

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

February 15, 2008

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CMSAF testifies on quality of life

By

Staff Sgt. Monique Randolph
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The chief master sergeant of the Air Force, along with the senior-ranking enlisted members from each branch of service, testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs about quality of life issues in the Air Force recently at the Capitol.

"Quality of life is key to success," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley said.

"Our Airmen deserve the best support available, and we are committed to providing the highest quality of life standards possible," he said.

Child care, healthcare and education were recurring themes for each branch of service throughout the testimony.

"Air Force leaders understand we recruit Airmen, but we retain families," Chief McKinley said. "The quality of life we provide for our Airmen and their families is a distinct determining factor in how long many of our warriors will serve."

For many Airmen, having available and affordable child care is a primary concern. If there is a shortage of child care facilities and providers on a base, this may cause families to seek off-base child care, often at more expense to the families.

"Many of our families are military married to military, single-parent families, or military members with spouses who have to work to supplement the family income. These situations require flexible child care options," the chief said.

Currently, the Air Force outsources some child care requirements to trained, licensed homecare providers on bases. The Air Force also subsidizes parents who need child care for extended hours through the Air Force Family Child Care Program and provides extended child care at no cost through the Extended Duty Child Care Program.

"While we face funding challenges in meeting every child care requirement, we are striving to provide quality child care options to all our Airmen," Chief McKinley said.

He also addressed healthcare as a concern for Airmen. Across the services, recruiting healthcare professionals remains a challenge.

"Caring for our wounded warriors is always a top priority, and we've done a fantastic job of this on the medical side. Advancements in medical evacuation and trauma care save more lives than in past wars," the chief said. "But, as we focus on taking care of our wounded and ensuring we secure a good future for them and their families, we must also focus on hiring doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals."

Chief McKinley also pointed out the need to update medical equipment, as well as the aging

air fleet, space assets and individual protective equipment.

"To successfully meet future challenges, maintain our advantages and maximize results, we must keep pace with the talent of our 21st century Airmen and ensure they have the best equipment, facilities and resources available," he said.

Today, 99 percent of enlisted Airmen have high school diplomas and 73 percent have also attended college. Additionally, nearly half of all service-members are married and have children, and want the same educational opportunities for their families, Chief McKinley said.

The chief stressed to the committee members the need for local, state and school district policies that help military family members who move frequently due to military requirements. He also addressed the need for similar policies concerning full in-state tuition for college.

"Our goal is to help governmental entities share best practices and policies and make sure military families are not penalized by schools for their service to the nation," Chief McKinley said.

"America's Airmen — your Airmen — stand shoulder to shoulder with their fellow American warriors, defending this great nation and our way of life," he said. "We will ensure our Airmen are safe, healthy, well-compensated, well-trained, well-educated and that they and their families have the best possible quality of life."

Virtual MPF adds new self-service program

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — A new self-service assignments application launching Tuesday will eliminate a visit to the military personnel flight/element, saving Airmen both time and effort as part of the continuing initiatives of the Air Force's Personnel Services Delivery Transformation.

Using the Expanded Permissive Assignment program, active-duty Airmen in the grades lieutenant colonel and below can list up to eight CONUS preferences — bases or locales — and apply via the virtual Military Personnel Flight.

The application will transmit electronically directly to the commander, then the assignments floor for coordination, and back to the Airman. An Air Force requirement must exist at the new location for the assignments team to consider the application.

"Airmen will have no physical trips, no time away from their work stations, 24-hour access to the program, the guidance of the strategic advisors at the MPF/MPE, and receive an e-mail response for confir-

mation, approval or disapproval," said Capt. Ronald Bell, chief of PSD operations.

Airmen applying for the Expanded Permissive PCS must meet all time on station requirements and be able to obtain any required PCS retainability. They will also incur all expenses associated with the PCS if approved for the program.

"The low cost of a local move makes the program a good choice for those who wish to transfer to another base in the same town or within easy moving distance," Captain Bell said. "And, if you're willing to pay to move, you could end up with your dream assignment."

The MPF/MPE will continue to assist applicants with accessing the vMPF and answering general questions about the Expanded Permissive PCS application.

For more information, visit the AFPC "Ask" website <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>; search for "Expanded Permissive."

For more information, call the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.



Photo by Les Edersheim

Beware F-16 crossing

Crews transport an F-16 Falcon down Lincoln Blvd. on Monday on its way to a permanent position on a pedestal in front of the Western Air Defense Sector building. The aircraft was moved nearly two miles by truck from Bldg. 852 where it was refurbished. Once on site, a crane hoisted the aircraft onto the pedestal. The aircraft was one of three fighters that scrambled over Washington, D.C., during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. In the months following the aircraft's delivery to McChord, volunteers from WADS, the McChord Air Museum and the 62nd Airlift Wing prepared the plane for static display.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 FOG		
Hi: 49 Low: 39	Hi: 49 Low: 36	Hi: 55 Low: 36

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

Mission accomplished

Total McChord sorties	1,672
Total flying hours	5,448.3
Cargo moved (tons)	12,655.4
Departure reliability rate	95.0%
Mission capable rate	85.3%
Personnel currently deployed	440
Reservists currently activated.....	129
(Jan. 1 to Wednesday. Numbers updated Wednesday.)	

Don't miss it ...

Black History celebration

The base exchange food court will host a Black History Month celebration tomorrow featuring several guest speakers, poetry readings, a step team performance and an artifact display. The event is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the performances start at 1:30 p.m.

Embrace, celebrate McChord's diversity

By

Col. Jeffrey Stephenson
62nd Airlift Wing commander

Every February, our great nation celebrates the history of African-Americans during Black History Month. Team McChord will take time to remember some of the great leaders that helped shape our nation during its annual Black History Month luncheon at the McChord Clubs and Community Center on Tuesday at 11 a.m. In honor of the celebration, I thought it would be appropriate to reflect on African-American history which is an integral part of our country's heritage.

It's important that we take time this month to study the contributions of African-Americans and their effects on our past, present and future. During our past, our nation failed to recognize the importance of differing ethnicities and the many contributions they made to our nation.

However, we've learned from the lessons of the past. We know that like our country, our Armed Forces draw their strength from its people. Their

diverse backgrounds and perspectives provide new ways of thinking and new ideas that ensure we stay the best Air Force in the world!

Our country is a melting pot of cultures because of the diversity of its citizens. The racial and ethnic backgrounds of proud Americans can be traced to nearly every country in the world. Nearly every language, every religion and every family structure can be found somewhere in our country, our Air Force and our Team McChord family.

Highlighting the benefits of our diversity and celebrating it — as we do during Black History Month — is a step toward preventing past discretions from reoccurring. I walk into shops and offices throughout the base and see Airmen of every race, faith and gender working together. When our squadrons gather to celebrate, our children play together and our spouses socialize ... we see the strength and spirit of "Ohana."

I ask you to join the wing at the luncheon and the other events we have planned throughout the month to celebrate Black History. By welcoming diverse cultures and viewpoints, we ensure we are creating the best possible future for not only the current generation but generations to come!



Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander.

Airman's Roll Call: Professional military relationships

(Editor's note: Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.)

Just as we are expected to arrive at work on time and perform our work at a certain skill level, we are also expected to meet standards in our professional relationships. We have all seen or heard stories about favoritism; "teacher's pets," people who "take care of their friends," etc. You may have also seen or heard about people who abuse their positions and act in their own selfish interests. We tend to be suspicious of the decisions and motives of people who engage in favoritism or misuse their positions. When leaders are fair and make decisions for the right reasons, morale and willingness toward positive duty per-

formance increases.

"Professional relationships" are described as personal interaction that adds to morale, discipline and respect for authority. Open communication about careers, duties, performance and the mission is always encouraged, as is participation in activities that contribute to esprit de corps and have positive effects on others. When relationships have the opposite effect and break down or destroy morale, discipline or respect for authority, they become a matter of official Air Force interest.

"Unprofessional relationships" are described as personal interaction that results in, or reasonably creates, the appearance of favoritism, misuse of position or authority, or the abandonment of organizational goals for personal interests. Depending on the circumstances, we all are susceptible to entering into relationships that will hurt morale or respect for authority.

Some general guidelines to keep in mind:

- Fraternization is a personal relationship between an officer and an enlisted member that violates the customary bounds of acceptable behavior. It's a violation of Article 134, UCMJ.

- All military members share responsibility for maintaining professional relationships; senior member bears primary responsibility.

- Gambling, partying with subordinates, soliciting or entering into business ventures with junior members may result in adverse impact on morale, discipline and respect for authority.

- Dating and close friendships become matter of official concern when they adversely affect morale, discipline, unit cohesion, etc. This may apply even when members are not in the same unit or chain of command.

- A wide spectrum of administrative actions can be taken by commanders in response to unprofessional relationships.

(Commentary courtesy Air force Print News.)

Professionals of the week

8th Airlift Squadron

Senior Airman Peter Hedges

Duty title:
C-17 Globemaster III loadmaster

Duty section:
Loadmaster

Hometown:
Olympia, Wash.



Why he's tops:

Airman Hedges embodies the warrior ethos of today's Air Force. He led the charge in the month of January by heading-up a loadmaster crew during a classified mission into austere field conditions to directly support the Global War on Terrorism. He also exemplified himself as a top-notch crewmember on a mission supporting the President of the United States and the U.S. Secret Service. He has additionally volunteered for several additional non-flying duties such as assisting ground personnel during McChord's high-visibility NATO visit. Airman Hedges is currently taking classes to finish his Community College of the Air Force degree.

Staff Sgt. David Thomas

Duty title:
C-17 Globemaster III airdrop loadmaster

Duty section:
8th AS Tactics

Hometown:
Tatum, Texas

Why he's super:

Sergeant Thomas is a dedicated and hard working non commissioned officer who steps up to any challenge. He took on the role of Mobility NCIOC for the squadron's last deployment, where he ensured that more than 150 members of the 8th AS were ready to deploy. He recently graduated from airdrop and instructor schools with very high scores. He is now NCOIC of tactics, a new enlisted position in squadron tactics, and he is currently developing a training program to increase the squadron's loadmasters' knowledge on tactical procedures.



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Letter to Airmen

Reflections from the AOR

By

Michael Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

To our warriors stateside and around the world, I salute you! I just returned from my third trip to the Central Command AOR, and once again I am both re-energized and incredibly impressed by the consistently motivated, innovative and professional Airmen I had the privilege to meet. I am truly humbled by their warrior spirit and dedication to mission readiness as they continue to answer our Nation's call so admirably in the face of personal sacrifice.

Airmen Contributions

At bases such as Balad, Ali Al Salem, Bagram, Al Dhafra, Al Udeid, and Ramstein, I witnessed firsthand the critical contributions our stateside and deployed Airmen are making to the Joint team's accomplishments in the AOR. For example, our UAVs are providing the unblinking eye of vigilance that eliminates any refuge for enemy

combatants and protects our Joint and Coalition forces on the ground. In parallel with the surge in ground forces, air strike taskings have also surged dramatically throughout both Iraq and Afghanistan. Our CAOC continues to integrate reachback support with operations throughout Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa to maximize the combat power we provide the Combined and Joint fight. Meanwhile, Airmen are representing our Air Force proudly to the Joint team in integrated Air Force positions and 'In Lieu Of' taskings across the AOR.

You Are Making History

For such fledgling democracies to succeed, the people in Iraq and Afghanistan must feel secure enough in their environment to self-stabilize their countries. Whether integrated in coalition operations, interacting with the local populace, or bringing Air Force innovation to Provincial Reconstruction Teams, our Airmen are ambassadors across the AOR. Many of the indicators and reports from the field are positive, but every Airman must continue doing his or her individual part to ensure success of the

entire Joint team. We are hopeful that the transformation of self-governance will continue to succeed, and we know this will require the dedication of our Airmen to help make it happen.

Make it Better

I am so impressed that every Total Force Airman—Guard, Reserve, Active Duty and Civilian—has made it their personal mission to make their environment better and tasks easier for future rotations. From the maintenance and operations Airmen improving mission accomplishment to the CE Airmen improving quality of life, each AEF rotation continues to make life better for their successors. In just two years since my first visit, I have seen unprecedented progress across the AOR that makes me proud to lead our great Air Force.

To our Airmen who are either deployed or supporting theater operations from home station, thank you for your contributions to the Joint team in defending our Nation and providing the security these newly-free societies need to flourish.

0-0-1-3



The medical standard is one drink for women or two drinks for men if a daily drinker.

For periodic drinking, the standard is to keep the blood alcohol level or blood alcohol content under 0.05.

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

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

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



Air Force conducts nuclear policy, procedures review

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's Blue Ribbon Review of its nuclear weapons policies and procedures has found that its nuclear mission is sound but needs strengthening.

"The review provided the Air Force an opportunity to improve its commitment to a sound nuclear enterprise," said Maj. Gen. Polly Peyer, chair of the Air Force Blue Ribbon Review. "Nuclear surety — which includes safety, security and reliability — is sound but we observed that focus on the nuclear mission has diminished since the end of the Cold War."

The review took a comprehensive look at the Air Force nuclear enterprise from aircraft to missiles. A team of 30 Air Force officers and senior enlisted members, as well as two Navy representatives, visited more than 29 locations and interviewed more than 800 people.

The Blue Ribbon Review identified five general conclusions:

1. Nuclear surety in the Air Force is sound and the nuclear weapons inventory in the Air Force is safe, secure and reliable.

2. Air Force focus on the nuclear

mission has diminished since 1991, while the conventional commitment has expanded.

3. The nuclear enterprise in the Air Force works despite being fragmented into a number of commands. For example, nuclear surety was determined sound for Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles under Air Force Space Command and for nuclear strike aircraft under Air Combat Command.

4. A declining amount of Air Force nuclear experience led to waning expertise in nuclear operations.

5. Air Force nuclear surety inspection programs need standardization.

The review focused on five areas: leadership and relationships; mission focus and culture, history, safety and surety; training and force development; transportation, accountability, tracking, scheduling and security; and organization and resources.

"We have earned the trust of the American people over our 60-year history and it is important to recognize the Air Force takes its nuclear obligations seriously. This review

highlights strengths and weaknesses in support of this mission, and is further evidence that we will continue to take measures necessary to deliver this strategic capability safely," the general said.

The review's recommendations address all levels of activity in the Air Force nuclear enterprise from unit level through command level as well as relationships and processes outside of the Air Force. "Leadership in the Air Force's nuclear enterprise is professional and dedicated, and the focus of the strategic aspect of the nuclear mission is still sharp, but nuclear-related experience and expertise continue to decline," said General Peyer.

"Since 1991, and the end of the Cold War, the forces assigned to operate, maintain and support the nuclear capability reduced accordingly," said General Peyer. "Increased operational tempo from 17 years of continuous combat and operating an aging fleet and infrastructure competes for time and resources."

According to the review recom-

mendations, the nuclear enterprise must take advantage of more robust and standardized training and development in some areas. "In 1991, Airmen had the opportunity to practice their skill sets everyday in the aircraft mission because they were on alert. The current exposure is mostly through exercises," said General Peyer.

Other recommendations from the review include ensuring experienced Airmen are assigned to nuclear-related billets, placing more emphasis on nuclear mission skill sets in initial and recurring training, and conducting more frequent and intense exercises.

"The Air Force has underwritten the national strategy for over 60 years by providing a credible deterrent force that dissuades opponents and reassures allies because our nuclear arm is always ready," said General Peyer. "Throughout our history, professionalism and dedication has guaranteed the soundness and surety of Air Force crews and weapons. We continue to take every measure necessary to keep that promise."

**Do you have a story idea?
Spread the news in *The NW Airlifter*!
Call Public Affairs at 982-5637 or
e-mail us at northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil**



Exercise your right to get involved

Guidelines for military members' participation in political activities

By
62nd Airlift Wing
Judge Advocate Office

The separation between political activities and the federal government is even more crucial when involving the Armed Forces because of the need for public confidence in civilian control over the military.

A political activity can be defined as an activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or a partisan political group.

Partisan activities relate to candidates or issues representing national or state political parties. Candidacy for national or state office is partisan, even if the candidate is not affiliated with a national or state political party. Partisan activities are more restricted than nonpartisan activities.

Nonpartisan activities are not associated with a national or state political party, they involve "stand alone" political issues, such as constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances, etc. Employees have more leeway with these activities as long as they:

- Refrain from participating in uniform.
- Refrain from using Government facilities and/or resources.
- Avoid any implication that the Air Force endorses or supports their participation in the activity.

This guide is a brief overview of regulations for participating in political activities as a member of the Armed Forces on active duty. It is not all inclusive. Specific questions should be directed to the 62nd AW Judge Advocate Office at 982-5512.

Guidelines for active duty members — *Members of the Armed Forces are encouraged to carry out the obligations of a citizen but are subject to certain restrictions on their political activities.*

Members may:

- Register, vote, and express their opinions on political candidates and issues (but not as a representative of the Armed Forces).
- Make monetary contributions to a political organization.
- Attend partisan and non-partisan political meetings or rallies as a spectator when not in uniform.
- Promote and encourage other military members to exercise their voting rights, if such action does not attempt to influence or interfere with the outcome of an election.
- Join a political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform.
- Serve as an election official, if such service is not as a representative of a partisan political party, does not interfere with military duties, is performed while out of uniform, and has the prior approval of the Secretary of the Air Force.
- Sign a petition for specific legislative action or a petition to place a candidate's name on an official election ballot.
- Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing their personal views on public issues or political candidates, if such action is not part of an organized letter-writing campaign.
- Display a political sticker on your private vehicle.

Members may not:

- Use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or solicit political contributions from others.
- Be a candidate for, or hold, civil office except as authorized below.
- Participate in partisan political management, campaigns, or conventions.
- Make campaign contributions to another member of the Armed Forces or an employee of the Federal Government.
- Solicit or receive a campaign contribution from another member of the Armed Forces, a civilian officer, or an employee of the U.S. for promoting a political objective or cause.
- Allow publication of partisan political articles that solicit votes for or against a partisan political party or candidate and that carry his signature.
- Serve in any official capacity or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club.
- Speak before a partisan political gathering of any kind promoting a partisan political party or candidate.
- Participate in any radio, television, or other program or group discussion as an advocate of a partisan political party or candidate.

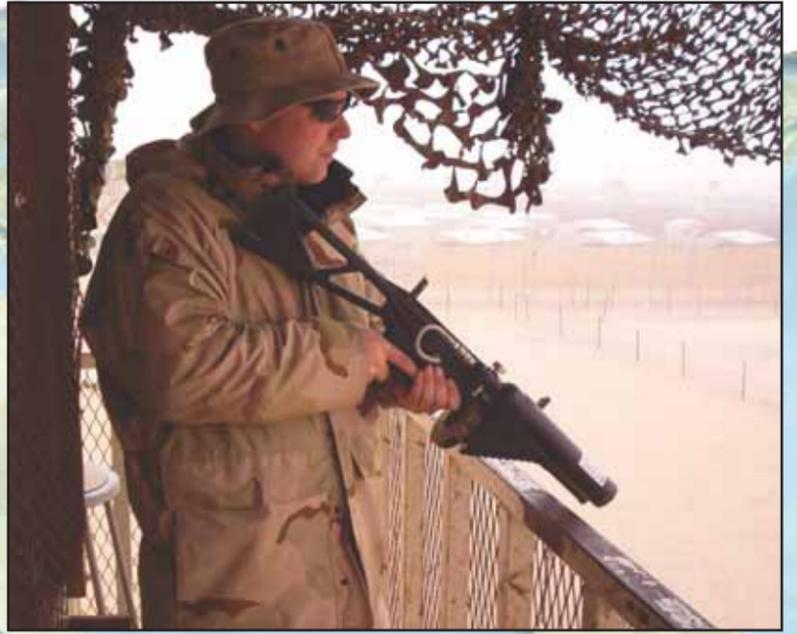


AROUND THE WORLD



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Senior Airman Suzanne Redd and Capt. Joe Foss tend to a "patient" on a C-17 Globemaster III during Exercise Pacific Lifeline here. The Airmen are from the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.



Courtesy photo

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq — Staff Sgt. Adam Miller, deployed from the 62nd Security Forces Squadron, performs tower duty with an FN303 non-lethal weapons system at the Theatre Internment Facility on a recent deployment here. The facility, managed by Army Military Police and Air Force Security Forces, is the largest detainee facility in the world.



62nd MDG helps spread the word about dental hygiene

By

Jennifer King

62nd Medical Operations Squadron

In accordance with National Children's Dental Health Month, the McChord Dental Clinic recently joined several other dental clinics in the community at the South Hill Mall in Puyallup to help educate the community's children on oral health care. Airmen and civilians from the McChord Dental Clinic handed out more than 300 children's preventive oral health kits comprised of a toothbrush, toothpaste, worksheets and educational pamphlets in honor of this event.

The fair was a complete success, as more than 1,000 children ranging in ages from infant to teenager eagerly accepted the kits. There were dental professionals at more than 20 tables and booths each handing out samples, educational materials, with some even offering free exams.

Each February, the American Dental Association recognizes this

month as National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health and foster warm relations between dentists and children. Developing good dental habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental appointments helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. To get a jump on good oral hygiene, children should brush their teeth twice a day, eat a balanced diet and see the dentist regularly. Beginning at age one, children should see the dentist at least once a year for annual checkups and cleanings. And depending on your child's risk of dental cavities, the dentist may prescribe fluoride to strengthen teeth, kill cavity-causing bacteria and rejuvenate teeth that are becoming cavity-infested.

The McChord Dental Clinic will conclude National Children's Dental Health Month with visits to the Child Development Center and Carter Lake Elementary School on Thursday. For more information, please call the McChord Dental Clinic at 982-5505.



File photo by Abner Guzman

Staff Sgt. Harry Dennard, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron periotherapist, instructs Kristina Holcolmb on how to brush her teeth properly during a class visit last year designed to promote dental health awareness among children. Airmen from the McChord Dental Clinic will be visiting children at the Child Development Center and Carter Lake Elementary School on Thursday to raise awareness about proper dental hygiene.



EYES in the SKY

The 62nd OSS weather flight lets aircrews know what to expect each time they take to the sky

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Whether it's a thick layer of cloud cover, blustering snow or heavy rain, the skies of the Pacific Northwest can wreak havoc on pilots' visibility and their ability to accomplish local missions safely.

And that's where the 62nd Operations Support Squadron's weather flight comes in.

Each day the weather flight gives aircrews individualy-tailored forecasts for each mission containing atmospheric details of everything from wind and visibility to clouds and thunderstorm activity.

"We tailor our forecasts for five nautical miles of the areas aircrews are going to be flying in," said forecaster Staff Sgt. Alison Rudicel, 62nd OSS. "It's very area-specific."

The weather flight Airmen can even bring up several different satellite images for crews to view while getting ready for takeoff at the One Stop.

The weather flight is comprised of seven Airmen who monitor the various weather equipment 24-hours a day, seven days a week in an office located beneath the command post. The office is surrounded with monitors displaying weather radar imagery and screens with rotating camera pictures of current conditions on various locations on the flightline.

By studying weather models generated from the 25th

Operational Weather Squadron (which forecasts the entire West Coast), observing the local conditions outside and participating in a variety of weather-related discussions with other forecasters, the flight gives pilots an accurate picture of what they can expect when they takeoff, perform an air drop or in-flight refueling and return to McChord, said non commissioned officer in charge Tech. Sgt. Richard Stage, 62nd OSS.

By utilizing bits and pieces from each model, the Airmen in the office create their own forecasts, Sergeant Stage said.

"We have the ability to change this or that because the folks in the 25th (located in Arizona) don't have the ability to go outside and observe," Sergeant Stage said. "There is a constant communication between all of us."

The ability to go outside and physically look at the conditions allow the Airmen to give their forecast a human touch, Sergeant Rudicel said.

And while they might not draw quite the ire some television meteorologists get when a forecast is a bit off, the weather Airmen take great pride in what they do.

"You put your name and initials on each forecast and you really want to keep that good reputation," Sergeant Stage said. "You want to be as accurate as possible."

While this part of the year keeps the Airmen in the weather flight on their toes each and every shift with the changing conditions, summer is a different story.

"Whenever snow is in the forecast we keep pretty busy," Sergeant Rudicel said. "We appreciate the sunny days, but it can get pretty slow."



Photo by Abner Guzman

Senior Airman Thomas Jenkins, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, secures a radio antenna during a weather readiness inspection of a Tactical Meteorological Observing System.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Tech. Sgt. Richard Stage, 62nd OSS, points to a mission execution forecast used to provide departing aircrew with weather briefings. The weather briefing room is conveniently located at McChord's One Stop.

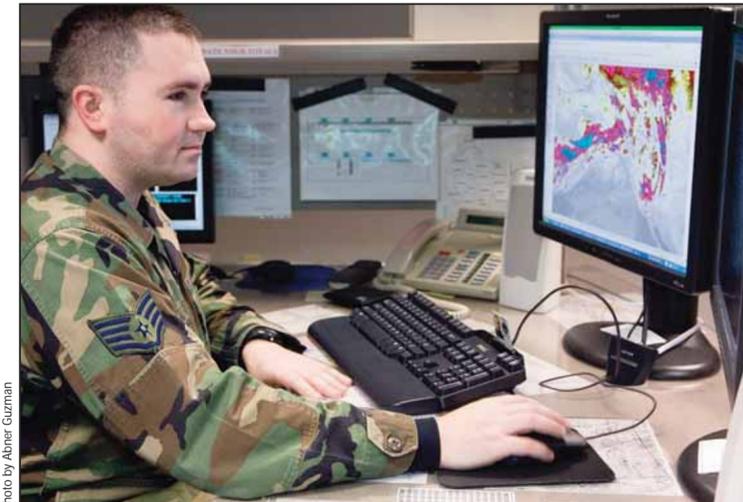


Photo by Abner Guzman

Weather forecaster Staff Sgt. Scott Harris, 62nd OSS, monitors an infrared satellite picture while manning the front counter.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Sergeant Harris uses a pilot-to-metro radio to provide approaching aircraft with weather information.

Falcons conclude competition at Air Force open

By

Capt. Erin Dorrance
86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Sophomore Melissa Beerse picked up a victory in the pole vault, as the Air Force track and field team wrapped up competition at the Don Barrett-Air Force Open on Feb. 9. Competing at the Academy's Cadet Field House, the Falcons collected 26 top-10 finishes during the non-team scoring meet.

Beerse cleared the 13-foot plateau for the second straight weekend, winning the event with a clearance of 13'0 1/4". Freshman Rachel Simmons finished fifth, after clearing the bar at 12'1 1/2".

Freshman Necressainne White moved into the Academy's all-time records in a pair of events. Recording a fifth-place distance of 18'1", White moved into fifth place on the Falcons' all-time long jump list. She also claimed a ninth-place time of 7.84 in the 60-meter dash, which is the seventh-fastest time in program history.

Sophomore Sara Neubauer was the runner-up in the shot put with throw of 48'8". The mile relay team clocked in at 4:02.02 to place fifth, while freshman Katherine Ward finished seventh in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 11:09.07. Sophomore Ally Romanko crossed the finish line of the 400-meter dash in 59.02 to place eighth, while classmate Becca Burditt finished 10th in the 800-meter run after a time of 2:29.97.

As the runner-up in the mile, fresh-

man Kyle Jones posted the best finish on the men's team. Clocking a time of 4:26.20, Jones was one of three Falcons to finish within the top-10 in that event. Sophomore Thomas Richter finished sixth with a time of 4:31.10, while classmate Andy Schweitzer clocked a 10th-place time of 4:35.97.

Senior Devin Hart earned a fourth-place distance of 21'11 1/2" in the long jump, while freshman Michael Vetri finished sixth with a mark of 21'3 1/4". Juniors Scott Balcao and Ryan Workman added a pair of top-10 finishes in the 3,000-meter run, as Balcao placed fifth in 9:19.61 and Workman finished 10th with a time of 9:34.73. Sophomore Dan Paladino (5'9 1/2") and junior Kirk Devine (5'1"7") finished sixth and 10th, respectively, in the weight throw, while freshman Noah Palicia and sophomore Kyle Ellsworth both cleared 14'9" in the pole vault to finish seventh and eighth.

Air Force earned two top-10 finishes from junior Skylar Morgan, who crossed the finish line of the 60-meter hurdles in 8.69 to finish sixth and cleared the high jump at 6'3 1/4" to place seventh. The Falcons also received multiple top finishes from freshman LD Woods. Woods tied with junior Kellen Curry to finish sixth in the 60-meter dash (6.94), while also clocking a ninth-place time of 22:53 in the 200-meter dash.

Rounding out the Falcons top finishers was senior David Lissy, who put the shot put down at 54'1 3/4" to take fifth.



Photo by Dave Ahischwede

Freshman long jumper Necressainne White recorded a fifth-place distance of 18'1" at the Air Force Open, moving her into fifth place on the Falcons' all-time long jump list. She also claimed a ninth-place time of 7.84 in the 60-meter dash, which is the seventh-fastest time in program history. The Falcons hosted the Don Barrett-Air Force Open Feb. 9. Competing at the Academy's Cadet Field House, the Falcons collected 26 top-10 finishes during the non-team scoring meet.



Upcoming basketball games

(All games are played at the fitness center)

Tuesday 5:30 p.m. 22 STS vs. COMM
 6:30 p.m. MXS vs. LRS
 7:30 p.m. AMXS 2 vs. OSS

Wednesday 5:30 p.m. APS vs. AMXS 2
 6:30 p.m. OSS vs. 22 STS
 7:30 p.m. ASOG vs. AMXS

Thursday 5:30 p.m. WADS vs. MED GP
 6:30 p.m. CES vs. SVS
 7:30 p.m. 4 AS vs. LRS

Feb. 25 5:30 p.m. SVS vs. 4 AS
 6:30 p.m. MED GP vs. CES
 7:30 p.m. COMM vs. 7 AS

Feb. 26 5:30 p.m. OSS vs. APS
 6:30 p.m. LRS vs. COMM
 7:30 p.m. 22 STS vs. 7 AS

Feb. 27 5:30 p.m. AMXS vs. WADS
 6:30 p.m. 4 AS vs. OSS
 7:30 p.m. MXS vs. ASOG

Feb. 28 5:30 p.m. COMM vs. SVS
 6:30 p.m. LRS vs. AMXS
 7:30 p.m. ASOG vs. AMXS 2

Intramural Basketball Standings

(current as of Wednesday)

Team	GP	W	L	WP
AMXS	7	6	1	0.857
4 AS	6	5	1	0.833
APS	6	5	1	0.833
ASOG	8	6	2	0.750
OSS	8	6	2	0.750
MED GP	8	5	3	0.625
22 STS	7	4	3	0.571
MXS	8	4	4	0.500
WADS	8	4	4	0.500
SVS	6	3	3	0.500
CES	6	3	3	0.500
LRS	5	2	3	0.400
AMXS 2	5	1	4	0.200
7 AS	5	1	4	0.200
8 AS	15	1	14	0.067
COMM	4	0	4	0.000

GP = Games played

W = Wins

L = Losses

WP = Winning percentage



Postal Service offers first-time military discount

By

Debora Preitkis
U.S. Postal Service

WASHINGTON — Planning to send a care package to a military service member serving abroad? Send it after March 3 to take advantage of a new flat-rate box from the Postal Service that is 50 percent larger and delivered for \$10.95 to an APO/FPO address — \$2 less than for domestic destinations.

“This is the first time the Postal

Service has offered a special price for our armed forces serving overseas,” said Postmaster Gen. John Potter.

The new priority mail large flat-rate box (12” x 12” x 5-1/2” or 800 cubic inches) will be available in post offices nationwide beginning March 3, but customers can begin ordering them Wednesday at www.usps.com/supplies or by calling (800) 610-8734. Some of the new boxes are co-branded with the logo of “America Supports You,” which is a Department of Defense program

that connects citizens offering support to the military and their families.

“It’s terrific that the Postal Service continues to think of ways to help Americans support our troops and their families. Postage is always a concern when shipping care packages, and this new flat-rate box means our home front groups and supportive citizens can do more with their resources,” said Allison Barber, the deputy assistant secretary of Defense.

The \$2 discount is applied when

the priority mail large flat-rate boxes are shipped to an APO/FPO destination. The two existing flat-rate boxes (11-7/8” x 3-3/8” x 13-5/8” and 11” x 8-1/2” x 5-1/2”), which currently retail for \$8.95 for U.S. addresses, are not available for the military discount. All flat-rate boxes can be used for international shipping.

The new flat-rate boxes will be available in Post Offices starting March 3. The America Supports You branded box will be available online, at select post offices near military bases, or by calling (800) 610-8734.



Young pilot shares vision for Iraqi air force

By

Senior Airman Eric Schloeffel

506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq — Inside the newly opened Iraqi Flying Training school here, Iraqi Lt. Abdul applies a fluid motion to gently land his aircraft on a digitized strip of runway.

His instructor, a U.S. Air Force major, stands silently in the background and nods with approval. The Iraqi soon exits the Cessna simulator and is met with a few words of praise and pointers from his instructor.

Watching this seemingly routine exchange, it can be difficult to grasp the enormous impact these small events might have on the strategy for long-term success in Iraq.

In fact, the school itself appears unassuming at first glance. The significance of a reborn Iraqi air force is hidden within the school's dozen or so pre-fabricated structures that stand beside a row of single-engine Cessnas.

Like many things in this country, the Iraqi Flying Training school is a work in progress.

"All of us Iraqi pilots dream to fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon and F-15 Eagle," said Lieutenant Abdul, whose real name cannot be revealed for security purposes. "But we know the Iraqi air force needs to start from zero, and it's a step-by-step process to get all the things we want."

For all the things the Iraqi air force must wait on, motivated trainees are surely not one of them.

"These young pilots understand they have the opportunity to lay down the foundation for their future," said Maj. Scott McCartt, an instructor pilot at the school. "They can change the way things have been in Iraq for generations and turn it in a positive direction. These guys don't take that lightly."

Iraqi pilots have begun flying their own missions



Photo by Senior Airman SerMae Lampkin

An Iraqi pilot takes control of a Cessna simulator at the Iraqi Flying Training School Jan. 31 at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. Iraqi pilots have begun flying their own missions and have had some initial successes. An all-Iraqi crew flying on a recent reconnaissance mission spotted several terrorists manufacturing improvised explosive devices. The crew members alerted Iraqi police who arrived on-scene soon after to impede the terrorists' efforts.

and have earned some initial successes. An all-Iraqi crew flying on a recent reconnaissance mission spotted several terrorists manufacturing improvised explosive devices. The crew members alerted Iraqi police who arrived on-scene soon after to impede the terrorists' efforts.

Since opening last fall, the school has graduated four instructor pilots and is expected to reach full operational capacity by July. The end goal is to have 130 Iraqis earn their wings each year at the school.

Upon graduation, the Iraqi pilots are assigned to a unit that conducts either an airlift mission with C-130 Hercules, or a surveillance mission with King Air 350, Cessna 208 and CH2000 aircraft. The school is also planning to teach Iraqis how to fly helicopters in the near future.

After graduating from pilot school, Lieutenant Abdul will work to accomplish another dream that also once seemed like a long shot.

"I want to travel to America to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy," he said.



Airmen perform unique mission in Iraq

By

Capt. Jason McCree

386th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq — While the spiraled rows of concertina wire, countless watch towers, and endless miles of fencing resemble that of detention facilities throughout the world, for the more than 600 Airmen deployed to the Theater Internment Facility at Camp Bucca, Iraq, the mission is unlike anything they've ever done.

The facility, nestled in the Southeast corner of Iraq, appears much the same from the outside as any other detention facility; however, inside it is much different, its guard force, a joint team comprised of Soldiers, Sailors, Iraqi correctional officers and Airmen, as well as the detainee population, set it apart from most facilities of this kind.

Charged with the safe and humane treatment of detainees determined to be a security threat against Iraqi citizens and or coalition forces, Airmen assigned to the 886th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron support the Army's 300th Military Police Brigade.

While the Army maintains the facility's command and control, it takes a joint effort to carry out detainee operations.

The mission at Camp Bucca is to send the detainees home, transformed through their personal encounters with the Iraqi and American military guard force. It is left to this guard force to see this mis-

sion through while ensuring the safety and security of those detained and those who guard them.

Airmen shoulder much of this responsibility as they manage several compounds throughout the TIF, organizing the guard force for one of the TIF's detainee educational programs, and operate a hefty visitation program. In turn, this translates into significant Operation Iraqi Freedom impacts, including saved lives.

The Dar al Hikmah, Arabic for "House of Wisdom", is an education program at the TIF offering volunteering detainees an Iraqi government certified elementary-level education, religious discussion facilitated by local religious leaders, arts and crafts taught by professional artists, and Iraqi civics classes.

"I have heard the detainees say great things about the classes; they seem to really enjoy school here," said Airman 1st Class Enriquez Franz, deployed from MacDill AFB, Fla., who is a TIF guard force member in the education facility. "I work directly with the detainees every day, and I've noticed how much their English has improved after they graduate."

With an approximate 40-percent illiteracy rate among detainees within the facility, this is a great program, said Capt. Justin Secrest, deployed from Vogelweh Military Complex, Germany. Through the detainees' education advancements, one can see that something good came from their time here.

"The education opportunities here



Photo by Capt. Jason McCree

Airman 1st Class Sarah Coble plays with children who are visiting family and friends detained in the Theater Internment Facility at Camp Bucca, Iraq. Airman Coble is an 886th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron member deployed from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

are far reaching," said Captain Secrest, who supervises the all-Airman guard force overseeing the facility housing in the Dar al Hikmah. "Education here is important in that it gives the detainees the chance to be productive citizens when they leave the facility and return to Iraqi society."

Additionally, many Airmen from the 886th ESFS operate the TIF's vigorous visitation program. With more than 1,700 friends and family mem-

bers visiting the detainees each week, it is important for all Airmen to provide a positive first impression.

"Our Airmen provide the first impressions of Americans here (in Iraq); we are also the first impressions of how their loved ones are treated while in the facility," said Colonel Miller, commander of the largest Air Force squadron in theater. "It is important that we provide a good first impression—this will help to facilitate reconciliation."



Black History Month luncheon

McChord will host a Black History Month luncheon Tuesday 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.

Nurse enlisted program

The Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program offers active duty enlisted personnel the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in a high-need academic major. Students are required to attend school year-round for up to 24 consecutive calendar months, including summer sessions. The NECP May 2008 selection board is

for applicants who want to start in the Fall of 2008 or the Spring 2009 only. The last day for notification of intent to apply is Feb. 22. For more information, call Bruce Houseman at 982-3149 for further guidance.

Scholarships for Military Children

Applications for the 2008 Scholarships for Military Children Program must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Wednesday. 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.

Scholarship opportunity

The McChord Officer Spouses' Club is offering college scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who are Air Force dependents and to spouses of Air Force personnel enrolled in degree-granting college programs. Application packets are available at the following locations: the McChord Base Education Office, the McChord Airman and Family Readiness

Center, the McChord Library, the McChord Thrift Shop, and high school guidance counselors' offices. For more information, please contact Emily Manuel at (253) 875-8974 or teach-manuel@earthlink.net. Completed applications must be postmarked by Mar. 10.

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.

Names to Note

The following Airmen recently graduated from the Julius A. Kolb Airman Leadership School.

- **Senior Airman Aaron Alston**, 62nd Services Squadron
- **Senior Airman Stephen Bassham**, 7th Airlift Squadron
- **Senior Airman Enid Chile**, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **Senior Airman Stephen Cousins**, 62nd Communications Squadron
- **Senior Airman Matthew Dickinson**, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman Nathan Dowling**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Airman William Heern**, 62nd MXS
- **Senior Airman Aaron Hellman**, 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Glenn Henthorn**, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Senior Airman Samuel Mayo III**, 62nd

MXS

- **Senior Airman Isidro Mazuca Jr.**, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Airman Joshua McClanathan**, 62nd CS
- **Senior Airman Joseph McEvelly**, 8th Airlift Squadron
- **Senior Airman Jennifer Moorhead**, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron
- **Senior Airman Jarvais Parker**, 1st Air Support Operations Squadron
- **Senior Airman Verne Patterson**, 5th ASOS
- **Senior Airman Charles Patterson**, 7th AS
- **Senior Airman Jeffery Patterson**, 8th AS
- **Senior Airman Dustin Pennington**, 62nd AMXS
- **Senior Airman Carlos Perez**, 62nd MXS
- **Senior Airman Douglas Reimer**, 10th AS
- **Senior Airman Kyle Roen**, 7th AS
- **Senior Airman Kasie Spearman**, 62nd

Mission Support Squadron

- **Senior Airman Alfred Springer V**, 8th AS
- **Staff Sgt. Daniel Strom**, 5th ASOS
- **Senior Airman Jon Wessling**, 7th AS
- **Senior Airman Sean Wheeler**, 262nd Information Warfare Aggressor Squadron
- **Senior Airman Courtney Woolverton**, 62nd MXS
- **Senior Airman Ryan Yarton**, 62nd Operations Support Squadron

Award Recipients:

- John L. Levitow Recipient - **Airman Roen**
- Distinguished Graduate Award and Leadership Recipient - **Airman Cousins**
- Distinguished Graduate Award - **Sergeant Strom**
- Academic Achievement Award - **Airman Mayo III**

