

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

Vol. 40, No. 33

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

August 8, 2008

INSIDE

Air Force Ball preparation in high gear,
Page 3

Operation Devil's House tests 5th ASOS Airmen,
Pages 8-9

Four Airmen go for gold in Beijing,
Page 10

Base officials urge safe finish to 101 Critical Days

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

With a little more than three weeks remaining in the 101 Critical Days of Summer program, base officials are asking Airmen to continue to keep safety a top priority throughout the final weeks of the campaign, which wraps up Sept. 2.

Last year from July 29 to the end of the campaign, there were 11 safety incidents, compared to just ten incidents prior to July 29.

The numbers show a possible tendency by Airmen to rush to fit in various recreational activities before the summer and nice weather comes to an end, said Ken Heath, 62nd Airlift Wing chief of ground safety.

"Some may be getting that itch and rushing to get something done," Mr. Heath said. "The rush can lead to a small lapse of concentration, and that's all it takes for us to have an incident."

So far during this year's campaign there have been just seven incidents — all categorized as Class C, Mr. Heath said.

A Class C incident is something

that causes an Airman to be placed on quarters or convalescent leave.

There have been no fatalities Air Mobility Command-wide, he said.

While the incidents this year have occurred both on and off duty, Mr. Heath said a large percentage of the injuries could be prevented by simply knowing one's limits and not taking unnecessary risks.

"We want people to play for fun, but play smartly and take the proper precautions," he said.

Those proper precautions include Airmen keeping leadership informed about any high-risk activity they engage in and keeping an open dialogue about it, said Lt. Col. Rodney Lewis, 62nd AW chief of safety.

"Our McChord senior leaders understand that our most valuable resource our men and women who support the mission," Colonel Lewis said. "Without robust safety programs our overall mission is at risk. The 101 critical days is a program that puts an emphasis on keeping our people safe at one of the most dangerous times in the year. This program has been proven successful throughout the years by teaching our folks how to mitigate risks in their daily activities."



Photo by Abner Guzman

Shedding light

A projector illuminates a slide Monday at the base theater as part of a sexual assault training briefing. The 30-minute briefing focused on bystander intervention and the role it plays during a sexual assault. The mandatory briefings will continue at 7 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Aug. 18 and 19.

Protecting critical network information top priority

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Each day McChord's critical networks are constantly probed for weaknesses — the enemy is always looking for new ways to exploit weaknesses, according to base officials. To further improve the base's security posture, base officials want to provide all personnel with education and awareness of the ever increasing threats to the base's information, assets and base networks.

Three major security programs that most of the base personnel deal with on a day-to-day basis are Computer Security (COMPUSEC), Information Security (INFOSEC) and Operational Security (OPSEC).

"Protecting our computers and the network they connect to is critical today with the advance of technology and the amount of information traversing through the system each and every day," said Ms. Audrey Dubay, the wing's information assurance

officer with the 62nd Communications Squadron.

Phishing is one of the primary means that hackers use to gain access to the networks, she said.

"Hackers pose as legitimate e-mailers then get you to divulge information or they get you to 'click' on a site which allows them to get into your computer and wreak havoc."

To protect vital assets, Ms. Dubay said it's very important to only open e-mails from known sources and to be suspicious of e-mails that seem odd. It is also very important to encrypt all e-mail that contains privacy information or information that is classified as "For Official Use Only," she added.

Furthermore, with the advance of technology the ability to download data onto very small devices has become available.

"The use of USB Storage Devices (thumb drives) have recently become a serious issue due to their small size and the amount of data they store," Ms. Dubay said. "It is imperative that strong controls be in place to prevent these devices from falling into the wrong hands."

According to base protocol, all thumb drives must

be labeled with the appropriate classification; Secret, Confidential or Unclassified. If the device contains personal information, it must be signed out of the office and controlled by the information assurance officer in the unit. If the device contains classified information it must be locked in a safe, inventoried when not in use and controlled as all classified information, according to base protocol.

Finally, the ability to protect critical information; whether via phone, e-mail, or wireless communications, determines how successful the base's missions and military operations are, Ms. Dubay said.

"It is imperative that when we communicate about sensitive information that we do it by secure means and that the data is encrypted so the enemy cannot intercept it," she said. "There are secure phones and encrypted e-mail to help to protect vital information but it is also just as important to not divulge potential critical information to family members or on YouTube and MySpace. We would not tell Osama Bin Laden about our military strengths, movements, or plans on purpose, but if we fail to protect our information that is exactly what we are doing."

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 70 Low: 56	Hi: 65 Low: 54	Hi: 73 Low: 54

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

Mission Accomplished

Total McChord sorties	10,002
Total flying hours	32,656.8
Cargo moved (tons)	70,027.8
Departure reliability rate	94.1%
Mission capable rate	84.3%
Personnel currently deployed	356
Reservists currently activated	203

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

Don't miss it ... Hot Summer Nights

The Hot Summer Night Block Party is Aug. 15 on 5th Street, across from the Fitness Center. The party will feature a car show, live music, the AMC Icon finals and food and beverages. A cardboard boat race at the pool kicks things off at 3 p.m.



Airman's Roll Call: Enlisted Airmen can attend U.S. Air Force Academy through LEAD program

Editor's note: Airman's Roll Call is an Air Force leadership tool designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.

The Leaders Encouraging Airman Development Program, initiated in 1995 by former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald Fogleman, delegates authority to unit and wing

commanders to nominate highly talented Airmen to compete for admission to the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado without a congressional appointment. Upon graduation, cadets receive a Bachelor of Science degree. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31.

Following are some facts about the LEAD program:

- There are 85 slots for active-duty Airmen, and 85 for Reserve and Guard Airmen who qualify for direct

entry into the Air Force Academy.

• Fifty slots are also reserved at the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School for Airmen who do not meet direct-entry criteria. These Airmen can enter the Academy upon successful completion of prep school curriculum.

- For Academy direct entry, applicants must be of high moral character, no older than 23 on July 1 of the year entering the Academy, a U.S. citizen or be able to obtain citi-

zenship before entry in the Academy the following year, be unmarried and have no dependents. For Preparatory School entry, the same criteria apply except applicants must not have passed their 22nd birthday by July 1 of the entry year.

For more information about the LEAD program, contact the base education center or visit the U.S. Air Force Academy Directorate of Admissions at <http://www.academyadmissions.com>.

Exceptional Airmen help inspire future generations

By

Lt. Col. J.R. Twiford
7th Airlift Squadron commander

The Air Force's core values — integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do — guide our service's strategy, which we implement through our three overarching service priorities: win today's fight, take care of our people and prepare for tomorrow's challenges.

Without recognizing specific opportunities to act on these priorities at an individual level, these words may sound as if they explain what someone else should be doing or how the service plans to spend its money back at the Pentagon. But every active duty, civilian and dependent

member of our Air Force family acts on one of these priorities every day.

A main service posture for taking care of people is to recruit and retain the highest quality Airmen. While we have the best professional recruiters in the Department of Defense, the ultimate recruiting effect is the image created by the actions of individual Air Force members that fellow citizens of the nation observe. I am proud to serve with Airmen in the 7th Airlift Squadron that so admirably perform as the "additional duty" recruiters we all are.

An impressive number score perfect 100s on their fitness tests, and project that fighting image silently just by wearing their uniforms in public — inspiring many young men and women that want to look similarly distinguished in ser-

vice of the nation. Many are environmental stewards that not only recycle, conserve energy at home and plan diligently to conserve jet fuel as they fly combat airlift, but also are able to articulate for friends and neighbors the connection of their actions to the Air Force's strategic commitment to pursuing alternative energy solutions for greater efficiency, security and the environment. Imagine — green AND tough! I am humbled by the tremendous character of our squadron's spouses that volunteer to be trained and serve our community in the Phoenix Spouse program; they are living testimony to the value they place on our way of life and the promise this portends to those that would join it in the future.

Thank you for your service, recruiters ... we really are counting on you!

The Sharp Airman ...

Practices common acts of courtesy:

- Gives the senior person (enlisted or commissioned) position of honor, making sure the junior person takes the position to the senior's left when walking, standing or sitting.
- Unless told otherwise, rises and stands at attention when

a senior official enters or departs a room, or in a group setting, calls the room to attention. (In most cases, a senior official is defined as a colonel or above, but it's courteous to rise when any higher ranking visitor enters a room.)

- Makes sure military personnel enter automobiles in reverse order of rank, with juniors entering the vehicle first and taking their appropriate seat on the senior's left. The senior officer is the last to enter the vehicle and the first to leave it.

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

Professionals of the week

8th Airlift Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Gregg Drury

Duty title:
C-17 Globemaster III examiner loadmaster

Duty section:
Standardizations and evaluations

Hometown:
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Why he's tops:

Most recently, Sergeant Drury participated in multiple tests for the Terminal High Altitude Air Defense program. He airdropped a missile that was shot down by an interceptor, marking the first time an air-launched missile was actually shot down. Sergeant Drury is also the squadron's subject matter expert on all loadmaster issues; he holds all qualifications for a C-17 loadmaster. Sergeant Drury would like to move back to the loadmaster flight office after he promotes to master sergeant to help mentor the young loadmaster force.



Senior Airman John McDowell

Duty title:
Airdrop loadmaster

Duty section:
Loadmaster flight

Hometown:
Indianapolis, Ind.

Why he's super:

Airman McDowell recently completed the eight-week Loadmaster Airdrop Initial Qualification Course at Altus Air Force Base, Okla. As the assistant security manager, he is responsible for processing new security clearance requests and periodic reviews to ensure more than 110 squadron personnel are mission ready. Airman McDowell was one of the primary loadmasters during a high visibility mission to Africa, moving essential equipment necessary for a successful visit. His superlative actions led to his selection as the 8th AS Airman of the Quarter.



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 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: classes@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

AF Ball committee bustling in preparations for event

By

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

The Air Force Ball committee is busy organizing and planning for the upcoming Air Force Ball here Sept. 13.

"We are busy now making preparations for a great ball," said 1st Lt. Elisa Van Cise, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron and an Air Force Ball committee member. "We encourage everyone to come participate in the festivities."

The ball will be held in Hangar 9 and is open to active duty, reserve, DoD civilians, retirees and local civic leaders. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 5:45 p.m. A classic buffet will be prepared and served by the McChord Clubs and Community Center staff.

The theme for this year's ball, Berlin to Baghdad: A 60-Year Legacy of Victory through Airlift, was an idea hatched by Lt. Col. Albert Miller, 8th Airlift Squadron commander, to recognize how airlift has played a significant role in the war fighting capabilities of our Air Force.

"The theme is relevant to our base, our Airmen and our nation," said Master Sgt. Brian Baker, 62nd Equal Opportunity office and Air Force Ball committee co-chair. "This year we celebrate the 60-year anniversary of the Berlin Airlift and its impact on World War II. We want to highlight that victory as it continues into

today."

The evening's guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Robert Allardice, a former 62nd Airlift Wing commander and the current director of strategy, plans and policy at U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Following the speaker, "Pop-Offs", will perform to keep the party going until 9 p.m. with their renditions of classic music from the 1960s through the '90s.

Tickets can be purchased beginning Aug. 15 through an electronic prorata distributed by e-mail from wing executives. Tickets will no longer be available for purchase after Sept. 10. The cost of tickets for E-1 to E-6 and GS-6 and below is \$15; E-7 to O-3, GS equivalent, retirees and civic leaders is \$20; O-4 and above is \$25. Enlisted Airmen should wear semi-formal or mess dress uniform. Officers should wear mess dress uniform. Civilians should wear a civilian equivalent. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Capt. Samuel Aston at 982-9450 or Master Sgt. Brian Baker at 982-2925.

To help raise money for the occasion, committee members have organized a golf tournament, which kicks off at noon Aug. 14 at Whispering Firs Golf Course. For E-1 to E-5, the cost is \$35 and for E-6 and up the cost is \$45. There will be approximately 18 holes and four-person best ball. For more information concerning the golf tournament, contact Staff Sgt. Maricel Martinez at 982-5439.



Bringing it home

Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, throws out a ceremonial first pitch Sunday at Cheney Stadium for the Tacoma Rainiers' "Salute to Armed Services Day" game. Colonel Stephenson and other military commanders from all the services participated in the event designed to honor all military members.



Immunizations key for healthy servicemembers, families

By

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

Obtaining proper immunizations against disease is a key factor in sustaining the health of servicemembers, military retirees and their families, senior defense health officials say.

“As an infectious disease doctor, I’ve always felt that a vaccine is that ultimate victory in our war against bugs,” Dr. Michael E. Kilpatrick, the Military Health System’s deputy director for force health protection and readiness programs, said at the Pentagon’s DiLorenzo Tricare Health Clinic during the military’s Immunization Awareness Month kick-off ceremony Aug. 5.

The military’s immunization awareness program mirrors National Immunization Month, which is observed across America each August, and reminds servicemembers, retirees and their families to safeguard their health by keeping their shot records up to date.

McChord immunizations

The clinic is open daily for walk-ins from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and then from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The clinic is closed from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Wednesday and the first and third Thursdays of the month. For more information, call 982-5189.

“I think this month we really want to focus on the full spectrum, from the newborn to the older person, and the importance of vaccines and understanding when those are due throughout your life,” Doctor Kilpatrick said.

Defense Department officials work hard to offer less-reactive, comfortable vaccines that provide tremendous protection for servicemembers, military retirees and their families, Doctor Kilpatrick said.

August is a good time to remind adults to check their personal and children’s shot records, Doctor Kilpatrick noted, because school will soon

begin and the flu season follows soon afterward. Obtaining an annual flu shot remains an important measure, he pointed out, noting that about 36,000 Americans die from the flu each year.

The American military has been in the vaccine business for a long time, Doctor Kilpatrick said. Continental Army commander Gen. George Washington, he said, ordered that his troops be inoculated against smallpox during the Revolutionary War. Today, he added, the military’s vaccination program protects overseas-deployed troops against potential biological threats such as anthrax and smallpox.

Pneumonia vaccine shots provided to older military retirees and their families also are extremely important and are known to save lives, he added. Yet, “because we have the vaccines doesn’t mean they get used,” Doctor Kilpatrick said.

Programs like Immunization Month are important, Doctor Kilpatrick said, because they remind hospitals and clinics to activate customers to obtain needed vaccines.

When working with classified information, keep security in mind at all times! Use approved OPSEC, EMSEC, COMPUSEC and Info Protect facilities and equipment only!



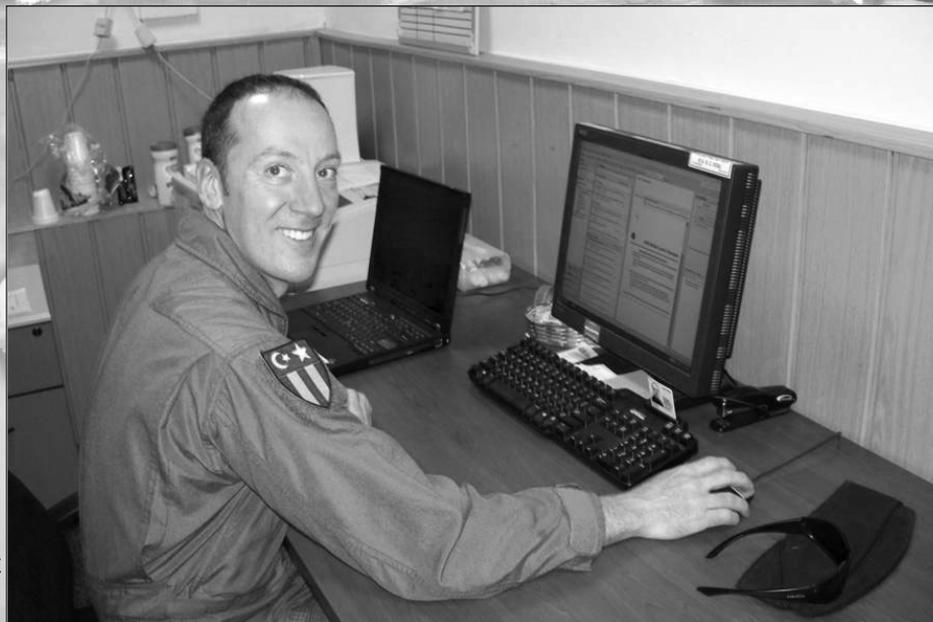
McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

IRAQ – Senior Airman Ronald Rowe, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, drives a K-loader during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey - Master Sgt. Adam Wendel, 4th Airlift Squadron, is one of the evaluator loadmasters currently running the loadmaster office in the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron during a recent deployment.



Organization helps resolve workplace conflicts

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

There are few career fields — if any — in the Air Force where it is possible to work oneself out of a job.

But Airmen working in the Equal Opportunity office here are well cognizant of that fact, admitting that workplace harmony among the base populous — despite the fact it would make them expendable — would be a welcome achievement.

Until that day comes, however, the EO office is here to resolve workplace conflicts.

The office helps clarify incidents that involve five protected categories of discrimination: race, color, national origin, religion and gender, as well as incidents of sexual harassment.

In addition to the five protected categories, EO also handles ageism and physical and mental disability discrimination for civilians.

In a move that took affect Jan. 1, the office that handled civilian incidents merged with Military Equal Opportunity to form Equal Opportunity, said EO superintendent Master Sgt. Brian Baker.

EO provides an avenue for military members, retirees or family members, federal employees, applicants and former applicants who feel they've been discriminated against to talk their situation over

with the staff to help resolve the conflict.

Each EO technician's job is to conduct interviews, gather facts, analyze data and aid in resolving the situation. While filing a formal complaint may cause the resolution process to take a bit longer, the office's priority is to make sure those involved can get back to focusing on the job as soon as possible, Sergeant Baker said.

"We try and encourage resolution at the lowest levels," said Staff Sgt. Toby Housey, an EO technician. "But if people are uncomfortable about doing so, we are available."

The person can then either file a formal complaint with the office, or just seek advice about the situation.

Once the complaint has worked its way through the proper channels, EO reports its findings to the appropriate commander for any possible action, Sergeant Baker said.

But the office isn't confined to just researching cases. It plays a primary role in human relations climate outreach; whether it be conducting introductory briefings and commanders calls or overseeing Web-based unit climate assessment surveys.

"We're here as a helping agency to improve the overall human relations climate," Sergeant Baker said.

That proactive approach also includes recommending various training, team building and human relations exercises to units where



Photo by Abner Guzman

Staff Sgt. Toby Housey speaks to Airmen during a recent briefing at the First Term Airmen's Center. Sergeant Housey is an Equal Opportunity technician with the base EO office.

commanders see fit, Sergeant Housey said.

"By encouraging people to participate in the events or go through mediation, we can help them get to the underlying root cause of the problem," he said.

Sometimes the incident can be simply a case of miscommunication, he said.

While each incident has a different end solution, the overall goal of the office remains the same,

Sergeant Baker said.

"Sometimes things that are said aren't just jokes ... they have the ability to affect the big picture," he said. "And the bottom line at that point is that we're dealing with people's ability to focus on their jobs that involve lives and multimillion-dollar hardware."

For more information on the EO office, visit <https://62aw.mcchord.af.mil/awstaff/EEO/default.aspx> on the base SharePoint site.



Airmen at home or abroad have resources to make vote count

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

From the Voting Assistance page on the McChord intranet site to the Unit Voting Assistance Counselors assigned to each unit, there are a multitude of tools and resources on hand to help Airmen cast their ballots in the upcoming local and national election.

Although high deployment rates and operations tempo can sometimes make it difficult for Airmen to cast their ballot, the Federal Voting Assistance Program has several ways to help Airmen vote, said Maj. Gregory Ulrich, the installation voting assistance officer.

Internet sites created by the Air Force Personnel Center and Federal Voting Assistance Program allow service members to obtain voting information, register online, and, in many states, check the status of their registration and absentee ballot.

Advances in technology have made registering and voting easier for military members and their families, Major Ulrich said.

"This is an extremely important election year," he said. "Come



November, voters will decide who will lead us into the future. As military members and Department of Defense civilians supporting McChord, this is especially true in that we will be electing a new commander in chief along with state and local officials."

Military members and Department of Defense civilians also have unit voting assistance officers to provide personal support both at home and abroad. McChord has many UVAOs

who are trained to assist military members and their families with voter registration and absentee ballots. For a complete listing of UVAOs and many other important pieces of voting information, users can visit

the McChord Share Point site at: <https://62aw.mcchord.af.mil/VotingAssistance/default.aspx/>.

In a memorandum to military secretaries and top commanders sent in November, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates underscored the importance of extending voting rights to servicemembers at home and abroad.

"It is important that the department and the services be prepared to carry out the voting assistance mis-

sion to inform and educate U.S. citizens of the right to vote, foster voting participation and protect the integrity of the electoral process," Secretary Gates said.

The first week of September is Armed Forces Voters Week, and UVAOs will man booths in high-traffic areas such as the BX, commissary, clinic and Child Development Center to assist with registering, receiving absentee ballots and obtaining voting information. State election officials will also be available at some locations to assist those registered locally.

For Washington residents, the Top 2 Primary will be held Aug. 19. Residents do not need to declare a party preference to vote in this primary, however, they do need to be a registered voter in the state of Washington. For more information, visit <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/>.

(Information from an American Forces Press Service story was used in this article.)



Operation Devil's House hits mark

5th Air Support Operations Squadron's large-scale training exercise gives Airmen feel for combat operations

There were three days of meticulous preparation that included pouring over aerial terrain photos, discussing job assignments and going over courses of action should there be an ambush.

During the actual mission, the nearly 40 Airmen executed air assaults, fought off insurgents, conducted medivacs and called in simulated air support.

And while Operation Devil's House took place in the back woods of Fort Lewis in late June and not a remote province of Iraq or Afghanistan, each Airman from the 5th Air Support Operations Squadron treated it exactly like a real mission.

The day-long training exercise took nearly three months of planning and was designed to give the newer members of the squadron who have yet to

deploy a basic understanding of how each mission is executed, said Senior Airman Mike Wilhelm, a 5th ASOS joint terminal air controller who put together the training exercise.

"Since we work primarily with the Strykers, the exer-

cise gave everybody a taste of what we could do when we're deployed," Airman Wilhelm said. "With our job you have to adapt with what's going on around you and know what to do when various types of situations come up."

It also helped Airmen new to the squadron get a feel for what it takes to build trust with senior members of the squadron who have been through combat situations, said Master Sgt. Brian Wilchenski, 5th ASOS superintendent.

"It's an evaluation process, especially for the young guys," Sergeant Wilchenski said. "It helps build trust and forces them to take all their training and put it into one package out there."

Due to the high operations tempo and the frequency of deployments within the 5th ASOS, the squadron usually only gets to do a large-scale training exercise once a year, Sergeant Wilchenski said. But it teaches valuable lessons to those who get the chance to participate, he said.

"It shows the new guys a little bit what it's like to react to an ambush, conduct various medical procedures in the battlefield and call in air support," Sergeant Wilchenski said.

The extensive briefings leading up to the exercise went over what each Airman will do within the unit and how to react to each situation.

"That way there isn't a lot of question marks once they get out there," Sergeant Wilchenski said. And while no training scenario can exactly duplicate a battlefield environment and what exact situations Airmen will face downrange, the Operation Devil's House was deemed a huge success, said Airman Wilhelm.

"It was real impressive to see how well things went," he said. "It showed us how well our new guys have been trained and really gives credit to the system and the guys that trained them."

875

BY
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff Writer



TACP Airmen scan the perimeter for hostiles while exiting a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during a simulated air assault on Fort Lewis as part of Operation Devil's House.



Photos by Abner Guzman

Senior Airman Joshua Howard, 5th ASOS, utilizes a compass and map to navigate the terrain on Fort Lewis as part of the training exercise. The TACP's primary role is to direct combat strike aircraft against enemy targets and coordinate artillery fire with air strikes.



Airman Howard, right, prepares radio communication equipment for the exercise while other 5th ASOS Airmen look on.



Tactical Air Party Control Airmen assigned to the 5th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Lewis walk out of a hangar at the post to a waiting CH-47 Chinook helicopter in preparation of Operation Devil's House, a one-day exercise designed to prepare Airmen for deployment.



5th ASOS Airmen conduct a walking patrol of a road during the training exercise.

Four Airmen to compete in Olympics

By

Tech Sgt. Matthew McGovern
Air Force News

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — Four Airmen will discover how they measure up with the world as they compete at the 2008 Olympics beginning today in Beijing.

Lt. Col. Dominic Grazioli, from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas; Capt. Kevin Eastler, from Buckley AFB, Colo.; and Capts. Seth Kelsey and Eli Bremer, from Colorado Springs, Colo.; will represent the Air Force at the Olympic Games.

“When you’re competing at this level, the biggest competitor is yourself,” Captain Bremer said. “I’m not really worried about other competitors. I’m trying to go out there and have the best day I

can.”

Captain Bremer is currently training for the modern pentathlon; a one-day-event consisting of five disciplines: swimming, pistol shooting, fencing, horseback riding and cross-country running.

During training, Captain Bremer has shooting practice four days a week, fences three to four days a week and horseback rides once a month. He also runs approximately 60 miles a week and swims about 25 miles a week, six days a week.

“Many people say I have the best job out there, they don’t see me throw up a couple of times a week because of training,” Captain Bremer said.

This strenuous training is likely the recipe for producing a medal and Colonel Grazioli, trap shooter,

wants to be on the podium as well.

“Winning a medal at the Olympics would be a tremendous honor,” Colonel Grazioli said. “At this level, any time you can stand on the podium after the competition, you have done very well. It shows that on that day you were one of the best in the world.”

Colonel Grazioli’s background in trap shooting stemmed from the influence of his father who was also in the Air Force.

“My father worked at gun clubs at various Air Force bases while I was growing up,” Colonel Grazioli said. “Having spent quite a bit of time at these ranges as a child, I eventually got the opportunity to shoot. It turns out that I was pretty good at it.”

Colonel Grazioli’s accuracy and the abilities of other military ath-

letes received the notice of leadership from the top. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs recognized and applauded them in an interview July 31 at Washington.

“Wherever I travel around the world — whether it’s Iraq, Afghanistan or even the Far East — I see so many spectacular young people who are members of the military,” said Navy Adm. Mike Mullen. “So, to have these (service-members) competing in the Olympics is certainly a real accomplishment.

“An achievement like this, it’s got to be a peak for them in their career, and certainly we’re very proud of them,” Admiral Mullen said.

The other Airmen, Captain Kelsey, will participate in fencing and Captain Easter will compete in race walking.



Therapists help Iraqi patients gain independence

By

Staff Sgt. Don Branum
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq (AFPN) — An Iraqi man whose leg was shattered two months ago can walk again thanks in part to a team of physical and occupational therapists at Joint Base Balad's Air Force Theater Hospital.

Moqdad laid on a raised bed in the middle of the occupational therapy and physical therapy clinic recently. Nearby, a pair of crutches leaned against a wall, waiting for the Iraqi Marketplace employee to use them for the first time since leaving the hospital. He smiled and chatted with medical technicians as they wove bandages around the pins of a large metal brace known as an external fixator attached to his right ankle.

The physical therapists first saw Moqdad as an inpatient here, said Lt. Col. Lisa Smith, element chief of occupational and physical therapy for the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron here.

"We started therapy with him, trying to get him to walk again," said Colonel Smith, who is deployed from Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "That was the big challenge for us."

Moqdad was accidentally shot in the lower leg, splintering both his tibia and fibula, said Emad, an Iraqi translator and the eldest of Moqdad's six brothers. Air Force surgeons repaired what damage they could and attached the fixator to Moqdad's limb to help the bones heal properly. Then, they released him.

When the hospital discharges a patient, staff members determine what follow-up treatment the patient may need, Colonel Smith said. In



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Epley

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Wilson, right, and Tech. Sgt. Julie Zygulski wrap a bandage around Moqdad's leg during a recent physical therapy session at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Moqdad's case, the follow ups included regular visits to physical therapy.

The OT/PT clinic sees about 300 inpatients per month, nearly 90 percent of whom are Iraqi patients like Moqdad, Colonel Smith said. Physical therapists focus on treatment of spinal and extremity movement dysfunctions, while occupational therapists work primarily with patients' hands.

Colonel Smith's staff works closely with the orthopedic clinic, which installed Moqdad's fixator, so the orthopedic doctors can focus primarily on surgeries.

"Because this is a trauma hospital, we see a lot of patients who would ordinarily go straight to the orthopedic clinic," Colonel Smith said. The OT/PT clinic assumes many of the duties of an

orthopedic clinic stateside, including screening patients and treating injuries that don't require surgery.

While patients at a hospital in the United States get continuing treatment and advice on how to modify their environment to accommodate their disabilities, patients here don't have that luxury, said Maj. James Ronyak, an occupational therapist deployed from the 88th Surgical Operations Squadron at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

"We don't see our patients on an extended basis like we would back in the United States," Major Ronyak said, "but as much as we can, we try to help them get back to full function."

The therapists do as much as they can while their patients are in the clinic. The physical therapy team pulled a set of horizontal bars next to the bed's edge for Moqdad and helped him stand on his uninjured left foot. As he hopped gingerly along the bars, Airmen eased him onto the waiting set of crutches.

Moqdad carefully navigated the room, with Colonel Smith following close behind to make sure he didn't fall backward. Finally, he made it back to his bed and lay down as Airmen took the crutches and examined his injured leg.

Once Moqdad leaves the clinic, however, his continued rehabilitation is up to him.

"We give them whatever they need when they leave the hospital, including illustrated exercises, translated into Arabic," Colonel Smith said. "We go over the exercises ad nauseam with the translators and patients and tell them how important it is to do it."

Most Iraqi patients are grateful for the treatment they receive from Air Force therapists, Colonel Smith said. Moqdad was no exception, as he frequently thanked the medical team in Arabic during his therapy.



Senior NCO Academy class commemorates Sept. 11

By

Ashley M. Wright
Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL-GUNTER AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFPN) — Time stood still at the Air Force Senior Non-commissioned Officer Academy recently as more than 400 people remembered one of the most definitive moments in recent American history.

Airmen in Class 08-Delta unveiled four glass and steel panels on a clock tower in the courtyard of Maxwell-Gunter's University Inn to commemorate the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

The dedication ceremony culminated the class's legacy project to future Airmen attending the schools.

"Each tragic event is burned into a piece of glass and mounted on a side of the clock tower," said Senior Master Sgt. Paul Sharbutt, Class 08-D legacy chairperson. "The time of each event is engraved on the glass, and they are mounted in counter-clockwise sequence.

"We did this to signify going back in time," he said, "but the tower hands on the clock above

are forever set to the corresponding time of each event. This allows us to freeze that time and the history of the event."

Members of the class removed the wrapping on each piece of art as several military members and civilian attendees watched with tears in their eyes, said Chief Master Sgt. Ethel Pressley, the senior academy's director of programs.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley and Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Norman, Air Force Senior NCO Academy commandant, were the first to officially view the completed artwork.

The project began after the class looked over a list of possible legacy projects compiled by the faculty and staff of the academy. The clock tower, plagued with mechanical problems since its installation, remained inoperable until the class took on the project.

The more than 300 members of the class donated more than \$1,500 to pay for the glass, galvanized steel bolts and tubing. Class member Master Sgt. Jeffery Kunkle etched the glass in his dorm room over a four-week period. The title of the work is *Lest We Forget*.

"I could not be prouder as an Airman and an



Photo by Melanie Rodgers

More than 400 enlisted members and guests attended the dedication of the Air Force Senior NCO Academy Class 08-Delta's legacy project. The clock tower memorializes the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001.

artist to have been able to do this," Sergeant Kunkle said. "We stuck with the glass and the steel to keep it understated and remind us of the towers and the lives that were lost that day, and to remind ourselves and future classes of that fateful day."



McChord Chaplain Corps presents:

Discovering God's Way of Handling Money Workshop

Topics include: Debt, Saving, Investing
Honesty, Giving, Work and much, much more

**8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 23
at the Chapel Support Center**

The event includes continental breakfast and lunch.

Registration is due by Aug. 18 and can be completed at <https://62aw.mcchord.af.mil/awstaff/HC>
from military computers only. For more information, contact the Chapel Support Center at 253-982-5556.



Deers/ID section closed

The 62nd Force Support Squadron's DEERS/ID section will be closed Wednesday and Thursday for scheduled maintenance. During this time, the Fort Lewis ID facility is available to assist customers from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The facility is located at Bldg. 2140 (Waller Hall) Room 101 on Fort Lewis. For more information, call 253-967-5065.

AMC Icon 2008

Air Mobility Command Icon auditions begin 6 p.m. Monday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center, with the final competition set to be held during the Hot Summer Nights event at noon on Aug. 15. The competition is open to the entire McChord community: active duty, family members, NAF and APF civilians, Reservists and retirees. For more information, e-mail Community

Cntr@mcchord.af.mil.

Catholic Parish picnic

The annual Catholic Parish picnic is Sunday at the Holiday Park pavilion. The picnic will start following the 11 a.m. Mass in Chapel 2 (Bldg. 181). There is no 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass scheduled for the day.

Holy Day of Obligation

The Chapel will host Assumption: "Holy Day of Obligation", a Catholic Mass at 11:30 a.m. Friday in Chapel 2.

Chapel hosts workshop

The Chapel will host a financial workshop titled "Discovering God's Way of Handling Money" from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 23 at the Chapel Support Center. The event is free of charge and includes

breakfast and lunch. Self registration can be completed on the McChord intranet site at <https://62aw.mcchord.af.mil/awstaff/HC/default.aspx>. For more information, contact the Chapel Support Center at 982-5556.

ROTC opportunity

The Scholarships for Outstanding Airman to Reserve Officers Training Corps offers active duty enlisted personnel the opportunity to earn a commission while completing their bachelor's degree as an Air Force ROTC cadet. Those selected will separate from the active duty Air Force, join an Air Force ROTC detachment and become a full-time college student. Upon graduation and completion of the program, they will be commissioned as a second lieutenant and will then be returned to active duty (typically within 60 days of commissioning) for at least four years. Further information and forms



are available at the following website: <http://www.afoats.af.mil/AFROTC/EnlistedComm/SOAR.asp>. For more information, contact the McChord Education and Training Center at 982-5695.

Fitness center, annex expanded hours

The Fitness Center and Fitness Center Annex are now offering expanded hours of operation. The Fitness Center is 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 is open Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and closed weekends and holidays.

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.

New Housing Office hours

The McChord Housing Office has 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.



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: 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.

