

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

March 7, 2008

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AMC commander welcomes tanker announcement

By

Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — The commander of Air Mobility Command hailed Feb. 29's aerial tanker source selection announcement as an important first step toward ensuring America maintains its global reach capability.

Air Force officials announced that Northrop Grumman Corporation was selected to build the new tanker, designated the KC-45A. The new tanker will replace the Air Force's aging fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers.

Gen. Arthur J. Lichte, AMC commander, said, "The KC-45A is the tanker of the future. It will enable us to carry more fuel and cargo, and allow us the flexibility to refuel any type of receiver on every mission. It will come equipped with systems to take this capability closer to the fight while protecting our Airmen as they operate in hostile skies."

The backbone of America's existing tanker fleet is the KC-135, which was built during the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations. Replacing this aircraft has been the top acquisition priority for the Air Force for several years.

"The KC-135s have served us well and will have to continue to fly for decades until this recapitalization is complete," General Lichte said. "It is vitally important to ensure this recapitalization effort is fully funded and stays on track, to ensure this capability so critical to our national security is always there."

"I look forward to seeing the first KC-45A in the field. The success of this program will require a strong commitment from our national leaders, and I'm confident they understand and appreciate what



A KC-135 Stratotanker refuels an F-22 Raptor. The KC-45 will replace the Air Force's Eisenhower-era KC-135s, which average about 47 years old.

an important asset this modernized tanker is to America's defense," he said.

Tanker aircraft have played an essential role in the Global War on Terror. Since Sept. 11, 2001, Air

Force tankers have passed more than 1.2 billion gallons of fuel to other aircraft. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley calls tankers "the single point of failure for everything we do."

62nd CPTS undergoes changes starting Monday

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

In October, Phase I of the Air Force's new centralized financial service structure kicked off with the opening of the central processing center at the Air Force Financial Service Center in Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

Phase II of the transition will begin in October 2008. At this point a 24/7 full service contact center at AFFSC staffed by experts in pay and travel will become operational. Airmen will be able to access financial services around the clock via a number of ways including phone, web and fax.

Locally, the 62nd Comptroller Squadron is in the midst of a 40 per-

cent manning decrease that started in April of last year, with some personnel undergoing a permanent change of station to Ellsworth Air Force Base. The 62nd CPTS used to have five Airmen processing travel, but now there are just two.

The following question and answer responses are to help McChord personnel understand local changes — which take effect Monday — and illustrate how everything will affect customer service here.

Q: With all military pay related to travel being sent to Ellsworth, what does this mean to the customer here?

A: This means there is an extra step in the process as the squadron now scans the forms and sends them to Ellsworth. However, customers can no longer come up to the customer service counter here and say 'I have a problem with my vouch-

er, can you fix it for me?' In the past the squadron has been able to push the voucher to the top so people can get their bill paid, but it can't do that anymore. Everything now is being done at Ellsworth. That includes hostile fire pay, combat zone tax exclusion, family separation allowance and military pay entitlement vouchers.

Q: What if the voucher is filled out incorrectly?

A: The 62nd CPTS will be the liaison between Ellsworth and the customers here. It will work with the individual to get any issues corrected, but it does delay the process even more so than it does now if there is a mistake. It's really important customers have the document correct the first time. If it keeps going back and forth between the customer and Ellsworth, sometimes

the debt can climb. The 62nd CPTS will do the quality control and scanning, but Ellsworth will do the processing and send the payment to the Federal Reserve.

Q: What direct changes will customers see here at the 62nd CPTS?

A: Due to the manpower shortages, the 62nd CPTS has drastically shortened the customer service window walk-in times. Starting Monday, the walk-in window will be open for one hour from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., but customers will be able to schedule an appointment to get help with their voucher. There will also be a self-help station set up in the Military Personnel Flight so customers can put everything together themselves and put their vouchers in a drop box in the MPF.

See Q & A, Page 3

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 57 Low: 37	Hi: 54 Low: 35	Hi: 53 Low: 36

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

Mission accomplished

Total McChord sorties	2,646
Total flying hours	8,427.3
Cargo moved (tons)	20,290.8
Departure reliability rate	95.3%
Mission capable rate	85.4%
Personnel currently deployed	430
Reservists currently activated	133
(Jan. 1 to Wednesday. Numbers updated Wednesday.)	

Don't miss it ...

Free Concert

American Idol season six contestant Phil Stacey will perform Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. The concert is open to all ID card holders.



Airman's Roll Call

Joint Force Quarterly: A resource for all

Editor's note: *Airman's Roll Call* is an Air Force leadership product 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.

As the Air Force becomes more and more involved in joint operations, all Airmen should strive to gain a better understanding of the joint environment and its missions.

The Joint Force Quarterly is a publication that can help Airmen in their quest for such knowledge. It's published for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff by the Institute for National

Strategic Studies, National Defense University, to promote understanding of the integrated employment of land, sea, air, space, and special operations forces. The current volume, "JFQ issue 49, 2 quarter, 2008," focuses on airpower. Here are additional reasons to consider this publication as a valuable resource of joint forces information:

JFQ is the Chairman's flagship joint military and security studies journal designed to inform members of the U.S. Armed Forces, allies, and other partners on joint and integrated operations; national security policy and strategy; efforts to combat terrorism; homeland security; and developments in training and joint professional military education to transform America's military

and security apparatus to better meet tomorrow's challenges while protecting freedom today.

The journal focuses on joint doctrine, integrated operations, coalition warfare, contingency planning, military operations conducted across the spectrum of conflict and joint force development.

It publishes research papers and essays, written by subject matter experts, that promote continuing joint education and improve interagency orchestration of all instruments of national power.

For more information, visit http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/jfq_pubs/.

(Commentary courtesy Air Force Print News.)

Positive attitude, focus key to success while deployed

By

Lt. Col. James Clavenna

62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander

Over the last couple of decades, Air Force deployments have gone from the exception to the norm. No longer do folks talk about if they'll deploy, now the discussion is when they'll deploy — or even more common, when they'll deploy next. Just the other day, while deployed here in Southwest Asia, I asked a security forces member nearing the end of a 180-day deployment what he was going to do when he got home. He told me he would be home for just a couple of months before they deployed to Iraq for a year to conduct security training. And despite this increased operations tempo across the Air Force, Airmen have found a way to main-

tain very positive attitudes.

It is certainly the same at my current deployed location. Every day I am impressed with the positive attitudes displayed from security forces and services food specialists to medics to aircraft maintainers. My deployed teammates beam with pride, professionalism, and discipline — and the results are even more impressive. Mission effectiveness and flying the air tasking order are our focus and the team I joined is truly firing on all cylinders. We understand our mission and work extremely hard to execute it because we know that the lives of American Sailors, Soldiers, Marines and Airmen are on the line every day and every sortie we launch saves lives. Our deployed mission is no more critical than the mission of Team McChord back home. I have watched dozens of McChord green

tails transit our location delivering critical cargo and passengers for this fight. Each time, I have met a dedicated crew and flying crew chief that had the same professionalism and focus as my deployed teammates.

But that focus does not just happen. It is absolutely dependent on a few key ingredients: preparation, support and fitness. Preparation is the foundation of every mission or deployment success. Airmen and their supervisors must ensure that personnel are trained and ready to go. Notice for deployment is good, readiness is even better. Support is what keeps me going. My AMXS teammates back home continue to excel while I'm away and the phenomenal leadership team there has allowed me to focus on my deployed mission, knowing that all is well on the McChord flightline.

Additionally, the support network there has reached out and taken care of my family, so I don't have to worry about them — I know that someone will take the big kids skiing or watch the little kids or whatever might be needed. Finally, the last key ingredient is personal fitness — physical, mental and spiritual. As we get ready to break the 100 degree mark here in a couple of weeks, it is absolutely apparent that fitness is imperative. Our heads have to be in the game every day to execute our mission.

To everyone back home — thanks for taking care of the McChord mission as well as my family, so I could focus on supporting the warfighter over here. To MaryBeth, Molly, Jack, Joey, Megan and James — thanks for your love and prayers and for taking care of each other ... I'll see you this summer.

Professionals of the week

62nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Ms. Kathleen Wells

Duty title:
Housing management assistant

Duty section:
Consolidated dormitory management office

Hometown:
Orrville, Ohio

Why she's tops:

Ms. Wells is a retired master sergeant who utilizes her experience and leadership skills to make a difference for McChord Airmen. She has been instrumental in raising the standard of rooms and ensuring they are safe, secure and clean. Her diligence as a government purchase card holder resulted in \$126,000 of dormitory improvements such as softer linens, softer beds and available furnishings. She single-handedly built six-part folders for all 627 assigned rooms, ensuring easy access to essential documentation. Hardworking and committed to excellence, Ms. Wells' contributions directly led to the housing flight being recognized as an "Outstanding Team" by the Air Mobility Command Inspector General.



Tech. Sgt. Julio Molinar

Duty title:
Unit deployment manager

Duty section:
Base engineer emergency force readiness

Hometown:
San Antonio, Texas

Why he's super:

Sergeant Molinar is an indispensable part of the Air Force's warfighting machine as the squadron's unit deployment manager. He has deployed 104 people to nine locations in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. He also coordinates, directs and oversees training for 180 expeditionary engineers in 14 specialties. His management of the program to include realigning 173 mobility positions ahead of schedule contributed to the flight's, squadron's, and wing's "Excellent" ratings during the 2008 Unit Compliance Inspection. His leadership skills are also top-notch and far-reaching, due to the fact he backfilled the master sergeant NCOIC position over a 16-person shop.



Editor's note: In the Feb. 15 edition of the Professionals of the week, Senior Airman Paul Hedges, 8th Airlift Squadron, was misidentified. We regret the error. For a corrected version of his profile, visit the Northwest Airlifter page of the McChord public Web site.

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62ND AIRLIFT WING, MCCORD AFB, WASHINGTON

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Calling all Airmen

Col. Jeffrey Stephenson speaks at his first McChord All Call Monday. The colonel took command of the 62nd Airlift Wing in January. The All Call featured a video highlighting the Air Force's new "Above All" campaign, where Col. Stephenson discussed the importance of maintaining professionalism and responsibility both on and off duty.

The commander also addressed topics such as sexual assault prevention, joint basing and medical BRAC, the expeditionary mission of Team McChord and the recently designated KC-45A tanker.

From Q & A, Page 1

Q: How can customers turn in a voucher?

A: They may either follow the checklist at the self-help station and put it in the drop box in the MPF or make an appointment and sit down face-to-face with a technician and they can help review it.

Q: How will the turnaround time change with the new process?

A: Right now officials are unaware of the exact time, but it will likely take a little longer. The hope is that within the next year or two officials are back down to that five-day window.

Q: How quickly are the vouchers here scanned and sent off?

A: On a daily basis. 62nd CPTS personnel has access to a database that can tell what has been scanned, what's been sent and what's been rejected. Everything is bar coded and can be tracked. The ultimate goal is that the Airmen can check the status of the voucher themselves online.

Q: Can Airmen scan their own documents in and e-mail them to 62nd CPTS so they don't have to come to Bldg. 100?

A: Yes. However, the vouchers must be correctly filled out and 62nd CPTS personnel still have to print it out and re-scan it themselves to be sent to Ellsworth. Another goal is to have each squadron have access to checklists in their building so they can do it via e-mail.

Q: Can customers talk to 62nd CPTS personnel other than coming to Bldg. 100?

A: 62nd CPTS personnel will man the phones at 982-3945 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the weekdays to address any customer service concerns.



AFOSI looking for those with 'eyes of the eagle'

By

Special Agent Sean Burke
Air Force Office of Special Investigations

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Detachment 305, is looking for Air Force members who exemplify the Air Force core values and are looking to cross train into a challenging and rewarding career field as a special agent.

AFOSI has been the Air Force's major investigative service since Aug. 1, 1948. The agency reports to the Inspector General, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. AFOSI provides professional investigative service to commanders of all Air Force activities. Its primary responsibilities are criminal investigations and counterintelligence services.

The command focuses on five priorities:

- Developing and retaining a force capable of meeting Air Force needs.
- Detecting and providing early warning of worldwide threats to the Air Force.
- Identifying and resolving crime impacting Air Force readiness or good order and discipline.
- Combating threats to Air Force information systems and technologies.
- Defeating and deterring fraud in the acquisition of Air Force prioritized weapons systems.

To be eligible to retrain, an



File photo by Abner Guzman

Special Agent Daniela Yantin dusts for fingerprints during a recent office of special investigations training exercise. During the exercise, McChord's OSI collected forensic evidence and clues to solve a simulated homicide at the base temporary lodging facility.

Airman's total active military service dates must not exceed six years for senior airmen or 12 years for staff sergeants, but a waiver can be granted for up to 13 years for technical sergeants and 14 years for master sergeants. Senior airmen must be in their cross training window (35-43 months for four-year enlistees and 59-67 month for six-year enlistees). Members must have at least 18

months time on station, but a waiver can be granted down to 12 months.

Officers must have less than 12 years of total active federal military service and less than six years total active federal commission service to apply. The Air Force Personnel Center must also agree to release officer applicants in order to apply. More information is available through the AFPC.

Applicants with foreign language, computer and technical skills are among those highly sought after by the AFOSI.

For more information on AFOSI special agent duty, visit the Web site at <http://www.osi.andrews.af.mil/> or contact Special Agent Sean Burke, AFOSI Detachment 305, at 382-6481 or e-mail at sean.burke@ogn.af.mil.



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

IRAQ — While deployed, Staff Sgt. John Federico, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, was selected as the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's "Warrior of the Month" for February.



Courtesy photo

QAYYRAH AIRFIELD WEST, Iraq — Deployed Airmen of the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron pose together during a recent deployment. The team is led by Master Sgt. Timothy Sanders, 62nd APS.



Air Force blue goes green on energy, environment



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Justin Nelson, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, checks synthetic fuel for color, water and sediment after 54,000 gallons were delivered here in September as part of an experiment.

By
Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
 Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force blue wants to leave a greener footprint with more environmentally-sound energy resources, said the service's senior energy executive during testimony to the House of Representative's Armed Services Committee and Readiness Subcommittee Feb. 29 on Capitol Hill.

"The Air Force recognizes that energy and the environment are tightly linked," said William C. "Bill" Anderson, the assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics.

"Not only have we committed to purchase only alternative energy sources, the Air Force has committed to be a leader in establishing a global consortium to tackle the reduction, capture and reuse of greenhouse gas emissions," Mr. Anderson said.

Rising gas and oil prices have forced Air Force officials to evaluate the service's needs and budget to find ways to save money while maintaining the high-ops tempo of today's war on terrorism, he said. One way Air Force officials have done this is to use synthetic fuel alternatives.

"The Air Force is Defense Department's leading consumer of jet fuel, and 10 percent of the total U.S. jet fuel market," he said. "To meet our

jet fuel needs of the future, the Air Force is evaluating domestically-sourced synthetic fuel alternatives. We've certified the B-52 (Stratofortress) to fly on a synthetic fuel blend, and are on track to test and certify the C-17 (Globemaster III), B-1B (Lancer) and F-22 (Raptor) in this fiscal year, with the entire Air Force fleet certified by early 2011."

Mr. Anderson also addressed DOD's goal for environmental restoration in all federal facilities by 2014.

"The Air Force has established an aggressive internal goal to have all clean up remedies in place at all active installations by the end of 2012, two years ahead of current DOD goals," he said. "We are proactively working with the (Environmental Protection Agency) to break the paradigm of the inefficiencies of federal facilities agreements."

These are just a few examples of an over-all change across the service to accept more environmentally-sound resources and practices, Mr. Anderson said.

"The increasing costs of energy and the nation's commitment to reducing its dependence on foreign oil have lead to the development of the Air Force energy strategy — to reduce demand, increase supply and change the culture within the Air Force so that energy is a consideration in everything we do," he said.



AF leaders testify about 2009 budget request

By

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

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's top two leaders testified before the House Armed Services Committee about the service's budget request for fiscal 2009 recently in Washington.

Addressing topics from recapitalization to personnel end strength, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley outlined how the upcoming year's budget focuses on the Air Force's top three priorities: Winning today's fight, taking care of people and preparing for tomorrow's challenges.

Secretary Wynne stressed to members of Congress that although the Air Force has been engaged in 17 years of continuous air combat, the service has seen a consistently underfunded modernization effort.

"Across the total force of active, Guard and Reserve Airmen, and

civilians, we are America's strategic shield in air, space and cyberspace," he said. "We are contributing to today's fight with increasing ordnance drops, and we stand watch at the missile fields. We stand ready in the nuclear field, and we are an effective air superiority and strike force to both deter and dissuade any opponent."

For these reasons, the Air Force must move forward in acquiring fifth-generation fighters, new expeditionary tankers and long-range strike assets, Secretary Wynne said. He also emphasized the urgent need for modern space assets and a more concentrated focus on cyberspace as a warfighting domain the U.S. must dominate.

"Clearly beyond the war on terrorism, we must not lose America's asymmetric advantage in strategic forces," the secretary said.

Earlier this month, the Air Force released its \$143.9 billion fiscal 2009 budget request, and a few days later its \$18.75 billion 2009 unfunded requirements. The unfunded

requirements list includes additional items the Air Force needs that do not fall within budgetary constraints.

Unfunded requirements for additional aircraft such as F-22 Raptors, C-130 Hercules J-models, C-17 Globemaster IIIs, and F-35 Lightning II were of particular interest to members of Congress who questioned why the Air Force's unfunded list was so extensive in addition to the initial budget request.

"Since we went into the procurement 'holiday,' we've built up quite a backlog of procurement actions to be done, hence the growth in the age of the fleet ... (that is reflected in) the unfunded requirements," Secretary Wynne said.

"At some point in the future, we have got to fund the defense of America at the right level, and buy the defense that America deserves," General Moseley added. "In the '09 budget, all the major programs are intact, (but) the economic order quantities are not there. Unless you buy planes and satellites, it's hard to

field a combatant Air Force."

Leaders also discussed Air Force end strength, which is projected to decrease from nearly 330,000 to 316,600 between now and 2009.

"We did not come to this decision lightly. It came down to 'if you want to have an Air Force, you have to buy airplanes, and you have to buy satellites,'" Secretary Wynne said.

However, there is an unfunded requirement for an additional \$385 million to increase end strength for active-duty by 13,554, Reserves by 3,400 and civilians by 1,830 in 2009.

"We have more than 20,000 people tied up in 'in lieu of taskings day to day. The new missions we're looking at in cyber, joint task force and joint commands takes us to a place where maybe 316,000 is truly too small," General Moseley said. "Our discussion (with Department of Defense officials) now is how to level this off so we can relieve the stress of those mid-level NCOs and those family members, and still meet these taskings."



62nd OSS airfield management



Airman 1st Class Bobby Mines, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, uses a pyrotechnic pistol to fire off a loud blast designed to scare birds away from the airfield during migratory season.



MY AIRFIELD ... MY DOMAIN

by Tyler Hemstreet
STAFF WRITER

The bold lettering on the rear windows of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron airfield operations flight's SUV says it all:

"My airfield... My domain."

And although that domain is larger than some small towns in the state, the six Airmen and six civilians in the flight work hard each day to be up to speed on what's going on out on the airfield.

"We really are the nerve center when it comes to airfield activities," said Master Sgt. Eileen Rodriguez, deputy airfield manager with the 62nd OSS.

Those activities include any paratrooper exercises with the Army or tenant units, aircraft conducting combat off-loads, all flight plans of arriving and departing aircraft and any maintenance projects on the runways or taxiways, Sergeant Rodriguez said.

While knowledge of the big exercises is a large part of being in the know for the flight, it's the small things that require Airmen in the flight to really pay attention to detail.

Each morning before the flying day begins, a crew piles into the SUV to patrol the airfield and observe bird watch conditions, take runway and taxiway weather condition readings and keep a sharp eye out for any cracks or pavement discrepancies.

"We want to make sure the pilots have all the right information when they're taking off and landing," she said.

Things like rubber buildup on certain areas of the runway or large puddles in the areas between runways (possible bird baths for seagulls) can jeopardize pilot safety and/or damage aircraft, Sergeant Rodriguez said.

Airmen are also looking out for debris on the runway brought on by flooding from heavy rain, Sergeant Rodriguez said.

At night, patrols are looking to see if all the lights on the airfield are working correctly. Sometimes conducting safety checks can be a challenge due to the fact Airmen are patrolling the same patch of land every day. Taking a different route on each patrol and choosing a different aspect to focus on each time helps solve that problem, said Tech. Sgt. Felicia Shropshire, 62nd OSS.

"We have to be serious about it and very attentive because the cost of missing something could be someone's life," Sergeant Shropshire said.

That same mentality goes into the job of entering each daily flight plan into the base system and making sure the details are correct, she said.

In addition to checking all of the lights and fixtures, pavement discrepancies, bird watch activities and rubber buildup and paint deterioration, the flight works together with Wing Safety and the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron to get any problems fixed, Sergeant Rodriguez said.

"It's all about networking to get the job done," she said. Just chalk it up as part of taking care of their domain.



Airman Mines reads his vehicle for a routine inspection of the airfield.



Airman Mines looks on as airfield management shift leader Quincy Williams, 62nd OSS, instructs him on the proper use of a high altitude instrument chart.



Photos by Abner Guzman

A C-17 Globemaster III makes its approach while Airman Mines and Master Sgt. Eileen Rodriguez, 62nd OSS, search for pavement deficiencies during an airfield inspection of the assault strip adjacent to the runway.

"We have to be serious about it and very attentive because the cost of missing something could be someone's life."

Tech. Sgt. Felicia Shropshire
62nd Operations Support Squadron

Mother, daughter race together, 8,000 miles apart

By

Senior Airman Carolyn Viss
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public
Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Most people would never want to run a full marathon, but even fewer would think of running one in the desert with a dust storm looming.

"Looks like I might have to run the whole 26 miles on a treadmill," 1st Lt. Jessica Lopez joked, two days before the Los Angeles Marathon. "Last time I ran in a dust storm, it was miserable."

She had been keeping an eye on the weather in Southwest Asia for weeks, anticipating Sunday, when she planned to run the L. A. Marathon with her mom, Dawn. The fact that they're more than 8,000 miles apart just wasn't an issue for the duo.

"We both wanted to run the marathon and we eventually came to the conclusion that we could make it happen in our own special way," the Orange County, Calif., native said.

They decided that at 6 p.m. in Southwest Asia at roughly the same time Dawn, 52, would be running in Los Angeles, Jessica would begin the grueling race here.

Lieutenant Lopez, a C-17 Globemaster III pilot stationed at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., is deployed here for four months. She's been running with her mother since she was a little girl.

"My mom started to run long distance races in the mid-'80s when I

was growing up," the 25-year-old said. "When I was little, I liked running in small road races because I enjoyed being able to compete in races like my mom (because) she got to run in races and get T-shirts and medals."

She competed in track all four years of high school as a discus and shot-put thrower, but went away from running until her junior year of high school, when she joined the cross-country team.

"Mainly, I joined the team to get into better shape because I was interested in going to the Air Force Academy. I always wanted to run a marathon with my mom, but that goal got put on an indefinite hold when I got recruited to throw (discus) in college," she said. Her record throw was 151 feet.

After she graduated in 2004, the new lieutenant was looking for a way to get into better shape and found herself running again. At that point, Dawn was running around six or seven marathons a year and had qualified for the Boston Marathon.

"I found myself asking her questions about how to train for running long distances," Lieutenant Lopez said. "I think somewhere inside of me, that made me want to run the Boston Marathon. Even though I had gone to college, gotten married, joined the military, and moved clear across the country, running enabled me and my mom to remain close."

They began seriously racing together, Dawn running full marathons and the lieutenant running halves. In 2007, she ran her

first full marathon.

"It was an incredible bonding experience to share 26.2 miles together," Lieutenant Lopez said. "I'll never forget crossing the finish line hand in hand and the joy of accomplishment. I may not have run very fast, but I ran and finished."

She went on to finish the Philadelphia Marathon in 3:38, which qualified her for the Boston Marathon. Both ladies hope to run together in April when Lieutenant Lopez returns from her deployment.

The petite brunette began training for the L.A. marathon as soon as she arrived in the desert in January. This is her third marathon; it's her mother's 45th.

Desert conditions hardly swayed the hard-charging Airman, who returned from a 30-hour mission this week and was placed on flight standby immediately after she finished crew rest.

Lieutenant Lopez's Air Force family came through for her here. Two other C-17 pilots assigned to the 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron here decided to join her. Capt. Matthew Jarrett is on his fourth marathon, and 1st Lt. David Tomlinson, his second.

"We have run together at different times when our flying schedules have permitted," Lieutenant Lopez said. "We just had to train whenever we could."

The night of the race was calm and cool. About 30 other Airmen ran the first 5 kilometers with the marathoners, encouraging the trio as they ran by, and support trucks stopped along the road with water



Photo by Senior Airman Dominique Simmons

1st Lt. Jessica Lopez trains for the L.A. Marathon from her deployed location recently in Southwest Asia. After she received deployment orders and realized she would miss running the marathon stateside with her mother, Dawn, on Sunday, the duo decided to run the marathon at the same time, 11 time zones apart. Lieutenant Lopez finished in 3 hours, 39 minutes.

and energy drinks for the three pilots. Three and a half hours later, a crowd gathered at the finish line to cheer and congratulate the exhausted runners.

"I didn't finish in the time I expected to," Lieutenant Lopez said, after running it in 3:39, "but I'm just glad I made it. It was really good to know my mom was running at the same time. I knew I couldn't give up."



Bagram hosts International Women's Day



Photo by Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester

Afghan national army Brig. Gen. Khatool Mohammadzai, Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs Dr. Husn Banu Ghazanfar and Army Brig. Gen. Rodney Anderson cut a cake at an International Women's Day celebration March 3 at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

By

Army Spc. Melissa M. Escobar
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Women's History Month kicked off here with a celebration of International Women's Day Monday at Bagram Air Base.

The Combined Joint Task Force-82, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Equal Opportunity Office and various civil military operations sections sponsored the celebration, which consisted of speeches, a musical performance from an Afghan band and an Afghan fashion show.

While the U.S. celebrates Women's History Month, International Women's Day is an official holiday held March 8 each year in 23 countries across Europe, Africa and Asia. The holiday commemorates the eco-

nomie, political and social struggles and achievements of women worldwide. The occasion recognizes the world's women and acknowledges their contribution to peace and security, according to the official International Women's Day Web site.

Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs Dr. Husn Banu Ghazanfar and Afghan national army Gen. Khatool Mohammadzai participated in the ceremony.

Dr. Ghazanfar, a lecturer, poet and writer, delivered a speech on the progress of international women and gave insight into the struggles that Afghan women have faced and continue to face.

General Mohammadzai is Afghanistan's first female general and paratrooper in the Afghan national army. With more than 500 jumps under her belt and a chest full of medals displaying her many accomplishments, she represents how women are grad-

ually overcoming their trials and tribulations in Afghanistan.

"I am honored to be a part of this celebration and to be here in Bagram," General Mohammadzai said. "I am proud to be here with my Afghan and international colleagues in celebrating this wonderful day. I congratulate the whole world's women and Afghan women on this beautiful and important day. This day is a sign that the women of the world are making huge progress."

"It's enormously important that we celebrate IWD," said Army Brig. Gen. Rodney Anderson, the CJTF-82 deputy commanding general for support. "It's especially important to celebrate (IWD) in Afghanistan to recognize the contributions and sacrifices that the Afghan women have made, and the contributions and sacrifices of the women who have deployed here to support them."



Airmen train Iraqi firefighters for improved regional safety

By

Senior Airman Eric Schloeffel
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq — Air Force firefighters here conducted training sessions with members of the city of Kirkuk fire department recently in an effort to improve fire response and overall safety for Iraqi citizens in the region.

These sessions are scheduled to become weekly events and eventually train a total of more than 125 Iraqi firefighters.

The idea spurred from Kirkuk's top fire chief who recently expressed interest in reviving an exchange program.

"I met with Kirkuk's fire general and asked him if we could do anything to help their firefighting efforts," said Senior Master Sgt. John Fugelo, the 506th Civil Engineer Squadron

fire chief. "He asked if we could do anything to further advance their skills with training. Our Airmen would like to foster the attitude that we want to build brotherhood with the Iraqi firefighters, so we got the ball rolling with this program."

The curriculum is comprised of both classroom and hands-on instruction on life-saving skills such as CPR and first aid. New groups of 25 Iraqi firefighters will pass through the fire station each week to receive the training, with the end goal of a more knowledgeable and robust force.

Though the language barrier created challenges, the Iraqi's seemed to pick up the material quickly and were eager to ask questions throughout the day, said Tech. Sgt. Chancey Crugar, the 506th ECES fire station captain and course instructor.

"We taught them the basic ABCS, which include airways,

breathing and circulation, stoppage of bleeding and splinting," he said. "The curriculum covers subjects typical of any first responder course. Most of the Iraqi firefighters are very eager to learn and are often getting ahead of us."

Sergeant Crugar said fostering professionally-oriented relationships was vital to communication between the Iraqi and American firefighters.

"Building a rapport with the Iraqi firefighters is very important. It allows for trust that helps us capitalize on teaching the material," he said. "I can tell a real smile from a fake one. Everything I've seen showed we are truly forging bonds with our Iraqi brethren."

These sessions help firefighters make the city of Kirkuk, with a population of more than 750,000, safer from fires and other emergency threats, said an Iraqi firefighter from Kirkuk.



Tech. Sgt. John Dunne gives instruction on first aid to Iraqi firefighters Feb. 27 at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. The course is part of an ongoing program to help Kirkuk improve fire response efforts. Sergeant Dunne is a 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter.



Camp Eggers officials dedicate building to fallen Airman

By

Navy Seaman Timothy Newborn
Camp Eggers Public Affairs

CAMP EGGERS, Afghanistan — Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and civilians dedicated the Gillespie House to honor a fallen Airman March 2 at Camp Eggers.

Master Sgt. Randy Gillespie, an embedded training team senior mentor with the Afghan national army 207th Corps, died July 9, 2007, from fatal wounds sustained from small arms fire.

The fuels specialist assigned to Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., was deployed to Camp Zafar, Afghanistan.

The 44-year-old Colorado Springs, Colo., native joined the Air Force in 1983.

Gillespie filled more than eight different mission-critical assignments during his career, including Lajes Field, Azores, where he was recognized as the 1999 Fuels Flight Noncommissioned Officer Professional Provider of the Year.

During his last assignment at Luke AFB, Sergeant Gillespie and his crew were named the Best Fuels Management Flight in the Air Force for 2005.

“As you can see, Master Sergeant Gillespie

lived the Air Force core value of service before self,” said Army Maj. Gen. Robert Cone, the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan commanding general. “His fellow Airmen have described him in a word as ‘awesome, a professional in every sense of the word.’ He took incredible pride in mentoring Afghan national army personnel.”

A plaque displaying Sergeant Gillespie’s biography, accomplishments and names of his family members will adorn the new Gillespie House, which is living quarters for servicemembers stationed at Camp Eggers. He earned a collection of awards including the Bronze Star posthumously, Purple Heart and the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

General Cone read a letter from Gillespie’s widow, Lisa Gillespie, who wrote, “He truly was a special man ... and I so very much appreciate the remembrances and the tributes you are putting in place for him.”

“Randy was a very nice, approachable guy. He definitely had an impact beyond his rank,” said Col. Frank Heinsohn, who trained alongside Gillespie at Fort Riley, Kan., while preparing for his recent deployment.

“He will be remembered for his service to his country and his contributions to a democratic Afghanistan,” General Cone said.



Photo by Seaman Timothy Newborn

A plaque displaying Master Sgt. Randy Gillespie’s biography and awards is unveiled during a dedication ceremony Sunday and will be placed in the hallway of the newly named Gillespie House at Camp Eggers, Afghanistan. Sergeant Gillespie was killed in action in July 2007 while serving as an embedded training team senior mentor with the Afghan national army 207th Corps in Herat.



English tea party

Come join the Officers Spouses' Club for a classic English tea party. The event is at 11 a.m. on Tuesday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. Please RSVP to Mary Beth Clavenna at 584-2716 or e-mail clavennas@airforcefamily.us. For childcare reservations, contact Christi Detwiler at 588-2311. All eligible spouses are welcome.

New Housing Office hours

The McChord Housing Office has recently revised its hours of operation. Walk-in hours are now 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointment hours are 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For community housing assistance, call 982-517, and for military housing assistance, call 982-5516.

Names to Note

The following Airmen graduated their Career Development Course with a grade of 90 percent or better:

- **Airman 1st Class Christopher Perez**, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Jeffery Salazar**, 5th Air Support Operations Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Ebenezer Evanoff**, 8th Civil Engineering Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Craig Buckley**, 62nd Civil Engineering Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Christopher Carey**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Zachari Dyas**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Brandon Hess**, 62nd CES
- **Staff Sgt. Brandon Pandes**, 62nd CES
- **Staff Sgt. Justin Pederson**, 354th

Civil Engineering Squadron

- **Airman 1st Class Jordan Smith**, 62nd Communications Squadron
- **Senior Airman David Garcia**, 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Jared Mason**, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Sergio McLaughlin**, 62nd LRS
- **Airman 1st Class Beau Dicken**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Justin Mohr**, 62nd MXS
- **Airman 1st Class Chauvin Rupley**, 62nd MXS
- **Airman 1st Class Dennis Turner**, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Sarah Alarcon**, 62nd Services Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class James Parker**, 62nd SVS

Faith and Worship Programs

For more information on Easter/Lent services, call the chapel support center at 982-5556.

Adult Bible study is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the base chapel support center, Bldg. 746

Schedule of worship services**Catholic Services:**

All Catholic services are in chapel two.

Saturday: 4 p.m. Confession

5 p.m. Mass

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Mass

11 a.m. Mass

Protestant Services:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Liturgical worship: Chapel one

9:45 a.m. Sunday school for all ages at the chapel support center

11 a.m. Traditional worship: Chapel one

11 a.m. Contemporary service: Chapel support center

Jewish Services:

Friday: 6 p.m. Fort Lewis chapel every 1st, 3rd and 5th at the corner of 12th Street and Liggett Avenue 967-6590

Orthodox Activities:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas Church, 15th Street and Yakima Avenue, Tacoma

Other services:

Orthodox Christian Community, Cascade Chapel, Fort Lewis

Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Pre-Communion prayers

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Confession is by appointment only. Call Father John Anderson at 967-1717 or 906-6843 or e-mail father.anderson@us.army.mil.

