

# The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

September 5, 2008

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# McChord brings help to New Orleans

By

Staff Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson  
62nd Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs

A McChord C-17 Globemaster III provided rapid deployment of a four-man team and their 15,500 pounds of cargo from the 615th Contingency Response Wing at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., into New Orleans International Airport in preparation for Hurricane Gustav Saturday morning.

The 615th CRW opens forward bases and extends existing Air Mobility Command infrastructure in austere environments via rapid forward deployment capabilities and presents a core capability to initial responding forces.

The Airmen from the 10th Airlift Squadron were ready for a quick departure after being put on 24-hour alert the night of Aug. 29 to aid people in the southern United States should Hurricane Gustav make devastating landfall.

"I made the request (Aug. 28) for Airmen to be mobilized in response to this Hurricane," said Col. Leon

Contreras, Department of Defense senior liaison officer for Air Force support of Hurricane Gustav. "In less than 24 hours C-17 Globemaster IIIs started getting me the people and supplies I needed to run our operation here in New Orleans. That's why I love the airframe and it continues to show how invaluable it is to the nation."

Aircrews and C-17 aircraft from McChord and Travis continued to deliver cargo into New Orleans throughout Sunday and Monday.

"McChord's airlift capability and Airmen blend seamlessly with lead federal agencies directing hurricane response efforts," said Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander. "The C-17 is demonstrating how quickly we can bring specialized response teams and massive volume of relief supplies into airfields with limited capability and why our Air Mobility Airmen are the best in the world."

Historically, McChord Airmen have been in the lead of many humanitarian efforts, most recently including relief efforts in the country of Georgia, Americans fleeing Lebanon in 2006, and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson

**A Total Force contingency of active duty and reserve aerial port Airmen from McChord, the 60th Aerial Port Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and the 87th APS at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, load equipment aboard a C-17 Globemaster III for transport to New Orleans International Airport on Saturday.**

Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

McChord aided in the relief efforts of 2005's Hurricane Katrina, evacuating more than

1,100 people from New Orleans and delivering more than 550 tons of equipment, water, food and medical supplies.

## 18th AF visits

By

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

The 18th Air Force commander, a former Team McChord member, returned for a visit to the Great Northwest Aug. 26-28.

"I couldn't be prouder of the Airmen here at McChord," said Maj. Gen. Winfield "Skip" W. Scott III.

General Scott completed his first assignment in the Air Force in McChord's 8th Airlift Squadron as a flight simulator instructor, airdrop and air refueling flight examiner, airlifter director and assistant chief of standardization and evaluation.

On his return trip to the base 27 years later, the general visited various work centers and locations, met with Airmen at the dining facility and toured the consolidated toolkit shop.

He spoke on fighting and winning the global war on terror, McChord's 4th Airlift Squadron participation in the humanitarian aid airdrop to

See AF VISIT, Page 14

## CSAF: Airmen wear blue on Mondays

By

Master Sgt. Dean Miller  
62nd Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs

Starting Monday, the blue uniform is the duty uniform worn every Monday by Airmen, per Air Force policy signed Thursday by Gen. Norton Schwartz, Air Force chief of staff.

"Prior to the events of Sept. 11, 2001, it was common practice for a majority of Air Force members to wear the blue uniform as their duty uniform. While MAJCOM policies often differed, it was also common practice to wear utility uniforms one day a week," wrote General Schwartz. "Post-9/11 we've moved away from our blue uniforms almost altogether and have transformed into an Air Force that wears our utility uniform on a daily basis."

"During our recent 4-star summit, we had several discussions concerning our uniforms, including the wear of our blue uniform on a routine basis. We all agreed that part of our image, culture, and professionalism is instilled in our blues," wrote General Schwartz. "As a result, effective Sept. 8, the blue uniform will be the duty uniform worn every Monday by Air Force uniformed personnel in appropriate career fields and environ-

ments as determined by your installation commander."

The policy arrived at McChord midday Thursday and is being disseminated to Airmen by their leadership at the direction of Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander. Colonel Stephenson welcomed the policy change and noted that the policy underscores General Schwartz' recent emphasis on the basics of being an Airman, specifically, being loyal to those things that have inspired Air Force members for years.



Photo by Durcan Wood

**Gen. Norton Schwartz, Air Force chief of staff, briefs Airmen at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., on getting "back to basics" Tuesday.**

### Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 74 Low: 48	Hi: 73 Low: 52	Hi: 71 Low: 49

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

### Countdown to success

Nuclear Surety Inspection .....	125	days
Rodeo .....	318	days
Operational Readiness Inspection .....	416	days

Don't miss it ...

## Air Force Ball

The Air Force Ball is  
5 p.m. Sept. 13 in Hangar 9.

# Smart use of subtle influences can create positive results

**By**  
Chief Master Sgt. Russell Kuck  
62nd Airlift Wing  
command chief master sergeant

Everyone has the power to influence someone somehow. While some of us thrive on specific role models, we can never avoid the opportunity of subtle influences.

It's important to watch what we say and do at all times. Most of the time, subtle influences happen because we overhear something that was said or become a witness

to how someone acts or reacts to different situations.

As a supervisor, it's important to realize the effect of subtle influences. There are two sides to each influence — positive and negative. Leave those who surround you with the impression that their cup is half-full rather than half-empty.

We're constantly encouraging our Airmen to do the right thing. Lead by example and let your actions speak rather than your words. Too often, I hear of people complaining about where they are and what they're doing instead of

working toward a common goal. Take every challenging situation as a learning experience rather than a gripe session and encourage others to do the same.

How many times have you arrived to a new base, and you hear someone talking about how bad the local area was? Make the most of where you are and what you're doing. If you're bored, get involved in something new and tell your fellow Airmen how much you enjoyed the experience. Such a simple action can go a long way for someone who just arrived on

base.

Be contagious with a good attitude. This may be the easiest way to be a positive influence. Your positive spirit will radiate unto others and, in turn, provide a foundation for them to be a subtle influence as well.

Think of how many subtle influences impact your life on a daily basis. We all have the power to influence others whether we realize it or not. It's time to take advantage of this newfound power and spread the wealth to everyone around us. Hooah.

# Six leadership tips that have withstood the test of time

**By**  
Lt. Col. Rodney Lewis  
62nd Airlift Wing chief of safety

It's hard to believe two months has already passed since my arrival here. Time is racing by, serving in the Air Force's premier airlift wing. To say we're busy is an understatement, but the mission is being accomplished in a safe, efficient and effective manner thanks to dedicated members of Team McChord.

Prior to starting my new job as the chief of safety, I spent some time introspecting about conversations and lessons learned from past commanders, peers and others who have shaped my personal and professional growth. I can honestly say that whatever success I've enjoyed can be directly attributed to the advice, feedback and life tips received from others.

I'd like to share a few personal leadership

nuggets that have withstood the test of "Air Force" time.

**Strive for inclusion:** If the situation allows, as a leader you should solicit input from others prior to making your final decision. Remember, people support what they help create, so get their input, and implementation will be much easier over the long haul.

**Optimize at least two levels above your own:** In other words, think at least two levels above yours. Consider how your boss and boss's boss would view your position on an issue or decision. What's best for your level or organization may not be best for the larger organization as a whole, and that's how your supervisors will view things.

**Work your boss's priorities and issues:** If it's on your boss's scope it may be because it's on his or her boss's scope too. Work those issues first. You'll often have a greater impact to the Air Force at large by accomplishing what

several people above you think is important.

**Be visible:** You shouldn't let your inbox or e-mail drive your calendar. Get out from behind your desk to see what's going on in your organization and personally recognize people for doing a great job.

**Be prepared for the unexpected:** This is probably more important now than ever before in our nation's history. Don't procrastinate. Get your professional military education done early, personal affairs in order and mobility requirements done now. This will allow you to concentrate on executing the mission when others are depending on you to be at your best.

**Your personal standards should exceed military standards:** You will never be criticized for exceeding military standards, customs and courtesies and appearance. You should strive to exceed dress and personal appearance requirements at all times.

## The Sharp Airman ...

**Only wears the uniform in authorized locations and situations. It may not be worn when:**

- uniform items do not meet Air Force specifications.
- participating in public speeches, interviews, picket lines, marches or

rallies, or in any public demonstration when Air Force sanction of the cause for which the activity is conducted may be implied.

- furthering political activities, private employment or commercial interests.
- working in an off-duty civilian capacity.
- it would discredit the Armed Forces.
- in civilian attire. For example; grade insignia, cap devices, badges and insignia and distinctive buttons.

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

## Professionals of the week

### Western Air Defense Sector

#### Staff Sgt. Kourtney Larson

**Duty title:**  
Tracking technician instructor

**Duty section:**  
Anchor Crew and surveillance

**Hometown:**  
Darrington, Wash.

#### Why she's tops:

Sergeant Larson is acting noncommissioned officer in charge of surveillance, where she is responsible for the instruction of all newly assigned operations personnel. She stepped into this role with no notice and seamlessly supervised the instruction of 19 trainees entered into initial qualification training. She also continued to meet her own combat mission readiness requirements in both her positional qualifications of tracking technician and identification technician. Her leadership and expertise have been instrumental in the mission to guard America's skies at WADS. Sergeant Larson has been active in the community and at WADS. She has volunteered hours at a local church and assisted with WADS' annual picnic.



#### Staff Sgt. Ryan McCray

**Duty title:**  
Tracking technician

**Duty section:**  
Anchor Crew and surveillance

**Hometown:**  
Woodbine, Md.

#### Why he's super:

Sergeant McCray came to WADS from the active duty Air Force corps where he served as a crew chief in the 62nd Airlift Wing. Since his arrival at WADS, he has been crucial in the supervision and mentoring of numerous newly assigned enlisted personnel, ensuring others have a smooth transition into the Washington Air National Guard. In October, Sergeant McCray will be attending technical school to become an aerospace control warning systems operator. He has volunteered his off duty time to assist in local church and unit activities.



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# Airmen donating plastic bags supports CDC

By

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

Members of Team McChord from across multiple squadrons led by the 10th Airlift Squadron, have organized an initiative to help save the Child Development Center money on the purchase of plastic bags. Plastic trash cans have been placed at the base exchange, the food court's west entrance and the commissary's main entrance for donations of used or new plastic bags that would normally be thrown away or recycled at a center. The bags will be collected and donated to the CDC for daily use in the classrooms.

"This is a great way to give back to the McChord community," said Lt. Col. James Shigekane, 10th AS commander. "We are pleased to be a part of this Team McChord initiative."

The CDC uses approximately 1,000 plastic bags each day to maintain a sanitary environment. Each bag costs 14 to 16 cents at an average cost of \$150 per day and \$750 per week, according to CDC officials. This program to recycle used plastic bags by dropping them at the collection points will save the CDC \$3,000 a month in the purchase of plastic bags.

"The donations have saved the program considerably and enabled the CDC to re-program funds that would have been used to purchase plastic bags, into funding much needed classroom supplies and materials," said Bette Doelger, Airman and Family Readiness Center chief. "We are very appreciative for all the support of the McChord community."

Collection points for the bags are marked with 10th AS logo stickers on the lids of the trash cans and are labeled on the sides for the CDC. In addition to the collection locations at

the BX, the commissary and the BX food court, the squadrons have also established collections points within each participating squadron, where Airmen can donate excess plastic bags without going over to the shopping centers on base.

"Most of the squadrons have a designated point of contact for this program and established collection points, so donating excess bags is convenient for all," Colonel Shigekane said.

The trash cans that are labeled and placed in their specific locations are for plastic bag donations only. Trash and other articles will not be accepted.

"The trash cans are for donating plastic bags to the CDC," said Master Sgt. John Woodard, 10th AS and collection program manager. "We ask that everyone please refrain from putting trash in the collection points and only donate plastic bags that can be used again."



Photo by Abner Guzman

**Plastic trash cans labeled with the 10th Airlift Squadron logo and information about the bag collection program are located at the base exchange, the west entrance to the food court and the commissary. Donations of new or used plastic bags will be collected and given to the Child Development Center for daily use.**

# Legal office now accepting applications for officer law school

By

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

Officers from across all career fields can now apply for this year's opportunity to attend law school and work in the Air Force as an active duty staff judge advocate.

"It's important for McChord officers to consider applying to this program because the JAG corps benefits from having members with broad and diverse experiences. McChord officers are especially familiar with the strategic airlift mission and day-to-day operations of running a base," said Maj. Erik Coyne, 62nd Airlift Wing Judge Advocate office, deputy staff judge advocate. "We want to enhance the legal support we are able to give our commanders."

The funded legal education program is a paid legal studies program for active-duty Air Force officers. The FLEP is an assignment action and

participants receive full pay, allowances and tuition. Applicants must have between two and six years active duty service and must be in pay grade O-3 or below as of the day law school begins. The FLEP is subject to tuition limitations and positions may be limited due to overall funding availability. The Air Force Institute of Technology tuition limit for the fiscal year 2009 is expected to be set at approximately \$10,000 per year.

The excess leave program is an unpaid legal studies program for Air Force officers. ELP participants do not receive pay and allowances, but remain on active duty for retirement eligibility and benefits purposes. ELP applicants must have between two and ten years active duty service and must be in the pay grade O-3 or below at the first day of law school.

"Applicants may choose which school to attend, as long as it meets the tuition cap," said Major Coyne.

Applications for either program are being

accepted Jan. 1 to March 1. Interested officers from all career fields are encouraged to compete.

"Our Air Force missions are constantly changing, and commanders deserve to have access to legal advisors with a broad background of military experiences," said Col. Robin Moro, chief of the Professional Development Division in the Office of The Judge Advocate General. "The FLEP and ELP will ensure that we can continue to maintain a corps of officers whose military experience provides commanders with the highest caliber of legal support."

Both the FLEP and ELP require attendance at an American Bar Association approved law school. Upon graduation and admission to practice law, candidates are eligible for designation as judge advocates. To be considered for FLEP or ELP, applicants must have completed all application forms, and applied (acceptance is not required at the time of application for FLEP/ELP) to at least one ABA approved law school.



# 62nd LRS Airmen support Beijing Olympics

By

Tyler Hemstreet  
Staff writer

While millions of Americans cheered the athletes competing in Beijing as part of the Summer Olympics, one group of McChord Airmen supported the games with a more hands-on approach.

Tech. Sgt. William McConnell, Staff Sgt. Claudia Oneto and Airman 1st Class Leandre Milijan, all Airmen from the 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's material management flight, spent three weeks at U-Tapao International Airport, Thailand, as part of a temporary duty assignment in support of C-17 Globemaster IIIs flying presidential support missions into China.

The group's duty was to maintain its mobile mission readiness spares package in a hangar at the airport and work hand-in-hand with maintenance Airmen to keep the C-17s in the region up and running 24-hours a day. The readiness spares package holds various C-17 spare parts, each one in its own box and featuring a specific part code.

As if working out of an exotic location wasn't enough to get excited about, the scope of the mission also added to the group's experience.

"It was unbelievable being part of history; what we were there for was a part in the bigger picture,"

Sergeant Oneto said.

After a flight computer went bad, the group leapt into action to find a replacement computer to get the aircraft back up and running.

"We really felt like we were part of the maintenance team ... we were all out by the jet and we all had the same agenda," Sergeant McConnell said.

At home station, maintainers routinely call the parts department and then pick up the piece and take it out to the aircraft themselves, Sergeant Oneto said.

"(In Thailand) we were walking it out to them and watching them put it on the plane," she said. "There was no separation with Airmen being on different teams within a squadron. If anybody was in need, you were going to help regardless of what shift or what specialty the job entailed."

In addition to supporting the mission, the Airmen had a chance to soak in the rich local culture of Thailand. That included sampling the food and a riding on an elephant.

"It was fun because you got to feed them while you're riding them," Airman Milijan said.

And while Olympic superstar swimmer Michael Phelps didn't happen to stroll through the hangar on his way back to the U.S., the mission was still a big thrill and a memorable experience for the



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

**From left, Airman 1st Class Leandre Milijan, Tech. Sgt. William McConnell and Staff Sgt. Claudia Oneto, all Airmen from the 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's material management flight, inspect a readiness spares package in the squadron's warehouse. The trio recently spent three weeks at U-Tapao International Airport, Thailand, as part of a temporary duty assignment in support of C-17 Globemaster IIIs flying presidential support missions into China.**

group.

"It opens your eyes to the bigger picture," Sergeant Oneto said. "It

showed how we're another piece of the puzzle. It's good to see that our job is a necessity."



McChord Airmen

# AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

**IRAQ — Senior Airman Jonathon May, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, shows off his "just presented" staff sergeant stripes during a recent deployment.**



Courtesy photo

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Capt. Michael Capozzi, 7th Airlift Squadron, stands next to his brother, Army Warrant Officer Nicholas Capozzi, during a recent deployment.**



# McChord hosts education fair Tuesday

**By**  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

McChord will host an education fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.

Representatives from more than

40 colleges from all over the nation will be present, said event organizer Maria Ennis, 62nd Force Support Squadron.

The event is open to Airmen and their spouses and family members.

"The representatives will be able to answer questions about what programs and certifications their school offers and basically any-

thing else that pertains to it," Ms. Ennis said.

The base previously hosted a smaller scale education fair every quarter, but after a decline in attendance, officials decided to partner with Fort Lewis to create a bigger event and draw in more colleges, said Ken McKay, force development flight chief with the 62nd

FSS.

"By making it a joint venture with Fort Lewis, it made it easier to get the schools that have to travel from longer distances," Mr. McKay said.

College representatives will host tables at McChord on Tuesday and travel to Fort Lewis later in the week as part of its education fair.



Photo by Abner Guzman

## One last flight

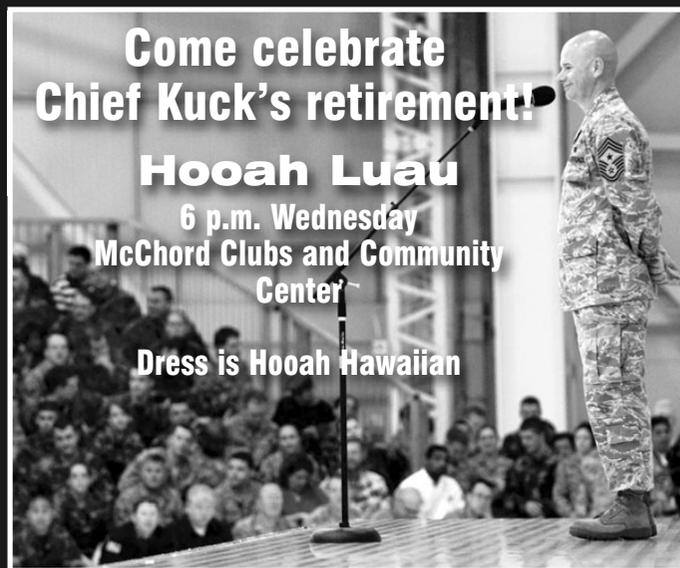
A Douglas C-133A Cargomaster sits on the flightline Saturday before departing here on its final flight. The C-133A ended its flight at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., becoming the newest addition of the Jimmie Doolittle Air & Space Museum. Previously operated in Alaska for 30 years by Maurice Carlson's Cargomaster Corp., the airplane had logged some 18,250 hours and more than 6,100 landings.

**Come celebrate  
Chief Kuck's retirement!**

**Hooah Luau**

6 p.m. Wednesday  
McChord Clubs and Community  
Center

Dress is Hooah Hawaiian



Chief Kuck's retirement is 1 p.m. Thursday in Hangar 5. He will lead retreat at 4:30 p.m. at the base flag pole in front of Bldg 100.



McChord deploys

# Hurricane Gustav response team



Maj. Mike Maguire, a pilot with the 10th Airlift Squadron, prepares for landing while returning from the New Orleans International Airport on Saturday.



Members of the 615th Contingency Response Wing aerial port flight from Travis unload cargo from a C-17 at New Orleans International Airport on Saturday.

**A**nytime, any place,' McChord Airmen put those words into action in the wee hours Saturday morning as they headed off to Travis Air Force Base, Calif., for Hurricane Gustav preparation efforts.

Without knowing what or who they were picking up, the first of three C-17 Globemaster IIIs took off with Airmen from the 10th Airlift Squadron for California. Although it was supposed to be the start of a four-day weekend, these aircrews were ready to answer their nation's call.

"As a premier combat airlift team, most of our missions are overseas; to be called first to help here at home is a deep sense of pride," said Maj. Michael Maguire, 62nd Airlift Wing C-17 pilot and mission commander. "Our Airmen and our aircraft are the most versatile in the world. Holidays, weekdays or weekends our people are ready to respond to humanitarian and combat operations around the globe.

"In this case we're able to be proactive in helping the people of New Orleans evacuate if necessary. We've learned from our past experiences and with the help of airlift assets, and we're enabling our leadership to preposition personnel and equipment at the right place at the right moment should the worst occur," Major Maguire said.

After the hour and forty-five minute flight to Travis, aircrews were met by active-duty and reserve Airmen from the 60th Aerial Port Squadron at Travis and the 87th APS out of Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. There they were tasked to take four members of the 615th Contingency Response Wing and 15,500 pounds of their equipment to New Orleans International Airport, in the heart of the coastal areas destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The 615th CRW opens forward bases and extends existing Air Mobility Command infrastructure in austere environments via rapid forward deployment capabilities —presenting a core capability to initial responding forces.

"It's great to see our Total Force Airmen working together to get this done," said Master Sgt. Shawn Showman, 615th CRW aerial port flight chief. "I remember watching the devastation of Hurricane Katrina on television and remembering the pain of watching my fellow Americans suffer through that. The fact that the Air Force is part of our nation's response to ensure we never have a moment like that in our history again is incredible."

After the aerial port crews loaded the equipment aboard the C-17, it was off to New Orleans. After four-and-a-half hours, aircrews were greeted by Airmen and other lead federal agencies preparing for Hurricane Gustav.

"It puts a smile on my

face every time I see that bird land on the flightline here," said Col. Leon Contreras, Department of Defense Senior Liaison Officer of Air Force support of Hurricane Gustav. "I put in the request for people and supplies Thursday at 8:30 a.m. and I started receiving what I needed in less than 24-hours. I love the C-17, because they can bring what you need anywhere you need it."

After an hour on the ground, the McChord aircrew headed home. On the five-hour flight back to Washington State some had the chance to reflect on what they had just accomplished.

"This is what we do," said Senior Airman Christine Condoleon, a C-17 loadmaster with the 10th AS. "I'm very tired but satisfied. We were able to serve our customers with rapid mobility and prepare our fellow Americans in a time of need."

For one C-17 pilot, 1st Lt. Toni Horrell, this was her first mission in the Air Force.

"It's nice to see all the training we go through be put to use in such a worthwhile manner," said Lieutenant Horrell. "I entered this profession to serve my country and help those in need, and what better way to start my career than on a humanitarian mission in America."

With Hurricane Gustav's pending landfall early Monday morning, McChord Airmen and C-17s remained ready for additional quick deployments to the southern United States. McChord's airlift capability and Airmen blend seamlessly with lead federal agencies directing hurricane response efforts.

"We're extremely proud to help fellow Americans in need, and happy to serve however we can in this time of preparation," said Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander. "These missions highlight the strategic importance of the C-17 and the unique capability of our Air Force. McChord Airmen stand ready to assist in the Hurricane Gustav response effort in any way possible, at anytime, in any place. That's our promise to our command and our nation and we will continue to keep it."



Aerial port Airmen from the 60th APS, the 87th APS, and loadmasters from the 10th AS, load equipment at Travis aboard a C-17 Globemaster III for transport to New Orleans International Airport on Saturday.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Challinor, a flying crew chief with the 62nd Maintenance Squadron, conducts preflight checks for a C-17 at the New Orleans International Airport on Saturday.

# Servicemembers strive to brighten future for Afghan youths

By

Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore  
U.S. Air Forces Central  
news team

QALAT, Afghanistan (AFPN) — Airmen and Soldiers of the Zabul Provincial Reconstruction Team are overhauling a local boy's middle and high school campus to help provide a brighter future for youths in Qalat.

The team worked directly with Afghan community leaders recently to discover sustainable projects that directly improve resident's quality of life.

The undertaking, primarily funded by the Commander's Emergency Response Program, was selected based on the impact it could have on the community.

Since 2003, those deployed to this PRT have been working to build bonds in the local community by forming relationships with key leaders, village elders and contracting construction work through local companies to help stimulate the economy.

"It is important to work with the local contractors because they are really tied into the community. They can make things happen, especially if you get some influential contractors who are tied into the different tribes and the government," said 1st Lt. Adam Lazar, a PRT civil affairs engineer. "It really is a delicate balance between who you choose and your



Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Brown

**1st Lt. Adam Lazar discusses progress on the construction of a new fire station Aug. 10 at Qalat, Afghanistan. As an engineer for the Zabul Provincial Reconstruction Team, Lieutenant Lazar oversees 25 construction projects contracted out to local firms.**

success. If you choose the wrong contractor, your whole project can just be at a standstill because he is working in a different tribal area or does not have the connections in the area to get the project going."

Members of the PRT had numerous conversations with the locals and government officials to determine what assistance they could provide. This summer, the PRT facilitated the installation of a well, electrical upgrade and provided a month of food subsidies for students. Current construction on the grounds includes

adding a sewage system to the school complex.

The scheduled campus improvements also include the construction of a dormitory, allowing the student body to double to 1,800, all housed on the grounds. The CERP is investing more than \$1 million into improvements at the campus.

"Our emphasis here is to push education in the local community," said the lieutenant deployed from Barksdale Air Force Base, La. "This project and others like it are legitimizing the Afghan government to the

locals as well as showing the government's support to the people."

Another key piece to the work being done on the school grounds is a complete overhaul of the soccer field. This project came about after PRT members watched a large tournament take place on the school's wavy, dirt field littered with large rocks.

"There were about 600 people at the game and there was no seating," said Army Sgt. Steve Wentzel, a PRT civil affairs specialist deployed. "We were told other teams hated playing there because the field was uneven. So we took our ideas for a new stadium to the Afghan department of education, and they loved it."

The new stadium will have a leveled field, five-tier seating, locker rooms, bathrooms and space for vendors. The stadium, located on the campus, will be not only be used by students but also for city games and governor's events, as well.

The soccer stadium's location on the school grounds also provides the youths something to do in a secure environment, said Lieutenant Lazar, a native of San Antonio.

As the team travels to the school periodically to review construction progress, they are often greeted by students who circle around them curiously. The PRT's presence on the campus not only allows them to monitor construction but also reinforces their commitment to the community.



# Hydroplanes heat up Lake Spanaway this weekend

By

**Bud McKay**  
62nd Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs

Almost 50 inboard hydroplanes, some hitting speeds up to 140 mph, are expected to be racing Saturday and Sunday at Lake Spanaway.

The Tacoma Inboard Racing Association hosts the annual "Neil Yapachino Memorial Regatta" on a picturesque 1-and-a-quarter-mile liquid oval. Racing starts around 11 a.m. both days. As they've done before, military members can sign up to be honorary crew members for the hydroplanes. There are 30 slots available on Saturday and 30 on Sunday.

Honorary crew members get a free pit pass for the day and will be assigned to a team. No mechanical skills are required. This gives the military members a unique, hands-on and ultra close-up look into hydroplane racing. Previous military honorary crew members have stayed on with some of the teams for other races.

To register for the Honorary Crew

Member positions, contact Bud McKay at budmckay@gmail.af.mil. The honorary crew member positions are available on a first come, first serve basis.

The action on the water promises to be fierce as more than 20 of the hydroplanes competing are battling for national high points titles in their respective classes as the season heads into the final stretches. The viewing area for spectators is the closest one can get to hydroplane racing in the country.

In the 140-mph National Modified class, 2005 unlimited hydroplane Gold Cup champion Terry Troxell, from Gig Harbor, is one of five of the local area racers in the top 10 in national high points expected to compete this weekend.

In the always competitive 5-Litre class, capable of hitting speeds of 115 mph, six of the top 10 boats in the nation are expected to compete. Leading the way is the 2007 national high points champion Wally Johnston, from Helena, Mont. Four other Region 10 racers sit right behind Johnston for the top 5 positions. McChord's Bud McKay



Photo by Chris Denslow

**McChord's Bud McKay races his hydroplane recently. McChord military members have the opportunity to become honorary crew members this weekend.**

will be back on the water for the first time since flipping his "GEICO of Lakewood Presents the Namron Racing Team's" 5-Litre hydroplane in eastern Washington Aug. 17.

Like their 8-cylinder cousins, the smaller 2.5-Litre Stock hydroplanes are chomping at the bit to get on the water. Eight of the top 10 racers in the national high points race in the local Region 10 — and

they're all expected to compete this weekend at Spanaway. Mike Hofhine, from Wyoming, who calls Region 10 home, leads the nation in high points. These smaller, 4-cylinder engines go in excess of 95 mph.

More classes of hydroplanes and flatbottom boats are on schedule including the fan-favorite Vintage Hulls. The race is free to attend.

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



# Senior leaders meet to discuss, decide way ahead for force

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Senior Air Force leaders gathered for a strategic summit Aug. 27 at Bolling Air Force Base to discuss the way ahead for the Air Force as a part of the August emphasis on strategic planning.

“The summit allows us to identify issues that need senior leader review and decide on matters affecting the entire Air Force,” Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley said.

The group — including Mr. Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, assistant secretaries, major command commanders and Headquarters Air Force staff — discussed near-term issues facing the Air Force. Decisions coming out of the summit include a new mission statement for the Air Force.

The new mission statement returns the Air Force to familiar ground. “The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight and win...in air, space and cyberspace.”

While it borrows from the previous statement, this one is shorter, “simple and easy to understand,” General Schwartz said. “This is who we are. It’s what motivates us and drives us to serve.”

The group also decided to halt the initiative to reorganize maintenance functions into operations groups.

Previous global wing reorganization plans included aligning fighter and combat search and rescue maintenance units with their flying squadrons, and forming materiel groups that would encompass maintenance, logistics and aerial port squadrons. Today’s decision means maintenance groups will remain as is.

“This will reduce organizational



Photo by Andy Morataya

**Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley and Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz discuss conference items recently during a strategic summit at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.**

turmoil as we focus on winning today’s fight,” General Schwartz said. He went on to say the goal is mission effective combat support and Airmen are accomplishing just that.

“Independent maintenance groups produce professionals with the highest levels of maintenance and logistics competency,” he said, “and that translates to mission effectiveness.”

Leaders reached consensus that the focus should be on fixing problems Airmen are having with the current uniforms before moving on to new uniforms. The staff will field near-term solutions to correct

issues with the Airman Battle Uniform, All Purpose Environmental Clothing System jacket, and physical training gear.

“We will consider all other uniform initiatives after we fix the issues we have now with the uniforms we work in every day,” General Schwartz said.

While the strategic summit yielded these decisions, senior leaders focused their discussion on winning today’s fight and addressing the priorities laid out by the acting secretary and the chief in past weeks.

“The priorities — reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise, prevailing

in the Global War on Terror, strengthening joint warfighting capabilities, focusing on people and achieving acquisition excellence — are advanced by the decisions reached today,” Mr. Donley said.

Senior leaders received an update on nuclear enterprise matters at the event. An additional nuclear summit will be held in mid-September to discuss the nuclear enterprise roadmap. That discussion will include more dialogue on the Air Force’s cyber mission.

“Cyber operations remain a critical and growing mission area,” Mr. Donley said. “We will continue to develop our cyber capabilities while examining various organizational options.”

Leaders also heard progress reports on other mid-term agenda items including Unmanned Aircraft System manning initiatives, personnel end strength and Common Battlefield Airman Training.

By the end of the year, the service expects to complete an unmanned aircraft system roadmap and a review of the acquisition enterprise. Senior leaders will meet for Corona Fall in October, where they expect to make more decisions on key subjects.

Underlying all of these issues, said Mr. Donley, is how to ensure the right mix of Airmen remain in uniform. Previous force-shaping initiatives planned for the active-duty force to eventually decrease to 316,000, but in June Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said the service had been cut too deeply and called for the decrease in Air Force end-strength to stop at 330,000 people.



# Iraq, Afghanistan airdrops reach all-time high

By

Staff Sgt. Andrea Thacker  
AFCENT Public Affairs - Combined  
Air and Space Operations Center

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFP) — Resupplying U.S. and coalition forces on the ground is a critical logistical component of combat operations. Seven months into 2008, the Air Force has already supplied forces in Iraq and Afghanistan with more than 8.5 million pounds of goods. This surpasses the 2007 total and reaches an all-time high, in what promises to be a historical year for tactical airdrops.

In comparison to airdrops in 2005, the Air Force has dropped more than six times that amount so far this year, and three times the amount airdropped in 2006.

“Airdrop capability is indicative of the asymmetric advantages of airpower throughout the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility,” said Lt. Gen. Gary North, U.S. Air Forces Central commander, and CENTCOM Combined Force Air Component commander. “Our U.S. Air Force and coalition air force’s capability to airdrop supplies to our ground forces in isolated environments allows the collective forces to maintain the pressure on the enemy. In many places in Afghanistan, our airdrops are the sole source of resupply to ground

forces.

“The ability to provide this resupply in both routine and emergency situations is very rewarding for our aircrews and the joint service support crews that prepare the airdrop cargo, from rigging the bundles to loading the aircraft.”

By providing troops on the ground with the necessary supplies, it enables ground forces to promote safety and security for the people in both countries.

“This particular airdrop milestone marks the greatest amount of combat resupply in a single year since hostilities began in 2001,” said Maj. Andrew M. Purath, air mobility division tactics chief at the Combined Air and Space Operations Center. “Our ability to airdrop supplies and equipment from our C-130’s and C-17’s allows us to continually take the fight to enemy ground forces, because friendly forces get the supplies they need, when they need them.”

While airdrops directly support coalition forces, they also help Iraqi and Afghan civilians. Air Force airdrops and those from other coalition nation’s airlifters routinely resupply coalition forces by airdropping cargo such as food, water, fuel, ammunition, medical supplies and building materials. Cargo can be airdropped in a variety of methods, each tailored and mission planned for the specific area and mission specific



Photo by Master Sgt. Andy Dunaway

**Forty bundles of humanitarian supplies are dropped from a C-17 Globemaster III using the Joint Precision Airdrop Delivery System in Afghanistan. Seven months into 2008, the Air Force has already supplied forces in Iraq and Afghanistan with more than 8.5 million pounds of goods.**

requirements.

“The airdrop mission has been focused in Afghanistan, because the lack of infrastructure there has made it difficult to resupply overland,” said Major Purath, a Fairborn, Ohio native. “As coalition forces have increased their presence at forward operating bases throughout Afghanistan, the demand for combat airdrop resupply has increased as well.”

The major said the Air Force’s ability to resupply its personnel can be frustrating for the enemy.

“It has to be frustrating for an enemy to know that we can choose the time and place that we resupply our forces on the ground,” said Major Purath, “particularly when the enemy must receive their supplies from overland sources in some of the most inaccessible real estate on the planet.”



From AF VISIT, Page 1 —

Georgia, housing privatization, Air Mobility Command Rodeo 2009, the future challenges and goals for 18th Air Force and Air Mobility Command, and the joint basing initiative between McChord and Army neighbor Fort Lewis.

“The relationship McChord and Fort Lewis have is a superb relationship. It will continue to grow. We fight jointly today; tomorrow we will fight jointly,” said General Scott. “That is what is so exciting about the future of McChord: Total Force, joint base. We [the Air Force and the Army] will fight together and live together.”

In addition to joint basing, General Scott also spoke about the effectiveness of air mobility in the recent humanitarian airlift of aid to Georgia.

Mobility, he said, contains three functions that are essential: airlift, tanker operations and aeromedical evacuation.

“We move the forces. We move quickly and efficiently. We take care of our forces,” said General Scott. “No other nation in the world can take soldiers wounded on the battlefield and 24 hours later they are at a medical center in Washington, D.C. It is an unbelievable capability our Air Force has.”

The 18th Air Force and AMC’s top priorities are those of the Air Force – winning today’s fight, taking care of our people, and preparing for tomorrow’s challenges. General Scott reiterated these priorities to McChord Airmen during his visit.



Photo by Abner Guzman

**Tech. Sgt. Jason Rickman, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, briefs Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott III, 18th Air Force commander, on Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century trailer initiatives in the consolidated tool kit shop here Aug. 27.**

“The mission, today’s war, is very important. However, our number one resource is our people, our Airmen. It is our responsibility to make sure they are trained and equipped to execute today’s mission,” he said. “At the same time, we need to be looking forward to the future. What are the future wars? What are the requirements for those future wars? How do we adapt our

training today while still maintaining our focus on today’s war and being prepared?”

McChord’s readiness and training continues to include AMC’s Airlift Rodeo. In 2007, more than 45 U.S. teams along with nine international teams competed at McChord to be named the best in their fields and also to be named the overall “Best of the Best”.

“Rodeo brings in our international coalition partners. We build on those relationships that will pay huge dividends in future humanitarian [operations] and conflicts. We share ideas and we share techniques and tactics,” said General Scott. “It is important for Airmen in AMC to build those relationships with their fellow Airmen and also build them internationally.”



### Area Defense Counsel appointments

The ADC is asking customers to call and schedule an appointment instead of entering on a walk-in basis. This will not only help the ADC, but also help clients see an ADC as soon as possible. For an appointment, call 982-2240.

### Makeup sexual assault prevention briefing

A sexual assault prevention briefing is Wednesday at the base theater with four briefings; 7 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The 30-minute training is mandatory for all active duty, Reservists, supervisors of military members and non-bargaining unit civilian personnel. It focuses on bystander intervention. Non-appropriated funds and contracted personnel, as well as bargaining unit civilian employees, are also encouraged to attend. For more information, call Heather Van Mill, McChord's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, at 982-0473.

### Deployed spouses dinner

The Chapel Support Center will host a deployed spouses dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at the Chapel Support Center. All families with deployed or deploying spouses and temporary duty assignments are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 982-5556.

### CAC security concerns

Recently there was an issue reported concerning the scanning of an active duty member's

Common Access Card to receive military discounts. Officials are reminding Airmen to not allow any person in an unofficial government capacity (i.e. commercial businesses, hotel or motel, bank, etc.) to take control of, scan, swipe or photocopy CAC cards.

### 2008 Air Force Ball

The 2008 Air Force Ball is Sept. 13 in Hangar 9 and is open to active duty, reserve, DoD civilians and retirees. 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 organized to recognize how airlift has played a significant role in the war fighting capabilities of the Air Force.

Tickets can be purchased through an electronic pro rata 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. Civilians should wear a civilian equivalent. For more information or to volunteer to help, call Capt. Samuel Aston at 982-9450 or Master Sgt. Brian Baker at 982-2925.



## Faith and Worship Programs

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

The following chapel program takes place at the base chapel support center, Bldg. 746, unless otherwise noted:

**Adult Bible study** is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

### Schedule of worship services

#### Catholic Services:

All Catholic services are in chapel two.

Saturday: 4 p.m. Confession

5 p.m. Mass

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Mass

11 a.m. Mass

#### Protestant Services:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Liturgical worship: Chapel one

9:45 a.m. Sunday school for all ages at the chapel support center

11 a.m. Traditional worship: Chapel one

11 a.m. Contemporary service: Chapel support center

#### Jewish Services:

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

#### Orthodox Activities:

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

#### Other services:

Orthodox Christian Community, Cascade Chapel, Fort Lewis

Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Pre-Communion prayers

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Confession is by appointment only. Call Father John Anderson at 967-1717 or 906-6843 or e-mail [father.anderson@us.army.mil](mailto:father.anderson@us.army.mil).

