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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

August 17, 2007

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Enlisted Airmen honor Gen. Duncan McNabb

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Air Mobility Command's enlisted force will induct its commander, Gen. Duncan McNabb, into the Order of the Sword during a banquet Sept. 6 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with the ceremony starting at 7 p.m.

The ceremony, at the Scott Club, is open to invited guests and AMC enlisted members. Limited seats are available and have been distributed to all AMC unit command chief master sergeants and the headquarters first sergeant.

Dinner choices are sliced beef tenderloin, \$30 for E-1 to E-6 and \$33 for E-7 and above; or vegetarian lasagna at \$26.50 for E-1 to E-6 and \$29 for E-7 and above, respectively, for attendees who are not members of the club; club members receive a \$2 discount off each price. Entertainment will feature United States Air Force Band of Mid-America's popular music group Starlifter.

The Order of the Sword is the highest honor enlisted Airmen can bestow on a leader. It is patterned after an order of chivalry founded during the Middle Ages — the Swedish Royal Order of the Sword. Ancient noncommissioned officers would honor leaders and pledge loyalty by ceremoniously presenting them with a sword. The sword — a symbol of truth, justice and power rightfully used — served as a token of esteemed leadership.

General McNabb will relinquish command of AMC Sept. 7 before leaving Scott to become the next Air Force vice chief of staff.

Command chief master sergeants are local points of contact for the banquet.

(Article courtesy of Air Force Print News.)



U.S. Air Force photo

Gen. Duncan McNabb, commander, Air Mobility Command, and equine partner pose for a photo at Rodeo 2007 here recently.

AFSO 21 idea takes shape

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

In an ongoing effort to increase the velocity of generating aircraft that are prepped and ready for flight, the 62nd Maintenance Group here recently unveiled an interactive tool trailer it hopes will revolutionize the way maintenance crews check out tools.

The brightly painted trailer named Total (Tools on the Aircraft Line) is emblazoned with Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century graphics and stands as a symbol of the concept of the real-time tool visibility plan base officials hope to implement in the future, said Maj. Randall Ackerman, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The trailer was initially destined for the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, but it was rescued and modified by the 62nd Maintenance Squadron's fabrication flight for the project.

The trailer holds tool kits that carry nearly 80 percent of all the tools needed for maintenance tasks on the flightline. By installing long wavelength identification chips on every tool, tool box and trailer, a central database located at the main tool checkout building is able to identify the status and location of each trailer on the flightline.

"It's a complete hierarchy, from the tool checkout facility all the way down to each tool," Major Ackerman said.

Red, yellow and green status lights mounted on top of the trailers will signify if the trailer has all of its tools and is ready to be checked out.

"We're spending too much time at the tool checkout waiting on tools," he said. "We want to get the people and equipment to the jet as fast as possible."

The system will also help reduce lost tool costs and the time spent by Airmen searching for the tools, Major Ackerman said.

Total is a great example of how AFSO 21 can start a potentially industry-wide changing process, said AFSO 21 processing manager Todd Goldsmith, 62nd Mission Support Group.

"It's a great textbook demonstration of how AFSO 21 principals can work for people at the ground level," Mr. Goldsmith said. "The design of the trailer and the fact that young Airmen had a role in the basic idea is a great motivator for young troops who want to get involved in changing a certain process."



Photo by Abner Guzman

A 'civil' salute

Cadets from Washington's Civil Air Patrol salute in formation Monday during retreat in front of the base flag pole. The cadets were here as part of the Civil Air Patrol's 11th annual summer encampment, designed to teach the cadets leadership and Air Force custom and courtesies.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 72 Low: 55	Hi: 70 Low: 57	Hi: 69 Low: 58

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

Mission accomplished

Total McChord sorties	11,184
Total flying hours	36,878.8
Cargo moved (tons)	78,435.2
Departure reliability rate	94.7%
Mission capable rate	84.0%
Personnel currently deployed	717
Reservists currently activated.....	213
(Jan. 1 to Tuesday. Numbers updated Tuesday.)	

Don't miss it ...

Summerfest

Summerfest is 8 a.m. Aug. 24. Events include a picnic, NASCAR 400 and fitness and sports day. The day will also mark the Air Force's 60th Anniversary.

Don't let your safety guard down

By

Col. Shane Hershman
62nd Airlift Wing vice commander

The 101 Critical Days of Summer is coming to an end shortly. I'm happy to report that our mishaps are considerably down 40 percent from last year. With two weeks left until Labor Day weekend, don't let your guard down when it comes to your safety.

The most common mishaps have been motor vehicle accidents followed by injuries resulting from recreational activities. The common theme is the lack of situational awareness and risk assessment. We must continue to enforce proper safety procedures while on duty — be it out on the flightline or in the office — and evaluate the risks in our activities on our own time. I often ask during safety meetings, who is a safety officer and a few

hands will go up. My response to that is that everyone's hand should be raised, since we all need to be safety officers. If you see an unsafe act, you are responsible for correcting it on the spot.

While you're taking some well-deserved time off to unwind with family or friends while the weather is still warm, continue practicing operational risk management. Wear the proper safety gear when you ride your bike or motorcycle, and ensure you can be seen. When you're out on the water, make sure the person driving the boat is properly trained and everyone wears a life jacket. In the flash of a second accidents can occur.

At work, follow proper safety procedures and protect yourself by wearing the appropriate safety equipment. Supervisors, take a moment to remind your staff of the importance of safety in the workplace. Airmen, don't be afraid to

remind your colleagues of correct safety measures if you see them doing something dangerous. But remember, you must take responsibility for your own safety.

The amount of time it takes to evaluate risks and ensure you're prepared to handle them is far less than the time it may take for you to recover from an accident. Staying safe is its own reward.

Accomplishing our mission would not be possible without you — the people who get the combat airlift mission done. The work you do is important, and I can't emphasize enough how important each of you are to the Air Force. Beyond that, each of you are even more important to your unit, your family and your friends. Whether at work or at home, keep safety at the forefront every day, because while there are 101 critical days of summer, there are 365 days you must make safety paramount.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Col. Shane Hershman, 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander, socializes at a picnic.

AFSO 21 — An upward spiral of success at McChord

By

Maj. Alesia Quiton
62nd Maintenance Squadron commander

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to accompany Maj. Gen. Robert McMahon, Air Mobility Command's director of logistics, on several stops on his itinerary while he was here for the Rodeo. His message over the course of the past two years has been incredibly consistent: We are experiencing budget cuts, manpower cuts, reduction in the number of available aircraft and yet, an increase in demand for airlift or ops tempo — and we will continue to face these challenges for the foreseeable future. His solution is

Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century. We have got to find better ways of doing business.

Faced with such a daunting task, one might be tempted to give up hope. I have even heard the term downward spiral used to describe the situation. I don't buy it. Today's Airmen are the most well-educated we have ever had serving in our force. Technology enables us to do things better, stronger and faster than ever. And Team McChord has fostered a culture of teamwork and continuous improvement that will help us through these and other challenges.

Though I championed some AFSO 21 initiatives in my own squadron and was involved on the periphery with some others, it didn't dawn on

me just how much the people of Team McChord had underway until I saw a mural on the upstairs wall of Hangar 4 that showed a timeline and achievements for all of the AFSO 21 events. It was an incredible sight to see how many improvement efforts had taken place and how each AFSO 21 event not only improved the targeted process, but spun off new ideas and better ways to do business. Rather than a downward spiral, this is truly an upward spiral of success.

Do we face difficult challenges for the future? Absolutely! But with positive attitudes and a culture of teamwork and continuous improvement, the people of Team McChord have demonstrated they can meet these challenges head on and succeed at every endeavor — now and in the future.

Professionals of the week

62nd Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. William Carpenter Jr.

Duty title:

Aerospace ground equipment craftsman

Duty section:

AGE servicing and pickup

Hometown:

Jackson, Miss.

Reason for recognition:

Sergeant Carpenter is an outstanding leader who has excelled and flawlessly managed three key-flight positions. His intelligent decisions resulted in 933 parts processed, accountability of 6,000 tools valued at \$1.5 million and a 100 percent scheduled-maintenance effectiveness rate for more than 400 pieces of equipment. He directed the preparation and use of 112 AGE units in support of 52 Rodeo 2007 aircraft in less than four hours. His goals are to become a chief master sergeant and complete a bachelor's degree. Finally, Sergeant Carpenter's superior leadership, management and work ethic place him at the highest tier of the noncommissioned officer corps.



Tech. Sgt. David Cowell

Duty title:

Precision measurement equipment laboratory craftsman

Duty section:

Signal generation and waveform analysis

Hometown:

Fredonia, N.Y.

Reason for recognition:

Sergeant Cowell provides 230 work centers across the Pacific Northwest with valuable interservice support for Army, Coast Guard, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command units that maintain avionics, radar, satellite tracking and communications systems to support multiple aircraft. He also helped provide a South Korean pre-assessment team with vital translation for Rodeo 2007. Additionally, Sergeant Cowell coordinated and oversaw a \$15,000 facility renovation project, ensuring on-time completion and raising quality of life for 32 personnel. Finally, his proactive leadership guaranteed effective workload management, maintaining maximum production, in the face of a 25 percent manning reduction.



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SERE training to be required for all Airmen

WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley met Aug. 10 at the Pentagon with several Air Force leaders to discuss the road ahead for survival, evasion, resistance and escape training.

Air Force leaders plan to broaden the focus of SERE training for all Airmen due to the threat of isolation and capture for Airmen supporting the War on Terror.

“As we’ve seen recently, the capture of military personnel has the potential of exploding into a larger strategic event with global impacts,” General Moseley said. “Today’s battlefields are non-linear and non-contiguous; their shape and venue change constantly. I worry we’ve not preparing our Airmen for the world we’re operating in.”

In today’s ever-changing world, Airmen increasingly find themselves in a non-traditional environment outside the wire. SERE training teaches Airmen principles, techniques and skills to survive in any environment, avoid capture, resist and escape if captured.

SERE training is currently conducted on three levels. All Airmen receive entry-level, or A-level, training. B-level is provided to those with a moderate risk of capture and C-level is reserved for those with a high risk of capture. B- and C-level training is provided primarily to aircrew members, those traditionally in higher risk duties.

Col. Bill Andrews, a guest speaker at the summit, was an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot flying his 35th mission in the final stages of Operation Desert Storm when he was shot down, captured and spent time as a prisoner of war.

“An Airman captured faces grave moral and physical challenges,” Colonel Andrews said. “My training gave me a gut understanding that I was still at war and not in a time-out. My SERE training at the Air Force Academy, 14 years earlier, was clear as a bell, giving me the confidence to



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Larry Simmons

Tech. Sgt. Jesse Arnold, left, and Senior Airman Ryan Gaspard practice evasion movements during a survival, evasion, resistance and escape exercise at Avon Park, Fla., in November 2006.

not break in the face of the enemy.”

In addition to aircrews, advanced SERE training currently is provided to battlefield Airmen, those with the responsibility for combat control, pararescue, tactical air control and combat weather.

“This is a great day. For the first time in history, we’re talking about preparing all Airmen in the total force to deal with the increasing threat of isolation and capture,” said Chief Master Sgt. John Myers, SERE career field manager.

“With the issues we’ve addressed at this summit, we’ve taken a great step forward in facing this ultimate challenge that confronts our Airmen who fall

into enemy hands,” Colonel Andrews added.

General Moseley’s new initiative will be to incorporate SERE training throughout the Air Force.

“We need to inject these skills across the entire force,” General Moseley said. “Whether deployed for combat operations, stationed overseas or even in the continental United States, there are persistent threats to all Airmen. We must ensure every Airman is properly trained to deal with these threats. From the moment Airmen report for initial training until they separate or retire, we must train them to ensure they return with honor.”

(Article courtesy of Air Force Print News.)



McChord's Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

BAGHDAD, Iraq — From left, Master Sgt. Ronny Morton, Airman 1st Class Jared Utrup, Senior Airman Chanelle Jackson and Capt. Esteban Castellanos, all with the 817th EAS, stand together on a ramp.



Courtesy photo

IRAQ — Lt. Col. Brian Newberry, left, promotes Master Sgt. Ronny Morton with the assistance of Senior Master Sgt. Don Ellis, all with the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Aug. 2.



Full replacement value for personal property begins soon

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Department of Defense customers, including servicemembers and DOD civilians, will soon be eligible for full replacement value protection on most DOD-funded personal property shipments.

Full replacement value coverage will apply to personal property shipments with a pickup date on or after:

- Oct. 1, for international shipments to and from outside the continental United States.
- Nov. 1, for domestic shipments within the continental United States.
- March 1, 2008, for nontemporary storage.
- March 1, 2008, for local move/direct procurement method shipments.

Under the full replacement value program, the transportation service provider is liable for the greater of \$5,000 per shipment, or \$4 times the net weight of the shipment, in pounds, up to \$50,000.

Customers must provide prompt notice of loss and damage. The customer must submit a DD Form 1840, listing all damage discovered at

delivery, or DD Form 1840R listing all damage discovered after delivery, to the provider within 75 days of delivery. The provider has the right to inspect the damaged items once the notice forms are received.

Customers will not face an additional charge for full replacement value coverage and must file the claim directly with the transportation service provider within nine months of delivery by using DD Form 1844 to receive full replacement value. The provider will settle the claim by repairing or paying to repair damaged items. The provider will pay full replacement value cost on items that need replacing or have been lost or destroyed. When the claim is filed directly with the provider, the provider will be responsible for obtaining all repair and replacement costs.

If the provider denies the customer's full claim, makes an offer on the claim that is not acceptable, or does not respond within 30 days, the customer may transfer the claim to the military claims office. If a customer files a claim

with the provider after nine months, but before the two-year time limit for filing the claim, the provider is only liable for depreciated value of lost or damaged items.

If the customer transfers the claim to the military claims office within nine months of delivery, the claims office will only be responsible for depreciated replacement costs. The claims office will then attempt to recover full replacement value from the provider. If successful in recovering the full replacement value, the claims office will then pay the customer the difference between the depreciated cost already paid and the full replacement value cost.

The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command has published detailed full replacement value guidelines that govern coverage on its Web site at <http://www.sddc.army.mil>. SDDC is the executive agent for DOD's Personal Property Program, managing expenditures of nearly \$1.9 billion each year. (Article courtesy of Air Force Print News.)

Staff sergeant promotion rates announced



McChord's promotees

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

Lynn Means, 1st Air Support Operations Group
Seth Ragsdale, 1st ASOG
Deanna Marks, 1st Weather Squadron
Phillip Blackford, 4th Airlift Squadron
Janet Freshley, 4th AS
William Freshly, 4th AS
Jeremy Jones, 4th AS
Eric Morris, 4th AS
Juanita Terrill, 4th AS
Ryan Yarton, 4th AS
Brandon Craig, 5th Air Support Operations Squadron
Glen Derra, 5th ASOS
John Dowd, 5th ASOS
Luis Hipolitoramos, 5th ASOS
Joshua McKeever, 5th ASOS
Brandon Temple, 5th ASOS
Gerard Whitehurstcarter, 5th ASOS
Stephen Bassham, 7th Airlift Squadron
Tyler Hodnett, 7th AS
Jenna Kramer, 7th AS
Charles Patterson, 7th AS
Kyle Roen, 7th AS
Jon Wessling, 7th AS
Brandon Gross, 22nd Special Tactics Squadron
Christopher Martin, 22nd STS
George Mcalister, 22nd STS
Jason Schiffner, 22nd STS
Ricardo Barbary, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron
Howard Daniels, 62nd APS
Richard Derosa, 62nd APS
Jonathan DeVera, 62nd APS
Jeremy Garber, 62nd APS
Matthew Glaus, 62nd APS
Ryan Hall, 62nd APS
Benjamin Hastings, 62nd APS
Steven Inouye, 62nd APS
Chad Knisley, 62nd APS
Stephen Palmbo, 62nd APS
Derek Rea, 62nd APS
Vimish Singh, 62nd APS
Jeffrey Winters, 62nd APS
Marvin Averett, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Owen Connolly, 62nd AMXS
Robert Cronin, 62nd AMXS
Matthew Dickinson, 62nd AMXS
Elizabeth Fursdon, 62nd AMXS
Michael Granato, 62nd AMXS
Thomas Grover, 62nd AMXS
Ryan Hawk, 62nd AMXS

Aaron Hellman, 62nd AMXS
Ronald Hollister, 62nd AMXS
Christopher Hunding, 62nd AMXS
Robert James, 62nd AMXS
Trenton Lackey, 62nd AMXS
Robert Lantz, 62nd AMXS
Matthew Mazure, 62nd AMXS
Verl Mccord, 62nd AMXS
James Moenning, 62nd AMXS
Christopher Morris, 62nd AMXS
Bryan Mumma, 62nd AMXS
Rebecca Owen, 62nd AMXS
Phillip Pall, 62nd AMXS
Dustin Pennington, 62nd AMXS
Shawn Pharr, 62nd AMXS
Amber Raines, 62nd AMXS
Kevin Ralphs, 62nd AMXS
Gatlin Rowland, 62nd AMXS
Allan Thompson, 62nd AMXS
Paul Thompson, 62nd AMXS
Ryan Thomson, 62nd AMXS
Thomas Willard, 62nd AMXS
Lowell Williams, 62nd AMXS
Scott Heathcoat, 62nd Airlift Wing
Naziroh Kreil, 62nd AW
Cory Autmon, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron
Tyler Collins, 62nd CES
Daniel Demay, 62nd CES
Alexander Fletcher, 62nd CES
Glenn Henthorn, 62nd CES
Michael Lafo, 62nd CES
Preston Teegarden, 62nd CES
Alvin Thomas, 62nd CES
Alexis Barksdale, 62nd Communications Squadron
Stephen Cousins, 62nd CS
Charles Diggs, 62nd CS
Robert Donaldson, 62nd CS
Christopher Earls, 62nd CS
Nicholas Higbee, 62nd CS
Donna Kotewa, 62nd CS
Joshua McClanathan, 62nd CS
Matthew McMurtrey, 62nd CS
Nicholas Neven, 62nd CS
Sarah LaPlante, 62nd CS
William Powell, 62nd CS
Marc Spangler, 62nd CS
Natasha Szeluga, 62nd CS
Stephen Trevino, 62nd CS
Nathan Dennis, 62nd Comptroller Squadron
Cyd Garcia, 62nd CPTS
Leon Howard, 62nd CPTS
Byron Alde, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
Joereen Estrella, 62nd LRS
Christopher Leuluai, 62nd LRS
Eric Minar, 62nd LRS
Tom Ricke, 62nd LRS
Alfredo Samson, 62nd LRS

Bradley Zink, 62nd LRS
Jorina Jenkins, 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron
Elizabeth Maden, 62nd MOS
Miguel Amador, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
Brian Ball, 62nd MXS
Kelli Jenkins, 62nd MXS
Michael Johnson, 62nd MXS
Shaun Leahy, 62nd MXS
Samuel Mayo, 62nd MXS
Klee McNair, 62nd MXS
Brian Owens, 62nd MXS
Alexander Rojas, 62nd MXS
Jessica Smith, 62nd MXS
Andrew Stevens, 62nd MXS
Courtney Woolverton, 62nd MXS
Jeffrey Anke, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron
Nessie Galvez, 62nd MDOS
Diana Lafon, 62nd MDOS
Chad McGregor, 62nd MDOS
Jennifer Moorhead, 62nd MDOS
Stephanie Smith, 62nd MDOS
Leonard Washington, 62nd MDOS
Melanie Weaver, 62nd MDOS
Aaron Massey, 62nd Mission Support Squadron
Michael Reese, 62nd MSS
Kasie Spearman, 62nd MSS
Christopher Baker, 62nd Operations Support Squadron
Thomas Jenkins, 62nd OSS
Rachel Keener, 62nd OSS
Ronnie Plaza, 62nd OSS
Samuel Roman, 62nd OSS
Joshua Archibald, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
Ryan Flory, 62nd SFS
Lamar Hawkins, 62nd SFS
Brian LeCloux, 62nd SFS
Isidro Mazuca, 62nd SFS
Joshua Morris, 62nd SFS
Andrew Mutch, 62nd SFS
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Michael Blanch, Inbound
Edward Lamar, Inbound
Dustyn Marek, Inbound
Jared Mason, Inbound
Jeremy Mullen, Inbound
Cesar Noguez, Inbound
Michael Ororke, Inbound
Travis Porter, Inbound
Mehtar Sullivan, Inbound
Cherelle Terry, Inbound

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force officials selected 15,130 of 36,608 eligible senior airmen for promotion to staff sergeant for a selection rate of 41.33 percent, up 5.46 percent from last year.

The staff sergeant promotion list was released at 9 a.m. Central Daylight Time Wednesday, and score notices were posted on the virtual military personnel flight and the Air Force Portal at 3 p.m. CDT.

The complete list of selectees is posted on Air Force Personnel Center's enlisted promotions Web page at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>.

"The promotion opportunity for this year is outstanding," said Chief Master Sgt. Rusty Nicholson, the enlisted promotion branch chief at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base. "This is a great day for the United States Air Force and a significant event for the Air Force's newest group of non-commissioned officers."

The average staff sergeant selectee score for the 07E5 staff sergeant test cycle was 270.71 points, based on the following:

- 131.72 enlisted performance reports
- 55.99 promotion fitness exam
- 54.33 specialty knowledge test
- 2.15 time in grade
- 4.72 time in service
- 0.85 decorations

There are 4,894 enlisted Airmen who will have yet to take the weighted airmen promotion system test, primarily due to deployment, Chief Nicholson said. "Upon their return, they will be provided the 60-day study time prior to testing and then automatically be considered via the monthly supplemental process."

-- 62nd Security Forces Squadron -- Givin' bad guys the 'ruff' treatment

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

They may be furry, four-legged and lack table manners, but they're one of McChord's most valuable assets in the War on Terror. The 62nd Security Forces Squadron's team of eight working dogs and their handlers perform duties here and at deployed locations that keep Airmen, equipment and infrastructure safe each day.

While on patrol on base, the K-9 teams are used to help search vehicles or buildings for drugs and explosives and apprehend suspects if needed, said Staff Sgt. Jason Barker, 62nd SFS.

"The more the threat level goes up, the more the K-9 teams are utilized," Sergeant Barker said.

At deployed locations, K-9 teams are used to help find weapons caches and search houses and caves for enemies, he said.

"Due to [the K-9 team's] ability to find things, they can replace 10 security forces Airmen on patrols," Sergeant Barker said.

Because of the high operations tempo with K-9 teams, the 62nd SFS has two teams constantly deployed, he said.

While deployments can take an emotional toll on the dog in the same manner that affects Airmen, the time overseas can also serve as valuable bonding time between the handler and the dog because the two spend nearly every minute together, Sergeant Barker said.

Back at home, the bond between each handler and dog is strengthened by the duo working together daily at the base's K-9 facility. Despite the fact handlers go through a rigorous 12-week training program at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, they still need time to work with their dogs once they arrive here to build a rapport.

Establishing a relationship starts with each handler working with his dog through sets of training exercises each month to fulfill certain training criteria, said Staff Sgt. Herb Frost, 62nd SFS.

The exercises can range from building and aircraft searches to aggression training, where the handlers work to reinforce their ability to keep their dog obedient during a confrontation with a suspect, said Sergeant Frost, who works daily with his Belgian Malinois, Rudy.

"The more time and effort you put in, the



Sergeant Goedert runs alongside Argo, a German Shepherd, as he makes his way through a series of tunnels designed to mimic potential crawl spaces.

more you are going to get out of it," he said.

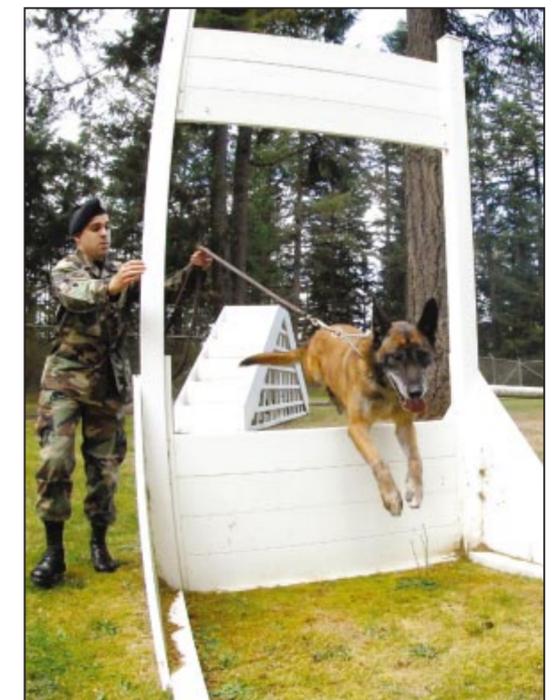
The 62nd SFS team is composed of German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois. The Belgian Malinois is a breed with a background rooted in police work and sheep herding. They are generally lighter, quicker and more agile than German Shepherds, Sergeant Barker said.

The K-9 facility on base is also equipped with an elaborate obstacle course with room for the trainers to run alongside the dogs and give them commands throughout.

"It's all about proficiency," said Staff Sgt. Nathan Goedert, 62nd SFS, who recently became a handler for Argo, a German Shepherd. "It helps keep them fresh."

The training helps the handlers better learn about their dog's demeanor and what it does or doesn't like, Sergeant Goedert said.

"Each dog has their own quirks and personalities," Sergeant Barker said.



(Above) Sergeant Frost runs alongside Rudy as he jumps through one of several obstacles during a morning workout.

(Left) Sergeant Goedert watches as Rudy goes airborne while biting on a training sleeve during a decoy demonstration.



Rudy, a 9-year-old Belgian Malinois, keeps a close eye on a decoy while handler Staff Sgt. Herb Frost, 62nd Security Forces Squadron, gives him the "watch 'em" command during a decoy demonstration here Aug. 10.



Security forces working dog handlers Staff Sgt. Nathan Goedert, 62nd SFS, and Sergeant Frost work with Rudy during a simulated decoy attack demonstration.



Staff Sgt. Jason Barker, 62nd SFS, answers questions from group of children following a brief working dog demonstration here.



Photos by Abner Guzman

Airman takes to the "ice" in desert



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Moorman

After working a 12-hour shift, Tech. Sgt. Wayland Baker is ready to hit the "ice." The father of six is serving a four-month deployment in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Game of hockey helps relieve stress at end of day

SOUTHWEST ASIA — In the rolling sage brush-covered hills, reminiscent of west Texas, the temperature still hovers above 100 as the sun sets in this dusty, deployed military location.

Even after a 12-hour shift, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Wayland Baker of the 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron is ready to hit the "ice."

Every day, the 31-year-old vehicle operator swaps his desert camouflage uniform for the Air Force blue shorts and gray T-shirt. He trades the tan-suede boots for a pair of rollerblades and heads to his "rink."

The over-sized gloves and slant-footed stick are as alien to the region as the local customs of the region are to him. However, his time spent under an Arabian sky is not unfamiliar. Sergeant Baker has deployed to the Middle East six times in his 12-year military career.

The active duty Air National Guardsman is deployed from the 116th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., where he serves as non-commissioned officer in charge of vehicle operations.

During the day, the father of six transports aircrew members across hot tarmacs and taxiways or delivers cargo down routes where flocks of sheep graze in the medians and camel herds wander in the distance. He takes his chances pushing loaded semis down dangerous roads to forward operating bases sprinkled around the rugged terrain to support Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

"Local drivers weave through traffic at excessive speeds with no regard to other motorists, and others limp down the middle of the road at extremely slow speeds," he said. "I have sat at intersections and watched impatient drivers drive up the sidewalk to get to the front of the line or to get around a red light."

But when the sun goes down,

Sergeant Baker transforms a metal-roofed, beige, pre-fabricated steel pavilion into a hockey rink. There's no need for a Zamboni on this concrete. Here, he can escape the reality of his living conditions at "The Rock," a name given to the base during its construction.

"I get lost in the game; it's my relief," said the die-hard Buffalo Sabres National Hockey League fan. "When I am finished skating in the evening, I am relaxed and ready to start over the next day."

Tonight, the Corinth, N.Y., native faces off against himself. The former goaltender skates endless circles across the gray surface, pushing the puck in a one-man power play. He envisions a defenseman and a goalie as he glides across the imaginary ice trying to improve his stick handling and speed. A slap shot into a non-existent goalpost allows the dead puck to sail off the rink and skip across the gravel encompassing the pavilion. The athletic-framed Sergeant Baker retrieves the black disk and the ritual begins again.

"I play hockey wherever I go," he said. "So, you could say it's a piece of home while away from home."

He started playing hockey while deployed to Saudi Arabia where a couple of co-workers talked him into giving the winter sport a try.

"It was rough at the start," he said. "I didn't know how to skate or much of anything else relating to hockey."

Sergeant Baker said he plays for fun mostly; but the highlight of his hockey career was protecting the net for a league team while stationed at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

"That was the last time I played goalie," he said. "We ended up winning the championship that year."

Eight years later, Sergeant Baker is still practicing, still lugging his gear to the other side of the world; far away from the inline rink near his home where he enjoys playing hockey with his family.

There are no cheering fans here. No Saturday league games; not even a net for a goalie to protect. Here, there is one man, a pair of rollerblades, a hockey stick and a puck. He is home for now.

(Article courtesy of Air Force Print News.)

U.S. Air Force Marathon offers four-person relay race

By

Chris McGee

Aeronautical Systems Center Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Runners who are interested in participating in the 2007 U.S. Air Force Marathon here, but aren't interested in running the full 26.2-mile course, have another option: the four-person relay.

Relay team members each run a specific leg of the marathon with the team's total elapsed time determining the winners.

Leg distances include 5.1 miles for leg one, 8 miles for leg two, 6.5 miles for leg three and 6.6 miles for leg four.

According to Molly Loudon, marathon director, the relay team race builds team spirit and makes the marathon more accessible to those not looking to run a full marathon.

"The relay team race fosters teamwork within a group, organization, company or family," Ms. Loudon said. "Training for the relay is not as demanding as the marathon and half marathon."

Team captains decide which leg each team member runs. If a relay team has fewer than four members on race day, one or more runners must run consecutive legs.

Runners can run in either a relay or in the marathon, but they cannot participate in both.

Categories of team competition include coed (at least one team member from each sex), men's open, women's open, masters (all members must be at least 40 years old on race day), Reserve Officers' Training Corps

and active duty military.

Registration for the relay race is running approximately 50 percent ahead of last year's pace with 107 teams registered as of July 21, compared to 72 teams on the same date in 2006.

The number of relay teams is limited to 300. Priority is given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Teams come from many different places to participate in the marathon, according to Ms. Loudon.

"Teams are from every group of people and from all over the United States," she said. "There are military teams who compete and sometimes will create a competition among their teams." The event will take place

Sept. 15.



Life of the line: Crew chiefs keep up planes above

By

Senior Airman Clark Staehle
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — As one of the busiest flightlines in the Air Force, the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing is home to more than 100 Air Force aircraft.

Crew chiefs are responsible for all of an aircraft's day-to-day maintenance, including refueling, defueling, launch, recovery, hydraulics, brakes and tires. Each aircraft requires a designated team to help get it off the ground.

"It's almost like day-to-day maintenance on your car, except a lot more in depth," said Staff Sgt. Wesley Hughston who is assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's 340th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

Crew chiefs also troubleshoot any problems the plane lands with and they fix minor discrepancies — anything from burnt-out lights to landing gear problems. They also inspect the plane before and after every mission for cracks, loose rivets and bolts, said Senior Airman Joe Smigielski, who is assigned to the 746th Aircraft Maintenance Unit with the 379th EAMXS.

The 160-plus crew chiefs with the 340th AMU, who maintain the base's fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers, are organized into teams of three. These teams are typically comprised of two five-level Airmen and a seven-level Airman to supervise.

"I'll keep the team I have now the entire time I'm here," said Sergeant Hughston, a Talladega, Ala., native. "We all know exactly what we're doing and we can rely on each other. We're used to each other."

The 340th AMU, which includes Airmen from almost every stateside KC-135 base, doesn't

deploy in regular rotations. Their deployments can vary from 60 to almost 180 days. Because of this, many of the crew chiefs end up deploying together time and again.

"I was pretty much mentored by every staff sergeant and technical sergeant out there," said Sergeant Hughston, who has deployed here seven times.

Life as a crew chief is a bit different at the 746th AMU, which also falls under the 379th EAMXS. Everyone in the 746th AMU is deployed from the 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas.

"Here, you work with [Airmen] a lot more and you get to know them a lot better," Airman Smigielski said. "It really is a like a big family here because you're with the same people all deployment. You build friendships out here that you might not back home."

It takes between two and five hours for a team with the 340th AMU to make a jet airworthy, depending on how long they have to wait for fuel and aircraft ground equipment, and the time of day, which is affected by shift change. One team can usually turn around two or three jets during a typical shift. Work orders on any given days are received from air tasking orders, which ultimately receives the information from aircrews. The work orders are then passed down through the production superintendents to the crew chiefs.

Unlike crew chiefs with the 746th AMU, crew chiefs with the 340th AMU aren't assigned to a specific jet because there aren't enough of them to go around. After a team finishes one jet, they rotate back into the maintenance building where they're assigned another jet to work on.

Crew chiefs with the 746th AMU are assigned to a single aircraft, unlike crew chiefs with the 340th AMU. Those who fly with their planes are



Photo by Senior Airman Clark Staehle

Senior Airman Joe Smigielski, 746th Aircraft Maintenance Unit with the 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, inspects hydraulic lines inside a C-130 Hercules aircraft.

known as flying crew chiefs.

"When the planes go off station, you get to fly with the aircraft, and if there's a problem, you head up the maintenance," Airman Smigielski said, a Jackson, Mich., native. "It means we know a little about all the systems in the plane."

From helping launch and receive aircraft to scheduling fuel and inspections, crew chiefs are an integral part of the Air Force's mission and help keep its aircraft flying daily.



Deployed spouses dinner

There will be a dinner for families with deployed spouses from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 27 at the chapel support center. The dinner will feature Famous Dave's Legendary Pit Bar-B-que, and participants are encouraged to wear a pirate or tropical-themed outfit. Spouses of Airmen on temporary duty or remote assignments are encouraged to attend. Reservations are required no later than Wednesday. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Kathy Scott or Staff Sgt. Douglas Witham, 982-5556 or visit the website at <https://62aw.mcchord.af.mil/awstaff/hc/default.aspx>.

Education coordinator

The McChord chaplain service is seeking both a Protestant and Catholic religious education coordinator. These Chapel Tithes and Offerings Fund non-personal service contracts are available for bid until Aug. 26. Interviews will be scheduled prior to opening of bids at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 27 at the chapel support center, Bldg. 746. Statements of work, bid schedules and basis for award are available at the chapel support center. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Brad Turner or Staff Sgt. Doug

Witham at 982-5556.

Summerfest

The basewide Summerfest events, including a picnic, NASCAR 400 and fitness and sports day, are rolled into one day commemorating the Air Force's 60th Anniversary starting at 8 a.m. Aug. 24.

Special duty briefing

Air Education and Training Command Special Duty Assignment Team will give a briefing on special duty assignments Aug. 30 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the base theater. All Airmen are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Master Sgt. Lorenzo Jones at 982-3395.

Munitions accounts

The 62nd Maintenance Squadron, Munitions Maintenance Flight, will be closed for semi-annual inventory Sept. 4 to 7. Computer item records will be frozen for inventory during this time. Munitions users and custodians will ensure those routine workloads are scheduled around these dates. Only emergency issues will be accepted during this period. Training requirements are not considered an emergency. For more information, call Herb Wilkins,

62nd MXS, at 982-2956.

5K family fun run

There will be a 5K family fun run at 10 a.m. Sept. 8 for all McChord Airmen and their families. A \$10 entry fee supports the scholarship fund and every participant will receive a custom designed T-shirt. There will also be a special appearance by hall-of-fame runner Darryl Genest. Register by e-mail by Aug. 31 with Capt. Gabe Arrington at Gabe.Arrington@mcchord.af.mil or 2nd Lt. Raphael Michel at Raphael.Michel@mcchord.af.mil.

Ladies bowling

The Monday Morning Ladies Bowling League is looking for bowlers. The league meets at Sounder's Lanes Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The season begins Sept. 10. For more information, call Karen Stolp at 858-9554.

Correction

Master Sgt. Stephen Zeiders is from the 7th Airlift Squadron, not the 4th AS. He received a 90 percent or better on his career development course exam recently.



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.

