

# The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

Vol. 40, No. 29

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

July 11, 2008

## INSIDE

**McChord Airman ties the knot in C-17,**  
Page 3

**Dorm competition,**  
Pages 8-9

**Air Force athlete excels at Olympic trials,**  
Page 10

## Countdown to Air Expo 2008

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

With a little more than one week until Air Expo 2008 kicks off, event planners are doing their best to contain their excitement over the upcoming show.

"It's going to be an amazing show, both in the air and on the ground," said Maj. Doug Edwards, Air Expo 2008 director. "We have an incredible lineup and everyone on the staff is in amazement about how great it is going to be."

The group poured its heart and soul into the planning, he said. 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.

In addition to the more than 30 different static display aircraft, the live demonstrations include four official active duty demo teams: the Thunderbirds, Wings of Blue and official F-15 Eagle and F/A-18F Hornet demonstrations.

"The bottom line is that we're going to have four Department of Defense acts performing," Major Edwards said. "That's more than nearly every active air show across the country. We want to give people non-stop action for four and a half to five

hours."

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, he 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.

"We wanted to take some of our personal style and incorporate it into the show," Captain Rottier said.

Some of the more obscure static aircraft scheduled to be at the show include a CV-22 Osprey, a tiltrotor aircraft that combines the vertical takeoff, hover and vertical landing qualities of a helicopter with the long-range, fuel efficiency and speed characteristics of a turboprop aircraft, and the RC-135 Rivet Joint, an extensively modified C-135 primarily related to its on-board sensor suite, which allows the mission crew to detect, identify and geolocate signals throughout the electromagnetic spectrum.

In a move just announced this week, Pierce Transit will offer free bus rides to the expo from two bus stops: Lakewood Towne Center and State Route 512 Park and Ride.



Photo by Abner Guzman

## Distinguished visit

**Tech. Sgt. David Belanger, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, conducts an airfield maintenance brief for Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates during a static display tour inside a C-17 Globemaster III here Monday. Secretary Gates visited McChord and Fort Lewis, shaking hands and talking with Airmen and Soldiers and touring various military aircraft and vehicles. This was his first visit to the local installations since he became secretary in late 2006.**

## Hangar party offers chance to celebrate before expo

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

In an effort to reward Airmen for the months of hard work that went into planning Air Expo 2008, Team McChord will host a free hangar party at 4 p.m. July 18 in Hangar 3 for Airmen and their families.

The party will feature free food and soda, door prizes, carnival games and activities for the children, said Sheryl Swory, sponsorship coordinator with the 62nd Force

Support Squadron.

"It's just a chance for Team McChord families to come together and pat each other on the back for all the hard work leading up to the expo," Mrs. Swory said. "We want to give people a chance to relax and have some fun with their families before the expo starts because once that happens, those working it are going to be very busy."

Organizers will hand out Match Up scratch cards upon entry and people can qualify for "big-ticket" giveaway prizes, she said. The Kid Zone area will feature a rock wall, a

25-foot slide, an obstacle course and two different bounce-arounds. The Spazmatics, a 1980s cover band, will perform live starting at 6 p.m.

New to the party this year is the infant care area, a separate tent where parents can change diapers and mothers can breastfeed babies.

"It's just a nice little extra thing we added to better accommodate families for the event," Mrs. Swory said.

Event attendees will also have the chance to meet and greet several Air Expo 2008 performers and the

Thunderbirds themselves, said Maj. Doug Edwards, Air Expo 2008 director.

"This is all about military families and we're really making sure this is a fun event," Major Edwards said. "It's a chance to spend some time with the family at kind of a mini air show. It'll also give people a chance to have some one-on-one time with the pilots in attendance." The practice aerial display starts at noon.

Event organizers are asking attendees to park behind Bldg. 100 and walk up the ramp at the entry control point between Hangars 2 and 3.

### Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 73 Low: 54	Hi: 80 Low: 51	Hi: 83 Low: 49

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

## Air Expo 2008 Countdown

8 days  
visit [www.mcchordairexpo.com](http://www.mcchordairexpo.com)

## Don't miss it ... Air Expo Golf Tournament

The Air Expo 2008 charity golf tournament is 1 p.m. Wednesday at Whispering Firs Golf Course. For more information on the four-man scramble, call Capt. Michael Capozzi at 982-2082.

# Airlift delivered promise of hope to West Berlin

By

Gen. Arthur Lichte  
Air Mobility Command commander

To the average American, June 26 is just another day on the calendar. But to citizens of West Berlin, it was a watershed moment – not once, but twice. To beleaguered West Berliners in 1948, June 26 represented “hope” as the 15-month Berlin Airlift began, symbolizing the promise of the western world – we would not leave Berliners behind the rapidly closing Iron Curtain. And to those same Berliners in 1963, June 26 represented “solidarity” as President John F. Kennedy uttered the now famous words, “Ich bin ein Berliner,” and Berliners of all ages knew that the Western world still stood by them on the 15th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. Now through May 2009, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift – an opportunity to

honor the heroes of 1948 as well as the heroes of 2008 who bring hope to our friends in need around the world.

Last month I visited Berlin and had the honor to spend time with some of the brave “Berliners” as we jointly kicked off the celebration. As we departed Frankfurt, on a flight path very similar to those flown during the 15-month airlift campaign, I was struck by the profound emotion of hope. Hope then, not only for the Berliners trying to survive the repression of the Soviet Union, but as a pilot, I also felt the hope of the allied airmen wanting to complete their mission to save individuals, families, villages, the city of Berlin and the whole of the German people. The hope offered then was apparent to every man, woman and child in the world to include the Soviet military and Joseph Stalin’s regime. It was this hope that planted the seed of doubt in the mind of Stalin as he

witnessed the persistence of the monumental effort.

For many, powerful images of children standing on piles of rubble with smiles on their faces, watching the promise of hope delivered in small handkerchief parachute packages with candy, or photos of flour being off-loaded from cargo planes often come to mind. Do you want to know why it’s so powerful to see these images? It’s not because they’re pictures of someone receiving food. Not at all. Those pictures are powerful because they’re images of hope ... images of freedom promised and delivered. You see, the true effect of humanitarian airlift isn’t measured on a ledger sheet (in tons or amounts of cargo that are moved). Instead, the effect of humanitarian airlift is seen in the eyes of the men, women and children who receive that aid. They know all too well that the food and medicine means hope ... you see it in their eyes! These form lasting mem-

ories for everyone involved (in the air and on the ground), and they continue to be part of our nation’s airlift heritage.

As the first “shot” of the Cold War, the Berlin Airlift was the first major challenge for the Air Force, which was still in its infancy when the Soviet blockade started. It immediately established global airlift as a valid U.S. foreign policy option and since then, air mobility has remained “on the table” as a valid instrument of U.S. foreign policy. But it’s the Berlin Airlift’s position as a record-setting humanitarian relief effort that captures the hearts and minds of generations of Americans and Berliners alike.

While many talk about the “greatest generation” in WWII, I am proud to say the “newest greatest generation” is serving in uniform today. In fact there are many parallels between

See HOPE, Page 14

## Good leadership traits are best acquired through experiences

By

Col. Joseph Wiley  
62nd Operations Group commander

**“Leadership is intangible, and therefore no weapon ever designed can replace it.”**

Omar N. Bradley

Gen. Omar Bradley clearly recognized that no matter how great the technology incorporated in the weapon systems equipping our armed forces, without the human element, they are just cold and lifeless machines. Leadership is the essential factor that allows us to achieve the commitment we have voluntarily taken in our commissioning or enlistment oaths to support and defend the

constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

The United States Air Force places a premium on developing leadership and leaders at every level of our professional military training. While it appears the Air Force is trying to teach leadership at venues such as Airman Leadership School or Squadron Officer School, the goal is not to teach someone to be a leader. Rather than teaching leadership, the goal is to develop leadership qualities within each student. Leadership is not something that can be learned only by sitting in an academic situation; it must be gained from experience. Our professional schools do a fantastic job exposing students to leadership theory, common traits of good leaders and professionalism. However, within the context of the academic setting, practical leadership exercises are where the instructors help develop the leadership qualities of the students by giving them experience.

These experiences provide the exclamation

point for the students’ development as leaders.

The author and aviator Antione de Saint Exupery said, “If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up people to collect wood and don’t assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.”

This metaphor speaks to the essence of leadership. Leadership is an art without formula or structure. Leadership is about the human element. It addresses emotion and motivation, dedication and perseverance, discipline and desire. Leadership is about the human spirit.

Do not make the mistake of defining leadership by rank, grade or position. Leadership is an essential ingredient present in every Airman. Seek out opportunities to exercise and experience it. Couple it with the elements of our Air Force Core Values. In this manner our Air Force will become stronger and more effective, not because we have the greatest weapons, but because we have developed the greatest leaders.

## Professionals of the week

### Retiree Activities Office

#### Ms. Ilse Walters

**Duty title:**  
Volunteer

**Duty section:**  
Retiree Activities Office

**Hometown:**  
Tacoma, Wash.

#### Why she’s super:

Ms. Walters researches information pertaining to retired military of all services. She is a surviving spouse of a retired Air Force senior master sergeant. They were married 31 years and had three children, one of which is a retired Navy commander. She is currently competing in the Puget Sound Senior Games.



#### Mr. Norman Johnson

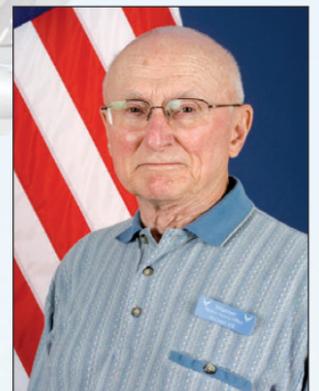
**Duty title:**  
Volunteer

**Duty section:**  
Retiree Activities Office

**Hometown:**  
Bridgeman, Mich.

#### Why he’s tops:

Mr. Johnson responds to requests for information relating to retirees of all services. He is a retired Air Force chief master sergeant. He has been married for 57 years and his wife also works in the RAO. They have two sons and five grandchildren, one of which is an Air Force lieutenant serving at Hurlburt Field, Fla.



#### EDITORIAL STAFF

**62nd AW commander:** Col. Jeffrey Stephenson  
**Chief, Public Affairs:** Carrie Bernard  
**NCOIC, Public Affairs:** Staff Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson  
**Chief of Internal:** Airman 1st Class Kirsten Wicker  
**Editor:** Tyler Hemstreet  
**62nd Services Squadron contributor:** Patti Jeffrey  
**Photographer:** Abner Guzman  
**Graphic artist:** Lisa Lemmer

#### 62ND AIRLIFT WING, MCCORD AFB, WASHINGTON

The Northwest Airlifter is published by Swarner Communications, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with McCord Air Force Base. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Northwest Airlifter are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of

Defense, the Department of the Air Force or Swarner Communications of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Advertising copy intended for publication should be submitted to Bill White, Advertising Manager. Business mailing address: P.O. Box 98801, Lakewood, WA, 98498. Free ads can be e-mailed to: classads@ftlewisranger.com or call Swarner Communications at (253) 584-1212.

#### 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  
McCord AFB, WA 98438

**Phone:** (253) 982-5637 **Fax:** (253) 982-5025  
**E-mail:** northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil

# Airman ties knot in C-17

By  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff Writer

While most brides are busy obsessing about getting to the church on time or the flower arrangement at the reception, Julie Kies' mind was on making sure her wedding dress didn't snag too much on the anti-skid panels on the cargo floor of the C-17 Globemaster III while she walked down the aisle.

She also had to watch her step when it came time to step off the cargo bay door and onto the floor of the hangar, but that's just how things are when you tie the knot in a large transport aircraft.

Julie married Senior Airman Adam Kies, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, June 21 in a ceremony performed in the cargo bay of a C-17 parked in Hangar 3.

The couple, who met at a rodeo in Roy two years ago, initially was going to get married at a ceremony on Heritage Hill. But when they couldn't book the location due to retirement ceremony already scheduled there, Airman Kies decided to do the next best thing.

"I figured she would think it was a pretty cool idea," he said.

When Airman Kies first told his wife-to-be

of the idea, she didn't believe him.

"I said, 'Are you serious?'" Julie said. "I thought he was joking."

After confirming the idea, Julie said it didn't take much convincing for her to go along with it.

"We both wanted something that was unique to us," she said. "We both don't know anyone else that got married in a C-17."

The nearly 30 guests that attended the ceremony were seated in the jump seats along the side of the cargo bay, and some didn't know quite what was going on until they set foot in the aircraft.

"It seemed like most people didn't realize it was going to actually be inside the plane ... they thought it was just going to be in the hangar," Airman Kies said. "But pretty much everyone thought it was pretty cool."

That included Julie's parents, who despite the unique setup of the ceremony, approved of everything.

"They were just happy that we were happy with it," she said.

Despite the fact that the ambiance inside the aircraft wasn't exactly quiet and serene with the power on to run the inside lights, and Airman Kies' bout of nervous butterflies when it came to reciting his vows, everything went off without a hitch, the happy couple said.

"It was very memorable," Julie said.



Photo courtesy Adam Kies

Julie and Adam Kies were married June 21 here inside a C-17 Globemaster III parked in Hangar 3.



Photo by Adamarie Lewis-Page

## Making it rain

A McChord fire department fire truck sprays water on a mock C-17 Globemaster III accident site July 2 as part of the major accident response exercise here. The exercise was conducted in order to give the wing a chance to fine-tune the procedures and policies used in the event of an accident or large incident on base.



# SABC course preps Airmen for deployment

By

Staff Sgt. Eric Burks  
62nd Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs

An Airman lays face down on the floor, motionless. His Wingman quickly drops to a knee and hears the question, “what’s the first step?”

This scene recently played out, not in the heat of the desert, but in a conference room here. It was not a true emergency, but rather part of a self aid and buddy care refresher training scenario.

Master Sgt. Tammy Wagendorf, 62nd Force Support Squadron, provided the hands-on unit training, designed to familiarize Airmen with Individual First Aid Kits and some of the potential situations they could face while deployed.

The refresher training here combines verbal instruction, a Power Point presentation and group interaction. Airmen are given information and then presented with scenarios that allows them to work together to demonstrate what they have learned.

The key is to give Airmen some hands-on experience to see the practical application of how everything works, said Sergeant Wagendorf.

“It gives everybody a little bit of confidence and familiarity with the equipment they will be deploying with,” she said.

IFAKs have been distributed to those deploying to locations within the CENTCOM area of responsibility since summer of 2005, according to a memo from Air Force Headquarters. The kits contain the latest life-saving technology designed for expeditionary Airmen to better treat a wide range of combat trauma and illness at the SABC level.

“The kit gives you the tools and ability to sustain life until help can arrive,” said Sergeant



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

**Master Sgt. Tammy Wagendorf, 62nd Force Support Squadron, bandages the arm of Tech. Sgt. Michelle Lee, 62nd Airlift Wing, during SABC refresher training here recently.**

Wagendorf.

Initial SABC training remains current for 24 months, said Rudy Strand, 62nd FSS unit deployment manager. After 24 months, refresher training is required, which consists of both the SABC computer-based training through the Advanced Distributed Learning System and hands-on training within the unit.

Additionally, Mr. Strand said, all personnel are required to receive SABC training within 90 days prior to deployment, regardless of deployment location.

Those who frequently deploy are required to take SABC no more than once every 12 months, he said.

# Air Force clarifies uniform changes

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — As the Air Force transitions from the legacy battle dress to the modern airman battle uniform, questions and concerns are bound to come up, said the head of Air Force uniform and recognition branch.

“Anytime there is new information about uniforms for Airmen, we will get that out to the field as soon as we can,” Lt. Col. Charles Arnold said.

Air Force uniform board results and changes based on decisions by Air Force leaders are sent to the field through the Air Force Manpower, Personnel and Services office.

“The change-decision process is long and highly examined,” said Ruth Ewalt, the chief of the Air Force uniform programs and policy. “For example, the 98th uniform board, made up of 29 people from a variety of career fields and every major command, recently reviewed more than 100 inputs from the field. Inputs ranging from head-gear and hairstyles to sock color and boots were considered.”

One suggestion that met the board was to permit Airmen in certain industrial career fields, like maintainers or civil engineers, to wear black boots with their ABUs on a permanent basis.

The rationale given was stains on the grey-green boots can be difficult — if not impossible — to remove, she said.

“The board’s recommendation on that input is being staffed through appropriate channels to the chief of staff and, at this time, no final decision has been made,” Colonel Arnold said.

“We encourage Airmen to check with official Air Force news sources and forums, as well as their chain of command, for accurate, up-to-date announcements of a change.”

For more information, contact the Air Force Personnel Center contact center at 800-616-3775.



McChord Airmen

# AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

**AFGHANISTAN** — Senior Airman Melinda Leal, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, left, visits an Afghan girl with a Soldier friend in an American hospital during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — Tech. Sgt. Jeanine McGrory, 62nd Mission Support Group, left, stands next to Capt. Randall Church, the deployed mission systems flight commander, underneath a B-1 Lancer after a tour of the aircraft during a recent deployment. Sergeant McGrory works for the 609th Air and Space Operations Center providing information management support, enabling the area of responsibility wartime mission.



# Operation AF broadens career choices for cadet



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

**Cadet Olsowski**

By

**Staff Sgt. Eric Burks**  
62nd Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs

For one Air Force Academy cadet, a recent three-week visit to McChord was a real eye-opening experience.

“My dream aircraft was the A-10 Warthog,” said Cadet Third Class Carly Olsowski, who aims to be a pilot after graduation, “but since I have been at McChord, I have begun to think that flying heavies is the sort of lifestyle that I would like to have.”

Cadet Olsowski was one of 19 academy cadets who visited McChord from June 1 – 21 during the first phase of Operation Air Force, a career-broadening program.

While at McChord, the cadets had a chance to work with different

squadrons and see what life in the operational Air Force was like.

Cadet Olsowski job-shadowed a loadmaster in the 7th Airlift Squadron for the first two weeks at McChord before spending the last week at the 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron in deployment readiness.

“The other bonus (of job shadowing) is that my facilitator’s office was back with the intel guys, so I was able to see a little of what goes on in there since it is on my list,” she said, noting that if she is not selected for pilot or navigator training, she would like to become an auditory intelligence officer.

She said it was a good experience to see the different types of careers and responsibilities of the Air Force.

“This was a great chance to see what the real Air Force is like compared to the only military training I know from the Academy,” she said.

While working with the 7th AS,

Cadet Olsowski participated in activities such as air drop training and local incentive flights, observed security forces demonstrations, and even went to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and back on a short C-17 mission.

“The best experience by far was going to Hawaii,” she said. “It was great to see some of the places that you can go and see while in the Air Force.”

Cadet Olsowski, who unlike many cadets, does not have any family ties to the Air Force, said there were several reasons for choosing to attend the academy.

“I chose to go to the academy because I really wanted to get a great college education without having my parents having to pay a whole lot,” she said. “The academy is the ultimate scholarship because I get the great education, the ability to fly, and a chance to serve my country.”



# Acting secretary shares his perspective with Airmen

By

Ed White

Air Force Space Command  
Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFP) — The U.S. Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do will remain in place, said Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley during a July 1 visit here.

In his first visit to an Air Force base since being named to the position, Secretary Donley held a candid town-hall style meeting with members of Air Force Space Command.

“We are working through the issues confronting the Air Force,” he said, referring to the nuclear enterprise issues and others that caused his predecessor to resign. “We need to build back inner confidence in our Air Force and we need to rebuild our credibility.”

Secretary Donley outlined three perspectives he brings to this position based on his previous experience.

“The first thing you will get from me is joint-ness,” he said. “The Air Force is one part of a big team.”

He outlined some of the ways the Air Force contributes to the ongoing joint fight in Iraq, Afghanistan and the war on terrorism both in the United States and around the world.

“I know the Air Force is contributing lots of mission sets and



Photo by Duncan Wood

**Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley held a town-hall style meeting with members of the Air Force Space Command July 1 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. In his first visit to an Air Force base, he outlined three perspectives for the audience: jointness, support to the war on terror and the welfare of Airmen. He candidly addressed the challenges facing the Air Force, in particular the nuclear enterprise issue.**

capabilities, and it is an impressive array, I can tell you,” the acting secretary said.

A related theme is the support to the war on terrorism.

“This is a priority for this Air Force,” he said. “We have more than 30,000 Airmen deployed around the

world engaged in the war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

One of Secretary Donley’s first acts upon appointment was to visit Walter Reed Hospital and speak with wounded Airmen. From this visit he gained an appreciation of their sacrifices and inspiration from

them as well, as these warfighters all expressed their desire to heal quickly and get back in the fight. He also recognized those who stand behind and support the people on the pointed end of the spear.

His third theme is the welfare of Airmen. The acting secretary said the Air Force is a technology-driven service, but it’s most important asset is the knowledge, experience and commitment of the people who make it all work to support the warfighter.

“The welfare of our Airmen is very important to me, and I will try to strike the best balance in the Air Force budget between equipment needs and our people,” Secretary Donley said.

After addressing his overall concerns, he spoke to the issue closest to Air Force Space Command members right now.

“The Air Force’s credibility has been tarnished, and we need to rebuild it,” he said. “The Air Force leadership needs to develop a roadmap for the nuclear enterprise to put us on the right track for stewardship of the nuclear mission that the defense establishment and the American people expect from us.

“There is no quicker route to recovery than the power of tens of thousands of Airmen and civilians rededicating themselves to the high standards of excellence that have always been the hallmark of the world’s best Air Force,” he said.





Dorm competition judges Tech. Sgt. Shaun Khoenle, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, left, and Chief Master Sgt. Dave Harper, 62nd Operations Group, enter a recreation room in Bldg. 567 after completing an inspection of the patio area.



Judges conduct a walk-through of Bldg. 574 during the random room inspection portion of the competition.

Photos by Abner Guzman

# When DORMS COMPETE ... Airmen win

BY  
Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer



Airman 1st Class Jin Lau, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, describes the available amenities and recent improvements made to a dayroom in Bldg. 567.



Chief Harper talks to Airman 1st Class Kelsey Gainer, 8th Airlift Squadron, a dorm council representative, prior to beginning his inspection of Bldg. 574.

While there are no mortgage payments to deal with, tall grass in the front yard that needs to be mowed or leaves that need to be raked, Airmen living here in the dorms still have responsibilities to attend to when it comes to their living situation.

And the quarterly dorm competition rewards those who take an active role in keeping their living quarters in top shape. The competition is an incentive program established by the first sergeants, the command chief and dorm management to encourage Airmen to take pride in their living arrangement and help maintain a high level of comfort in common areas, said Master Sgt. John Rogers, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant and president of the dorm council for Bldg. 565.

The walk-through for the competition includes an inspection of common areas as well as a random selection of a room in the dorm.

But the competition is more than just about checking if garbage cans are emptied and beds are made, said Master Sgt. John Davidson, the 62nd Force Support Squadron first sergeant who also headed up the dorm council in 2007.

"It's not just clean rooms, it's the whole package," Sergeant Davidson said. "It's about how active the dorm council is and how they're taking ownership and getting involved."

Airmen in Bldg. 565 recently pressure washed the sidewalks and stairwells, planted flowers, changed old window screens

and replaced old floor mats in preparation for the competition, Sergeant Rogers said.

"It's about answering the question of what have you done to improve the dorm," he said. "(Airmen in Bldg. 565) have taken ownership and made it their own. I'm proud of that."

The competition also encourages team building and teaches Airmen from different squadrons to network in order to get things done, Sergeant Davidson said.

"Lots of Airmen don't learn how to network until they get to be an NCO," he said.

In addition to learning how to work together, taking care of the dorm also helps empower Airmen when it comes to taking care of minor maintenance issues and filling out a work order to get things fixed, which can carry over into their day job, Sergeant Davidson said.

The latest results from the competition were announced July 2 as Bldg. 564 won \$1,500 for first place, Bldg. 565 won \$1,000 for second place and Bldg. 567 took home \$500 for third.

The dorm councils will use the money to add amenities of their choice to the dorm's day room.

While the extra money will aid Airmen in their quest to add wireless internet to the day room, it will also go toward keeping the pride at a high level for a building that represents something deeper.

"Whenever DVs come around and take a tour the base, every time Chief Kuck gets a chance to show off the dorms, he does," Sergeant Davidson said. "They are a reflection of our Airmen."

# Air Force athlete earns silver medal at Olympic Trials

EUGENE, Ore. (AFPN) — U.S. Air Force Academy record-holder Dana Pounds placed second in the javelin throw in the finals of the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials June 30 at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore.

Posting a distance of 189 feet 9 inches, Pounds finished just two feet behind the meet's winner, but despite the second-place finish, Pounds missed a spot on the Olympic team as a throw of 198'6" was needed during the qualifying period.

Pounds, a current member of the Air Force World Class Athlete Program, had secured a personal-best throw of 195'6" prior to the trials.

Pounds opened the finals with a throw of 171'2", before posting the 189'9" throw that secured her the silver medal. Although she fouled off three of her final attempts, she added a toss of

188'4" to her evening.

"I truly believe the throw is there," Pounds said after the meet. "I'm not sure why it didn't come out tonight. I've believed for the last six meets that I've thrown in this year, that I've had an 'A' standard throw. I've had more than an 'A' standard throw in me. I think I tried too hard. I don't think I relaxed enough."

Purdue's Kara Patterson won the meet with a throw of 191'9".

Patterson, one of just two throwers who had met the Olympic "A" standard prior to the Trials, will be the lone javelin representative for Team USA at the upcoming Olympic Games in Beijing. Oregon's Rachel Yurkovich placed third with a throw of 185'1", while American record holder Kim Kreiner finished fourth with a toss of 183'5".



U.S. Air Force photo

**U.S. Air Force Academy record-holder Dana Pounds placed second in the javelin throw in the finals of the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials June 30 at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore.**



# Andrews Airman participates in national golf tournament

By

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

BETHESDA, Md. (AFP) — When he was in high school, Senior Master Sgt. Kirk Kessler worked part-time at a golf course in Mobridge, S.D., to earn some cash and play the sport for free. As he mowed the fairways and greens, he didn't think much of the game.

"I played a little bit, but I didn't take the game seriously," he said. "I didn't really think it was a 'manly' sport."

He changed his mind nearly 10 years after joining the Air Force. In 1995, a friend at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., who was an avid golfer reintroduced Sergeant Kessler to the game. Today, Sergeant Kessler has a 12 handicap and loves the game because "it's humbling and challenging, and there's always room for improvement."

Sporting a baseball cap and striped



Photo by Senior Airman Steven Doty

**Senior Master Sgt. Kirk Kessler, left, talks with pro golfer John Rollins during the 2nd Annual AT&T National Golf Tournament July 2 at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md.**

polo shirt with the Air Force symbol, Sergeant Kessler was the only military member to compete July 2 in the Earl Woods Memorial Pro-Am, part of the AT&T National Golf Tournament at the Congressional Country Club.

Originally, Sergeant Kessler was

scheduled to play on a four-person team with the tournament's host, professional golfer Tiger Woods, whose late father, Earl, was a retired Soldier.

"When I first got the word, I was extremely excited... then nervous," Sergeant Kessler said. "After (I got over) that, I just felt honored and blessed to be selected, because it's the chance of the lifetime to play with the number one golfer in the world, and to represent the Air Force and Andrews Air Force Base; it's truly an honor."

After learning Woods would be out for the remainder of the season due to knee surgery following his June win in the U.S. Open, Sergeant Kessler said he was disappointed, but still felt privileged to play in the "best ball"-style tournament.

"I would never have had a chance to do this otherwise; to play at the Congressional (Country Club) with a pro. No matter how you slice it, it's still exciting," he said.

Sergeant Kessler was paired with PGA Tour pro John Rollins for the event, which pairs a professional and

three amateur golfers on a team.

"(He) is a great guy," Sergeant Kessler said. "(Playing with a pro) was a little nerve wracking at first, but once I settled down, it was fun. This was my first pro-am; it was not as intense as I thought it would be. It was really laid back. I had a decent game. I just wanted to have fun and enjoy the moment."

He started his round with a par on the first hole and later birdied a par-4.

Sergeant Kessler said the tournament gave him an opportunity to speak about Air Force missions in Afghanistan and Iraq, and about his personal experiences with his teammates, who included two civilian amateur players.

"I didn't know I was going to play with (Sergeant Kessler), but we had a good time and we just enjoyed the day," said Mr. Rollins, who has five top-20 finishes on the PGA Tour this year. "It was great to play with someone who has put in time and service for our country. He told me a little bit about what he does and what he's done."



# Airmen bring joy through cooking program

By

Beverly Simas

Air Education and Training Command  
Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The apartment-style kitchen on the fourth floor of the Center for the Intrepid in San Antonio was bubbling with excitement recently as the sound of conversation and the smell of delicious foods permeated the air.

The Center, located near Brooke Army Medical Center, provides traumatic amputee patients, severe burn patients and those requiring limb salvage efforts with techniques and training to help them regain their ability to live and work productively.

In the apartment traditionally used to acclimate wounded warriors back to traditional living accommodations, Tech. Sgt. Jason Simas and Staff Sgt. Michael Leo prepared a lavish feast to brighten the spirits of all around. The sergeants, who are enlisted aides to the Air Education and Training Command commander and vice commander, volunteered their culinary talents to support the Airmen and others in treatment and working at the center.

"It is just about (the Airmen) getting to eat and getting to relax," Sergeant Leo said.

The idea for the event began in

March as one Airman visited another.

"I was going down (to CFI) to meet with Staff Sgt. Matt Slaydon," Sergeant Leo said. Sergeant Slaydon was critically injured in October, when an improvised explosive device detonated near him while he was clearing convoy routes, leaving him completely blind and causing him to lose his left arm.

At that meeting, Sergeant Leo cooked an entire lunch including Caribbean-jerk chicken.

"People kept stopping in the kitchen to see what was going on. I ended up feeding about 18 to 20 people," Sergeant Leo said.

The learning and sharing from that experience made Sergeant Leo realize he needed to make this a regular event. He requested the help of a fellow aide; Sergeant Simas.

"I really like the idea and jumped at the opportunity to help," Sergeant Simas said.

With a menu of beef tenderloin covered in a balsamic red wine sauce, French cut green beans, garlic mashed potatoes and a carrot cake, the price of the groceries needed for the elaborate banquet began to escalate.

However, the Randolph Air Force Base Middle Tier Association quickly voted and approved a donation of \$100 to help supply the effort. In addition, Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Page, the 12th Flying Training Wing command chief,

Photo by Beverly Simas



**Tech. Sgt. Jason Simas and Staff Sgt. Michael Leo prepare a meal for Airmen at the Center for the Intrepid recently in San Antonio. Airman 1st Class Kevin Krogh assists in the preparation. The sergeants are enlisted aides to the Air Education and Training Command commander and vice commander. They volunteered their culinary talents to support servicemembers in treatment at the center.**

reached into his own pocket to donate to the cause.

The aides also receive full support from the commanders they serve.

"What is cool about this is that everyone does what they can do to help. People like Mike and Jason are the reason I stayed in the Air Force," said Maj. Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, the AETC vice commander.

Wounded Marine Cpl. Travis

Dodson came in search of "the best steak in San Antonio." He wasn't disappointed, he said.

After the meal, members of the well-fed crowd shared some insight on the event.

"It is nice to know that other people care and want to help," Sergeant Slaydon said. "The brotherhood crosses the different duties. The general's aides cook us a meal that only someone with a star on their shoulder would normally get."



# Pentagon officials reopen bidding on tanker contract

By

John J. Kruzal

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Defense Department officials have reopened the bidding process for a multibillion-dollar midair refueling tanker contract, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said today.

The announcement comes after Government Accountability Office officials last month found improper practices related to the \$35 billion contract awarded in February to the Northrop-Grumman/EADS/Airbus consortium, which prompted a protest from rival bidder Boeing Company.

“Industry, Congress and the American people all must have confidence in the integrity of this acquisition process,” Secretary Gates said at a Pentagon news conference. “I believe the revised process will result in the best tanker for the Air Force at the best price for the American taxpayer.”

Replacing the Air Force as the “source selection authority” is John J. Young Jr., undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics. He is tasked with appointing an advisory committee to oversee the selection of a bidder to supply the modified commercial air-

craft fleet that will phase out the current KC-135 tankers, which are 47 years old, on average.

DOD officials have ordered Northrop-Grumman to stop work on its contract, and a modified request for proposal could be issued as early as this month. The tanker request will remain in “open competition” until a new contract is awarded, which Secretary Gates said he expects will happen before year’s end.

“It is important to remember that this decision does not represent a return to the first step of a process that has already gone on far too long,” the secretary said, referring to the tanker contract as one of the department’s most “time-critical.”

The Boeing protest filed early this year alleged more than 100 violations of proper contracting practices, eight of which were sustained by the GAO, the investigative arm of Congress.

After reviewing the GAO’s decision, Michael B. Donley, acting secretary of the Air Force, said he concluded that the Air Force’s acquisition system is not “fatally flawed.”

“However, the GAO did sustain the protest in eight areas, and this has been sufficient to cast doubt on the Air Force’s management of the overall process,” he said.

While re-bidding the contract will add months to the process, Secretary

Donley said, it offers “the most direct route to complete the competition, achieve a final decision and field the tanker that represent the best value for the warfighter and the taxpayer.”

Secretary Donley, who joined Secretary Gates at today’s briefing, became the Air Force’s acting secretary last month following a shakeup at the top levels of the service branch. The 67-page GAO report that cited “significant errors” in Air Force procurement practices became public nine days into his tenure.

Secretary Donley’s predecessor, Michael W. Wynne, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley resigned in the wake of a report detailing the accidental shipment of four non-nuclear missile trigger components rather than the intended helicopter batteries to Taiwan in August 2006. The erroneous delivery came on the heels of another Air Force incident in which a B-52 bomber flew across the United States carrying six armed nuclear cruise missiles.

“The Air Force needs to rapidly apply the lessons learned from this experience and move forward,” Secretary Donley said of the tanker contract, pressing the need to rebuild confidence in the Defense Department acquisition process. “Other Air Force acquisition decisions

are on the horizon.

“GAO’s conclusions show that even in a large, complex procurement with considerable staff resources and oversight, work accomplished by our contracting personnel, our warfighters and our engineers is not always adequately prepared to withstand the detailed audits and the legal challenges that we can now expect,” he said.

Asked how Defense Department officials will mitigate the chance of a future protest, Secretary Gates said the department will carry out the new process with transparency, open communication, clear expectations and fairness.

“My hope would be that when we reach the end of this process we will have a solution, will be able to reward a contract and get moving with the contract,” he said.

Mr. Young, who will head up the source selection committee, entertained the possibility that new proposals from industry bidders could come with a smaller price tag than their original offers.

“We’ll see what the industry teams propose,” he said. “I think that would probably be the only silver lining in this, is the possibility that both teams decide to sharpen their pencils and offer the taxpayer and the warfighter an even better deal.”

## From HOPE, Page 2

the Berlin Airlift and operations today. During the Berlin Airlift, they flew about 900 sorties per day. Today, AMC crews fly roughly 900 sorties per day worldwide, about one departure every 90 seconds. During the Berlin Airlift, Americans hauled about 4,000 tons of cargo per day, with cargo being “the mission.” Today, we haul almost 2,200 tons per day of cargo, in addition to transporting passengers as we support the GWOT. In fact, today we airlift more passengers on a single day than they did during an entire month of the Berlin Airlift.

When we speak of the “greatest generation” of

Airmen in WWII and compare them to today’s “newest greatest generation” it’s fair to call them both heroes. We’re able to accomplish more today because we stand on the shoulders of the WWII generation. And just like the Berlin Airlift, today’s heroes are not just the aircrews ... it’s all AMC Airmen — ground crews, maintainers, air traffic controllers, logisticians, and many more who provide hope and make miracles happen.

So, when you pause to reflect on the importance of the Berlin Airlift to our nation, do so knowing that you’re part of “the newest greatest generation” and every day you’re helping deliver the standing promise of hope. That spirit of hope is alive and well today, and forevermore for that

matter. Today’s promise of hope rests firmly on the cornerstone of humanitarian relief provided during the Berlin Airlift. The spirit of hope is a commitment to uniting forces and resources to deter aggression and uphold democracy anywhere in the world. Clearly, the benchmark has been set to never, ever, give up on mankind in times of need no matter what the political or military situation may be. The commitment to work together during times of peace and during times of war, the need to provide for the freedom and hope of the human spirit will forever be a priority. It’s you, our AMC Airmen, who are today’s heroes. You are the ones who continue to deliver the spirit of hope around the world ... and that hasn’t changed!



**Rape Aggression Defense course**

A free Rape Aggression Defense course will be taught here throughout the month of August. The classes are from 1 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.

**Hangar party**

There will be a hangar party at 4 p.m. July 18 in Hangar 3 for Team McChord and their families. There will be a Kid Zone with fun for all ages, thousands of dollars in giveaways that will be handed out as door prizes and free food. The Spazmatics, an 80s cover band, will perform live starting at 6 p.m. Delta ramp will be open to Team McChord and their families from noon to 5 p.m. to view the aerial demonstration teams' practices. The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will fly around 2 p.m. For both the practice air show and the hangar party, park behind Bldg. 100 and enter the ramp at the ECP between Hangars 2 and 3.

**Chief's Group scholarship**

The McChord Chief's Group offers a scholarship program to defer the education-related financial obligations of active duty enlisted personnel in grades E-1 through E-5 pursuing mid-level and advanced degrees. Applications can be picked up at the Education Center (Bldg. 851), from any McChord active duty chief master sergeant or from the Chief's Group share point site. Scholarship applications are due by July 25 and can be sent via e-mail to rodney.billinghurst@mcchord.af.mil or given to your group superintendent or any McChord chief master sergeant. For more information, call Chief

Master Sgt. Rod Billinghurst at 982-5817.

**Burger King drive-thru open**

The Burger King on McChord is currently under renovation, with the project set to be finished July 28. The renovation will include new restrooms, new tables and chairs and new counters in the dining room. While the dining room will be closed, the drive thru window will remain open during normal business hours: Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Air Force Marathon**

The 12th annual United States Air Force Marathon is Sept. 20 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Air Mobility Command will again sponsor a team comprised of both male and female runners representing various age groups who compete in the marathon. Team members will be selected based upon submitted AF Form 303. The completed forms should be submitted through your base Fitness Center by July 16. Those selected will be notified by AMC and placed on Permissive TDY for the marathon. In addition to the official AMC competitive team, all others interested in competing in the Air Force Marathon are encouraged to do so at their own expense. Other events include a wheelchair marathon, half marathon, individual 10K and team 10K. Please contact the Fitness Center for additional Air Force Marathon information.

**Quarterly Awards Luncheon**

The Team McChord Quarterly Awards luncheon is 11 a.m. July 31 the McChord Clubs and Community Center. Reservations for seats to the luncheon need to be purchased by July 24. Lunch menu options include a Turkey Croissant sand-



**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](mailto:father.anderson@us.army.mil).

wich and mixed fruit and chicken or regular Caesar Salad. For tickets, contact the unit first sergeant or any designated representative for tickets. For more information call Master Sgt. Bruce McPherson at 982-1092.

**Do you have a story idea? Spread the news in *The NW Airlifter!* Call Public Affairs at 982-5637 or e-mail us at [northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil](mailto:northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil)**

