

# The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

December 19, 2008

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Photo by Capt. Casey Collier

## Inspection on horizon

In continued readiness for the Prime Nuclear Airlift Force mission, 4th Airlift Squadron Airmen prepare to tie down a nuclear cargo training aid during a recent nuclear airlift mission training exercise. McChord undergoes a Nuclear Surety Inspection in 20 days.

## McChord BAH increases in '09

By  
**Office of the Assistant Secretary  
of Defense Public Affairs**

The Defense Department released the 2009 Basic Allowance for Housing rates Monday. Throughout the U.S., military members receive an average housing allowance increase of 6.9 percent when the new rates take effect Jan. 1. The increase at McChord and Fort Lewis is 9.2 percent.

For Airmen qualifying for BAH with dependant rate, average increases are approximately \$95 per month. Junior enlisted members with dependents, for example, will find their BAH about \$68 per month higher than in 2008, while senior NCOs with family members will receive about \$93 more than last year.

Chief Master Sgt. Cary Hatzinger, 62nd Airlift Wing command chief master sergeant, said it was great news for the new year.

"This is phenomenal for our Airmen who receive the housing allowance," he said. "I haven't seen this kind of increase in years."

Annually, the McChord housing office conducts a joint BAH survey with Fort Lewis. The survey results are routed forward and can result in changes to the yearly rate.

"Our housing office has done a great job in encouraging housing survey participation, which plays a role in housing allowance increases,"

said Chief Hatzinger.

Three components are included in the BAH computation: median current market rent; average utilities (including electricity, heat and water/sewer) and average renter's insurance.

Total housing costs are calculated for six housing profiles (based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms) in each military housing area. The BAH rates are then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without dependents. An estimated \$17.4 billion will be paid to nearly 950,000 service members in 2009.

An integral part of the BAH program is the provision of individual rate protection to all members. No matter what happens to measured housing costs, an individual member in a given location will never see their BAH rate decrease. This assures that members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

In addition, the military services were recently authorized to pay for local moves for military members forced out of a rented home due to their landlord's foreclosure. For more information, service members and their families should contact their installation housing office, or contact Military One Source at 800-342-9647, or <http://www.military-one-source.com>.

For more information on BAH, visit <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah>

## McChord Airman receives Purple Heart

By  
**Tech Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson**  
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Wednesday in Iraq — another routine day — it would be hump day if it weren't for the seven-day work week the Airmen from the 586th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Camp Bucca, Iraq, commit to.

For one security forces .50 caliber Humvee gunner, Nov. 28, 2007 would be more than just another routine day in the combat zone.

While serving as the turret gunner on the lead truck of a Quick Response Force, Staff Sgt. David Kechter, a Strasburg, Colo. native, was struck by an improvised explosive device.

"My headset flew off and my lenses were completely blown out of my safety glasses," said

Sergeant Kechter, a 1999 Strasburg High School graduate. "I fell down inside the turret and lost feeling. I couldn't open my eye and I could taste blood in my mouth."

The truck was filled with dirt and smoke as Sergeant Kechter's team drove as fast as they could out of the blast zone. Their Humvee was badly damaged and stopped working after a few hundred feet. Each of the Airmen was stunned. In the aftermath Sergeant Kechter had suffered a concussion, bloody nose and had shrapnel in his right eye.

"They had to take me to triage," said Sergeant Kechter, the 62nd Security Forces Squadron Armory NCOIC. "They had to use a hypodermic needle to pull the shrapnel out of my eye."

Because of his injuries Sergeant Kechter spent

See **PURPLE HEART**, Page 4



Photo by Abner Guzman

Staff Sgt. David Kechter, 62nd Security Forces Squadron, left, receives the Purple Heart from Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, in a ceremony Monday at the armory. Sergeant Kechter, a Strasburg, Colo., native, was wounded in November 2007 while conducting a combat patrol in Umm-Qasr, Iraq.

### Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 27 Low: 14	Hi: 27 Low: 20	Hi: 34 Low: 26

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

### Countdown to success

Nuclear Surety Inspection .....	20	days
Rodeo .....	213	days
Operational Readiness Inspection .....	311	days

Don't miss it ...

## Happy Holidays!

Christmas is Thursday, and Dec. 26 is an AMC family day.

# Five focus areas define full spectrum mobility operations

By  
**Gen. Arthur Lichte**  
Air Mobility Command  
commander

*Editor's note: This is the second half of Gen. Lichte's article on Air Mobility Command's Five Focus Areas. For the complete article visit [www.amc.af.mil](http://www.amc.af.mil).*

## Here's what's behind each focus area: **Win Today's Fight as Part of the Joint/ Coalition Force**

Winning the fight today with our Joint and Coalition partners is job No. 1. We do this through increased velocity and capacity to deliver to the warfighter the right effect, at the right place and the right time. Many of our previous efforts were focused on this area and remain vital to today's fight.

Although this focus area lists the command's three recognized capabilities as airlift, air refueling and aeromedical evacuation, it is important to acknowledge the mission would not be accomplished without a dedicated and very capable support system.

We must also improve and advocate for global reach laydown — our en route system and worldwide support of contingency operations — with trained, ready personnel and equipment, able to respond to challenging mission requirements quickly and reliably. This mission is essential to our nation's ability to project power and humanitarian assistance.

Command, control and communications systems also must be continuously improved, incorporating diverse information technology systems, providing secure, quality data and lessons learned to inform our leaders as they make decisions.

And as we pursue these challenges, we will keep safety and dependability always in mind. We must protect our force through improved operational information protection, physical communication

and other security measures.

## **Develop and Care for Our Airmen and Families**

AMC will continue to strengthen its military and civilian force, and their families, by promoting health, education, discipline, integrity, and a culture of continuous improvement.

Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, described this focus area best. He said, "I see this as a broader emphasis founded on the notion that our people raised their hand, took an oath, and forever changed their lives in the name of service. They incurred a commitment, and likewise, the Air Force has a commitment to them and their families."

The bottom line is, developing and caring for Airmen and families must remain central to the command's focus.

Our greatest asset is our people. In fact, all industry and military speakers, authors and educators attribute great results to having the right people in the right positions. We must ensure we develop and keep the right people for our crucial mission.

In addition to providing quality housing and dormitories, base services and post-deployment help, we will continue to focus on the professional development of our Airmen, including training, education, health and fitness, promotions, and ensuring the right balance and end strength of our force. We will also focus on expeditionary requirements, ensuring the right footprint forward. It's important that we provide our Airmen with processes that are predictable, stable and dependable.

It's also important to recognize the word 'Airman' includes our total force: active duty, guard and Reserve personnel and our civilian employees. Each person is a vital and important part of our mission.

## **Enhance Nuclear Mission Support**

While AMC has a supporting role in the Air Force nuclear mission, the command's role is just

as vital as any mission and requires continued superior oversight, reliability, manning, training, and nuclear command and control and communications. We will ensure operations, security, maintenance and logistics personnel are properly trained, evaluated and aggressively exercised in order to produce fully prepared generation forces, command and control nodes, and secure mobility capabilities.

We will use recent recommendations from the Air Force Nuclear Task Force and the Secretary of Defense's Task Force on Nuclear Weapons Management to ensure we are fully compliant. We will reinvigorate command-wide support in every aspect of our nuclear mission — Airlift, Air Refueling, and command & control through flawless execution and unwavering dedication to excellence at all levels. Our unfaltering, all-encompassing commitment to our nuclear missions will provide the foundation for success as we revitalize this highly-visible priority. Through this emphasis, along with rigorous self inspections and headquarters inspections, we will enhance our culture of accountability.

## **Optimize Mobility Partnerships**

AMC will continue to pursue opportunities and initiatives with its active-duty, Reserve, guard and civilian partners. This area is unique to AMC as it pays tribute to the fact that our partners bring significant contributions to our overall capability.

And as the lead Air Force command for all Mobility Air Forces, we must continue to pursue initiatives that produce synergies across all MAF providers, including military and civilian employees, as well as industry partners. This includes international Rodeo participation, FMS, host nation partnerships, and more.

It is also in this focus area, and in preparing for tomorrow that we acknowledge our acquisition contributions and ensure that we support the Air Force priority of Acquisition Excellence with trans-

See LICHTER, Page 13

## The Sharp Airman ...

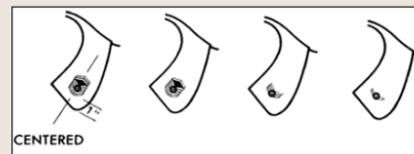
**Reads AFI 36-2903 and is aware of rules pertaining to authorized cold weather uniform wear.**

- Full-length outer garments and light weight blue jacket. Officers center regular size (1 inch) metal rank insignia 5/8-inch from end of epaulet.

- All generals wear 1-inch stars on all uniforms. 3/4-inch stars are optional if unable to wear the 1-inch stars.

- Enlisted Airmen wear 3 1/2- or 4-inch (women) and 4-inch (men) sleeve chevron on sleeves or metal rank insignia on collar.

- Wear metal rank insignia centered 1-inch up from bottom collar, and parallel to outer edge.



## Professionals of the week

### 7th Airlift Squadron

#### Senior Airman Sara Arps

**Duty title:**  
C-17 Globemaster III loadmaster journeyman

**Duty section:**  
7th Airlift Squadron

**Hometown:**  
Roy, Wash.

#### Why she's super:

Airman Arps epitomizes today's enthusiastic and talented Airman. In addition to supporting combat flight missions during the Global War on Terror, Airman Arps was selected to serve in the unique position of supervising contract workers in Kuwait. She also earned both Distinguished Graduate and Academic Excellence awards from Airman Leadership School. She's an active member of the Rising 4 Council and an asset to the 7th AS and the Air Force.



#### Staff Sgt. Morris J. Thornton

**Duty title:**  
Assistant NCOIC operations flight, C-17 loadmaster

**Duty section:**  
7th Airlift Squadron

**Hometown:**  
Germany

#### Why he's tops:

Staff Sgt. Thornton has flown more than 2 million pounds of cargo and 1,000 troops in support of the Global War on Terror and was selected to showcase the C-17 to members of the Korean air force. With great attention to detail, he scheduled 935 combat sorties that safely moved 31 million pounds of cargo. Additionally, Sergeant Thornton is pursuing a bachelor's degree and contributed to outreach efforts at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan.



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# Personnel Reliability Program keeps Airmen sharp

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

To keep McChord's No. 1 "no fail" mission always successful, it takes a great amount of dedication at multiple levels.

While pilots, loadmasters, maintainers and mission planners prepare and fly the prime nuclear airlift missions, a large support team ensures Airmen associated with the PNAF mission are emotionally stable, physically capable, reliable and competent.

The 62nd Force Support Squadron, 62nd Medical Squadron and the 4th Airlift Squadron work together to maintain accurate records of those involved in PNAF through the Personnel Reliability Program and help Airmen abide by stringent standards the program requires.

The records of those Airmen on PRP status are kept separate from all others for added security measures, and they are audited at least twice a year, said Staff Sgt. Yolanda Parker, 62nd MDS PRP manager.

"The Airmen on PRP are always under a microscope," Sergeant Parker said. "We're constantly monitoring them to ensure they remain medically qualified for the program. Due to the importance of the PNAF mission, there's no room for error."

The 62nd MDS is always in contact with the 4th AS and 62nd FSS, ensuring all records are standard-

ized in format and the certifying official is always aware of the status of their PRP members, she said.

The PRP office recently welcomed a staff assistance visit from an inspector from the Navy and nuclear surety office officials as part of annual training to make sure all PRP records are in order, said Tech. Sgt. Kevin Tirrel, PRP manager with the 62nd FSS.

"We received outstanding comments on our organization," Sergeant Tirrel said.

Additionally, 62nd MDS flight doctors and PRP managers routinely remind Airmen that if something happens to them on their off time and they receive medical care at some place other than the base medical clinic or Madigan Army Medical Center, that they are required to notify the PRP manager, Sergeant Parker said.

"It's something they take very seriously," she said. "They're all very aware of what they need to let us know about."

The same level of dedication to the program is also required within the 4th AS to keep the PNAF mission operating at a high level, said Capt. Erin Montague, squadron nuclear surety manager.

In addition to requirements to report any treatment received at off-base locations and taking medications that might jeopardize one's PRP status, Airmen must also identify any personal issues that might affect the mission, he said.

"If anything stressful happens in



Photo by Abner Guzman

Airmen on the personnel reliability program must carefully select approved over the counter medications and check with a PRP manager when there is a question. One example is while standard Tylenol is authorized, Tylenol PM is not.

our lives — whether its involving family or finances — that may generate a question about one's reliability within PRP requirements, it's up to that person to talk to their commander," Captain Montague said.

And Airmen can't be afraid to police each other for the good of the mission, he said.

Because various external factors beyond each Airman's control can

cause one to be temporarily placed on suspension, the non-punitive results encourage Airmen on PRP to be forthcoming with details in their lives that may affect their status.

"We all know how important the mission is," Captain Montague said. "We can't afford nor accept anything less than perfect performance. Mission success depends upon the flawless execution of every step in a continuous process."





## Airman Leadership School




### Class 09-A

## Congratulations Class 09-A!

Class 09-A graduated Dec. 11 from the Julius A. Kolb Airman Leadership School here. Senior Airman Justin Ray, Detachment 1, 10th Combat Weather Squadron was the John L. Levitow recipient. The Leadership Award went to Senior Airman Troy Bame, 62nd Operations Support Squadron. The Academic Achievement Award went to Senior Airman Sara Arps, 7th Airlift Squadron, also a Distinguished Graduate. The second Distinguished Graduate was Senior Airman Joshua Howard, 17th Air Support Operation Squadron. The following Senior Airmen also graduated: Kenneth Acfalle, 62nd Maintenance Squadron; Edwin Aviles, Western Air Defense Sector; Paris Carman, 62nd Security Forces Squadron; Zachary Conat, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Misty Croft, 446th Airlift Control Flight; Sean P Draney, 62nd OSS; Adam Hardy, 10th AS; Chad Henderson, 62nd AMXS; Aaron Henry, 62nd AMXS; Levar Jackson, Det. 910, AFROTC Northwest Region; Christopher Jelsma, 62nd SFS; Christopher Johnson, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron; Ivan Lalican, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron; Isaac Lampkin, 62nd MXS; Ryan Malloy, 62nd SFS; Hyo Oh, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron; Rebecca Owen, 62nd AMXS; William Peabody, 62nd AMXS; Nicholas Petchell, 62nd LRS; Ricardo Sanchez, 10th AS; Justin Stinnette, 62nd AMXS; and Lisa Wood, 62nd Communications Squadron.

From Purple Heart, Page 1

72 hours on medically ordered rest. Undaunted, he served the remainder of his deployment through he returned here in May. On Monday Sergeant Kechter's combat role was honored when he received the Purple Heart during a ceremony at the Armory.

"What a tremendous honor for Staff Sergeant Kechter to receive the Purple Heart," said Lt. Col. Robert Kafka, 62nd SFS commander. "He is thoroughly committed to serving his nation. I'm proud of his selfless actions."

"I am humbled by this honor," added Sergeant Kechter. "The way I see it, I was just doing my job."

Since his return from Iraq, Sergeant Kechter supervises eight personnel who secure, store and issue more than 700 weapons and maintains more than \$1.9 million in ammunition and equipment for Team McChord.

"His contributions to the security forces squadron are invaluable," said Master Sgt. Bruce McPherson, 62nd SFS logistics superintendent and Sergeant Kechter's supervisor. "He brings the same dedication to duty no matter where he is. He is an Airman of great character and we are proud to have him as part of our team."

For Sergeant Kechter, a combat arms instructor responsible for instructing military personnel on 12 weapons systems, his day-to-day life is slowly

going back to routine. He still suffers from headaches, blind spots in his right eye and ringing in his ears, but every day he shows up to work ready to serve.

"I know it sounds corny, but I didn't join the Air Force for college or benefits," said Sergeant Kechter. "Although I still have some minor medical issues, I joined to serve my country and I'm proud to do it every day."

"While he doesn't see himself as a hero Sergeant Kechter is representative of Airmen today, said Sergeant McPherson. "Making the sacrifices necessary to fly, fight, and win . . . in air, space, and cyberspace. With Airmen like Sergeant Kechter, being a hero everyday is just routine."





Photo by Abner Guzman

## Holiday cheer in a bag

Polly Hornitschek, a McChord family member, and Airman 1st Class Joel Seda, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, right, bag cookies Dec. 12 at the Chapel Support Center as part of Operation Cookie Drop. Hosted by the First Sergeants Council, the Officers Spouses Club and the Enlisted Spouses Club, the event collected more than 5,500 cookies, which were then put into bags decorated by children at Carter Lake Elementary School and handed out to Airmen living in the dorms.



McChord Airmen

# AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — Staff Sgt. Jamie Grant, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, works in the munitions storage area during a recent deployment.



Courtesy photo

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — Tech. Sgt. Paul Slattery, 62nd MXS, stands in a partially buried tank during a recent deployment.



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

## McCHORD DEPLOYED AIRMEN



"I'm thankful for being able to give back to a country that has given so much to me."

Senior Airman Kristopher Savell  
62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



"I'm most thankful for the Lord blessing me with two beautiful daughters."

Tech. Sgt. James Wyatt  
62nd Contracting Squadron



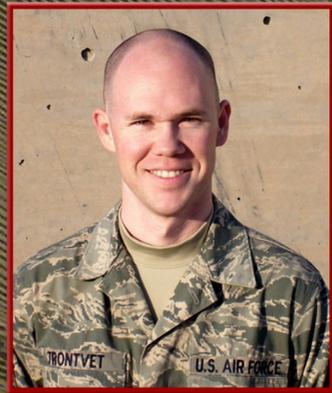
"I'm thankful for my wife and kids supporting me and the support received from people I've never met."

Tech. Sgt. Brandon Harrelson  
62nd Logistic Readiness Squadron



"I'm thankful for my family; especially my wife and child."

Staff Sgt. Lawrence O'Neill  
62nd LRS



"I'm most thankful for God, my wife, my four children and for my country."

Staff Sgt. Joshua Trontvet  
62nd LRS



"I'm most thankful for my family and the support of my squadron."

Staff Sgt. Robert Gaugh  
62nd LRS



"I'm grateful for my wife back at McChord supporting me, I'm also grateful for the great crew here at Balad."

Airman 1st Class Justin Anderson  
62nd AMXS



"I'm most thankful for family, friends, Rockstar energy drinks, and Tang."

Airman 1st Class Raymond D'Angine  
62nd AMXS



"I'm most thankful for having family and friends that love and care about me, and who will always stick by my side."

Airman 1st Class Brendan Cardenas  
62nd AMXS



"I'm most thankful for the honor of serving with the outstanding Airmen of the 8th Airlift Squadron as we literally take the fight downrange."

Lt. Col. Al Miller  
Commander, 8th AS

"What am I most thankful for this holiday?...Mi Familia."

Senior Airman Eric Camacho, 62nd AMXS

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to work with some of the finest people I've ever met."

Maj. Kevin Cummings, 62nd Operations Support Squadron

"I'm thankful for my health, the health and safety of my family and the opportunity to serve the United States of America."

1st Lt. Daniel Ryan Webster, 8th Airlift Squadron

# Congress authorizes Airmen paternity leave

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Eligible Airmen are now authorized 10 days of nonchargeable paternity leave following the birth of their newborns, courtesy of the 2009 Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act passed by Congress.

The law applies to married, active-duty Airmen. The Airman's wife must have given birth to the child on or after Oct. 14, 2008.

"This is going to have a positive impact on our

Air Force families," said Senior Master Sgt. Rhonda Britt, the Directorate of Personnel Services Special Programs superintendent. "By giving our new dads more time to bond with mom and baby, we're building a stronger Air Force family."

Paternity leave, which may be authorized in conjunction with ordinary leave, must be taken on consecutive days and within 60 days following the birth of the baby. For extraordinary circum-

stances, commanders may authorize paternity leave up to a maximum of 90 days following the baby's birth.

As with any administrative absence, the commander may disapprove paternity leave when it would have an adverse impact on the readiness or operational mission of the unit.

For more information, call your military personnel section or the Air Force Contact Center at 800-616-3775.

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



# Privacy — one key to information protection

By  
**Tyler Hemstreet**  
Staff writer

In an age where loss of personal information can result in substantial harm, embarrassment and inconvenience to individuals through identity theft or other fraudulent use, base officials are asking Airmen to work harder to protect that information from loss or misuse.

"Because federal agencies maintain significant amounts of information concerning individuals, we have a special duty to protect that information," said Dan Ballard, McChord base records manager. "If you have access to information, you must protect it at all times."

In order to protect it, people should not share it with anyone unless the recipient is permitted under the Privacy Act to see it, or if the person of record has given them written permission to disclose it to the recipient, Mr. Ballard said.

Personal data that is on shared drives, the Internet or Intranet must be password or permission protected. If Privacy Act information is e-mailed, "For Official Use Only" should be announced in the first line of the text. If the information is hand-carried, people should use a FOUO cover sheet or it should be stored in an envelope. When mailing documents, the envelope should

be marked to the attention of the recipient, and the sender should never indicate on the envelope that it contains Privacy Act-protected data.

People should also take the utmost care when it comes to storing the information, Mr. Ballard said.

"When on duty, cover or place the documents out of sight and when you step away from your computer, lock it," he said.

When working with personnel documents on a daily basis, the key to protecting information is keeping cover sheets at arm's length at all times, said Senior Airman Nile Pollock, a Privacy Act monitor with the 62nd Force Support Squadron.

"Since nearly every document we work with on a daily basis contains privacy information, we use the sheets out of habit," Airman Pollock said.

After duty hours, the records should be placed in a locked, or secured if unlocked, drawer or cabinet. Some data, such as personnel files, investigative files, security clearance files or adverse action files must be locked in receptacles after duty hours.

"If anyone sees personal data left unattended, they should report it to their supervisor or another management official," Mr. Ballard said. "Identity theft can cost you time and money. It can destroy your credit and ruin your good name."

## ***Did you know?***

**In-Lieu-Of taskings are now called  
Joint Expeditionary Taskings.**

From Lichte, Page 2

parent and well prepared programs.

**Prepare Mobility Forces for the Future**

AMC must ensure sufficient infrastructure to enable the global reach that this command delivers every day.

The KC-X and our other recapitalization and modernization programs are crucial to the future, as well as pursuing new technologies to ensure AMC remains unrivaled. Our en route infrastructure is also equally vital to our mission, and we must continue to refine our long-term strategy to ensure we have the access required for global reach.

We must also seek ways to achieve information dominance and security -- themes that resonate from virtually every office and are significant enablers of the AMC mission.

The journey to improve effectiveness and efficiencies must become part of daily business across all functional areas. Effectiveness comes in many forms, from customer service to combat employment, to intangible joint effects. Efficiency enables us to do the mission with the fewest resources possible and therefore enable more participation in other vital endeavors.

I encourage every AMC Airman to understand our command's mission and vision statements and focus areas. Then, take the next step to understand how your unit's mission fits in. Each of us should easily see ourselves in this work.

Rest assured, we will continue to improve, innovate, overcome and adapt to changes in the world to ensure our ability to provide worldwide, world-class airlift, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, and the necessary global reach laydown to support our joint and coalition partners.

I am extremely proud of this command and what we, together, bring to our nation. Each of us is vital to the air mobility team - each of us needs to bring our A game every day - together we move toward our vision of Unrivaled Global Reach for America.



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Steffen

## Jump week

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — Soldiers of the 1-501 Infantry board a C-17 Globemaster III Dec. 10. prior to a training jump. The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division partnered with the 517th Airlift Squadron and units from McChord and Hickam Air Force bases during the week to practice jumps prior to deployment. Roughly 1,300 Soldiers jumped out of C-17s during the week.



# Want to make an Air Force commercial?

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

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Senior leaders are asking Airmen to get behind the camera and submit a video for the next Air Force advertising campaign. The contest has begun and runs until Jan. 9.

Airmen are encouraged to create a video depicting what their unit or they do to support the Air Force mission, as well as highlight why people should join the Air Force. The videos potentially will be used for the next recruiting and retention advertising campaign, according to Keith Lebling, the contest

manager.

The contest is divided into two categories: Professional Team and Individual Airman.

The Professional Team category is intended for organizations or Airmen who produce broadcast-quality videos as part of their normal duty responsibilities.

The Individual Airman category is for Airmen not assigned to an organization such as that, and the video must be produced using privately owned video and editing equipment.

“This was an idea that came out of the last CORONA senior leader meeting,” Mr. Lebling said. “Our Airmen are extremely creative and have a lot of great ideas, so why not give them a chance to come up

with an idea for the next recruiting and retention commercial?”

Once submitted, the videos become the intellectual property of the Air Force and there is no guarantee it will be aired on television, Mr. Lebling added.

To submit a video, Airmen should visit the Video Contest Community of Practice Web site at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/EntryCoP.asp?Filter=AF-SC-01-38> and upload their entry under their MAJCOM folder. If they're not assigned to a particular MAJCOM, Airmen should use the Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs folder.

In addition, Mr. Lebling said videos should not have an embedded soundtrack or background music, although suggestions are

welcome. Also, videos that violate Air Force code of ethics standards will be eliminated from the competition.

The specific submission guidelines can be found on the Video Contest Web page listed above, but note that videos should be no larger than 40mb and between 27-30 seconds.

Mr. Lebling also warned that Airmen must be aware of and avoid potential copyright infringement. This includes, but is not limited to background music, visible logos, endorsing a product or unoriginal video footage.

For more information, call the Air Force Public Affairs Agency at (703) 696-9148.

# Military celebrates years of successful air refueling

By  
**Ellery D. Wallwork**  
Air Mobility Command  
History Office

*Editor's note - This is the first article in a series on air refueling, marking the 80th Anniversary of the Question Mark refueling and the tankers' important role in today's operations.*

On Jan. 1, 1929, a tri-engined Fokker C-2 aircraft with a crew of five climbed into the southern California sky. This aircraft, dubbed the “Question Mark,” was not history's first air refueling mission, but it played a crucial role in the beginning of air refueling efforts and the development of the U.S. Army Air Corps.

The flight, born from the ingenuity of Airmen through their experiences in World War I, lasted from Jan. 1-7, 1929; a total of 150 hours and 40 minutes. The crew flew a 110-mile racetrack from Santa Monica, Calif., to San Diego, Calif. They also flew over the New Year's Day Rose Bowl football game. During the flight, they made 43 contacts with the tanker aircraft. Each contact lasted

about 7.5 minutes, with the aircraft about 15 to 20 feet apart. Day-time contacts took place at an altitude between 2,000 and 3,000 feet, and the 12 night-time contacts took place between 5,000 and 7,000 feet.

The receiving aircraft, the Question Mark, a Fokker C-2, was a high-winged monoplane with two 96-gallon wing tanks supplemented by two 150-gallon tanks installed in the cabin. The two refueling aircraft were Douglas C-1 single-engine bi-planes with two 150-gallon tanks for offloading and a refueling hose passed through a hatch cut in the floor.

All told, the Question Mark received 5,700 gallons of fuel. During the contacts, the tanker crews also passed oil, food, water and other miscellaneous items, by means of a rope. Neither the Question Mark nor the two refuelers were equipped with radios because of the radios weight and unreliability. The crews maintained communications via notes dropped to the ground, hand and flashlight signals, and written messages displayed by ground panels and both planes.

The Question Mark's crew consisted of Maj. Carl Spatz (he later changed the spelling to

Spatz), Captain Ira Eaker, Lieutenant Elwood Quesada, Lt. Harry Halverson, and Staff Sgt. Roy Hooe. The crews of the tankers were Capt. Roy Hoyt and Lts. Auby Strickland and Irwin Woodring in the No. 1 aircraft, and Lts. Odas Moon, Joseph G. Hopkins and Andrew F. Salter were in the No. 2 aircraft. Capt. Hugh Elmendorf was in charge of ground operations and logistics for the mission.

Air refueling was still considered by many to be a modern marvel, and it had humble beginnings. The first attempts were in 1921 with the employment of five-gallon gas cans when a U.S. Navy lieutenant, in the back of a Huff-Daland HD-4, used a grappling hook to snag a gas can from a float in the Potomac River. In another attempt, a wing walker with a gas can strapped to his back, climbed from an airborne Lincoln Standard to a Curtiss JN-4 to pour gas into the aircraft's tank.

While these two publicity stunts deserve mention, the first air-to-air refueling using a gravity-flow hose occurred in 1923. Earlier that year, the Army Air Service had equipped two de Havilland DH-4Bs with in-flight hoses.

To read the rest of this refueling story, visit [www.amc.af.mil](http://www.amc.af.mil).



**Weather advisories**

Call 982-TALK for winter weather advisories and delayed reporting information.

**McChord Energy Club**

The McChord Energy Club meets at 4:45 p.m. Tuesday in the Wing conference room, Bldg. 100. All are welcome to attend. For more information, e-mail [energy.club@mcchord.af.mil](mailto:energy.club@mcchord.af.mil).

**Top 3 scholarships**

Two scholarships from the McChord Top 3 enlisted Scholarship Program are available for next semester. The application deadline is Jan. 2. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Shawn LaVoie at 982-7535.

**Promotion ceremony**

All Airmen are invited to the promotion ceremony for Lt. Col. Eric Payne, 62nd Mission Support Group acting commander, Jan. 9 at 3 p.m. in Hanger 9. R.S.V.P. by Dec. 29 at 982-2601.

**FTAC in-processing now online**

All first term Airmen arriving from technical training must register via the Team McChord Professional Development Community of Practice at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=AM-DP-00-16>. For more information, call 982-6682.

**New housing gate hours**

The Woodbrook housing gate is open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. For more information, call the 62nd Security Forces Squadron at 982-5100.

**Madigan Annex Traumatic Brain Injury Program classes**

TBI Program Education Series classes for educators and healthcare providers are offered Thursdays at the Madigan annex beginning Jan. 8. For more information, call the TBI Nurse Educator, Lindy Peterson, RN, MN at 968-3161.

**Law enforcement desk relocating**

The 62nd Security Forces Squadron

relocated the Law Enforcement desk to Bldg. 1305 during renovation of Bldg. 7. Phone numbers remain the same. For assistance call 982-5625 or 982-5624. For emergencies call 911 or the crime stop line at 982-5777.

**New hours at McChord Clinic**

The McChord Clinic doors open at 7:20 a.m. instead of 7 a.m. Pharmacy windows open at 7:30 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.

**MPF customer service hours**

Customer service hours for all military personnel flight services are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Services are available 7:30 to 9 a.m. for appointments and emergencies only.

**Customer service new hours**

Customer service hours for passports and in-processing have changed. Passports are from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for walk-ins and 3:30 to 4 p.m. for appointments and emergencies only. In-processing is now 9 a.m. to noon for walk-ins and 7:30 to 9 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. for appointments and emergencies only. Hours for all other services remain the same.

**Virtual out-processing applications**

The virtual out-processing application available online through the virtual military personnel flight is mandatory for active duty members. Appointments for final out-processing, retirements and separations are available.

**Thrift Shop temporary closure**

The Thrift Shop is closed through Jan. 2 as a new bookkeeper is hired and trained.

**Community response**

Have a concern, question or complaint? E-mail the action line <http://public.mcchord.amc.af.mil/main/contactus.asp>. The inbox is monitored daily and inquiries are sent to the appropriate base agency for response. Team McChord is encouraged to use this system to resolve issues, after first using the chain of command.



## McChord Chaplain Corps Faith & Worship Programs

For more information on Chapel services and programs, please call 982-5556. To contact Duty Chaplain after duty hours, contact the Command Post at 982-2635

### Catholic Services and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

All Catholic services are in chapel two.  
**SATURDAY:**  
4 p.m. Confession: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181  
5 p.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

**SUNDAY:**  
9:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181  
11 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181  
12:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

**MONDAY:**  
11:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181  
Noon Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

**WEDNESDAY:**  
11:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181  
6:30 p.m. Faith Formation: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesday of the month: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746  
6:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

**FRIDAY:**  
11:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

### PROTESTANT SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

**SUNDAY:**  
8:30 a.m. Liturgical Worship: Chapel 1, Bldg. 180  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

11 a.m. Traditional Worship: Chapel 1, Bldg. 180  
11 a.m. Contemporary Worship: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

**JEWISH SERVICES:**  
**FRIDAY: 6 p.m.** Every 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of the month: Ft Lewis. Chapel 5, Bldg. T-2270

**OTHER PROGRAMS:**  
The following Chapel programs take place at the Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746.

**TUESDAY:**  
9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS); 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month  
6 p.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) Bible Study; 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday of the month

**WEDNESDAY:**  
11 a.m. Adult Bible Study

**THURSDAY:**  
9 a.m. Women's Bible Study

