

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

Vol. 40, No. 31

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

July 25, 2008

INSIDE

Female pioneers of aviation meet,
Page 3

Air Expo 2008 highlights,
Pages 8-9

Fitness Center, HAWC keep Airmen fit,
Page 10

McChord Air Expo 2008 met with huge success

Attendance record shattered, dubbed 'greatest show in the sky' by enthusiastic crowd

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

After the turnstile numbers were tallied, more than 375,000 community members passed through the gates for McChord Air Expo 2008 July 19 and 20, doubling previous expo figures and setting a new attendance record for the base.

"We are extremely proud of the record number of people that attended our Air Expo," said Col. Michael Hornitschek, 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander. "It is inspiring to see how much support our community has for its military, especially us as Airmen. What a great weekend!"

The premier air show in the Northwest, the expo showcased the best of more than 100 static military and civilian aircraft such as the Air Force's newest fighter, the F-22 Raptor and pieces of living history such as the B-25 Mitchell "Spirit of the Pacific". More than a dozen military and civilian aerial acts performed from all around the country, including a bombing of Pearl Harbor reenactment and the United States Air Force world-famous demonstration squadron, the Thunderbirds.

The two-day event drew 377,616 people, allowing McChord to say "thank you" to the surrounding communities for the support they show the base every day. This year's theme, "Freedom, What it Takes!" allowed the community to get a glimpse of the pride, professionalism and capabilities of America's finest.

With clear blue skies, soaring temperatures and dozens of vendors offer-

ing food, drinks and air show souvenirs, the show was a fun-filled family day complete with military and civilian aircraft available to walk into, climb up into the cockpit and dream big.

"My husband and I come every year that McChord has an air show," said Marie Rux, an Air Expo attendee from Tacoma. "We just love coming here and think that it's great they open the base so we can see the planes."

The show was an annual summertime event until 2002 when McChord officials had to cancel due to the high operations tempo the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan produced. It was held in 2003 and again in 2005, then was cancelled for the next two years. Now, in 2008, "We wanted to have the biggest show that McChord has ever put on, and we pulled out all the stops to make that happen," said Maj. Douglas Edwards, Air Expo 2008 director.

In addition to the myriad of flying machines on the ground available to view, touch and ask questions, there were more than a dozen acts to thrill spectators from above. The United States Air Force Academy "Wings of Blue" Parachute Team leapt from a McChord C-17 Globemaster III, performing spirals and head-long dives from 9,000 feet up. Bud and Ross Granley's Dueling Yaks (Yak 18 vs. Yak 55) narrowly missed each other upon taking off from the runway with gasps from the crowd. The F-15 Eagle, piloted by Capt. Sam "Nuke" Joplin from Air Combat Command, performed brilliantly with superior maneuverability and acceleration. Spectators even had a chance to witness history with the Pearl Harbor reenactment team "Tora! Tora! Tora!,"



Photo by Abner Guzman

The McChord Air Expo 2008 crowd pours in around a C-17 Globemaster III on static display July 19 and 20. The two-day event drew 377,616 people allowing McChord to say "thank you" to the surrounding communities for the support they show the base every day. This year's theme, "Freedom, What it Takes!" allowed the community to get a glimpse of the pride, professionalism and capabilities of America's finest.

which swooped down on attack as the pyrotechnics lit up the ground.

The final and long-awaited act to complete the high-flying day of fun was capped by the Thunderbirds. As the Air Force's precision flying team, this unique group of dedicated professionals representing the best of the best in Air Force capability for maintenance and flying, took to the skies in a dynamic display of calculated movements and speed to match. The team did not disappoint, as the crowd cheered and clapped with each pass.

"The whole idea of the air show is to open our gates to the community, to come see their base, come see their military, and for us to say thank you for their unwavering support," Major

Edwards said.

With the last person to leave, the last plane to fly and the last hot dog eaten, McChord's Air Expo 2008 is over. Many dedicated and hard-working volunteers as well as an incredible number of civilian supporters put in a huge effort to make sure the Northwest's finest air show was a great success. McChord officials look forward to the next great summertime family air show, tentatively scheduled for 2010.

"Team McChord planned a world-class event for our community and we exceeded our expectations," said Major Edwards. "We tried to put on one of the best air shows in the country and I think we did it."

McChord's policy on graffiti emphasizes zero tolerance

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

According to base officials, graffiti is against base policy and will not be tolerated. Although there have been limited known instances on McChord, the 62nd Security Forces Squadron will investigate and work swiftly to

find the people responsible and hold them accountable.

"Any graffiti we find will be documented and cataloged in order to locate the perpetrators," said the 62nd SFS investigation section. "Graffiti is considered malicious mischief because it damages government property. It will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

If the perpetrator is a minor, the sponsors or the guardian will be held

responsible, according to the investigation section.

Graffiti is not ever consistent with good conduct. It defaces government property, it has to be cleaned up and it costs money and time to get it off government property, said officials.

It can also offend, with racial or religious slurs and symbols. Graffiti is never appropriate or acceptable on McChord.

"When it [graffiti] has racial over-

tones, it can have a negative effect on the human relations climate on the base," said Staff Sgt. Toby Housey, an equal opportunity technician with the 62nd Airlift Wing Equal Opportunity Office. "You don't know who's doing it and people are always looking over their shoulder and so we have a zero tolerance for graffiti."

If graffiti is spotted anywhere on base, contact the 62nd Security Forces control center at 982-5624.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 77 Low: 52	Hi: 70 Low: 54	Hi: 68 Low: 52

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

Mission Accomplished

Total McChord sorties	9,471
Total flying hours	31,146.3
Cargo moved (tons)	65,239.4
Departure reliability rate	94.4%
Mission capable rate	84.5%
Personnel currently deployed	539
Reservists currently activated	143
(Jan. 1 to Tuesday. Numbers updated Tuesday.)	

Don't miss it ...

Quarterly Awards Luncheon

The Team McChord Quarterly Awards luncheon is 11 a.m. Thursday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. Reservations for seats to the luncheon need to be confirmed before close of business Monday. Contact your unit first sergeant or designated representative for tickets or call Master Sgt. Bruce McPherson at 982-1092.



Airman's Roll Call: Sponsorship program eases transition

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.

Summertime is peak relocation season for the military, and the sponsorship program is one way the Air Force eases the transition from base to base for Airmen and their families.

The sponsorship program is part of the Air Force Individualized Newcomer Treatment and Orientation, or INTRO, program

which is designed to facilitate permanent change of station (PCS) moves by welcoming and assisting newly arrived Airmen and their families. Sponsors provide a valuable service to inbound Airmen. Sponsors can help reduce the stress and anxiety that often accompanies a PCS move through positive, open and honest commu-

nication.

For more information about the sponsorship program, contact your local Airman & Family Readiness Center or refer to AFI 36-2103, INTRO Program.

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

Remember: Every Airman is an Air Force recruiter

By

Lt. Col. Andrew O'Neel

361st Recruiting Squadron commander

I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did at the Air Expo last weekend! As the new commander of the 361st Recruiting Squadron, it was a great opportunity to see our recruiters in action. Did you see them? I saw hundreds of them. All you had to do to spot a recruiter was look in a mirror. Sure, our sharp and professional recruiters were out in force, supported by recruiting tools like the Air Force monster truck and the F-22 Raptor scale model, but when it comes down to it, the single greatest factor in convincing someone to join our Air Force was not the fascinating static displays, the impressive displays of air

power or even our incredible Thunderbirds. It was you.

Whether you're an officer, enlisted, civilian, contractor or family member, from the first moment visitors drove through the gates, we were all on display. Everything we said and did the entire weekend contributed to the public's perception of who we are, and what we stand for. Whether you knew it or not, you were likely influencing someone's decision to join our team. You might not have even been speaking to them directly, but to their uncle, cousin or sister. How did you do? Did you leave the impression that you wanted to?

I was standing in uniform near one of the F-22s when a couple came up to me and the man asked "What's that airplane?" OK, being an Airman I should know this. "Oh, that's the F-22A,

our fifth-generation air dominance fighter," I said. Realizing that she now had her own Air Force tour guide, the woman then asked "So what's this one behind us?" And off we went. I didn't mind at all because it could have been the first time these folks had been on a base and spoken to an Airman, and I was proud to show us off.

My point is that we are ALL recruiters. Everything you do shapes the American public's perception of their Air Force and you can influence a person's decision to enlist — or not.

Your appearance and conduct both on and off-duty reflect on the Air Force, and so do your attitude and the very words you use. Are you intimidated? Don't be. You don't need to be a walking air power encyclopedia — just be yourself, sincere and genuine. And remember, you're the best recruiting tool we have.

The Sharp Airman ...

Salutes smartly: Saluting is a courteous exchange of greeting; out of respect, the junior member initiates. As for moving military vehicles, salutes "must be rendered" to officers in appropriately marked vehicles.

Respects retreat: When in uniform, immediately stop, face flag (or music if no flag is available) and salute at first note of the national anthem or "To the Colors." When in a vehicle, come to a safe stop at the first note. Occupants should sit quietly until the music stops. Those in civilian clothes should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand on their heart.

Editor's note: The Sharp Airman is a leadership tool designed to reinforce professionalism of all Airmen.

Professionals of the week

62nd Medical Squadron

Senior Airman Robert Garvis

Duty title:
Health care support journeyman

Duty section:
McChord Medical Clinic

Hometown:
Alamogordo, N.M.

Why he's super:

Airman Garvis provides administrative support for six primary care optimization teams with 9,000 enrolled beneficiaries. He checks in patients and maintains accurate quality medical documentation in accordance with national, Department of Defense and Air Force requirements. He has played a vital role in the Base Realignment and Closure process, providing training to Army civilians in the newly formed McChord Medical Clinic, bridging the gap between Army and Air Force administrative procedures. He is pursuing his Community College of the Air Force degree in health administration and a bachelor's degree in business administration. Additionally, Airman Garvis was a member of the 62 MDS softball and flag football teams.



Staff Sgt. Chad McGregor

Duty title:
Noncommissioned officer in charge of PHA Clinic

Duty section:
Preventive Health Assessment Clinic

Hometown:
York, Neb.

Why he's tops:

Sergeant McGregor has been a pivotal force in the 62nd MDS and was recently selected NCOIC of the Preventive Health Assessment Clinic. Over the past few months, he was instrumental in the stand up of the Air Force's first active duty Airman's Clinic, a Base Realignment and Closure initiative. In addition, he delivered outstanding support to the Personnel Reliability Program, which was rated "Excellent" or "Outstanding" during multiple Nuclear Surety Inspections. Sergeant McGregor epitomizes selflessness, and recently flew to Washington, D.C., and donated blood marrow to a one-year-old child suffering from leukemia, giving the gift of a second chance at life.



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 Force Support Squadron contributor: Patti Jeffrey

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 McChord 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
McChord AFB, WA 98438
Phone: (253) 982-5637 **Fax:** (253) 982-5025
E-mail: northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil

Female pioneers of military aviation meet at McChord Air Expo

By

Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
62nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

In front of a P-51 Mustang static display, one woman shared what it was like to fly the aircraft in the waning days of World War II. Beside her stood another pioneer, the first operational and combat-ready female pilot of the F-22 Raptor, the Air Force's newest and most advanced fighter aircraft.

Dorothy Olsen, a former Women Air Force Service Pilot, met here Sunday with Capt. Jammie Jamieson, who was supporting an F-22A Raptor static display at the McChord Air Expo 2008.

Ms. Olsen, who recently turned 92, was contacted by Chris Smith, a flight instructor at Galvin Flying Services on Boeing Field, who had read a recent feature article on Captain Jamieson. Mr. Smith then arranged the meeting between Ms. Olsen and the captain.

As a WASP, she primarily flew fighter aircraft in the program from 1943 through the end of the war, said her son Kim Olsen.

"She was qualified on everything the Army flew, as well as some Navy planes," he said.

However, he noted, her favorites were the P-51 and P-38 fighters.

"She felt bombers were like driving buses," Mr. Olsen said.

Ms. Olsen had always wanted to fly

growing up, said her son, and had taken flying lessons in a Piper cub. As soon as she heard about the WASP program, she signed up.

Mr. Olsen said that the pilot wings his mother wore were among the rarest from World War II, with only about 1,000 issued.

The Air Force currently has 13,202 pilots, of which 596 are female, according to Air Force Personnel statistics.

Ms. Olsen said she ferried the planes from factory to points of shipment in the United States, but did not have the opportunity to take any overseas.

"I loved every minute of it," she said.

As the former WASP and current Raptor pilot shared stories and flying experiences, they learned that the two had both flown in the same airspace over at least one town, more than 50 years apart.

Ms. Olson said that one of her favorite memories was flying a P-38 at night over Coolidge, Ariz. She caused a stir when she buzzed the field and "woke the whole town up," she said.

Captain Jamieson, whose call sign is "Trix" (which stands for Aviatrix), related that she spent a week in Coolidge during her junior year at the Air Force Academy learning aerobatics during glider training.

The captain, a Washington native who graduated from Prosser High School in 1996, received her commission through the academy in 2000.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson

Dorothy Olsen, a former Women Airforce Service Pilot, left, talks with Capt. Jammie Jamieson, who was supporting an F-22A Raptor static display at the McChord Air Expo 2008. Captain Jamieson is currently stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, where she is the mobility flight commander for the 525th Fighter Squadron.

She said that she was very inspired by the astronaut program, specifically with their courage in the face of the unknown.

She said she loves flying the F-22, and that aerial "dog fighting" is her

favorite part.

Captain Jamieson is currently stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, where she is the mobility flight commander for the 525th Fighter Squadron.



Finis flight a family affair for WW II veteran

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Although it took nearly 46 years to get an official finis flight, the wait was well worth it for World War II veteran Leonard McReynolds.

Mr. McReynolds, with one Airman grandson sitting next to him on the flight and another blocking the aircraft on the flightline, took a ceremonial finis flight July 18 in a B-25 Mitchell in town for the McChord Air Expo.

The B-25 was just one of the many aircraft Mr. McReynolds, now 90 and living in the Olympia area, flew during his 23-year Air Force enlisted career.

Mr. McReynolds' grandson, Staff Sgt. Dowaine Scott, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, spent nearly three months planning the flight once he found out a B-25 was going to be at the expo. When he broke the news about the flight to his grandfather, the 90-year-old thought it was a joke.

"He hung up the phone on me. Not just once, but twice," Sergeant Scott said with a laugh.

"I thought it was a great opportunity to do something special for him," he said. "He's one of the last of his generation. I thought this was the best way to honor his career."

Mr. McReynolds enlisted in the Air Force in 1939 and was stationed

at McChord (then McChord Field) in 1941. He started as an aircraft mechanic and was later sent to pilot's school, receiving his wings in 1943 at the age of 25. Mr.

McReynolds flew his first mission as a B-17 Flying Fortress co-pilot over Berlin in April of 1944. He went on to pilot 34 more missions over Berlin, all with the 95th Bomb Group. He lost just one member of his crew during the harrowing flights. Mr. McReynolds was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in July of 1944.

Family history was a popular topic on Mr. McReynolds' special day before he boarded the flight. Master Sgt. Stefen Malchow, 62nd Maintenance Group, reminisced of how his grandfather swore him in at both his Air Force enlistment and re-enlistment ceremony, and other family members discussed the three generations of the family that served or are currently serving in the Air Force. The finis flight even jogged a few of Mr. McReynolds' stories of his flying days.

"I've found out more today about his military career than I've known my entire life," Sergeant Scott said.

Despite undergoing recent knee surgery, Mr. McReynolds had no problem climbing up the ladder into the "Pacific Prowler" — a restored B-25 which has played a role in the production of more than 60 Hollywood films. The WW II veteran spent much of the 30-minute flight



World War II veteran Leonard McReynolds signs the inside of the bomb bay doors of a historic B-25 Mitchell July 18 after a ceremonial finis flight.

around the Puget Sound seated next to Sergeant Scott behind the pilots, but when given the opportunity, Mr. McReynolds crawled through the fuselage to the gunner seat in the transparent nose of the aircraft. While seated there, he was treated to an up-close view of McChord as the warbird swooped down over the flightline before its final approach.

After landing, Mr. McReynolds was given a pen to ink his signature inside the bomb doors next to the

many others who made history in the B-25.

"That's our mission — to get this aircraft back to the guys that flew it and have them sign it," said pilot Jim Terry, a retired Air Force major who owns the aircraft.

And although there was no traditional champaign dousing after the flight, the overall magnitude of the moment wasn't lost on Mr. McReynolds.

"That was quite a treat ... wonderful," he said.



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

IRAQ – Senior Master Sgt. Annette Sisseck, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron first sergeant, greets Gen. Burton Field, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey — Capt. James Long, left, and Lt. Col. Scott Start, both 4th Airlift Squadron, pose upon returning from another mission to Iraq during a recent deployment. Captain Long is one of the 4th AS's most experienced instructor pilots and Colonel Start is the squadron's director of operations. Both are key players in the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron's success.



LRS civilian awarded \$10K for bright idea

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Linda Stubbs was merely looking to protect the interest of hard working Americans who pay their taxes and want to see good come from the money.

In the process, she earned a little extra cash for herself.

Ms. Stubbs was recently awarded a check for \$10,000 from the Air Force's IDEA program, an incentive program established to recognize Airmen for their approved ideas that benefit the government by streamlining processes or improving productivity and efficiency, said IDEA program manager Staff Sgt. Tiara Campbell, 62nd Force Support Squadron.

Ms. Stubbs, who's worked in the 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's flight service center for the last eight years, recognized a similar part that kept coming through the center's inventory. An Oxy Control Panel, which was attached to another more expensive piece that was being sent to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, was being discarded even though it just needed to be repaired.

"I saw it as an expensive part being thrown away and my tax dollars going to waste," Ms. Stubbs said.

So Ms. Stubbs did some research and got the code of the part changed so that it will be sent to repair from now on. The idea, which was immediately approved



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

Linda Stubbs, an employee in the 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's flight service center, recently won \$10,000 as part of the Air Force's IDEA program for changing the manual to require this pictured piece to be sent to repair instead of being thrown out.

and implemented, will save the Air Force \$129,931 in the first year, Sergeant Campbell said.

After submitting her proposal to the IDEA program, Ms. Stubbs said she didn't hear any immediate news and it took several months after submitting the idea before she found out it had been accepted and she was going to be awarded the money.

"I was pretty excited," she said.

The flight control office has a culture of looking out for ways to save money, Ms. Stubbs said. After seeing gently used aircraft seats come through headed to DRMO, the office staff alerted leadership that the seats could be fixed and not discarded. A separate workshop to fix the seats was then created, she said.

"When we see things like that, we question it," Ms. Stubbs said.

As for the money she earned for the bright idea, Ms. Stubbs said she spent some on a new video camera and put the rest in savings.

Sergeant Campbell hopes the big payout for Ms. Stubbs will inspire more Airmen to be innovators.

"It's a really good program," Sergeant Campbell said. "I wish more people would submit ideas. I hope this will help."



Senate committee reviews Air Force nominees

By

Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Senate Armed Services Committee members presented a number of questions and challenges to Air Force civilian and military leader nominees Tuesday on Capitol Hill.

Michael Donley, the acting secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, nominated to become the next chief of staff of the Air Force, presented their vision for leading the service if they are confirmed to the new positions.

Also joining the panel was Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Duncan J. McNabb, who was nominated to succeed General Schwartz as the commander of U.S. Transportation Command.

If the committee approves, the nominations will go before the full Senate for a final vote. If the presi-

dent then concurs, he'll offer official appointments to the nominees in the coming weeks, at which time they'll assume their new positions.

Several senators challenged the panel to work to restore the reputation of the service, citing various reports released earlier this year that described a "lack of focus" when it came to certain Air Force missions.

In his official statement, Mr. Donley said that, if approved as the new service secretary, his immediate challenges are to "restore confidence in the Air Force among those to whom we are responsible, build personal and institutional relationships with Congress and the national security community, and undertake actions to address the issues ... that brought us to this point."

Mr. Donley also pointed out that several Air Force officers already had been held accountable for two separate nuclear-related incidents. Some had been relieved of their commands or transferred out of key positions, while others received administrative

punishment.

"Airmen at all levels are ready to put the difficulties of the past few months behind them, to learn the appropriate lessons from these experiences and to move forward," he said.

Committee members asked about the Air Force's way ahead when it comes to acquisition efforts, particularly the KC-X refueling tanker as well as the F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning II, commonly called the Joint Strike Fighter.

"The F-22 is an essential part of the Air Force," General Schwartz said.

The fifth-generation fighter is designed to work with the F-35 in establishing air superiority as the current fleet of legacy fighters continues to age. In response to the number of F-22s needed, General Schwartz said that the 183 currently budgeted won't be enough, but that the 381 Raptors some have reported the Air Force will need may be too many.

"More analysis is needed," the gen-

eral said.

The main priority, however, is to expedite the procurement of a tanker to replace the Eisenhower-era KC-135 Stratotanker, the panel and committee agreed.

Lessons learned from the most recent Government Accountability Office report will help in the acquisition process for the future, Mr. Donley said.

General Schwartz said that Air Force UASs do more than reconnaissance or intelligence missions and the first MQ-9 Reaper mission in Iraq was flown July 21. The Reaper is the first UAS designed specifically to fill an attack role.

Several committee members lauded the Air Force's efforts in supporting alternative fuels options for its inventory. General Schwartz pointed out that the B-52 Stratofortress, B-1 Lancer and C-17 Globemaster III have all been certified to fly with a synthetic fuel blend. He also said the goal is to have every Air Force aircraft certified by 2011.





The Thunderbirds fly over McChord in formation during their first practice before their performance at the McChord Air Expo 2008. The world-famous demonstration squadron performed both days of the expo, eliciting cheers and applause from members of the record-setting crowd of 377,616 for the weekend.

Photos by Abner Guzman



One of the Thunderbirds' maintainers inspects a jet on the flightline after a practice performance.



Maj. Samantha Weeks, lead solo pilot with the Thunderbirds, visits with Issac Aown and his sister Mariela of Fircrest as part of the Special Needs Day held here July 18. Nearly 600 Special Needs guests, their family members and volunteers attended the event, getting the opportunity to view the Thunderbirds' practice and then meet the pilots and crew.



A McChord C-17 drops pallets as part of an airdrop demonstration Sunday. McChord C-17s played an important role in the aerial demonstrations during the expo as the United States Air Force Academy "Wings of Blue" Parachute Team leapt from a McChord C-17, performing spirals and head-long dives from 9,000 feet up. Other aerial demonstrations included Bud and Ross Granley's Dueling Yaks, the F-15C Eagle demonstration and the Pearl Harbor reenactment team, "Tora! Tora! Tora!"

AIR EXPO 2008 highlights



McChord Air Expo 2008 visitors gather around one of the many McChord C-17 Globemaster IIIs parked on the flightline as part of the expo.



McChord Air Expo 2008 visitors walk out of the rear of a C-5 Galaxy. The C-5 was one of the more than 100 static military and civilian aircraft parked on the flightline. Some of the more obscure static aircraft on hand included 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 which features an on-board sensor suite which allows the mission crew to detect, identify and geolocate signals through the electromagnetic spectrum.



Visitors check out the F-22 Raptor, the Air Force's newest fighter. Washington native Capt. Jammie Jamison, a pilot with the 525th Fighter Squadron out of Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, answered questions and talked with visitors as part of the static display. Captain Jamison is the first operational and combat-ready female pilot of the F-22 Raptor.

Fitness Center Annex, HAWC strive to help Airmen stay fit

By

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

With mid-summer turning into end of summer, routines begin to change and health and fitness goals start to slip from mind as other things pile up. While summer is a great opportunity to get out and get in shape, the Fitness Center Annex and Health and Wellness Center here have a great line-up of programs and services to help keep the health conscience and avid fitness gurus on track after the summer months turn to fall.

The Fitness Center Annex has free exercise classes such as Pilates, spin cycle, kickboxing and yoga that are available during lunchtime or the evening.

Additional classes are listed on the exercise class schedule, posted at the center.

"The exercise classes are a great way to stay on track," said Airman 1st Class Mallory Paul, 62nd Force Support Squadron. "We hold them inside the fitness center annex, so even if the weather is bad, you can still get a great workout that is fun and beneficial."

The time, date and location for each class offered is available at the Annex or online, she said.

The Fitness Center Annex also has a family fitness room, allowing parents a way to exercise while keeping an eye on their young children to keep them safe and occupied while doing a workout.

Additionally, the Annex has a variety of cardiovascular and strength training equipment that are available for use. There are treadmills,

upright bikes, cross trainers, stair steppers, a rower and recumbent cycles. The strength training room is equipped with Life Fitness Circuit equipment.

In addition to classes and equipment, the Fitness Center Annex offers a licensed massage therapist available by appointment. Personal trainers are also available by appointment to help set reachable fitness goals, remove those unwanted kinks, improve strength, improve cardiovascular fitness or lose weight.

"We have a lot of resources people can tap into in order to maintain or reach their goals," Airman Paul said. "We encourage everyone to take advantage of it, because except for the massage therapist, everything is free."

Working side-by-side to offer services with the Fitness Center Annex is the Health and Wellness Center. It is located in the Annex, building 726, on the second floor and has on staff a registered dietician, an exercise physiologist, an information manager and a tobacco program and health education manager. Everything from body composition and fitness improvement, nutrition counseling, cooking demonstrations, and hypertension and cholesterol prevention are available with free resources and programs to help.

"We are here to help people reach their health and fitness goals by using a safe and sound science approach," said Patrick Conway, the fitness manager. "Individuals can sign up for classes in healthy living, weight management, tobacco cessation or cooking, among others."

The programs and classes are free to all active duty, spouses,

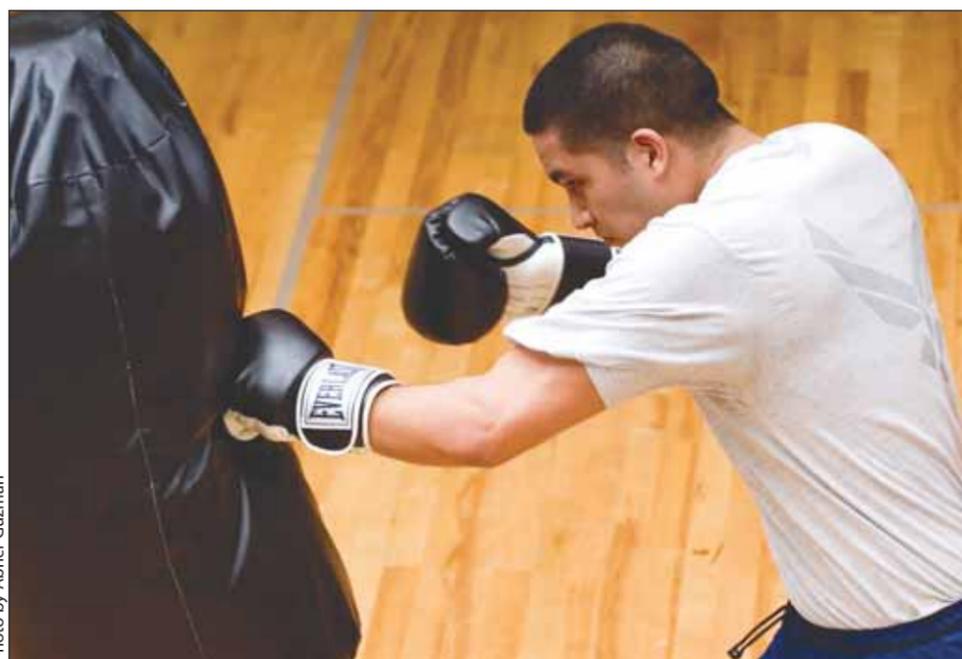


Photo by Abner Guzman

Senior Airman Anthony Zamora, 62nd Communications Squadron, strikes a free-standing punching bag during a workout at the Fitness Center's main gym recently. In addition to the activities available at the Fitness Center, the Annex offers free exercise classes such as Pilates, spin cycle, kickboxing and yoga which are available during lunchtime or the evening.

DOD civilians and retirees, with scheduling available by phone. Those with McChord web access can go online to see when available classes are offered too, he said.

The HAWC conducts a 'HAWC Walk' that meets at the Fitness Center Annex at 11:30 a.m. every Wednesday to walk for an hour. A free pedometer to track steps and a goal sheet is provided.

"If you want more energy, less stress, improved weight and a reduced risk of illness, the HAWC Walk is an excellent start," Mr. Conway said. "Anyone can join us and it's a great way to add more steps to your day."

Additionally, the HAWC has also started a new activity called the 'HAWC Talk'. This is a time set aside the third Monday of each month at 8:30 a.m. for anyone to come in and have coffee, eat fresh fruit and discuss health and wellness issues with the HAWC staff.

For more information, the Fitness Center Annex can be reached on the Web at

<http://www.mcchordafb.us/> or by phone at 982-6700. The Health and Wellness Center can be reached on the Share Point intranet site at <https://62mdg.mcchord.af.mil/62MDOS/hawc/default.aspx> or by phone at 982-5474.



McChord FD, youth center donate soccer balls to Iraqis

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Children in Iraq and Afghanistan will no longer have to kick bags of rocks in the streets instead of balls.

And the McChord Fire Department and youth center are embracing the chance to play a small role in improving the children's living conditions. Along with the Puget Sound chapter of the Kick for Nick Foundation, the fire department and the youth center teamed up recently to collect new and slightly used soccer balls for donation to Iraqi children.

While watching ESPN back in January, Master Sgt. Ray Bunk, an individual mobilization augmentee with the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, saw a story about Pfc. Nick Madaras, a Soldier that was killed in action by an improvised explosive device in 2006. Family,

friends and other Soldiers started the Kick for Nick Foundation in his honor, as Private Madras brought back balls to Iraq for the children upon returning to Iraq after taking leave before he was killed.

"After seeing that piece, my daughter and I decided to start up a chapter of the foundation out here," Sergeant Bunk said.

News of his local chapter spread through the fire department to Sandra Cooper, assistant chief of fire prevention with the 62nd CES.

"We started to collect some balls at home and then we decided to pitch it to the children at the youth center," Chief Cooper said. "This is such an exciting program and we're trying to get as much participation as we could."

The fire department and the youth center teamed up last month to round up more than 40 soccer balls and pose for pictures to send to the children.

"We want to honor that Soldier as well as help those kids," Chief



Photo by Abner Guzman

Sparky the fire dog holds open a bag while youth center employees and children help pack up soccer balls for the Kick for Nick Foundation.

Cooper said.

Sergeant Bunk was floored by the donation of the soccer balls.

"It was a total surprise," he said. "People always see the negative stories on the news ... we're trying to make a difference and build bridges with the next generation of

Iraqis."

The balls are currently all boxed up and awaiting shipment to Iraq and Afghanistan. Sergeant Bunk said the hope is that the children that receive the balls can then take some photos to send back to the youth center.



AMC Airmen keep passengers, cargo moving in AOR

By

Senior Airman Carolyn Viss
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — Air Mobility Command Airmen in Southwest Asia work around the clock to ensure passengers and cargo move in and out of the U.S. Air Forces Central area of responsibility, proudly proclaiming, “You need it, we move it.”

The 255 members of the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron, a tenant unit of one of the largest, most diverse expeditionary wings in the Air Force, is composed of Airmen from 13 career fields who do everything from tracking missions and communicating with aircrew, to cleaning the bathrooms in the passenger terminal.

“Last year, we transported 270,000 passengers and 94,000 tons of cargo,” said Capt. Robert Corley, the director of operations.

Earlier this year, the runway at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, was shut down for repairs for 30 days, and the 8th EAMS team here readily stepped in to take on all of the Operation Iraqi Freedom workload Incirlik passed on.

“All of their normal sorties were flying out of here,” Captain Corley said. “We took 4,600 pallets of cargo into Iraq that month.”

The team of C-17 Globemaster III maintainers, aerial port personnel, command and control specialists, communications/navigation and mission systems journeymen, and supply troops work together as one squadron, to take on a work load comparable to that at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, but with one-third the number of Airmen Ramstein AB’s squadron has.

“It’s been rewarding to get to work as a team and learn each

other’s jobs,” said Senior Airman Jon Houston, a communication and navigation journeyman from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

“The crew here is very capable,” he said. “Pretty much everyone has the attitude, ‘send it our way, we’ll get the job done.’ From every NCO to every Airman, “they accomplish the mission and accomplish it well.”

Even though he’s only been in the Air Force for two years, Airman Houston is responsible for maintaining all the radios and navigation equipment aboard the C-17. The equipment allows pilots to speak to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

“I like the complexity of the job,” he said. “It always makes me feel like I just did something worthwhile.”

Airman 1st Class Veasna Suong, an air transportation specialist who works with the passengers who flow in and out of the terminal, is responsible for passenger accountability, building and palletizing baggage and even cleaning the bathrooms.

“Sometimes people are a bit irritable,” he said, “but I always try to have a positive attitude. They don’t always realize it’s not my fault when a plane is late or has to skip a leg, so I put on a smile and try to explain as best I can.”

The Airmen must also combat the heat and sun while palletizing air freight on the ramp. Staging and uploading cargo, stock and anything that has to go into the area of responsibility, and ensuring it’s tied down properly for airlift and airdrop is backbreaking work, but Airman 1st Class Zachary Weakley is happy to do it, he said.

“I’ve always liked using ‘top heavy’ equipment like k-loaders and forklifts,” he said. “At the end of the day, I’m tired but relieved. If we didn’t move this cargo, troops down range couldn’t stay safe and do their



Photo by Senior Airman Dominique Simmons

Airman 1st Class Veasna Suong ties down palletized cargo in preparation for transportation recently in Southwest Asia. Last year, the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron members transported 270,000 passengers and 94,000 tons of cargo. Airman Suong is an 8th EAMS air transportation specialist.

job so my job is very important.”

The controllers also stay busy, constantly monitoring radio calls, sometimes on as many as three to four missions at a time. Each mission is tracked to ensure everyone who needs to meet the incoming aircraft is in place when it lands. Last year alone, the squadron handled 15,000 missions.

As the director of operations, Captain Corley sees these career fields work together daily and never miss a beat.

“This is one of the best jobs I’ve ever had and one of the best deployments I’ve ever been on,” he said.

“It’s unique because I get to see the full spectrum of operations — from maintainers fixing aircraft to aerial port specialists loading them to controllers launching and receiving them. Everyone has a vital role, and each piece affects the others. It’s a superior squadron of highly-motivated, professional Airmen from who get the job done from start to finish.”



Airframes transform to mobile hospitals

By

Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan (AFPN) — Fixed wing aircraft such as the C-130 Hercules, KC-135 Stratotanker and C-17 Globemaster III, can transform into aeromedical evacuation, or “aerovac,” airframes, allowing medical personnel to care for larger patient loads, over longer distances, at higher altitudes, with a greater ability to care for the seriously injured.

The 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight here,

which is tasked to care for and transport patients from all over Afghanistan to Bagram Air Field, and run missions taking patients out of theater to Ramstein Air Base in Germany, can provide litter space for up to 97 patients in the C-130.

“Most people think medevac all the time even though that is the helicopters. We have no problem with that, however it all depends on missions,” said Tech. Sgt. Alexandria Young, a duty controller for the 455th EAEF.

The crews at the 455th EAEF are mandated to be airborne within three hours of receiving an aerovac request. This involves checking and

loading 800 pounds of emergency equipment and converting the cargo hold of a C-130 or C-17 into a flying hospital.

Despite the daunting time frame, Sergeant Young has seen this complex task performed in as little as 45 minutes, she said.

“(It) is always a team effort, working with the air terminal operations center, fuels shop, pilots and loadmasters,” said Senior Master Sgt. Adam Marks, a 455th EAEF member.

“One of the big strengths of the aerovac mission is to be able to cater to the patients needing critical-care support,” said Lt. Col. Michael Gainer, the 455th EAEF

commander. “Depending on patient acuity, the standard crew of nurses and EMT-trained aeromedical technicians can be augmented with a Critical Care Air Transport Team, consisting of a critical care doctor, critical care nurse and a respiratory therapist. This allows patients to be moved, when required, literally direct from the operating room to the aircraft.”

The Army’s medevac teams remain a valuable resources to deployed members in the area of responsibility, being able to go just about anywhere to rescue injured coalition forces, but the Air Force’s aerovac teams transform medical evacuation to a whole new level.



Defense Department to deliver more, improved childcare

By

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The recent ribbon-cutting at the largest military childcare center underscores the commitment of Defense Department officials to provide more and better childcare for military families, a senior defense official said.

A July 15 ribbon-cutting at Fort Myer, Va., marked the official opening of a new 50,831-square-foot facility that serves children from birth to age 12. The space can serve up to 438 children, with an atrium, activity rooms, computer labs, multipurpose room, kitchen, laundry and space for outdoor activity, post officials reported.

The new center represents another step toward the Defense

Department's goal of opening 20 new childcare centers this fiscal year, said Barbara Thompson, director of the Office of Family Policy's children and youth directorate. By Sept. 30, this will provide 5,025 additional childcare spaces, she said.

President Bush called on Congress during his State of the Union address Jan. 28 to provide more quality-of-life support for military families, including expanded access to childcare.

The result is an accelerated military construction program that squeezes six years of planned childcare-facility projects into fiscal 2008 and 2009, Ms. Thompson said. During fiscal 2008 alone, the department has committed \$210 million to build 20 new centers.

The new facilities bring more capacity to the world's largest employer-sponsored childcare sys-

tem that already serves about 200,000 military children every day at 300 military installations in the United States and overseas, she said.

These centers offer full-day, part-day and hourly childcare, as well as part-day preschools and before- and after-school programs for school-age children. Many operate with extended hours to accommodate long military duty days.

But recognizing that 70 percent of military families live off base, defense officials also are seeking additional childcare spaces closer to their homes where it's more convenient.

"We are looking at growing the number of spaces both on and off the installations, ... and trying to see how we can partner with the civilian community to provide high-quality, accessible childcare space," Ms. Thompson said.

As the military services strive to provide more childcare, they recognize that quality is just as important as access, Ms. Thompson said.

"It is the quality of the arrangement that is critical for children to thrive, and for families to thrive knowing that their children are well cared for," she said.

Military childcare facilities regularly score high marks in the quality of care they provide, Ms. Thompson said. Ninety-seven percent of all military development centers are accredited by a national accrediting body, compared to about 8 to 10 percent of civilian facilities.

"So we have a very high track record of being the model for the nation," Ms. Thompson said. "Not only are we the largest employer-sponsored program in the nation, but also the highest quality."



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.

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 close of business today 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 Billingham at 982-5817.

Burger King drive-thru open

The Burger King on McChord is currently under renovation, with the project set to be finished Monday. 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.

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 to 11 a.m. Monday,

Wednesday and Friday. For community housing assistance, call 982-5517, and for military housing assistance, call 982-5516.

Team McChord Quarterly Awards Luncheon

The Team McChord Quarterly Awards Luncheon is 11 a.m. Thursday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. Reservations for seats to the luncheon will be accepted until close of business Monday. Please contact your unit first sergeant or designated representative for tickets. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bruce McPherson at 982-1092.

Fitness center, annex expanded hours

The Fitness Center and Fitness Center Annex are now offering expanded hours of operation beginning Aug. 1. The Fitness Center will be open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to midnight and weekends and holidays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Fitness Center Annex will be open Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and closed weekends and holidays.

**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**

