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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

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A season of thanks & giving

First sergeants add frozen turkeys to gift boxes for McChord Airmen Nov. 20 at the commissary. Team McChord provided turkey, trimmings and desserts helping 145 Airmen and their families celebrate Thanksgiving.

Photo by Abner Guzman

Take time to pause, reflect on what your service symbolizes

By
Gen. Arthur Lichte
Air Mobility Command
commander

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — The holiday season is a wonderful time to spend with our family and friends. For many, it means packing up and traveling our nation's highways to visit our loved ones. As we enter this holiday season, please take time to pause and reflect on what your service symbolizes to our nation, and take notice that America is profoundly grateful for all you do.

Unfortunately, traffic mishaps during the holi-

day season claim more lives than any other activity we engage in. Before beginning your travel, the smart thing to do is conduct your own personal risk assessment and decide on the best and safest course of action. Once you've completed your assessment, go over your plan with a friend or family member for a quick sanity check. Once your plan is in place, stick to it.

If you plan on hosting or attending celebrations where alcohol is served, remember that alcohol should be consumed in moderation and serving food will help reduce the effects. As an added precaution before the celebration begins, consider the following actions: collect automobile keys, appoint designated drivers, and plan overnight accommodations. Drinking and dri-

ving is never the right option.

If you are out of the local area and encounter unexpected delays in returning to your unit on time, don't push yourself. If you find yourself in this position, notify your supervisor and arrange to return at a later time. We can't afford to have any of our AMC team members push the limit and be involved in a mishap. Your safety is our number one concern. You can help by being your own safety manager.

Let's not forget our single Airmen and the family members of our deployed warriors. Spending the holidays alone or without loved ones can be difficult for anyone. Reach out to them; it could be the greatest gift you give this season.

Make time for family, friends this holiday season

By
Col. Jeffrey Stephenson
62nd Airlift Wing
commander

This week we gather with family and friends to express thanks for the many blessings and freedoms we enjoy.

A grateful nation will also say a silent prayer for the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, whose service and sacrifice guarantee those freedoms.

As our country pauses this Thanksgiving to reinforce ties of family and community, it is my wish that each of you take whatever time you can to stop and

count your blessings, too.

Meeting the needs of today's Air Force oftentimes takes us away from our family and friends. It's their support that helps us provide the DOD a fast, flexible and responsive airlift capability, and for this very reason, we must make the most of the time we have with them. Remember, the Air Force is a career — family and loved ones last a lifetime!

As much as you can, set aside time this long weekend for those closest to you and be sure to call your family back home, wherever they may be, and let them know how you're doing.

Amid the festivities, please do not forget many of our Airmen and

families will be alone during this holiday, some for the first time. Please reach out and take care of one another; a simple phone call can brighten the holiday and reinforce the fact that they are valued part of our Air Force family.

Finally, if you're traveling this weekend, take a moment to pre-flight your plans with a friend or coworker; ensure your car is ready for the trip and get plenty of sleep. I want everyone to return safe and sound after the holiday weekend.

On behalf of Team McChord, my wife Tina and I, as well as our children Greg and Michelle, wish you and your loved ones a very happy Thanksgiving.



Chili gobble

Senior Airman Ryan Willan, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, is served a cup of chili during the Chili Cook-Off held at the base track Wednesday. The cook-off included a one and two-mile walk or run sponsored by the Health and Wellness Center. The 62nd Force Support Squadron also collected donations to benefit the base food drives for Thanksgiving Day.

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Take sensible precautions to ensure this will be a safe and happy Thanksgiving for you and your loved ones.

EDITORIAL STAFF

62nd AW commander: Col. Jeffrey Stephenson
Chief, Public Affairs: Master Sgt. Dean Miller
NCOIC, Public Affairs: Tech. Sgt. Chris Haylett
Chief of Internal: Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
News Director: Senior Airman Kirsten Wicker
Editor: Tyler Hemstreet
Photographer: Abner Guzman
Graphic artist: Lisa Lemmer
62nd Force Support Squadron contributor: Patti Jeffrey

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CONTACT NUMBERS

Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.
Mailing Address: 62nd AW/PAI
100 Col. Joe Jackson Blvd., Suite 1077
McChord AFB, WA 98438
Phone: (253) 982-5637 Fax: (253) 982-5025
E-mail: northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil