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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

March 21, 2008

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Congressional leaders commemorate five-year OIF anniversary

By

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Congressional leaders honored U.S. troops who have served in Iraq and elsewhere around the world during a bipartisan remembrance ceremony here March 13 in the Capitol Rotunda.

During the ceremony, which marked the upcoming fifth anniversary of the Iraq war, the Congress members extended praise and appreciation to all U.S. servicemembers, emphasizing that their support for the troops transcends political lines.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, speaker of the House, opened the ceremony by lauding servicemembers who responded without delay when their nation called.

"When sent into battle, they performed their duties effectively with bravery, dignity and honor that are the hallmark of American soldiers, sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines," she said. "After five years of the war in Iraq and more than six in Afghanistan, the selflessness of our heroes continues to make us proud."

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, Senate minority leader, acknowledged the ongoing debate about the future of war in Iraq and overall war on terror.

"There is passion and seriousness and patriotism on both sides," he said. "Yet one thing is certain: The men and women of our military have done their jobs. Their purpose is just. And on this day of remembrance, in this place of honor, we thank all who have served."

Nevada Sen. Harry Reid, Senate majority leader, emphasized that today's ceremony rose above any political differences.

"Today we stand together, not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans, all to honor every Airman, soldier, sailor and Marine who has served and every American hero who has perished in that far-off land of Iraq," he said.

Reid joined the other leaders in extending his recognition to troops

who have served in Afghanistan. "We could not possibly honor our troops with words to match the honor of their brave action," he said.

Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, House minority leader, thanked troops following in the footsteps of those who have served the country throughout its history.

"The men and women of our military and their families are our nation's greatest heroes, and their incredible accomplishments are indeed a cause for celebration," he said. "Their achievements are too numerous to count and too widespread to fully catalogue. The least we can do is to take time from our daily routine to stop, to think, and to express our thanks and gratitude for the sacrifices our military (and their families ... continue to make."

The lawmakers paid special tribute to wounded troops and the families of those who have died serving their country.

"We honor the service of our men and women in uniform of our armed services, those who have returned home, and their brothers and sisters in arms we've lost," Pelosi said. "We mourn every day."

"We honor their parents, children, husbands, wives and friends, those they loved and those who loved them," Reid added. "They too bear a heavy burden in service to the ideals we cherish."

McConnell said those who sacrificed did so because "they loved their families and believed their service would keep their families safe."

"We've been humbled by the sacrifice of so many Americans," he said. "And today we recommit ourselves to their service, to the care of those who have returned and to the full support of those who fight."

All the speakers expressed hope for a time of peace.

Pelosi looked to the statue of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who expressed hope for a future when people can live together in peace. "In the spirit of his farewell prayer, we seek to end conflict, to promote peace and to build a future worthy of the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform," she said.



Photo by Adamarie Lewis-Page

Ready to Rodeo 2009

Maj. Gen. Fred Roggero, 2009 Rodeo commander, briefs McChord leadership and the Rodeo planning staff Tuesday about his vision for the event, which is scheduled for July 2009. There are 27 events already scheduled for Rodeo 2009, including short-field landing, refuel servicing, combat tactics and the Fit to Fight competition.

Base to host multi-service clam chowder cook-off

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

For the first time in the event's history, McChord's Olympic Dining Facility will host the 3rd annual Northwest Military Clam Chowder Cook-off from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on March 28.

Ten military teams representing the different services from all over the Northwest will participate in the contest, including a pair of two-person teams from McChord, said food service section chief Master Sgt. Ramon Erpelo, 62nd Services Squadron.

One of the sponsors for the con-

test will provide the ingredients for the chowder, but after that it's wide open.

"Everybody will have their own recipe and teams can bring spices to add to it," Sergeant Erpelo said.

In addition to two judges from the sponsor, Col. Shane Hershman, 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander; and Col. Joseph Wiley, 62nd Operations Group commander, will help pick the winning recipe.

"I can't wait to taste the great Northwest chowders!" Colonel Hershman said.

The judging starts at 11 a.m. and those in attendance can enjoy a free lunch of chowder, salad and French bread after the contest.

Weekend Weather

| FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | |
| Hi: 50 Low: 36 | Hi: 52 Low: 37 | Hi: 50 Low: 35 |

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

Mission Accomplished

| | |
|---|----------|
| Total McChord sorties | 3,223 |
| Total flying hours | 10,364.9 |
| Cargo moved (tons) | 25,200 |
| Departure reliability rate | 95.4% |
| Mission capable rate | 85.1% |
| Personnel currently deployed | 356 |
| Reservists currently activated..... | 143 |
| (Jan. 1 to Tuesday. Numbers updated Tuesday.) | |

Don't miss it ...

Wing run

The wing run is today at 3 p.m. It will start at the fitness center.

Airman's Roll Call: Airmen can submit dress, appearance ideas online to IDEA program

(Editor's note: *Airman's Roll Call is an Air Force leadership tool 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.*)

This week, top Air Force leaders came together for a two-day forum called CORONA. At the forum, Lt. Gen. Richard Newton III, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services at the Pentagon, announced that Airmen will now be able to submit ideas for improving dress and appearance stan-

dards to the new Virtual Uniform Board. This program allows individuals to submit uniform change requests through the Air Force's IDEA Program.

Once an idea is submitted it is then routed through the same channels as other IDEA suggestions. Major commands will have the ability to coordinate on ideas from Airmen in their command, and uniform change requests that successfully make it to Air Force Headquarters level will be reviewed by the Air Force Uniform Board. The first VUB will take place in early May.

This revolutionary process makes it easier for Airmen to sub-

mit suggestions and better define ideas. The Virtual Uniform Board will allow Air Force leadership to be more responsive to the field and provide more flexibility to board members while saving time and money.

The AFUB is chaired by General Newton, and board members include the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, and representatives from each MAJCOM and Air Staff Directorate. The AFUB reviews uniform change requests, then generates a list of recommendations to be forwarded to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Once the Chief of Staff makes a final decision, the results are

announced and implementation plans are developed as required.

To submit a uniform change request, visit the IDEA Program website at <https://ipds.csd.disa.mil> (CAC required) and select "Submit a Uniform Change Request." Users must establish a username and password. Questions regarding dress and appearance standards should be directed to local leadership. For more information contact the Air Force Personnel Center Contact Center at (800) 616-3775 option 1, 1, 2.

Find Airman's Roll Call Online Here: <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/>.

Separating or retiring, be prepared for your exit

By
Chief Master Sgt. Paul Cruz
62nd Maintenance Group

Over the last several months, I've been engaged in preparing myself for civilian life upon deciding to retire from active duty after 26 years of service. This preparation didn't come easily. Realistically, I probably wouldn't have thought about it or started preparing early enough if it wasn't for a couple of retired friends of mine. During the late summer of 2007, an old retired commander of mine contacted me to offer me the opportunity to pursue a job in the company he works for. After looking into it, I created a resume and went to my first interview. It was a successful one and they called me back for the second interview. However, before the second interview, I elected not to pursue the job any longer because it would have required my family and I to relocate again, something I wasn't will-

ing to do.

Why did I tell you all this? Because those initial contacts and interview made me realize that the retirement date I set would come soon, so I began my preparation in earnest. Too many times I've seen friends and colleagues start their terminal leave and just begin to prepare themselves prior to or during their terminal leave. Now for some, if that was their plan, then that's okay if they're prepared for that. For others, they didn't realize the time and effort it took and got caught unprepared. Then they find out that their job search and transition is taking them longer than anticipated and their stress level rises. That's the message I want to get across — be prepared and control your exit from the Air Force. I recommend starting the preparation at least six months to one year out.

The Air Force is a wonderful place that I will miss. This great organization does take care of its people and has all the tools one needs to prepare themselves to exit the service. One primary

tool is the Transition Assistance Program run by the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The seminar they teach gives anyone the information they need to help themselves during this transitional period. I attended this seminar twice. I was advised during my early years of service to go two times, the first time when you are two years from retirement or separation and the second time when you are within a year from your actual date. That advice has helped me prepare for my exit. Because of this advice, I'll be retiring soon from the Air Force and am set up for the next chapter of my career.

I want to thank all of those I've associated with both past and present that have made my time in the Air Force a great experience. It is the Air Force core values and culture that make it a great organization to belong to, and it is that I'll truly remember. It was an honor working with the entire team of active duty, reserve, civilian and guardsmen. Thank you all for your service.

Professionals of the week

62nd Maintenance Group

Tech. Sgt. Curtis Acree

Duty title:
Quality assurance inspector

Duty section:
Maintenance operations center

Hometown:
Ontario, Ore.

Why he's super:

As a quality assurance inspector Sergeant Acree evaluates the quality of aircraft maintenance accomplished by 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 62nd Maintenance Squadron and 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron personnel on assigned aircraft. He serves as the primary technical advisor and assists supervision at all levels to resolve quality problems in the maintenance complex. He was recently selected by Air Mobility Command to augment its team as an evaluator during Travis Air Force Base's Logistical Standardization Evaluation Program inspection as a subject matter expert.



62nd Operations Group

Tech. Sgt. Wyvonne Dogan

Duty title:
Resource advisor

Duty section:
Commander resource

Hometown:
Richmond, Texas

Why she's super:

As the resource advisor, Sergeant Dogan provides support and oversight to five squadrons. Her skills and expertise are vital in preparing and briefing monthly reports on status of funds and spend plan execution to the squadron resource advisors and the group commander. She successfully managed and executed a fiscal year 2008 budget totaling \$4.3 million, covering both operating forces and mobilization requirements. Sergeant Dogan has completed her Community College of the Air Force degree and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business management.



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62nd LRS new process saves customers time

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff Writer

The days leading up to the start of a deployment have a tendency to be packed with personnel tasks and family commitments.

But recent changes to the 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's warehouse processes are paving the way so Airmen can save time on getting their deployment bag assembled — cutting valuable time off one key personnel task.

"We know that time can be better spent with their family," said 2nd Lt. Paul Dryja, commander of the 62nd LRS readiness flight.

To make that happen — and create a smoother operation for the entire flight — the squadron revamped the way deployment bags are put together. Previously, deploying Airmen would be led through the long aisles of bins by a 62nd LRS Airman, selecting what items they need from various bins.

"That process cost them nearly 45 to 90 minutes," Lieutenant Dryja said.

The new process enables an Airman's unit deployment manager to visit the flight's sharepoint Web site, fill in the details of the Airman's deployment and submit the request to the customer service desk at the warehouse. Because all the Airman's clothing and boots sizes are pre-loaded, the flight takes the information and builds the bag beforehand; afterwards sending a confirmation of what time the bag will be ready for them to pick up.

The flight further simplified the process by vacuum-packing items together (using a machine it already had), condensing a deployment C Bag from 26 items to just nine.

"It's easier for the Airman because we don't have to inventory each individual item on the way out," Lieutenant Dryja said.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Staff Sgt. Anthony Allen, right, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, reviews the contents of a deployment bag with Staff Sgt. Thomas Raynor, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, while Airman 1st Class Anthony Manalo, 62nd LRS, looks on. Recent changes by the squadron to the warehouse layout and practices have sped up the process of receiving and returning a deployment bag.

The process also benefits them in the theater.

"With something like the chemical gear, since it's not likely that they are going to use it, now there is a lesser chance of it getting lost or damaged," he said.

There's also a benefit for LRS Airmen on the deployed member's return to the warehouse, as items that weren't used can be put back into the rotation right away.

"We don't have to unroll and take every sleeping bag to the cleaners,"

said Airman 1st Class Anthony Manalo, 62nd LRS.

The readiness flight Airmen also no longer have to traverse all over the warehouse to assemble a deployment bag. The warehouse has been reconfigured so the bulk storage items are in the back and a smaller customer service area stocked with items is located by the new main entrance to the facility. Now all the items LRS Airmen need to fill a bag are in condensed, clearly labeled bins.

"Everything is right in our work

area," Airman Manalo said. "We can just go down the line and gather everything right on the spot."

While customers will still have to get used to the facility's new rear entrance and sharepoint submission form, Lieutenant Dryja said those are small issues compared to the bigger picture.

"Getting everything now shouldn't take more than five minutes," he said. "As fast they can inventory everything is as fast as they are out the door."



Women making a difference: Wing commemorates Women's History Month

The Women of McChord will be recognized at the 2008 Women's History Month Breakfast at 8 a.m. on Wednesday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.

The guest speaker for the event is Ms. Fanetta Johnson, a retired technical sergeant.

There will also be a history expo immediately following the breakfast, featuring tables from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, McChord clinic and other base organizations. To register for the breakfast, call Master Sgt. Sabrina Watkins at 982-2760. Signups will be accepted until 8 p.m. today.

Editor's Note: The following women were nominated by family, co-workers or friends for their work to make a positive impact in the base community.



Capt. Elizabeth Scott

Unit: 4th Airlift Squadron

Hometown: Lodi, Calif.

Nominated by: Capt. Chris Scott

"Whether it's at home or in the office, she's constantly working her tail off to make things a little better for everyone each day."



Ms. Tricia Allen

Unit: 62nd Contracting Squadron

Hometown: Bellingham, Wash.

Nominated by: 1st Lt. Tyler McClung

"She brilliantly led the squadron through a massive tech refresh that updated the server vital to operating the squadron contract writing program. Tricia is extremely dedicated to improving unit effectiveness and her energetic attitude has increased morale and proves that hard work can still be fun."

ing program. Tricia is extremely dedicated to improving unit effectiveness and her energetic attitude has increased morale and proves that hard work can still be fun."



Ms. Beth Cannon

Unit: Phoenix spouse for 62nd Aerial Port Squadron

Hometown: Spokane, Wash.

Nominated by: Lt. Col. Mike Cannon

"She escorted Air Mobility Command distinguished visitors on a trail ride during Rodeo 2007 (earning a coin

from the Rodeo commander), serves as the Officers Spouses Club president who oversees 12 subcommittees and is a dedicated volunteer as a manager and bookkeeper for the McChord Thrift Shop."



Ms. Ruthie Wisdom-McMeans

Unit: 62nd Mission Support Squadron

Hometown: Comanche, Okla.

Nominated by: Ms. Laila Christensen

"In addition to her duties as a readiness consultant, she coordinates a host of Family Life programs open to

all base families. Her efforts have also contributed to the success of a joint Fort Lewis/McChord women's professional development conference that brought in more than 300 participants."



Ms. Marlene Garber

Unit: 62nd APS spouse

Hometown: Orem, Utah

Nominated by: Senior Airman Jeremy Garber

"Her example and devotion to her husband, family, children and society directly honor the historical heritage and impact of the

women of our nation and the world. She is constantly thinking of others before herself and deserves to be recognized."



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan — Master Sergeants Kevin Bogle, left, and Donnie Thompson, right, pose with 1st Lt. Miguel Colon during a recent deployment. All are from the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron. Sergeants Bogle and Thompson are running aerial port operations at Manas while Lieutenant Colon is on one of the imbedded Afghani army training teams.



Courtesy photo

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan — Airman 1st Class Gregory Bollich, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, directs a C-17 Globemaster III on the flightline during a recent deployment.



Joint basing plan takes shape at Randolph AFB

By

Michael Briggs

Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Joint basing is a reality, it's happening in San Antonio, and it will effectively support the city's military communities here.

That is the message from local military leaders as they move toward consolidating support operations at three San Antonio installations as mandated by the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

Under the BRAC joint basing plan, installation support functions at the Army's Fort Sam Houston will combine with those at Randolph and Lackland Air Force bases to form what could be the largest base organization in the Department of Defense when actions are completed by 2011.

San Antonio is one of 12 locations worldwide where DOD sites are combining to form joint bases. The Air Force is the executive agent for joint basing in San Antonio.

"Our goal is to create a joint basing command that provides outstanding support to the mission commanders and the people who

work, live and train at our installations," said Dr. Clarence E. Maxwell, deputy director of the San Antonio Integration Office. SAIO is responsible for oversight of the 2005 BRAC program in San Antonio.

He said current planning involves comparing how various services are being provided today with the intent to identify and apply the best alternatives in the future.

The implementation plan calls for stand up of a joint base wing with initial operating capability by January 2010, and with full operating capability by October 2010.

More than 40 support functions will combine to form the joint base wing, which a brigadier general will command, with three subordinate support groups, one at each San Antonio installation, Dr. Maxwell said.

Those functions include command support operations like safety and public affairs, and natural and built environment functions such as public works (also known as civil engineering) and housing.

Other functions aligning under the joint base wing include community services and morale programs, such as police, fire, chapel, youth activities, lodging and dining facilities, and resource functions like supply, transportation, finance and

information technology.

A lot of planning and analysis must still take place to make the joint base a reality, but Air Force and Army leaders and functional working groups have been meeting regularly to ensure they keep progress on track.

"Locally, we have established a Joint Basing Integration Office led by a colonel," Dr. Maxwell said. "The office is staffed by full-time Air Force and Army members supported by a few contract personnel. This staff has been working hard to develop the plans to get us to full operational capability."

The JBIO team has trained more than 240 employees from the three installations in how to create a memorandum of agreement, or MOA, that will provide the framework for joint basing operations, said Col. Vincent Feck, chief of the JBIO.

The colonel said the next steps in the process involve drafting the MOA by May and then evaluating the effectiveness of the MOA this summer.

The ultimate goal for the JBIO team is to make the changeover to the joint base as seamless as possible, Colonel Feck said.

"Where there is change, we will communicate it, but we really want

the transition to be transparent to the customer," he said.

Employees in the support functions should know their jobs are secure, Dr. Maxwell said.

"I think people's greatest concerns are whether they will lose their jobs or have to move," he said. "On the installations, I frankly do not see jobs being eliminated or moved. We will need just as many support personnel tomorrow as we have today. In fact, we believe we will need more. We will be creating some new positions and people may desire to apply for these positions, so there could be some voluntary moves, but I do not foresee involuntary moves."

Since the Air Force is the agent establishing the joint base in San Antonio, civilians whose jobs end up in the joint base wing will become Air Force employees.

"I made that move recently myself," Dr. Maxwell said. "I am of the opinion employees will see little difference."

To ensure people have the opportunity to get all the information they need about joint basing, the integration team will hold town hall meetings and other forums within the San Antonio military community. The SAIO Web site also will include joint basing updates and information.

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



Top AF leaders testify on 2009 budget

By

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

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force's top two leaders testified before the House and Senate Committee on Appropriations subcommittees on Defense during hearings about the fiscal 2009 budget recently.

While the main topic of discussion among congressmen and senators remained the KC-45A contract award, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley also offered comments on other procurement priorities and joint basing.

Since the March 7 announcement of Northrop-Grumman as the company of choice to produce up to 179 new tankers, Air Force leaders have been called upon by government officials to defend the decision.

"We believe we accurately followed the laws and arrived at a decision selecting the better of two very qualified competitors to a published criterion," said Secretary Wynne during his opening statement, later adding he believes the Air Force "selected the right airplane at the right time."

"This is about fielding capability to be able to fight this country's wars," said General Moseley. "It's about being able to field systems on time and being able to field systems to replace a (nearly) 50-year-old airplane that has served us very, very well." Following the rules set forth and based on the proposals received, the Air Force "got a good aircraft and I'm willing to fly it," he added.

Secretary Wynne and General Moseley also addressed the lack of funding for C-17 Globemaster III programs in the budget request and the subsequent unfunded request



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley, left, and Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne testify on the fiscal 2009 budget recently before the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

for 15 C-17s.

"This is an affordability issue," said General Moseley. "We support the president's budget, and as we fit the priorities that we've tried to work within the department into that budget, some things just can't be bought."

General Moseley stated that the additional C-17s on the Air Force's unfunded list are intended to be an eye opener as to what the Air Force would spend additional funds on if they were available. The general also stated air mobility needs have increased in the past three years with the expansion of the Army and Marines, as well as the impending stand-up of Africa Command which will have air mobility requirements similar to those of Pacific Command due to its size.

"We're utilizing the C-17s at a much higher rate," General Moseley said. "We're told the future combat systems vehicle likely won't fit in a C-130 (Hercules), which means we'll

have to fly it in C-17s to support the Army, and (mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles) of course won't fit in a C-130."

He added that every month C-17 transport helps take about 3,500 convoys and nearly 10,000 people off the roads, avoiding snipers, insurgents and improvised explosive devices. While operational requirements for the C-17s are on the incline, the Air Force simply can not afford additional aircraft, he concluded.

Senator Daniel Inouye, the chairman of the Senate Democratic Subcommittee on Defense, also addressed the status of the contract for a new combat search and rescue aircraft, or CSAR-X, during March 12 testimony.

The Air Force plans to field the CSAR-X to replace the HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter. The contract has been the subject of Government Audit Office review since it was awarded to Boeing in 2006, and later

protested by a competing company.

During testimony, General Moseley reinforced the need to "get on with" the CSAR-X contract.

"This is about being able to pick people up in combat, and the U.S. Air Force does this for the entire joint team," General Moseley said. "It's a core competency for us. The notion of getting on with this and getting it to our squadrons so we can get into a much more capable, survivable penetrating platform is our desire. That's why we've made it the number two acquisition priority for the Air Force."

The Air Force hopes to have some resolution on the CSAR-X by August or September of this year, Secretary Wynne said.

In regard to joint basing, Secretary Wynne and General Moseley agreed it's important not to lose sight of the local levels of command, and allow local commanders to make decisions about the best ways to bring about efficiencies and savings.



At the hotwash

Crews work hard to keep McChord's C-17s looking sharp

BY
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff Writer



Staff Sgt. Joshua Clark, who works part-time for Empire Aircraft Services Incorporated, cleans the nose landing gear on the aircraft as part of a routine home station check. Sergeant Clark is a crew chief with the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



EASI contractors prep a C-17 for washing. The preparation includes placing protective covers over the engines, radar equipment and wheel breaks on the landing gear before washing the aircraft.

Delivering combat airlift to every corner of the world is a dirty job.

McChord's fleet of versatile C-17 Globemaster IIIs sees everything from inclement weather conditions at McMurdo Air Station, Antarctica, to the gritty sand and dust of the desert. And even aircraft need a wash and scrub sometimes.

McChord's corrosion prevention team washes and lubes between 20 to 25 aircraft per month, according to John Bobincheck, quality assurance functional director with the 62nd Maintenance Group.

Empire Aircraft Services Incorporated, a contracted company which has worked with the 62nd MXG for the last eight years, tows the aircraft into the wash area in Hangar 4 (which is equipped with a drain filtration system and sump to take care of the solvent and dirt-filled rinse water), prepares it, and conducts a thorough wash and lube each time.

The wash includes the entire fuselage and wings to the landing gear and the inside of the cargo bay, Mr. Bobincheck said.

"The biggest challenges are the aircraft coming back from the theater," he said. "Those tend to have a lot of sand and dirt. They come back pretty nasty."

The washes are required every 120 days when the aircraft returns to McChord for its home station check. Some in-depth washes include removing the insulation underneath the cargo floors and cleaning the dirt and

debris out from under it, Mr. Bobincheck said.

After washing the inside of the cargo area, workers have to go back and vacuum out water that collects in certain areas to prevent corrosion.

"With the exotic metals they're using now in C-17s, they can sometimes be very susceptible to corrosion," he said.

With six to 10 workers washing the aircraft, the job usually takes between eight and 12 hours, depending on how dirty the aircraft is, said Mark Weesner, a retired Airman who's worked for EASI for three years.

Washing the outside is physically the hardest, Mr. Weesner said.

"Sometimes it's pretty hard holding a 10-foot pressure washer wand with all that pressure fighting you," he said.

The dirtiest job is washing the landing gear, while washing the inside is the most tedious, he added.

"There are lots of nooks and crannies inside the wheel wells and lots of dirt gets caught up in there," Mr. Weesner said.

After a complete wash, the team also applies grease to most of the moving surfaces, Mr. Bobincheck said.

While the end result may not challenge the sight of a finely polished Ferrari hitting the streets off the showroom floor, Mr. Weesner said it's still very gratifying.

"It's a great feeling to see the ones that really clean up nicely," he said.



EASI contractor Donald Weesner preps a C-17 by applying masking tape to sensitive areas around one of the engines.



A bird's eye view of a C-17 shows it being pressure washed in Hangar 4. The hangar is equipped with a drain system and sump which separates the solvents and dirt from the rinse water.

EASI contractor Mark Weesner scrubs dirt from the nose of a McChord C-17 in Hangar 4. The team washes between 20 and 25 aircraft per month.

Photos by Abner Gorman

'Hoop dreams' come true for Airman

By

Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe
440th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. (AFP) — For the fourth year in a row, a Reserve Command member has been tapped to play on the All-Air Force basketball team.

Capt. Kurtis Darden, the lone Reservist on the team, will play in the Armed Forces Basketball Tournament, held March 23 to 28 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "This year I'm shooting for a 'three-peat,'" said Captain Darden. "The past two years we (the Air Force team) won the gold in the tournament."

Unlike the stars of the NBA, Captain Darden works a full-time day-job as a district manager for a North Carolina company. One weekend a month he drills with the 440th Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. The other three weekends a month he hits the local gym, shooting hoops to keep sharp.

"It's not a complex practice session," he said. "I simply play pick-up ball on Saturday mornings for

three hours, and I try to practice early in the mornings during the week before work."

Growing up, Captain Darden spent a lot of time with his father at the gym shooting hoops. In college, he played guard at Pfeiffer University in Misenhiener, N.C. In addition to playing on the All-Air Force team four years in a row, he's served as team captain the last two years, and both times the Air Force won a gold medal.

His years of basketball practice and games has paid off, Captain Darden said.

He hopes the pre-tournament training camp will lead to another gold medal and a spot on the All-Armed Forces Basketball team that competes internationally.

"This year (2008) we're having training camp early," he said. "The CISM (Conseil International Du Sport Militaire) is being held in the U.S. at Lackland Air Force base and is hosted by the Air Force."

With his eye on a three-peat, the Reservist credits his father for inspiring him. Silas Darden is a retired Army command sergeant major who still goes to the gym and plays basketball.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Capt. Kurtis Darden, 440th Airlift Wing, is captain for the All-Air Force basketball team. The Reservist from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., is hoping to lead his team to a third straight gold medal in the Armed Forces Basketball Tournament March 23-28.



2008 INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

(Records current as of Thursday)

Monday's first round games

(All games are played at the fitness center)

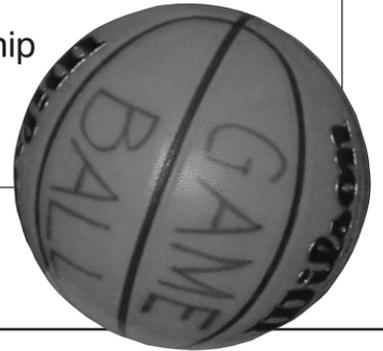
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| No. 1 AMXS (14-1) | vs. No. 8 MXS (8-6) | 5:30 p.m. |
| No. 3 APS (13-2) | vs. No. 6 MDG (9-6) | 6:30 p.m. |
| No. 5 ASOG (9-6) | vs. No. 4 SVS (10-5) | 7:30 p.m. |
| No. 7 4th AS (9-6) | vs. No. 2 OSS (13-2) | 8:30 p.m. |

Game Schedule

Quarterfinal games are
Tuesday at 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Semifinal games are
Wednesday

Championship
game is
March 28



McChord CGOC benefits local community, Airmen

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff Writer

While deployments may offer Airmen the chance to volunteer their time in local communities, the McChord Company Grade Officers Council gives lieutenants and captains the same kinds of opportunities without ever leaving U.S. soil.

McChord's CGOC offers Airmen the chance to get involved volunteering on base and in the local community, advance in their professional development and meet other officers with the same ideals, said Capt. William Parker, 62nd Services Squadron, president of the CGOC since October.

The council recently worked with other local groups to help finish a Habitat for Humanity house in Lakewood. On average, nearly 18 CGOC Airmen showed up on separate Saturdays to volunteer their time and help finish the house, Captain Parker said.

"We all really enjoyed going out there ... it's been real rewarding for everyone involved," he said.

The CGOC has plans to help with another Habitat house in Tacoma in April.

Another group of CGOC Airmen recently trekked up to the University of Washington to be on hand as representatives for the Air Force as part of a career fair. The council also partnered with the First Four to organize a drive to collect toys to send to orphans in Iraq.

"It's a great way to meet other officers in other career fields," said 2nd Lt. Sarah Lindsay, 62nd Medical Support Squadron, who participated in the Habitat build. "It helps paint a better picture of what issues others are facing in their career fields. It's also a great



Courtesy Photo

2nd Lt. Sarah Lindsay, 62nd Medical Support Squadron, works with her husband Sean at a Habitat for Humanity building blitz in Lakewood with other McChord Company Grade Officers Council members recently.

way to network."

The council also offered Lieutenant Lindsay the chance to attend a national conference in Washington, D.C. The week-long conference focused on leadership principals for young CGOs and gave them the chance to hear from some of the top Air Force leaders.

"We got the chance to discuss issues from all across the board," Lieutenant Lindsay said. "It was

pretty cool."

Captain Parker said the council would like to continue volunteering in the local communities and establish some scholarship programs in the future.

"It's just the right thing to do ... we all need to give back to the base and the community," he said.

There are also plans to work with various base leaders to set up some CGO leadership briefings, Captain

Parker said.

"We would like to expand that network of people getting involved with the council," he said.

For more information on the CGOC, people can visit the share-point site or attend a monthly meeting. The meetings are held at 3:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at the Red Baron Lounge inside the McChord Clubs and Community Center.



Team effort keeps Balad water supply safe

By

Staff Sgt. Ruth Curfman
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — Airmen stationed at Balad Air Base and Soldiers at the co-located Logistics Support Area Anaconda, staying hydrated is crucial in the desert heat of Iraq.

In order to keep hydrated, servicemembers here need to have confidence the water available to them is safe, so the water undergoes extensive testing by multiple sources to ensure its safety.

“Not only is the water safe for personal use, but we even ensure that the bottled water and ice meet the same standard,” said Master Sgt. Anthony Dudley, the Logistics Support Area Anaconda Mayor’s Cell superintendent of life support who is deployed from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. “I personally check the water, drink the water and see the test results monthly and I know that the water here meets the highest of standards.”

The military is not only held to Department of Defense regulations, but also it must meet federal regulations.

“The water produced here and utilized for hygiene purposes is the very same quality water that is produced and bottled here at LSA Anaconda,” said Army Capt. Bryan Rudyk, the 155th Medical Detachment Preventive Medicine commander. “However, the bottled water is actually bottled and capped in a sterilized environment, which is the only difference between the bottled water that we drink and the water used for personal hygiene water.”

Although KBR, a government contracted company, controls and provides oversight to the main

water processing and testing facilities here, Soldiers and Airmen also conduct their own tests.

“The Army is considered to be the proponent service for field water. We are the people who draft and ensure everyone involved in water production is following the doctrine that governs water testing and production,” Captain Rudyk said.

The testing and water safety assurance doesn’t stop there.

Members of the LSA Anaconda Mayor’s Cell, which provides oversight on the infrastructure and support functions of the base, is also deeply involved in this process.

“The Mayor’s Cell monitors everything happening on this base,” Sergeant Dudley said. “This includes the water production processes and testing, as well as the distribution and adherence to standards.”

In addition to the testing performed by the military agencies, which is performed daily, or on a monthly basis, depending on the tests being conducted, KBR tests the water multiple times each day as well.

“KBR conducts more than 1,500 various water quality tests per day and even tests the water hourly at the intake valves,” said Capt. Paul Lane, the 332nd Expeditionary Aerospace Medical Squadron officer in charge of Bioenvironmental Engineering, deployed from Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. “They also conduct tests every four hours before it is distributed to base personnel to ensure water quality.”

The general tests run on the water check its basic properties — chemical, biological, and radiological properties and for chemical warfare agents. These tests are Department of Defense tri-service standard requirements.



Photo by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

Staff Sgt. Gary Messer transfers a sample of tap water to a tube before performing tests to confirm that the water is free from bacteria recently at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Sergeant Messer, a 332nd Expeditionary Aerospace Medical Squadron bioenvironmental engineer, is deployed from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

“Most of these tests are similar to Environmental Protection Agency standards, but we perform more tests more frequently,” Captain Lane said. “We also go one step further by testing for chemical warfare agents as well.”

One of the ways KBR removes bacteria from the water is by a process called reverse osmosis. This process filters out organic and inorganic particulates, salts, bacteria and viruses. It uses a thin membrane to remove all particulates down to 0.000034 microns. To put this in perspective: one grain of salt is 70 microns, the Ebola virus

is 0.2 microns and the Rhinovirus is 0.02 microns. Then, chlorine is added to kill any remaining bacteria and viruses and to maintain the proper chlorine residual throughout the distribution system.

Due to the vast amount of testing, conducted by all of the agencies here, the most important item of information is that the water is safe for personal use.

“The water, whether bottled or for personal use, is put through the same process,” Captain Rudyk said. “It is a very intense process and is state-of-the-art when it comes to water purification.”



Hand-held scanners back online

The Mobilisa hand-held scanner defense identification system is in use again at McChord and 100 percent occupant IDs will be scanned. Personnel without a proper form of ID to access the installation will need to get a visitors pass at the Visitor Control Center. According to the Installation Security Instruction, a driver's license or state ID is not a proper form of ID.

Women's History Month breakfast

The Women's History Month breakfast is 8:00 a.m. March 26 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. The deadline to sign-up is COB today. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Sabrina Watkins at 982-2760.

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 982-5517.

62nd MXG Change of Command ceremony

The 62nd Maintenance Group Change of Command ceremony is 10:30 a.m. April 2 in

Hanger 4. Col. James Weber will be relinquishing command to Col. Tracy Smiedendorf.

Parent University seminar

The annual Parent University seminar is April 5 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. The free one-day seminar offers opportunities for all participants to enhance their parenting skills and features workshops, an information fair, door prizes and free child care. For more information or to register, contact Eva Taylor at 982-9043 or 982-9038.

Retiree Dining Out

The annual Retiree Dining Out is 6 p.m. April 18 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. The menu features prime rib for \$22.95 or salmon at \$20.95, including gratuity. This invitation is extended to all retirees, their families and friends. The event is a great way to spend an evening at reasonable expense. Business dress and tie are required for men but everyone is encouraged to wear their mess dress uniform if possible. The guest speaker for the event is Col. Ronald Pace, Madigan Army Medical Center deputy commander of clinical services. For more information about the event, contact the Retirees Activities Office at 982-3214 or visit the Web site at www.mcchordrao.com.

Rape Aggression Defense course

A free RAD course will be taught here throughout the month of April. The classes are from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. each Thursday of the month and the course is open to women ages 16 and older. Participants learn risk reduction tips and physical defense strategies taught by certified instructors in this national and internationally accredited course. Prior self defense experience is not required. Call 982-0457 for registration.

Air Force Aid Society

Concerned about the soaring cost of higher education for your children? Maybe the Air Force Aid Society can help. The Society's General Henry Arnold Education Grant Program awards \$2,000 grants to sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 AGR/Reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired Reservists with 20 plus qualifying years of service and deceased Air Force members. Also eligible are spouses (residing stateside) of active duty and Title 10 AGR/Reservists on extended active duty and surviving spouses of deceased members. Last year, 75 percent of the McChord certified entries received the \$2,000 award. Call your AFAS section at the Airman & Family Readiness Center at 982-2695 for more information and an application, or visit the Air Force Aid Society's web site at www.afas.org.

