

# The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

Vol. 40, No. 16

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

April 11, 2008

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## AF, McChord asks for community feedback

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

In an effort to get a better idea of how the Air Force and McChord can better serve spouses and their families, base officials here are asking spouses to participate in an online survey when it becomes available on April 28.

The Air Force Community Assessment is a critical data source which measures community assets, needs and results, which are then used to develop each installation's community action plan, said Bette Doelger, 62nd Services Squadron, chief of family member programs.

"It's how we target those needs on our base," Ms. Doelger said.

The survey data gathered in the past has helped generate programs such as "Give Parents a Break" free childcare and the free oil change program spouses are eligible for when their family member is deployed, she said.

The survey touches on spouses' and their families' personal adjustment to arriving to the base, both individual and family adaptation to the Air Force, coping with deployments and the availability of support from formal agencies.

The survey results aid all of the helping agencies on McChord and helps them better establish both the financial and emotional means of support, Ms. Doelger said.

"We want spouses to complete the survey so their concerns can be heard and their needs can be met," she said.

When the survey becomes available at <http://spouseAFCAsurvey.com>, it will take about 30 minutes to complete and will remain open until June.

## Welcome AF Vulnerability Teams

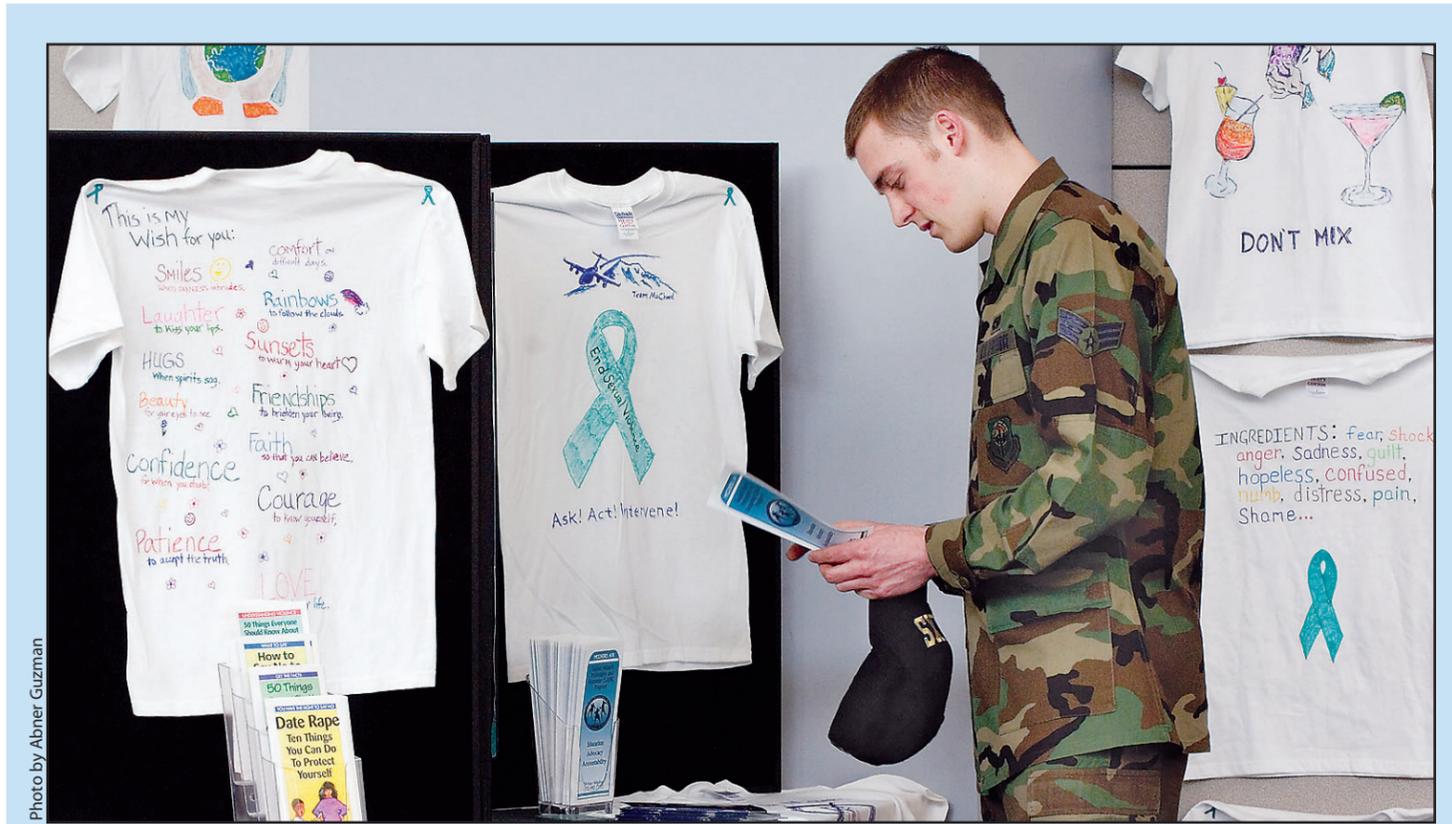


Photo by Abner Guzman

## Heightening awareness

Senior Airman Robert Tingle, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, stops to review T-shirts and literature displayed inside the Building 100 customer service mall as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The goal of Clothesline Project T-shirt display is to increase awareness and celebrate a survivor's strength as well as provide another avenue to break the silence that often surrounds their experience.

## 62nd LRS garners AF-level recognition

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

The 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron won an Air Force-level award for the first time in 25 years last week as the squadron was named the gold award winner of the Daedalian Major General Warren R. Carter Award. The award is handed out yearly by the Air Force for the best logistics readiness squadron in the service.

The 62nd LRS fuels management flight also earned an award as it was named the silver award winner for the American Petroleum Institute Trophy.

In addition to playing a key role in major Air Force projects like the synthetic fuel transcontinental C-17 Globemaster III flight and the testing of the Hymore fuels truck, the entire

squadron worked hard to embrace Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century practices and eliminate non-value added waste in daily operations, said Lt. Col. Travis Condon, 62nd LRS commander.

"We've got a great team within the squadron and everyone has worked hard to change the culture and eliminate waste," Colonel Condon said. "We changed a lot of processes for the better. There are huge numbers that come with those results and they are easy to quantify in awards packages."

In addition to detailing the results on paper, the squadron also submitted a nearly 15-minute video as part of the awards package. The LRS Airmen that put together the video not only got a chance to chronicle the squadron's many accomplishments, but also got to see first-hand how each flight in LRS contributes to the Team McChord mission, said Tech.

Sgt. Darryll Daum, 62nd LRS.

"We think that it was the deciding factor," said Sergeant Daum, who was part of the "Nerd Cell" group who worked on producing the video. "(Working on the video) was a painstaking process at times ... it's phenomenal that we won."

Through all of the changed AFSO 21 processes, Colonel Condon said the focus for the squadron has been to keep the focus on the customer and ways to improve the squadron's customer service.

"We've got a great McChord team that's taken on and started running with the AFSO 21 and lean thinking," he said. "We're setting an even more aggressive pace this year — twice as fast. We still have a long way to go."

Next month a team of ten LRS Airmen will make the trip to Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. to accept the award.

### Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
FOG		
Hi: 63	Hi: 72	Hi: 61
Low: 41	Low: 45	Low: 39

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

### Mission Accomplished

Total McChord sorties	4,468
Total flying hours	13,987.5
Cargo moved (tons)	32,610.9
Departure reliability rate	95.3%
Mission capable rate	85.4%
Personnel currently deployed	336
Reservists currently activated	153

(Jan. 1 to Tuesday. Numbers updated Tuesday.)

### Don't miss it ... Fam-o-rama

The free event is tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the youth center. There will be games, events and a concert from Tim Janis.



# Airman's Roll Call: You can help stop sexual assault

## 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.*

As Airmen, Wingmen and supervisors, we can all prevent sexual assault. Sexual assault is a crime, and there are several things we can do to prevent sexual assault and its impact on the Air Force mission.

Look for opportunities to save and protect our fellow Airmen:

- If you notice inappropriate language and behavior, have the personal fortitude to intervene.
- If someone appears to be in trouble, ask if they're okay—don't wait for a cry for help.
- Act when you witness behaviors that leave others uncomfortable or you have reason to believe they're being targeted as a victim.
- Take actions to reduce your risk of sexual assault:
- Exercise situational awareness—know where you're going, who you're going with, what the environment is like, and let some-

one know

- Always lock the doors to your home, dorm room or car.
  - Try to travel with friends or in a group—stay in well-traveled or lit areas.
  - Develop a safety plan so you know who you can call for help
  - If you feel uncomfortable, afraid or pressured, act immediately to get out of the situation — seek help from your Wingman.
- Airmen should also keep the following in mind:
- Respect the right of others to say "No." A person has the right to change his or her mind—Wingmen honor this through mutual respect

for each other.

- Report an assault or attempted assault—you may prevent another victim — hold perpetrators accountable.

If you are the victim of sexual assault, wish to report a sexual assault, or want more information about the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, contact your local Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, call (800) 342-9647 or visit one of these online resources: [www.sapr.mil](http://www.sapr.mil), [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

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

# Exercise attention to detail each and every day

## By

Lt. Col. Wyn Elder  
4th Airlift Squadron commander

Many of you have read the news recently about the Department of Defense's alarming mishandling of nuclear weapons and parts. Unfortunately, the accidental placement of live nuclear weapons on a B-52 Stratofortress last summer and the inadvertent shipment of nuclear weapons parts to Taiwan may be just the tip of the iceberg. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recently directed a full inventory of all nuclear weapons, supplies and material — and the early indications are that the results will be disappointing.

What does this mean to us at McChord? Beyond the embarrassment to our service, there are several lessons we can all take from these unfortunate incidents, but none more important than the importance of "attention to detail". This is easy to say, but hard to do. The Air Force's inability to maintain 100 percent control over our nuclear inventory shows

it doesn't happen even with our most important assets, so imagine what else we aren't paying attention to with less important missions.

The 62nd Airlift Wing must not only strive for perfection with our Prime Nuclear Airlift Force mission — we must achieve it. Achieving "no fail" perfection begins with Spartan-like attention to details. This involves far more than the aircrews following checklist procedures when they take custody of the nuclear weapons and transport them between secure locations. It includes everyone at this wing striving for perfection with everything they do on a daily basis. This includes clinic personnel making sure Personnel Reliability Program badges are worn at all times; it includes the way our command post tracks PNAF missions and handles suspected mission compromises; it includes the way our military personnel flight handles PRP records; it involves how the security forces sanitize and secure aircraft before missions; it includes the way maintenance selects and pre-flight aircraft to be used; and it includes the way aerial port inventories, maintains, inspects and transfers the support equipment we use on

PNAF missions. It all matters and it must be perfect. The consequences of 99 percent success in this mission are too severe to think any other way.

Every single Airman at this wing has a role which touches our PNAF mission in some way. If one person fails, we all fail. The wing's success depends on a complete team effort, but our effort begins with dedicated individuals who are experts in their specialty and refuse to compromise their attention to detail. I encourage every Airman, and especially supervisors, to reexamine the way we prepare for and execute our PNAF mission. Is there a way to make it safer, more secure or more reliable? Those three issues form the cornerstone of the Nuclear Surety Program, and we have a moral and professional responsibility to make sure we do everything possible to continue McChord's reputation for having the Air Force's premier nuclear program. Our nation deserves our best effort in everything we do, but especially with the way we handle our nuclear mission — and an unrelenting dedication to attention to detail is where it all starts.

## Professionals of the week

### 7th Airlift Squadron

#### Airman 1st Class Jared Utrup

**Duty title:**  
C-17 Globemaster III loadmaster

**Duty section:**  
7th AS

**Hometown:**  
Farmington, N.M.

#### Why he's super:

Airman Utrup is an outstanding C-17 loadmaster who arrived here in March 2007 and hit the ground running, earning the Sharp Troop Award at First Term Airman's Center and in October, awarded by the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Detachment 1, at Manas Air Base. He also joined the Honor Guard, performing 12 military funerals his first active month and earning Squadron Airman of the 4th Quarter honors. With only 240 flying hours under his belt, he is staying on top of his game and excelling at both flying and Honor Guard. Never turning a challenge down, Airman Utrup daily shows why the Air Force is "Above All".



#### Tech. Sgt. David Noel

**Duty title:**  
C-17 evaluator loadmaster

**Duty section:**  
7th AS Superintendent of Readiness

**Hometown:**  
Fairless Hills, Pa.

#### Why he's tops:

Sergeant Noel entered the service in 1993 as a weapons system specialist. After serving nearly ten years in the career field, this hard-charger retrained to become a loadmaster. He quickly became an expert at his trade. As the squadron's newest evaluator, Sergeant Noel was hand-selected in February to fly critical test and evaluation airdrop missions out of Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. He was also named the loadmaster superintendent at Manas when the squadron deployed last year and is currently the 7th AS building custodian and squadron readiness superintendent. Sergeant Noel also recently graduated from quartermaster school where he trained with the Army and Marines.



#### EDITORIAL STAFF

**62nd AW commander:** Col. Jeffrey Stephenson  
**Chief, Public Affairs:** Master Sgt. Alvin Louther  
**NCOIC, Public Affairs:** Staff Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson  
**Chief of Internal:** Staff Sgt. Eric Burks  
**Editor:** Tyler Hemstreet  
**62nd Services Squadron contributor:** Patti Jeffrey  
**Photographer:** Abner Guzman  
**Graphic artist:** Lisa Lemmer

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#### CONTACT NUMBERS

Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.  
**Mailing Address:** 62nd AW/PAI  
100 Col. Joe Jackson Blvd., Suite 1077  
McChord AFB, WA 98438  
**Phone:** (253) 982-5637 **Fax:** (253) 982-5025  
**E-mail:** [northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil](mailto:northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil)

# ID card SSN to be phased out

By

Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — As a means of combating identity theft, the Defense Department will issue identification cards without full Social Security numbers printed onto them, a senior official said here recently.

The Defense Department cares about protecting personal information as well as increasing database security, said Mary Dixon, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center based in Arlington, Va.

Identity theft is a very real problem today, Ms. Dixon explained. Criminals who pilfer SSN-bearing identity cards can virtually assume someone's identity through a few computer keystrokes and clicks of a mouse, she said.

TriCare, the military services' health maintenance organization, already has removed Social Security numbers from its members' identification cards, Ms. Dixon said.

Plans are to remove the Social Security numbers from identification cards issued to military family members by the end of this

year, Ms. Dixon said, noting that those cards still would display the sponsors' SSN, for now. Between 2009 and 2010, all department-issued identification cards will feature only the last four digits of a holder's Social Security number, she said.

About 3.4 million people now have department-issued common access cards, Ms. Dixon said. Around two-thirds of those card holders are military members, and some civilians who deploy overseas, who have full Social Security numbers printed onto the back of their CACs.

"You might lose that card," Ms. Dixon pointed out, noting that family members, including children, could misplace their identification cards, too.

Modern information technology precludes the need to have full social security numbers printed onto employee and family member ID cards, Ms. Dixon said.

"Today, all of our (computer) systems can 'talk' to each other, so we don't necessarily need to know all of that information printed on your card," she said.

New identification cards will be issued as they reach their expiration dates, Ms. Dixon said.



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

## Volunteer of the year

**Nancy Honig, a volunteer with the 62nd Medical Group clinic, was awarded the American Red Cross June Esche Volunteer of the Year Award at a recognition luncheon at Fort Lewis on March 28. Ms. Honig works two days a week at the family practice front desk assisting both staff and patients.**





# Letter to Airmen

*Attention to detail key during current times*

**By**

**Michael Wynne**  
Secretary of the Air Force

Recently the Department of Defense learned that four non-nuclear nose cones for a ballistic missile were mistakenly shipped to Taiwan in the fall of 2006. Regardless of the results of the ongoing investigation, this situation has identified important lessons for all of the DoD as we increasingly automate procedures and systems - lessons we Airmen must absorb as members of the Joint team. These lessons follow our core values, and they illuminate the critical nature of attention to detail and checking initial entries.

Our values first and foremost encompass Integrity. We must always have the moral and intellectual courage to do the right thing and must continue to follow our moral compass in the decisions we make and actions we take. Integrity also refers to going the extra mile to ensure our work is absolutely accurate. The Air

Force is made up of skilled Airmen who perform highly technical jobs. From entering target coordinates on a GPS-guided weapon to filling out forms, they all entail putting precise and sometimes complex entries into a computer. Our data entry actions may have immediate effects, or others may rely on our entry at times well into the future. Often, many people rely on the pinpoint accuracy of just one person's work. Every action of this Air Force is critical for our Nation; as we automate more and more, any data errors become part of a larger error set.

Our values also include Service. Service here means to cross check any part of a process when you are involved. From supervisor to wingman, I need you to be the one to notice when something is not right even if it is not within your immediate purview. We all can assist each other and the rest of our Joint and Coalition forces to do it right. With the right mindset, large organizations can be adept at avoiding mistakes. We can use our judgment to question or ask for supervisory intervention, a paramount service

we can offer to each other.

Our values encompass Excellence. Excellence here is about closely following the detailed procedures, and getting it right the first time. Excellence is about getting the right level of training and taking personal accountability for being ready, willing and able to execute the mission, whether administrative or operational, correctly and efficiently. Ask for help if needed. Supervisors must also provide the support needed to assist with mentoring, or cross check as appropriate.

The investigation of the mistaken shipment is ongoing and will be thorough, but all should know that as Airmen we will take ownership where appropriate. On the Goals Card is a simple statement: "Knowledge Enabled Actions with an Accountable Airmen Ethic" - this summarizes our values well. I am proud to serve with you and know that every day you bring incredible value to our Air Force, and every day, I know you are working hard to enhance that value.

## 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**



McChord Airmen

# AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Earl Covell, 5th Air Support Operations Squadron, stands in the rear of a military aircraft during a recent deployment. Sergeant Covell, a joint terminal attack controller, was selected last week as Air Combat Command's Outstanding NCO of the year.



Courtesy photo

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan — Master Sgt. Randall Robinett, deployed from the 62nd Maintenance Squadron's munitions flight, poses with an explosive sign written in Russian during a recent deployment. Loosely translated, the sign says "explosive operation in contact crewchief to enter".



# McChord welcomes antiterrorism assessment teams

By  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

Three teams from the Headquarters Air Force Agencies will arrive Sunday to conduct a five-day assessment of McChord's critical infrastructure.

The Air Force Security Forces Center will conduct a vulnerability assessment of the base's current force protection posture. Meanwhile, the teams from U.S. TRANSCOM and Headquarters Air Force will conduct a joint critical asset risk assessment.

The AFSFC team will be evaluating the force protection improvements the base has made since the last assessment nearly three years ago, said William Bravo, McChord's antiterrorism officer.

"We're showing them how we've invested the Department of Defense's money and what we've done to mitigate terrorism threats," Mr. Bravo said.

There have been many improvements made over the last three years, such as upgrades to the installation's entry control points, an enhanced commercial vehicle inspection facility and upgrades to numerous mission-critical facilities.

The wing has been successful in obtaining Combating Terrorism Readiness Initiative funds and has procured four ballistic mobile sky watch towers and a Z-Backscatter Van, a chemical, biological, radiolog-



Photo by Abner Guzman

**The 62nd Airlift Wing purchased this Z-Backscatter van for the 62nd Security Forces Squadron with Combating Terrorism Readiness Initiative funds in order to beef up the wing's antiterrorism program. The van is a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive detection vehicle.**

ical, nuclear and explosive detection vehicle, Mr. Bravo said.

The joint team will be assessing the wing's efforts to further protect various mission-critical assets on the base.

"They are here to validate the Critical Infrastructure Program assessment process and validating their benchmarks," said CIP manager Donald Rosenberry.

"We welcome any kind of assess-

ment of McChord's antiterrorism program as it enhances our antiterrorism effectiveness for the wing," Mr. Bravo said. "Great synergy by Team McChord has made this base successful."



# Officials urge caution on social networking Web sites

By

**Ashley M. Wright**  
Air University  
Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFP) — Your location on a friend network, a photo on Facebook, a prayer for a deployed family member on a military-based blog — all posted on the World Wide Web with the intent to bring comfort to loved ones and news to friends. This information may seem harmless, but when put together these puzzle pieces show a picture with more information than military members should share.

To demonstrate the amount of information available, Col. Andy Pears, director of Communications and Information for Air University, became a “completely fictional” staff sergeant on a social networking site designed for military members. The colonel said he had no trouble creating a profile and false identity.

With a few mouse clicks, Colonel Pears found combat and operations histories, pictures from inside deployed locations, descriptions and duties within that location and details about military members receiving medals. There was never an attempt to confirm military affiliation, he said.

“You look at this kid right here,” the colonel said, pointing to a picture of a uniformed man posing against a concrete wall. “The enemy may already have his name and informa-

tion about his family.”

Great Britain’s security service recently found hundreds of false accounts belonging to Al-Qaeda members on social networking sites, according to a briefing prepared by Colonel Pears’ office. British service members were advised to remove personnel details from those social networking sites.

“This colonel could go in as a staff sergeant,” Colonel Pears said. “Simple questions like ‘I’m going to Camp Victory. Can you share your experience?’ or ‘I’m a retired chief. During my time in service, we followed these procedures. What is the policy now?’ place people and missions at risk and create an operational security nightmare,” he said.

Colonel Pears’ deputy said it is understandable how people make the mistake of sharing too much online.

“What struck me is there was no malice intended,” Marietta Magaw said. “It can seem so harmless, because people were trying to reach out and stay in touch.”

The briefing provided other examples of risky information military members have posted on Web sites: full names; dates of birth; hometowns; names of family members, girlfriends or wives; locations of where they served; and photos posing with colleagues and weapons.

“Suppose an angry person, perhaps someone affected by the actions that earned an Airman a bronze star, sees the decorations on a site,” Ms. Magaw said. “What is to stop the per-

son from turning the Airman into a target?”

Colonel Pears advised against posting information protected by the Federal Privacy Act of 1974, which states information cannot be released without written consent of the individual, to include marital status, home address and phone number, date of birth, and social security number.

An additional danger of posting photos and information is identity theft, Ms. Magaw said.

For example, a civilian newspaper reported in January that a man copied photos of a Marine colonel on a social networking site. The man then used the photos to pose as the colonel on dating Web sites and eventually began requesting money from the women.

The U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, comprised of the Department of Homeland Security and public and private sectors, provides advice to the general public about social networks.

“Although the features of social networking sites differ, they all allow you to provide information about yourself and offer some type of communication mechanism (forums, chat rooms, e-mail, instant messenger) that enables you to connect with other users,” according to a 2006 report by Mindi McDowell, Carnegie Mellon University. “While the majority of people using these sites do not pose a threat, malicious people may be drawn to them because of the

accessibility and amount of personal information available on them.”

The organization’s Web site offers tips for posting information online. One suggestion is to use caution in what you advertise. “Providing details about your hobbies, your job, your family and friends and your past may give attackers enough information to perform a successful social engineering attack,” the Web site said. A final tip is remembering that information, once published on the Internet, cannot be removed.

Recently, Canadian and Australian officials urged soldiers and civilian workers to be mindful about what they post for the world to see. Canadian army Brig. Gen. Peter Atkinson said in a United Press International article that insurgents collect about 80 percent of their intelligence from blogs and photos posted on social networking sites like Facebook and YouTube.

Currently, Air Force Instruction 35-101, Public Affairs policy and guidance, states:

“... each Air Force member or employee is responsible for obtaining the necessary review and clearance, starting with Public Affairs, before releasing a proposed statement, text or imagery to the public. This includes digital products being loaded on an unrestricted Web site.”

Ms. Magaw advised using common sense when posting personal information online. “There are a lot of people out there who want this information.”



# Building a fitness frame of mind

BY Tyler Hemstreet, Staff Writer

The recent additions of a couple new fitness programs and a squadron physical fitness guide on the fitness center's Web site are some of the tools officials are hoping will help continue fostering a culture of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

## Physical training options

While each squadron has different ideas for physical training routines, those which offer a wide variety of choices for Airmen can perhaps lead to the best results.

"The trick is having enough physical training leaders," said Staff Sgt. Arlene Reynolds, one of the 27 PTLs the 62nd Communications Squadron has. "It works well when you have a set schedule filled out well in advance so people know their options."

The 62nd CS offers three different PT options — early morning, lunch and early afternoon — per day available to its Airmen.

Some 62nd CS sessions offer long runs mixed with calisthenics, runs mixed with pushups and crunches or just a friendly game of football at Rainer Field.

"Ninety percent of my routines involve running, but I try and vary it," Sergeant Reynolds said.

Airmen in the squadron who have scored better than a 75 are required to attend three PT sessions per week, while those who scored

less must attend five sessions per week.

Having so many options to choose from not only helps Airmen plan their days around a workout, but also provides ample support in their quest to stay fit, Sergeant Reynolds said.

For squadrons that may have fallen into a PT rut, fitness center officials developed the PTL resource page, an online guide to offer direction and fitness routines.

The page can be accessed at [www.62services.com/fitness.html](http://www.62services.com/fitness.html).

"The page helps if squadrons are too busy or just hesitant to come ask us for PT suggestions," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Trace, 62nd Services Squadron, section chief of the fitness center.

The page offers step-by-step directions with accompanying photos to a variety of different workouts, from an indoor boot camp session to an outside track session.

"If a squadron has a cool workout that they would like to add, then let us know and we can get it on there as well," Sergeant Trace said.

## FTAC Warrior

For Airmen just arriving at McChord, the fitness center staff's aim is to get them into a daily fitness mindset right away.

The First Term Airmen's Center Warrior program is designed to address the importance of fitness and what the center has to

offer Airmen right off the bat, Sergeant Trace said.

After hearing a fitness briefing in their FTAC classroom, Airmen are invited to come to the fitness center for a fitness assessment.

If they score greater than an 85 on their PT test 60 days after their assessment, they are awarded a set of dog tags acknowledging their accomplishment.

"We want to give them that fitness knowledge early ... not after they've been on active duty a while because it gets harder once you get into a routine," Sergeant Trace said. "Fitness is the way the Air Force is going and they need to pay attention to it."

## TonE

Teens on Exercise is another program geared towards stressing the importance of fitness early. The TonE program offers teenage dependents between the ages of 13-15 the chance to make an appointment with the fitness center staff and hear a complete orientation prior to being able to use the center's cardio and weightlifting equipment without their parent being present, Sergeant Trace said.

"It's a great thing that the gym staff will be there with the teenagers to turn to for guidance, whether they want to do strength training or cardio," said youth center director Con Fisher, 62nd SVS. "It's a great way to get them involved in fitness at an early age."



Photos by Abner Guzman

Members of the 10th Airlift Squadron participate in a game of dodgeball during unit physical training in the main fitness center gymnasium and fitness center annex aerobic floor for unit PT.



Jayne Kaufman, 7th Airlift Squadron, climbs the rock wall at Adventures Unlimited. Units have the option to sign up to use the rock wall during their PT time.



Arlene Reynolds, 62nd Communications Squadron, does some pushups to prepare for unit physical training.



Ronald West prepares for a Fitness Improvement Class by straightening a row of spin bikes at the fitness center annex.



Rachael Taylor, 62nd Services Squadron, left, and Latisha Hunt, 62nd Security Forces Squadron, jog past the fitness center on their way to a morning workout.

# Army tops Air Force

*Post team makes it five straight over rivals from McChord with 89-80 win*

By

**Matt Smith**  
The Northwest Guardian

Thanks to experienced players coming through with key rebounds and baskets, Army won its fifth straight game over the Airmen from McChord Air Force Base, 89-80, at Wilson Gym on April 4.

"Bragging rights," said Army's Willie Causey of what the annual game is all about. "We play pick-up ball with these guys on the weekend, so there's a lot of bragging rights (on the line)."

After keeping the game close for most of the first half, Air Force found itself in a deep 56-43 hole, but battled back to make it a game heading into the fourth quarter.

With 5 minutes, 55 seconds left on the clock, Air Force's Trivone Curry sank two free throws to bring his team back to within two points at 74-72. On the ensuing possession, however, Army big man Josh Quinton threw down a momentum-shifting dunk to give his team a two-possession lead.

Curry, who finished with 16 points and six rebounds, then scored three of Air Force's next five points and cut Army's lead to 78-77 with 3:31 left in the game. Marcus Warren pushed Army's lead to three on the next possession with a bucket and then stole the ball on Air Force's next possession and pushed it up the court to Reggie Robinson, who scored on a lay-in for an 82-77 advantage.

Consecutive buckets from Quinton and Causey seemed to give Army a lead they could cruise to a win with. Air Force's Anthony Calogero had other ideas as he drained his seventh 3-pointer of the contest with 50 seconds left to keep his team in the game at 86-80. Calogero finished with 27 points.

Twenty seconds later, however, Quinton let Air Force know its comeback attempt was futile as he jammed home a two-handed dunk, sealing an Army victory.

Though Army did have home court advantage, the Air Force fans did have a good showing and backed their team the whole way.

"It was good intensity," Curry said. "I liked having the crowd out to support us; it's a rivalry."

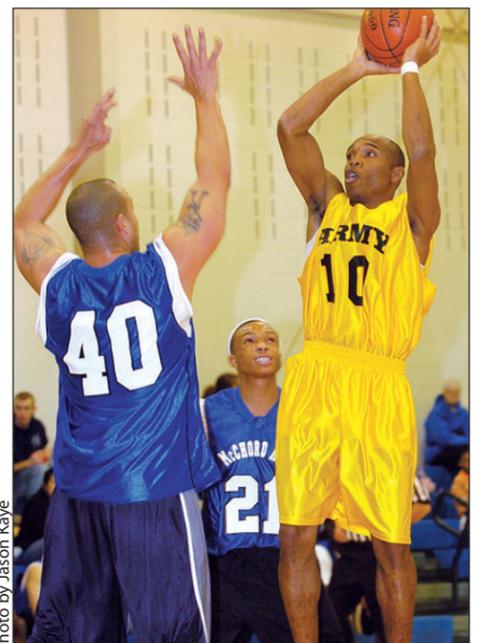


Photo by Jason Kaye

**Will Causey of Army takes a shot over Air Force defenders Ben Harris (40) and Quinn Shaw (21) during the game at Wilson Gym. Army won 89-80.**

# U.S., Romanian airmen break cultural barriers

By

Tech Sgt. Eric Petosky  
323rd Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

CAMPPIA TURZII, Romania (AFP) — Airmen deployed here are breaking down language and cultural barriers with their Romanian air force counterparts through their mutual love of sports.

Military members from both countries played in a soccer tournament at Campia Turzii recently as teams focused more on team-building than winning.

Aircraft from both units are supporting Operation Noble Endeavor, securing the airspace over the NATO summit April 2 through 4 in Bucharest, Romania.

After working together every day during the deployment, Tech. Sgt. Jack Toeller, a 404th Expeditionary Air Base Squadron firefighter, taught Romanian air force Warrant Officer 4th Class Christian Simedru, a MiG-21 mechanic, to throw an American football. Their conversation naturally led to European football.

"It fosters a good working relationship," said Sergeant Toeller, who is deployed from

the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. "They've been very hospitable to us, and given us everything we've needed. Since Europe is a big soccer continent and I like to play, I thought I would be a good Air Force ambassador and put a game together."

Warrant Officer Simedru acted as an unofficial translator on the airfield for the American Airmen deployed here.

"We have a common ground in aviation," he said. "This is the first time we've interacted with Americans, and they've made a good first impression. It's all new, and I like it. I talked to the guys about what we can do to have fun. Since we play football every Monday, we invited them along."

Teams were intermingled with U.S. and Romanian players. They played a three-game tournament with 10-minute or two-goal limit games.

"We mixed up the teams, so it wasn't us against them," said Airman 1st Class Danny Maese, a 404th EABS firefighter. "It was simply red versus green."

"We just play for fun," Warrant Officer Simedru said.



Photo by Senior Airman Teresa M. Hawkins

**American Airmen play soccer with Romanian airmen recently at Campia Turzii, Romania. The Airmen are deployed as part of the U.S. military's support to the NATO summit. U.S. Airmen augmented NATO and Romanian forces, ensuring the security of the airspace above Bucharest.**



# NCAA Final Four recognizes American servicemembers

By

Tech. Sgt. Ben Gonzales  
Air Force News Agency

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) — College basketball officials recognized the contributions of American servicemembers throughout the world during the men's NCAA Final Four weekend April 4 through Monday in San Antonio.

Military members were present during college basketball's biggest weekend while singing the national anthem, presenting the colors, sitting in the stands and watching live from bases directly fighting the war on terrorism.

The military was saluted throughout the weekend as officials of the NCAA saluted American warriors at festivities throughout the weekend. NCAA coaches and the public talked to and thanked troops serving on the front lines in Iraq via a live Web-cam set up at the Alamodome and at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center here during Hoop City events, which drew thousands of basketball fans.

"I just wanted to say hello and let them know they are truly missed," said Abraham Payne, a basketball fan from San Antonio who spoke to the troops serving at Camp Victory in Iraq during a live Web-cam telecast. He, his wife and four children all took turns thanking the troops fighting the war on terrorism. "I am proud of them serving, and they need to come home."

Bringing a little bit of "home" to the servicemembers around the world will be the games telecast live on American Forces Network so



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Larry A. Simmons

**Fans of the UCLA and Memphis basketball teams use a "Freedom Call" to talk to Airmen and Soldiers in Baghdad, Iraq, during the festivities leading up to the Final Four April 5 in San Antonio.**

troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world can watch the games live.

"It is great for them to be able to see the games so they can pull for their favorite teams," said Tyler Hansbrough, a forward from the University of North Carolina. The 6-foot-9 junior was selected the Associated Press College Basketball Player of the Year. "I give them all the support and I'd like to thank them for all they do over there."

The sentiments were echoed by UNC Coach Roy Williams.

"It's a way to say thank you for what they do for our country," Coach Williams said. "Maybe they can take a few moments away (from supporting the war) to enjoy the games."

NCAA officials opened their doors to allow the public to watch the practice sessions of the Final Four teams - the University of North Carolina, the University of California at Los Angeles, Kansas University and the University of Memphis. Watching the Final Four teams practice in the Alamodome were Master Sergeants Rodney McLeod and Joseph Harris-Gantt. Sergeant McLeod, the first sergeant of the 68th Information Operations Squadron from Brooks City-Base, Texas, and Sergeant Harris-Gantt, the chief of information management with the 68th IOS watched the teams prepare for the weekend battle to determine who will be crowned national champions.

"We work down the street, so it

was an excellent opportunity to come out and see some of the best basketball players in the world practice," Sergeant Harris-Gantt said.

During the opening ceremonies of the College All-Star Game April 4 here, Tech. Sgt. Donna Siler, a vocalist from the Air Force Band of the West from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, sang the national anthem as a joint-service color guard from Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio led by Army Sgt. 1st Class Richard James presented the nation's colors.

"I'm extremely proud to represent all the Air Force to our country," said Sergeant Siler, a native of Dunlap, Tenn. "When people watch an event like this game, they get to see someone in uniform. As a band member, above all that we do is we get to represent our service. It's an honor."

The Air Force Band of the West's ceremonial band contributed to the NCAA's salute to the military at The Big Dance, the musical celebration area located on South Alamo Street near the Alamodome. NCAA officials sponsored many concerts for the weekend and the Air Force Band of the West performed and military aircraft roared over the thousands of spectators in a fly-by.

Also on hand for events throughout the weekend at Hoop City, the NCAA's fan festival area in the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center, were the Airmen of the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team who demonstrated precision and military professionalism for hundreds of young men and women.

Kansas defeated Memphis 75-68 in overtime Monday to win its first national championship in 20 years.



# Deployed dad watches son's birth via Web cam

By

Airman 1st Class Tarelle Walker  
379th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — Rylan Todd was born weighing 8 pounds and 5 ounces at 11:01 p.m. March 25, and his parents watched him being born at a hospital near Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. The only thing different about this birth was that the father, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Todd, watched the birth via Web cam from thousands of miles away while supporting the war on terrorism at an air base in Southwest Asia.

Sergeant Todd, deployed to the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron from his home station at Ellsworth AFB, was informed of his upcoming deployment when his wife, Jamie, was four months pregnant.

"We had five women in my shop pregnant, all with their babies due around the same time, so I couldn't really play the 'I have a baby coming' card," Sergeant Todd said. "It was my turn to deploy. It's part of the job, and I knew it had to be done. I figured there would be a way to work around it once I got out here. Fortunately, there was."

Even though this is Sergeant Todd's second child, it was the first time he has been faced with the

possibility of missing the actual birth. The situation seemed difficult to overcome, but he said he was determined not to allow a little thing like distance stand in the way of him witnessing the labor and delivery.

Though Web cams were not a foreign concept to Sergeant Todd, he didn't initially consider the option of using one to solve his dilemma.

With the assistance of his first sergeant, Sergeant Todd found out about the Web cam services offered at the base learning resource center.

After coordination with the state-side hospital where his wife would give birth, a plan was made to allow Sergeant Todd to communicate with her and view the birth of his child by means of instant messaging and digital webcam. As the due date drew closer, Sergeant Todd was given a cell phone so his home unit could contact him with updates on his wife's progress.

"I didn't realize how big of a deal it really was until I saw (Sergeant Todd's) face the first day I met him," said Airman 1st Class Jill Mather, a 379th Expeditionary Services Squadron client support administrator. "He was wide-eyed and glowing; ready to have his baby. It was just a great feeling."

"It felt great knowing we had people to stand up for (my family)



Jamie Todd talks to her husband, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Todd, via Web cam just after their son, Rylan, was born March 25 at a hospital near Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. Sergeant Todd is deployed to a Southwest Asian air base from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

and help us out," Sergeant Todd said. "They went above and beyond for something that was important to me. Not being there was hard,

but being able to watch and know what was going on to be sure my wife was in good hands made a world of difference."



**Knucklebuster 2008 set for April 25**

The 62nd Maintenance Group will host Knucklebuster 2008 on April 25 in Hangar 3. The event begins at 6 p.m. with social hour. The guest speaker for the evening is Col. Tracy Smiedendorf, 62nd MXG commander. Dress for the evening is BDUs for military members and Northwest Casual for civilians. Dinner will be a barbecue-style buffet line. The Knucklebuster is an award that recognizes the 62 MXG's hard-working men and women that give 110 percent in the performance of C-17 Globemaster III maintenance, maintenance support and maintenance supervision.

Tickets are available now through squadron, section and group representatives. For more information, contact 2nd Lt. Grace Miller at 982-6917 or Master Sgt. Troy Ballard at 982-6907.

**Street work on Barnes Blvd.**

Repaving work on the intersection of Barnes Blvd. and Levitow Blvd. starts April 21. The work will be completed within approximately three weeks, weather permitting. A detour will be established around the construction area allowing continued access to the infield and flightline.

Traffic lights at Barnes and Levitow will be set to operate as a three-way stop (a flashing red) when Barnes Blvd. is open.

**OSC scholarship dinner**

The recipients of the McChord Officers Spouses Club scholarship will be honored at a dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. For more information and to attend, RSVP to Mary Beth Clavenna at 253-584-2718. For a list or more information about the OSC scholarships, please contact scholarships chairperson Emily Manuel at teachmanuel@earthlink.net or 253-875-8974.

**Retiree Dining Out**

The annual Retiree Dining Out is 6 p.m. Friday 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](http://www.mcchordrao.com).

**Rape Aggression Defense course**

A free RAD course will be taught here throughout the month. 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](http://www.afas.org).

**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, contact the Investigations Section at 982-5936.

**Names to Note**

The following individuals scored a 90 percent or greater on their Career Development Course in March:

- **Airman 1st Class Daniel Hampton**, 5th Air Support Operations Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Jeffery Salazar**, 5th ASOS
- **Airman 1st Class Gerald Clark**, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Christopher Perez**, 62nd APS
- **Airman 1st Class Ryan Dixon**, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Michael Granato**, 62nd AMXS
- **Airman 1st Class Johan Armendariz**, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Christopher Carey**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Zachari Dyas**, 62nd CES
- **Senior Airman Alexander Rodriguez**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Aaron Weaver**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Jordan Smith**, 62nd Communications Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Jared Mason**, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Sergio McLaughlin**, 62nd LRS
- **Staff Sgt. Alexander Rojas**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Chauvin Rupley**, 62nd MXS
- **Staff Sgt. Sarah Alarcon**, 62nd Services Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Gregory Cody**, 62nd SVS
- **Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Negron**, 62nd SVS

