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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

February 27, 2009

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Canadian air force honors McChord Airman

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Canadian air force officials presented Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Levesque, 373rd Training Squadron, Det. 12 chief, with the Canadian Forces Air Command Commendation Tuesday afternoon at the squadron's headquarters.

Working alongside Canadian Forces maintenance representatives, Sergeant Levesque led a team of instructors in developing a set of maintenance courses unique to Canadian trade requirements prior to the country receiving its first C-17 Globemaster III in August 2007. Before the delivery of the aircraft, the 373rd TRS successfully trained more than 50 Canadian maintenance airmen.

"This accomplishment is directly attributed to the exceptional leadership and vision of Sergeant Levesque," said Canadian air force Lt. Col. David Lowthian, 429th Transport Squadron commander.

Sergeant Levesque also led a team of maintainers to 8th Wing Trenton, home of the 429th TS, to witness the delivery of Canada's first C-17 and oversee maintenance operations there

for six weeks.

"To see the glimmer in their eyes and the great pride in their faces when that jet was delivered was a great thing," Sergeant Levesque said.

Colonel Lowthian was also grateful for the support his airmen received during their training at McChord.

"The base has played a huge role in our capability," Colonel Lowthian said. "You've taken care of us, fed us and allowed us to sit in on several operational missions. The support has allowed us to get where we are."

The 429th TS now has four C-17s and maintains mission capability rates of 85 percent, including flying humanitarian missions and airdrop missions in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, Colonel Lowthian said.

"I consider this a huge honor," Sergeant Levesque said of the award. "The amount of effort they put forth to give someone from another nation this kind of commendation is very humbling."

The 373rd TRS utilizes high-tech classrooms with computer workstations at each desk and a smart board at each podium to the giant rooms with 11 life-size trainers (exact cutout sections of the C-17), to instruct Airmen coming out of tech school,



Photo by Abner Guzman

Canadian air force Lt. Col. David Lowthian, 429th Transport Squadron commander, presents Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Levesque, 373rd Training Squadron, Det. 12 chief, the Canadian Forces Air Command Commendation during a ceremony Wednesday at the squadron's headquarters.

those transitioning to working on C-17s from a different aircraft and servicemembers from other countries who work on C-17s in their country's fleet.

The Canadians also presented

tokens of gratitude to Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, and Lt. Col. James Clavenna, 62nd Maintenance Group deputy commander, for further strengthening the bond between the two countries.

AF efforts put nuclear surety back on track

By
Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. (AFNS) — Prioritization and "incredible attention to detail" have restored "nuclear surety" in the Air Force, the general in charge of the service's nuclear program said recently.

Nuclear surety is the equipment, people and processes aimed at ensuring the safety, security, reliability and control of nuclear weapons.

After an erosion of the nuclear process that began at the end of the Cold War, Maj. Gen. Roger Burg, commander of the 20th Air Force, said he feels the service is back on track, even though the required standards to pass a nuclear surety inspection have never changed. What is different, he said, is how the service has applied the standards.

"I will say our application of those standards has changed dramatically," General Burg said. "And our oversight of any problems identified in the inspections has changed dramatically."

It wasn't until a B-52 Stratofortress from Minot flew nuclear-tipped missiles cross-coun-

try to Barksdale AFB, La., in October 2007 that nuclear surety became a newsworthy topic, General Burg said.

"An equally well-publicized event that occurred several years earlier ... involved the [intercontinental ballistic missile] force [and] the fuses that were erroneously sent to Taiwan," he said. "I think it rightly made all of us question how could such a thing happen."

The fuses were shipped to Taiwan from Utah in August 2006.

These are the types of incidents nuclear surety is designed to prevent.

A nuclear surety inspection for an ICBM or bomber unit is a broad, intrusive type of inspection, General Burg said. Hundreds of areas might be inspected and each area may have hundreds or even thousands of individual pieces of equipment, records, and activities to be inspected.

After the Cold War, Air Force leaders decided to shorten the inspection time frame and decrease the size of its inspection team. Instead of inspecting everything, they began taking representative samples, General Burg said.

See NUCLEAR SURETY, Page 11



Photo by Maj. Damien Pickart

Manas closure

Staff Sgt. Richard Bastian, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, helps push a 4-ton pallet of U.S. Army Soldiers' gear aboard a C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, recently. The government of the Kyrgyz Republic finalized the decision to close Manas Air Base, Feb. 20, after seven years of support to operations in Afghanistan. The formal diplomatic notification was delivered to the U.S. Ambassador Feb. 20. Coalition forces now have 180 days to vacate and close the base.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 47 Low: 30	Hi: 47 Low: 37	Hi: 51 Low: 32

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

Countdown to success

Next MOBEX	63	days
Rodeo	143	days
Operational Readiness Inspection	241	days

Don't miss it ...

Wing promotion ceremony

The ceremony is 2 p.m. today at the base theater.

Chief's Induction Ceremony

The induction ceremony is 6 p.m. March 6 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center.

Airman's Roll Call: Motorcycle spring spike focus



Spring is nearly upon us. The birds are returning north, flowers are beginning to blossom, and motorcyclists are pulling their motorcycles out of the garage after a long winter's nap.

The Air Force Safety Center conducted a study of motorcycle mishaps from FY06-08 and determined motorcycle fatal mishaps doubled in the spring over the winter season numbers. With this in mind, the Air Force Safety Center is conducting a "Spring Spike Focus" for all motorcyclists and their leadership. March 1st begins the "Spring Spike Focus" on motorcycle

mishaps.

Past fatal spring motorcycle mishaps indicate:

- The average fatal motorcycle mishap involved a male Airman between the ranks of A1C to SSgt with an average age of 28.
 - Mishaps primarily occurred during the day, while operating a sport bike and speeding.
 - Another significant factor was limited experience due to no training or license, or training and licensing for less than a year.
- Riders can protect themselves by:
- Preparing yourself for getting back

on the motorcycle; know that your skills aren't what they were when you put the bike in storage.

- Preparing your bike; preflight your equipment like you do on duty.
 - Preparing your personal safety equipment; make sure you are protected against the unexpected.
 - Realizing that car drivers are not used to seeing you—they will see you late or not at all.
- Commanders, supervisors, and wingmen can help prepare riders by:
- Asking riders if they have pre-checked themselves and their bike.
 - Talking to them about the hazards

of the road.

- Helping inexperienced riders prepare for the season.

We can reduce motorcycle mishaps through concerted efforts of motorcyclists, unit motorcycle monitors, supervisors, first sergeants, and commanders. Enjoy the ride, but make sure you and your bike are up for the new riding season.

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.

Take full advantage of every opportunity available

By

Maj. Dean Richardson
62nd Airlift Wing
Plans and Programs

As I contemplated the topic for this commentary, I couldn't help being somewhat distracted by thoughts of home and family. I'm about four weeks from completing a 60-day deployment and I haven't seen my wife or children since Christmas morning. In the midst of my mental journey home, it occurred to me that this deployment provided me a unique opportunity.

You see, much like many of you, in the ten months prior to deploying I was consumed by Air Force duties, professional obligations and personal responsibilities. I rarely had time to catch my breath between one event and the next. My remarkable wife manages to juggle a successful career of her own and somehow shuttle two active boys between school activities, Cub and Boy Scouts, sporting events and play dates. Though we took advantage of every opportunity, quality time to sit down and talk with my family was infrequent at best. Now I'm thousands of

miles and ten time zones separated from my loved ones, and though it still requires some scheduling, the miracle of Internet chat and video calls has allowed me to communicate regularly with home.

There is another benefit which shouldn't be overlooked by supervisors and commanders at home station. Oftentimes with current deployments, Airmen have a routine schedule and a singular mission. Compare that to your own experiences over the last couple of months. With a Nuclear Surety Inspection and mobility exercises under your belts, each of you are diligently preparing for more challenges in the coming year. Aside from your assigned and additional duties many of you participate in professional organizations, religious activities, private clubs and organizations and volunteer activities. In addition, many of you are striving to advance your education, whether through professional military education or private colleges and universities. That is a significant load for any person to bear.

With that in mind, I make two suggestions. First, while deployed, take advantage of any additional time you may find in your schedule. Get ahead on those college courses, knock out some of your PME tests or

catch up on some reading you've been meaning to do. The activity will help your deployment pass more quickly and you'll have one less task on an already full schedule when you return.

Second, when you are at home station, don't forget to recharge your own batteries once in awhile. You may want to work in more time to exercise, a day off to spend with your family or friends, or just personal time for a hobby or relaxing. Whatever your preference, plan ahead and take time out for your own well being. Financial planners often say "pay yourself first." The same advice applies to your mental and physical well being. And if you supervise others, ensure that they too have the opportunity to take advantage of some down time.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank each and every Team McChord Airman for your conscientious and energetic approach to Operational Readiness Inspection preparation. Your outstanding response during training and mobility exercises has clearly demonstrated that no Inspector General challenge is too great to overcome. Remain focused on the goal, take care of yourself, and "outstanding" will be our reward in November.

The Sharp Airman ...

knows the Leave and Earning Statement is a comprehensive statement of a member's entitlements, deductions, allotments, leave information, tax withholding information and Thrift Savings

Plan information. A Sharp Airman reviews and keeps a copy of their LES every month. They know if their pay varies significantly to consult the finance office. The LES is available electronically. Members can use the MyPay system to view the LES as well as to initiate changes to selected items affecting their pay.

Professionals of the week

62nd Contracting Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Vergel Dancel

Duty title:
Contract specialist

Duty section:
Services flight

Hometown:
Honolulu, Hawaii

Why he's tops:

Sergeant Dancel is a contract specialist overseeing more than \$4.3 million in base support contracts for the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings. He is a focal point for the acquisition and coordination of all wing small purchase requirements for commodities and services. In response to an emergency requirement for aircraft de-icing fluid, he masterfully arranged delivery within an unprecedented seven days of receiving the customer request. Sergeant Dancel consistently leads by example and exemplifies the Air Force whole-person concept.



Tech. Sgt. Laura Kattner

Duty title:
Contract administrator

Duty section:
Services flight

Hometown:
St. Louis, Mo.

Why she's tops:

Sergeant Kattner is a contract administrator managing 40 blanket purchase agreements supporting the 62nd and 446th AW's. She volunteered to close out 25 purchase orders, ensuring contractor performance and payment was completed on \$300,000 in critical base requirements. Her diligence and hard work in awarding three contracts to support the wing's volunteer income tax assistance program ensured the service was ready 30 days ahead of schedule. Her negotiation prowess resulted in a \$25,000 savings on the wing's aircraft de-icing fluid replenishment requirement. Sergeant Kattner always leads by example and is a consummate professional.



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AMC aeromedical evac missions bring Total Force partners together

By

Capt. Jonathan Stock
Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — In the Air Force today, the phrase “Total Force,” the multi-component of active-duty, Reserve, and Guard forces in the military, is a way of life for many Airmen.

In the Air Mobility Command aeromedical evacuation community, every day entails a combination of Total Force AMC assets and communication challenges in order to save lives.

Since October 2001, nearly 56,000 soldiers, marines, sailors and Airmen owe their lives to a Total Force effort that spans the globe. These are the men and women who have been aeromedically evacuated in support of the long war against extremism for both battle and non-battle injuries.

“Almost all AE missions out of Ramstein (Air Base) involve the Guard, Reserve and active duty members working together,” said Maj. Trevon Miller, 183rd Airlift Squadron C-17 aircraft commander from the Mississippi Air National Guard, Jackson, Miss.

AMC aeromedical evacuation missions are coordinated multiple times a week to fly into a designated theater, such as Iraq or Afghanistan, and take patients out of the warzone to get the appropriate level of care for the individual. The flight schedule often includes a routine layover

at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to drop off patients at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and pick up patients needing further attention while en route to the patient’s next level of care in the United States.

Each mission requires multiple units from locations around the world to make the patient transfer as smooth as possible.

Since 2005, Major Miller has participated with his Guard unit on a steady stream of AE missions acquired through AMC to support war-time requirements. His unit currently has three AE missions and one cargo airlift mission each week.

“An AE mission is more satisfying as there is more investment than carrying a bunch of pallets,” said Major Miller. “This may be the best mission out there, since it’s something worthwhile to get these [people] back home that have made a sacrifice.”

An example of the value in using the Total Force package in AE missions is Maj. Carolyn Newhouse, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, flight nurse, flight instructor at McChord AFB, Wash. She is also a nurse practitioner at a local urgent care center in Tacoma, Wash. As an Air Force Reservist having flown more than 100 missions to help patients during their transition, she understands the vital role AE crews and pilots must share to complete the mission successfully.

“It is both the pilots’ and AE crew’s responsibility to keep communication flowing between each other in order to move patients



Photo by Capt. Jonathan Stock

An aeromedical evacuation crew and military members at Ramstein Air Base load a patient on to a C-17 Globemaster III on its way back to the United States to take patients to their next level of care

safely,” said Major Newhouse. “We discuss the number of patients for weight concerns due to takeoff and landing procedures, altitude restrictions due to patient’s health, and any patient specifics in order to protect both the aircrew and patients while in flight.”

Gaining valuable experience while working alongside Guard and Reserve units is active-duty Capt. Norman Ellis, 43rd AES flight nurse at Pope AFB, N.C.

“The active duty units cannot complete the mission alone and have a great opportunity to learn while working with veteran Guard and Reserve units,” said Captain

Ellis.

As a flight nurse deployed with the 10th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight at Ramstein with Major Newhouse, Captain Ellis believes the relationship between the AE and flight crews remains strong because of the mission, although each comes from a different background and has different responsibilities while at home.

Unity and teamwork are the main principles being instilled in today’s Airmen. The men and women who make the AE mission happen know first-hand just how much cross-organizational experience helps to complete a mission with a purpose.



FSS Airman recognized for 'doing it right'

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Every shirt was tightly folded, the canned goods and beverages were perfectly aligned on the shelves and even the loose change was stacked in perfection on the desk.

And that's just how Airman 1st Class Daniel Kim, 62nd Force Support Squadron, likes to keep his dorm room on a daily basis.

After a recent random dorm room inspection some Airmen from the rest of the wing got an up close and personal view of the masterpiece inside Bldg. 572.

Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Matlock, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, was so blown away with what he saw while serving as the wing representative on the dorm inspection he decided to give Airman Kim a coin.

"It was the best room I've seen in my 24 years in the military," Sergeant Matlock said.

Being awarded the coin took Airman Kim by total surprise.

"(Chief Matlock) told me 'you're awesome'," he said. "I was so happy."

Airman Kim, who was born in Los Ange-

les but raised in South Korea, said his room was often messy when he was a child.

"My mom taught me how to clean it," he said.

Along the way, Airman Kim used some organizational tricks he picked up before joining the Air Force and applied them to his personal space. He spends about one hour every day cleaning his room and keeping the dust at bay.

"My friends sometimes tell me I'm crazy," said Airman Kim, speaking of the dedication it takes to keep his room clean.

Although Airman Kim shares a bathroom with his suitemate, he said they work together to keep the common area clean.

That dedication to keeping a room clean is something all Airmen can learn from, Chief Matlock said.

"That pride in ownership and embracing your living space and keeping it clean can make you more productive," he said.

The same mentality can also be applied to Air Force culture as a whole, said Master Sgt. Chris Almeria, 62nd FSS first sergeant.

"When you exceed the standard, great things happen to you," Sergeant Almeria said.



Airman 1st Class Daniel Kim, 62nd Force Support Squadron, folds his laundry in preparation for a dorm inspection. Airman Kim was recently presented a coin after a wing inspector was amazed with how clean he kept his room.



Photos by Abner Guzman

Airman Kim, a technician in the 62nd FSS career development section, shines his shoes as part of his daily cleaning regimen.



CSAF message to Airmen: Everyone is important

By

Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates

Defense Media Activity - San Antonio

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — The Air Force's top officer had one message for Airmen during a town hall meeting here Feb. 20: Every Airman is important.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz said all Airmen are integral to the service's success and no job and no one is more important than another.

"I think the fundamental thing is that everybody counts," he said. "No one, no job, no specialty is more important than any other. Everyone matters and everyone is an important part of this team."

Fighting two wars is not easy, he added, but today's Airmen are helping the joint team succeed with the full range of capabilities the Air Force has to offer.

"Our folks who are downrange are supporting the mission, they're doing it well and they should be proud of that," General Schwartz said.

Still, just because someone is not on the front lines does not mean he or she is not contributing to the fight.

"Do not measure your worth by your proximity to the fight," he said.

The general also said Airmen have a special duty to serve their country to the best of their ability.

"We have an obligation to serve our nation with honor and perform exceptionally," General Schwartz said. "We should also recognize we are doing something special when we serve our country."

Service, the general said, presents every Airmen with limitless possibilities.

"The Air Force is a magnificent institution," he said. "Anything is possible and anyone can go as far as they want to."

Yet, according to the general, the Air Force's evaluation system, for both enlisted and officers, needs re-vamping.

"Not everyone is a five," General Schwartz said. "We need to be honest with ourselves and we need to be authentic how we rate each other."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Desiree N. Palacios

Gen. Norton Schwartz, Air Force chief of staff, outlines current military issues Feb. 20 during a town hall meeting at the Bob Hope Theater on Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Ultimately, the general said he is impressed with today's Airmen and is excited to meet tomorrow's challenges with them.

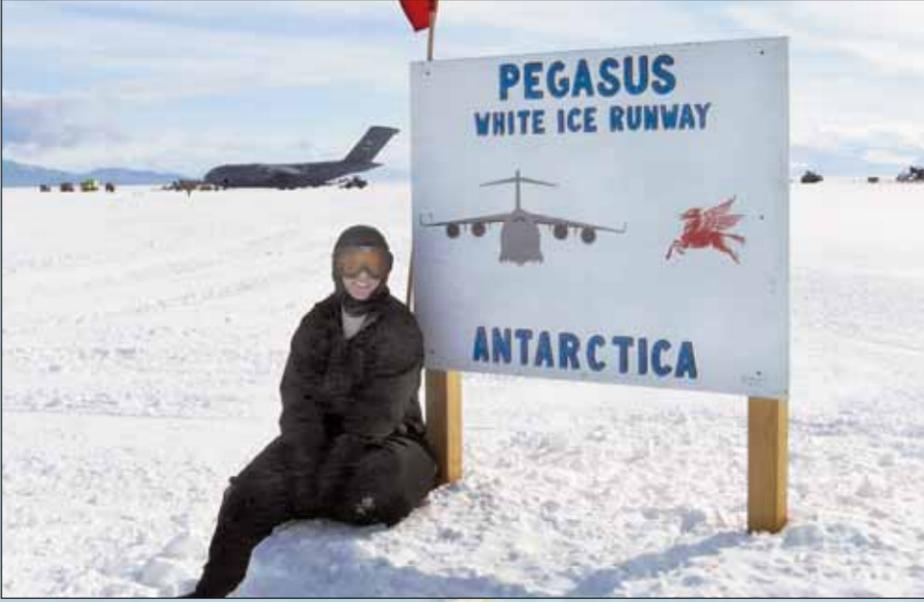
"The United States Air Force is 'all in' and whatever is required of

us as the nation's air force we will do and we will do it well," he said. "I value your work, your service and your sacrifices and I am working tirelessly to continually improve our Air Force."



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

ANTARCTICA — Senior Airman Stacy Childs, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, sits near the Pegasus Ice Runway during a recent Operation Deep Freeze mission.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Harry Kibbe

KYRGYZSTAN — Airman 1st Class John Malubag, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, loads Soldiers' duffel bags onto pallets for transport to Afghanistan Thursday at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan during a recent deployment. Airman Malubag is assigned to the 376th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron and works in the base's passenger terminal.



62nd SFS Armory

accounts for everything

The top priorities at the 62nd Security Forces Squadron's armory are simple and straightforward: it's all about accountability and safety. "Nothing goes missing, nothing gets lost," said Staff Sgt. David Kechter, 62nd SFS armory NCOIC. "The bottom line is if we lose even one round we're in a world of hurt."

Although that's much easier said than done, when everyone from visiting aircrew, 62nd SFS Airmen and Chenega Corporation security officers visit the armory at all hours of the day. However, the process has a proven set of checks and balances to ensure everything is accounted for.

Anyone returning a weapon must first make sure it is clear by utilizing a firing barrel outside the armory cage before turning it in. Once the weapon comes back through the window, the armory Airman then clears it again in a firing barrel inside.

"It's a double fault system," Sergeant Kechter said.

The process is repeated when weapons are checked out. To ensure there is no confusion at the windows, customers are only permitted to enter painted waiting areas when instructed by armory Airmen. Each weapon and magazine is also clearly labeled and stored in its designated locker

so checkout and tracking runs smoothly. While things can get busy when patrol shifts change, Airman 1st Class Raymond Mahilum, 62nd SFS, keeps things under control at the window, methodically collecting and clearing weapons and making sure everyone has the correct documentation that allows them to carry a weapon.

"I can multitask well ... it's pretty routine," he said. "Everyone is very patient." Airman Mahilum also checks out radios, ID card scanners, ammunition magazines and security batons carried by 62nd SFS Airmen.

"Nothing goes in or out without the proper documentation," Sergeant Kechter said. "We know where every weapon is at all times."

And that's a critical because the armory safeguards a large quantity of firepower. Housed in windowless room are standard M-9 pistols and M-4 rifles that 62nd SFS Airmen carry both on routine patrols, all the way up to heavier M-240 and M-249 machine guns the armory checks out for use by Airmen working convoys on deployments. The armory also serves as a place of storage for personal weapons of Airmen living on base.

"We stay constantly busy with all the deployments and the temporary storage requests," Sergeant Kechter said.

BY
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff Writer



Airman Dixon and Airman Mahilum clear an M-4 rifle at the clearing barrel in the armory's staging area before restocking the weapon.

Photos by Abner Guzman



Senior Airman Terralle Moore, 446th Security Forces Squadron, draws ammunition at the start of his duty day.



Staff Sgt. Jesse Mickel, right, 62nd Security Forces Squadron, looks on as Staff Sgt. David Kechter, 62nd SFS, assembles an M-240 Bravo machine gun as part of a weapons inspection at the armory.



Senior Airman Ray Mahilum, 62nd SFS, performs a thorough inventory of available ammunition in preparation for a squadron shift change.



Senior Airman Daniel Dixon, 62nd SFS, restocks the armory shelves with riot gear issued to security forces Airmen during a recent exercise.

More troops, families to qualify for new GI Bill benefits

By

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Troops nearing retirement eligibility may be able to tap into the transferability benefits provided in the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, even if they're unable to serve four more years of duty due to service policies, a senior defense official said.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Bill that takes effect in August and will offer more benefits and the ability to transfer benefits to a spouse or

child has proven to be a hit with the troops, Bill Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy, told the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

Of servicemembers surveyed in August, 97 percent said they plan to take advantage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, particularly its transferability provision, Mr. Carr said.

"Enormous interest has been expressed in the transferability provision and how it would work, because so many in the force have families," Mr. Carr said. He noted that half of the military force is married. By the time troops have served six years of duty,

about two-thirds have families.

To qualify for transferability under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, servicemembers must have served six years on active duty or in the Selected Reserve and must commit to another four years. But Mr. Carr said the rules could be tweaked soon to allow mid- or late-career troops to qualify, even if they can't sign on for another four years of duty due to service restrictions.

Rules expected to be published in the months ahead will clarify exactly who is or isn't eligible to transfer their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. Mr. Carr said he expects those rules to be "very flexible" to allow servicemembers with

15 or even 20 years of service to qualify. What's definite now is that only those in the active or reserve components on Aug. 1 will be eligible for transferability under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

"The law doesn't allow it to be retroactive" to cover those who already have left the military, Mr. Carr said.

The new bill represents the most comprehensive education package since the original World War II-era GI Bill, he said. Unlike the current GI Bill, it covers 100 percent - rather than 80 percent - of the cost of tuition,

See **GI BILL**, Page 13



'Crews into Shape' challenge kicks off

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

According to a recent Defense Department survey of health-related behaviors, 61 percent of active duty members older than the age of 20 are overweight, only 10 percent regularly eat three or more servings per day of fruits and vegetables and 61 percent exercise at a moderate activity rate (at least 30 minutes, three times weekly).

To help improve those numbers, health officials here and DoD-wide encourage active duty members, Reservists, family members, retirees, civilians and contractors to participate in the Crews into Shape Challenge, March 1-28.

In partnership with Fort Lewis, McChord teams and teams from across the Air Force, Navy and Marines are participating in the competition.

The four-week challenge is designed to bring people together for a team-approach to wellness, said Tanya Henriques, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron, health education program manager at the Health and Wellness Center.

"This program isn't just about weigh-ins — it gives people enough time to make real healthy behavior changes," Mrs. Henriques said.

People are encouraged to join a two to ten-member squadron or unit team and then register for the challenge before Saturday at: www.nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/crews_into_shape.

Each crew member earns points during the competition for exercising, maintaining or achieving a goal weight, eating fruits and vegetables and drinking water or other healthy fluids. All scoring for the contest is self-reported, Mrs. Henriques said.

"The goal is to help people change their health behaviors for the better," she said.

The four-person team comprised of Master Sgt. Timothy LeSuer, Tech. Sgt. Johnathan Shew, Staff Sgt. Eric Rozzano and Marilyn Eubank from the 62nd Maintenance Squadron's quality assurance section won last year's contest among the 16 McChord teams.

Sergeant Rozzano lost 16 pounds during the competition and scored a 92.5 on his physical training test the following week after the contest ended.

While eating more fruits and vegetables and keeping a constant PT schedule wasn't very hard to maintain, Sergeant Rozzano said drinking the required amount of water each day was challenging.

"But it really helped me cut back on soda," he said. "That was a big contributor (to losing weight)."

The HAWC hosts various diet and nutrition and exercise classes throughout the month of March where those attending can earn points for their team, Mrs. Henriques said.

For more information about the competition, call the HAWC at 982-2088.

From NUCLEAR SURETY, Page 1 —

"It wasn't an intent to say, 'Let's not take care of this business,'" he said. "It was an intent to say, 'How can we do this business more efficiently?'"

The 2007 and 2008 incidents prompted the Air Force to resume 100 percent inspections, General Burg added. That includes personnel medical records in addition to equipment and activity logs.

"One of our key areas is looking at the Personnel Reliability Program, which is how we maintain confidence in the people who are working around nuclear weapons," he said. "In the past, we might inspect 20 percent of the medical and personnel records of people associated with a certain unit.

"You'll have thousands of potential points [to inspect], any one of which, if found to be deficient in a critical way, could lead to the finding of an unsatisfactory for the wing," General Burg said. Deficiencies receive immediate attention, he said.

The process of maintaining nuclear surety has become the top Air Force priority, Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff noted during his visit this week here. The chairman toured several sites including the weapons storage area and a missile maintenance trainer.

The Air Force is reorganizing to better support the nuclear enterprise, General Burg said. But inspections will get a unit only so far.

"You do not make an organization excellent by inspecting it," he said. "You make it excellent by supporting it with priority, with resources, with people, with experience. That's what the Air Force is doing with these nuclear units now."

General Burg added that he's OK with inspections turning up deficiencies despite the goal of achieving excellence.

"I'm never satisfied that ... we're getting better because we're not finding fewer problems," he said. "[What] we're not finding now indicates an incredible attention to detail."

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Determination takes talent to worldwide contest

By

Patty Jeffrey

62nd Force Support Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Katie Badowski is on a mission. It's her determination — and her talent -- that brought this Air Force Reservist back to Lackland AFB, Texas for the third time in January.

Jan. 16-18, she competed at the Air Force's 2009 Worldwide Talent Contest where she sang as a hopeful for a spot in Tops in Blue. Sergeant Badowski is assigned to the 446th Services flight.

"Competing in this talent contest is nothing like American Idol," Sergeant Badowski said. "To succeed, you need to believe in the mission — as a team, being there for others, trying to bring them a piece of home. It's not about you; it's about everyone on your team and who you're really there for. It's about giving back to the community. The experience changes your focus."

The experience also improves her skills each time she is selected to go. This year, after she received a permissive TDY from her deployed assignment at Dover AFB, Del., a surprise awaited.

"You always go through an intensive interview where they ask all the questions," Sergeant Badowski said. "I was surprised to find that this time around, they just asked me to tell them all about myself. So I was talking the whole time. Of course, they already knew me from previous tryouts, so they had all that paperwork."

It's not uncommon to see returning hopefuls, according to the Tops In Blue Web site, which states that the event brings them back year after year, each time improving their skills from the competition process.

That's where Sergeant Badowski's determination sets in. She didn't make the cast for the 2009 Tops in Blue, but that didn't dampen her spirit. She says that even if you don't win a Roger or Wilco award (first and second

place), it doesn't mean they're not interested in you.

"Everyone's application is entered into a talent pool," she said. "Not everyone can win the top two spots — there are too many competitors for that. Some give up and don't try to come back. But every time I go down to Texas, I learn more about what I need to do to improve — it's a huge learning opportunity. I plan to compete again next year. They'll have to take me some time!"

Sergeant Badowski is confident in the preparation process. She says that every competitor, new and returning, is placed in a group when they arrive. A team of coordinators is assigned to each group.

"Everyone meets the band, who will play for each competitor while they're on stage," she said. "And they won't let anyone get on stage without being prepared."

What types of skills do you need in order to be considered for performing at the Worldwide Talent Contest?

Sergeant Badowski advises newcomers to "look at what you're thinking of doing for competition, and then translate it into performing in front of thousands of people."

She offered a few other tips, gleaned from three rounds of competition:

- Round out your experience to improve in all areas of performing. Take dance classes, fitness classes, coordination exercises, instrumental and voice coaching.

- Get out there and get used to performing. Volunteer for community playhouses, church choirs, town choruses — as much as you can do on stage.

- The more experiences you have of different kinds, the better it looks on your application and your tryout video.

- Once you submit your application package, it's a waiting game. However, be prepared to move fast once you're called. Plan ahead. Don't make plans you can't change. Get your finances in order.



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Katie Badowski, 446th Airlift Wing, Services flight, sings at the Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest. The talent contest was at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas Jan. 16-18.

Be flexible with your class schedule if you're in school. Have both Plan A and Plan B in place.

- If you aren't selected this time around, don't sit around. Strive to continually improve and apply again next year.

Her last piece of advice is to focus on what's important. She says that the focus isn't on being a star, but rather about being ambassadors of goodwill to the community.

"I notice they (the team coordinators) always have a good military bearing; they're also watching your behavior not only when you perform, but the entire time you're there," she said. "After the contest is over, every team goes into the

,community to perform. My team performed at the BX; another team visited the hospital."

To learn more about the Worldwide Talent Contest and Tops in Blue, visit their new Web site at www.topsinblue.com. Reserve and Guard Airmen selected for the cast are put on active duty for the touring season, so don't be misled by the Web site's declaration that Tops In Blue is an all active-duty U.S. Air Force special unit.

The new site gives you an easy way to fill out and submit your talent application, upload your audition video and receive confirmation that your application is in the system.



Army, Air Force overhaul joint ISR training

By

Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards
Air Combat Command
Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFNS) — A key group of Army and Air Force intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance professionals met at McChord Air Force Base recently for a working group to discuss what is needed to ensure America has the best ISR forces on the ground and in the air.

The two-day conference was one of two working groups that met in support of the general officer ISR roundtable, the first of which was held in March 2007. However, this particular meeting focused on the training of Army and Air Force personnel to determine what is available from each service to get the best joint picture in the air and on the ground.

“The focus of this working group was to improve on integrating inter-service training with a goal of

enhanced mutual understanding of service ISR operations and training needs, ultimately improving combat effectiveness,” said Cheri Tone, an Air Combat Command Directorate of Intelligence, or A2, pre-deployment training analyst. “We needed to devote this working group to training to see what was available that could benefit us all.”

The meeting highlighted that instructors each service could improve on training the ISR information needs of their sister service.

An example, said Ms. Tone, is the improved operations when Air Force analysts have a proper ground perspective, which gives the team a higher chance of success. An additional fact, she added, is that many Soldiers are unaware of the full capabilities of Air Force ISR, and there are several ongoing efforts geared to changing that.

She added that the working group discussed several ways to accomplish this training, starting at the tech school level and continuing through mission qualification training and

pre-deployment training. There are already several initiatives underway in these areas, and some of them will be briefed to the general officer ISR roundtable scheduled for mid-March in the Hampton Roads, Va., area.

One of the most significant initiatives to enhance mutual understanding was the exchange of instructors to the services’ intelligence schools. While not widely advertised, elements of this initiative are currently ongoing and are improving inter-service ISR training.

Another important program discussed at the working group was liaison exchange. Air Force officials currently send intelligence officers to deployed Army units to help them leverage Air Force ISR assets, and actions are being taken to place Soldiers at select Air Force ISR units as well. The liaison acts as a translator to the commanders in the field and to the Air Force ISR analysts.

If the current initiatives meet the approval of the general officer group, they can then move forward with

implementation for both services, Ms. Tone said.

The first ISR Roundtable in 2007 led to the creation of a course called ISR TOPOFF, which is currently in high demand by deploying Army units.

“ISR TOPOFF has been extremely successful,” said Arta Cavazos, ACC Directorate of Intelligence ISR integration analyst. “It has turned out to be the most requested pre-deployment training course in the [Army Force Generation] training cycle.”

ISR TOPOFF is a home station mobile training course taught by Air Force and joint instructors, and managed by Army Training and Doctrine Command officials for deploying Army units. The course informs Soldiers of valuable Air Force ISR capabilities available to them in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“By working together with the Army in these working groups, we can come up with opportunities to improve our relationship and communication, creating an unstoppable joint ISR force in theater,” Ms. Tone said.

From GI BILL, Page 10

fees and books. Servicemembers no longer will have to pay \$1,200 out of pocket, at the rate of \$100 a month for their first year of service, to qualify.

In addition, most troops will receive a “living stipend” while drawing GI Bill benefits. That benefit will equate to the basic allowance for housing that an E-5 with dependents serving on active duty receives, Mr. Carr said. And for the first time, servicemembers will be able to transfer any benefits they don’t use themselves to their immediate family members.

Of those surveyed in August, 73 percent said they would transfer benefits to their spouse, while 94 percent said they would transfer them to their children.

This is a particularly attractive option for servicemembers who have earned degrees before entering the military or while on duty through the military’s tuition assistance programs, Mr. Carr said. These programs will continue when the Post-9/11 GI Bill takes effect.

Troops automatically are eligible to transfer to the Post-9/11 GI Bill program when it takes effect, but must elect to do so, officials said.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, which administers the program, has more details about the basic program on its Web site. The Defense Department will oversee the transferability program and set up a Web-based application servicemembers can use to request transfer of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, Mr. Carr said.

Mr. Carr expressed hope that servicemembers will take advantage of the new benefits.

“The new GI Bill provides some wonderful opportunities for the military,” he said. “These are benefits that we had hoped for for a number of years, and finally have received.”



McChord chiefs' induction

Team McChord will recognize its newest chief master sergeants at a special ceremony at 6 p.m. March 6 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center ballroom. The menu is surf and turf buffet and cost is \$21 for club members and \$23 for non-members. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Dan Sacks at 982-2441.

Retiree Activities Office

The Retiree Activities Office is looking for volunteers to assist with upcoming events and work in the office located in the customer service mall in Bldg. 100. The RAO is a resource and referral center which offers information concerning issues pertinent to retirees, including ID cards, DEERS, Tri-Care, health benefit changes, social security and space available travel.

This year's annual dining out event is set for 6 p.m. April 17 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. In addition to the banquet, the event includes a guest speaker and historical military reenactment.

The RAO is open weekdays, 9 a.m. to noon. For more information on the RAO or the dining out event, call 982-3214 or visit www.mcchordrao.com.

McChord Phoenix Spouse voicemail

The Phoenix Spouse program here now has voicemail (982-PHNX) for families wanting to contact or get more information about their unit's Phoenix Spouses. The voicemail gives every squadron the ability to have a personalized mailbox

where people can leave messages for Phoenix Spouses.

Peanut recall

Updated information on the recall of contaminated peanut products is available at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Web site: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyp.html>.

The public health office here is coordinating recalls with base food establishments. According to Public Health officials, recalled items have been pulled from McChord shelves and no illnesses have been attributed to affected food items. For more information, call the public health office at 982-3717.

New hours at wing self-help store

The wing self-help store hours of operation are now 8 a.m. to noon weekdays. It closes on holidays and Air Mobility Command Family Days.

Flu shots now available

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

Online GTC registration

Online registration for the new CITI Bank government travel card is at available at: <https://home.cards.citidirect.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.

MTI briefings

The wing Career Assistance Advisor hosts Military Training Instructor duty briefings 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. March 18 in the Airman Leadership School auditorium of Bldg. 851. For more information, call 982-3395.

Madigan Annex TBI 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.

Stepfamily seminar

The Stepfamily Seminar for Helping Agencies and Parents is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 23 at the McChord Clubs and Community Center. Registration must be completed by Wednesday. For more information, call the Airmen and Family Readiness Center at 982-2695.

	<p>McChord Chaplain Corps Faith & Worship Programs</p>		<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>
	<p>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: Noon. 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: 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>	





2008 Air Mobility Command annual Medical Group awards

- Outstanding medical materiel Airman of the year:
Airman 1st Class Bethany Pattee
- Outstanding biomedical equipment repair Airman of the year:
Senior Airman Robert Hobart
- Ophthalmic NCO of the year:
Staff Sgt. James Gonzalez
- Outstanding base bioenvironmental engineering NCO of the year:
Tech. Sgt. Angela Suafoa
- Senior NCO pharmacy technician of the year:
Senior Master Sgt. Mark Yurkovich
- Field grade optometrist of the year:
Maj. Christine Stabile
- Best small base health promotion program:
Maj. Christine Stabile
- Team aerospace:
Lt. Col. John Andrus



Net Defenders

A McChord Airman watches the Cyber Security Training video at his desk Wednesday. To increase network security posture, all McChord personnel must view the 25-minute training video by Saturday. Users can watch the video by clicking on the "Cyber Security Tng" link, located immediately below the C-17 Globemaster III photo on McChord's SharePoint site. This video will remain online. Personnel in leave/TDY status must complete this training immediately upon their return.

