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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

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Photo by Abner Guzman

Laws apply to all

An Airman signs for a prescription at the base pharmacy recently. McChord pharmacy customers are reminded of their legal obligation to properly safeguard and control prescription medications to prevent misuse or unauthorized distribution. The Uniform Code of Military Justice and other federal and state laws provide harsh penalties for unauthorized use and distribution. These laws cover all pharmacy customers.

Wingman concept applies to effort targeting alcohol use

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The Air Force wingman concept is the foundation of a new 62nd Airlift Wing effort promoting responsible alcohol use. The program title, "1v1, Two's in", captures the Airman culture: "1-v-1" refers to a two-Airman team and applies to program presentation from a supervisor; "Two's in" refers to each Airman looking out for the other, providing mutual support - the wingman's role.

The "1v1 ... Two's In" program encourages supervisors to individually meet with each direct-reporting Airman, look them in the eyes and have a personal discussion on responsible drinking behavior and wingman responsibilities as they relate to Air Force core values and the Airman's personal career and life goals.

"This program brings the communication of the wingman concept down to the lowest level of leadership involvement," said Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, who collaborated with Col. Michael Hornitschek, 62nd AW vice commander, to start the program. "At times Airmen feel disconnected from leaders, but through that personal connection with Airmen, supervisors can continue to convey the fact they want their troops to succeed."

Touching on different discussion points with Airmen in the one-on-one interaction, supervisors help to reinforce the fact all Airmen should be

looking out for each other at all times — especially when it comes to responsible use of alcohol, Colonel Hornitschek said.

"We want to continue to build on that attitude and culture where Airmen have the courage to act upon commitments and beliefs they have," he said. "That includes knowing when to step in and prevent another wingman from ruining their career with one bad choice."

Measures such as deciding before going out who's going to be the designated driver, diffusing situations which show potential to create an embarrassing moment, calling a cab for an Airman who's had one too many drinks, or just taking away the keys all demonstrate a willingness to further embrace the wingman way of life and set positive role model examples, he said.

"We want to evolve a culture where being a wingman is the cool thing to do," Colonel Hornitschek said. "We as fellow Airmen know what it takes to succeed and the goal is to poise everybody for success."

In collaboration with Chief Master Sgt. Cary Hatzinger, 62nd AW command chief, and a special wing-level committee, base leaders will soon introduce a base-wide contact plan for "1v1 ... Two's In."

"Just like with the Combined Federal Campaign, we want 100 percent contact," Colonel Hornitschek said. "This program has the potential to enhance the success of Airmen here and the image of Team McChord."

Second MOBEX helps wings prepare for inspection

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

McChord takes another step in preparing for the Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled in October with a week-long mobility exercise here Feb. 6-12.

The MOBEX simulates deployment of McChord's airlift wings and involves 400 62nd Airlift Wing and 250 446th AW Airmen, along with C-17 Globemaster IIIs and equipment.

Observers from the 319th Air Refueling Wing at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., — McChord's partner for the fly-away portion of upcoming exercises and the actual ORI — will also be on hand to supplement the exercise eval-

uation team.

McChord's Airmen will exercise wartime scenarios and redeploy home in about a week's time, said John Schmedake, 62nd AW deputy chief of plans and programs.

The major change in this MOBEX compared to the first exercise in October is the implementation of 24-hour operations during the employment phase, Mr. Schmedake said.

This MOBEX is the second of four to prepare McChord for the major inspection, he said.

Airmen in the exercise will face a wide spectrum of challenges, including chemical attack.

"The last MOBEX was our chance to knock off the rust," said Maj. Jason Morrison, 62nd AW chief of plans and programs. "The joint venture incorporates more challenges as we elevate our training. This time we will employ more weapons

with blanks and face more attack scenarios."

The intensity will increase for the third and fourth MOBEXs, Major Morrison said.

While McChord units will only deploy to E Ramp for the upcoming MOBEX, the next two involve flying to other states and running operations from those locations.

For the third MOBEX in May, the 62nd AW, 446th AW and the 319th ARW will participate in joint operations at Alpena, Mich. The fourth MOBEX in September involves the same wings at Alpena.

When the inspection occurs, McChord will again deploy to another base in the U.S. where Air Mobility Command inspectors will then rate the wings' ability to operate away from McChord, said Major Morrison.

The ORI will be McChord's first since 2006.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 45 Low: 37	Hi: 42 Low: 33	Hi: 42 Low: 33

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

Countdown to success

MOBEX	7	days
Rodeo	171	days
Operational Readiness Inspection	269	days

Don't miss it ...

MOBEX

Mobility exercise begins Feb. 6.

Airman's Roll Call: Enlisted promotions

Study... cram... test... wait. So goes the enlisted promotion process. Whether testing for the first time or the fourth time, Airmen endure this process every year.

The purpose of promotion testing is to measure Airmen's specialty and general military knowledge—in conjunction with other weighted criteria—to determine promotion to the next rank. Here are some things Airmen should consider about the enlisted promotion process:

- Promotions are very competitive. The Department of Defense limits the number of Airmen who may serve in the top five grades (staff through chief master

sergeant), and public law further limits the grades of senior and chief master sergeant to only 3.5 percent of the enlisted force. As such, the Air Force uses the Weighted Airman Promotion System to ensure eligible Airmen have a chance to be promoted.

- Promotion is an individual responsibility and completely up to you. From staff to master sergeant, promotions in the Air Force are based largely on individual performance, as reflected on Enlisted Performance Reports and WAPS testing.

The WAPS testing portions determine individuals' general Air Force knowledge and specific career field knowledge, which are weighed

equally. Other weighted factors include time in grade, time in service and decorations. Airmen must ensure their records are accurate and up to date prior to testing for promotion.

- It's worth the wait. There are a few reasons Airmen must wait for promotion results. Strict procedures are used for handling and scoring promotion tests to prevent loss or compromise. All tests are electronically scored, and a percentage is also hand-scored at random to verify accuracy. Airmen's records must also be reviewed at Air Force Personnel Center to ensure they are eligible for promotion.

- Stripes for Exceptional

Performers and Below-the Zone are two programs used to recognize and promote outstanding Airmen. Airmen can be STEP promoted to the grades of staff through master sergeant. BTZ is designed to promote exceptional airmen 1st class to senior airmen six months early.

Whether it's your first or fourth time testing, study hard and make it count. Being prepared falls directly in line with the core value "Excellence in all we do!"

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

It's not personal ... it's about doing the right thing

By

Maj. Thomas McAuley
62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron

I've been here at McChord for almost six months as the 62nd MOS squadron commander and I think writing this article has been my greatest worry so far. Not that it has kept me up late at night, but it has been a continuous thought over this past month.

I was sitting with a few of my "troops" - retired military, now civil service employees - and we were discussing various topics: the Nuclear Surety Inspection, deployed operations, etc. Throughout the conversation, the idea of "doing the right thing" came up.

Finally, one said, "that should be your topic." So here I am ...

What is "doing the right thing?" For me, it is just how I was raised, a mindset that I carried with me into the military. Two basic training sessions (first on the enlisted side, then as an officer) and 26 years of service has made doing the right thing something I don't have to think about. It just happens.

I find it difficult to understand at times what motivates people to do the things that they do. You can't pick up the *Air Force Times* lately without reading a story or two about someone who did not do the right thing. The impact of those actions carry tremendous consequences; not only to careers and family, but they cut deeper into our Air Force as a whole. The

nuclear weapons and program acquisition incidents of the past year that have damaged our reputation are just a few that come to mind.

The real issue is how we fix that reputation. It really starts with what we do daily at McChord. Set the right example. If you see someone who needs a haircut, tell them but also tell their boss if the issue is not resolved. If you see someone not wearing the uniform properly, tell them but also tell their boss, if corrective actions are not taken. If you see trash on the ground, pick it up and then tell the facility manager. Correct and inform.

I realize no one likes being the bad guy and telling someone that they're not meeting standards. It's not personal; it's about doing the right thing.

The Sharp Airman ...

assists subordinates in resolving personal, financial, marital, alcohol and stress-related problems.

- Supervisors are often in the best position to detect early indications of

these problems and are key to identifying, addressing and resolving them.

- Supervisors must stay involved and be supportive as their subordinates struggle to resolve their problems.
- Supervisors must also clarify Air Force standards, provide feedback on duty performance, and provide counseling on professional behavior, military bearing, and available referral agencies if additional assistance is required.

Professionals of the week

62nd Mission Support Group

Airman 1st Class Leanne Gomme

Duty title:
Knowledge operations apprentice

Duty section:
62nd MSG executive support office

Hometown:
Mars Hill, N.C.

Why she's super:

Airman Gomme is a standout performer with impeccable professionalism. Her demeanor has positively affected the 62 MSG staff and she has improved the overall quality of customer service provided to more than 2,100 Airmen and civilians. Airman Gomme is responsible for the effective quality control and suspense of awards and evaluations, ensuring MSG unit compliance with Air Force publications, forms and records management policies and procedures. Additionally, she performs client support technician duties for the group staff and is seeking her Community College of the Air Force Degree in Information Technology.



62nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Staff Sgt. Tulafono Sili

Duty title:
Station chief

Duty section:
McChord fire department

Hometown:
Nu'uuli, American Samoa

Why he's tops:

Sergeant Sili is a crucial member of the fire department and was handpicked to fill the role of station chief, a position normally filled by a technical sergeant. While deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, Sergeant Sili flawlessly directed his crew during a B-1 crash. His actions provided exposure protection, saving five nearby aircraft valued at \$114 million. Sergeant Sili's leadership and management skills made his section a success and contributed to the fire department receiving the 2008 "Diamond Award" from the First Sergeants Council.



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Airmen, local students link with International Space Station

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The experience was so exciting it had an Air Force colonel doing flips.

Ten McChord Airmen had an opportunity to watch live as NASA astronaut and Air Force Col. Mike Fincke and Sandra Magnus participated from the International Space Station in a live 20-minute question and answer session with local middle school students Jan. 21 at a Gig Harbor movie theater.

Throughout the interview session, Colonel Fincke floated, bounced and flipped in the zero-gravity atmosphere in the space station.

The event was part of an education downlink with students from Key Peninsula Middle School in Lakebay, Wash., one of two NASA Explorer Schools in the state. McChord Airmen were invited to attend due to McChord's support of previous aviation-related events the school has hosted.

Colonel Fincke was thrilled to have his Air Force wingmen in attendance at the event, said Kareen Borders, the school's team leader for the Explorer program.

Also in attendance at the event were Bonnie Dunbar, honorary commander of the 62nd Operations Group here and CEO of the Museum of Flight in Seattle, and retired Army Gen. John Shalikashvili of Steilacoom, Wash., former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

Air Force Col. Mike Fincke, left, and Sandra Magnus participate from the International Space Station in a live question and answer session with Key Peninsula Middle School students Jan. 21 at a Gig Harbor movie theater. Ten McChord Airmen attended the event to provide a local Air Force tie.

The McChord Airmen said it was a true privilege to be in attendance.

"To have a live link (to the space station) with only a few seconds delay was Star Trek-esque," said 2nd Lt. Alex Hanna, a 7th Airlift Squadron pilot. "It makes you want to be a part of something big (such as the space program) and excited about how far we've come."

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity," Airman 1st Class Jason Davis, 62nd Communications Squadron, said of the event.

The Airmen watched from the second-tier of the theater as students asked questions about everything from how the stars look from space to how astronauts sleep.

It was an inspiration to see that

there are high-tech programs out there that educate students on the space programs and encourage them to work hard in school, said Lieutenant Hanna.

"It's neat that we were able to have a presence (at the event) and perhaps show that the Air Force is a good intermediate step between high school and college," he said.



62nd Security Forces Squadron improves mobility processes

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

An old adage goes, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

But sometimes, a simple change of scenery is all it takes to make a process better.

Simply retrieving a piece of mobility equipment was a huge undertaking in itself for 62nd Security Forces Airmen prior to a move that streamlined their mobility equipment processing.

In order to get to large, stackable metal containers, Airmen had to rearrange and remove many all-terrain vehicles and other various pieces of equipment from their mobility building.

"If we didn't finish the task that day, we basically had to redo everything the next day," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Elliott, 62nd SFS Mobility NCOIC and a unit deployment manager. "We couldn't leave the equipment outside the building unattended overnight."

After a building previously occupied by the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron opened up — which allowed room for offices and the necessary storage space — 62nd SFS Airmen seized the opportunity to solve their storage problem.

Airmen spent a month cleaning out the new building and spent another two transferring everything over to the new location.

"It was a long, painstaking process," Sergeant Elliott said of the move. "But it

enables us to now have everything in one location."

"Our mobility Airmen worked extremely hard to make the moving process as smooth as possible to re-establish all functions and capabilities at the new location in a timely manner," said Lt. Col. Robert Kafka, 62nd SFS commander.

Now all of the Airmen in charge of the squadron's mobility have their own offices, the personal SFS deployment equipment has its own storage space, as well as a covered storage area which allows plenty of room to store all of the ATVs and mobility equipment away from the metal containers.

"The consolidation aligns our supplies, equipment and deployment assets under one roof, improves our logistics personnel's work environment and saves time for our internal customers," said Colonel Kafka.

Airmen can now easily inventory the many heaters, generators, tents and other items stored in the portable containers used to set up camps at forward operating bases.

"There is a huge time savings from the standpoint that we can simply get to everything much easier," Sergeant Elliott said. "We now have everything in one location ... (the retrieval process is) pretty painless now."

Since the 62nd SFS mobility section is heavily tasked, Sergeant Elliott said, Airmen are routinely deploying, receiving and inventorying the equipment.

"We have two guys who work on it every day," he said.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Ready for rodeo

Matthew Kitterman, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron project manager, left, briefs Rodeo staff Tuesday on the progress of dorm upgrades underway in preparation for Rodeo 2009. The lodging section was granted nearly \$2.6 million early last year from Air Mobility Command to renovate 100 rooms in Buildings 1149 and 1150 to transform former dormitories into lodging rooms to accommodate international team members during Rodeo, slated to be held at McChord in July.



AMC's execution hub serves as 'virtual crewmember' worldwide

By

1st Lt. Justin Brockhoff618th Tanker Airlift Control Center
Public Affairs

Members of the 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center conducted a series of town-hall briefings at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and McChord Air Force Base, Wash., this month to foster the concept of the 618th TACC as a 'virtual crewmember' for Air Mobility Command crews operating worldwide.

The 618th TACC, located at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., is AMC's execution arm for global air mobility. The center is responsible for planning airlift, air refueling and aeromedical evacuation missions, allocating aircraft and aircrews to fly the missions, and exercising command and control over the missions once they launch.

In order to optimize mobility partnerships, a priority for Gen. Arthur J. Lichte, AMC's commander, the 618th TACC wants aircrew members, maintainers and aerial porters to communicate with the center early and often and to think of the center as a "virtual crewmember" taking care of their needs 24 hours a day.

"We're your advocate on the ground to guarantee success of the mission," said Col. Quintin Hartt, director of the 618th TACC's Command and Control

Directorate. "We're ready to assist anytime you need us, no matter what the issue. The key to timely support is early communication."

The 618th TACC presenters discussed numerous communication options for aircrew members to get the help they need, which includes avenues such as calling 1-800-AIR-MOBL for immediate issue resolution, to using Web-based solutions such as the "planning tool kit" and "Ask TACC" on the center's secure Web site for after-the-fact discussion (accessible from a government computer at <https://tacc.scott.af.mil>).

In fact, 618th TACC command and control specialists already engage in 37,000 phone calls each month to support mobility personnel, according to Lt. Col. Chris Rosenthal, a division chief in the 618th TACC's Command and Control Directorate.

"The key to receiving support is having a plan when you call our controllers with an issue," he added. "If you call us with a planned course of action it makes our coordination easier, which gets you the help you need faster."

Colonel Rosenthal also advises aircrews that once that phone call is received, the 618th TACC's command and control specialists engage face-to-face with someone else on the operations floor to answer a question or coordinate a request. Callers should be aware that some requests may

take up to 15 minutes to coordinate, he added.

The importance of early communication is echoed by the 618th TACC's integrated flight management specialists, who are charged with planning and "flight-following" every mission the 618th TACC touches.

"We want to be your representation to communicate issues and find solutions," said Joe Jackson, 618th TACC flight manager and retired Air Force KC-135 pilot. "We are your extended crew member on the floor and rely on your communication and feedback to improve our processes and provide the best support possible."

The traveling team of briefers also included representatives from the 618th TACC's Weather, Director of Operations, Global Channel Operations and Mobility Management directorates.

"Communication is the main point of this whole visit," said Lt. Col. Bill Pryor, director, 618th TACC Global Weather Directorate. "Weather forecasts can't always be 100 percent accurate, but if you experience a difference between your forecasted and actual weather conditions, providing us that feedback is extremely helpful, because we can adjust the forecast for aircrews flying behind you."

Another circumstance the 618th TACC is poised to support is when an aircraft performing a

mobility mission requires maintenance.

"Good, timely information is vital when you're out in the system and your aircraft is facing a maintenance issue," said Senior Master Sgt. Bill Givens, superintendent of the Command and Control Directorate's Logistics Readiness Division. "The earlier we know about an issue, the more options we have to deliver the people, parts and equipment required in a timely manner."

A final suggestion the briefing team gave to aircrew members is not to hesitate in contacting the 618th TACC and their squadron leadership for advice should the need arise. By including squadron leaders and the 618th TACC early in the decision making process, crews performing global mobility missions have access to the authority needed to help resolve an issue, and the experience of veterans who have been in their position before.

618th TACC personnel are available 24 hours a day as a point of contact for aircrews, maintainers and aerial porters operating in support of AMC missions worldwide. For more information or to provide feedback to the 618th TACC, contact a command and control specialist at 1-800-AIR-MOBL or use the 'Ask TACC' option from a government computer system at <https://tacc.scott.af.mil>.



President Obama thanks troops, pledges support

By

John J. Kruzel

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — President Barack Obama thanked U.S. troops and pledged to provide the resources they need to accomplish their missions Wednesday in his first visit to the Pentagon as commander in chief.

President Obama spoke to reporters here after meeting with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to discuss military readiness, “difficult decisions” on Iraq and Afghanistan and other national security threats and objectives.

“I want to first of all thank all of the men and women in uniform who are represented here. They are the best that this country has to offer,” President Obama said after he and Vice President Joe Biden shook hands with a row of troops from all service branches who lined an E-ring Pentagon hallway.

“All of you who are serving in the U.S. armed forces are going to have my full support, and one of my duties as president is going to be to make sure that you have what you need to accomplish your missions,” he said.

The president said the first point he addressed with the Joint Chiefs — the senior-ranking officers of each military service branch — was gratitude for the service and sacrifice of troops and military families, who he said were responsible for national freedoms that sometimes are taken for granted.

He also suggested that he would relieve some of the pressure placed on the military by more evenly distributing responsibility among other U.S. government elements.

“We have for a long time put enormous pressure on our military to carry out a whole set of missions, sometimes not with the sort of strategic support and the use of all aspects of American power to make sure that they’re not carrying the full load,” he said. “And that’s something that I spoke to the chiefs about and that I intend to change as president of the United States.”



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McVeeley

President Barack Obama addresses the media during his first visit to the Pentagon since becoming commander in chief Wednesday. President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden met with Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and all the service chiefs, getting their input on the way ahead in Afghanistan and Iraq. Here, the president is flanked by Gen. Norton Schwartz, the Air Force chief of staff; Army Gen. George W. Casey, the Army chief of staff; Marine Gen. James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

President Obama added that those involved in this afternoon’s meeting in “The Tank,” the secure area in the Joint Chiefs of Staff wing of the Pentagon, agreed to make sure “the health of our force is always in our sights.” Participants included Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. The commandant of the Coast Guard, though not a member of the Joint Chiefs, also participated.

“I know (they) are constantly thinking about what

we need to do to make sure that people who are in uniform for the United States are getting the kinds of support that they need and that (their families need), and that’s something that I absolutely am committed to, and I know that Vice President Biden is as well,” he said.

Some of the most urgent issues facing White House and Pentagon officials include the ways forward in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We’re going to have some difficult decisions that we’re going to have to make surrounding Iraq and Afghanistan most immediately,” President Obama said. “Obviously, our efforts to continue to go after extremist organizations that would do harm to the homeland is uppermost in our minds. I have every confidence that our military is going to do their job, and I intend to make sure that the civilian side of the ledger does its job to support what they are doing.”

The president added that he had a “wonderful discussion” with the Joint Chiefs about short- and long-term threats facing the United States.

“We talked about some of the broader, global risks that may arise, and the kind of planning and coordination that’s going to be required between our military and our civilian forces in order to accomplish our long term national security agendas,” he said.

The president has been engaged with Defense Department and military officials since taking office Jan. 20.

During a meeting at the White House on his first full day in office, President Obama directed key defense and military officials to plan for a “responsible military drawdown in Iraq.” The participants included Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen, as well as Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, the commander of U.S. Central Command.

Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, the commander of Multinational Force Iraq, also joined the Jan. 21 meeting via teleconference. U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker, key cabinet members and senior national security officials also participated, collectively providing what President Obama called “a full update on the situation in Iraq.”



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Asselin

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras — 2nd Lt. Timothy Underwood, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, helps distribute food to residents of El Negrito, Honduras, as part of Joint Task Force-Bravo's monthly chapel hike program during a recent deployment. Nearly 115 U.S. and Honduran military members volunteered to hike more than four miles through the mountain-side jungle to bring food to the residents of the village.



Photo by Capt. Brant Dixon

ANTARCTICA — Lt. Col. Jim McGann, 62nd Operations Group and commander, 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, stands in front of a C-17 Globemaster III during a recent mission supporting Operation Deep Freeze.



FTAC

more than just 'Air Force 101'

Upon arriving at McChord from technical school, Airman Martin Hensen, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, knew just one other person on base.

But things changed after the 14-day course at the First Term Airmen Center.

Airmen Hensen instantly had nearly 20 new friends upon graduating from FTAC in December.

That's one of the main goals of the course, according to FTAC NCOIC Tech. Sgt. Tanica Bradt, 62nd Force Support Squadron.

"If they leave with anything it's that they'll have 20 new friends and the fact they'll have those people to lean on," she said.

In addition to serving as an introductory course to the base, detailing McChord's mission and all the opportunities the Air Force has to offer, the course also focuses on everyday things such as personal responsibility and making smart choices with money. FTAC also helps open communication lines between base leadership and the new Airmen.

"It was great getting to meet the command chief and the colonels," said Airman 1st Class Andrew Trainer, 62nd Communications Squadron, who also graduated in December. "It made me feel a little easier about approaching them and greeting them if I happen to see them somewhere on base."

The visit from leadership also brought home the fact the Air Force is a tight-knit team where everyone helps each other achieve goals, Airman Hensen said.

"It's good to know (leadership) is there to help you meet your personal goals and succeed," he said.

Part of that success is also achieved by getting out into the local

community and volunteering as part of their class project, Sergeant Bradt said.

"It's about developing the whole person," she said. "The Air Force isn't just about your job. It's also about giving back to the local community."

The December class went to a local community center and helped assemble toys for needy children.

Those sitting through the course and learning aren't the only ones benefitting, however. The course has been an extremely positive experience for FTAC team leader Staff Sgt. Ronald West, 62nd FSS.

Each daily classroom interaction, question and answer session and spirited physical training regimen provides him a chance to foster Air Force core values and play a role in each Airman's development.

"It feels good to answer questions about deployments and just stress the fact that a positive attitude is everything in the military," Sergeant West said. "It's nice to be an example and project an image that Airmen can look up to."

While FTAC gives Airmen a positive first impression of McChord, shows what services the base offers and puts them in touch with a social peer network, continuing the education of their overall Air Force experience once they set foot in their career field is a job supervisors must continue to embrace, Sergeant Bradt said.

"(Supervisors) play a key role in building on that foundation we established here," she said. "We're giving them the initial tools and preparing them to succeed, but supervisors take it to the next step and keep that learning process moving along. In fact, we encourage them to come out and touch base with their Airmen throughout the course if their schedules permit."

BY
Tyler Hemstreet,
Staff Writer



Photos by Amber Guzman

Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Barron Jr., Air Mobility Command's command chief, addresses a group of McChord Airmen during a recent First Term Airmen Center class.



Airman 1st Class Travis Ripple, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, left, and Airman Thomas Pruett, 4th Airlift Squadron, share a laugh during an impromptu speech session.



A group of FTAC Airmen gather in the conference room Jan. 20 to listen to President Barack Obama deliver his Inauguration speech from Washington, D.C.



Staff Sgt. Ron West, 62nd Force Support Squadron, right, reviews the dress and appearance of a group of Airmen during a uniform inspection at the FTAC offices.



Airman 1st Class Andrew Trainer, 62nd Communications Squadron, fields questions from classmates as part of an impromptu speech session.

Air Force fighters to fly patrols supporting Super Bowl XLIII

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) — Air Force fighter pilots will be busy during Super Bowl XLIII as they will be flying to protect the sky around Raymond James Stadium Sunday in Tampa, Fla.

Airmen flying fighter jets may be visible enforcing the Federal Aviation Administration's temporary flight restriction zone during the National Football League's championship game.

In preparation for the Super Bowl, FAA officials will be imposing a temporary flight restriction over the greater Tampa area. Air Force fight-

ers will be on patrol, and Customs and Border Patrol assets will also be airborne during the event. This inter-agency partnership helps ensure the safety of the sky over the stadium.

Maj. Gen. Henry C. "Hank" Morrow, the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region commander, said command officials provide air defense for the protection of the entire continental U.S., to include special events such as this year's Super Bowl.

"As America's air defenders, we have a total team mindset," General

Morrow said. "Special events like this world-renowned sporting event take precise coordination with all mission partners, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Customs and Border Patrol, FAA and local law enforcement."

"America's (air operations center) will be closely monitoring all air activity while the FAA temporary flight restriction is in place," said Col. David Kriner, the 601st Air and Space Operations Center commander. "The men and women of this (air operations center) monitor the sky 24/7, 365 for the entire continental

U.S., and Sunday's special event is another part of our mission set."

Air patrols are carefully planned and closely controlled to ensure public safety while demonstrating Continental U.S. NORAD Region's rapid response capability. Continental U.S. NORAD Region flights will have minimal impact on aircraft in the area during the Super Bowl and are not in response to any specific threat.

"We want citizens to know that we are always on the job, and defending our homeland from air threats is our No. 1 priority," General Morrow said.



13 Airmen take Worldwide Talent Search honors

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — The best 13 Airmen were selected from 77 bluesuiters gathered for the Air Force Worldwide Talent Search Jan. 11 through 19 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The Air Force's "top talent" were chosen after 10 days of auditions, rehearsals and interviews, which culminated in three nights of competition, as the best performer took home the "Roger" award for first place, and the second place winner received the "Wilco" award.

The winners are:

- Best Female Vocalist went to Staff Sgt. Aisha Smith from MacDill AFB, Fla., and Staff Sgt. Naomi Keen from Lackland AFB took second place.

- Male Vocalist went to Staff Sgt. Rick Rosales from Keesler AFB, Miss., and Staff Sgt. Wendell Boone from Andrews AFB, Md., took second place.

- Specialty went to Staff Sgt. James Warren from Eielson AFB, Alaska, and Airman 1st Class Jamie Hull from Fairchild AFB, Wash., took second place.

- Instrumental went to Airman 1st Class Shane Jones from Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and 2nd Lt. Mara Title from Los Angeles AFB, Calif., took second place.

- Dance went to Airman 1st Class Malik Thorne from Dover AFB, Del., and Airman 1st Class Emanuel Simmons II from Malmstrom AFB, Mont., took second place.

- Vocal Self-Accompanied went to Airman 1st Class Malcolm Hudson from Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, and Senior Airman Marc Hightower from Cannon AFB, N.M., took second place.

- Technician went to Airman 1st Class Aaron Elliot from Hurlburt Field, Fla.

- Best of Show went to Staff Sgt. Rick Rosales from Keesler AFB.

In addition to competing for Worldwide Talent Search honors, the Airmen also auditioned for spots on the Tops In Blue roster.

"Even though the competition was keen, it was great to see the camaraderie and sense of family that formed among the participants," said Terri Smith, the Air Force Entertainment's operations coordinator at the Air Force Services Agency in San Antonio. "The Air Force has always been loaded with talent, but the number of entertainers and the quality of the performances this year were especially high."

Ms. Smith said the revamped Tops In Blue Web site, which now makes it easier for Airmen to submit their audition videos, was one of the keys to the infusion of new talent.

"We had more participants at this year's event than we've had in a long time and a lot of that was due to the Web site," she said. "Since launching it late last year, we've seen a big increase in interest and applications."



U.S. Air Force photo

Staff Sgt. Aisha Smith won first place in the Female Vocalist category during the Air Force Worldwide Talent Search Jan. 11 through 19 held at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Sergeant Smith is from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.



Air Force works aggressively to reduce bird strikes

By

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — As an ongoing investigation continues on a bird strike that caused a passenger jet's engines to fail last week after takeoff from New York's LaGuardia Airport, Air Force safety officials said they're well-versed on the dangers of bird strikes and aggressively are working to prevent them.

National Transportation Safety Board officials confirmed initial indications that U.S. Airways flight 1549 struck a flock of birds, which were sucked into the engines and caused them to fail. The pilot, former Air Force pilot Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III, successfully landed the plane in New York's Hudson River and is credited with saving all 155 people on board.

The incident brought public focus to a problem the Air Force, along with the airline industry, has long struggled to overcome.

Last year alone, the Air Force experienced more than 4,000 bird strikes, Eugene LeBoeuf, chief of the Air Force's Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard, or BASH, program at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., told American Forces Press Service.

Fortunately, none of those bird strikes was classified as a "Class A" accident, one that results in a death or more than \$1 million in damages, Mr. LeBoeuf said. But collectively, they cost the Air Force an estimated

\$35 million.

Bird strikes are on the rise, he said, and present a serious safety issue. The crash of an E-3B Airborne Warning and Control System plane in 1995 after takeoff from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, painfully drove that point home. All 24 crewmembers died when the plane struck a flock of Canada geese just after takeoff.

"When you have a bird strike, it's like throwing a rock into the engine," said Staff Sgt. Paul White, airfield operations supervisor at Andrews AFB, Md. "It stops the turbine from spinning, and that can be catastrophic."

The BASH program works to avert accidents like the one at Elmendorf and last week's incident in New York. Based on a system of "integrated pest management," it aims to keep air bases, airfields and the air space and ground in and around them free of birds and wildlife that can hamper aircraft operations, Mr. LeBoeuf said.

That's a challenge, he said, with more Canada geese taking up permanent residence in the United States, a burgeoning snow goose population and a comeback for the pelican population after DDT and other insecticides were banned.

But birds aren't the only problem, Mr. LeBoeuf said. He's seen it all: deer, coyotes, wild pigs and even alligators finding their way onto Air Force flightlines. "They're mobile speed bumps, and aircraft don't take kindly to them," he said.

Step one in the BASH program is "habitat alteration," which Mr.

LeBoeuf defined as making airfields as uninviting as possible. Anything that might serve as a perch is removed, denying birds an elevated place to roost. Potential perches that can't be removed get spikes driven into them.

Meanwhile, low spots in the land where birds can hide or seek water that collects are filled in.

Dan Vredenburgh, a contractor who oversees Andrews Air Force Base's BASH program, follows the Air Force protocol of ensuring grass around the airfield is maintained between 7 and 14 inches. That's too short for ground birds to nest in, but too long for them to feel safe feeding in, he said.

"These are the benign approaches, but if they don't work, we turn to more active techniques," Mr. LeBoeuf said. In a word, he defined that as "harassment."

Mr. Vredenburgh, for example, has a whole list of tricks to make Andrews unwelcoming to seagulls, blackbirds, starlings, turkey vultures, cowbirds, ducks and geese that frequent the region.

He fires off pyrotechnics and propane cannons as needed to scare birds from the 4,320-acre base. One of his most effective tools is Bree, a two-tone border collie that chases away birds or other wildlife that might be tempted to take up residence. Mr. Vredenburgh and Bree patrol the base regularly, and he sets her loose when he discovers birds roosting.

"When she takes off, they leave in

a hurry," Mr. Vredenburgh said. "After a couple of times, they probably won't come back."

Other bases use different techniques. The Royal Air Force base at Mildenhall in England, for example, relies on a Moroccan lanner hawk named Goldie to ward off unwanted birds. At Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan, a luger falcon named Mustang helps to keep unwanted birds at bay.

But no preventive measure will keep birds and other wildlife away indefinitely, Mr. LeBoeuf said. So as a last resort, BASH officials get the permits required to shoot, trap or otherwise remove them from the area.

At Andrews — home of the 316th Wing as well as the 89th Airlift Wing that flies Air Force One and other aircraft in support of the president, vice president and senior U.S. leaders — these measures are helping to reduce bird strikes.

Andrews reported 20 bird strikes last year, down from 30 in fiscal 2007 and an average of about 34 a year in past years, Mr. Vredenburgh said. Nearly all involved small birds, and none inflicted major aircraft damage or forced an emergency landing.

"We understand the importance of what we do, and believe we're helping reduce the problem through our efforts," he said.

"There's no question that the BASH program is making a difference," Mr. LeBoeuf said. "It saves lives and aircraft and allows us to maintain our mission. It's a very important program."



Safety paramount at Carter Lake Elementary

By

Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
62nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

Carter Lake Elementary School officials recently identified several growing safety concerns, to be addressed at a "Pastries with the Principal" forum 5 p.m. Wednesday at the school.

"Safety is a paramount issue for all staff, students, and parents at Carter Lake", said principal Paul Douglas.

First, students should arrive at school no earlier than 7:30 a.m., when supervision by school staff is available, said Mr. Douglas. Additionally, the school cafeteria is not open for breakfast until that time. When supervision issues are a

challenge, parents need to make other arrangements.

Another safety concern is student pick-up and drop-off, said the principal. The main parking lot is the designated area for student pick-up and drop-off both in the morning and afternoon. Parents must pull up to the curb prior to dropping off or picking up students. Students should exit and enter vehicles on the curb side of the vehicle, which limits student exposure to traffic flow in the parking lot. The speed limit in this area is five miles-per-hour and traffic only flows in one direction. On the streets surrounding the school, the speed limit is 20 miles-per-hour when school is in session. The back parking lot is for staff and school district personnel parking only.

Additionally, Mr. Douglas said, all visitors must sign in at the front office, per school district policy. Visitors may not walk through the campus to check in at the main office, as individuals without passes are a security concern. All visitors should first proceed to the main office, sign in, and then go to their desired location.

For more information on Clover Park School District safety and policies, visit <http://www.cloverpark.k12.wa.us> or call 582-5000.



Photo by Randy White

Amy Luhmann, left, and Kristie Kimbrough pick up their children from kindergarten at Carter Lake Elementary School Thursday as a classmate adjusts his bicycle helmet. Parents are reminded to keep safety in mind when picking up and dropping off their children at school.

A "Pastries with the Principal" forum to address safety concerns and supervision issues is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday at Carter Lake Elementary School. All parents are encouraged 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!



Base phone extension update

Effective today, McChord phones now require a full seven digit number (982-XXXX) to place an on-base call.

Carter Lake parent forum

A "Pastries with the Principal" forum to address safety concerns and supervision issues is 5 p.m. Wednesday at Carter Lake Elementary School. All parents are encouraged to attend.

New hours at wing self-help store

Effective Feb. 9, the wing self-help store hours of operation are 8 a.m. to noon weekdays. It is closed on holidays and Air Mobility Command Family Days.

2009 women's conference

Registration remains open until Feb. 14 for the 2009 women's conference March 13 at the Stone Education Center at Fort Lewis. Childcare registration continues until March 6. The event is open to all Department of Defense ID card holders. For more information, e-mail Ft.LewisWomensConference@yahoo.com or call 407-4071.

Flu shots now available

Flu vaccine is now available for active duty family members and retirees at the Immunizations Clinic here. For more information, call 982-5189.

OSC Annual dessert auction and social

The McChord Officer Spouses' Club's annual dessert auction is 7 p.m. Feb. 13. A pre-auction social begins at 6:30 p.m. To RSVP, or for more information, contact tucker-

zoo3@comcast.net.

Online GTC registration

Online registration for the new CITI Bank government travel card is available at: <https://home.cards.citirect.com/CommercialCard/Cards.html>

Online statements for cardholders will not be available before the client receives their first paper statement. The cardholder must enter their card number, account name and address information in the exact format as it appears on the paper statement. For example, words like court, street, or road must be input exactly as they appear on the paper statement, either abbreviated or spelled out. Cardholders will also need their complete zip code, as displayed on the paper statement.

Weather advisories

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

McChord Clinic policy during inclement weather conditions

The McChord Clinic staff follows base guidance during inclement weather conditions. During delayed reporting, clinic doors open as soon as there is enough staff in the building to safely operate the clinic. Appointments will be rescheduled as necessary.

Madigan Annex TBI Program classes

Traumatic Brain Injuries Program Education Series classes for educators and healthcare providers are offered Thursdays at the Madigan annex. For more information, call the TBI Nurse Educator, Lindy Peterson, at 968-3161.

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.

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.

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.

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.

 <p>McChord Chaplain Corps Faith & Worship Programs</p>		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
<p>CATHOLIC SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: All Catholic services are in chapel two.</p> <p>Saturday: 4 p.m. Confession: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181 5 p.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181</p> <p>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</p> <p>Monday: 12:00 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746</p>	<p>Wednesday: 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</p> <p>PROTESTANT SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:</p> <p>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</p>	<p>JEWISH SERVICES:</p> <p>Friday: 6 p.m. Every 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of the month: Ft Lewis, Chapel 5, Bldg. T-2270</p> <p>OTHER PROGRAMS: The following Chapel programs take place at the Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Wednesday: 11 a.m. Adult Bible Study</p>



Congratulations to the following Airmen who recently scored 90 percent or higher on their career development course examinations:

- **Airman 1st Class Christopher Carey**, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Vergel Dancel**, 62nd Contracting Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Thomas Eddins**, 62nd CES
- **Airman 1st Class Corey Edwards**, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Matthew Glaus**, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron

- **Airman 1st Class Jared Hahn**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Airman Major Harris**, 4th Airlift Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Rickey Martin**, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Ryan Young**, 62nd LRS
- **Airman 1st Class Keith Pierce**, 62nd AMXS
- **Airman 1st Class Joel Seda**, 62nd MXS
- **Airman Nicholas Tran**, 62nd AMXS
- **Airman 1st Class Samuel Valladares**, 62nd MXS
- **Senior Airman Jonathan Williams**, 10th AS

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



Fighting for our Marriages
Marriage Intensive
 February 3 - 5, 2009 6 - 8 pm
 McChord Chapel Support Center Auditorium
 Expert Instructors:
 Ch, Lt Col Steven M. Wexler, LMFT, AAMFT
 Doctorate Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy
 Ronica Sobiech, LCSW
 Masters Degree in Social Work
 To sign up contact:
 Chapel Support Center at 253-982-5556
 or via Sharepoint at <https://62aw.mcchord.af.mil/awstaff/HC/default.aspx>
 or the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 253-982-2695
 Children's activities are planned for 2 - 12 year olds




**Stronger Marriages
 Better Communication
 Diffuse Conflict
 Deployment Issues**