed by incorrect distribution. Keep those questions coming!

**Q:** Is there a specific time that retreat plays? Thank you.

**A:** Thanks for the question. Retreat is played at 4:30 p.m. every day. The only time retreat is not played exactly at that time is when we have wing retreat ceremonies on Fridays. We don't sound the retreat music on those days until the entire formation is ready to begin the ceremony.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to remind all of Team McChord about our Air Force customs and courtesies. If you're in a car, turn down the radio and listen to the music. If you're driving down the road and hear the music, find a

safe place to stop your car while the anthem is playing.

If in uniform, stand at attention and face the flag when you hear the retreat bugle. At the first note of the national anthem, those in uniform render a salute and hold it until the last note of the music. Those not in uniform should stand and face the flag during retreat and place their right hand over their heart for the national anthem.

I encourage everyone to take this time each day to pay respect to our country and honor all those who have served and continue to serve our country.

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The U.S. Constitution

# A document worth defending

By

**Lt. Col. Mike Cannon**

62nd Aerial Port Squadron commander

*"We the people ..."*

You probably recognize these words. They are the first three words on the document we swore to support and defend — the Constitution of the United States of America.

*"In order to form a more perfect union ..."*

Almost 230 years ago, on Sep. 17, 1787, 39 sons of liberty signed this historic document establishing our basis of government and laying the foundations for the creation of this great nation.

*"Establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense ..."*

You don't have to be good at math to realize this document was signed over 11 years after our Declaration of Independence. The signers state clearly that this was done "[in the year] of the independence of the United States of America the twelfth." It took our founding fathers almost 12 years of strife, diplomacy, discussion, debate and help from other nations before they had a government that all 13 states could accept.

This is 2007. Saddam was toppled in 2003. How long will it take? I don't know. But I do know that this is a marathon and not a sprint. The

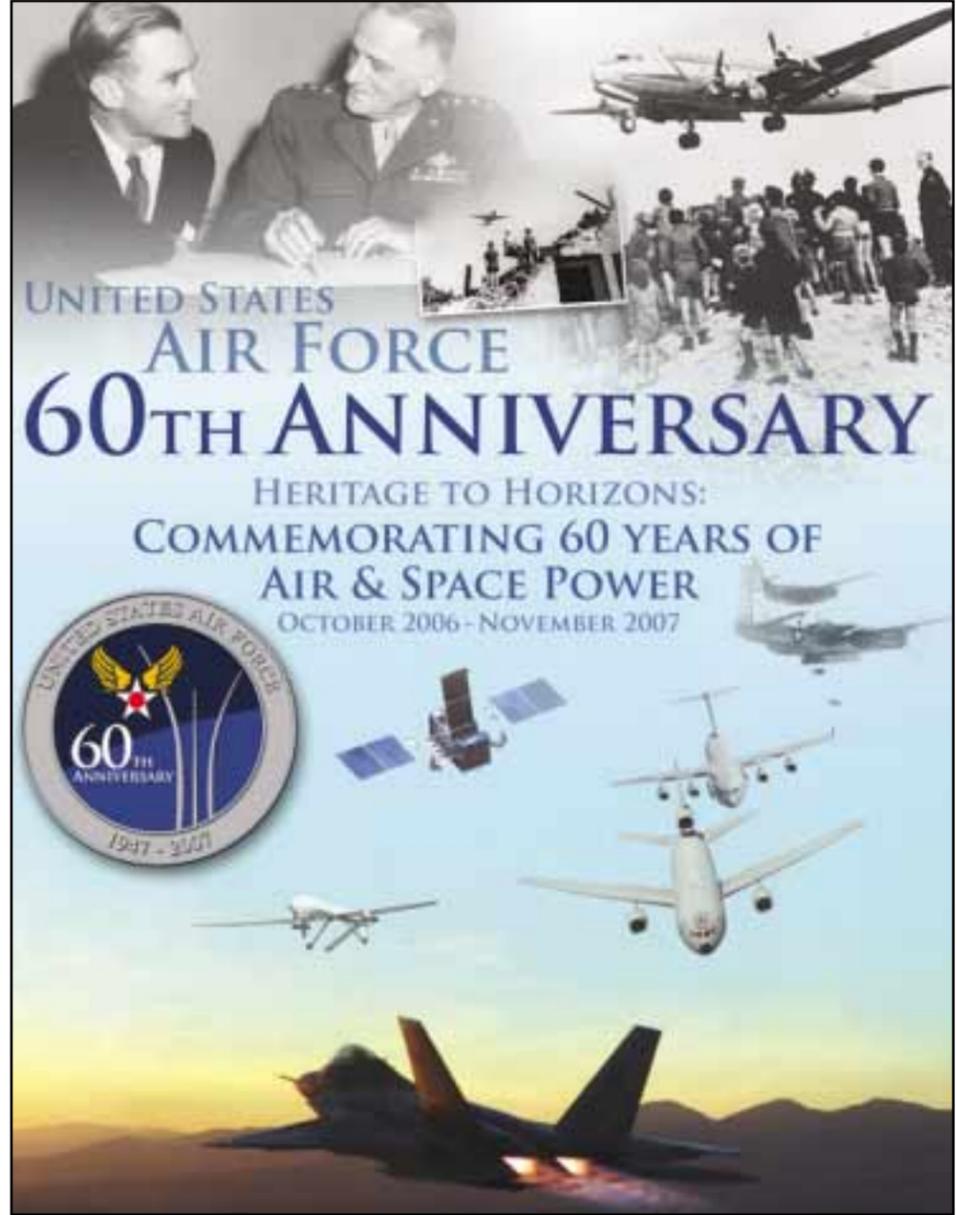
Treaty of Paris, the document which officially ended our Revolutionary War, wasn't ratified until Jan. 14, 1784. That's right ... our battle for independence, in a much less complicated era, took almost eight years.

You can't cook democracy in a microwave. You have to do it the old fashioned way. It takes time to build a government. It takes a long time to build a good government.

*"Promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity ..."* Even after 12 years, they still didn't have it quite right. Four years later, in 1791, they added the first 10 amendments — the Bill of Rights. Since then, our Constitution has been amended an additional 17 times.

*"Do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."*

I'll bet that many of you have never actually read the document we swore to support and defend. We have brothers and sisters in arms putting their lives on the line today because of that oath. It is an amazing document. With genius, it outlines an intricate system of checks and balances specific enough to form a working government 230 years ago, yet general enough to withstand the political, social, economical, ideological and scientific changes of the past two and a half centuries. If you haven't read it, you should. Pick it up today. It is well worth reading.



McChord's Airmen

# AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — Senior Airman Richard Larimer, left, and Airman 1st Class Alicia Brewer, both from the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, inspect a hydro leak on an aircraft during a recent deployment.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Asselin

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — Airman 1st Class Kent Koerner, 4th Airlift Squadron, waits for passengers and cargo at Kabul International Airport. The crew and aircraft transported Afghan President Hamid Karzai and several Afghan and coalition forces' medical personnel to the opening of a military hospital in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan.





Courtesy photo

## Welcome home

Capt. Mark Jones, 4th Airlift Squadron, shares a laugh with his wife, Lori, Saturday after returning from a 120-day deployment in support of the Global War on Terror. More than 100 Airmen from the 4th AS were greeted by family and friends upon their arrival back at McChord.

# AFPC: Records readiness crucial

By  
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Larlee  
Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Nobody can predict the twists and turns that life can take, but with a little bit of preparation Airmen can make the best of any situation.

The Air Force Personnel Center designated March as Personnel Records Readiness Month. Military members used this opportunity to review items such as their virtual record of emergency data, or vRed, and personal information in the virtual military personnel flight.

Every Airman needs to take charge when it comes to their records and they need to inform someone when

there are errors, said Maj. Gen. Anthony Przybyslawski, the AFPC commander.

"Things change in our lives and we need to make sure the Air Force is aware of those changes," he said. "Everyone has a personal responsibility to make sure their records are complete, accurate and up-to-date."

If tragedy strikes, having your records in good shape is one less headache during a stressful time.

The general spoke of one military member who was injured while serving in Iraq.

The Airman had not updated his virtual record of emergency data to reflect that he no longer wanted his mother notified in case of an emergency. She was in bad health, and he didn't want to tax her health with stressful news.

Thankfully, the Airman was conscious after his injury and was able to prevent officials from contacting her.

While updating emergency data is important, updating records of every kind is just as essential.

For example, during nearly every promotion cycle there are people missing items in their records that could help them get promoted, the general said.

Most records can be checked and fixed online, and AFPC is constantly looking for ways to improve the process, General Przybyslawski said.

The emphasis on maintaining records is an example of the military family watching out for each other, he said.

For more information, visit the AFPC Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

MOBEX, from Page 1

normally have weeks and months to plan for, we did in a couple of hours. It just compresses the time frame to get everything done."

The deployment center processed people and cargo for seven missions, he said.

The exercise was even carried out to the point where an aircrew boarded a C-17 Globemaster III, and it took off as part of a training mission, Major Polomsky said.

While the exercise wasn't as big as the Operational Readiness Inspection or the Operational Readiness Exercise, Major Polomsky said it still had an impact on a significant amount of the base.

## No-cost child care program gives relief to spouses of deployed

By  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

The Air Force Aid Society is sponsoring a six-month test program here for additional no-cost child care for deployed members.

The Deployed Spouses Child Care program will provide five free hours of child care one Saturday per month until August at the child development center for families of deployed Airmen, said Jim Flammio, 62nd Mission Support Squadron.

"Phoenix Spouses expressed to the Air Force the need for additional child care mainly for

deployed spouses," Mr. Flammio said. "There just isn't enough to go around."

Children ages six months to 12 years old are eligible for the program. The next session is scheduled for March 24.

The program, in conjunction with the Give Parents a Break program, will provide ten hours of no-cost child care per month to Airmen who meet the program's criteria.

Twenty five children attended the first Saturday session at the CDC, said Cheryl Rejsek, 62nd Services Squadron, director of the CDC.

The staff at the CDC has had no problem accommodating the extra sessions, and Ms.

Rejsek said she's confident it will be able to continue to support the program as the word gets out and more children start to attend.

"We've had lots of fantastic feedback from parents," she said. "They just love the safety the CDC offers for their children."

Parents must register one week in advance for the Saturday sessions so the CDC can schedule the proper amount of staff members, Ms. Rejsek said.

The test-run of the program covers 11 Air Mobility Command bases and will then be evaluated for success by the Air Force to see if it's a good program, Mr. Flammio said.

## Department of Defense to establish military operations command in Africa

By  
Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military will establish a separate U.S. Africa Command to oversee military opera-

tions on the African continent, Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced during recent congressional testimony.

"The president has decided to stand-up a new unified, combatant command, Africa Command, to over-

see security cooperation, building partnership capability, defense support to non-military missions, and, if directed, military operations on the African continent," Secretary Gates said in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The command will allow the U.S. military to have a more effective approach than the current command setup, Secretary Gates said.

The secretary called the current arrangement an outdated left over from the Cold War.



Master Sgt. Charles Edwards, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, plots the measurements taken from an original aircraft part in order to reproduce a mirror image and replace a damaged aircraft part recently in the metals technology shop located in Bldg. 745.



Sergeant Edwards enters measurements taken from an original aircraft part into a water jet cutting machine database in order to reproduce and replace the damaged piece.



Sergeant Barbee uses a fiber saw to cut a piece of metal that will be used for a project in the base museum.

# Metals technology

## *When a part is not available, they make it from scratch*

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

When troops, Humvees, helicopters and ammunition need to be airlifted, maintenance and aircrews don't have time to wait around for the delivery of a bracket that helps anchor a pallet to the floor of a C-17 Globemaster III.

Instead, they look to the 62nd Maintenance Squadron's metals technology shop to manufacture the piece. Since the shop is the largest intermediate maintenance metals technology shop in the Air Force, it can handle just about anything thrown its way, said shop foreman Will Nelson, 62nd MXS.

"Our No. 1 job is to make those airplanes fly," he said. "And that means getting the airplane off the ground as quickly as possible [if it needs a piece]. When airplanes miss their flying schedule, it cuts into a lot of things."

Boeing keeps a certain supply of C-17 parts on the shelves at its warehouse, but once those parts run out, they usually don't make any more. So if a piece on the C-17 breaks or needs to be replaced the shop makes the part because receiving a part from Boeing may take several days, as the company might sub-contract the manufacturing job to another company.

"Why wait for a normal supplier when we have the capability to make the part right here?" Mr. Nelson said. "We can usually make the part faster."

Using the shop's computer numerically controlled lathes, mills and water jet, the shop's staff of civilians, Airmen and Air Reserve Technicians can make just about anything, Mr. Nelson said.

The computer-aided machines enable the shop to make identical precision-cut pieces in a short amount of time, said shop chief Master Sgt. Stevan Holcomb, 62nd MXS.

"It saves us a lot of scrapwork," he said. Most of the pieces the shop manufactures are

internal or structural pieces. Some require intricate design programming on the shop's computers in order to tell the machines how to cut out the piece. Designs for other parts are accessed through Boeing's part design database, Mr. Nelson said.

In addition to making sure the C-17s are mission-ready, the shop does its best to support other shops on base. That can mean making special tools to finish a job or repairing a piece of support equipment, Mr. Nelson said.

"We're always looking for efficient ways to help other shops," Sergeant Holcomb said.

The shop can even accommodate big jobs from other intra-base organizations, such as the base fire department, Mr. Nelson said.

The shop's responsibilities branch out from there.

Last year the shop saved Fort Lewis nearly \$1 million by repairing helicopter parts, he said.

"We not only support the mission, but we try and help save other bases some headaches," Mr. Nelson said.



Photos by Abner Gaudman

Tech. Sgt. Brian Barbee, 446th Maintenance Squadron, uses a gas metal-arc welder to weld a safety device that will be used to reinforce a B-1 Lancer's stand while in use.



Airmen work at different stations producing replacement parts for aircraft at the metals technology shop.

# Golf for beginners

*A few simple tips can offer a smooth segue into the sport*

By  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

The sunny skies and warm weather that come with spring make for ideal conditions to entice new golfers into taking up the sport.

Getting started isn't hard, but if gone about the wrong way, it can put people into a world of frustration, said Whispering Firs director of golf Jeff Clark, 62nd Services Squadron.

Mr. Clark recommends staying away from buying a shiny expensive set of clubs to start out.

That same sentiment is echoed by Chris Burkhart, the club professional here at Whispering Firs.

But instead of scrounging together a garage sale set of various clubs, Ms. Burkhart recommends buying a reasonably priced matched set that offers similar specifications for each club.

"Matching can be really helpful," she said.

By buying a new set of clubs, people can also select the correct size for their height, Ms. Burkhart said.

When it comes time to hit the links, Mr. Clark recommends staying away from the actual course and starting off at the driving range or putting green.

"The driving range is a good way to get a sense of how much fun a person can have hitting the ball," Ms. Burkhart said.

But beware of the "know-it-all" golfers who are quick to give advice, she said.

A person could come away with bad mechanics or no mechanics by listening to them, said Ms. Burkhart.

The best thing a person can do to get moving in the right direction is sign up for some lessons, she said.

"I definitely suggest lessons so someone doesn't go out there and just expect to hit the ball because it's not going to happen," Ms.

Burkhart said. "Golf requires a lot of different skills: driving, putting, chipping. It's much easier to get the hang of if you first have some instruction."

As a supplement to the lessons, Mr. Clark recommends getting some instructional golf videos or DVDs. He also recommends finding books or videos that detail the three fundamentals of building a good swing: grip, stance and posture.

Another good way to observe solid mechanics is watching the pros on television, he said.

The road to being a competent golfer can be tough though, said Ms. Burkhart. Much like learning any new skill, a person must have a certain amount of patience when playing golf, she said.

"You have to have fun with it and be able to laugh at your mistakes," Ms. Burkhart said. "If you can do that, then you've already conquered part of the game."

## Airmen, Soldiers get to the core of crunches

By  
Staff Sgt. Carlos Diaz  
U.S. Central Command Air Forces

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — With their shoes off, water bottles by their sides and hand towels ready for sweat, service members at the H6 fitness center feel the burn during an abs class.

"It's important to have a healthy lifestyle because it helps to get the mission done," said 1st Lt. Kathryn Romano of the 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

According to the co-instructors, Lieutenant Romano and Army Capt. Bill Woods, the abs routine delivers a good core workout.

"This abs program is meant to challenge individuals," Lieutenant Romano said.

The abs class is taught three nights per week. Each session lasts between 30-45 minutes. The classes feature four-count flutter kicks, 90-degree crunches, oblique and banana crunches, V-sits and planks, just to name a few.

"In general, strength core exercises such as Pilates and yoga have become very popular over the years because they concentrate on building good posture," Lieutenant Romano said.

"They make you feel better, lengthen your muscles and help alleviate some back problems," she said.

The abs classes consistently attract at least 30 service members each session, Lieutenant Romano said.

During this particular session, the students panted, grunted and grinded their teeth as they performed each grueling routine. Some students clapped as workout music played in

the background. Captain Woods, wearing a microphone headset, encouraged them to properly complete each rep.

During the session, he also joked and injected humor.

"I try to make the workout fun," Captain Woods, G4 Maintenance officer in charge at the 13th Sustainment Command. "It's just part of my personality to add humor, good music and see the students enjoy the workout."

Captain Woods, a towering man, has lost 45 pounds since arriving at Balad in September. He said he tipped the scales at 255 pounds and now he's a slender 209.

The captain emphasized the importance of fitness in today's military climate.

"With our high ops tempo, there's no ands, ifs or buts about it. You have to stay fit," he said. "Fitness helps with combat and emotional stress."

Senior Airman Anthony Mejia, who performs 1,000 push-ups a day, puts fitness at the forefront. He wants to eclipse 85,000 push-ups by the time his deployment ends.

"Being fit creates a lot more energy," the 332nd ECS graphic designer said. "I want to increase strength and endurance while I'm here."

For the abs class students, finishing this particular session is one step closer to accomplishing their personal fitness mission.

### Join in the fun

Want to be like these Airmen? Then join the fitness center's incentive program and bike, run, swim or lift your way to a cool T-shirt to show off your accomplishment.

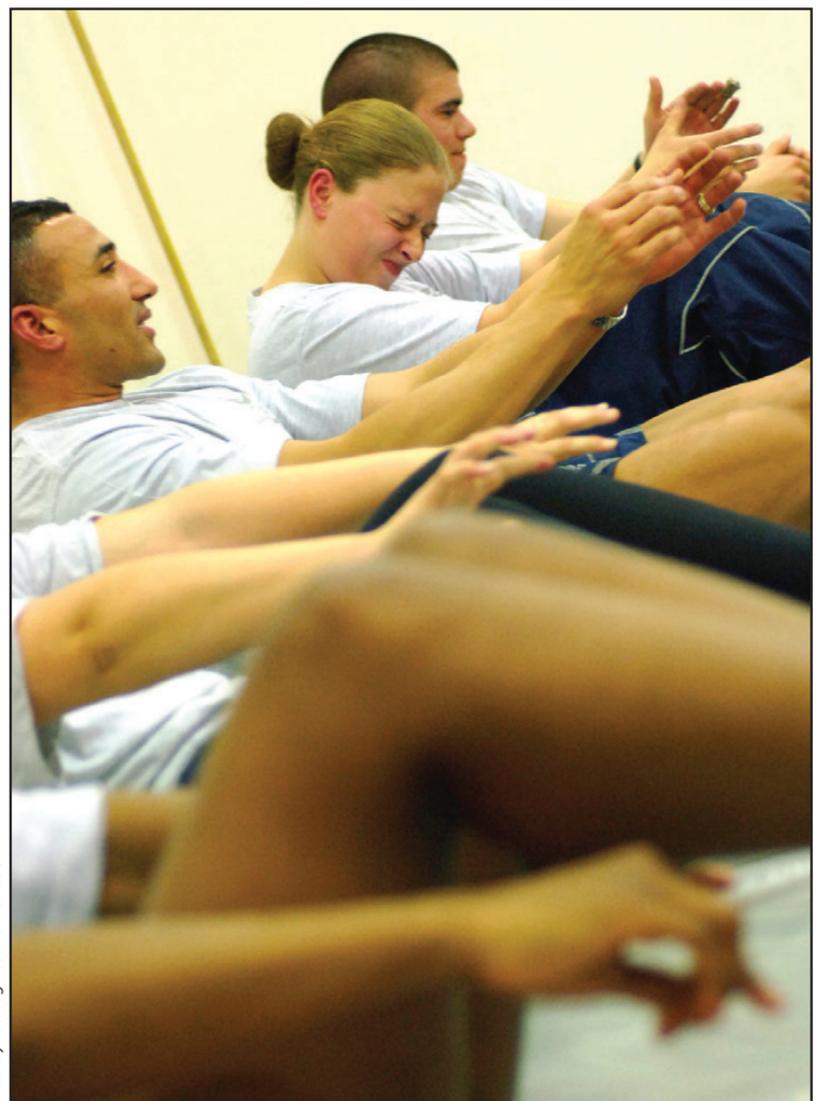


Photo by Tech Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo Jr.

Airmen participate in an abdominal training class in the gym at Balad Air Base, Iraq, recently.

# Flying crew chiefs

By  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

Though living out of a duffel bag for weeks on end, sleeping on anything but a mattress and being away from home for extended amounts of time aren't exactly conditions that can make a job easy, they are issues flying crew chiefs deal with on a routine basis.

And that's usually just fine with them, said Senior Airman Kenneth Wimer, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flying crew chief.

Packing a tool box and a laptop computer replete with plans and instructions on how to fix a myriad of problems, flying crew chiefs travel with aircrews to provide peace of mind for the pilots by fixing any problems that come up in the air or at locations where there isn't maintenance support.

"It's nice for pilots," Airman

Wimer said of the increased confidence pilots have in the mission when flying crew chiefs are on board. "They're usually like, 'If we have a crew chief, then we're good.'"

Flying crew chiefs also get to travel the globe, Airman Wimer said.

"I've got to go to plenty of great locations — Thailand, Korea, Guam, Turkey and Germany," said Airman Wimer, rattling off some of his favorites.

But the job isn't all fun and games, said Tech. Sgt. Aaron Short, 62nd AMXS, who's been a flying crew chief for seven years.

Flying crew chiefs can face new maintenance challenges on every flight, Sergeant Short said.

"Just when you get confident in repairing one thing, something else goes wrong," Sergeant Short said.

But Sergeant Short said he welcomes those situations because he enjoys the challenges of getting

Airmen provide peace of mind, support to aircraft, aircrews during missions

into the different career fields and seeing how they work and how to fix the problems that arise.

"The troubleshooting is the most demanding part of the job, but you learn a lot about it," Sergeant Short said. "Once you do that, it helps you better explain the problem to a technician if they need to talk you through fixing it."

By conducting thorough checks of the plane and topping off the oil level in the engines when it is needed at each landing, Sergeant Short said the work helps out ground maintenance crews and gives him more time to address other problems, should any come up.

"By being proactive, it gives you time to react to anything else," he said.

After all the checks are completed, sometimes the flying crew chiefs have time to help out the loadmasters and aerial port Airmen with unloading and loading pallets, Airman Wimer said.

In the bigger picture, it's about building a solid relationship with the aircrew, Sergeant Short said.

"You have to work to establish a rapport and build trust with the crew."

It all contributes to making the mission go as smoothly as possible, he said.

Flying crew chiefs also have the opportunity to not only bring comfort to their own aircrew, but other Airmen at deployed locations.

Because they are constantly flying in and out of deployed locations, flying crew chiefs are able to bring Airmen back certain luxuries such as steaks, sausages, soda and sweets.

Airman Wimer had the opportunity recently to bring back a cooler full of steaks from Germany to barbeque for some Airmen stationed in the desert.

"They loved it," he said. "They were like little kids opening presents on Christmas."



## DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the *Northwest Airlifter* is Friday, eight days prior to publication. Submissions can be sent via e-mail to [northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil](mailto:northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil). Submission does not guarantee publication. Questions? Call the *Northwest Airlifter* at 982-5637.



**Enlisted Spouses' Club**

The next Enlisted Spouses' Club meeting is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the chapel support center. For more information, call Michelle Jost at 861-1439 or visit the ESC's Web site at

<http://mcchordesc.tripod.com>.

**Tax help**

Help with the 1040EZ is available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Wednesday this month at the tax center. For more information, call 982-6857.

**Win a trip to Wrestlemania**

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service and World Wrestling Entertainment are providing military families with a chance to win a trip to Wrestlemania. To register, visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

**Names to Note**

The following individuals graduated in the 07-B class of the Julius Kolb Airman Leadership School:

- **Senior Airman Lucas Erickson**, 4th Airlift Squadron
- **Senior Airman Michael Burk**, 7th Airlift Squadron
- **Senior Airman Joshua Denny**, 8th Airlift Squadron
- **Senior Airman Stephanie Goodrich**, 8th AS
- **Senior Airman Daniel Isaacson**, 8th AS
- **Senior Airman Jonathan Rogers**, 8th AS
- **Senior Airman Drew Shapiro**, 8th AS
- **Senior Airman Nathanael Hoag**, 22nd Special Tactics Squadron
- **Senior Airman James Larsen**, 22nd STS
- **Senior Airman Jeremiah Roberts**, 22nd STS
- **Senior Airman Derick Sheatler**, 22nd STS
- **Senior Airman Luke Van Dorston**, 22nd STS
- **Senior Airman Aaron Williams**, 22nd STS
- **Senior Airman Jacob Watson**, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Dustin Ponder**, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman Timothy Gibson**, 62nd AMXS
- **Senior Airman Brandon Hall**, 62nd AMXS

- **Senior Airman Joshua Patterson**, 62nd AMXS
- **Senior Airman Jerald Petts II**, 62nd AMXS
- **Senior Airman May Scimone**, 62nd Airlift Wing
- **Senior Airman Charles Lyddon**, 62nd Communications Squadron
- **Senior Airman Laura Burk**, 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron
- **Senior Airman Erich Boehm**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman Ghassan Khan**, 62nd MXS
- **Senior Airman Brian Neill**, 62nd MXS
- **Senior Airman Paul Weeks**, 62nd MXS
- **Senior Airman Tanya Williams**, 62nd Medical Support Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Patrina Groscup**, 62nd Operations Support Squadron
- **Senior Airman Richard Miner**, 62nd OSS
- **Senior Airman Ryan Aarestad**, 116th Air Support Operations Squadron

The following individuals in the 07-B ALS class were award recipients:

- **Airman Goodrich**, Academic award
- **Airman Goodrich**, Distinguished Graduate award
- **Airman Petts II**, Distinguished Graduate award
- **Airman Watson**, John Levitow award
- **Airman Williams**, Leadership award

# 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.

- **Adult Bible Study** is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

**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: 6 p.m. Fort Lewis Chapel every 1st, 3rd and 5th at the corner of 12th Street and Liggett Avenue 966-8949

**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

Confession is by appointment only; call Father John Anderson at 967-1717 or 906-6843, or e-mail [father.anderson@us.army.mil](mailto:father.anderson@us.army.mil)

