

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

April 25, 2008

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SARC program brings powerful message to Airmen

By

Airman 1st Class Kirsten Wicker
62nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

More than 750 McChord Airmen attended the sexual assault response coordinator's annual sexual assault awareness program at the base theater Monday. At the event, Airmen had an opportunity to learn from Mike Domitrz, an award-winning speaker, author and creator of the "Can I Kiss You?" program.

The goal of the interactive program is to allow audience members to explore topics such as personal choices, support for others, respect and communication and how they fit into a sexual assault scenario.

This information is especially appropriate this month as the Department of Defense recognizes Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Each year during this time frame, the Air Force's Sexual Assault and Prevention program brings McChord Airmen together to discuss how to prevent sexual assault and support those who have survived one.

"Can I Kiss You?" supports the DoD's theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, said Heather Van Mill, 62nd Airlift Wing Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

"Ask, act and intervene is what it's all about this year," she said. "Mr. Domitrz has a powerful message that includes challenges to each person to take a more active role in their relationships, whether that relationship is just a friendship or a dating relationship."

"Can I Kiss You?" was developed by Mr. Domitrz from his own personal experience with sexual assault when his older sister was raped during her sophomore year in college.

"I could not believe it [when I first heard]," he said. "My sister inspired me to take action to prevent this tragic crime from happening to others."

Mr. Domitrz's program is both funny and infor-



"Can I Kiss You?" speaker Michael Domitrz explains a concept to Airmen about what they can do to prevent sexually-related assaults among their peers as part of a presentation Monday at the base theater.

mative. He engages the audience with humorous skits about dating while communicating his message about choice, respect and communication with one's partner. He also challenged Airmen to take the "Pledge to Protect." According to Mr. Domitrz, it's a pledge to protect one's family, friends and peers from potentially dangerous situations that could involve drugs, alcohol, a violent person or any other threats to their safety and well-being.

"I have a sister, so what Mr. Domitrz said today really impacted me," said Airman 1st Class Greg

Gallagher, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, who attended Monday's program. "It's important to me to make sure she is protected. I will definitely share his insights with her next time we talk."

At the end of the hour-long program, Mr. Domitrz left the audience with one key message.

"Can I Kiss You?" is really about three core things," he said. "Give the other person a choice, open the door of communication and always, always show respect for survivors of sexual assault by not undermining their situation."

Top 3 scholarship program fuels education

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

McChord's Top 3 group knows the value of a good education — so much so, the group is willing to monetarily contribute to the effort certain Airmen put forth to further their education.

For the last three years, the Top 3 has offered two \$100 scholarships each quarter to one non commissioned officer and one Airman with the rank of E-4 and below.

The money can be used for books, tuition or any other education-related supplies.

The scholarship gives the group a great sense of pride in giving back to those who strive for more, said Senior Master Sgt. David Fish, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, Top 3 president.

"It's a great feeling when you can help inspire Airmen to pursue a higher education," Sergeant Fish said.

Applicants are required to submit a scholarship application, an essay describing their short and long term goals and one letter of recommenda-

tion submitted by their supervisor. A review panel comprised of three or more Top 3 members then decides the winners.

The panel members look forward to the application process each quarter, said committee chair Master Sgt. Shawn LaVoie, 62nd Maintenance Squadron.

"It's neat because it gives us a good perspective of what the applicants are working toward," Sergeant LaVoie said. "Hopefully the money can give them some more incentive to go to class."

The group generates the money for

the scholarships by participating in various fundraisers such as T-shirt and military challenge coin sales, the annual Christmas tree lot and manning food booths and working security detail at various area events, Sergeant Fish said.

This quarter's scholarship winners were Airman 1st Class Michael Katzer, 62nd MXS, and Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Goedert, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron. The deadline to apply for the summer quarter scholarship is July 1. For more information, visit the Top 3 page on Share point.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 57 Low: 36	Hi: 61 Low: 41	Hi: 63 Low: 43

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

Mission Accomplished

Total McChord sorties	5,149
Total flying hours	16,450.9
Cargo moved (tons)	37,464.1
Departure reliability rate	95.1%
Mission capable rate	85.4%
Personnel currently deployed	356
Reservists currently activated.....	152

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

Don't miss it ...

Top 3 fishing derby

The annual fishing derby is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Carter Lake.



Airman's Roll Call: Honoring diversity in the Air Force key to mission

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.

In order to be prepared to respond to a variety of threats throughout the world, Airmen must be able to fight effectively in this dynamic global environment. Airmen must be pre-

pared to successfully work with, or fight against, military forces and people of differing cultures and views.

We must all be committed to an environment of mutual respect that allows every member of the Air Force team to achieve his or her greatest potential.

Below are some things you should know about diversity in the Air Force:

Diversity in our service is broadly defined as a composite of individual

characteristics, experiences and abilities consistent with the Air Force Core Values and the Air Force Mission.

Air Force diversity includes, but is not limited to, personal life experiences, geographic background, socioeconomic background, cultural knowledge, educational background, work background, language abilities, physical abilities, philosophical/spiritual perspectives, age, race, ethnicity and gender.

Air Force capabilities and

warfighting skills are enhanced by diversity among its Airmen. At its core, such diversity provides our force an aggregation of strengths, perspectives and capabilities that transcends individual contributions.

Air Force people who work in a diverse environment learn to maximize individual strengths and to combine individual abilities and perspectives for the good of the mission.

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

A new perspective on Air Force core values

By

Lt. Col. Ted Detwiler
62nd Operations Group

During one of my former assignments, I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Dan McKinnon, the President and founder of North American Airlines. Most of you won't recognize North American Airlines as one of our largest commercial airlines, because it's not. Many of you that have deployed may recognize the name. Nearly all of us would recognize one of their aircraft and its distinct paint scheme sitting on the ramp waiting to take you and your fellow Airmen to or from the area of responsibility.

At one point during the visit, Mr. McKinnon handed me a book he had written titled "Words of Honor," which is a compilation of quotes from some famous and not-so-famous sources. He told me he gives the book to all of his employees on their first day and tasks them to find one single quote within those 300-plus pages that means the most to them. The follow-up request is that each employee comes back and explains why they chose that specific quote. I finally got

around to taking a look at the book some time later. After a lot of thought, here's my quote of choice.

"It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are." - Roy Disney

Two things struck me about this particular quote. First was the focus on decision making. Second was the emphasis on values. Let me explain.

Every Airman is a leader. As leaders, we are all called upon to make the tough decisions that affect ourselves, our futures and our careers. More importantly, even the simplest of our decisions affect the lives of our fellow Airmen, our Air Force and our nation. That's a heavy load, regardless of rank or age. But we routinely do it without thinking about it, without delay and without fail. We do it every day. It's easy because we all share a common set of values - our core values.

The Air Force core values of "integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do" provide the framework for all our decisions. They are much more than a good bumper sticker, recruiting slogan or words on a poster. They define the basic framework for everything we do and every

decision we make.

Integrity first. Integrity comes first for a reason. It's all about doing what's right, what you believe to be right, every time, all the time. We expect it from each other. We demand it from each other.

Service before self. We are members of the Air Force for a cause greater than ourselves. Do we get some personal benefits from being in the Air Force? Absolutely. They are both hard earned and well deserved. But deep inside all of us, whether you admit it or not, is a desire to be part of something bigger than ourselves. With that comes great responsibility.

Excellence in all we do. Leaders expect nothing less from their subordinates. Subordinates should expect nothing less from their leaders.

We know our values. They guide all of our decisions from the simplest to the most complex. At both extremes, the stakes can be enormous. But at both extremes, our core values make the right decision easy. Does making decisions based on the core values guarantee the right decision? Absolutely not. But it's far better to make the wrong decision for the right reasons than to make the wrong decision for the wrong reasons.

Professionals of the week

62nd Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Arnold Bustillo

Duty title:
62nd SFS installation patrol leader

Duty section:
62nd SFS operations flight

Hometown:
Glendale, Calif.

Why he's super:

Airman Bustillo's superior job performance is a fundamental part to the normal day-to-day operations of the squadron's 33-person flight. As a combat tested leader, he recently completed a 365-day deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, as part of the Air Force's largest police transition team operation. He executed aggressive rooftop security procedures, mitigated vehicle borne improvised explosive devices and sniper threats, preventing any terrorist attacks. Additionally, his quick thinking and textbook response in dealing with a distraught service member at the food court of the Base Exchange helped de-escalate a potentially hostile situation. He is very active with the unit's advisory council and has provided several plausible solutions in improving the quality of life for his fellow Airmen.



Senior Airman Anthony Cabanillas

Duty title:
62nd SFS installation patrol leader

Duty section:
62nd SFS operations flight

Hometown:
Spanaway, Wash.

Why he's tops:

Airman Cabanillas' outstanding job performance is an integral part to the daily operations of the flight. He recently completed a 365-day deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, as part of the Air Force's largest police transition team operation. He conducted 200 off base combat patrols which covered more than 8,000 miles of hostile area, ensuring the safety of his squad and unit. His superior knowledge and discipline led to his selection to attend Air Mobility Command's 18-day Phoenix Raven school, where he was trained to protect Air Force aircraft and personnel in austere locations worldwide. Airman Cabanillas was also selected to represent the 62nd Airlift Wing at the Seattle Mariners' Armed Forces Appreciation Night.



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Housing Web site helps Airmen find homes all over U.S.

By

Senior Master Sgt. Matt Proietti
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A free Department of Defense-sponsored housing referral Web site is fully operational for Air Force members and civilian employees looking for homes in the continental U.S.

The Automated Housing Referral Network at www.ahrn.com contains listings for:

- Off-base rentals
- On-base military housing
- Shared rentals
- Temporary lodging
- Homes being sold by military members

The system is designed to help customers find new homes faster and more easily, said Judith Teague, housing program manager at the Air Force's Office of the Civil Engineer.

It does this, she said, by including detailed descriptions of homes, pictures and maps. The network also allows military members to send messages and place free advertisements to sell or rent a home.

"You can be in Baghdad and look at homes with your spouse who is back in the U.S.," Ms. Teague said.

The system has allowed the number of direct moves to increase, in which families move from their former home into a new one without staying in temporary on-base facilities as was normal practice, she said.

Previously, nearly 80 percent of household goods shipments were delivered to storage facilities because military members had not secured housing before their move.

Housing office staff members at each base approve property managers and ensure that listings meet their standards. The Web site is free for property managers to use.

"Managers upload new listings themselves," said Ms. Teague. "It

makes the data more up to date. One of the biggest complaints (formerly) was properties (showing as available) had already been rented."

It is in use at 158 installations, including 68 Air Force continental U.S. locations.

The network automatically computes a user's basic allowance for housing data and responds with properties in that range plus or minus 25 percent.

The site has about 180,000 registered users, with nearly 55,000 visiting the site in March alone to view over 26,000 property listings.

The next goal is to have the site include overseas listings, starting with homes in Europe. The program is being tested at Kaiserslautern Military Community, which includes Ramstein Air Base.

Lt. Gen. Kevin Sullivan, the Air Force's deputy chief of staff for logistics, installations and mission support, said the system better meets the needs of computer-savvy

Airmen.

"We weren't being very good at keeping up with the times," said General Sullivan. "Most of our customers use the Web a great deal (and) with all of the deployments (people face), house hunting trips are tough to schedule. Spouses are disconnected — they're not together — so this meets their needs."

Jim English, a housing referral assistant at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., said the network is easy to use and has become more popular.

"It's pretty intuitive; it's not too challenging to use," he said. "As long as everyone's maintaining (the listings), it's a pretty accurate snapshot."

A related system is www.militarymovingstation.com, where military home buyers and sellers can obtain free real estate counseling assistance by personal advisers who have been screened by military housing officials.

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



Funding concerns remain for morale, welfare programs

By

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

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The director of Air Force Services testified before a house subcommittee April 17 about child care and other morale, welfare and recreation issues.

"We've had significant budget cuts, and we've seen our programs reduced across the board," Arthur Myers said to members of the House Armed Services Committee's panel on military personnel. "The Air Force is getting smaller, and it's a budget issue. We have to fight for all our requirements... and the word we're getting from the field (is that) Airmen are seeing their quality of life being eroded."

Child care remains a major concern for Airmen, he said. Over the past two years, Air Force officials have reduced the backlog of child care positions by 2,400, yet 4,000 positions are still needed, said Mr. Myers. Had it not been for emergency funding the Office of the Secretary of Defense helped obtain, the situation would be much worse, he

said.

Another concern of his is the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure legislation that calls for Air Force programs at 10 locations to integrate into a joint-base configuration.

"The BRAC legislation drove us to examine our programs closely," said Mr. Myers. "We've been fully engaged in developing common standards of use for these bases. The quality of the life of our military personnel and their families should not be degraded."

It is important that MWR programs be funded to the highest standards possible, he said.

Library services also have seen significant funding cuts and provide a considerable benefit to Airmen and their families, he said.

Officials managing the library program also shipped more than 250 "playaway" kits containing paperbacks and periodicals to deployed locations. Additionally, libraries support deployed Learning Resource Centers and provide deployed members opportunities to record themselves reading stories aloud to send home to their children and, in some cases, have dedicated phone lines for morale calls.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Go green

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife environmental specialist Monique Homan, right, hands out educational posters to a local teacher during Tuesday's Earth Day celebration held in front of the base Commissary.



Shoplifting on rise at BXs

DALLAS — Despite upgraded camera systems with DVR capability, educational campaigns focused on the consequences of stealing and a 2002 amendment allowing federal retailers to pursue losses and administrative costs related to shoplifting, theft at BXs and PXs rose last year, from 7,542 incidents in 2006 to 7,635 in 2007.

While occurrences were up barely one percent, the average cost of products in detected cases went up Army and Air Force Exchange Service-wide more than eight percent, from \$119 per incident in 2006 to \$129 in 2007. Shoplifters focusing on designer purses and perfumes, name brand electronics and other high-end items created increased costs for the military community as the amount of merchandise involved went up nearly 10 percent, from \$898,851 in 2006 to \$985,244. With a dual mission to provide quality goods and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to support Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, AAFES, which has contributed more than \$2.4 billion to military quality of life programs in the past 10 years, continues to focus its efforts on reducing theft.

“Shoplifting at the exchange results in a reduced return on investment to our primary shareholders — the military community,” said AAFES Vice President of Loss Prevention Gerald Danish. “Because AAFES is a command with a mission to return earnings to MWR activities, shoplifting at the BX or PX is essentially the same as taking money directly from the pockets of the military families exchanges serve.”

In an effort to protect the MWR dividend AAFES provides annually and further reduce shoplifting incidents, loss prevention associates are stepping up education efforts to help

highlight the cost and perils of stealing through local anti-shoplifting campaigns. AAFES is also testing intelligent video analysis solutions that are expected to further reduce losses.

In addition to various security cameras placed at different locations throughout the store and loss prevention agents routinely patrolling the sales floor, AAFES officials at the McChord BX recently installed entry and exit point alarms to add another layer of security, said Ursula Dimond, the McChord/Fort Lewis exchange loss prevention manager.

“It doesn’t matter (to thieves) that we’re on a military installation or not — it’s greed that is fueling them,” she said.

And it’s a shame, Ms. Dimond said, because the thieves are ultimately hurting the Airmen, Soldiers and other dependents and retirees who shop at the exchanges in the long run.

“All the sales we accumulate each year go right back to the community (through MWR programs) and so the buyers can then benefit the shoppers by bringing in better quality merchandise,” Ms. Dimond said.

If shoplifting is suspected, AAFES loss prevention associates turn the issue over to local law enforcement. In addition to possible disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution, the Federal Claims Collection Act, which began March 1, 2002, allows AAFES to enact a flat, administrative cost (Civil Recovery) of \$200. There may be further fees, in addition to the Civil Recovery Program, depending on the condition of the stolen merchandise.

“We prosecute 100 percent of the cases,” Ms. Dimond said.

(Article courtesy of AAFES. 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs contributed to this article.)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Burks

Autism Awareness

Tech. Sgt. Christine Uhl, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, (center) provides resource information during the Fort Lewis/McChord Autism Support Group's Fun Run/Walk Saturday at Fort Lewis. Sergeant Uhl, a member of the group's executive board, was also on hand as a volunteer massage therapist to offer participants free massages. The event attracted more than 600 people.



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan — Master Sgt. Randall Robinett, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, bundles up near the flightline during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Airman 1st Class Joshua Scott, 5th Air Operations Support Group, does some pre-mission route planning before an offensive operation with his Army counterparts during a recent deployment. Marking target reference points on the map aid the joint terminal air controller in quickly shifting the focus of aircrews during the mission.



Total force aircrew
completes late season

Deep FREEZE mission

BY
Tech. Sgt. Nick Przybyciel
446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

Capt. Abraham Perras, a C-17 pilot from the 4th Airlift Squadron, studies an approach plate during an Operation Deep Freeze mission. Approach plates help pilots guide the aircraft onto an airfield while flying in inclement weather.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

A McChord C-17 stands by on the ice for departure during the Operation Deep Freeze mission.

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — A total force aircrew from McChord made history last week during the last Operation Deep Freeze mission of the 2007-2008 season.

With only eight days remaining before Antarctica becomes shrouded in 24-hour darkness during winter, Airmen from the 446th and 62nd Airlift Wings brought 100 scientific researchers, support personnel and their equipment back to civilization. The mid-April flight is the closest to winter a Deep Freeze crew has ever landed in Antarctica.

Tasked to support the National Science Foundation's research efforts in Antarctica, the Reserve and active-duty Airmen from McChord typically provide C-17 support from August to March, which is summer in the southern hemisphere. However, a scientific research team from Montana State University required mission support later than usual this year.

The research team, studying light-driven life in Antarctica's permanently frozen lakes, had to push their field time as close to winter as possible in order to have the proper conditions for their experiments. Unable to receive support this late in the season from the New Zealand Air Force, the National Science Foundation called on the U.S. Air Force for help.

"We knew we could do it. It hasn't happened yet, but if we ever need to do contingency support - even in the middle of winter - we're ready to respond," said Lt. Col. James McGann, commander of the C-17 Deep Freeze operations and a member of the 62nd AW.

The research would be impossible to conduct without the Air Force's ability to respond this late in the season, according to MSU Professor John Priscu. "We wouldn't be here - that's all there is to it. It's a long way from here to New Zealand," he said. One of Antarctica's most weathered research scientists, Professor Priscu has spent 24 seasons on the ice and led this year's MSU team.

By pushing the season, Professor Priscu believes both the Air Force and his research team proved something: "It's proof of concept. We proved we can come down - and the Air Force can, too - and work right up to winter."

While most researchers return home after the summer season, a small support group stays behind at the NSF station to

maintain and build infrastructure. In case something happens to the support personnel, Colonel McGann is training his crews to fly into the dark Antarctic winter using Night Vision Goggles.

"We're ready if they need us. We've flown test flights under similar circumstances, and although we haven't flown into Antarctica using NVGs, I'm confident if the call comes, we can do it safely and expeditiously," he said.

Even without the difficulties inherent in using NVGs, Deep Freeze missions have more than their share of risks.

Landing on an ice runway in temperatures as frigid as -70 degrees Fahrenheit, Operation Deep Freeze is one of Air Mobility Command's most extreme missions. As such, Colonel McGann cherry-picks his crew, exploiting the expertise of both Reserve and active-duty Airmen from McChord.

"Without a doubt, it's one of the most sought-after missions to get on in Air Mobility Command," said Maj. Tom Jenkins, deputy commander of the mission and a Reserve pilot from the 446th AW.

Fewer than 20 pilots in the entire command are certified to fly Deep Freeze missions, and the process takes three years to complete. Aside from landing on a giant sheet of ice, unpredictable weather makes Antarctica one of the most difficult places to fly into in the world.

"[The weather] can change in a second. Even on a sunny day, if that wind picks up, it blows the snow everywhere. On another mission I was on, you couldn't see more than 50 feet just from the wind blowing the snow around," said Maj. Chuck Corrigan, A Reserve pilot and one-of-two pilots who were certified on the mission.

The bitter temperatures have a profound affect as well on loadmasters and crew chiefs, who are forced to work in the elements. After cargo is loaded onto the C-17 using giant forklifts, loadmasters have to push the pallets into place by hand and secure them, all without any heat on the airplane.

If something breaks during flight and needs to be fixed after landing, crew chiefs have to respond to the situation, no matter how inhospitable the temperature is outside.

"The hardest part is working with your hands, because they get cold very fast. Fortunately, we didn't have any maintenance issues this time."

Tech. Sgt. Michelle Short, a Deep Freeze crew chief from the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

At least for loadmasters, conditions have improved a bit over the years. Master Sgt. Terry Philon, a Reserve loadmaster from the 446th AW, has flown to Antarctica in both C-17s and its predecessor, the C-141 Starlifter. Sergeant Philon is one of the most experienced members of the crew, having just completed his 16th Deep Freeze trip since he began flying them in 1999.

"It's a world of difference between those two planes," he said. "In the (C-)141, it got cold and stayed cold. Since the ceiling wasn't as high (as the C-17), you had space limitations, too. The first time I flew, I configured the jet and realized that I was stuck in the back, with no way to get up front. Luckily, you don't have to worry about that with the C-17."

Another person thankful for the C-17's extended capabilities is Professor Priscu, who was able to avoid spending the winter in Antarctica thanks to the plane's increased cargo and passenger capacities.

"People were frothing at the mouth when we found out a C-17 was coming," he said. "Some of them have been here since last winter and they're starting to act a bit weird. They're definitely ready to get out."

Thanks to the expertise of Deep Freeze Reserve and active-duty Airmen, and the capabilities of the C-17, Professor Priscu and his crew were able to escape back to civilization before things got too weird.



A C-17 Globemaster III from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., is loaded with cargo at McMurdo Station, Antarctica. A Reserve and active-duty Airmen from the 446th and 62nd Airlift Wings flew the late season Operation Deep Freeze mission April 17.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Przybyciel



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

United States Antarctica program personnel are transported to Christchurch, New Zealand, aboard a McChord C-17.

'Northwest Skunkworks' challenges future leaders

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Airmen interested in seeing how their outdoor skills match up to those of the contestants on the network TV show "Survivor" won't have to travel to an exotic tropical island to find out.

They will have that opportunity starting Wednesday at the base's South 40 training area when the 62nd Security Forces Squadron hosts the 'Northwest

Skunkworks' competition.

The survival competition, which pits five teams of five Airmen against each other, is a two-day, two-night challenge filled with mental and physical competitions. Teams are awarded points for winning each challenge.

The 62nd SFS wants to use the competition as a "fresh and different" way of looking at teaching leadership, said Master Sgt. David Deitt, 62nd SFS.

"A lot of the tasks and challenges are going to make competitors stop and force them to come together to make leadership

choices," Sergeant Deitt said.

While squadron officials don't want to spoil the surprise surrounding some of the events, they say they've spent the last six to eight months coming up with challenges.

"It's going to be a challenge for them — but in a fun way," he said. "We want them to be shocked. Some will be mental, some physical, and it will require them to work together."

Part of the excitement surrounding the competition is the fact that Airmen from all the different squadrons can partici-

pate, said Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Losee, 62nd SFS.

"The more people that we have from different backgrounds, the more interesting it will be," Sergeant Losee said.

Teams will spend two nights in the South 40 area and the squadron will have facilitators on the grounds at all times in case any mishaps occur, she said.

The 62nd SFS is still accepting signups for the event until the close of business today. Those interested in registering for the event can call Sergeant Deitt at 982-3513.



Bagram Airmen operate new transporter

By

Capt. Toni Tones
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AFP) — The Air Force high deck patient loading platform was designated operational with the transfer of five patients during a KC-135 Stratotanker channel mission from Afghanistan to Germany recently.

The HDPLP is a special-purpose vehicle with an enclosed lighted and climate-controlled cabin designed to access high deck platform airframes, such as KC-135, Civil Reserve Air Fleet B-767 and KC-10 Extender, for servicing and enplaning/deplaning patients. The platform has various configurations, but the most common is for mixed capacity which holds up to six litters and 10 ambulatory patients or staff.

There are only three of these vehicles in Air Force inventory; two at operational locations — Bagram Air Base and Ramstein AB, Germany — and one for testing at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

“This new capability enhances the safety of ambulatory and litter patients giving them every possible means of a full recovery,” said Lt. Col. Robert Rocco, 455th Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron commander. “The controlled environment limits the amount of time the patient is exposed to outside elements, diseases and viruses which can lead to infections that can affect recovery.”

Staff Sgt. Hannah Laras, 435th

Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility shift leader, said the new vehicle also provides a more comfortable and safer transport to the KC-135.

“We used to use a K-loader and an aluminum ramp called the patient loading system to transfer patients, which wasn’t very stable” Sergeant Laras said. “The PLS was not meant for recurring uses. Patient safety comes first and the new HDPLP ensures that.”

Anywhere from 125-150 patients are transported per month from the Craig Joint Theater Hospital here to Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Facility in Germany via semiweekly medical evacuation missions. These patients require specialized medical care unavailable at the forward deployed locations.

“Patients already receive outstanding ‘care in the air’ through our AE missions and world-class support at the various medical treatment facilities,” Colonel Rocco said. “With the procurement of this vehicle, Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines will get the same world class support as they’re being transported from the hospital to the aircraft.”

The responsibility of getting the patients safely to the aircraft rests on the shoulders of 12 Airmen and Soldiers, assigned to the patient administration section, who operate and maintain the vehicle. The Soldiers, assigned from the 602nd Area Support Medical Company, serve anywhere from eight to 15-month tours, while Air Force members serve six to eight-month rotations.

“This is a 100 percent joint



Photo by Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester

An Air Force high deck patient loading platform aligns with a KC-135 Stratotanker to load patients to be flown to Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center, Germany, here April 9. The new HDPLP, a special-purpose vehicle which limits the time a patient is exposed to outside elements, is one of three vehicles in the Air Force inventory.

endeavor,” Colonel Rocco said. “We are getting the maximum strength by instituting the Army-Air Force approach of overlapping tours...t

Getting the vehicle here and operational required multiple agencies support — Air Mobility Command, U.S. Air Forces Central, 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, Task Force Lifeline, and a three-person training team from 435th CASF.

“They were the unsung heroes in the process,” Colonel Rocco said. “There are some unique requirements for this vehicle. Each agency ensured we got what was needed

and we have the resources to remain fully operational for at least eight months.”

The vehicle cost \$346,000, but if it saves one life it’s worth it, Colonel Rocco said.

“I want to be able to look and tell the parents, spouse or kids of a patient terribly wounded in Afghanistan that we are doing everything humanely possible to get their loved one to a hospital back home for follow-on care. This vehicle gets the Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and coalition forces to the quality care needed to make a full recovery.”



Big thanks come in small packages

By

Airman 1st Class Veronica McMahon
325th Fighter Wings
Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFPN) — Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines working the Tyndall Air Force Base air show Saturday recently got an unexpected surprise that caught many off guard. Hard at work on the flightline in the blazing sun, many troops were stopped by the voice of an 11-year-old girl thanking each military member for his or her service. Along with the “thank-you” came a goodie bag.

The little girl handing out the “doses of appreciation” was Bailey Reese, founder and president of Hero Hugs, an organization based on recognizing and appreciating America’s troops. Hero Hugs is part of America Supports You, a Department of Defense organization connecting citizens and organizations with military members and their families serving here and abroad.

Hero Hugs was started by Bailey, with the help of her family, roughly four years ago. In those years, they have sent care packages to Iraq, Afghanistan and Korea, and they have visited military events to show their appreciation for America’s troops.

More than 26,000 packages, 10,000 goodie bags and five air shows later, Bailey showed up here to share her gratitude with Tyndall Airmen.

Bailey, along with her mother, Diane Reese, and her 16-year-old brother Tim Calvert, spent the entire day passing out more than 600 goodie bags comprising granola bars, candy bars, hard candy, powdered drink mix and hand wipes.

Bailey explained she began Hero Hugs after Hurricane Ivan, when she witnessed service-

members who were providing humanitarian help being treated poorly.

“I saw people yelling at the (troops) at the checkpoint where (Soldiers and Airmen) were giving out ice and water,” said Bailey. “I didn’t hear anyone say thank you to them.”

Bailey said she went home and made thank you cards for the servicemembers. She recalled how the cards brought tears to their eyes and how rewarding it was to know they felt appreciated.

When she started Hero Hugs, she sent about 100 packages out each month, said her mom. Now, due to extra support, the organization sends about 1,000 packages monthly.

“We raise money by fundraisers, collecting donations and selling ‘Support our Troops’ magnets,” said Diana Reese. “We also have received some donations from corporations and businesses.”

During the air show, many people heard Bailey’s heart-warming story. The story, along with the goodie bags and the many thanks, brought out positive reactions from the servicemembers.

Elementary school classes, scout troops and volunteers from across the United States also have helped by decorating packages and conducting fund-raisers.

“I thought it was outstanding,” said Capt. August Pfluger, 325th Fighter Wing Operations Support Squadron F-15 simulators chief, air show chairman and recipient of one of Bailey’s goodie bags. “I heard nothing but good things (about her) from everyone in uniform. They were surprised and very appreciative of the support they received.”

Some troops thanked her with a unit coin or patch.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Vesta M. Anderson

Bailey Reese, founder and president of Hero Hugs, meets Col. Darryl Roberson, 325th Fighter Wing commander, during the recent open house at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. Bailey, with the help of her family, started Hero Hugs four years ago to recognize and show appreciation for America’s servicemembers.

“I’ll do this for as long as I can,” said Bailey. “It felt really good when (the troops) said thank you. I knew they all really appreciated it.”



Air Force mission is more than just aircraft

By

Senior Airman Eric Schloeffel
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — While typical perceptions associated with the Air Force in combat might involve aircraft dropping bombs on targets, the several hundred security forces Airmen deployed here are proving these stereotypes outdated.

The Air Force's main mission at Kirkuk is not to fly daily combat sorties, but to maintain the security of the base for the more than 5,000 personnel who operate from here.

"The security forces mission at this base is unique, as it's the only installation in-theatre where the Air Force controls security for the entire base," said Col. James Hurley, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron commander, deployed from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. "There are other bases in the [area of responsibility] that are looking to go to this sort of structure, but Kirkuk is currently the only one."

At other bases throughout the AOR, Airmen are paired up with Soldiers or members from other services to share base security responsibilities. While controlling the security element for one of the largest bases in Northern Iraq is no small

task for the squadron, these Airmen are perfectly capable of this large undertaking, said Chief Master Sgt. Malone Smith, 506th ESFS superintendent, deployed from Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.

"In many ways, this is what security forces members have been training to do for years," he said. "It's very similar to the security we provide back home. Many of the techniques we use to defend the base are consistent, but our responses are different because we're in a combat zone."

The 506th ESFS is the largest squadron at Kirkuk and is composed of both active duty and reserve Airmen from more than 15 bases.

Though the squadron Airmen perform their security forces mission from inside the wire, many of them spend their days keeping a close watch outside the wire from guard towers beside the perimeter.

The squadron also is home to several groups of Airmen trained in specific security forces specialties. One of these groups, a close precision engagement team, provides counter-sniper fire to target threats against U.S. and coalition forces in the area.

A team of security forces Airmen also operates the Raven-B, an unmanned aerial vehicle, from within the wire to provide over-watch



Photo by Master Sgt. Dale Canofari

Tech. Sgt. Kelly Beeler, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq, stands post in one of the base's many guard towers. While typical perceptions associated with the Air Force in combat might involve aircraft dropping bombs on targets, the several hundred security forces Airmen deployed here are proving these stereotypes outdated.

and protective measures for servicemembers operating outside the wire.

"Our U.S. Army brethren here operate outside the wire where most of our enemies are located," Colonel Hurley said. "Our mission is to provide a secure environment for them when they return. We do that by aggressively controlling the battlespace inside the wire. The mission outside the wire couldn't be accomplished here if the Airmen weren't providing security inside the wire."

The 506th ESFS mission at Kirkuk not only shows that the

capabilities of deployed Airmen can't be measured in sorties alone, but also the multitude of missions which security forces have performed flawlessly in recent years, Chief Smith said.

"This shows that security forces, no matter the place, time or day, have the tactical and technical competence to accomplish the mission," the chief said. "Whether it's the flightline or complete perimeter, our Airmen are out there proving they have the proficiency to get the job done."



Volunteers needed for CCAF graduation

The Education Center is looking for volunteers to help setup and tear down seating arrangements for the Community College of the Air Force graduation May 8-9. For more information or to volunteer, e-mail Bruce Houseman at bruce.houseman@mcchord.af.mil.

Arbor Day celebration

The base will host an Arbor Day celebration at 3:30 p.m. today. The celebration will take place on the median strip between Tuskegee Airmen Boulevard East and West between 8th Street and Outer Drive. It will include an award ceremony, where McChord will receive its 15th consecutive Tree City USA award from Mr. Mark Kahley, the resource protection division manager from the Washington Department of Natural Resources. Local Cub Scouts and Girls Scouts will then plant a couple new trees. For information, call Valerie Elliott at 982-3913.

CPF seeks leave donations

The Civilian Personnel Flight has received a request to solicit annual leave donations for Tania Otto, a 446 Airlift Wing employee who has post-surgical complications. People may donate any annual leave, even if it is as little as one hour. Please complete OPM Form 630A and submit it to 62nd MSS/DPCG, Attn: Robert King. For more information, call 982-3805.

Top 3 hosts children's fishing derby

The Top 3 will host a free fishing derby from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday at Carter Lake. Sign-ups begin at 9:00 a.m. There will be free refreshments for children and prizes will be handed out for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each age group (4-7, 8-10 and 11-14) and a grand prize for

the largest fish, most weight for five fish limit, most weight for less than five and smallest fish. The derby is limited to one fishing pole per participant. Daily catch limit is five trout, any size, and fishing will be done using only a single non-barbed hook. Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 21.

GPC Vendors' Day set for May 15

The Government Purchase Card Vendors' Day is from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. May 15 in Hangar 9. This is a one-day event for businesses that provide authorized supplies, equipment or services who accept GPC, VISA. More than 100 vendors will be represented and each will display their material and have information on product lines available for all attendees. Free coffee and doughnuts will be provided. For more information, call Jan Turner with the 62nd Contracting Squadron at 982-3867.

Graphics no longer available on base

The Base Multimedia Center will be without graphics support from now until June 1. All graphics support will have to be accomplished through DAPS or another off base agency using your government purchase card. For more information, call the Public Affairs office at 982-5637.

Street work on Barnes Blvd.

Repaving work on the intersection of Barnes Blvd. and Levitow Blvd. started Monday and 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.

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 982-5517, and for military housing assistance, call 982-5516.

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.

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.



Faith and Worship Programs

For more information, call the chapel support center at 982-5556.

The following chapel program takes place at the base chapel support center, Bldg. 746, unless otherwise noted:
Adult Bible study is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Schedule of worship services

Catholic Services:

All Catholic services are in chapel two.
 Saturday: 4 p.m. Confession
 5 p.m. Mass
 Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Mass
 11 a.m. Mass

Protestant Services:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Liturgical worship: Chapel one
 9:45 a.m. Sunday school for all ages at the chapel support center
 11 a.m. Traditional worship: Chapel one

11 a.m. Contemporary service:
 Chapel support center

Jewish Services:

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

Orthodox Activities:

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

Other services:

Orthodox Christian Community, Cascade Chapel, Fort Lewis

Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Pre-Communion prayers
 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Confession is by appointment only.

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

