

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

Vol. 41, No. 13

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

April 10, 2009

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Base exercise brings delays, limited service

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Long lines and extended wait times at some customer service agencies as well as emergency vehicle and personnel movement will likely be commonplace at McChord Wednesday and Thursday due to an anti-terrorism exercise.

Other than personnel reporting for duty, base officials are strongly urging people with routine, non-emergency business to postpone their errands until the exercise concludes.

Heightened security measures will be in effect at the gates, certain buildings will be closed and there will be several traffic control points set up throughout the base, said Maj. Jason Morrison, 62nd Airlift Wing chief of plans and programs.

"Those days are not going to be good to come on base," Major Morrison said. "People will encounter many inconveniences if they do."

Most of the 62nd Force Support Squadron service providers throughout the customer service mall will be participating in and responding to the exercise, said Maj. Todd Ladd, 62nd FSS.

"Service could be impacted by many of the exercise events," Major Ladd said.

The Medical Clinic will not close down completely, but people may experience possible delays due to the heightened security measures during the exercise, said 1st Lt. Sarah Lindsay, 62nd Medical Squadron.

The exercise is a biannual requirement for all wings, Major Morrison said.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Deployment ready

Regina McDaniel, center, TriWest Healthcare Alliance project manager and Pierce Military Business Alliance board member, and Rev. James Lewis, president of Associated Ministries of Pierce County, are briefed by Staff Sgt. Jenny Stryker, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, during a deployment line demonstration Tuesday morning at the base mobility center. The event was part of a two-day community relations tour designed to educate local community leaders on Air Force missions accomplished in the northwest region.

Safety focus turns to 'Back-to-Basics' approach

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The Secretary of Defense recently set a goal to achieve a 75 percent reduction in military and civilian injuries, private motor vehicle fatalities and aviation accidents by 2012 (from a 2002 baseline). Safety officials at Air Mobility Command are sending out a straightforward message to help wings across the command succeed, making today a time for McChord to focus on safety first.

The "Back-to-Basics" approach is part of five briefings today at the base theater which will detail a full range of ground and flight safety

topics rooted in the very basic principles of day-to-day operations on the job, said event organizer Capt. Carl McBurnett, 62nd Airlift Wing flight safety.

"It's more about preventing a problem from happening as opposed to fixing a problem," Captain McBurnett said. "We want to give squadrons ways they can improve safety principles within their daily operations."

Through a combination of video and Power Point presentations, 62nd AW safety officials will detail safety at the basic levels for Airmen on- and off-duty, including the critical issue of maintaining compliance with checklists and technical orders and continuing to emphasize operational risk management.

"It's about going back to the basics of what everyone's job entails, because complacency is a big factor in many workplace incidents," said Maj. Gerad Riester, 62nd AW flight safety. "It's a chance for everyone to refocus on the correct way of how they learned their job."

The same applies to ground safety principles, as presentations will touch on basic traffic safety issues like distracted driving and the importance of safety belts. A portion will also focus on motorcycles and sport bikes.

"While a lot of the topics cover basic safety guidelines, the Air Force continues to lose Airmen in accidents where adhering to the simplest safety processes could have perhaps prevented the result-

ing injuries or fatality," said Ken Heath, 62nd AW chief of ground safety.

62nd Medical Squadron officials will also be on hand to speak about the programs and services the base provides to those experiencing job or family-related stress.

"We want everyone to know that there are programs out there where people can turn for help," Captain McBurnett said.

In addition to the briefings, squadrons will have the opportunity to return to their headquarters and focus on more operations-specific safety challenges facing each unit, Mr. Heath said.

"It's a day to review all of their processes," he said. "We're providing them with the tools."

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 57 Low: 39	Hi: 54 Low: 39	Hi: 53 Low: 39

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

Countdown to success

Next MOBEX.....	21 days
Rodeo.....	101 days
Operational Readiness Inspection.....	199 days

Don't miss it ...

Base-wide exercise Wednesday - Thursday

Expect emergency response and force protection measures.



Airman's Roll Call: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

As part of a nationwide observance this month to raise awareness about one of the country's most under-reported crimes, Defense Department officials launched a new Web site and campaign April 3 that gives military members fresh initiatives and new teaching methods to prevent sexual assault.

The Web site and social marketing campaign focus heavily on bystander interventions, encouraging

military members to take care of each other.

Key points of the campaign:

- The campaign's slogan is "Our strength is for defending."
- Much like the "Friends don't let friends drive drunk" slogan of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving non-profit group, bystander intervention means anyone has the ability to stop sexual assault before it happens.
- When out with friends and partying, don't leave friends alone.

• If someone has had too much to drink, make sure the person gets home safely -- everyone has a duty to prevent sexual assault.

Throughout the month, officials at military installations around the globe are expected to host guest lecturers as well as hold education seminars, classes and various other events.

The awareness month campaign will provide military members helpful tools to educate each other to

enhance knowledge and awareness. Schedules of events and activities throughout the year as well as training tools and materials can be found on the new Web site at: <http://www.sapr.mil/>.

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.

Keys to completing formal education on active duty

By

Chief Master Sgt. Kevin White

62nd Security Forces Squadron superintendent

You may often ask yourself, "Why should I obtain a formal education? Isn't the technical and leadership training we receive in the military enough?" Well, at one time, I thought this stellar training was sufficient, but now I know my own answer to the previous question would be 'NO'!

So, in this article, I will address why formal education is also important and how to effectively acquire it.

Formal education is essential for enhancing career-field knowledge, increasing personal growth, improving chances for future promotion, and ensuring quality employment after the completion of military service.

For example, being Security Forces by trade, I know most career field technical courses concentrate on Air Force-unique missions, but formal criminal justice courses provide a broader perspective. Therefore, gaining a college perspective of your career field in its totality will

enhance individual knowledge, thereby enhancing unit operations.

Formal education will also enhance personal growth. Through review of textbooks written by scholars, you are exposed to material that can be added to your mental database, enabling you to give back more to the Air Force and family members.

Additionally, advanced education will help toward future promotion. For instance, it was passed on to me by a SNCO that his wing commander refused to endorse the enlisted performance reports of SNCOs not actively pursuing a bachelor's degree. It was a bold step on the part of this wing commander, but a step that definitely opened the eyes of all seeking advancement in the SNCO ranks. Undoubtedly, those SNCOs who were already preparing themselves for the future through their educational pursuits were not threatened by this command decision and enjoyed the benefit of a wing commander's EPR endorsement.

Well, not only can formal education increase chances for promotion, but it is absolutely essential to effective survival outside of military

life. In the 21st century, it has become critical to prove to future employers that we are qualified for the job at hand. Therefore enlisted personnel who possess strong technical experience, superior leadership training, backed by extraordinary university education should fare well.

So how do we do it? The first step is to realize we must continually educate ourselves in order to effectively compete in society. The next step is to set up realistic educational goals that can be achieved. In accomplishing these goals, we must also keep in mind that we can no longer honestly say working shift work prevents us from pursuing formal education. The development of Internet-based education has simply blown this mentality straight out of the water! Motivation, therefore, has become the key to obtaining a formal education. If there is a will, there is a way!

In closing, I hope I have outlined the overarching importance of completing formal education and how to make it happen. Please do not procrastinate, since it is best to complete your formal education while you are young. Believe me; you will see why this is important later in life!

The Sharp Airman ...

knows their gas mask should be inspected on initial issue and every six months after initial issue during peacetime.

The mask should also be inspected prior to deployment and every seven days during contingency operations. Inspections are documented on the DD Form 1574.

PROFESSIONALS

of the week

Western Air Defense Sector

Staff Sgt. Andrey Lavochin

Duty Title:
Network operations technician

Duty section:
Network systems

Hometown:
Puyallup, Wash.

Why he's super:

Sergeant Lavochin joined the Air National Guard in March 2005. While assigned to the 143rd Combat Communications Squadron in Seattle, Wash., he volunteered for a deployment to Keesler Air Force Base in September 2005 to assist victims of hurricane Katrina. He assisted in rebuilding houses and supplying much needed fresh water and food. In 2008, Sergeant Lavochin joined WADS in a full-time position in network operations. As a network administrator, he has saved hundreds of man-hours by implementing more efficient back-up procedures of critical servers, and has saved thousands of dollars by implementing critical upgrades to older assets.



Tech. Sgt. Wayne Dixon

Duty Title:
Network systems evaluator

Duty section:
Communications-electronics standards and evaluation flight

Hometown:
Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Why he's tops:

Sergeant Dixon provides the chief of communications-computer systems with objective evaluations for information technology systems and technical evaluations for personnel assigned to operate and maintain assets valued at \$1.4 million. A motivated Guardsman, he was selected to serve on the board of directors for the state National Guard Association. He coaches a local youth football team and volunteers in the classroom for Nisqually Middle School and Lydia Hawk Elementary School in Lacey, Wash. He's also a committee member for Tanglewilde Parks and Recreation, working toward neighborhood improvements.



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62ND AIRLIFT WING, MCCORD AFB, WASHINGTON

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Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

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Autism fun run/walk, resource fair set for April 18

By

Tech. Sgt. Christine Uhl
62nd Civil Engineer Squadron

April is national Autism awareness month, and the Fort Lewis-McChord Autism Support Group hosts its second fun run/walk and resource fair 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18 at Cowan Stadium on Fort Lewis.

The support group focuses on providing information to military families and those in the local community, and the event offers a fun, safe environment for everyone to come together. There will be the run/walk at the track, a variety of information booths, raffles, games, an inflatable slide, a school chorus, and

food booths.

Autism has a significant impact on our military community. The support group has grown in numbers from 65 military families to 173 families in less than two years. Over 130 Autistic students are enrolled at Evergreen Elementary School on Fort Lewis, according to support group co-president Cheryl Beene.

Registration for event volunteers is being taken at Army Community Service-Exceptional Family Member Program office in Waller Hall, room 400 on Fort Lewis. Volunteer applications can also be mailed to: FLMCAF-BASG, 515 Main Street, Steilacoom, WA 98388. For more information, call 967-9705 or 589-2572.

0-0-1-3

The medical standard is one drink for women or two drinks for men if a daily drinker.



For periodic drinking, the standard is to keep the blood alcohol level or blood alcohol content under 0.05.

0 Drinks under age 21
0 DUI's
Max 1 drink per hour
Max 3 drinks in one night

Use personal risk management
Use situational awareness
Use your wingman
Use a friend

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



CELEBRATE

Earth Day April 22, 2009



Join the McChord Energy Conversation Committee in conversing about conserving.



The McChord Energy Conversation

VISION: A McChord Community That Makes Energy A Consideration In All It Does

MISSION: To Inspire a Culture of Energy Security Through Collaborative Education and Value-Added Community Energy Projects

McChord Energy Conversation Committee meets Thursdays 1645-1800 in the Wing Conference Room. Positive Energy...Positive Leadership.



Walk to End Sexual Violence

Date: April 21
Time: 3 p.m.

Please join the SAPR Office outside the Chapel Support Center, Bldg 746 across from the Base Theater.

Prevent Sexual Assault!



For further information, contact:
Ms. Heather Van Mill
Phone: (253) 982-0473/0457
Email: heather.vanmill@mechord.af.mil



Photo by Abner Guzman

AFAF contribution

Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, right, completes his Air Force Assistance Fund contribution slip Thursday as Capt. Ian Ostermiller, 10th Airlift Squadron and AFAF installation project officer looks on. The campaign, which kicked off March 23, provides Airmen the opportunity to contribute to the four official Air Force charitable organizations. For additional information on AFAF, visit <http://www.afassistancefund.org/>, or see a unit representative. The campaign concludes May 1.



Parent University enlightens military families

By

Barbara Sellers
Northwest Guardian

It takes three years for many servicemembers to recover from the trauma of their experiences in Iraq.

That's one thing local military couples learned from keynote speaker Dr. Michael A. Colson during the 12th annual Parent University Saturday at Evergreen Elementary School on Fort Lewis.

Colson, a former Navy commander and combat veteran, opened Parent University by addressing medical and emotional adjustment issues combat veterans and their families face and the importance of obtaining the care they need. He now conducts clinical outreach and advocacy for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I'm so glad you're here, because this has to be a team effort," he said.

Everyone who serves in the military now represents less than one percent of the total population, Colson said.

"Most people have no idea what it means to be a veteran," he said. "You put your lives on the line, and what you do is not common. Sometimes we want to make sense out of it, but we can't. You are normal people reacting to abnormal circumstances."

Colson addressed geography, stress, reactions, occupational impacts, leadership observations,

hopes and dreams, and readjustment requirements — all things many members of the military community share.

Following Colson's keynote speech, parents attended classes in three breakout sessions.

Cheryl Beene, president of the autism support group, presented a class called, "Help! Where's the Owner's Manual for My Child with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder)." She said 67 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with autism every day, but no one is certain what causes the disorder.

Although no two kids are exactly alike, many have issues with fine motor skills, speech and vision, she said.

Beene also said it's important to give children with autism choices and provide structure because they don't do too well in an environment that doesn't have structure.

Other classes offered included "School Transitions: What Every Parent Needs to Know"; "The Brain and the Heart: How a Child Grows Inside a Family"; "Growing Great Readers"; "Mindfulness Stress Management"; "Parenting and Marriage"; and "Growing Self Empowerment."

There was also a resource fair featuring numerous information booths, door prizes and refreshments.

"I thought Parent University was excellent," said Nancy McDermott-Halverson, a nurse with the New Parent Support Program, and Fort Lewis contractor. "I got a lot of information and good resources here."



McChord **Good Friday & Easter Schedule of Services**

Catholic

Good Friday Service – Today
7 p.m. - Chapel 2 (Bldg 181)

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil – Saturday
7 p.m. - Chapel 2 (Bldg 181)

Easter Sunday Masses – Sunday
9:30 a.m. Mass – Chapel 2 (Bldg 181)
11 a.m. Mass – Chapel 2 (Bldg 181)

Protestant

Good Friday Service – Today
11:30 a.m. Worship Service - Chapel Support Center (Bldg 746)

Easter Sunday Services – Sunday
6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service - Chapel 1 (Bldg 180)
8:30 a.m. Liturgical Service - Chapel 1 (Bldg 180)
11 a.m. Traditional Service – Chapel 1 (Bldg 180)
11 a.m. Contemporary Service – Chapel Support Center (Bldg 746)

For additional information, please contact the Chapel Support Center at 982-5556



PCS in-processing system provides automated assistance

By

Senior Airman Nickolas Milton
62nd Comptroller Squadron

The days of waiting weeks to complete a permanent change of station in-processing voucher for active duty Airmen is over. The PCS In-Processing System offers a secure, paperless way to submit PCS related financial documents with automated assistance to the member. This process is accomplished using a "wizard approach" to guide Airmen through PCS In-Processing through an interactive interview session that explains PCS entitlements based on information provided by the member.

PIPS can be accessed via a secure

web site application, eFinance, using a common access card and pin number. At the PIPS site, the system uses easy to understand question and answer sessions to process PCS travel vouchers from start to finish. The "wizard" technology makes it virtually impossible to overlook even the smallest detail when completing a PCS-In voucher.

When using PIPS, members are asked if they are PCSing to an overseas location or within the continental U.S. PIPS uses this response to present a briefing containing the correct information based on specific travel. Included in this briefing are links to entitlements, rates payable, and frequently asked questions relative to the PCS move.

PIPS also has a briefing section where the local Financial Services Office has included a tailored briefing that provides information specific to McChord for newly arrived members to review, such as contact information, hours of operation, and other information that may be beneficial.

For members arriving at their new duty station, PIPS automates and standardizes the documentation portion of the Financial Services In-Processing briefing. By using PIPS, Airman will be able to initiate and complete Financial Services In-Processing from anywhere in the world using a CAC-enabled computer.

Active Duty Airmen can view a demonstration video of PIPS by sim-

ply visiting the Money - Finance Central page, under Air Force Portal's Life and Career tab at the following URL:

<https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af/USAF/ep/globalTab.do?channelPageId=-1073755560>

"PIPS is just one more tool that the 62nd Comptroller Squadron is making available to Team McChord to pay its members quicker. The quicker you file your travel voucher, the quicker you and your GTC get paid. That's what we in Finance are trying to accomplish", said Senior Master Sgt, Mark Branco, 62nd CPTS superintendent.

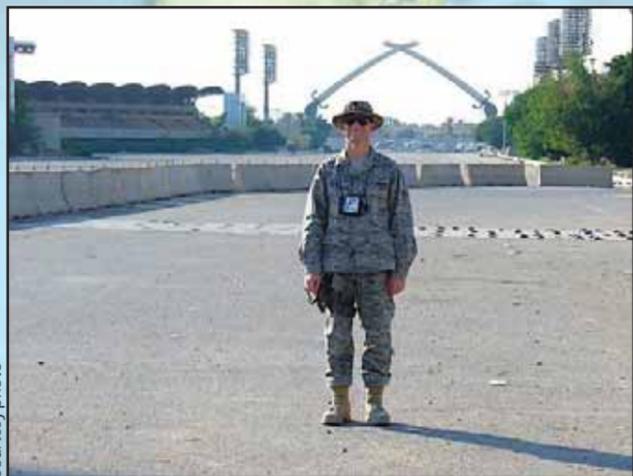
For more information, contact the Financial Services flight at 62cptshelp@mcchord.af.mil.

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



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

IRAQ – Maj. William Fecke, 62nd Medical Squadron, takes in the sights during a recent deployment to Baghdad.



Courtesy photo

AFGHANISTAN – Capt. Merritt Brockman, 62nd Medical Squadron, hugs a villager's daughter during a recent deployment. The captain was visiting an area where wells were being constructed to provide fresh water to the villagers.



Load 'em up

Training prepares joint warfighters

Photos by Abner Guzman



Tech. Sgt. Seth Hillman, 8th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, briefs Soldiers from Fort Lewis' 117th Infantry, 5th Brigade prior to a training exercise April 3 at McChord.



Soldiers watch as Airman 1st Class Anthony Leonard, 4th AS loadmaster, demonstrates proper tie down procedures during training aboard a C-17.



Sergeant Hillman instructs a Soldier on the safest method to drive a Stryker out of the C-17.



An Army Stryker vehicle backs into a C-17 Globemaster III during the training exercise. The exercise provided loadmasters a chance to experience the loading process up close while also giving Soldiers an opportunity to maneuver the vehicles into the aircraft.

In a type of exercise which will become more commonplace in the future as McChord and Fort Lewis become one installation, Airmen and Soldiers worked shoulder to shoulder April 3 on the flightline to better prepare each other for future deployments.

A group of nearly 40 loadmasters and infantry Soldiers practiced on-loading and off-loading two Army Stryker vehicles into a C-17 Globemaster III. The joint exercise was designed to give everyone the chance to experience the process without having to meet a departure deadline as part of a deployment, said Tech. Sgt. Seth Hillman, 8th Airlift Squadron loadmaster.

"We wanted to get as many loadmasters as we could out here at one time so they know what to expect when it comes time to load the Strykers in a real situation," Sergeant Hillman said.

Before loading the Strykers, Airmen had an opportunity to discuss loading procedures and communication techniques with Soldiers. Also, Airmen had the chance to experience the 16-ton vehicles up close, as many climbed through the troop storage compartment to examine components like the digital flat-screen monitors mounted inside.

"Those things are pretty cool," said Airman Thomas Pruett, 4th Airlift Squadron

loadmaster.

When it came time to drive the eight-wheeled vehicles up the loading ramp, slow, careful movements were the key to success. While one loadmaster relayed hand signals to the driver, two other loadmasters were spotting the vehicle's centerline into the aircraft and monitoring clearance on all sides.

"It's our job to make sure we're in control of the load at all times," said Airman Pruett.

Once the first Stryker was positioned, loadmasters hosted tutorials on how to properly tie down the massive vehicles.

"For many of our guys, this is the first chance they've had to load the Strykers into a C-17 and experience how it's done," said Army Capt. Joshua Glonek. "We wanted to physically come down and do it. It's not very often that we work this closely with the Air Force, so the process is a good rehearsal for both of us."

And that rehearsal could ultimately save time in the area of responsibility in the future.

"It's good for the Soldiers to know the tie down procedures because it's just another level of checks and balances to make sure everything is by the book," Airman Pruett said. "It's all good for time efficiency when it comes time to launch. In the future it might mean we can get from a hostile area to a safe location quicker."

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer



Airman 1st Class Steven Varner, 8th AS loadmaster, guides a Stryker into the C-17 during the training exercise.

OSS team jells in nick of time, defeats AMXS to defend title

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

After limping through the regular season missing several key players on the roster, the 62nd Operations Support Squadron intramural basketball team knew if it could just get into the playoffs, anything was possible.

That notion proved true as OSS finished a stellar postseason run with a 51-41 victory in the championship game April 3 over the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron team at the fitness center, capturing its second straight intramural basketball championship.

OSS guard Josh Corwin scored a game-high 20 points — including six 3-pointers — and center Justin McCoy added ten points as OSS jumped out to a 23-10 halftime lead and never looked back. Ben Harris scored 17 points and Damian Bumm had ten for AMXS, which finished the season 16-3.

The win in the championship game capped a run which started late in the regular season as

OSS (10-6) pieced last year's championship roster back together.

With Ronald Shaw out with an injury and Trivone Curry, Kendrick Woods and Marc Marmino deployed, OSS substituted players from the squadron's 30-and-over intramural team to plug the holes.

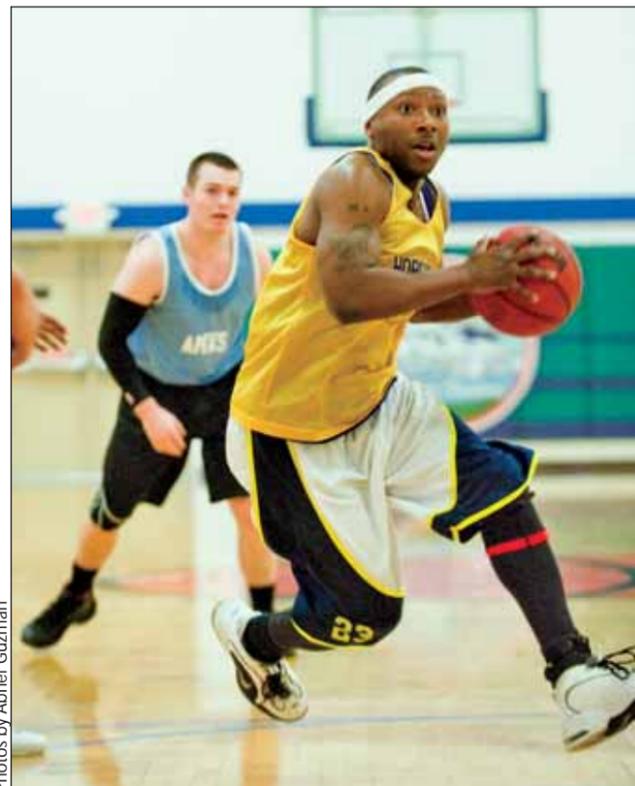
The tactic worked as the foursome returned from the deployment with two games remaining in the regular season and the team still alive in the race to clinch a playoff spot. OSS won both games to finish the regular season 7-6 — good enough to make the postseason as the No. 7 seed.

"We definitely felt we were going to surprise some people in the playoffs once we got everyone back," OSS coach Shawn Child said.

After edging AMXS in the first round of the playoffs, 43-39, OSS won its next three games by an average of nearly 20 points.

"I didn't think we were going to lose once we got those four back," said McCoy, who carried much of the scoring load while the foursome was

story continued on next page



Photos by Abner Guzman

62nd Operations Support Squadron guard Kendrick Woods drives to the basket against the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron team April 3 in the 2009 intramural basketball championship game at the base fitness center.





The team gathers for a picture while attesting to its second consecutive intramural basketball championship. OSS defeated AMXS, 51-41, in the championship game.

out of action.

Curry, Woods and Marmino kept in contact weekly with their teammates back at McChord for updates on the team's performance.

"We knew that as long as we made the playoffs, we'd be OK," Woods said.

And while the OSS team here was battling to stay alive for the postseason, the deployed trio was running the competition off the court as part of an intramural team in Turkey.

"We were playing a lot of basketball," Curry said.

And after winning an intramural championship at the deployed location, it took the trio no time at all to get back into the groove with their McChord team.

"The chemistry was just like last year ... we all felt it," Curry added.

Adding even more competitive fuel to the fire was the fact opponents didn't think OSS had a chance to repeat based on their lackluster regular season record.

"Everyone took our team for granted ... they weren't expecting us to do anything," Woods said.

Members of the OSS championship team also included Karl Scheuerman, Darren Firth, Trent Fox, Corey Simmons and co-coach Philander Eargle.



VA secretary expects big impact from Post-9/11 GI Bill

By

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — All systems are on track for this summer's rollout of the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, which Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said he expects to have as monumental an impact as the original World War II-era GI Bill of Rights.

Secretary Shinseki, who served as Army chief of staff from 1999 to 2003, said he understands the excitement over the new program that goes into effect Aug. 1.

The new GI Bill will provide the most comprehensive educational benefits since the original bill, officially called the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, was signed into law.

Many veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, will be eligible for full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend and an annual stipend of up to \$1,000 for books and supplies. Reservists and National Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 will have access to the same GI Bill benefits.

And for the first time, those enrolled in the Post-9/11 GI Bill program will be able to transfer unused educational benefits to spouses or children.

"It has been a long time since we've had an education initiative that includes tuition fees (and a) housing allowance, (and) takes care of all of the requirements required to go to school," Secretary Shinseki said of the program. This will enable veterans to focus on their studies, he said, without the distractions of figuring out how to pay for them.

Secretary Shinseki said he expects the Post-9/11 GI Bill to have as big an impact as the original GI Bill. That law provided college education or vocational training for millions of returning World War II veterans, loans so they could buy homes or start businesses, and unemployment compensation while they looked for jobs.

By the time the original GI Bill ended in July 1956, 7.8 million World War II veterans had taken advantage of the education and training programs it funded, and another 2.4 million had signed up for VA-backed home loans.

"What that bill did for the country was to change the course of our his-

tory and the latter half of the 20th century," Secretary Shinseki said. "When those veterans went back to their communities with their college degrees, they ended up being our leaders in religion, education, business, government; you name it."

The Post-9/11 version "has the opportunity to create in the 21st century the same kind of impact for development ... social change (and) leadership across a lot of institutions," he said.

The program will be administered and funded by VA representatives, and represents a "huge investment" by the United States in its veterans, Secretary Shinseki said.

This, he said, sends a strong, unmistakable message.

"I think young veterans who come back and participate in (in the Post 9/11 GI Bill) will begin to understand how much they are valued (and) how much their service is valued, just by the opportunity here," he said.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates advocated expanding education benefits as a way to recognize troops' service while supporting both recruiting and retention. Secretary Gates first heard the transferability concept floated during a meeting

with a military spouses' group at Fort Hood, Texas, and pitched the idea to then-President George W. Bush. President Bush promoted the idea and ultimately signed the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 into law on June 30.

A whopping 97 percent of servicemembers surveyed in August said they plan to take advantage of the new benefits provided in the Post-11 GI Bill, said Bill Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy.

"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.

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Airmen receive UCMJ disciplinary actions in March

By

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62nd Airlift Wing Legal Office

The following are the results of courts-martial actions here in March.

• A Staff Sergeant from the 313th Airlift Squadron was court-martialed in a general court-martial for one charge and one specification of Article 121 – Larceny, for wrongfully receiving \$46,367 in entitlements due to using a fraudulent address on his travel vouchers, and one charge and one specification of Article 107 – False Official Statement, for using an false address on 12 separate travel vouchers.

• **The accused plead guilty to both charges and was sentenced by a board of officer members to reduction to Airman, 12 months of confinement, a fine of \$46,367 with an additional 12 months of confinement contingent upon payment of the fine, and a bad conduct discharge.**

• A Staff Sergeant from the 62nd Operations Support Squadron was court-martialed in a special court-martial for one charge and one specification of Article 112a – Wrongful use of a controlled substance, (oxycodone) on multiple occasions.

• **The accused plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced by a military judge to a reprimand, reduction to Airman 1st Class, restriction to the base limits for two months except to travel to and from required drug treatment sessions, and confinement for three months and 15 days.**

The following Airmen received non-judicial punishment actions under Article 15 Uniform Code of Military Justice here in March.

• A Staff Sergeant was charged with violations of Article 134 – Drunk and disorderly, and Article 128 – Assault consummated by a battery.

• **The punishment imposed was**

a suspended reduction to Senior Airman, 10 days of extra duty, and a reprimand.

• A Senior Airman was charged with violations of Article 86 – Failure to go, and Article 92 – Dereliction of duty (negligent) for being past due on Government Travel Card payments.

• **The punishment imposed was a reduction to Airman with the reduction below Airman 1st Class suspended, and a reprimand.**

• A Senior Airman was charged with a violation of Article 134 – Child endangerment.

• **The punishment imposed was a suspended reduction to Airman 1st Class and a reprimand.**

• A Senior Airman was charged with violations of Article 128 – Simple assault, and Article 134 – Disorderly conduct which brought discredit to the service.

• **The punishment imposed was a reduction to Airman 1st Class, 30 days of extra duty, 30 days of restriction to the base**

limits, and a reprimand.

• An Airman 1st Class was charged with a violation of Article 92 – Dereliction of duty (willful) for misuse of a GTC.

• **The punishment imposed was a reduction to Airman, 14 days of extra duty and 14 days of restriction to the base limits.**

• An Airman 1st Class was charged with violations of Article 134 – Adultery, and Article 128 – Assault consummated by a battery.

• **The punishment imposed was a reduction to Airman Basic, 30 days of restriction to the base limits, forfeiture of \$699 for one month, and a reprimand.**

• An Airman 1st Class was charged with a violation of Article 112a – Wrongful distribution of a controlled substance (oxycodone).

• **The punishment imposed was a suspended reduction to Airman, 30 days of extra duty, 30 days of restriction to the base limits, forfeiture of \$400 per month for two months, and a reprimand.**



'Back-to-Basics' safety focus day

Today is "Back-to-Basics" day, and group briefings are scheduled in the base theater as follows:

7 to 8:30 a.m. – 62nd Maintenance Group day shift

8:30 to 10 a.m. – 62nd Director of Staff and 62nd Medical Squadron

10 a.m. to noon – 62nd Operations Group

1 to 2:30 p.m. – 62nd Mission Support Group

3 to 4:30 p.m. – 62nd MXG night shift

Rape Aggression Defense classes

RAD classes for women are 1 to 4 p.m. Monday; April 20 and 27. To register or for more information, call 982-0473.

Tree planting ceremony

The Sexual Assault Awareness month tree planting ceremony is 1 p.m. Monday in front of the Chapel Support Complex. For more information, call 982-0473.

Arbor Day celebration

The McChord Arbor Day celebration is 3:30 p.m. Thursday across from the McChord Clubs and Community Center on West Entrance Road, between Fairway Drive and Warehouse Road. For more information, call 982-3913.

Fort Lewis-McChord Autism run/walk

The second annual Autism "fun run/walk" and resource fair, presented by the Fort Lewis-McChord Autism Support Group, is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18 at Cowan Stadium on Fort Lewis. The event is open to everyone with access to the installation, and registration is recommended, but not

required. For more information, call 589-2572, 588-8783, or visit: <http://flmcafbasg.clubspaces.com>.

Earth Day celebration

An Earth Day celebration is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 22 in front of the base commissary. For more information, call 982-3913.

'Knucklebuster 2009'

The 62nd Maintenance Group hosts "Knucklebuster 2009" 6 p.m. April 24 at Hanger 3. The Knucklebuster is an award recognizing the group's hard-working men and women who give 100 percent in the performance of C-17 Globemaster III maintenance, maintenance support and maintenance supervision. This year's guest speaker is retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez. For more information, contact 2nd Lt. Nathan Lucero at 982-6917 or Master Sgt. Richard Stratton at 982-7070.

'Bundles for Babies'

"Bundles for Babies" – a three-hour class covering topics such as the costs of raising a child, stress factors, and caring for a baby – is 9 a.m. to noon May 20 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. For more information, call 982-2695.

Enlisted force structure

The latest version of Air Force Instruction 26-2618, the enlisted force structure, is available online at: <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/shared/media/epubs/AFI36-2618.pdf>.

Base firewood permits

A considerable supply of "you-cut" firewood will soon be available for

personnel willing to obtain a base firewood permit. To add your name to the wait list, email Carol.Lee@mcchord.af.mil with your full name and telephone number. The wait list will be used to notify a group of firewood cutters to obtain a firewood permit.

Retiree Activities

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 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information on the RAO or the dining out event, call the office at 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.

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.



McChord Chaplain Corps Faith & Worship Programs

For more information on Chapel services and programs, please call 982-5556.

To contact Duty Chaplain after duty hours, contact the Command Post at 982-2635.

CATHOLIC SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

All Catholic services are in chapel two.

Saturday:

4 p.m. Confession: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

5 p.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

11 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181

12:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small

Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

Monday:

Noon. Why Catholic? Small Group

Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

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

PROTESTANT SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Sunday:

8:30 a.m. Liturgical Worship: Chapel

1, Bldg. 180

9:45 a.m. Sunday School: Chapel

Support Center, Bldg. 746

11 a.m. Traditional Worship: Chapel

1, Bldg. 180

11 a.m. Contemporary Worship:

Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

JEWISH SERVICES:

Friday:

6 p.m. Every 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of

the month: Ft. Lewis, Chapel 5, Bldg.

T-2270

OTHER PROGRAMS:

The following Chapel programs take

place at the Chapel Support Center,

Bldg. 746.

Tuesday:

9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers

(MOPS); 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the

month

6 p.m. Mothers of Preschoolers

(MOPS) Bible Study; 1st, 3rd & 5th

Tuesday of the month

Wednesday:

11 a.m. Adult Bible Study



NAMES TO NOTE

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

- **Staff Sgt. Craig Buckley**, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Airman Drew Czarnecki**, 7th Airlift Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Eric Dasher**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Nicholas Denbrock**, 5th Air Support Operations Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. David Goss**, 62nd

Force Support Squadron

- **Airman 1st Class Jared Hahn**, 62nd MXS
- **Airman 1st Class Eric Hoyt**, 8th AS
- **Airman 1st Class Casey Jackson**, 8th AS
- **Airman 1st Class Jesse Kimble**, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Bert Leuschen**, 62nd Security Forces Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Michael Robinson**, 62nd MXS



Arrive Alive!

**Don't Drink
and Drive!**

AADD's mission is to provide free, safe, confidential rides HOME to McChord Personnel who have been drinking within a 30 mile radius of McChord AFB and make the responsible decision to let someone else do the driving.

