

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

Vol. 39, No. 26

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

June 29, 2007

OG Rodeo team ready to compete, win,
Page 6

INSIDE

School's out for summer,
Pages 8-9



62nd MXS 1 plates up softball victory,
Page 11

McChord steps up security

New high-tech scanners instantly verify ID cards

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

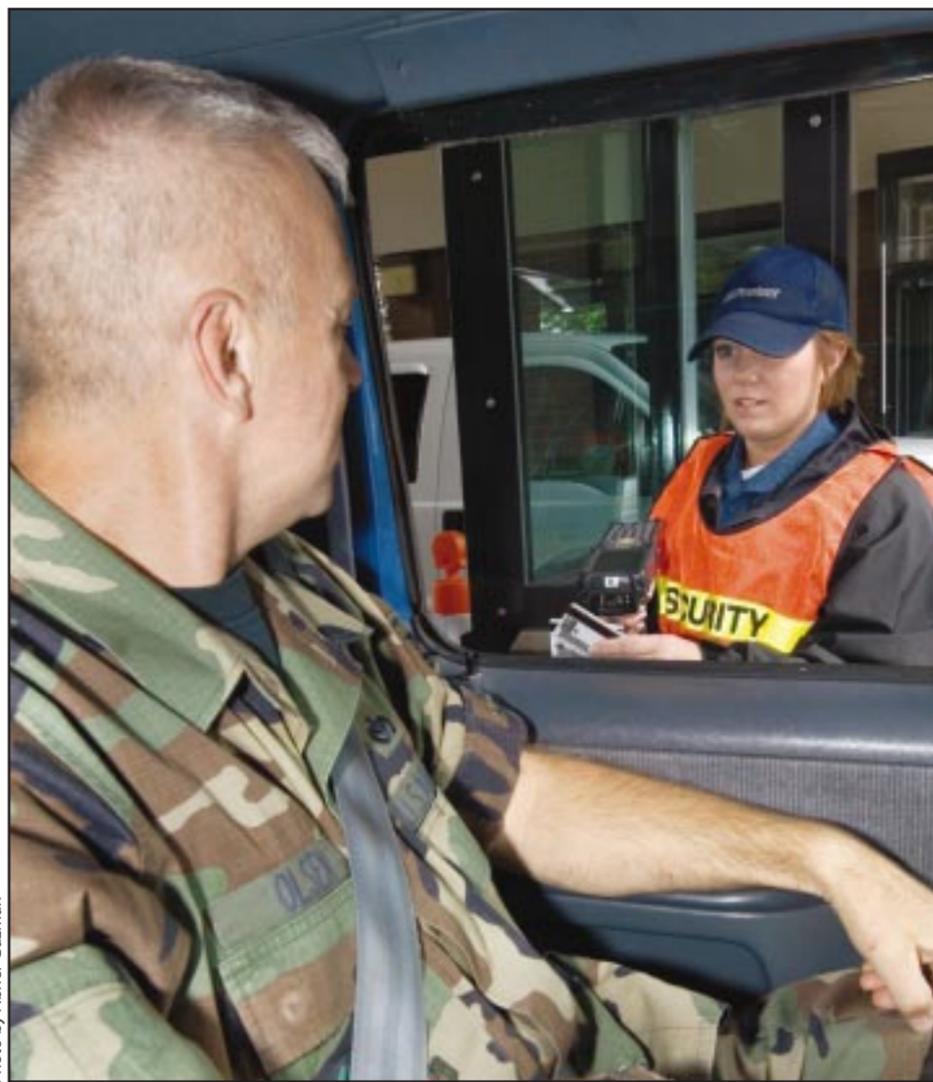


Photo by Abner Guzman

Staff Sgt. Douglas Olsen, 62nd Communications Squadron, stops at McChord's Main Gate while U.S. Protect security guard Erica Green scans his ID card before allowing him access to the base, Monday.

For those looking to gain access to McChord, a simple flash of one's common access card or badge will no longer suffice.

In a move that took effect June 15, U.S. Protect guards and 62nd Security Forces Squadron Airmen are now using a defense identification system to scan IDs of those wanting to gain access to the base.

U.S. Protect guards and 62nd SFS Airmen use hand-held scanners to run the bar codes on CAC cards and drivers licenses against multiple national law enforcement databases and McChord's personnel-exclusion roster, said Senior Master Sgt. William Riffenburg, 62nd SFS.

"The system is capable of checking for fake, lost, stolen and terminated military ID cards, as well as for criminal and terror suspects relatively instantaneously," Sergeant Riffenburg said.

Once the ID is scanned, the device automatically checks the information against multiple data-

bases for matches. If a match is found, the operator is alerted, and the guard will take the appropriate action to protect the installation, Sergeant Riffenburg said.

Previously, guards at the front gate had to memorize a long list of names of people who were barred from the installation, said Staff Sgt. Sean Lynn, 62nd SFS.

"That's a lot to ask guys to memorize," Sergeant Lynn said. "Now they don't have to."

The system is also capable of conducting a manual search by typing in a name, social security number or date of birth.

To alleviate long lines to get onto the base due to implementation of the new system, Sergeant Riffenburg recommends people have their IDs in their hands and their window already rolled down once they approach the guard.

"Security isn't an inconvenience, it's here for everyone's protection," he said. "This system increases our ability to provide security."

McChord is the fourth base in the Air Force to implement a defense identification system, Sergeant Lynn said.

Don't get burned by fireworks this Fourth of July

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

This Fourth of July base officials are reminding Airmen and their families to keep safety in mind at all times when using fireworks.

"Anyone who's planning on using fireworks needs to handle them just as if they were handling a weapon," said Ken Heath, 62nd Airlift Wing chief of ground safety.

It is illegal to have or use fireworks on base, according to 62nd Airlift Wing Instruction 32-17, Base Fire Prevention Program.

However, sparklers will be allowed on base, said Chief of Fire Prevention Sandra Cooper,

62nd Civil Engineer Squadron.

"But people still have to be careful with sparklers because they can still cause burns," Ms. Cooper said.

In 2006, there were more than 1,000 fireworks-related emergency incidents in Washington resulting in more than \$9 million in property loss, Mr. Heath said. Fortunately, there were no injuries or fires on base from fireworks.

"We've been lucky," Ms. Cooper said.

A safer and less expensive way to enjoy fireworks this year is to attend a professional fireworks display, Ms. Cooper said.

For more information on fireworks laws in each county and city in the state, visit <http://www.wa.gov/wsp/fireworks/mediakit/law.htm>.

Fourth of July events

- Tacoma Rainiers' Fireworks Extravaganza at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma at the conclusion of the Tuesday game against Salt Lake.
- Freedom Fest is Wednesday at Fort Lewis' Cowan Stadium. The fair begins at 10 a.m., and admission is free.
- Steilacoom's Fourth of July Celebration will take place Wednesday and includes fireworks, parade, street performances and all-day activities.
- Tacoma's Freedom Fair and Air Show is Wednesday along Ruston Way's Promenade Park bordering Commencement Bay.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 66 Low: 50	Hi: 73 Low: 52	Hi: 75 Low: 52

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

Mission accomplished

Total McChord sorties	8,806
Total flying hours	29,997
Cargo moved (tons)	65,237.5
Departure reliability rate	89.7%
Mission capable rate	83.7%
Personnel currently deployed	738
Reservists currently activated	216

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

Don't miss it ... First Friday

Come out for food, friends and fun at First Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. July 6 at McChord's Clubs and Community Center.

Celebrate birth of our nation safely this Independence Day

By

Col. Jerry Martinez
62nd Airlift Wing commander

Next Wednesday we'll celebrate the birth of our great nation with more than 230 years of American independence. And on that day, we show appreciation and give thanks to the men and women who made, and continue to make, our freedom possible. I couldn't be more proud to serve with the men and women of Team McChord, knowing that each of you has volunteered to serve, aware of the risks and dangers that accompany defending our nation's freedom.

A perfect example of that dedication was shown earlier this week as more than 100 Airmen from our 7th Airlift Squadron deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. For the next several months our aircrews will execute our wartime mission, safely delivering life-sustaining supplies to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines serving on the frontlines.

As the 7th AS moves closer to the fight, we're set to welcome home our 8th Airlift Squadron early next



Col. Jerry Martinez, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, shakes hands with a patriot during the Freedom Bridge dedication.

week. The men and women of the 8th AS have scheduled and flown thousands of hours, removing convoy missions from the perilous roads of Iraq and Afghanistan. With

little fanfare, our aircrews have quietly saved countless coalition lives by simply doing their jobs.

With more than 800 McChord Airmen now deployed from nearly

every career field across the base, I hope you take a moment this Independence Day to reflect on the work being done and the positive impact this base is making around the world. Thanks to each of you, Team McChord has achieved more than 2,000 days of continuous combat airlift. Each one of those days represents long hours and many weekends spent away from home and family. We should also reflect on the sacrifices of our family members toward ensuring our nation's strength and independence, we certainly couldn't do it without their support.

As you celebrate the holiday next week, please remember to keep your personal safety in mind as you plan your Fourth of July activities. Fireworks are an Independence Day tradition, but instead of risking your safety or that of your family members, please find a local show put on by professionals. Because I rely on you to keep our mission running strong, and because our continued dedication is needed to serve our nation's larger mission, I need every one of you to return from the holiday safe and healthy. Happy Fourth of July!

Celebrate democracy, remember patriots this Fourth of July

By

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

"Thus may the 4th of July, that glorious and ever memorable day, be celebrated through America, by the sons of freedom, from age to age till time shall be no more."

That quote appeared in the Virginia Gazette July 18, 1777, following one of the largest and most elaborate celebrations on the first anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America.

The huge event held in Philadelphia featured

all of the elements we typically see today on July 4 — food, fireworks and the flying of our nation's colors.

Those elements were paired with elaborate military displays to include armed ships decorated in patriotic banners, the discharge of cannons and troop formations.

While the participants celebrated the birth of democracy, they also commemorated the memories of those patriots who had bravely fought for, and on occasions given their lives in defense of, freedom.

This Independence Day, be sure to enjoy the barbecues and firework displays with your family and friends, but also take a moment to remember, just as our forefathers did, those

who have and still are fighting for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Patriots know no generation or century; they exist today just as they did in 1776 when the second continental congress declared that the original thirteen colonies were independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain. As military members, you are the embodiment of the freedoms America's sons and daughters have fought and died for. Your sacrifices and dedication to duty are reflected in every July 4 celebration.

Next week is more than just a holiday ... it's a celebration of what makes our nation great. Be safe, have fun and proudly display the old red, white and blue. Hooah!

Teamwork, recuperation necessary to maintain global military dominance

By

Lt. Col. James Clavenna
62nd Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron commander

Recently I traveled through a couple of airports while on leave, and I could not help but notice the hundreds of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen in uniform. Each had their own story — some were saying farewell to their families on their way to war, some were home for rest and relaxation, while others were recent graduates of basic training enroute to their first duty station. I felt full of pride at all those who raised their hands to

serve, and I was honored to be on the same team.

As our country celebrates the 231st anniversary of its independence, it is important that we honor the guardians of our freedom. Generations of servicemen and women have helped form the world's premier team — the U.S. armed forces ... the challenge today is to build on that legacy.

Any sports fan will tell you that great teams come and go, some win championships several years in a row but most are only great for short periods of time. Every team wants to win, and our military is no exception. The difference however is that the U.S. military cannot afford

to lose — there is too much at stake.

So the question at hand is how does our military sustain excellence in the future? The answer is through teamwork and a strong, persistent drive to make things even better. Improvement and change are seldom easy, but they are critical to success. And time has shown that it is only through improving that a team can maintain its dominance. As for teamwork, football coaching legend Vince Lombardi once said, "People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses or the problems of modern society." Coach Lombardi

knew the value of teamwork, fostered it and achieved great success. Our military must do the same.

The other critical aspect to a team's success is the health and welfare of its members. Most professional athletes need rest and recuperation to maintain their top playing form. Military members are no exception ... time off is critical to sustain one's focus, skills, morale and contributions.

As we celebrate our nation's independence this year, please thank your fellow teammates, reaffirm your commitment to make our military even stronger, and ensure you take time to rest and reenergize.

EDITORIAL STAFF

62nd AW commander: Col. Jerry Martinez
Chief, Public Affairs: Capt. Greg Hignite
NCOIC, Public Affairs: Tech. Sgt. Carrie Bernard
Editor: Staff Sgt. Tiffany Orr
Staff writer: Tyler Hemstreet
62nd Services Squadron contributor: Patti Jeffrey
Photographer: Abner Guzman
Graphic artist: Angela Jossy

62ND AIRLIFT WING, MCCORD AFB, WASHINGTON

The Northwest Airlifter is published by Swarner Communications, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with McChord Air Force Base. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Northwest Airlifter are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of

Defense, the Department of the Air Force or Swarner Communications of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Advertising copy intended for publication should be submitted to Thomas Swarner, Publisher. Business mailing address: P.O. Box 98801, Lakewood, WA, 98498. Free ads can be e-mailed to: classads@ftlewis-ranger.com or call Swarner Communications at (253) 584-1212.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

Mailing Address: 62nd AW/PAI
100 Col. Joe Jackson Blvd., Suite 1077
McChord AFB, WA 98438

Phone: (253) 982-5637 **Fax:** (253) 982-5025
E-mail: northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil

7th AS deploys

By

1st Lt. Erika Yepsen
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Approximately 100 battle-ready Airmen from McChord's 7th Airlift Squadron left for the war zone to support the Global War on Terror Tuesday afternoon for a 120-day deployment. It has been less than a year since the 7th AS returned home from its last deployment in July 2006.

The 7th AS Airmen will deploy as the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron to various locations throughout Europe, Southwest Asia and the Middle East. They will replace McChord's 8th Airlift Squadron which is scheduled to return home in early July.

"We are excited to go help our joint partners by delivering the 'stuff to the fight' as a deployed airlift squadron. Living and working along side our Army partners at Fort Lewis, we understand the important mission we are jointly committed to in the Global War on Terror," said Lt. Col. Brian Newberry, 7th AS commander.

McChord's four active duty flying squadrons share responsibility for the deployed squadron. The 817th EAS, headquartered at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, is responsible for scheduling, planning and executing all C-17 Globemaster III missions into the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility including Afghanistan and Iraq.

Professionals

of the week

62nd Services Squadron

Master Sgt. Rodel Nilo

Duty title:

Lodging noncommissioned officer

Duty section:

Lodging

Hometown:

Philippines



Reason for recognition:

Sergeant Nilo serves as the lodging assistant manager, providing direction over front desk operations, housekeeping, supply and logistics for a 317-room operation comprised of 55 civilian and military personnel. He provides exemplary leadership for McChord's lodging operation and took the reigns of front desk and noncommissioned-officer-in-charge duties. Further, Sergeant Nilo assumed the duties of lodging logistics NCOIC and ensured all critical supplies were ordered, received and distributed to every duty section. He is also involved in the lodging reception center project, trouble-shooting communications and data requirements vital to the project.

Sheryl Swory

Duty title:

Commercial sponsorship coordinator

Duty section:

Services marketing

Hometown:

Roswell, N.M.



Reason for recognition:

Although a relatively new employee to the Services marketing division, since April Mrs. Swory has acquired more than \$40,000 in sponsorship funds for Rodeo 2007. Further, she has garnered more than \$14,500 from new sponsors towards supplementing Team McChord programs for military members and their families. Additionally, the 62nd Airlift Wing has received \$2,800 in-kind gifts for distribution. Mrs. Swory's superb personality and keen programming insight has helped her develop a unique rapport with the entire 62nd SVS, and the future of sponsorship has never looked brighter.



McChord's Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

AFGHANISTAN — Master Sgt. John Raczowski, deployed from the 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, poses for a recent photo with three Afghan noncommissioned officers he teaches vehicle maintenance to.



Courtesy photo

AFGHANISTAN — Capt. Nathan Loyd, deployed from the 62nd Mission Support Group, performs maintenance on a piece of equipment during a site survey.



OG Rodeo team ready to compete, win

By

Capt. Suzanne Ovel
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Editor's note: This is the final article in a four-part series highlighting McChord's Rodeo 2007 competitors.

It's not every day that you see more dirt than sky when looking out of a cockpit's windshield, but the steep descents of assault landings are what all C-17 Globemaster III aircrews must perfect.

The five members of the 62nd Operations Group Rodeo team — three pilots and two loadmasters — train to perform assault landings both for real-world operations and for the scored event in Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2007.

Yet while the team honed these skills and others in their overseas deployments and their local training, they had to wait until May 2 to train together for Rodeo. Before they got to that point, the aircrew competed with their peers of more than 350 pilots and 250 loadmasters to be on the Rodeo team.

"The 62nd Airlift Wing is playing to win Rodeo 2007, and these folks were picked to represent this wing by their commanders because they are our very best operators," said Maj. Tony Carr, 62nd Airlift Wing Rodeo team commander.

This A-team includes Airmen such as loadmaster Tech. Sgt. Shane McClanahan, who was the 62nd OG's 2006 Loadmaster of the Year.

Sergeant McClanahan and his teammates are flying on six training missions this month and seven in July to excel in Rodeo flying events such as low-level navigation, airdrop, engine running on-load, short-field landing and aerial refueling.

The team is gleaming some competition tips from aircraft commander Maj. Marc Miller, a 10-year veteran, who served as an alternate in Rodeo 2005.

"The No. 1 lesson that I got from the whole thing is that in competitions like this, every single team is equal in talent, and the difference is that you stay the course and do well in every single event," said Major Miller.

In some events, scoring well also depends on the



Photo by Abner Guzman

Capt. Christopher Mazzei, 10th Airlift Squadron, and Maj. Marc Miller, 7th Airlift Squadron, discuss loading coordinates and predicted take-off times during a pre-flight inspection in the cockpit of a C-17 Globemaster III, June 21.

skill of other teams. In aerial refueling, for instance, if one aircraft arrives late, both are penalized.

"It's a completely mutual scoring system on the air refueling competition," said Major Miller.

Intimate knowledge of the rules in the operation order is also a crucial part of preparation, said Capt. Christopher Mazzei. Knowing the rules, for instance, of when it's better to land too long on a runway or to circle around once more can make a noticeable difference in scoring, he said.

But while training helps with Rodeo competitions, the importance of raw talent in the aircrew — including that of the lead pilot — can't be overstated.

"I've been flying with Marc Miller for eight years,

and there's not another pilot that I want to lead this crew. He's clearly the most superior operator we could hope to have competing for us, and he's leading a team full of superstars," said Major Carr.

But the 62nd OG Rodeo team, which also includes Capt. Ryan Orfe and Tech. Sgt. Nathan Gershon, stands in awe of the other 62nd AW Rodeo teams.

"With the aerial porters and the maintenance guys, the amount of effort they put into this competition is far greater than on the operational side. There's an inherent dynamic luck factor to what we do — what they do is strictly effort," Major Miller said. "Our hats go off to them."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Carrie Bernard

Community cruising

(Above) Col. Shane Hershman, 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander, and his wife Gwen enjoy the sunshine at the Evergreen Fleet Cruise event at the Tacoma Yacht Club, June 20. Dozens of generous community leaders donated their time and yachts for the annual cruise hosted by the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, Tacoma Yacht Club and Harborstone Credit Union.

(Left) Capt. Dimitri Martini, 62nd Comptroller Squadron, left, enjoys a cruise on the Puget Sound with other military members and civic leaders from the local community.

Career-enlisted aviator positions open for Airmen

WASHINGTON — Opportunities are available for Airmen who wish to become career-enlisted aviators.

The Air Force has openings for first-term Airmen to retrain into the flight engineer, flight attendant and aerial gunner specialties.

In addition to the first-term Airman openings, staff and technical sergeants may retrain under the non-commissioned officer retraining program into boom operator, flight engineer, loadmaster, airborne mission systems, aerial gunner and cryptologic linguist career fields.

The official release of the fiscal year 2008 NCO retraining program objectives will be available in the retraining advisory in the virtual military personnel flight.

"This will be great news for a lot of Airmen," said Master Sgt. Bill Bergin, the career enlisted adviser in-service recruiter at the Pentagon. "I have spoken to many second-term and career Airmen who missed their opportunity to retrain during their first enlistment. Since they have reenlisted, they now have a new opportunity as second-term Airmen to fill critical Air Force needs as career enlisted aviators."

Interested Airmen can contact their orderly rooms for more information or call Sergeant Bergin at DSN 227-1717 or (703) 697-1717.

To view the retraining advisory, visit the vMPF Web site and click on the request retraining link.

(Article courtesy of the Air Force Personnel Center.)

Whether it's taking a dip in the base pool to cool off or riding the ramps at the skate park, McChord offers lots of fun activities now that ...

SCHOOL'S OUT for summer



Photo by Abner Guzman

From left, Tia Harris, Coty Gonzalez and Isaiah Barajas arrive at the youth center ready to participate in a variety of scheduled events as part of the end-of-the-school-year cookout, June 22.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Franco Magofna attempts to stay afloat while learning how to swim with the help of his sister Jennifer at the base pool, Tuesday.



File photo

Titus Simms serves up a meal during playtime at the Escape Zone last summer.

Activities for kids

All activities take place at the youth center unless otherwise noted.

- Open swim** Noon to 5 p.m. (Noon to 6 p.m. on weekends) daily at the base pool
- Foosball challenge** 3 to 5 p.m. Monday
- Karaoke nights** 5 to 7 p.m. July 10
- Popcorn and movie (Preteen)** 5 to 7 p.m. July 13
- Popcorn and movie (Teen)** 8 to 10 p.m. July 13
- Cooking experiences** 2 to 4 p.m. July 14
- Knitting project** 4 p.m. July 23
- Knitting project** 5 to 7 p.m. July 25
- Family game day** 6 to 8 p.m. July 27
- Cooking experience** 2 to 4 p.m. July 28
- Robin Hood auditions** 3 to 6 p.m. Aug. 10 at McChord's Clubs and Community Center
- Youth Idol** 6 p.m. Aug. 16 at the base theater



Photo by Abner Guzman

From left, Karis Doughty, Alyssa Smith and Alexis Fonville ride their bikes in base housing, June 22.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Jay Renguul catches some air while performing a skateboard maneuver at the base's skate park near the youth center, June 22.

62nd MXS 1 plates up softball victory



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

Third baseman Wesley Brown, 62nd Maintenance Squadron 1, connects with a pitch Monday evening at St. Helen's Field. MXS 1 went on to defeat the 62nd Services Squadron 15-3.

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The 62nd Maintenance Squadron 1 softball team erupted for six runs in the fourth inning, paving the way to an easy 15-3 victory over the 62nd Services Squadron Monday evening at St. Helen's Field.

Despite the final score, things were close early in the game as neither team could put together a string of hits. MXS 1 finally broke through in the top of the third as Dave Demarest laced a two-run single to right to drive home the first two runs of the game. MXS 1 got one more run in the inning on an SVS error.

But SVS came right back in the bottom of the third, putting runners at first and second with two outs. Adam Hernandez hit a high pop-up to shallow left that dropped in for a two-run single, cutting MXS 1's lead to 3-2. SVS would get one more run in the inning to tie the score at 3-3.

That was as close as things got.

After putting runners on first and second in the top of the fourth, Brandon Brown tomahawked a single up the middle, driving both runners home. Wesley Brown then followed with a booming double to left to make it 6-3. Ed Platt rounded out the scoring in the inning with a two-run single, pushing the score to 9-3.

"I tell the guys to hit the ball as hard as they can, wherever they

can," MXS 1 coach Scott Scheitzach said.

His team took the advice to heart against SVS, smashing line drives and towering fly balls to the very depths of the outfield on the way to scoring the 15 runs and earning its third win of the season.

After a string of retirements and permanent change of stations gutted the MXS 1 roster, the look of this year's team is very different, Scheitzach said.

"We have a bunch of new guys this year," he said. "They don't have a ton of experience playing softball, but they've all played baseball in the past."

That experience has produced a team that plays solid defense, but hasn't quite found its stride at the plate.

"Our sticks still need shaking at the plate," Scheitzach said.

Wesley Brown said he is still getting used to the slow speed of the pitching.

Scheitzach said once everyone gets acclimated, the rest of the league better watch out.

"There's the possibility that we can score 30 runs in a game," he said. "We're just starting to heat up. Once our bats get cracking, it's going to be ugly [for opponents]."

With all the offensive firepower, MXS 1 is hungry for a shot at the championship after finishing fourth last year.

"We just have to make it all click," Scheitzach said. "It's going to get better — I guarantee it."

Softball standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	PCT	Team	GP	W	L	T	PCT
MXS 1	4	4	0	0	1	373 TRS	4	3	1	0	0.75
MOS	4	4	0	0	1	4 AS	4	3	1	0	0.75
MED GP	4	4	0	0	2	OSS	3	2	1	0	0.667
CES	4	4	0	0	1	WADS	4	2	2	0	0.5
SFS	3	3	0	0	1	APS	4	2	2	0	0.5
AMXS 1	1	1	0	0	1	COMM	4	2	2	0	0.5
10 AS	4	0	4	0	0	SVS	3	0	3	0	0
MSS	5	0	5	0	0	MXS 2	4	0	4	0	0
LRS	4	0	4	0	0	AMXS 2	4	0	4	0	0

GP - Games Played W - Wins L - Losses T - Ties PCT - Winning Percentage

Air Force rolls out professional cycling event

By
Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Secretary of the Air Force
Office of Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — The inaugural Crystal City Classic cycling event presented by the Air Force June 16 is an effort to build an Air Force signature sports event in the Washington, D.C., area.

The idea for the Air Force to sponsor a cycling event began last year after the Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa, or RAGBRAI, where more than 100 Air Force cycling team members rode for purposes of recruiting and as ambassadors for the service.

"Following RAGBRAI, the secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force developed a vision for a world class Air Force cycling event in the Capitol Region," said William Anderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force Installations, Environment and Logistics. "Plans are already in the works for next year's event, and our goal is to make it bigger and better every year to expand its reach and tell the Air Force story."

The event included youth and



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Members of the Air Force cycling team pace the men's pro riders on a parade lap that took them by the Air Force Memorial at Arlington, Va., June 16. The inaugural Crystal City Classic cycling event was presented by the Air Force and plans are in the works for the race to become the Air Force signature sporting event in Washington, D.C.

amateur races, a celebrity tricycle race, pro women's 50K and pro men's 80K races, which took

place over a 2K enclosed course in the Crystal City shopping and business district. The 60th

Anniversary of the Air Force and Air Force history were addressed by speakers and announcers throughout the one-day event.

"One thing that made this special is the parade lap that took the riders past the Air Force Memorial, and next year we plan on having the race expand to include the memorial on every lap of the race," Secretary Anderson said.

Volunteers from the Air Force District of Washington and Pentagon helped make the day a success, he said.

Maj. Gen. Robert Smolen, Air Force District of Washington commander, presented the winners of each the women's and men's races with a trophy and also rode in the celebrity tricycle race.

"The AFDW is a new organization, and we're delighted to partner with the community and Arlington Sports and hope this will become the signature event for the Air Force cycling community," he said. "Cycling exhibits some Air Force attributes — technology, speed, endurance, precision and teamwork. We think it is a perfect match and look forward to the opportunity to involve all levels from young Americans to professional riders."

Sentimental sanctuary

Grove offers Airmen place of remembrance

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Like a secret garden, many people coming onto McChord drive by Memorial Grove each day without noticing it's even there.

But the grove located near the intersection of Barnes Boulevard and Main Street holds special significance to many people with ties to the base.

Dedicated in 1972, Memorial Grove serves as a place for people to relax while learning about the airlift history of McChord.

"People have held retirement ceremonies and even gotten married in Memorial Grove," said Memorial Grove committee treasurer Tania Otto, 446th Airlift Wing. "It's just a very nice place to come and walk or sit on the grass and enjoy the scenery."

At the start of the red brick path that winds its way through the grove is a plaque honoring the 13 Airmen from McChord who died in



Airman 1st Class Kirsten Wicker, 62nd Airlift Wing, pays homage to the servicemembers held as prisoners of war and those still missing in action Tuesday at Memorial Grove.

a midair collision over Montana November 30, 1992.

Replica models of a C-54 Skymaster, C-124 Globemaster II, C-17 Globemaster III, C-130 Hercules, C-141 Starlifter and a C-

82 Packet line the main plaza, each perched on its own concrete pillar.

The grove also contains a memorial honoring prisoners of war and those still missing in action.

The path plays a key role in

keeping alive the special memories of those with ties to the base.

Bricks engraved with personal messages recognizing a relationship, retirement or a unit accomplishment make up the path and plaza areas of the grove and give it a personal feel, said committee president Chief Master Sgt. Danny Bass, 446th Maintenance Squadron.

"The bricks are available to anyone who wants to recognize a friend or a relationship," Sergeant Bass said.

Personalized bricks cost between \$25 and \$50 and can be purchased through McChord's Clubs and Community Center or Harborstone Credit Union.

Any money leftover from the purchase of the bricks goes right back into the grove, said Chief Bass.

In the past, the grove committee has used funds from the purchase of the bricks to add benches and vibrant flower displays to brighten up the grove, said Ms. Otto.

Possible future plans for Memorial Grove include some kind of display to represent the Western Air Defense Sector's contributions to the base and a monument to honor McChord's Medal of Honor recipients, Chief Bass said.



Changes of command

The following change of command ceremonies are scheduled to take place:

- 62nd Comptroller Squadron, 10 a.m. Monday at Memorial Grove.
- 8th Airlift Squadron, 9 a.m. Thursday at McChord's Clubs and Community Center.
- 62nd Security Forces Squadron, 10:30 a.m.

July 10 in Hangar 10.

Logistics scholarships

The Rainier Chapter of the Logistics Officers Association will award two \$500 scholarships to professional logisticians seeking commissions or advancement in logistics-related career fields. For more information, call Maj. Alesia Quiton at 982-7321 or

1st Lt. Emily Barry at 982-5344.

Magic show

In conjunction with its "Celebrate the 4th of July Sale," the base commissary will feature performances by comedian/magician Devin Reynolds from noon to 3 p.m. and local radio station KISW from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Names to Note

The following people scored 90 percent or better on their career-development-course exams:

- **Airman 1st Class Bradley Davis**, 7th Airlift Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Toby Christensen**, 8th Airlift Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Trinidad Gutierrez**, 8th AS
- **Staff Sgt. Chad Beach**, 10th Airlift Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Matthew DiNunzio**, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Nicholas Clevinger**, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Brandon Pandes**, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Justin Olomon**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Daniel Engle**, 62nd CES
- **Senior Airman James Taylor**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Alfred Roldan**, 62nd CES
- **Staff Sgt. Carlito Tacbas**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Ruben Macias**, 62nd CES

- **Airman 1st Class Johnathan Hall**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Alexander Rodriguez**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Ralph Klock**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Minh Thlang**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Alexander Bissias**, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Alexis Sherman**, 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Darcy Morgan**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Dalton Dugen**, 62nd MXS
- **Staff Sgt. Bradley Ten Brink**, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Petsamone Sountalavong**, 62nd MDOS
- **Staff Sgt. Vanessa Cruz**, 62nd Medical Support Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Michael Marcellus**, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Donald Pierce**, 62nd SFS
- **Airman 1st Class Raymond Mahilum**, 62nd SFS
- **Airman 1st Class Sonny Vaa**, 62nd SFS



Faith and Worship Programs

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

Schedule of worship services

Catholic Services:

All Catholic services are in chapel two.

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.

