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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

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WADS dedicates historic aircraft

The Western Air Defense Sector hosted a formal dedication ceremony here May 21 for a historic F-16 static display.

The aircraft, F-16A S/N 82-0929, was one of the three F-16s scrambled against hijacked airliners on Sept. 11, 2001. The aircraft and its pilot on that day - Lt. Col. Brad Derrig, commander of the 119th Operations Group, North Dakota Air National Guard - will always be remembered as part of the United States' first line of defense against terrorism.

Colonel Derrig, who participated in

the dedication ceremony, piloted the historic jet on its final flight here Dec. 26, 2006. After its arrival at McChord, the aircraft was prepared for permanent display by volunteers from several agencies and organizations - the McChord Air Museum, the 162nd Fighter Wing from Tucson, Ariz., the 194th Operations Group, the 62nd Airlift Wing and WADS. On Feb. 11, the aircraft was set on permanent display in front of WADS.

(Article courtesy of WADS Public Affairs)



Photos by Randy White

Good neighbors

(Above) Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, right, speaks with local city administrators during Tuesday's Mayor's Luncheon at the Olympic Dining Facility here. The luncheon was held to bolster relations between Team McChord and the local community.

(Left) Local mayors sit in a C-17 Globemaster III cockpit as part of a tour following the luncheon.



Photo by Randy Rubattino

The historic F-16A, which was one of three air patrols over the national capitol region on Sept. 11, 2001, was dedicated at the Western Air Defense Sector on May 21.

Fire extinguisher training key to prevention

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

A recent outbreak of house fires on base has McChord Fire Department and base housing officials asking Airmen and their families to keep fire prevention on their minds this summer as part of the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign.

A key ingredient of prevention includes knowing how to use a fire extinguisher and keeping one handy in case a fire should break out, said assistant chief of fire prevention Sandra Cooper, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron.

The McChord Fire Department has offered free fire extinguisher classes since 2004, which give people the chance to actually use an extinguisher on a real fire.

"Lots of people are scared when it comes to using a fire extinguisher," Chief Cooper said. "Talking about it or watching a video doesn't help you put out a fire, you actually have to do it."

The class helps people get over those fears by teaching the proper techniques, she said.



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

Staff Sgt. John Cote, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, practices putting out a fire during a fire extinguisher training class May 22 at the McChord Fire Department's training grounds.

Each tenant living in base housing is given a free fire extinguisher when they move in, said Donna Dahlstrom, 62nd CES chief of family housing.

However, users need to remember to unwrap the packaging and mount the extinguisher somewhere easily accessible in the house where they can get to it, Ms. Dahlstrom said.

That spot is usually somewhere in the kitchen,

she said.

"If people need another extinguisher or if the one they have is expired, they need to come see us," Ms. Dahlstrom said.

If anyone needs help mounting it, they can call housing maintenance at 982-2200.

Although properly using a fire extinguisher can put out small cooking fires, Chief Cooper warns that when a fire does break out, people need to still think about the basics.

"Think safety first. There is never any reason to be hurt trying to fight the fire yourself," she said. "Step away, get outside and then call the fire department."

And when it comes to barbecuing in base housing, it is not allowed on landings, in exit ways, under stairs, on fire escapes, overhangs, covered patios or within 10 feet of any building, according to 62nd Airlift Wing Instruction 32-17, Base Fire Prevention Program.

People should also avoid barbecuing under their carport, Chief Cooper said.

"As heat rises from the barbecue, it can dry the wood in the carport," she said. "Once the wood is sufficiently dried, it could ignite."

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 68 Low: 48	Hi: 70 Low: 50	Hi: 68 Low: 48

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

Air Expo 2008 Countdown

visit www.mcchordairexpo.com **50** days

Don't miss it ...

Multimedia

Graphic support resumes Monday on McChord.

Airman's Roll Call: Focus on safety this summer

Editor's note:
Airman's Roll Call is a 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.

The summer season is upon us, and brings with it sunny days, family vacations and barbecues with friends. Unfortunately, though, the season also brings increased risks and opportunities for reckless behavior from which none of us are immune. By focusing on safety, however, mishaps and fatalities can be avoided.

Airmen should be aware of the risks and consequences associated with dangerous behavior as we enter the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

Just as we've done every year with this annual safety campaign (which began May 23 and runs through Sept. 2), Airmen are encouraged to evaluate their behavior and be good Wingmen to one another. Understanding high-risk behavior and taking steps to reduce the chances of mishaps, injuries and fatalities saves lives. Sadly, we lost 19 Airmen last summer, two more than the previous year. The majority of those losses were from vehicle mishaps—eight were in four-wheel vehicles and

seven were in motorcycle mishaps. Incidentally, the factors involved in these mishaps included speeding, alcohol and not using seat belts—all risks that are easily correctable.

Now that warmer weather is here, keep the following points in mind while planning your activities:

Risk management is a tool to assist us in fighting these summer hazards. It can be done on the fly, anywhere, anytime, by anyone. Simply ask yourself: What am I doing? What can go wrong? Could I hurt myself or others? What actions can I take to reduce or eliminate danger?

Be a good Wingman. This involves watching each others'

backs to prevent injury or loss of life. A good Wingman will recognize risky behavior and have the courage to speak up.

Make safety a habit. Wear seatbelts in cars and required protective equipment on motorcycles. Remain alert while at the wheel and plan rest breaks at frequent intervals. Don't speed – it is better to arrive late than not arrive at all. Don't drink and drive. Anticipate the unexpected and be ready to react.

Enjoy your summer season; use the tools available to ensure you and your Wingman survive it. Find Airman's Roll Call online at: <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/>.

'Above All' ... I am an American Airman first

By
Lt. Col. Rhonda Larson
62nd Mission Support
Squadron commander

I have to say I'm really happy we now have an Airman's Creed. For too many years, when asked what I do for a living, I've answered, "I'm a personnel officer in the Air Force" or "I do human resources for the Air Force" or more recently "I'm a squadron commander at McChord." Meanwhile, my brothers and sisters in the Navy, Army and Marines would have replied, "I'm a Sailor/Soldier/Marine," respectively. In the past, I felt pretty awkward about identifying myself as an Airman — not because I'm not proud to serve in the Air Force — but because I thought I might be confused as holding a junior enlisted rank, or even as being an aviator.

So, now that we have the creed, and now that I'm more prepared to identify myself as an Airman, I realize how often in the past I've thought of myself as a mission support professional first and an Airman second. This is probably due to the specialized, technical nature of the Air Force and how we organize our units. All the same, I joined the Air Force to serve my country — not necessarily to work in personnel. When did I lose that focus?

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to judge some of the senior projects at Aviation High School. My initial inclination was to decline the invitation — I figured most of the senior projects at that particular school would be math, science, engineering or aviation focused, and that I'd be out of my element and ill-equipped to judge these projects competently. It took me a while to remember that, as an Airman, I am an advocate of air and space power and I'm conversant with the unique

characteristics of airpower. (As it turned out, none of the projects I judged were engineering or aviation related, but they were still pretty cool.) If I hadn't reminded myself I am an Airman first, I might have missed out on a really interesting event.

I AM an American Airman. I'm also honored to be a part of the work we do in the 62nd Mission Support Squadron — our programs and services support a lot of people and enable them to perform their missions. I'm sure those of you reading this column are proud to be cooks, aircrew members, security forces specialists, medical technicians, maintainers, etc. When we take pride in our work performance, the mission can only benefit. However, remembering we're Airmen first puts our hard work and technical expertise into context. I AM an American Airman. My mission is to fly, fight and win.

So, what do you do for a living?

Professionals of the week

62nd Mission Support Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Zar Manabat

Duty title:
Personnel craftsman

Duty section:
Military personnel flight

Hometown:
Ketchikan, Alaska

Why he's tops:

Sergeant Manabat is a key player to combat airlift support. He is in charge of processing force management actions for all new arrivals and has done so with 100 percent accuracy. His high-energy attitude is contagious throughout the entire flight. During the recent MPF consolidation, he led the moving of five offices in one week — ten days ahead of schedule. While forming the new force management office, he instilled a sense of esprit de corps and high standards unmatched in the 62nd MSS. He is a vital asset to the Bulldog team.



Tech. Sgt. Susanne Scheitzach

Duty title:
Casualty assistance representative

Duty section:
Military personnel flight

Hometown:
Hammond, Ind.

Why she's super:

Sergeant Scheitzach has the challenging role of providing casualty assistance for all active duty and retired personnel in the Western Washington region. During a critical six-month civilian vacancy, she immediately acted as the lead for the casualty response team during the Unit Compliance Inspection and was vital to the wing receiving an "Excellent" rating. Sergeant Scheitzach has the difficult duty of responding to military death notifications when they occur. She is responsible for setting up a three-person notification team consisting of a major or higher, a chaplain and a medical technician to ensure compassionate and timely notification to the next of kin. She is the Airman's Creed personified.



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Planners excited about McChord Air Expo 2008

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The group of dedicated Airmen behind Air Expo 2008 did more than just leaf through a contingency plan from the air show held here three years ago and make some phone calls.

The group poured its heart and soul into the planning, according to Maj. Doug Edwards, Air Expo 2008 director.

That included touring other air shows across the nation and gathering notes on what audiences really enjoyed and what kind of effect dead time and gaps during aerial performances had on the show.

"Since we haven't had an air show here in three years, we wanted to put on a show like the public has never experienced before because it has been so long," Major Edwards said.

To make that happen, the Air Expo 2008 committee has arranged for more than 100 static and performing aircraft to be present at the show, he said.

The live demonstrations include four official

active duty demo teams: the Thunderbirds, Wings of Blue and official F-15 Eagle and F/A-18 Hornet demonstrations.

"We want to give people non-stop action for four and a half to five hours," Major Edwards said.

The great thing about the aerial displays, he said, is that because they are official active duty pilots flying the aircraft, the choreographed demonstrations will show the full capabilities of each aircraft.

"With the aerial lineup we've created, we even have air show industry folks excited about what we are offering," Major Edwards said.

When it came to arranging static displays, the group got together and pooled its personal experiences with aircraft over each member's career and decided to bring some rare and somewhat obscure aircraft to the show, said Capt. Doug Rottier, air operations director.

"There are a lot of events in the show that came from some outside-the-box thinking on our part," Captain Rottier said. "We wanted to take some of our personal flair and incorporate it into the show."

And that enthusiasm and hard work the committee has put into the Air Expo 2008 has not gone unnoticed by people in the community, Major Edwards said.

The director has received several phone calls and e-mails from people in the community who have either read about the show in the newspaper or visited the Web site (www.mcchordairexpo.com).

"All the responses are people expressing their support and appreciation for bringing the show back," he said. "I didn't expect to get that (feedback). People are already dialed in."

Fast facts

**McChord Air Expo 2008,
July 19-20**

**On the Web:
www.mcchordairexpo.com**



Summer Luau

DEPLOYED SPOUSES DINNER

June 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Chapel Support Center

Call 982-5556
or Email
62aw.hc@mcchord.af.mil

**All families with deployed or d
eploying spouses, TDY's and
remotes are encouraged to attend!**



POC: Ch Rachel David & SSgt Katrina LeBlanc

McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Staff Sgt. Daniel Waugh, left, and Staff Sgt. Nick Picoc, center, both 5th Air Support Operations Squadron, prepare for a battle circulation mission during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Lt. Col. Shaun Copelin, director of operations for the 1st Air Support Operations Group, stands on a patrol boat near Baghdad during a recent deployment.

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



Safety Center site has tools for every Airman

By

John Cochran

Air Force Safety Center

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFPN) — You don't have to be a safety professional to benefit from the products and services of the Air Force Safety Center. Commanders and Airmen in every career field have something to gain by checking out the material on the Safety Center's Web site.

That's the message senior officials here want Airmen everywhere to know.

"Safety is vital in the lives of all Airmen, and we have resources that can help everyone in the Air Force," said Bud Redmond, Air Force deputy chief of safety and executive director of the Safety Center.

"In addition to material that supports the safety pros out in the field, such as statistical data on mishaps, trend analysis and year-to-date summaries of fatalities and injuries, we've posted a collection of tools that will help commanders and supervisors at all levels meet the challenges of keeping their people safe while accomplishing the mission. Just about any safety information that anyone would want to know is available on our

Web site," Mr. Redmond said

The site has a video on driving safety featuring a NASCAR driver; current and back issues of Flying Safety Magazine, Wingman and Weapons Journal; downloadable safety posters; public service announcements; a list of available training courses; and more.

"With warmer weather fast approaching, our people will be traveling and spending more time outdoors," said Mr. Redmond. "That's why the Air Force runs the '101 Critical Days of Summer' safety campaign each year, to raise awareness and help people prepare for and take part in their activities with an eye toward safety."

The Safety Center has an online section dedicated to the '101 Days' campaign.

"We encourage all Airmen to visit our site and review what's there," Mr. Redmond said. "If you're looking for something and don't see it, send an e-mail or call one of the phone numbers listed and talk it over with our staff experts. Most likely, we'll be able to fulfill your request. If you need the information, chances are good that others are seeking it, too, so your request will help more than just your own organization. That's another way for you to be a good wingman."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

Safety reminder

Col. Frank Rechner, 62nd Mission Support Group commander, right, and Chief Master Sgt. Cary Hatzinger, 62nd MSG superintendent, center, greet drivers at the family housing gate May 22. It is a tradition for leadership to remind members of Team McCord to be safe prior to long weekends.



Keeping the critters at bay



62nd Civil Engineer Squadron's pest management shop keeps base, aircraft free from havoc caused by four legged vermin, insects

BY Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

It's not so much the mice, rats, raccoons, ants, cockroaches and other unsavory vermin that get to Staff Sgt. Cesar Noguez, the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron's lone pest control worker.

It's more the paperwork that comes with the job. "I'm not good with papers and office work," he said with a laugh. "I like to be outside. The job offers something new and different every day."

Sergeant Noguez fields nearly 80 work orders a week on average, responding to a variety of pest-related incidents from buildings all over the base. The work can range from setting up traps to catch animals prowling backyards in base housing to cleaning up road kill off the street.

"That's always a fun job," Sergeant Noguez said with a hint of sarcasm while detailing one of the less savory tasks of his job.

But houses and buildings aren't the only places vermin can cause trouble and spread disease — they can also get into the airplanes.

For that reason, Sergeant Noguez is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether it's because rodents have made a home inside the pallets used to transport food on humanitarian missions or the fact that insects have made their way up the cargo ramp while the aircraft is sitting on the flightline in a foreign country, they threaten not only the safety of the mission but also the different ecosystem here in Washington.

"It's a two part thing because it's not only the possibility of disease the rodents can spread, but there is also a chance they can damage the electrical systems in the aircraft from chewing on the wires," said Master Sgt. Peter Tice, 62nd CES superintendent of heavy repair who also oversees pest control.

Going over the aircraft with a fine-toothed comb, Sergeant Noguez fumigates the entire jet with chemicals that are safe to the environment and any food pallets but deadly to pests who breathe it in.

The normal process usually takes between 20-30 minutes, he said, but sometimes if the vermin is still loose in the aircraft, the process can take longer.

"We can keep that aircraft grounded until we catch it," Sergeant Noguez said.

And even though the job may come with the caveat of being wakened in the early morning to drag a dead animal off a road on base, scour an airplane for a four-legged menace scurrying in the underbelly or come face-to-face with a trapped, angry raccoon, Sergeant Noguez said he gets a kick out of coming to work every day.

With that kind of dedication, the base is in good hands and critters don't stand a chance.



Sergeant Noguez prepares to fill the shop's herbicide sprayer with a solution used to treat the base softball fields for weeds.



Sergeant Noguez treats a room at the Child Development Center for ants by applying a powdered insecticide to the base boards.



Staff Sgt. Cesar Noguez, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, sets a rat trap at an undisclosed building on base.



Sergeant Noguez adds dog food to a raccoon trap during a routine animal control inspection of base housing.

Photos by Abner Guzman

NCAA coaches 'touchdown' in AOR

By

Senior Airman Tong Duong
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — Servicemembers here pulled out their team banners and school spirit recently when five National Collegiate Athletic Association football coaches from various universities throughout the states stopped to thank Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines for their service on the first leg of the Armed Forces Entertainment Coaches Tour traveling throughout Southwest Asia.

The 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron hosted the event, which gave NCAA head coaches Mark Richt, University of Georgia; Randy Shannon, University of Miami; Jack Siedlecki, Yale University; Tommy Tuberville, Auburn University; and Charlie Weis, University of Notre Dame, an opportunity to interact with hundreds of fans and learn a little bit about the base's missions.

U.S. and coalition forces members filled the base theater for an open question and answer session and had a chance to toss a football and have memorabilia autographed at memorial plaza. The coaches stayed until the last fan had a chance for a handshake or photo.

The coaches, who hail from rival universities, came with similar goals; to boost Airmen's morale

show appreciation for their service.

"Everyone thinks that I'm a celebrity, but it's the troops in the Middle East and those who are supporting them who are the celebrities," said University of Miami Coach Randy Shannon, whose daughter is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. "Look at the [servicemembers] doing their jobs and executing it with precision. It's not just the guys on the ground and in the field, it's the ones who take care of the pilots, refuel planes and [secure] the base, they are all an intricate part of making the whole operation work. I'm proud of their work, and they make me feel good and safe at home."

Coach Charlie Weis from the University of Notre Dame, feels there are a lot of similarities between the military and football.

"Anytime you get a group of people together who work as a team, such as the armed forces, whether it's about chain of command, camaraderie [among servicemembers] or not letting your team down, there are a lot of parallels and analogies between football and the armed forces."

For Coach Jack Siedlecki of Yale University, the armed forces are like the ultimate team and he wanted to see it firsthand.

"The attitude of the [servicemembers] has made it a very inspiring tour," he said. "I've told many people that I'll gain a lot more inspiration from this [tour] than I could



Photo by Senior Airman Dominique Simmons

An Airman tries the "Quarterback Challenge" with encouragement from Mark Richt, the University of Georgia head coach, while waiting in line for autographs from the five NCAA coaches who visited the base recently.

give anyone else and it's been proven true."

Coach Siedlecki also talked about sacrificing one's ego for the team, and would love to have his team come out here and talk with [servicemembers] to observe their attitude.

"It's been a tremendous exposure for me," he said. "It's 110 degrees and [they're missing home], but everyone is rallied together. It's what every coach wants his team to

be."

Despite the jet lag and gritty desert air, the coaches remained focused on the trip's benefit to the servicemembers they were able to meet.

"We wanted to come here and thank the troops, not have them thank us," Coach Weis said. "We are just a small microcosm of the society in the states who have come here to thank them for protecting our country."



Fort Lewis opens barracks for AF, Army pets

By
Rachel Young
The Northwest Guardian

Dogs and cats have a new place to call their own on Fort Lewis: the Pet Brigade Dog and Cat Barracks.

The new facility opened its doors recently to the post community and took in its first four-legged clients. The barracks, Building 04907 on Pendleton Drive, North Fort, offers services such as doggie day care, boarding, grooming and, in the future, training.

The Pet Brigade is a public/private venture, a new way of providing services to military folks. The land belongs to the Army, but the facility is privately owned by Nancy and Regis Jackson, who have owned and operated for five years Pet Ponderosa Resorts and Spas in Graham.

"This is the first pet kennel PPV to date in the Army," said Scott Ballentine, an engineering tech in the Non-Appropriated Funds Resource Department of Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"We're sort of ground-breakers."

The PPV initiative is designed to help the military offer services that it would not normally offer by allowing it to contract with civilian experts — in this case, the Jacksons.

"We are utilizing individuals trained and motivated to offer services that we have no experience with," he said. "It's a win-win as it relates to providing service to the family community."

The Pet Brigade, set back in a wooded area of North Fort, features 60 kennels and can accommodate as many as 180 dogs at one time, because many families have more than one dog, Regis Jackson said.

"The kennels are large enough that they can accommodate at least



Photo by Jason Kaye/Northwest Guardian

Pet Brigade employee Nancy Jackson brushes Jersey in the grooming room at the new facility. "The whole purpose of day care is to socialize your dog," Jackson said. "If you only bring your dog once every four weeks, it defeats the purpose of socialization."

two to three dogs in a kennel," he said.

The kennels are state-of-the-art, stainless steel enclosures with drainage systems and a heating and cooling system that keeps pooches at a comfortable 58 to 60 degrees with a 90 percent fresh air exchange.

Outside, the yard is divided into larger and smaller fenced areas where the dogs can play together or individually. While pups are staying at the Pet Brigade, parents can choose from various activities for their canines, like individual play

time, walks, pool time or cuddle time.

Cats will be boarded in a community cat room in which the animals will have their own condos. The barracks can accommodate about 10 to 14 cats at a time.

Doggie Day Care is available weekdays from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Dogs must be assessed before being admitted into the day care program, Jackson said.

To be in the program, the dog must have all its shots and a recent stool sample test from a veterinarian. Once accepted, the owners are

required to buy a minimum four-day pass, and the dog must come to doggie day care at least once a week to get the full benefit of the program.

"The whole purpose of day care is to socialize your dog," Jackson said. "If you only bring your dog once every four weeks, it defeats the purpose of socialization."

The barracks also offers grooming services which include baths, hair and nail cuts, ear cleaning and brushing.

For more information on the Pet Brigade, call 912-4898.



Family shows strength dealing with child's disease

By
Staff Sgt. Christie Putz
375th Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — New parents often complain with love that their babies grow up too quickly. But at around seven months old, Elise Rochman's parents began to worry the opposite — that she wasn't growing up quickly enough.

Elise still wasn't sitting up on her own, a task normally mastered between four and seven months. Not wanting to be an overanxious mother, and after some reassurance from her pediatrician, Capt. Kerri Rochman reasoned that her daughter would develop at her own pace.

However, it would be another four months until Elise's diagnosis would finally give her parents a glimpse at what that pace, in either direction, would be.

At 11 months old, Elise was diagnosed with infantile Tay-Sachs disease, a rare genetic neurodegenerative disorder of which only 25 cases were reported in the United States last year.

Children with Tay-Sachs normally appear healthy until they reach six months of age. At that point, they slowly start regressing until the disease eventually takes their life, usually between the ages of 4 and 5.

"Throughout my life, I have been taught a variety of lessons," said Captain Rochman, "But no one had ever taught me how to raise a dying child."

The furthest Elise got was pushing herself up. She rolled, but never crawled. Laughed, but never talked. And slowly, even these seemingly small things started to disappear.

"Other than the initial diagnosis,

watching them lose their skills one by one is the hardest part," said Captain Rochman.

Now three and a half years old, Elise has lost the ability to vocalize, see and move. She is plagued by seizures, which have become more frequent over the past few weeks. These seizures come after nearly a year of very little disease progression.

"After being stable for so long, you almost lose sight that it's going to end," she said. "And then something like this starts. It gets harder every time."

Elise is on a handful of medications to help treat her symptoms, but even with all the recent advances in medicine, the disease is still incurable today. Her doctors claim that because of the rarity of the disease, not many researchers have been willing to put forth the time and money to find a cure.

In order to help advance research efforts and raise awareness of the disease, the Rochman family has dedicated their time to the Cure Tay-Sachs Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises money for Tay-Sachs research.

Their goal is to raise \$1 million by the end of 2008. Since last June, more than \$450,000 has been raised, and a single benefit in Elise's honor this month raised \$45,000.

The Rochman's also worked with Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich to proclaim May as Tay-Sachs Awareness month throughout the state.

"It helps to be able to feel like we're doing something," said Captain Rochman. "That we're progressing toward a cure."

She acknowledges the fact that even if a cure is found it won't be done in time to save her daughter, but said they contribute so that other affected families may some-



Photo by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

Capt. Kerri Rochman watches her 3 1/2-year-old daughter Elise recently as her husband, Tim, performs their daily flexibility exercises. Elise was diagnosed more than two years ago with Tay-Sachs disease, an inherited incurable disease of the central nervous system. Captain Rochman is the 375th Mission Support Squadron chief of career development at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

day benefit from their work.

Another benefit of the foundation is a network of families who can help provide answers and support during this difficult time.

However, Cure Tay-Sachs is not the only source of support for the Rochmans. In addition to family and friends, Captain Rochman said the amount of support her work center at the Scott Military Personnel Flight provides has been overwhelming.

Members of her squadron also have joined in on the awareness efforts. Ten members volunteered at Elise's benefit and during a bake sale the squadron booster club raised more than \$500 to send to the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association.

When she was first pregnant with Elise, Captain Rochman momentarily contemplated separating from the Air Force to be able to

spend more time with her daughter. She admits she is now thankful she didn't.

Because of her active-duty status, all of Elise's medical care and costs have been covered. Also, Air Force officials transferred the Rochmans to Scott Air Force Base from California to be closer to family and major medical centers.

"Parents can lose everything trying to take care of their children," she said. "(The Air Force) has been great for our family."

"We cherish every moment that we have with her," the captain said. "I don't come to work every day and think my daughter is dying, because right now she's still living. All we can do is take things day by day."

And so, day by day they continue, treasuring each smile they still receive from Elise and viewing life with a slightly different outlook.



Wilford Hall, Brooks medical centers set to merge

By
Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — Medical care for military families in the San Antonio area is changing. Not in what it offers, but where, officials said.

Wilford Hall and Brook Army Medical Centers are set to merge by 2011 as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations. Combined, the two medical centers will become the San Antonio Military Medical Center, or SAMMC.

Under this merger, all surgical capabilities at Wilford Hall will move to BAMC and all of the clinical services, such as dermatology and ophthalmology, will move to WHMC.

The goal of this move is two-fold: It will save money and enable the medical centers to provide the best care possible to their patients.

"Basically, this move is making things more efficient," said Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Thomas W. Travis, the WHMC commander.

In total, more than 200 clinics and support functions will move during the transition to SAMMC. Once the consolidation is complete, WHMC will become SAMMC-South and BAMC will become SAMMC-North.

"The names might be changing, but the quality care our patients are used to will not," General Travis said.

To prepare for the new missions each medical center will be undertaking, BAMC is undergoing a \$750 million renovation and WHMC is receiving \$100 million in improvements.

"Our biggest challenge is keeping both facilities running while these renovations are happening," the general said. "But we're committed to providing the best care possible

to our patients. I'm confident we will."

Staff members at each hospital are also confident, they said.

"This move will help us tremendously," said Lt. Col. William Clouse, chief of vascular/endovascular surgery at WHMC. "We'll be receiving new facilities and capabilities. It's really an exciting time for medical professionals here."

Plus, the colonel added, the move allows Air Force and Army medical personnel to work together, something that's already happening in deployed environments.

"From a total-force perspective, this move is great. In Iraq and Afghanistan Air Force and Army work side-by-side in field hospitals," Colonel Clouse said. "Now we'll be doing that here in San Antonio and that will help those people who deploy. They'll already be used to working with other services on a regular basis."

Still, the changes have brought up questions, many of those by military retirees.

"A lot of us are concerned about this move because it means having to drive further," said retired Col. Harold Ponder, a resident at the Air Force Village retirement community. "Many of us live near WHMC to be close to where we receive our medical care."

General Travis recognizes this concern, but is confident it will not pose a long-term problem.

"I understand where they are coming from," he said. "But this move really won't impact their lives all that much."

For one, the only services moving are in-patient surgical care and the emergency room. Clinical services will all be located at WHMC.

"This is actually good for the retiree community, because 90 percent of their care is clinical, not surgical," General Travis said. "This means a lot of their clinics will be



Photo by Master Sgt. Kimberly A. Yearyear-Siers

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Charles Reilly, right, instructs ophthalmology residents from Wilford Hall Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center and the University of Texas Health Science Center recently at the Joint Warfighter Refractive Surgery Center at WHMC at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Dr. Reilly is the consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General for Refractive Surgery and the Air Force's only certified physician trainer for refractive surgery.

closer once the move is complete."

Many concerns have come from misinformation, such as rumors that WHMC is closing or being torn down and re-built. To combat this problem, the general says communication is the answer.

Colonel Ponder agrees, he said. "For many of us, it's just the not

knowing that makes us worry," the colonel said. "It's hard to accept change."

This is one change that is good, General Travis said.

"SAMMC is a great thing for patients and military medical professionals in the San Antonio area," he said.



Steam plant shut down

The base central steam plant will be shut down from June 14 - 15. The shutdown will start at 1 a.m. on June 14 and will be back on at 6 p.m. on June 15. The following facilities served with steam heat, steam-heated domestic hot water and/or process steam will be affected: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12, 22, 100, 160, 180, 181, 301, 304, 308, 315, 328, 341, 423, 546, 565, 566, 567, 572, 574, 707, 708, 710, 717, 726, 729, 735, 737, 738, 742, 745, 746, 757, 774, 778, 1119, 1120, 1122, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1155, 1156, 1160, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1169, 1170, 1174, 1175, 1178, 1179, 1183, 1405, 1419 and 1422. Hot water should be available for most of the day on June 14. Also, limited shower facilities will be available at the base swimming pool. The annual shutdown is necessary to perform maintenance on plant equipment and the distribution system that can only be done while the systems are out of service. For more information on the shutdown call John Keizer at 982-2583.

Volunteers needed

McChord will host the Special Olympics Washington's Summer Games today through Sunday and the base still needs volunteers to help out with the event. Volunteers are needed to assist with the information booth, opening ceremony, victory happening and dance and family barbeque. Volunteers are also needed to serve as bus operators, parking attendants and assist with clean up and tear down.

Every squadron has a point of contact and interested volunteers should e-mail their rank, name, squadron, time and date of the event vol-

unteering for to their squadron POC or directly contact Staff Sgt. Amy Weger at 982-3874 or Staff Sgt. Caramel Padrones at 982-5678.

Air Force Community Assessment

Spouses can take the survey at <http://spouseAFCAsurvey.com>; it will take about 30 minutes to complete and will remain open until Sunday.

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. 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.

New Housing Office hours

The McChord Housing Office has recently revised its hours of operation. Walk-in hours are now 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointment hours are 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For community housing assistance, call 982-5517, and for military housing assistance, call 982-5516.

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.

