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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

February 8, 2008

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62nd AW commander shares vision for Team McChord

By

Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Enhancing McChord's reputation as the premier combat airlift wing in the Air Force is at the top of Col. Jeffrey Stephenson's priorities as the new 62nd Airlift Wing commander.

"I want to continue to bolster [that] perception and reality," he said.

People know and believe in Team McChord, and there is a very positive impression at the most senior level, he continued.

"You don't just get that reputation; you earn it. People respect us and look up to us and I want to continue to grow and be even better than we are," he said.

A continued commitment to the Air Force's core values is the first thing Colonel Stephenson will be looking for in the Airmen of Team McChord.

"I expect for them to be the most professional, most disciplined, best educated personnel they can be," he said.

Colonel Stephenson demonstrated his personal commitment to 'service before self' in 1998 when his actions helped save the life of a pilot whose aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Then-Major Stephenson was leaving the commissary just in time to see a T-34 aircraft flying low over the building before it hit the parking lot of the commissary and continued across the street and crashed into a van. He and the two other men raced to pull the trapped pilot out of the burning aircraft.

"All I could think about was getting the gentleman out of the cockpit," he said.

For his act of heroism, Colonel Stephenson was presented the Cheney Award.

As his three master's degrees attest to, Colonel Stephenson firmly believes in the importance of education in today's Air Force.

"It is our strength," he said. "Education is the basis for everything we do. It shows initiative, because you're always trying to better yourself. The more valuable you can make yourself to our nation and our Air Force speaks to where you want to go in the future."

This focus on education was a view also shared by Colonel Stephenson's leadership role models, who range from current and retired general officers to a retired chief master sergeant. One of Colonel Stephenson's mentors, retired Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge Jr., taught physics on the side while on active duty.

"Here's a guy who was at the time a two-star general in our Air Force, and he still continued to go out and educate our young folks and spend the time as a professor," said Colonel Stephenson. "That level of education breeds excellence and that's what he wanted in our Air Force."

Excellence from every member of Team McChord, whether active duty, Guard, Reserve or civilian, is how Colonel Stephenson envisions the Total Force concept in action.



Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, addresses Team McChord at last month's change-of-command ceremony.

"My vision is that when someone comes to visit our installation, unless they look at an individual's patch or uniform, they would have no idea what component you are," he said.

Colonel Stephenson stressed three points he wants every Airman to remember.

To begin with, he said, everyone is important to the team.

"We as Team McChord and the McChord family understand one thing - no one person is any better than another. We need to treat everyone fairly and with respect."

Second, attitude is everything.

"When you go in to something, if you always have a positive attitude, you may not get the end result that you desire, but it will make your life a whole lot easier," said Colonel Stephenson.

Finally, have fun and take pride in what one does.

"Should you decide to separate or retire and you've given me 100 percent, I'm going to shake your hand and thank you for serving your country and what you've done not only for Team McChord, but for our Air Force and our Department of Defense and our nation," he said.

Colonel Stephenson said that he and his family already feel warmly embraced by the Team McChord family, and they are looking forward to building and strengthening that relationship during their time here.

Joint basing plan moving forward

By

Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Department of Defense officials recently released initial guidance for joint basing implementation, providing a roadmap for joint basing mergers.

This detailed guidance, released Jan. 22, is a step towards implementing the Base Realignment and Closure 2005 Joint Basing recommendations, which established that the Army will jointly manage installation support functions for Fort Lewis and McChord by 2011.

"The driving force behind joint basing is to search for efficiencies and effectiveness in merging installation support functions between different services. In pursuit of these efficiencies, we're working closely with our Fort Lewis counterparts to identify commonalities in our support functions," said Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander.

Colonel Stephenson stressed that the operational missions of the two installations will remain distinct under the merger.

There have been many details to work out since the plan became law in 2005.

"Signing of the Joint Basing Implementation Guidance pushes the process forward, since it represents the resolution of some key issues at the Defense Department level and enables progress to continue toward the establishment of Joint Base Lewis-McChord," said Lt. Col. Anne Marie Scott, director of joint basing for McChord.

The toughest challenge has been reaching a common definition of terms and level of support, said Col. Frank Rechner, 62nd Mission Support Group commander.

"Organizationally, we are aligned differently," he said. "For instance, our supply system is standardized across the Air Force. The challenge lies in integrating that system into another service while maintaining our flexibility and effectiveness."

"It's important while we are working through these issues that we make sure the Army and the Air Force requirements can both be met," Colonel Scott said.

— See JOINT BASING, Page 7

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 47 Low: 38	Hi: 49 Low: 40	Hi: 47 Low: 40

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

Mission accomplished

Total McChord sorties	1,402
Total flying hours	4,662.8
Cargo moved (tons)	10,783.7
Departure reliability rate	95.2%
Mission capable rate	85.8%
Personnel currently deployed	452
Reservists currently activated.....	151
(Jan. 1 to Wednesday. Numbers updated Wednesday.)	

Don't miss it ...

"Heart of Gold" Scavenger Hunt

Pick up your map and card at the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Bldg. 552 Feb. 14. The scavenger hunt begins at 9 a.m. Call 982-2695 for more information.

Team McChord is synonymous with family

By

Col. Jeffrey Stephenson
62nd Airlift Wing commander

During the past two weeks, I have had the chance to meet many of the outstanding professionals comprising Team McChord. After only a few visits to offices here on base, I immediately realized why McChord has earned so many awards and accolades. I have no doubt the best combat airlifters in Air Mobility Command reside right here at McChord. There is an overwhelming sense of togetherness and support that is unrivaled.

While few deny we work very well as a cohesive team, I challenge you to consider Team McChord to be more like a family. We are a family that looks out for each other, supports each other, challenges each other to rise to new levels of performance and continually pushes to raise the bar when we think we can go no further. I see the men and women of McChord mentoring, trusting and relying on each other. We depend on each other for mutual support as match-

less wingmen. We support each other through multiple deployments in our efforts with the Global War on Terrorism. Through it all, we draw our strength and base our foundation on the family that is Team McChord.

I consider myself fortunate to be part of such a diverse group of talented, motivated and gifted professionals. We are fortunate to have active-duty, Reservists, Guardsmen and civilian personnel from all walks of life bringing a myriad of perspectives, backgrounds and experiences to the table. Our diversity is the glue that keeps our family strong. We carry that strength with us, committed to each other to do our very best with every task. Our bond is unwavering, unselfish and unconditional because we are a family, sharing the traditions and beliefs of many different cultures fortifying the rock that is "Team McChord."

Take time to celebrate family with our fellow Team McChord members and myself. Embrace the spirit and strength that is "Ohana", the Hawaiian word for family. McChord is strong. The Team McChord family is stronger.



Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander.

Standardized procedures help mission run smoothly

By

Chief Master Sgt. Darrell McKinney
62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

The other day I saw a Geico Insurance commercial with the slogan "It's so easy, even a Caveman can do it" and I was reminded of what a former supervisor would often say to me. He said, "Fix it so a damn fool can figure it out." He always stressed following standardized procedures and not taking shortcuts. He wanted me to understand how important it was to follow procedures so when someone came behind me, they knew exactly what actions I had taken and could pick up right where I left off. I never really understood the importance of his words until many years later in my career when I became a supervisor.

My former supervisor knew how critical it was

to have continuity. By following standardized procedures, anyone should be able to come behind you and know exactly where you stopped. They should be able to continue with no interruptions or delays in supporting the mission. I remember the first time I used this phrase with one of my Airmen. He had an appointment one day and I was left alone at the customer service counter. A customer entered our office and requested an adjustment to his equipment account. It had been several years since I worked in equipment management, but I had no doubt I could handle the customer's request. I stood tall and proudly stated "No problem." I went to the filing cabinet to retrieve his equipment account folder and to my surprise, I could not locate it. I searched through the entire cabinet with no luck. Finally, I looked around the office and found it laying amongst several other folders, magazines and accounting

documentation. As I reviewed his account documentation, I could not determine if any adjustments had already been made to the account due to the folder having an outdated listing. Furthermore, the customer stated he had requested several other adjustments in the past and wanted to know if his requests were completed. I could only locate his initial requests, but nothing was documented on the equipment transaction log. Therefore, I could not determine if any actions had been taken and completed. Sadly, I asked the customer to return later in the day when my troop would be available to assist him.

It was at this moment that I understood what my former supervisor meant when he used the phrase "Fix it so a damn fool can figure it out". How many times have you attempted to pick up where your coworker left off and had no idea where to start? It's frustrating and can be

Professionals of the week

62nd Contracting Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Donald Crawford

Duty title:

Non commissioned officer in charge of the simplified acquisition flight

Duty section:

Services flight

Hometown:

Macon, Ga.

Why he's super:

Sergeant Crawford recently returned from a six-month deployment to Kabul, Afghanistan, where he filled a tasking slotted for an Army sergeant major. While deployed, he procured more than \$2.5 million in contract support for coalition forces and was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal. Locally, he quick-turned an urgent \$1 million purchase of 3,388 emergency passenger oxygen units for McChord's C-17 Globemaster III fleet when timely delivery through the Air Force Supply System was unavailable. Sergeant Crawford also just completed a 40-hour Internal Revenue Service course to assist his fellow Airmen with their taxes.



Senior Airman Rebecca Maxwell

Duty title:

Contracts specialist

Duty section:

Construction flight

Hometown:

Union Point, Ga.

Why she's tops:

Airman Maxwell was selected as an outstanding performer during the Unit Compliance Inspection. She was also named the squadron's Airman of the Year for 2007. During her recent deployment to Balad Air Base, she was coined by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing for quickly procuring critical bed-down equipment and furnishings for a newly-arrived F-16 Falcon squadron. She also awarded 275 contract actions worth more than \$900,000, directly supporting the wing's mission in the Global War on Terrorism. During the end of the 2007 fiscal year funds fallout, she expertly negotiated 14 mission-critical and quality of life projects totaling \$1.4 million.



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2007 Annual Award winners

Editor's note: The following individuals were selected as McChord Air Force Base's annual award winners during a ceremony Jan. 31 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.



CGO — Capt. William McDowell, 7th Airlift Squadron



Junior CGO — 2nd Lt. K. Blythe Simmons, 62nd Maintenance Squadron



Senior NCO — Senior Master Sgt. James Byrnes, 62nd Airlift Wing



First Sergeant — Senior Master Sgt. David Fish, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron



NCO — Staff Sgt. James Gonzalez, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron



Airman — Senior Airman Mark Walker, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron



Phoenix Spouse — Tracey Stage, 62nd Operations Support Squadron



Category I Civilian — Jerry Coley II, 62nd Security Forces Squadron



Category II Civilian — Anna Cullen, 62nd Medical Group



Category Ib Civilian — Gabriel Laramie, 62nd Services Squadron



Category IIb Civilian — Ann Rodrigue-Bailey, 62nd SVS



Category III Civilian — John Schmedake, 62nd AW

For more annual awards coverage, visit McChord's public Web site at <http://public.mcchord.amc.af.mil>



AF celebrates African-American History Month

SAN ANTONIO — In 1926, Carter G. Woodson single-handedly pioneered the celebration of “Negro History Week,” during the second week in February, to coincide with the birthday celebrations for Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Mr. Carter’s proposal later became Black History Month, and since 1976, is celebrated every February.

One purpose of Black History Month is to recognize past events that affect everyone today. Some events receive great attention. Others are more subtle, receiving little fanfare yet are just as important in shaping and molding America.

War Department General Order No. 143 is one of those less-remembered but important events. Issued May 22, 1863, the order established the Bureau of Colored Troops.

In his article, *First to Fight*, author John Raymond Gourdin wrote, “Prior to the establishment of the bureau, colored regiments were organized and supported by state governments in free states and in areas in Confederate

states occupied and controlled by Federal troops. However, after the establishment of the bureau, those regiments that were previously raised by state governments and carried state designations were redesignated as regiments of United States Colored Troops and assigned a USCT number.”

Many Americans of African descent continue to agree with the fundamentals and principles established by General Order 143. Accepting the opportunity to serve, defending the borders and upholding the integrity of law permeate through those who continue the tradition of military service today.

There have been many African-American pioneers who have played an integral role in air power. To learn more about these pioneers and Black History Month in a special multimedia presentation, visit <http://www.af.mil/library/aahm 08.asp>.

(Master Sgt. Kevin McWashington from the 301st Aerospace Medicine Squadron contributed to this article.)



The Tuskegee Airmen are a great example of African Americans whose history is remembered this month. The positive experience, the outstanding record of accomplishment and the superb behavior of black airmen during World War II, and after, were important factors in the initiation of the historic social change to achieve racial equality in America.



McChord's Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Airman 1st Class Issac Camacho, 62nd Security Forces Squadron, spends time with children during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

MANAS AB, Kyrgyzstan — Deployed Airmen from the 62nd Maintenance Squadron and the 446th Maintenance Squadron, pose for a group picture during a recent deployment.



Commander's ABU wear policy

Limited wear established for BDU Gore-Tex jackets

Only first-term Airmen arriving at McChord directly from basic military training and technical school who were issued the Airman Battle Uniform are authorized to wear the Battle Dress Uniform Gore-Tex jacket or BDU field jacket with their ABUs, said Chief Master Sgt. Russell Kuck, 62nd Airlift Wing command chief master sergeant.

Based on limited availability of ABU jackets, recent guidance from the deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel authorized commanders at locations where All Purpose Environmental Clothing System jackets are not available through the local supply system limited authority to authorize wear of the BDU Gore-Tex or field jacket with ABUs when other approved cold weather options are unavailable or unsuitable for duty. Commanders are making every reasonable effort to minimize the wear of mixed and matched uniforms.

McChord's clothing sales has an ample supply of BDUs and BDU jackets.

The new APECS are being made available as quickly as possible.

Industry capability continues to be the primary limiting factor in APECS' availability and deployers are still the No. 1 priority for the APECS. Based on the projected production capability and expected inventory levels, this policy will expire June 1, 2008.

For assistance or questions contact your chain of command.

(62nd Airlift Wing public affairs contributed to this article.)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kristen Wicker

Only first-term Airmen arriving at McChord who were issued the ABU in basic training are authorized to wear the BDU Gore-Tex jacket with ABUs.



Medical planners finalizing BRAC plan

By

Capt. Suzanne Ovel

62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

McChord's 62nd Medical Group and Fort Lewis' Madigan Army Medical Center officials are making definitive progress on a plan to realign the McChord clinic under Madigan.

"We are working diligently to finalize the medical BRAC plan for McChord," said Col. Thomas McCauley, 62nd MDG commander.

The realignment, directed by 2005's Base Realignment and Closure Act, administratively aligns the McChord clinic under Madigan control and also dictates a cost savings of 48 personnel. This BRAC directive is a distinctly separate initiative from joint basing.

In mid-January, McChord hosted an assembly of key players from the Air Force and the Army to

draft the final memorandum of agreement language. The MOA is currently being routed through medical personnel at the local and major command levels; it'll go next to the Pentagon for final draft review prior to the final local commander coordination, said Lt. Col. Bruce Roehm, 62nd MDG Administrator and 62nd Medical Support Squadron Commander.

"The ultimate aim is a transparent realignment," said Lt. Col. John Andrus, 62nd MDG chief of aerospace medicine and 62nd Medical Operations Squadron commander. For instance, although the McChord clinic will administratively realign under Madigan, medical and dental services will continue at their current clinic location. The 12,500 enrolled beneficiaries can expect the same type of services at McChord's clinic after the realignment as they do now.

One of the challenges of the realignment is determining which 48 personnel slots of the 62nd

MDG's current staff of 230 be cut. Positions affected by the cuts will be announced after the MOA is finalized. In the meantime, McChord's medical leadership strives to ensure that their personnel are kept informed on any updates regarding the realignment.

"Taking care of our people is one of the Air Force Chief of Staff's priorities and the medical staff transition plan has been a focus area during this process," said Maj. Fecke, 62nd Medical Support Squadron resource management flight commander.

"We have communicated with them frequently over the last year and a half with key medical BRAC updates and engaged flight leadership every step of the way in developing the personnel/mission transition plan," said Colonel Roehm. "Synchronizing the mission and transition plans are key to ensuring continued high-quality, patient-focused health care at McChord."

From **JOINT BASING**, Page 1

Colonel Rechner noted airfield operations are going to be managed by the 62nd AW's commander "on behalf of" the joint base commander, which means the Air Force will have to write a variance to continue to operate the airfield as a mission asset. "That's one of our core competencies (airfield operations), what the Air Force does, and does very well," Colonel Rechner said.

"That's not to say some things cannot be combined where it makes economical sense, and we've already done that on both installations' perspective," said Colonel Rechner. "It

is my position that before anything is moved we've got to do a very in-depth requirements analysis and process determination. It's got to be more efficient to be combined. By more efficient, I'm talking dollars. There's got to be a cost benefit to do this, or else we're just combining things for the sake of combining."

One thing that will not happen during the implementation of joint basing is Airmen directly supervising or reporting to soldiers. "Airmen work for Airmen, and that is a core tenant of the United States Air Force," said Colonel Rechner.

Another potential misconception is that joint basing is related to Program Budget Decision 720, which mandated the reduction of Air Force manpower to save money. This perception is false, said Colonel Rechner. "They are two totally separate, unrelated things that happened to come out about the same time."

Both services share a concern for people, and McChord and Fort Lewis have already been working together for several years in many areas. A good example is Madigan Army Medical Center, which pro-

vides care to area patients of all branches. "With such an outstanding facility so close," said Colonel Rechner, "there has been no need for McChord to have its own hospital." Conversely, he noted that there are Fort Lewis families who use McChord's child development center.

"Done right, joint basing has the potential to enhance our effectiveness," said Colonel Rechner. "We want to do this very deliberately, very methodically, so we do it right. There is no second chance to do it right the first time."



McChord Fire Department

Tight-knit 'brotherhood' protects base through diverse mission

By Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Versatility is a way of life within the ranks of the McChord Fire Department.

Because of the department's wide-ranging mission, Airmen and civilians on staff have to be ready for anything — a burning aircraft crash site, a structure fire in base housing, a hazmat spill or a brush fire in neighboring Lakewood.

"At times it's a little overwhelming, but we've been trained for those scenarios," said Staff Sgt. Richard Benavente, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron. "You don't know what to expect on any call. You always have to think outside the box."

The department — comprised of 34 Airmen and 17 civilians — responds to various structural fires, hazmat and emergency medical services calls every year, said Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Matlock, 62nd CES. It also supports a very robust mutual aid program with the neighboring communities of Lakewood, University Place and central Pierce County, Chief Matlock said.

"There are so many variables (on response calls), so that's why we do so much training," Chief Matlock said.

McChord's fire department is one of six fire departments within the Air Force accredited by the Commission on Fire

Accreditation, and the department also abides by the Department of Defense standards. The department here was also named the best fire department in Air Mobility Command in 2006.

To support the mission, firefighters work a 9-hour duty day and remain on standby at the station after 5 p.m. It all adds up to 72-hour workweek, no matter the calendar.

"When everybody else is off enjoying the holidays or AMC family days, we're here working," Chief Matlock said.

The standby time is used by firefighters to conduct training, and do equipment maintenance or physical training, he said.

Other time is spent getting out and teaching fire prevention methods to the base population, conducting fire prevention inspections and setting up various structures — such as a spray mist tent during the summer — for special events.

"We do a lot of community service ... things we do in addition to our normal jobs," Chief Matlock said.

In the same manner that Airmen in other squadrons on base that work together to accomplish the mission, those within the fire department also depend on each other each day for support.

"The camaraderie here is great," Sergeant Benavente said. "It's the whole idea of a brotherhood where the guy next to you is risking his life to save yours on any call."



Photos by Master Sgt. Kevin Riehle

Senior Airman Eric Dybing, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, awaits orders to supply water to the crash truck during a recent training exercise.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Graham, left, and Airman 1st Class Zachari Dyas assist in helping Explosive Ordnance Disposal search member Staff Sgt. Nathan McKenzie after his search of an area for explosive devices. All belong to the 62nd CES.



Scott Palmer, right, and Daryl Frantz, both 62nd CES, report back to the command vehicle after searching an aircraft for personnel on board during a recent training exercise.



Airman 1st Class Stephan Trent, right, and Troy Madill, both 62nd CES, ventilate an aircraft to release heat and smoke from inside during a recent training exercise.



Staff Sgt. Tyler Mart, left, and Staff Sgt. Craig Buckley, both 62nd CES, assess the scene and report finding a simulated exploded vehicle outside Bldg. 100 during a recent training exercise.

Air Force races into NASCAR season at Daytona

By

Maj. Sean McKenna

Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force enters its eighth year of sponsorship in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series when its No. 21 car begins the 2008 season Saturday at the Budweiser Shootout at Daytona International Speedway, Fla.

The Air Force is both a primary and associate sponsor of the No. 21 car, which is owned by Wood Brothers Racing Organization. As a primary sponsor, the car will feature the Air Force paint scheme in nine of 38 NASCAR races this season, beginning with the Budweiser Shootout. Other races include Las Vegas on March 2; Concord, N.C., on May 25; Dover, Del., on June 1; Pocono, Pa., on June 8; Daytona on July 5; Richmond, Va., on Sept. 6; Martinsville, Va., on Oct. 19; and Atlanta on Oct. 26.

Jon Wood will drive the Ford Fusion in all but one of nine races the Air Force is the primary sponsor. Veteran driver Bill Elliott, the 1988 NASCAR champion and two-

time winner of the Daytona 500, will race the Air Force No. 21 car during the Budweiser Shootout.



Photo by Master Sgt. Scott Reed

Air Force Recruiting Service, which oversees the sponsorship and marketing of the Air Force No. 21 car, sees the association with Wood Brothers Racing as a great opportunity to reach racing fans and for Americans to learn more about the Air Force.

"The Air Force recruits the nation's best and brightest to fill its

highly skilled and technical jobs, and NASCAR has always been a great place to find people who are interested in what the Air Force has to offer," said Capt. Homero Martinez, AFRS chief of event marketing. "We are excited to start a new racing season."

Air Force NASCAR driver, Jon Wood, and the new paint scheme on the No. 21 Ford Fusion. The Air Force enters its eighth season of sponsorship in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, starting at the Bud Shootout Feb. 9 in Daytona, Fla.



PIT crew brings realism to Pacific Lifeline exercise

By

Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt
446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron and 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron aren't being graded on the test, but their work impacts those involved with the Pacific Lifeline exercise.

Known as the PIT crew, 16 Reservists from McChord are adding realism to the training provided in Pacific Lifeline.

PIT actually stands for patient insertion team. The team is in charge of creating simulated patients and putting moulage on 100 dummies.

Pacific Lifeline is a Total Force exercise designed to practice the military's ability to rapidly deploy a trained, equipped team anywhere in the Pacific in response to a humanitarian assistance or disaster scenario. Approximately 900 Department of Defense members will participate in the 13th Air Force-led exercise this week.

"They're totally behind the scenes, but they're the key to executing the whole exercise," said Maj. Peter Jorganson of the 446th ASTS.

There is a lot more to creating the "victims" than meets the eye. The team decides each victim's name, rank and branch of service. They also decide if the victim is in need of routine or urgent care. Once that's determined, they create what happened to the victim and what



Photo by Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt

Chief Master Sgt. Chandra Gamble, 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, and Lt. Col. Jennifer McCleve, 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, put a dummy back on the shelf after inspecting it recently. The dummy will be used during the Pacific Lifeline exercise conducted this week. More than 900 Department of Defense members are participating in the medical exercise.

symptoms are being exhibited.

"One of the patients we created is an upset pregnant woman who can't find her husband and child," said Lt. Col. Karen Winter of the 446th AMDS. "She is bleeding and starting to go into labor."

This type of realism is important because in a humanitarian assistance or disaster response, emergency responders could likely be

responding to a pregnant woman, an unconscious child, or an elderly person with chest pains.

There's a lot more to prepping the victims than just slapping some makeup on a plastic dummy. Moulage, which is a life-like mold of an injury, is applied to the anatomically correct dummies. The injuries aren't randomly applied — instead, they have to mirror the conditions of the exercise, in this case a super typhoon.

"We will moulage the victims the night before each day's scenarios," said Lt. Col. Jennifer Cleve, the chief nurse for 446th AMDS. "Then when the exercise begins, we insert the moulage patients into the system through the mobile aeromedical staging facility."

Once the dummies and their records are in the system, the PIT crew prepares for the next day's scenarios.



Airmen help wounded troops survive journey home

By

Tech. Sgt. D. Clare

332th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — The Air Force Theater Hospital's 98 percent survivability rate for injured U.S. servicemembers would be meaningless if the wounded were unable to survive their journey out of the combat zone.

Four years into the war, the process of saving lives and then safely transporting critically injured and ill troops out of Iraq has become one of the greatest military feats in modern history, said Lt. Col. Beverly Johnson, the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility chief nurse during rotation 9/10.

The CASF is a minor conglomerate of different functions. It's at once a ward for the sick and injured and a recreation center for those who are able enough. It's a passenger terminal where travelers get bandages changed and customs agents come to the bedridden.

Patients are assessed, pre-assessed and reassessed. Lessons have been learned and are applied. How will altitude effect cranial swelling for a traumatic brain injury victim? Will an arm in a cast swell in mid-flight? Burn patients must stay warm, current prescriptions must be filled, care providers must anticipate every possible scenario before the patient goes by bus to the plane. Launch nurses pass on reports, other nurses pick the most critical patients up from the intensive care

unit at the hospital.

"By the time most patients get here, they might have some pain, but they're pretty happy," said Staff Sgt. Joan Sanchez, the lead technician for the litter side of the CASF ward. "For many Soldiers, this is as nice as a facility as they have ever seen in Iraq."

CASF team members like Sergeant Sanchez act as care providers, terminal agents and hospital logisticians. The team also has mental health professionals who monitor traumatic brain injury victims and support patients suffering from post-trauma stress.

On the ground, the team organizes its passenger load based on the configuration of outbound cargo aircraft. A C-17 Globemaster III has to be reconfigured to become a flying hospital.

In addition to hosting the most comprehensive medical facility in Iraq, the Air Force Theater Hospital's CASF here acts as the hub for wounded troops being medically evacuated out of the country. If a coalition member anywhere in Iraq requires aeromedical evacuation from the theater, he will pass through the Air Force Theater Hospital and the hands of CASF team members enroute to follow-on care, said Lt. Col. Rene Bloomer, who is the Air Expeditionary Force 1 and 2 rotation CASF chief nurse.

The sixty member CASF team represents more than a half-dozen specialties. They facilitate one of the hospital's top priorities, clearing beds.

"Our number one goal is to get them here, quickly assess and stabilize them, and get them on an airplane," said Colonel Johnson.

Success at the hospital depends on a constant cycle. Staff members must always be ready to save new trauma victims and have enough empty beds for the next mass casualty.

Beyond the logistical achievement of maintaining constant airflow from Balad AB to Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany and to bases outside the combat zone, the aeromedical evacuation process has evolved and improved, said Colonel Johnson, a 15-year CASF member veteran.

Aeromedical evacuation has been a military asset since World War II, she said, though on a limited scale and with equally limited capabilities. The Korean and Vietnam wars saw increasing use of air power in medical evacuations. Neither those wars, nor the limited casualties in Desert Storm, however, truly tested the system.

It was the USS Cole incident and 1998 terror-bombings of a U.S. Embassy that showed the modern capabilities of critical care teams and aeromedical evacuations.

Colonel Johnson remembers a call she received in the 1990s when the system was being tested. "The European Command called saying, 'What would happen if we had to move 1,000 casualties in a day?' I said, we can't. We don't have enough aircrews to support that kind of movement. They've really built up the system and it's been seamless since

I've been here."

"It's really been revolutionary for the Air Force," Colonel Johnson said. "It's always been a good system, but we've really put it to the test in this war and it has performed phenomenally."

On the flightline, seriously wounded and ill patients are transferred to the Critical Care Air Transport Team specially trained flight medics, nurses and physicians who set up and staff the trauma ward in the sky.

On a busy day, 50 patients will head out to Germany. On a slow day, 10 or 12 patients might be outbound. Rarely is there a day without an aeromedical evacuation. Nearly 600 to 700 patients move out from Balad every month, said Colonel Johnson, which is a 20 percent decrease from what teams experienced during past rotations.

Aeromedical evacuation teams and CASFs in particular are not organic to stateside military medical facilities.

Airmen like Staff Sgt. Jessica Reese, a CASF medical technician, said the opportunity for additional training before her deployment and the ability to work outside of her normal clinical experience make the facility a rewarding place to work.

A dermatology technician at home, she said she knows she's making a difference in Iraq.

"I'm so proud of what I do. I feel good to be taking care of these troops who have made such tremendous sacrifices. It's an honor to be here for them, to take care of them and to send them home safe," Sergeant Reese said.



Air Force develops friend vs. foe identification system

By

Mindy Cooper

Air Force Research Laboratory

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Air Force Research Laboratory officials here recently have developed a technology that helps identify friendly forces during combat exercises.

Working with Lumitex Inc. of Strongsville, Ohio, members of AFRL's Materials and Manufacturing Directorate developed and fielded the Target Recognition Operator Notification, or TRON, system which has the potential to save lives and increase combat effectiveness.

"Responding to established needs, the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate partnered with Lumitex Inc. to further develop methods established by the Army," said 1st Lt. TJ Turner, the lead engineer for combat support technology. "Lumitex Inc. produced a fiber-optic cloth that Materials and Manufacturing Directorate researchers realized could be used to develop a more accurate system of identification."

The directorate acquired the fiber-optic cloth and worked closely with Lumitex Inc. and user groups to create the TRON system and produced 108 prototypes in a period of six months. The directorate used funds from their company grade officers' initiative program, which provides lieutenants and captains the opportunity to receive funding to work on a special project outside their core technology area.

TRON is comprised of Lumitex Incorporated's patented thin and flexible fiber-optic-woven cloth cut to military specifications. The sheets of the fiber-optic cloth are laminated into layers and can be formed into lighting devices of multiple shapes and sizes. The woven nature of the cloth emits light in a controlled way creating a uniform light-emitting surface, Lieutenant Turner said.

Officials said they expect the technology to be

inexpensive and rapidly transferable to the field. It has a long battery life, running 200 hours on two AA batteries, and weighs less than 3 ounces. The system can be worn under the clothes, on outer tactical vests, on an arm or mounted to a helmet.

"The TRON I system was first tested at the Team Patriot exercise at Volk Field, Wis.," Lieutenant Turner said. "Feedback from Army aviation units showed that the system clearly allowed them to identify friendly forces on the ground. Design changes were also suggested by Army and Air Force personnel, which will lead to the future development of TRON. The improved system includes a better electronics package, modified flash rates, and a new case design."

After the initial TRON evaluation, Air Force Special Operations Command members requested that larger units be made to identify friendly positions during close-air-support operations. This system, known as TRON III, is made of the same fiber optic cloth but has six times the brightness of TRON I. It hooks into a vehicle's power supply, so there is no need for an external power supply. It is brightly colored for daytime recognition as well. This prototype was developed as a joint effort between the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, which decided on the specifications, and Lumitex Inc., which built the system. TRON III was developed and put in the field for testing three months after the need was established.

"Currently, TRON I and III are being used in deployed locations, and were used at Red Flag, a joint air operation exercise held at Nellis Air Force Base, (Nev.)," Lieutenant Turner said. "In real world conditions, TRON I was used to successfully mark and cordon an unused improvised explosive device, enabling a bomb disposal team to come in and quickly identify and destroy it. It has also been used in over 40 close-air support missions. TRON III has been used for at least two successful close-air support missions."



Courtesy photo

A military vehicle marked with Target Recognition Operator Notification I (small strip in the center) and TRON III is shown through night-vision goggles in January near Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. The identification technology was developed by Air Force Research Laboratory officials in collaboration with the civilian industry to support joint warfighters.



Black History Month luncheon

McChord will host a Black History Month luncheon Feb. 19 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. The luncheon is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Shelia Baxter, the commander of Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis. For more information, call Master Sgt. Byron Grant at 982-9140.

Chief's Group Scholarship

The McChord Chief's Group offers a scholarship program to defer the education-related financial obligations of active duty enlisted personnel in grades E-1 through E-5 pursuing mid-level and advanced degrees. Applications can be picked up at the Education Center (Bldg. 851), from any McChord active duty chief master sergeant, or downloaded from the chief's group SharePoint site. Scholarship applications are due by Feb. 29 and can be e-mailed to rodney.billinghurst@mcchord.af.mil, given to one's group superintendent or any McChord chief master sergeant. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Rod Billinghurst, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, at 982-7071.

Bundles for Babies

The Air Force Aid Society and the Airman and Family Readiness Center is offering a program for Air Force families in their second or third trimester of pregnancy and/or parents of infants six months old and younger. The three-hour "Bundles for Babies" class will cover nutritional needs for parents and infants, safety concerns and "Dr. Dad" information for getting comfortable with a new addition to the family, costs of raising a child and other financial considerations and important health topics such as caring for the baby and stress. The program will also highlight information on other Airman and Family Readiness Center and Air Force Aid Society programs to aid new parents.

The next class is Feb. 13 at 9 a.m. Call 982-2695 for more information and to sign up.

2008 Women's Conference

The 2008 Women's Conference "Climb Every Mountain: Finding Balance at Every Elevation" is a program designed specifically to provide women with skills to assist them in meeting the varied challenges that military life presents. The conference runs March 7-8 at the David L. Stone Education Center at Fort Lewis. The registration fee is \$20 and registration ends Feb. 9.

The purpose of the conference is to uplift, enlighten, motivate and strengthen military soldiers and spouses in their roles as women, wives, mothers and invaluable contributors to the military community.

The keynote speaker for the event is former KIRO-TV anchor and community activist Susan Hutchison.

In addition to attendance at the workshops, the registration fee includes lunch on Friday, light refreshments on both days, a conference T-shirt and a tote bag. For more information, e-mail ft.lewis

womensconference@yahoo.com.

Officer Spouses' Club Auction

Come join the OSC for a night of romance at their February social. The OSC will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 15 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center for the second annual Dessert Auction. Proceeds from the auction help support scholarships for military families and charitable contributions. The cost is \$12 per person, and the dress is "nice date." Please RSVP to Mary Beth Clavenna at 584-2718 or clavennas@airforcefamily.us.

Scholarships for Children

Applications for the 2008 Scholarships for Military Children Program must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 20. They are available in commissaries worldwide or online through a link at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants. The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired military personnel. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2008. Everything applicants need to know about the program can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the military scholar Web page.

CMSAF Scholarship Fund coins

The CMSAF Scholarship Fund coin web site is up and running at www.cmsafcoin.com and sales are starting. These coins and the idea came from Retired Master Sgt. Dale Nelson, a long-time Air Force Sergeants Association and Air Force supporter. The coins were developed at no cost to the fund and will be sold online and by other means with the entire amount of the coins cost going to the scholarship fund.

Scholarship opportunity

The Pacific Northwest Airlift/Tanker Association is pleased to announce its 2nd Annual Scholarship. A scholarship in the amount of \$400 will be awarded to a deserving applicant who is currently enrolled or in the process of applying to a higher education program. Applicants should complete an application form and essay no later than Feb. 29. For an application, please e-mail Capt. Gabe Arrington at Gabe.Arrington@McChord.af.mil or Staff Sgt. Scott Templin at Scott.Templin-02@McChord.af.mil.

Lost and found

The 62nd Security Forces Squadron is currently in possession of numerous items of personal property such as bicycles, keys, etc. These items were found on or near McChord and may be reclaimed by contacting the Security Forces Investigation Section, located in Bldg. 160. For more information, call the Investigations Section at 982-5936.